

Diocesan Annual Appeal

"Becoming Church"

Diocese of Prince George

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Lord Jesus Christ, with hearts on fire we welcome you.
You approach us and walk with us.
Remove all that restrains us from recognizing you;
and whatever stops us from putting aside everything else to follow you.
Open the Scriptures to us.
Teach us to know you and to see you and to hear you in the assembly of the Baptized,
in the ministries of the Church,
in the proclamation of the Word,
and in the Breaking of the Bread.
School us in the ways of the Gospel.
Coach us in the ways of Christian Stewardship.
Show us how to use wisely the blessings given to us.
Show us how to take good care of those whose happiness and well-being you have entrusted to us.



STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION

Jesus makes a dramatic statement regarding the rich in today's Gospel. We are all rich compared to most in the world. Our society causes us to occasionally develop a misplaced trust in our money and our possessions instead of trusting in God's generosity. When we seek security in at-risk things, like our possessions, we are vulnerable to anxiety and fear. As good stewards we know that our possessions must not possess us, lest they get in the way of our discipleship.



Issue # 51

October 10, 2012

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

This weekend we celebrate Commitment Sunday. It is the fourth and last weekend of the active phase of our Diocesan Annual Appeal "Becoming Church".

While this weekend marks the end of the active, promotional phase of the appeal, this year's appeal continues on until August 31 next year. This gives contributors and opportunity to fulfill their pledges over a period of time rather than all at once, if that works best for them. It is also an opportunity for those who were not able to contribute in September/October, or for those who might wish to make a further contribution later in the year.

About mid-November, there will be a second letter sent from the appeal office to all members on our list who did respond to the first invitation to participate in the appeal. The second letter is a gentle reminder that we are asking for your help to continue the mission of the church in our part of the world.

This year's appeal has gotten off to a wonderful start, and we look forward to quickly reaching our appeal goal once again this year. Remember that all gifts a parish receives over its goal are returned to the parish as a tax-free rebate.

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."

We continue our series about

APPEAL 2011

ST. PATRICK'S PARISH, MCBRIDE

As families gathered on Thanksgiving Weekend to offer gratitude to God for the many blessings they have received, it is also an opportune time for us to offer thanks and appreciation for the assistance that the Diocesan Annual Appeal has annually given St. Patrick's Parish.

St. Patrick's Parish is located in McBride approximately 210km east of Prince George. With no current industry in the community, the population of McBride is shrinking as families relocate to find employment. This has a great impact on the parish. A majority of parishioners are seniors who for many years have shared their time, talent and treasure to support their parish and whose commitment has ensured that the Church doors remain open.

The Church and Rectory are 75 years old and, are in need of constant maintenance. This small parish community strives to support itself through Sunday donations, fundraising events and by doing as much of our own maintenance as possible.

St. Patrick's Parish benefits directly from the Diocesan Annual Appeal as the subsidy it receives contributes towards paying the heating and electricity bills, and the travel expenses for a priest to celebrate Mass at St. Patrick's twice a month. It is also probable that without this subsidy there would not be a resident Pastoral Life Director in the parish. So we say **THANK YOU** to all who generously contribute to the Diocesan Annual Appeal.

May God Bless you!

DIOCESAN ANNUAL APPEAL

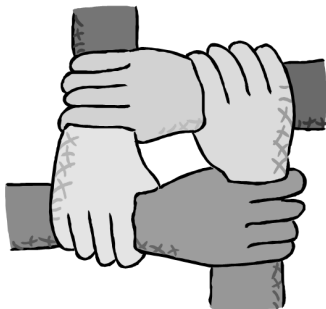
Remember that you can give your gift in various ways—cash, cheque, postdated cheques, electronic funds transfer from your bank account or online. Also, our Appeal year runs until August 31, so if you are unable to respond now, but are able to at a later date, you are most welcome to do so, and all gifts 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 10, 2012

Parish	Households	Appeal Goal	Total Pledged	Total % of Goal	# of Pledges	Average Pledge	Pledges Received
Annunciation, Prince Rupert	290	29,711	12,430	41.8%	46	270	1,855
Christ Our Saviour, Prince George	185	20,077	7,830	39.0%	26	301	7,020
Christ the King, Kitimat	599	51,412	12,661	24.6%	48	264	1,485
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	680
Immaculata, Burns Lake	85	13,098	1,220	9.3%	8	153	670
Immaculate Conception, Prince George	191	26,343	9,065	34.4%	30	302	5,395
Notre Dame, Dawson Creek	262	28,328	7,091	25.0%	34	209	5,613
Our Lady of Peace, Chetwynd	66	11,942	5,351	44.8%	14	382	5,351
Our Lady of Snows, Fort St. James	99	8,774	615	7.0%	3	205	340
Sacred Heart, Prince George	610	48,285	17,650	36.6%	60	294	14,310
Sacred Heart, Terrace	500	52,684	28,415	53.9%	104	273	16,860
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	6,100	50.3%	9	678	5,130
St. Joseph's, Smithers	165	22,029	3,450	15.7%	13	265	3,400
St. Mary's, Prince George	527	42,110	17,268	41.0%	68	254	13,452
St. Mary's, New Hazelton	34	5,278	1,620	30.7%	6	270	545
St. Patrick's, McBride	62	3,576	1,715	48.0%	12	143	1,745
St. Peter's, Mackenzie	45	7,983	3,700	46.3%	8	463	3,700
Unaffiliated Donors			6,450		3	2,150	6,100
Totals	4,266	400,000	147,541	36.9%	513	288	96,584

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.