

May 2018

A Word of Gratitude from the Good Shepherd Campaign Committee

Dear faithful of the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface,

We are committed to live and celebrate our calling to holiness, to evangelize and to build a community in God's image, grounded in love, justice, peace and reconciliation: this is at the heart of our archdiocese's mission. Our common values include the belief that the Church is a communion of the baptized, united in faith and charity.¹

Our committee expresses its sincere appreciation to lay persons, religious, priests and deacons for their important support in the realization of our projects and common causes.

We thank all of you who give of your precious time and who share your knowledge and expertise in the service of our archdiocese, of our parishes and our pastoral endeavours. We think of volunteers who give so much of their time and participate actively in committee work, translators who help our diocese serve the faithful in both official languages, volunteers who helped us carry out a successful Good Shepherd Campaign, and so many others. Your commitment brings us joy and motivates us in our committee's work.

Your financial support also helps the Archdiocese achieve its main pastoral objectives. Thanks to your generosity, the Good Shepherd Campaign received \$180,000 in the support of our seminarians who are preparing to serve in our faith communities, in the recruiting of foreign priests and their adapting to their new home and our Canadian customs and culture. This amounts to more than 40% of the annual costs to train new priests and to offer continuing education to current priests. Thank you for this commitment to the future of our Archdiocese!

The impact of your generosity goes beyond the Good Shepherd Campaign. You have also helped the ministry of reconciliation in First Nations communities, Marriage and Family Life, the welcoming of refugees and the Nathanael formation process.

Thanks to the support of an individual donor, the Archdiocese was able to make necessary renovations to the Bishop's House, the oldest residence in the city of Winnipeg. This initiative facilitated bringing all archdiocesan services - Pastoral Centre and Diocesan Administration - under one roof, with a new name, Diocesan Centre. What a wonderful way to preserve our heritage, at the same time as we celebrate the Bicentennial of the Church in Western Canada!

Finally, we want to thank the generous donors who support the activities of Catholica 200, which highlight, as says Archbishop LeGatt, the history of the proclamation of the Gospel in Western Canada. He adds: "Our story continues, with its different colours, its highs and lows, and inspires us to open our hearts."² Our Archdiocese truly has a beautiful tradition of charity. Let us think back to our welcome of the Vietnamese "boat people", nearly forty years ago. As well, we highlight the current efforts at reconciliation and justice, with First Nations and all those who have suffered injustice.

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We sincerely thank you for your remarkable commitment that continues to inspire the Good Shepherd Campaign Committee to work hard at raising the necessary resources to keep meeting the Archdiocesan priorities.

All glory to the Holy Spirit who brings us together!

The Good Shepherd Committee

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References:

- 1- Action Plan 2013-2018, page 16.
- 2- From the video for the launch of Catholica 200.