

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

Thanksgiving. When we hear the word, what images dance through our imaginations? Most of our images evoke the feast that we celebrate, but only at certain levels. If we go deeper, Thanksgiving begins to evoke other images and responses. We imagine and remember all our gifts and blessings during the previous year, and we are called to express our gratitude for these gifts by sharing them with others.

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WHAT DOES THE APPEAL DO FOR US?

This question is often raised: how often have you asked it, and how often have you had an answer that helped you understand the Appeal better?

The column to the right gives a brief account of the funding that was given to various Pro-Life groups last year. The work that these groups does contributes to our well being as individuals, a community and a nation. Whether we are involved directly or not, the funding helps the groups continue to raise the issues and call on all people to seek the answers.

Faith formation supported by the Appeal. While most people in the diocese have not taken the Lay Formation program, most parishes have members who have. As these people continue to live and serve in the parish community, their understanding of faith and church and their commitment to living that faith enhances the life of the whole community. They are people who will give a great deal to the community because of their involvement in faith formation. Many people in most of our parishes have taken some kind of faith formation over the past years, whether it is an evening workshop on some aspect of church, liturgy, scripture, etc. or a slightly longer workshop. We all benefit from the resource people available to help us continue to learn in our own communities.

When we contribute to the Appeal, we contribute to the life of the community and our own growth, we continue on this journey of "Becoming Church."

This is the first of a series about projects, parishes, missions etc. that were funded by:

APPEAL 2011

"Your generous donation from the Diocesan ProLife Fund has been profoundly helpful in supporting the ongoing ministry of the Centre in our community."

These words are from the Prince George Crisis Pregnancy Centre, one of several pro-life endeavors in the Diocese of Prince George that receive funding from the Diocesan ProLife Fund.

The letter goes on to say: "I mentioned the young lady who came into the Centre and had decided to carry her baby to term after initially considering abortion. She has continued to receive support from her volunteer counselor. A few months ago she gave birth to a beautiful baby girl."

When I hear a story such as this I realize the importance of the Diocesan ProLife Fund which is supported by the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

Normally the ProLife Fund distributes between \$10,000 to \$12,000 per year. The past year saw fewer applications with just \$7,200 donated to support prolife initiatives in Prince George, Dawson Creek, Fort St. John and Prince Rupert. Terrace, Kitimat and Smithers groups have received support in other years.

Education is a very important part of prolife work in our Diocese. The Fund has also donated towards the costs of advertising, conferences and workshops, travel, facility maintenance, guest speakers and updating. Here is what those who work so hard on behalf of the most vulnerable in society through the prolife movement have said after receiving a donation from the ProLife Fund:

"Thank you for your continuing support ... your donation will be valuable in helping women and babies in need in our area" (North Peace Pregnancy Care Centre).
"I am most grateful as this has allowed us to carry out our mission of educating those in our community to the sanctity of all human life" (Prince George ProLife Society).

Thank you all who give to the Diocesan Annual Appeal; your generosity can really make a difference!

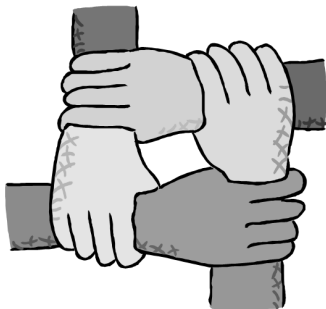
DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

Remember that you can give your gift in various ways—cash, cheque, postdated cheques, electronic funds transfer from your bank account or online. Also, our Appeal year runs until August 31, so if you are unable to respond now, but are able to at a later date, you are most welcome to do so, and all gifts contribute toward the final goal. Some people do not make an initial pledge (or just make a very small one) but contribute throughout the year as they have the ability to do so. This certainly is another option if you cannot be definite about your pledge at this time.

Here is a quick snapshot of where we are as of October 3rd, 2012

Parish	Households	Appeal Goal	Total Pledged	Total % of Goal	# of Pledges	Average Pledge	Pledges Received
Annunciation, Prince Rupert	290	29,711	7,780	26.2%	34	229	1,115
Christ Our Saviour, Prince George	185	20,077	4,710	23.5%	16	294	3,950
Christ the King, Kitimat	599	51,412	7,621	14.8%	35	218	695
Resurrection, Fort St. John	317	35,584	2,595	7.3%	8	324	2,008
Holy Cross, Tumbler Ridge	27	4,163	680	16.3%	4	170	580
Immaculata, Burns Lake	85	13,098	920	7.0%	7	131	670
Immaculate Conception, Prince George	191	26,343	6,600	25.1%	23	287	4,710
Notre Dame, Dawson Creek	262	28,328	6,020	21.3%	24	251	2,213
Our Lady of Peace, Chetwynd	66	11,942	5,321	44.6%	14	380	5,251
Our Lady of Snows, Fort St. James	99	8,774	415	4.7%	2	208	140
Sacred Heart, Prince George	610	48,285	14,555	30.1%	46	316	11,900
Sacred Heart, Terrace	500	52,684	22,555	42.8%	88	256	10,260
St. Andrew's, Fraser Lake	70	10,082	75	0.7%	1	75	75
St. Anthony's, Houston	41	4,776	1,560	32.7%	8	195	850
St. Joseph's, Vanderhoof	91	12,125	2,130	17.6%	5	426	2,130
St. Joseph's, Smithers	165	22,029	1,750	7.9%	6	292	1,450
St. Mary's, Prince George	527	42,110	12,298	29.2%	52	237	8,582
St. Mary's, New Hazelton	34	5,278	960	18.2%	3	320	545
St. Patrick's, McBride	62	3,576	1,580	44.2%	9	176	1,580
St. Peter's, Mackenzie	45	7,983	3,400	42.6%	7	486	3,400
Unaffiliated Donors			6,450		4	1,613	5,000
Totals	4,266	400,000	109,975	27.5%	396	278	67,104

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.