



## Thank you donors

I thank each and every one of our donors who have contributed to the success of our Family of Faith campaign. Because of your generosity, we have been able to fund many wonderful programs and initiatives across the archdiocese, from those at the local parish level to those that span the archdiocese.

I'm pleased to share this issue of Family News, which details the many ways in which the funds you have donated are being used.

I look forward to continuing to share our progress. May God continue to bless our *family of faith* as we walk together in loving and joyful service to the Lord and one another.

Sincerely in Christ,

**+ Thomas Card. Collins**

Thomas Cardinal Collins

## Campaign Snapshot

The generosity of parishioners across the archdiocese has been extraordinary. When the campaign was launched, the goal was \$105 million. As of the fall, 2016, \$169 million in pledges have been received. To date \$15 million has been allocated for parishes to complete projects identified in their plans for campaign proceeds. \$33 million has been allocated to date to fund other initiatives outlined in the campaign's case statement.

## Family of Faith Campaign Funding Making an Impact

The Family of Faith campaign has received an incredible response. Parishioners from across the archdiocese have replied generously to the appeal, and as a result, the campaign has raised over \$169 million in gifts and pledges, with almost 80% of parishes meeting or exceeding their goals.

Cardinal Collins noted "The response to the campaign should inspire us in our mission to love God and to show that love by serving others. In my travels throughout our diverse faith community, I am deeply moved by the sacrifice and generosity of parishioners, faithful stewards of all that has been entrusted to them, providing their support, time and again."

Campaign proceeds are at work:

- **Youth Ministry:** Twenty-two youth ministry subsidies were approved by the Office of Catholic Youth as of the fall of 2016.
- **Good Leaders, Good Shepherds:** The first cohort of 42 priests have graduated from the program, two additional cohorts (20 priests each) are currently in progress and a fourth cohort is planned for 2017.
- **Catholic Voice in the Public Square:** Professional government and public relations advisors have assisted with establishing connections between the archdiocese and provincial and municipal political leaders in order to engage them on Catholic education issues, Project Hope, and developing a process for the immigration of priests. Recent efforts also focused on federal euthanasia legislation.

- **Shared Dialogue:** 10 locations have been selected and notified, 3-4 sites to be established in 2016 (see story, page 4).
- **New churches:** Guardian Angels' Hall in Brampton has opened. St. Josephine Bakhita will receive a loan of \$2 million to build their church.



Guardian Angels parish hall, Brampton

- **Existing churches:** Thus far \$2 million in allocations has been set aside for existing churches; other projects are in approval stages.
- **Chaplaincies:** In the past 2 years, the Family of Faith campaign has invested in 2 new chaplaincies: University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) via St. Barnabas parish and the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) and Durham College via St. Joseph the Worker parish. A pilot project has also been initiated at Seneca College to extend campus ministries to colleges.

continued on page 2



**The Solemn Mass to mark the Rededication of St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica** was celebrated on Thursday, September 29th, the Feast of St. Michael. The symbolism was rich in meaning. The altar was anointed so that it may become a symbol of Christ. Then the walls were anointed 12 times, a symbol of the Church Christ founded upon the 12 apostles. Incense was offered on the altar to signify that the sacrifice of Christ is perpetuated in mystery and rises up to God. Cardinal Collins's homily can be viewed at: [www.youtube.com/user/ArchdioceseofToronto](http://www.youtube.com/user/ArchdioceseofToronto).

The Family of Faith campaign is investing \$25 million to solidify the structure and enhance the beauty of the cathedral basilica. While there are still significant funds required for the work, annual operating funds and additional development opportunities will help support the work.

## Family of Faith Campaign Funding Making an Impact continued from page 1

- **Project Connect:** At present, 115 parish websites have been published, with more than 60 advanced template sites being maintained. Since Christmas, 2015, 110 parish staff and volunteers have been trained to use the SharePoint technology and a private training website was created with text and video instructions. Work is also being performed to establish searchable lists for lay associations and religious orders. The system is being monitored to ensure compliance with Ontario's accessibility standards.
- The Archdiocese through the **Office for Formation and**

**Discipleship** is currently piloting a Mothers Group program at our parishes in the Western Pastoral Region. One element of this program is to connect mothers, the parish, and the school to support mothers in their ongoing faith formation. It requires administrative support and materials to develop interest at our schools, particularly principals, parent-teacher committees, and teachers.

- **St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica:** \$21.6 million of the \$25 million in Family of Faith campaign funding earmarked for the cathedral basilica has been flowed (see story above).

## Family of Faith funding flows to parishes for youth ministry

In the spring of 2015, the Office of Catholic Youth (OCY) put out a request, to parishes that lacked resources to implement youth ministry programs in their parish, to complete an application for a subsidy. With Family of Faith campaign funding, nine parishes have been able to hire new youth ministers and many others were able to expand their programs and move their part-time youth ministers to full-time. There are also quite a few parishes that are moving through various stages in the hiring process to secure a youth minister at their parish. In total, 22 parishes have been approved for subsidies.

"The Family of Faith campaign has allowed parishes to hire youth ministers to focus exclusively on the ministry directed to the younger members of our Church, helping them through the most tumultuous times of their lives," says Fr. Frank Portelli, Director, OCY. "Although youth ministry can be done at some level by volunteers, there comes a point when the ministry becomes so successful that volunteers find themselves overwhelmed. Youth ministry run by a full-time lay person is essential to taking the ministry to the next level."

Alessya D'Anna was hired at St. Peter's parish in Toronto thanks to a subsidy from the Family of Faith campaign. Before she was hired, the parish only had the resources to provide classes for Communion and Confirmation-aged children. In August, they ran their first youth summer camp, and they are also planning to offer Alpha for Youth in the autumn. "These programs are tailored to the youth so that their needs and concerns are addressed and they can participate in our faith community in a meaningful way," Alessya notes.

Sabrina Pavlisa and Angela MacDougall are parishioners at St. Peter's, and are both involved with the youth ministry programs:

continued on page 3



## 2016 Tax Receipts

We will be issuing 2016 tax receipts for Family of Faith donations by the end of February 2017. Most gifts to the campaign have been in the form of pledges, payable over five years. Tax receipts will be issued for the value of gift amounts received in 2016, through Friday, December 30, 2016. If you'd like to receive future tax receipts via email, please let us know via [campaign@archtoronto.org](mailto:campaign@archtoronto.org). Please provide your full name, address, and the name of your parish. Many donors appreciate the convenience and it is more cost efficient for the campaign to issue receipts via email.

## Church Construction Approved

For the past eight years, the parishioners of St. Josephine Bakhita parish in Mississauga have gathered together at St. Joan of Arc school to celebrate Mass and the sacraments. Recently, they learned that their parish has been given approval to break ground and begin building their church on land purchased at Thomas St. and Oscar Peterson Blvd.

"Our community is blessed with many parishioners who have been extremely generous. It is thanks to their support, as well as the support of parishioners from across the archdiocese through the Family of Faith campaign that we will soon start building our new church," says Fr. Mark Villanueva, pastor.

St. Josephine Bakhita parish is one of the newer parishes in the archdiocese that has benefitted from the Family of Faith campaign. A portion of the funds raised by the overall campaign are earmarked to supplement archdiocesan and new parish funds to help them begin building sooner. They will receive an interest-free loan from the archdiocese so that they can start to worship in their new building as soon as November 2017.

The new church was designed through the collaborative efforts of the parish, IBI Group of Architects, and the archdiocese. Meloul Blamey, the same firm that built Saviour of the World Chinese Catholic Church and St. Padre Pio Church, won the contract to construct the building.

## Are we up to date?

Most donors to the Family of Faith campaign made pledges they plan to fulfill over five years. Over time, addresses and contact information can change. Please help us maintain our records by letting us know of any changes to your information, including your e-mail address. Please contact the Donations Processing Centre at [campaign@archtoronto.org](mailto:campaign@archtoronto.org) or 416.934.3400 x555.

## Funding flows to parishes for youth ministry

continued from page 3

Sabrina as a participant, and Angela as a volunteer. Sabrina says, "Being involved in a youth group has allowed me to feel a deeper connection to the parish. I

have a better understanding of my faith and a stronger desire to be more involved in parish life."

"I think it's so important to have active and vibrant youth ministry programs because it shows youth that they are wanted, appreciated and valued within the parish community," adds Angela.

Holy Spirit parish in Barrie is another parish that received a subsidy funded by the Family of Faith campaign. In September 2015, the parish's youth minister, Beverley Main, was able to transition from a part-time to full-time role.

"By being able to work at the parish full-time, I'm able to provide a visible presence at all Masses to greet families, answer questions, and interact with youth and their families," says Beverley. "Our parish has been able to improve relations with our local schools as well."

Beverley recalls a story about when a group of 12 to 13 year-old boys returned from a week of EDGE Adventure camp. "Their parents asked them what their favourite part of the week was. Their answers weren't the canoeing, or the zip lining or the mountain biking. One spoke about encountering Jesus during Adoration. His friend mentioned how cool the priest was during Confession. A third mentioned the Mass, saying the homily and the music were the best ever."

Avery Gervais, 15, and his 13-year-old sister Nia have been attending youth ministry programming at Holy Spirit since it started.

Avery and Nia's mother, Kendra, can see the difference that youth ministry has made in their lives. "I can see that Avery and Nia truly cherish the relationships that they've formed with Bev, our parish priest, and the other youth at the parish. My younger children see the joy of my older two children and are eagerly anticipating being old enough to be involved."

"My hope for youth ministers and ministries is that they continue to be valued, supported and grown throughout the archdiocese and connections between the churches continue to develop and deepen," she concludes.



# Technology is Bringing Our Community Together

Living in such a large archdiocese can pose many challenges, especially when it comes to bringing our community together. One of the initiatives laid out in the campaign's case for support was to use technology to allow parishioners from across the archdiocese to share resources through the use of a video conference collaboration network, located at strategic parish locations in all regions of the archdiocese. The idea of installing video conference sites has gone through extensive planning, development and testing with the first sites almost ready to deploy.

"More than 50 parishes expressed interest in being host sites, which is a wonderful response," said Neil MacCarthy, Director, Public Relations & Communications for the archdiocese. "Ultimately, 10 locations have been selected from across the archdiocese, representing the diverse geography and vast expanse of our faith community."

The Family of Faith campaign has allocated \$1.5 million for the project, (up to \$100,000 per location) which will provide 10 sites with audio/video equipment and the ability to "broadcast" video conferences between locations. The budget also includes funds to maintain and service equipment over a ten year period.

Host locations will be used to broadcast large events from St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, such as priestly ordinations or Lectio Divina. They will also allow integration between locations with one host being able to welcome a speaker or workshop and transmit the presentation between sites. Since the technology will allow for interaction, a group watching in Scarborough could pose a question to those hosting an event in Barrie. Video conferencing can also be

used for internal virtual meetings between clergy, parish staff, and volunteers.

"We know that this technology has the ability to bring the Catholic community closer together in prayer, fellowship and collaboration," said MacCarthy. "We plan on working with the host sites and departments of the archdiocese to encourage wide adoption of the technology."

Hardware installation will begin in November at the first three host locations: Holy Spirit Parish, Barrie, St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Oshawa and the Catholic Pastoral Centre in Toronto. Installation will continue on remaining sites in 2017 including: St. Edward the Confessor (North York), St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica (Toronto), St. Clare of Assisi Parish (Woodbridge), Precious Blood Parish (Scarborough), St. Augustine's Seminary (Scarborough), Nativity of Our Lord Parish (Etobicoke) and St. Mary's Parish (Brampton). Thank you to our Family of Faith donors for providing the means to utilize modern technology as an important evangelization tool!

As the country's largest faith community, the Archdiocese of Toronto will lead the way in using technology to communicate directly with parishioners. We envision virtual gatherings where Cardinal Collins and others will speak from one location while parishioners in up to 10 locations will be connected via the latest video and communications technology. The facilities will allow lay ministers to receive training, parishioners to enjoy lectures and clergy the opportunity to engage in dialogue, encourage regional collaboration and reduce the need for travel.

## Family of Faith Campaign

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