



COMMITMENT WEEKEND

OCTOBER 3 - 4, 2020

Commitment Weekend includes the following:

- Pastors/Pastoral Administrators/Pastoral Life Directors speak at all Masses as part of the ***Called Together*** (pastors may incorporate “stewardship theme” in their homily as part of the Appeal promotion)
- Post information on your parish website, social media and in any email newsletters you may have – think about communicating the appeal@pgdiocese.bc.ca eTransfer address and directing people to the Diocese’s home page, where there is a link to the Canada Helps site for credit card donations.
- **Blank Pledge forms** will be available at Mass as part of the ***Commitment Weekend*** wherever this is possible
- **Bulletin and pulpit** announcement that includes parish goal and current update
- Universal Prayers
- Remind parishioners that if they check the Anonymous donor box, they will not receive a tax receipt (and to contact our office if they have already sent it in and need to change that!)

To all pastors and/or secretaries

1. Prepare for Commitment Weekend
2. Ensure the following are available:
 - ✓ Pledge forms and pencils (ensure that they are photocopied and available).
 - ✓ Make sure that there is a table set up in the church foyer with Appeal promotional materials. i.e. brochures, pledge forms, envelopes and pencils.
2. Make sure that the greeters/ushers know what your plan is – perhaps you are having them point out where the forms are and what parishioners are to do with them.
3. The Pastor should explain the pledge form and encourage people to participate. If you are asking them to fill the form out before the end of mass, perhaps you can read Fr. Terry’s note below.

Bulletin Write-up and Pulpit Announcement

On this Commitment Weekend for ***Called Together – Giving, Sharing, Serving***, the Appeal Office is very grateful to share the good news that over **52%** of the Diocesan Goal has already been pledged with an equivalent dollar of **\$105,319**. Funds received are at \$82,877.

St. Mary's (PG) Parish has reached 128.57% of the parish goal. Christ Our Saviour is at 93.8%, Sacred Heart in Terrace is at 87.8%, and St Patrick's in McBride is at 78.6%. Thank you for your continued support to the parishes, missions and ministries of the diocese.

Called Together – Giving, Sharing, Serving is more than just another collection. Christian stewards recognize God as the source of all of our many gifts. We are grateful for these abundant gifts and are eager to give back in appreciation to demonstrate our love for Christ and for one another and to assist those who need our support. All of us share as Christ's disciples in the mission of the Diocese of Prince George. Many thanks to all who completed a pledge form and have moved us closer to our goal as a parish family.

Parish Goal: \$_____ Total Pledged: \$_____

Universal Prayers

For our Diocesan family called to support the ministries of our Church through the Annual Appeal - ***Called Together***; that parishes, missions and ministries who will benefit from our donations will be blessed. We pray to the Lord.

For our Diocesan family called to support the parishes, missions and ministries of our Church through the Annual Appeal - ***Called Together***; that our commitment will reflect our gratitude to God's generosity to us. We pray to the Lord.

From Fr. Terry Brock:

Fr. Terry Brock shared how the Diocesan Annual Appeal is really meant to help the entire Diocese – particularly the parishes and missions with small populations. The Bishop has a responsibility to look after the entire Diocese – not just the larger centres that are more easily able to make ends meet. Those in more remote locations like Fort Ware, Fort St. James, McBride, and in Fr. Terry's own mission – Our Lady of the Islands in Haida Gwaii – have a desire and a right to receive the sacraments, and the Appeal helps to cover those costs.

"It's like providing communion to the sick or anointing a patient in the University Hospital in Prince George. It may only cost \$2 for the gas for a priest to visit and anoint them. But in the missions we have people – both young and old – who have the same need and longing for the sacraments. It costs more in time and money to get to them, but the Church has to respond to their needs, too."

Each trip to Haida Gwaii costs Fr. Terry about \$500 for the ferry, gas and other expenses to travel to the four communities where he stops to celebrate the sacraments. Each trip he also visits several elderly Catholics to provide communion and anointing. "You never know when it may be the last sacraments they will receive."

He expressed his appreciation for the support of the people of the Diocese through the Annual Appeal to help support him in his ministry.

He also sees the other side of the Appeal process that helps parishes raise money for projects by surpassing their parish goal and receiving the rebates from the Appeal. "Annunciation Parish has been able to make our church more welcoming to the elderly and those with disabilities by replacing the steps with an accessible entrance. This year, part of our goal is to continue that work and replace our doors with more accessible ones."