



# Archdiocese of Winnipeg

*Office of the Archbishop*

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*Now concerning love of the brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anyone write to you, for you yourselves have been taught by God to love one another; and indeed, you do love all the brothers and sisters throughout Macedonia. But we urge you, beloved, to do so more and more". (1 Thess. 4:9-10)*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I write to you about the start of our Sharing God's Gifts Appeal, 2022. In the above Scripture quotation, St. Paul is complimenting and encouraging the Christians to continue in their love and support for the Church in Macedonia. Paul's letter reflects the day-to-day life among these early Christians who had formerly taken their standards and values from the surrounding society. With their conversion to Christ, they began to live according to Biblical values. Indeed, they experienced separation and even persecution and pressure to return to their former way of life. Paul is encouraging them, stressing that opposition was something to be expected.

Their faith was very evident in the way that they supported one another for the sake of the Gospel. I believe that we can relate to this directly in our own day and the Sharing God's Gifts Appeal provides an effective way to support the works of the Church throughout the Archdiocese as well as assisting our own parishes. Our theme this year is, *"With Generous Hearts"*, and our Appeal will be from October 16-November 27, 2022. Our focus is to provide for the necessary apostolic works of our Local Church in southwestern Manitoba.

We have established our goal at \$1 million and this will be directed to: *Youth and Young Adult Ministry; Social Justice programs; First Nations Ministries and the Home Missions; Adult Lay Formation; Priest's Pension Plan; Prison Ministry; Catechism and Lay Formation; St. Charles Retreat Centre; St. Paul's College Chaplaincy; Support for the Archdiocese of Keewatin - Le Pas; and the Office of Vocations and Seminarians.* Sharing God's Gifts Brochures will be available in all parishes outlining the monetary designation for each area of focus for the Appeal. It is worth mentioning that the Archdiocese of Winnipeg has been gifted with St. Charles Retreat Centre, and we are now working to re-establish this wonderful facility as an Archdiocesan centre for retreats, workshops and spiritual gatherings. Funds will be needed to do this work. Secondly, our Archdiocese is twinned with our northern neighbour, the Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas and we are pledged to assist them in their missionary outreach.

### **Solidarity Fund for Truth, Healing and Reconciliation**

This is a separate project in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg and is our part of that national goal of \$30 million across Canada, to be raised over a five-year period, to provide financial support to programs of healing and reconciliation for those affected by the legacy of Residential Schools. Our Archdiocesan responsibility in this national goal is, \$660,000 and to date we have achieved half of our goal. Last year over \$100,000 was donated towards our Solidarity Fund and I am confident we can achieve the same this year. During the summer of 2022, we were able to donate \$50,000 from our Solidarity Fund towards a project to memorialize the Assiniboia Residential School which was located on Academy Road in the City of Winnipeg. The disbursement from our Solidarity Fund is discerned by a committee of Indigenous Elders I have assembled to assist the Archdiocese. Please look at the Solidarity Fund Brochures available in your parish for further information.


### **How can we participate?**

Please consider making a Gift or a Pledge to our **Sharing God's Gift Appeal** this year. I would also encourage you to support our **Solidarity Fund for Healing and Reconciliation**. You will find included with this letter, two postage paid donation envelopes to assist in the discernment of a gift or pledge to the Sharing God's Gift Appeal (yellow in colour) and to the Solidarity Fund (orange in colour). The People of God in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg have proven to be generous and supportive of their Catholic community over the years, including the years of the pandemic. This year's Appeal Video captures the testimony of our parishioners as to the good works done by our Appeal and it will be available to Parishes and featured on the Archdiocesan Web Site and social media platforms at the start of the Appeal.

My prayer is that, in 2022, we can increase our participation to include those who may not have participated before. There is much good work to do, and I have faith that we can do it.

May God be with you and bless you and your family,

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard Gagnon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. To the left of the signature is a small cross symbol.

✚Richard Gagnon  
Archbishop of Winnipeg