



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

Together We Serve

March 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we enter the season of Lent 2021, we embark also on our annual Together We Serve Campaign. Its philosophy from the start has been, “Catholics making a difference”, and that has become even more significant as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It has been a year of sacrifice and challenge for all of our teachers in our schools, our social services helping our vulnerable population or those experiencing job loss, and especially our health-care workers on the frontlines in the battle against the pandemic. Closer to home, we have all experienced stress, and the loss of the simple act of connecting in-person with neighbours, friends and family.

The greatest challenges of all – in this past year – are those that have been faced by people who actually came down with COVID-19 and those faced by people whose loved ones died because of it.

In this pandemic year, the Together We Serve Campaign faces its own challenges. The Archdiocese of Edmonton has fundamentally changed its organizational structure. That process, though absolutely necessary, affected the leadership of this year’s Together We Serve Campaign.

I am grateful to Stéphane Haché who joins the Archdiocese in the role of Donor Engagement Lead. Stéphane brings over 30 years of experience in fundraising, non-profit management and business development to the team. I am confident in his ability to make Together We Serve a success moving forward. He will work closely with Marion Haggarty-France who has taken on the senior leadership role of the Mission Advancement portfolio.

The Together We Serve Campaign will continue this year, supporting our community in the parish, the Archdiocese, our institutions and the community in general. Our goal is to raise as much as possible to support the 10 agencies and institutions. The needs for each of our partners have grown, while resources have diminished significantly during the pandemic.

Through the Together We Serve Campaign, you will be supporting and creating hope for women and children escaping domestic violence, which is on the rise, and families who are stressed and strained as a result of the pandemic. You will support our Catholic institutions, our twin Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith in the Northwest Territories, and our retired priests in our own Archdiocese.

The parish is the hub for supporting Together We Serve. Please pick 12 significant dates during which the parish collection will be specific to this year’s TWS campaign.

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Funds can be collected throughout the year until December 31, 2021 and will be credited to your parish. Technology has afforded us many convenient ways to support Together We Serve through the Archdiocese's website, Canadahelps.org, or directly in your parish. Please consider monthly giving through credit cards or automatic withdrawal as an easy and convenient way to contribute throughout the year.

As we look beyond this year when, please God, the pandemic will be under control, we will analyse, reinvent and relaunch a new version of the Appeal. We will keep you informed and engaged as we consider the next steps and a new approach to the campaign.

Pope Francis tells us, "Being Christian is living and witnessing to faith in prayer, in works of charity, in promoting justice, in doing good." In other words, this appeal offers us an opportunity to evangelize.

The vision of Together We Serve is to help the people of The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton grow in their relationship with Christ. It is to instill in each person an awareness that every gift of nature and grace is a blessing from God.

During Lent, let us focus on living in a spirit of gratitude, expressed in action. United in Christ, there are no small acts. Collectively we can make a great deal of difference. All is God's gift. Everything good that we have and are comes from God.

Sacred Scripture reveals the purpose for which God bestows gifts on his children: "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." (1 Peter 4:10). Even in a pandemic year - with all of its attendant disruptions, sacrifices and challenges – you may never know the precise difference you have made, but you will know that it mattered to someone.

I am very grateful for the continuing support you have shown through your gifts to Together We Serve. As St. Teresa of Calcutta said, "Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."

May God continue to bless you and your families with his abundant grace and mercy.

Yours sincerely in Christ,



✠Richard W. Smith
Archbishop of Edmonton