

Diocesan Annual Appeal

"Becoming Church"

Diocese of Prince George

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Lord God,
we praise you
for your goodness
and for your presence
in our lives.
When we gather
as your people
to share our stories
and to break the bread,
you are in our midst
to nourish us
and to bless us with your love.

Guide us, your people,
on our Journey of a Lifetime.
Help us to live
as disciples of your Son Jesus,
that we may offer our lives
in praise of you
and in loving service
to our neighbour.
We ask this
through Christ our Lord.



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

St. James asks what our love for Jesus Christ can possibly mean if it does not result in action on behalf of our neighbor. He suggests that that faith is demonstrated most acutely in care for the needy, the suffering, and the underprivileged.

Stewardship includes proclaiming the Good News by putting our faith into action on behalf of others. In what ways have we been willing to make sacrifices and renunciations for the sake of Jesus Christ and our neighbor?



Issue # 49

September 26, 2012

WE'VE KICKED OFF!

We've kicked off our fifth Diocesan Annual Appeal, "Becoming Church". In this appeal we take time to reflect on and give thanks for the ministry of Bishop Gerry over the past twenty years. As we do so, what we recognize over and over again is the many ways in which he has invited, called, and challenged us to truly become Church, to continue on the journey that began at our baptism. We see that becoming Church truly is a lifetime process for all of us, and we can never sit back and say that we are finished with the journey.

Part of our journey in becoming Church is to recognize that we are a diocesan church, that our church includes all the parishes and missions of the Prince George Diocese and that we are all equally members of that church and responsible for the life and mission of that church.

Participating in the Diocesan Annual Appeal and sharing of our treasure is one way in which we can assume responsibility for the life and mission of the diocesan church. When we are generous and share, others benefit; when we choose not to share, other communities may have to do without some of the necessities of being a Eucharistic community within the diocesan church. In his Letter to the Romans, St. Paul reminds us that the life and death of each of us has its influence on others. In a very similar way, our response has an effect on others other communities within our diocesan church. We are invited to prayerfully consider our response to the call to Become Church.

APPEAL 2011

As we begin a new Appeal year, it is good to look back at the last Diocesan Annual Appeal and to have a report on the appeal just completed.

First, some great news: we had a 99.3% completion rate on the pledges made in the 2011 Appeal. That is almost unheard of in diocesan appeals. So, congratulations to all who fulfilled the pledges that were made. Sometimes sacrifices were involved to complete the pledge, and we are grateful to all who were able to fulfill their pledges.

We also met our goal of \$400,000 which has been distributed to the various ministries and missions listed in last year's brochure. There will be a complete listing in the winter edition of the Northern Catholic News. Those parishes that went over their goal received rebates during the year and the final rebates have been sent along with the contingency rebates at the end of the week.

A heartfelt and sincere thanks to all who participated in the Diocesan Annual Appeal in 2011. Your gifts have been well used to continue the mission of the church in our diocese and to move us along the journey to becoming financially self-sufficient. Your participation in the appeals is essential and very much appreciated. During the coming appeal year, it is our hope to include short reports in the newsletters about the projects and missions that were supported by the appeal last year. The more knowledge we have about our diocesan church, the more connected we will become and the more aware we will be of the needs around us.

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL—NEW AND OLD THINGS

We have added another option for pledging and donating to the Diocesan Annual Appeal. Donations can be done online through an organization called CanadaHelps. Visit the diocesan website pgdiocese.bc.ca and click on the donate button at the bottom left corner of the homepage. You will be guided through the donation.

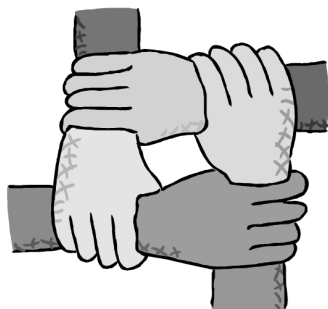
Each week, as in previous years, we will publish the chart seen below which will give us a quick snapshot of where we are in the appeal.

Here is a quick snapshot of where we are as of September 26, 2012

Parish	Households	Appeal Goal	Total Pledged	Total % of Goal	# of Pledges	Average Pledge	Pledges Received
Annunciation, Prince Rupert	290	29,711	995	3.3%	5	199	845
Christ Our Saviour, Prince George	185	20,077	1,620	8.1%	5	324	1,220
Christ the King, Kitimat	599	51,412	1,045	2.0%	7	149	345
Resurrection, Fort St. John	317	35,584	2,010	5.6%	5	402	1,050
Holy Cross, Tumbler Ridge	27	4,163	120	2.9%	2	60	20
Immaculata, Burns Lake	85	13,098		0.0%			
Immaculate Conception, Prince George	191	26,343	3,445	13.1%	12	287	2,070
Notre Dame, Dawson Creek	262	28,328	2,870	10.1%	12	239	1,275
Our Lady of Peace, Chetwynd	66	11,942	1,071	9.0%	8	134	530
Our Lady of Snows, Fort St. James	99	8,774		0.0%			
Sacred Heart, Prince George	610	48,285	9,090	18.8%	27	337	3,350
Sacred Heart, Terrace	500	52,684	16,186	30.7%	60	270	3,410
St. Andrew's, Fraser Lake	70	10,082		0.0%			
St. Anthony's, Houston	41	4,776	300	6.3%	3	100	250
St. Joseph's, Vanderhoof	91	12,125	200	1.6%	1	200	200
St. Joseph's, Smithers	165	22,029	750	3.4%	2	375	500
St. Mary's, Prince George	527	42,110	7,448	17.7%	28	266	4,778
St. Mary's, New Hazelton	34	5,278	100	1.9%	1	100	
St. Patrick's, McBride	62	3,576	1,400	39.1%	7	200	1,400
St. Peter's, Mackenzie	45	7,983	300	3.8%	1	300	300
Unaffiliated Donors			5,100		2	2,550	5,000
Totals	4,266	400,000	54,050	13.5%	188	288	26,543

Thank you for your pledges!

HELP US HELP EACH OTHER ON THE JOURNEY



This is an invitation to all projects, programs and parishes and missions that have received allocations from the appeal to submit short stories or reports about the project or community for publication in our newsletter. It is our hope to provide these kinds of stories for the members of the diocese to help all of us become more aware of our brothers and sisters, of our parish communities and of the ways in which our support of the appeal is used around our church.