

# - UNITED NOW More Than Ever in Christ -

## Dear Faithful of the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface.

The year 2020 will forever be etched in our hearts and minds. We were shaken by the Covid-19 pandemic and its repercussions such as isolation and food insecurity - a reality that challenged us to find new and better ways to unite, to choose love for our neighbour and to question our own habits and attitudes.

At the Diocesan Centre, we discerned our role right from the beginning of the pandemic: to ensure the safety of all our faithful; to facilitate communication with and between parishes; to provide spiritual nourishment through the innovative use of various means of communication; and to help parishes cope with the financial impact of this crisis. The "Mamawewesini-ta" food sharing initiative between First Nations and the urban parishes of the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface is a touching example of solidarity—many people responded to our invitation, thus spreading the abundance of which they are stewards with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Despite the challenges, what we have experienced together fills me with hope for our future, for we are united now more than ever in Christ. Diocese and parishes, priests, deacons, religious, and lay people were mobilized to provide spiritual and material services adapted to the circumstances. Several flagship ideas have made our Church even more open and welcoming to Christians standing on its periphery. In addition, we celebrated three ordinations, one to the diaconate and two to the priesthood, and have five seminarians called to serve the faithful of our community once they have completed their formation.

Through the Good Shepherd Campaign, I appeal to your generosity to support the formation of our seminarians, the central goal of our campaign, but also to help us counter the enormous impact of the pandemic on the resources available to the Archdiocese. To continue to play our unifying role with the parishes and to offer them the support on which they depend, we have practiced frugality. However, the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface is accumulating a worrying deficit due to the loss of income caused by the pandemic.

Please dare to once again be generous toward the Good Shepherd Campaign: the future of our archdiocese depends on it! I invite you to discern, in prayer, how you could contribute to the campaign this year.

With gratitude, in Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd,



"FROM ONE MAN [GOD] MADE ALL THE NATIONS, THAT THEY SHOULD INHABIT THE WHOLE EARTH [...]"

(ACTS OF THE APOSTLES 5:26

# **United** in Support of the Formation of New Pastors

Five seminarians are pursuing their studies in order to serve Christ in our archdiocese. Thanks to your donations to the Good Shepherd Campaign, the Archdiocese will have been able to invest about \$150,000 during the 2020–2021 fiscal year to support our recently ordained priests and our seminarians still in school. Thank you for continuing to support this central element in the future of our parishes, through your prayers and donations!



"I prof<mark>ound</mark>ly acknowledge that a priest is not ordained for himself, but for the people of God. Therefore, I desire to become a good pastor according to the example of the Lord, who came for the abundant life of His flock."



"I am so grateful to the people of this Archdiocese for your encouragement and support; you were vital to my discernment and formation toward the priestly vocation."



"It is a joy for me to have believed in God's call and to see that this call is being fulfilled. I am not alone on this path—I thank all those who pray for me and all those who support the Good Shepherd Campaign. My prayers are with you!"

NOW RIST



- FOLD HERE -





### "COVID-19 CERTAINLY PRODUCED CHALLENGES FOR THE PARISHES, BUT THE ARCHDIOCESE WAS UNBELIEVABLY HELPFUL AND SUPPORTIVE:

the updates every week on the number of people we could have in, the precautions we needed to take, the reduction of the Diocesan Tax, etc. It connected with us through its Web page, emails, and video conference meetings. In our parish, we did not have the capacity to live-stream Mass, so we were grateful that the Archdiocese was offering that service with the involvement of parish people like myself.

It is important for us to support the Good Shepherd Campaign in any way we can, because we need priests and programming at the diocesan level for all of us as missionary disciples involved in making our Church very welcoming, knowledgeable and centred in God."

# A SNAPSHOT OF THE 2020 GOOD SHEPHERD CAMPAIGN

- 100% of your gift goes toward the FORMATION OF SEMINARIANS and the Archdiocese's RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC in support of its parishes.
- Financial Goal: \$275,000

### Three ways to give

- Visit the archdiocesan WEBSITE at www.archsaintboniface.ca, click on Good Shepherd Campaign, and follow the prompts
- Place your completed donation card and your gift in the COLLECTION BASKET
- Send by MAIL

### For more information:

Julie Paquin - jpaquin@archsaintboniface.ca or 204-237-9851



#### "HOW DO WE MINISTER DURING THE PANDEMIC?

MIREILLE GRENIER

DIRECTOR OF PASTORAL SERVICES

From one day to the next, we could no longer gather in our churches as before. The diocesan pastoral team multiplied its remote communications with parishes to help frame new ways of carrying out ministries, for example catechism classes. Limited access to our churches has not diminished our need for spirituality, but it has stimulated our creativity! Together with the parishes, we have found new ways to live our faith. All this work is worthwhile—I sincerely believe that the parish and diocesan teams are more united than ever. Through God's grace, we even reached believers who had distanced themselves from our Christian family."

#### SOME EXAMPLES OF THE DIOCESAN CENTRE'S INITIATIVES:

REDUCING THE DIOCESAN TAX from 20% to 10% during the pandemic and suspending the parishes' contribution of 4% to the priests' pension fund: the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface's revenue has decreased by almost \$60,000 per month, even with the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS).

HELPING PARISHES obtain the CEWS.

CONTACTING GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES and other dioceses on a regular basis to formulate liturgical protocols that protect the safety of the faithful.

STRENGTHENING RELATIONS between the diocesan pastoral team and pastoral leaders in parishes through regular communication and increased diocesan support.

PROVIDING SPIRITUAL RESOURCES online and ensuring the live-streaming of Mass. The number of people visiting the diocesan website each month increased by about 1,750 during the pandemic!

PREPARING TOOLS, including letter templates and tips for building a website, to facilitate communication within parishes.

