



Thank you!

Your support of your parish's Family of Faith campaign continues to make a difference, right across our archdiocese!

Your faithful participation in your parish's campaign has helped to ensure that projects and activities that build our *family of faith* in our parishes move forward.

Campaign Update

This February 2020 edition of *Family News* is included with the 2019 charitable tax receipts for our donors and available in all archdiocesan churches.

Most donations to the campaign were in the form of five-year pledges, fulfilled in monthly installments. As anticipated, the value of some pledges changed. That's because, over the course of time, parishioners move out of the archdiocese, pass away or their financial circumstances change. The current total pledged or paid is approximately \$154 million. Of this amount, more than \$130 million has been received. This is an amazing achievement. Thank you!

Under the 'sharing formula' with parishes, once a parish reaches its goal, it receives 75% of funds received above that goal. Over 110 parishes have now exceeded their parish goals, helping them to implement the plans they outlined in their parish's 'case statement'.*

Over \$47 million has been flowed to individual parish accounts to implement parish priorities. Thus far parishes have spent over \$22 million on priorities, including parish debt repayment.

**A case statement is the description of how a parish plans to spend its share of funds. These plans were outlined in the parish's campaign brochure shared with all parishioners at the outset of the parish's campaign.*

A Catholic Voice in the Public Square

On October 3, 2019, the archdiocese hosted its *Federal Election Debate from a Catholic Perspective*. More than one-third of Canadians identify as Catholic. The archdiocese held the debate to help inform Catholics on issues of importance—poverty, life issues, environment, immigration and refugees and civility in politics.

The Family of Faith campaign helped fund the debate, moderated by Don Newman, an award-winning broadcaster and journalist. More than 1,000 people were in attendance at the John Bassett Theatre in Toronto. The debate was also live-streamed to more than 20 churches across the country. Several Family of Faith campaign-funded video conference sites across the archdiocese also hosted viewing parties. The event was

a resounding success and the archdiocese sees value in holding future election debates and forums.

"The Church has a responsibility to have its voice heard in the public square on issues of critical importance... to enhance the collective voice of the Catholic community in cultural and political dialogue and debate."

Cardinal Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto hosted the Archdiocese of Toronto's first federal election debate.



Photo: Emanuel Pires



“One of the key themes in the Archdiocese of Toronto’s Pastoral Plan is to “engage families, especially our young people.” At this crucial stage of personal and spiritual development, the Church needs to be a point of engagement and friendship for young adults discerning important life choices.”

Parish Campaign Matters

We receive many calls and emails from parishioners and pastors from across the archdiocese regarding the Family of Faith campaign. Here are some of the most topical questions that John Ecker, Director, Family of Faith campaign & Special Projects receives.

1) When will the work promised in my parish’s ‘case statement’ be completed?

The best source of up-to-date information is your parish pastor. He is asked to keep his parishioners informed about the parish campaign via bulletin and pulpit announcements. The campaign office provides the parish with reporting tools (signage, draft bulletin messages, pulpit announcements, etc.). Financial progress reports are also provided to pastors twice per year and pastors are encouraged to publish their results with parishioners.

2) How can a parish case be changed, if needed?

Over time, a parish’s needs may change. Sometimes an urgent capital need emerges—a roof or foundation may leak, a heating system may fail. Parishes that exceeded their goal may want to fund additional activities. In those cases when the pastor wishes to redirect his parish’s Family of Faith campaign proceeds for a different use or add a new element, the pastor

must consult with parishioners (eg. Finance Council, Pastoral Council or other committees as appropriate) and receive permission from his Regional Bishop and the Chancellor of Temporal Affairs. The new priorities must be communicated directly to parishioners. Pastors who may be considering changes to their case are encouraged to first connect with John Ecker.

3) When will my pledge be completed? How do I update my address or payment information?

Most parishioners participated in the campaign through a five year payment pledge. Over time, some donors may forget when their pledge period ends. Not to worry. Our Donations Processing Centre keeps track of payments and will not continue to deduct payments after a pledge’s financial commitment has been completed. If you have questions about your pledge status or need to change your contact information, the best way is via telephone at 416.934.3400 x555. The office can also be contacted via email at campaign@archtoronto.org. (Donors are discouraged from sharing personal financial information via email.)

If have additional questions or concerns, please contact John Ecker, Director of the Family of Faith Campaign & Special Projects (contact information below).

Supporting the Faith Journeys of Youth

Youth are the future of the Church.

Parish Youth Ministers and parish based programs for children and youth are key areas for funding under Family of Faith campaign. Campus Ministry at post-secondary institutions also enrich the spiritual lives of young adults.

Highlights:

- In the past four years, the campaign invested in five new campus Ministries: University of Toronto Scarborough, Centennial College, Ontario Tech University (formerly UOIT), Durham College and, at all Toronto university campuses, a Chinese Student Chaplaincy;
- The Office for Catholic Youth has approved 39 applications from parishes for a Youth Minister subsidy;
- Development of a regional young adult ministry in the Eastern Region of the archdiocese, called *Spiritis Via* and its expansion into the Western Region with *Spiritis Vitae*;
- HopeStone Catholic Formation was assisted as a ‘start-up’ enterprise to provide Confirmation and High School Retreats and other programs;
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) in the Schools start-up project. CGS supports parish sacramental programs.

Family of Faith Campaign

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