

## ***A Gift of Prayer, and Material Support***

### ***The Day of Prayer for Canadian Home Missions***

*On the weekend of February 9, a new initiative called the Day of Prayer for Canadian Home Missions will be adopted by our Archdiocese. Prayer cards will be in the pews so that we can offer prayer together and bring strength to fellow Canadian Catholics and their missionaries.*

*A special collection to raise funds for **Catholic Missions in Canada**, will also be allocated to help Canadian Bishops, including Bishop Albert LeGatt, subsidize the costs of maintaining and sustaining their missionaries and missions. Father Antonysamy Savarimuthu, the pastor of St. John Bosco Parish in Poplar River, explains how Catholic Missions in Canada helped the faithful renew their parish infrastructure.*



The newly renovated Hall at St. John Bosco Parish in Poplar River  
(photo by Fr. Antonysamy Savarimuthu)

Father Antonysamy Savarimuthu, is pastor at St. John Bosco Parish in Poplar River and Our Lady of the Snow Parish in Berens River since 2015.

“Catholic Missions in Canada is a great source of support for us at Poplar River. Their contributions, as well as those from the Archdiocese, have been essential. Six years ago, with their help, renovations were started on our Parish Hall. The building was extended, bathroom and kitchen services were added, the electrical and heating systems were updated. I could go on, as so much was improved. Before, there were no washrooms. How could a parish easily event function when parishioners had to go to the rectory for the amenities?

“Now, 99% of the work in the hall is done. Parishioners are now looking at renovating the church. The electrical system is out of date. And we need microphones and a better sound system. There’s still much that needs doing.”

Canadian Missions in Canada contributed \$ 30 000 for the renovations. Yet Fr. Antonysamy Savarimuthu is not alone in appreciating the work of CMIC. In 2019 alone, the non-profit corporation that keeps the Catholic faith alive in remote and poor missions across Canada has donated \$ 152 000 granted to our archdiocesan northern parishes, and \$ 84 000 for St. Boniface seminarians.

Mission activity was the first action of the Apostles. French missionaries accompanying explorers continued that action in North America. Four hundred years later, some areas have yet to be fully established.

Our home missions need our attention. And our Canadian missionaries and the Catholics they serve need our prayers. We invited you, then, to join all the faithful in Canada and in our archdiocese, to offer prayers during the *Day of Prayer for Canadian Home Missions*, and to contribute to the continued success of missions all over the country.

### ***Who are Canadian Missions in Canada?***

In 1908, the Catholic Church Extension Society of Canada was founded to “cultivate the missionary spirit in the clergy and the people”, and “to preserve the Faith of Jesus Christ among Catholic immigrants” coming to the new country of Canada.

On June 9, 1010, Pope Pius X issued a charter to the Society for “the protection and diffusion and the preservation of the Catholic Faith in the territories of the Dominion of Canada”.

In 1999, the name of the Society was changed to Catholic Missions in Canada to better reflect its operation and goals. CMIC is a non-profit corporation strives to support

Catholic missions in remote and poor missions. The corporation raises funds that help Catholic bishops in Canada subsidize areas of their dioceses and eparchies that are isolated, remote or fly-in communities with few people and high unemployment. Currently, over 600 missions in 23 dioceses are funded. The funds collected stay in Canada.



Fr. Malachy Ekezie, SMMM. St. Margaret's Chapel, Bloodvein, MB.  
This chapel has since been renovated with the help of CMIC.