



# Diocese of Thunder Bay

## Newsletter

Catholic Pastoral Centre | 1222 Reaume Street, Postal Box 10400, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6T8 | dotb.ca

Fall 2024



Catholic Missions  
In Canada

Catholic Missions in Canada was founded in 1908 under papal mandate and has been supporting the hard work of the missionaries in remote and poor mission communities across Canada since then. Catholic Missions in Canada seeks to sustain and extend the Catholic faith in isolated, poor and hard-to-reach mission areas. These are communities where diocesan resources are insufficient to keep the church alive which is why the Catholic Missions of Canada are indispensable when it comes to fostering faith. Not only do they provide essential social services they also promote social justice, preserve religious traditions and build bridges between diverse cultural groups. Missions contribute significantly to the spiritual and social fabric of Canada and as the Church continues to navigate the challenges of modern society, Catholic missions will remain a crucial source of hope, service and inspiration for many Canadians. According to the Catholic Missions website, sixty-eight percent of all donations go towards sustaining missionaries, eleven percent goes towards seminarian education, nine percent for repairs to maintain mission churches, nine percent champions religious educational programs and three percent for lay leaders. Even though they are credited they know that they could not do it alone which is why Catholic Missions constantly expresses gratitude for the loyal base of donors and their partnerships with organizations such as the Catholic Women's League, Catholic school boards and the Knights of Columbus who make it all possible. Catholic Missions of Canada reminds us that we are stronger together.

### PRAYER FOR CANADIAN HOME MISSIONS

*Heavenly Father,  
we pray for our  
Canadian home missions,  
from sea to sea to sea.  
Take into Your care,  
through our prayer,  
our brothers and sisters in faith.  
We ask protection  
and strength in faith, hope and love.  
Grant zeal with compassion  
to the missionaries  
who share the Gospel.  
Let your face shine upon them.  
Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God forever and ever.  
**Amen***

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!”  
Ecclesiastes 4:9–12

“Catholic mission in Canada has always been very generous to the Diocese of Thunder Bay by providing financial assistance to many of our Mission parishes. Catholic Missions has helped these smaller parishes maintain & upkeep their church, something that the church would have not been able to do on their own. We are truly grateful for all that Catholic Mission in Canada has done for our Diocese.” †



## Anemki-Wadj Spiritual Centre *By Penny Fitzpatrick*

I am writing this on behalf of the Anemki - Wadj Spiritual Centre to express our deepest gratitude for the on-going financial support we have received from Missions Canada. Missions Canada's commitment has been the cornerstone in our mission to serve the community and foster spiritual growth.

Thanks to their support, we have successfully hosted numerous enriching initiatives such as private retreats, cultural days including honoring our ancestors and blessing of the bundles in collaboration with Saint Ann's R.C. church St. Kateri Tekakwitha Church. These events have been instrumental in building bridges within both the indigenous and Catholic Church, communities promoting education and celebrating their rich traditions of peoples. The integration of these ceremonies within the Catholic Church has brought healing dignity and a deeper understanding to all involved.

This sponsorship has also played a vital role in the success of the spiritual exercises of Saint Ignatius. Each year we have witnessed 6 – 12 individuals completing this transformative program which ultimately aids in discerning their own call within the church. The impact of these exercises has been profound and life changing for many. For the year 2023 and 2024 we have two groups coming through the exercises. One group consisting of eight people and the second group consisting of seven people.

Furthermore, our centre has become a beacon of learning and interaction for university students from Toronto Ontario focusing on studies and interaction with the land. We have also been able to host a variety of retreats in partnership with both school boards public and Catholic, the Ontario Native Women's Association, (ONWA), the Catholic Women's League (CWL), Christian Life Community in collaboration with the Jesuits, and was able to provide a serene environment for priests during their eight-day silent retreats. Over the past few years, we have been able to develop a Spiritual Director's Workshop working in collaboration with the Pickering Manresa Spiritual Centre. Fr. Henk S.J. has generously provided an entrance level workshop

that has helped develop a deeper level of service in ministry in our church and community. It has been well received here in Thunder Bay with the first participants receiving their certificates from Bishop Colli at the end of 2022. We have since began a new program with approximately 22 participants. This Spiritual Director's Program will be from 2023-2025. Again with Fr. Henk facilitating from Pickering. We are truly blessed. The breadth of our reach, considering the size of our centre, is a testament to the power of community and shared faith.

The support of Missions Canada has been a crucial element in our ability to serve not just our local community in Thunder Bay, but also to extend our reach and impact. We are deeply grateful for their generosity, which has enabled us to continue our vital work. Their contributions have not only supported our endeavors but have also been a source of encouragement and hope.

As we look forward to the future, we are filled with optimism and gratitude.

Thank you once again for your unwavering support and faith in our mission. We are profoundly grateful to Missions Canada for being an integral part of our journey. †



*Indigenous Ministry Leadership Building  
Aneemki-Wadj F.W.F.N. - 2021  
In Collaboration with St. Kateri R.C. Church, Christian  
Life Communities and the Jesuits*





## St. Hilary

Beyond is natural beauty and charm Red Rock Ontario is a strong community; that has survived many economic changes over the years. Over the years St. Hilary's parish has become a cornerstone, rooted in the community's faith. As much as the community wanted to come together to fix the aging parish roof the expense was insurmountable. Bishop Colli reached out to Catholic Missions in Canada for assistance and they answered the call by donating the \$55,000.00 needed to repair the roof. James Legacy, Chairman for St. Hilary stated "Catholic Missions in Canada was our Godsend. Without them, our new roof would not have happened. It would have taken us years to save the amount. Thank you again— words cannot describe our gratitude. God bless." †





In many of his talks and sermons, Pope Francis notes how our memories are important and our past experiences shape our lives in many ways. He said that remembering those special moments in our past gives us a boost of faith and hope for the future, and that these memories would instill in us a sense of ‘gratitude’. Now gratitude is defined as: “the quality of being thankful; readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness”. In my 25 years as the bishop of Thunder Bay, I have witnessed and experienced the great generosity of the people of our parishes and of northwestern Ontario, and this generosity fills my heart with gratitude.

I believe generosity is prompted by gratitude. When people recognize the good things that have touched their lives, then gratitude prompts them to be even more generous in their sharing with others. We know that in sharing and giving, we are given a special sense of joy and happiness through our actions. This joy and happiness also prompt gratitude in our hearts.

Everyone I am sure, can think back of the good things and many blessings they have received over the years, and especially in our community, where we live in peace and harmony, in freedom and with the ability to learn and achieve many good goals. This all prompts us to be grateful in our hearts and to thank the Lord for the blessings and graces we have received. We know also that there are many challenges that touch our lives, and Pope Francis notes that even these should prompt some gratitude, since these challenges help us to learn and to grow as a person, they help us to build character and wisdom and they encourage us to always strive for the better.

As I have said, the generosity, the caring and the concern that is demonstrated by the good people of northwestern Ontario for almost any cause or needy project, has

always been most evident in our community. Maybe this generous response is a part of our need for self-sufficiency in northern Ontario where communities are stretched apart by distance, or maybe it is the result of many years of caring and providing for others in a climate that can also be very challenging. Whatever the reason, generosity is very evident, and this is nurtured by our gratitude for all that we have.

This leads me into my annual appeal to the people of our parishes and to our community, to respond to our needs once again through the annual Bishop’s Diocesan Ministry Campaign 2024. As you can see by the outline of all the projects, our needs have increased a bit this year as we reach out to struggling parishes, support our priests and deacons in education, encourage our youth in their special projects and in supporting the bishop and his office, these are all a part of this year’s campaign statement. The funds are necessary as we also reach out to needy families, support refugees and our Indigenous peoples, use means to develop our understanding of our Catholic faith and finance support programs for many parishes.

Your contributions are so important to this annual campaign that our diocese could not achieve many goals or reach out as we do, without this funding. I am aware that there are many good causes that call on us for financial assistance, but I hope and pray that you will see our annual Bishop’s Diocesan Ministry Campaign as a priority for your giving. I also wish to ‘thank you’ for your past generosity in this campaign, which has been very much appreciated.

I ask the Lord to bless you and your families for your generosity and may your gift prompt your heart to be filled with ‘gratitude’ - which truly is the key to joy and happiness in our lives. †





# Diocesan Ministries in Our Parish

## Education

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### **Adult Faith Office:** \$50,000

Provides support for liturgical ministries and the resource library at the Pastoral Centre that offers a wide variety of religious materials for workshops, conferences, study programs and sacramental preparation programs for children and adults. The office also offers a variety of books, videos, and articles on religious issues for personal study and gifts, through the All Seasons Gift Shop.

### **Office of Worship:** \$10,000

Encourages liturgical understanding through programs designed to enhance the quality of religious celebrations in the diocese and supports the Office of Worship committee meetings and our Diocesan celebrations.

### **Indigenous Ministries Office and**

### **Anemki-Wadj Anameogamik Retreat Centre:** \$20,000

Supports and encourages a close relationship between the Diocese and our First Nation parishes, the Anemki-Wadj Anameogamik Retreat Centre, Indigenous activities, and to help foster responses to the Truth and Reconciliation Report.

## Youth

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### **Youth Ministry:** \$15,000

Provides training for youth leaders, retreats for youth and resources for such programs as NET, Salt and Light retreats, and parish youth programs, the Catholic Club at Lakehead University and Catholic Christian Outreach programs.

## Social Services

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### **Diocesan Marriage Tribunal:** \$20,000

Provides help to those who need to reconcile their marriage with the Church through the annulment process.

### **Refugee Settlement:** \$20,000

Through the operation of the D.O.O.R.S. office the Diocese assists needy immigrants with clothing, housing, medical needs and their relations with the Government of Canada.

### **Catholic Support Programs:** \$45,000

Financial support is given to organizations such as the Dew Drop Inn, Catholic Action Centre, Mission to Seafarers, Serena, Cursillio, Charis, etc.

### **Diocesan Aid:** \$60,000

Supports financially missions and smaller churches and their clergy operating in remote areas of the Diocese where unemployment is high and parish numbers and collections are low.

### **Social Communications:** \$20,000

Provides support for the Thunder Bay Street Gospel program, Internet needs, the Diocesan Newsletter, and Masses on YouTube.

## Truth and Healing Ministries

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### **Truth and Healing Ministries:**

### **(Noojimo'iwewin ne'en da'ing - Healing of the Hearts)** \$50,000

In union with all of the Catholic Churches in Canada, these funds will be used for special projects of healing and reconciliation with our Indigenous peoples in the Diocese of Thunder Bay. These funds will be used in the Diocese of Thunder Bay and in consultation and with the approval of the bishop and our Elders Committee.

## Clergy

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### **Vocations:** \$5,000

Promotes vocations to the priesthood and the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Thunder Bay.

### **Permanent Diaconate Program and**

### **Ongoing Education for Permanent Deacons:** \$25,000

Provides formation programs that continue to educate our deacons and ministers of service in their ministry.

### **Ongoing Education of Priests:** \$25,000

Provides workshops, retreats and training programs for priests in the Diocese along with the Chrism Mass meeting.

### **Priests' Infirm Fund:** \$50,000

Assists three retired priests and one retired bishop with retirement support.

### **Priests' Pension Fund:** \$20,000

Supplements the pension fund of our priests for their future retirement needs.

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## **\$435,000 Total Goal**

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# The Importance of Belonging to the Catholic Community

The Catholic Church, with over a billion members worldwide, offers a rich tradition that spans centuries, providing spiritual guidance, moral support, and a deep sense of community. Being a part of this community is more than just attending Mass or adhering to a set of beliefs; it's about becoming an active participant in a living, vibrant faith. This article explores why being a part of the Catholic community holds immense importance and how it enriches the lives of its members.

## Spiritual Growth and Faith Formation

One of the core reasons to be involved in the Catholic community is the opportunity for spiritual growth. Catholics are encouraged to deepen their relationship with God through the sacraments, prayer, and ongoing faith education. Being part of the community provides access to teachings, mentorship, and resources that nurture one's spiritual journey. The Church fosters an environment where individuals can ask questions, find answers in the teachings of Christ, and receive guidance from spiritual leaders.

## Sacramental Life

The sacraments are central to Catholicism, acting as outward signs of God's grace. Being in the Catholic community ensures access to these sacraments, such as Baptism, Eucharist, and Confession, which are essential for living a full Catholic life. The Eucharist, in particular, is a profound experience where believers come together in communion with Christ and with one another, strengthening their bond as a community of faith. Celebrating the sacraments in community enhances their meaning and reminds individuals of the larger body of Christ to which they belong.

## Support and Fellowship

The Catholic Church is a place of fellowship and belonging. In a world that often feels isolating, being



*Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola, 2021-2022*

part of a faith community offers emotional, social, and spiritual support. Whether it's sharing in the joy of a new marriage, comforting each other in times of grief, or simply offering encouragement in daily life, Catholics find strength in each other. The sense of family within the Catholic Church goes beyond blood ties, connecting believers through shared values, experiences, and faith.

## Opportunities for Service

Catholic social teaching emphasizes the importance of serving others, particularly the poor and vulnerable. Being part of the Catholic community opens doors to numerous opportunities to practice this teaching, from local parish initiatives to global missionary work. Service within the community allows Catholics to live out Christ's command to love and serve their neighbors, providing a tangible way to express their faith. Through organized charity events, volunteering, or simply helping a fellow parishioner, members can make a real difference in the lives of others.

## Moral and Ethical Guidance

In a world where moral relativism is prevalent, the Catholic Church offers a clear and consistent moral



framework based on the teachings of Christ and centuries of tradition. Being part of the community means having access to this moral compass, which helps individuals navigate complex ethical dilemmas. The Church's teachings on issues such as family, social justice, the sanctity of life, and human dignity offer Catholics guidance on how to live a good and just life in accordance with God's will.

### Passing on the Faith to Future Generations

The Catholic community plays a crucial role in passing on the faith to future generations. By participating in the life of the Church, parents and elders model a life of faith, prayer, and service for their children. Catholic schools, religious education programs, and youth ministries provide structured environments where young people can learn about their faith, ask questions, and form lifelong commitments to Christ. Being part of a community ensures that the faith is not just an individual pursuit but a shared legacy that endures across generations.

### A Global Community

The Catholic Church is truly universal, with members from all over the world. Being part of this global community reminds Catholics that their faith is not limited to their local parish or country. It connects them to a diverse, worldwide network of believers who share a common faith, united in the love of Christ. This sense of global solidarity is especially important in a world often divided by race, politics, and economics. The Catholic community transcends these barriers, offering a vision of unity and peace.

Being part of the Catholic community is both a privilege and a responsibility. It offers individuals spiritual growth, fellowship, moral guidance, and opportunities to serve others. Most importantly, it unites believers in a shared mission: to live out the teachings of Christ and to spread His love and grace to the world. By participating in this community, Catholics not only enrich their own lives but also contribute to the greater good of society, helping to build a world rooted in faith, hope, and love. †

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## Praying the Rosary *By Katelin Legros*

Praying the Rosary holds deep spiritual significance for many Catholics. The Rosary helps people reflect on the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ through its mysteries. These include events like the Annunciation, Crucifixion, and Resurrection, offering a structured way to contemplate Christ's role in salvation history. The Rosary is a prayer dedicated to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Through it, Catholics seek Mary's intercession, believing she helps guide them closer to Jesus. In Marian theology, Mary plays a special role in the lives of believers as a protector and advocate. Each of the Mysteries is based on biblical events, making the Rosary a way to pray with Scripture. It allows one to meditate on sacred Scripture while reciting simple prayers. Repetition of prayers like the Hail Mary and Our Father provides a rhythm that can help quiet the mind and soul, offering peace and focus. Many find it helpful in reducing anxiety and fostering

a deep sense of spiritual well-being. The Rosary is a form of disciplined prayer, which encourages consistency in one's spiritual life. This practice fosters habits of regular prayer, introspection, and contemplation, strengthening one's relationship with God. Catholics often pray the Rosary to ask for special favors or graces, such as peace, healing, or help with personal challenges. They believe Mary intercedes for them before God. The Rosary is deeply rooted in Catholic tradition, having been practiced for centuries. It unites people in communal prayer, especially during significant events like funerals, feast days, and times of crisis. The Rosary is not only a method of prayer but also a means of connecting with the sacred mysteries of faith, offering both personal and communal spiritual benefits. †







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