



Jubilee Year of Hope
August 2025

For Our Benefactors

Heroes of Hope is a monthly newsletter from the Diocese of Hamilton, shining a light on the extraordinary individuals and ministries who inspire hope and transform lives in our communities.

#HEROESOFHOPE

In every parish and mission across the Diocese of Hamilton, the wellspring of hope keeps flowing because of those whose generosity sustains the Church's mission. All of our benefactors — through weekly offertory contributions, building fund donations, special campaign pledges, legacy gifts and more — enable the preaching of the Gospel, the celebration of the sacraments, and the fulfillment of the mission Christ entrusted to the Church.

The incredible legacy of our beautiful church buildings — and even more so, our vibrant parish communities who have lived the Church's mission for generations — are a living testament to the profound generosity of the faithful in this Diocese. Only through the generosity of the people is the Church able to fulfill her mission and, "like living stones," the beauty of our parish communities testifies to generations of this generous support.

Parishioners who give generously are more than simply donors: **they are stewards of faith, builders of hope, and partners in the mission of Jesus Christ.** Whether providing for the ongoing needs of their parish community, assisting with outreach to the poor, supporting renovations to parish buildings, assisting the Bishop through the Bishop's Charities, helping to grow youth, music, or other various ministries — every gift is a tangible expression of faith in action.

"From the very beginning Christians have brought, along with the bread and wine for the Eucharist, gifts to share with those in need. This custom of the collection, ever appropriate, is inspired by the example of Christ who became poor to make us rich." — *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1351

HEROES OF HOPE



The One Heart, One Soul Campaign

Beginning in 2019, the *One Heart, One Soul* Campaign inspired thousands of parishioners to invest in the future of their local parish and our wider Diocesan community — providing a profound sign of hope. As of 2025, **nearly \$39 million has been raised**, with over 120 parishes and missions raising funds for projects ranging from accessibility upgrades to roof repairs, new and enhanced ministries, restoration of historic art and stained glass, and even new construction of churches and parish centres. In addition to the individual parish and mission projects, each gift further helped build ministries of hope across the Diocese, including university and hospital chaplaincies, prison ministry, migrant worker ministry.

Each pledge provided to the campaign represents a powerful expression of hope. Every gift — large or small — has helped to sustain our community of faith and enabled us to bring the hope of the Gospel more effectively to a world deeply in need.

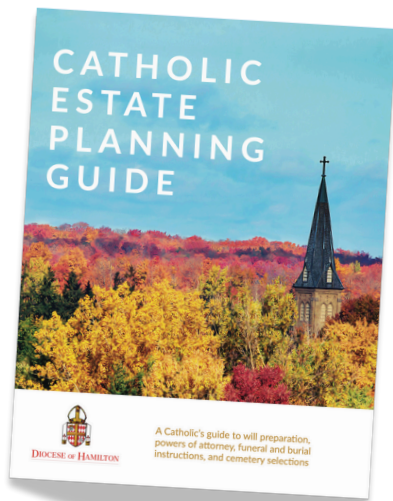
Learn more about the campaign at:
oneheartonesoul.ca



A Hope that Endures

For so many in our Diocese, generosity continues beyond their lifetime. Through a bequest or planned gift, Catholics are able to leave a legacy of faith. Whether through a gift in a Will, a life insurance policy, or a donation of securities, these contributions create an enduring source of support for the Church's mission.

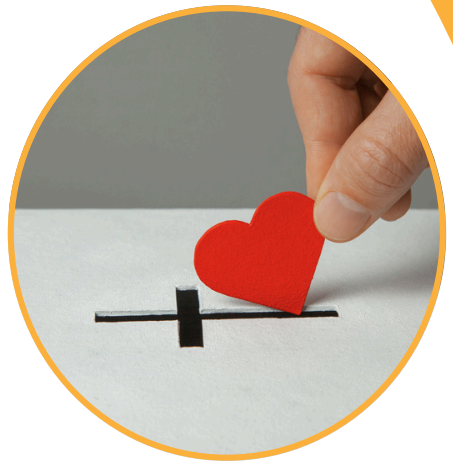
There are so many examples of generous bequests to the Diocese, but one recent example is particularly striking. One long-time parishioner left to the Diocese her home and some investments she and her late husband had accumulated over many years. A strong real estate market and great market returns meant that her bequest resulted in a multi-million dollar gift to the Church. The donor's wish was for her gift to allow the Bishop to assist local parishes and charities in need – adding a multiplying effect to an already-generous gift. Over the past few years, dozens of parishes and other local charities have benefitted from this one generous gift. The ripple effect created by one generous person can truly make a lasting mark on the work of the Church.



The Diocese of Hamilton has recently launched a new website to support this kind of forward-thinking generosity.

Visit legacy.hamiltondiocese.com to make use of the **Catholic Estate Planning Guide**, to plan your estate through the eyes of faith, and to discern how you or your family might build a legacy of hope and help sustain the future of the Church.

“With Him, we can do anything because we know that God surrounds us with an abundance of blessings. Therefore, those who need money and those who can give money meet on the common ground of God's love. ‘God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work’ (2 Cor. 9:8). When this happens, we can indeed say with Paul, “There is a new creation!” (2 Cor. 5:17). Where there is a new creation in Christ, there the kingdom of God is made manifest to the world.” – Fr. Henri Nouwen, *A Spirituality of Fundraising*



HEROES OF HOPE PRAYER FOR OUR BENEFACTORS

Lord God, by the grace of our baptism, you have given us new life in Christ and called us to serve as pilgrims of hope.

We pray in thanksgiving for those who generously share from the abundance of their financial resources to support the many good works of your Church, ensuring that our parishes and ministries are able to make Christ present in our world.

Through their varied gifts, may they touch the hearts of all in our community who long for the hope, born of our Christian faith, that never disappoints.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

