

September 13 2020
An Invitation to Give to ShareLife

In this time of pandemic, we have learned how to be flexible with our plans and adjust, as necessary, to the current situation. Within the Archdiocese of Toronto, our annual ShareLife campaign is no different. This campaign is usually held in the spring, beginning in Lent, and concluding in the summer time at the end of July; but, with the pandemic and closure of our churches, we have had to move the campaign to the fall with three dates scheduled: September 12/13, October 10/11 and November 7/8.

As we are being made aware, this pandemic has affected everyone and many are suffering greatly. In order to alleviate some of the suffering, His Eminence Cardinal Collins explains that "ShareLife gives us the opportunity to reach out with the hands of Christ to care for those who are most in need. **This is what we're called to do as His disciples:** to be with those at the side of the road who are suffering, just as the Good Samaritan did. This is what it means to be a Christian."

As a parish family, we have been greatly blessed here at St. Mary Star of the Sea. While our parishes were closed, your hearts were not. You see the need and you assist. Because of that generosity, we are at 73.4% of our parish goal of 139,900\$ and on behalf of the agencies funded by ShareLife, thank you.

However, as a parish family, we need to rise up and open our hearts just a little bit more. In the divine logic, the more we stretch our heart muscle and give, the more we increase our capacity to receive. We open our hearts and empty them out giving room in our hearts for God to come and make a dwelling there. And so, I invite you to prayerfully consider giving just a little bit more to the ShareLife campaign. Not only will you transform the life of someone who is suffering with mental illness, loneliness, and those in domestic violence situations, you will transform your own life becoming more like Christ who emptied himself of everything so that we might have life.

Because of the situation of the pandemic, dedicated ShareLife envelopes could not be put into the pews this year. So, I would suggest if you are going to give a little bit more, contact the parish office for one if you have not received one in the mail. You could also use any plain envelope and mark clearly on it ShareLife with your name and envelope number. If that seems too much, you could also safely and securely give online by following this link: <https://community.archtoronto.org/page.aspx?pid=381> Be sure to name St. Mary Star of the Sea in the parish drop down menu.

The global message throughout the pandemic is that we are in this together. This is especially true when it comes to helping those in need. When one member of the body suffers, the whole body suffers. If we can share our treasure through a monetary gift or our time in prayer for the success of this year's campaign, we can help alleviate that suffering and help the whole body. Many thanks for your generosity as you continue to serve the Lord by helping those in need.

Father Michael Simoes