



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Prince George
6500 Southridge Avenue, Box 7000
Prince George, BC Canada
V2N 3Z2

Phone: 250-964-4424
Fax: 250-964-2101

September 11, 2013

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we began the Year of Faith last October, we were challenged to reflect on our faith and on the responsibility we all have of fulfilling the mission given to us in baptism to “open our ears to hear his Word and our mouths to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God” (adapted from Rite of Baptism).

We have an individual and a corporate vocation to proclaim the Good News and build the Kingdom of God in our world. On an individual level, we are called to that vocation in our daily lives – at home, in our families, at work, in our recreational activities and our day to day encounters with others. On a wider level, we are called to continue the work of the whole church, and in our case, the Diocese of Prince George, in fulfilling the mandate given to us by Christ.

One of the ways we can participate in the vocation of the Diocesan Church is through our participation in the Annual Diocesan Appeal. This participation takes various forms:

- We are all called to pray for our Diocese and for the various ministries and missions supported by the Appeal.
- We are also challenged to do everything possible to grow in our own faith and strengthen the faith life of our particular parish communities through our participation in the life of these communities.
- Having a positive attitude toward the Appeal and encouraging others to participate is also essential to the success of the Appeal.
- Finally, as each one is able, we are asked to contribute financially to the Appeal.

Sometimes we may wonder what good our seemingly insignificant efforts can accomplish in the larger picture. We might look at all the needs in the world and the Church around us and feel that our efforts will have no effect, and so we do not respond. However, we need to be mindful that the seemingly insignificant individual efforts of a large number of people can have a tremendous effect. We need to believe that our efforts are worthwhile, and that we are called to contribute to the mission of the Church. We might ask ourselves this question: If we don't respond to the Appeal and to the vocation to continue the Church's mission today, who will? We are the Church, and we are the ones called to this mission. We are called to “build together in faith” during this Year of Faith and each day of our lives.

The Annual Diocesan Appeal “Building Together in Faith” reminds us that together we can live out our vocation to continue the Lord's work in ways that we cannot accomplish as individuals; however, the Lord's work requires the efforts of individuals.

Today we kick off the Annual Diocesan Appeal. You are invited to pick up your appeal packages and to prayerfully reflect on your response to the invitation to participate in the appeal. Remember that every gift is of great value, no matter what the gift. Together we are invited and challenged to Build Together in Faith.

Sincerely in our Lord,

Rev. Richard Beaudette, OMI
Vicar General