



Re: Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada
26-27 September 2020

Dear Pastors and collaborators in pastoral ministry,

This year, the Catholic Church in Canada, along with the rest of society, has been seriously affected by the Coronavirus pandemic: from an inability to gather in worship, through limitations on pastoral and personal interaction, to office closures. Bishops, as shepherds who watch over their flock, felt this disruption very keenly.

Recognizing the need to ensure everyone's safety and to promote the common good, both spiritual and temporal, they made the difficult decision to follow physical distancing protocols and temporarily suspended all public celebrations of the Eucharist and other sacraments.

While our public worship as well as community gatherings and charitable works were affected, the mission of the Church has carried on. Diocesan personnel and parish pastoral teams and leadership, have persevered. We have witnessed and rejoiced in the selflessness and generosity of so many people in responding to the needs of our communities.

Our Episcopal Conference too has remained fully engaged. In the face of real obstacles, we innovated, drew strength from God and each other, and brought the Lord's enduring message of comfort and healing to the weary.

As we continue to address the challenges and impact of the Coronavirus upon our families, communities of faith and ecclesial outreach, on behalf of all Canada's Bishops I would like to thank you for your ongoing support. Your prayers and gestures of kindness and generosity are invaluable, heartfelt and true sources of consolation, comfort and renewed encouragement in the pursuit of the Church's pastoral mission. The Conference, supported by donations to the *Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada*, will continue to facilitate common action among the Bishops, providing pastoral encouragement and resources for the local churches, and announcing the message of the Gospel for all to hear.

We have all had to make adjustments and start anew in many ways in our personal lives, ministries, families, work and communities. In many regards, we have learned a lot and we are ever more committed, by God's grace, to building up, in more creative ways now, the same Body of Christ through innumerable initiatives, both locally and nationally. For this, on behalf of my brother Bishops, I ask the Lord to bless you and your loved ones abundantly, and keep you safe always.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Richard Gagnon
Archbishop of Winnipeg and
President of the Canadian Conference
of Catholic Bishops

For more information: www.cccb.ca