



Roman Catholic Diocese of Victoria *Appeal Office*

4044 Nelthorpe Street, Victoria BC V8X 2A1 – Tel: (250) 479-1331 – Fax: (250) 479-5423 – Web: rcdvictoria.org

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The People of God of the Diocese of Victoria are our most treasured gifts. I acknowledge that the recent investigation and findings regarding the clergy sexual abuse in the United States is a serious issue and presents a challenge to our faith, and our commitment to the Church. I fully understand your grave concerns, and I renew my commitment to make our Catholic community a safe place for everyone. Please be assured that our comprehensive Diocesan Responsible Ministry and Safe Environment protocols, developed over many years, are designed to create safe and secure communities for all members.

In his letter to the Galatians, St. Paul reminds us: ... *through love, be servants of one another* (Gal 5:13). This year's Appeal theme, *Serve One Another*, encourages us to call to mind the needs of others, and with willing hands and compassionate hearts, to do all we can to serve one another with hope, mercy, gratitude, faith, and love.

When we keep the lights on in remote parishes and missions, we serve our neighbours. When we enact parish projects and initiatives, we serve our communities. When we educate our children in safe, clean, and bright facilities, and provide sacramental preparation and adult education, we serve our children, youth, and parents. When we support our retired clergy, we serve those who dedicated their lives to us. Through the combined work of all our hearts and hands, we serve those who need us.

A donation to our Annual Appeal will help to ensure that our life as missionary disciples will have a firm financial foundation. I thank you for your prayerful consideration of your gift. ***When you have made your decision, please complete the pledge form below. Detach and return it to your parish, or mail it directly to the Diocesan Appeal Office in the envelope provided.***

The mission never ends. The funds we raise through the Appeal help provide the programs and ministries that allow us to care for God's family and for each other. With your loving help, we serve our neighbour, we serve each other, and we serve God. Your contribution to our *Journey of Hearts & Hands* Appeal is essential to our work; I am ever thankful for your support.

In Communion,

Most Reverend Gary Gordon
Bishop of Victoria