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## Diocese of Antigonish-Special Collections

The Diocese of Antigonish has asked all parishes to include the following special collections in the box of envelopes. These collections are a response of our parishes assisting the larger church and providing outreach as Catholic Christians. The Diocese issues cheques in June and December of each year to each organization that manages the funds.

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## Development & Peace (Share Lent) Fifth Sunday of Lent

Development and Peace's Share Lent fundraising campaign is a tradition that goes back to the year the Organization was founded! The campaign focuses primarily on Canada's 6,000 Catholic parishes, 1,500 religious communities and 3,000 Catholic schools.

The purpose of the Share Lent campaign is three-fold:

1. to educate Canadians about international development;
2. to raise funds;
3. to renew the spirit of Lent.

This important annual fundraising activity is a key opportunity to pursue our education work. People are encouraged to make a concrete gesture of solidarity by financially supporting the efforts of our partners in the Global South to build a more just and equitable world.

The spirit of Share Lent

Inspired by our Christian faith, we see Share Lent as providing a special occasion to contribute to the work of justice and creation of the God of Life we believe in.

The Share Lent campaign starts on Ash Wednesday. On the fifth Sunday of Lent, a collection takes place in all of the parishes across Canada to support the work of Development and Peace.

In fact, Share Lent is our main fundraising activity. It enables us to reach thousands of Canadians every year. The Share Lent Campaign continues to be a unique expression of the identity of Development and Peace as the official international development organization of the Catholic Church in Canada.

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## Holy Places-Good Friday Collection:

The Good Friday Collection is applied to these programs below and funds are administered by the Commissariat of the Holy Land and are sent to 1247 Kilborn Place, Ottawa, Ontario K1H 6K9

Faith, Memory & Culture – The Holy Places

Holy Land Franciscans staff and maintain the Holy places and shrines. This enables those who live in the Holy Land and those who visit to deepen their faith and their spiritual and cultural connection to Salvation history.

Social & Charitable Activities

In order to assist Christians to remain in the Holy Land, including the poor and young couples, the Custody builds thousands of residential units. Additionally, they build senior care facilities. Medical assistance is provided for the needy.

Educational & Scientific Activities

The Franciscans operate and support schools open to all, regardless of religion or nationality. They provide scholarships for students to prepare them to get jobs and remain in the Holy

Land as part of living Catholic communities. Funds are distributed to young men studying to become Franciscan priests or brothers. Finally, Franciscan archaeologists pursue ongoing research at the Holy Places discovering historical artifacts.

#### Pastoral Activities

The Franciscans provide pastoral care in 29 parishes in the Holy Land offering Worship, Christian Formation, youth and family programs.

#### Liturgical, Ecumenical and Communications Programs

The Franciscan Media Center tells the story of the Holy Land through multimedia distributed throughout the world in more than seven languages. The friars organize Liturgical Celebrations for the local Christians and Pilgrims and share with other Christian communities in the Holy Land in ongoing Ecumenical cooperation.

The Holy Land Franciscans are counting on your financial help to assist us in providing presence, care and service.

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### Papal Charities – May of each year:

The Office of Papal Charities is the department of the Holy See charged with exercising charity to the poor in the name of the Holy Father.

This tradition goes back to the earliest centuries of the Church. Originally one of the immediate responsibilities of the Deacons, responsibility for the Pope's charities was later exercised by one or more members of the papal household with no particular hierarchical dignity, which was granted later. A Bull of Innocent III (1198-1216) mentions the post of Almoner as already in existence. The first Pope to organize the Office of Papal Charities was Blessed Gregory X (1271-1276), who set down the duties of the Almoner. In a Bull of 1409, Alexander V laid down guidelines and regulations for the Office, which has always functioned as an expression of the constant concern of the Roman Pontiffs. The Almoner of His Holiness has the rank of Archbishop; he is a member of the Papal Family and as such takes part in the Holy Father's liturgical celebrations and official audiences.

Pope Leo XIII, as a means of helping to fund the charitable works carried out by the Office, delegated the Almoner to grant the Apostolic Blessing by parchment certificate: these parchments, in order to be authentic, must bear the Almoner's signature and the seal of his Office.

Please note that costs associated with the issue of the Papal Blessing are incurred only by reason of the parchment itself, the preparation costs, postage and a contribution to the Pope's charitable works.

The proceeds accruing to the Office of Papal Charities from the preparation of papal blessing parchments are applied entirely to the works of charity which this Office carries out on behalf of the needy who appeal to the Successor of Peter

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### Antigonish Diocesan Society – May of each year:

This collection helps to defray the costs (room and board, tuition, books, etc) for any seminarians sponsored by the Diocese of Antigonish. The Diocese covers some incidental costs as well such as a medical and dental. A seminarian studies for a total of 6 years along with a pastoral year before they are considered for ordination.

Monies collected are sent to Ken MacAulay, Antigonish Diocesan Society, Antigonish, NS

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## Latin America – June of each year:

Traditionally the month of June has been a time to think of our friends in Latin America. Your Latin America committee has been busy working with a number of projects in Honduras. A housing project allowing poor and homeless families to live in a safe and functioning home where they can then find work and their children can go to school. The Carmelite Sisters in Tegucigalpa have an ambitious plan to construct 100 homes with 50 already finished. Father Norman MacPhee and Wanda Fedora travelled to visit this project and found it inspiring. The families will definitely be getting a hand up in life.

Another project that has been supported in the past, a school for girls, is going well and 50 young ladies are receiving an education and working toward breaking the cycle of poverty. A few of the girls have graduated after 13 years at the school and are furthering their education at university and colleges.

Padre Patricio's mammoth project including farms, soup kitchens, schools, post-secondary education, technical education, housing and so much more is growing every year through donations from our Diocese and other Dioceses and countries as well. He has created a success story where most people would never go; the hills around Tegucigalpa. These hills are known for their dangerous environment but he made this his mission and from a small shed where he started to teach 30 children he now has over 3000 students from kindergarten to adults. He runs farms to supply the soup kitchens and keeps the young adults off the streets where their lives would be turned to crime. They now own farm land where they grow food for the poor.

The Diocese of Antigonish has a Latin America committee, which administers the funds collected each June that are sent to the Diocesan Pastoral Center. The committee members include Father Norman MacPhee, Wanda Fedora, Chairperson, Deacon Art Riley, Teresa Riley, Edwin MacLellan, Donnie Campbell. Wanda and Father Norman will be travelling to Honduras in September 2018 to present a cheque of \$15,000 CAD from the Diocesan/Parish funds for the Carmelite Sisters to assist with the housing project being built by the Carmelite sisters in Tegucigalpa.

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## Needs of the Canadian Church-September of each year:

The annual Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada will be held in most parishes in Canada in September. The monies raised will be sent to each diocese, which will use these revenues to help pay its annual contribution to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB). The Diocese of Antigonish was required to make a payment for 2018 of \$48,950.00

Through the work of the Bishops of Canada who are its members, the Conference is involved in national and international areas of pastoral activity, including social justice, ecumenical and interfaith relations, collaboration with Aboriginal Peoples, life and family issues, liturgy, catechesis, doctrine and relations with Catholic associations and movements.

It also provides the Bishops a forum to share their experiences and insights on the life of the Church and the major events that shape our society.

The offices of the CCCC are located at 2500 Don Reid Drive, in Ottawa, where a staff of approximately 40 works in different services, supporting the pastoral work of the Bishops nationally and internationally.

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## Evangelization of Nations – World Mission Sunday – October of each year

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith is an organization of the universal Church. It was founded in 1822 by a French laywoman, Pauline Marie Jaricot. At that time a spiritual renewal began in France and immediately assumed a missionary thrust in response to Jesus' command, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28:19).

The society is a Pontifical Society under the jurisdiction of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples in Rome, thus identifying it with the universal church. In each country the society is the responsibility of the conference of Catholic bishops. In Canada the Society for the Propagation of the Faith exists in both the English and French sectors of the Pontifical Mission Societies.

The two main objectives of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith are missionary animation and the sharing of resources.

Missionary animation reminds and encourages each baptized person of his/her privilege and obligation to witness and to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. Missionary animation also offers education and information regarding the life of the Church in other countries and strives to nourish and encourage missionary vocations.

Sharing of resources involves the dedication of those who go to foreign lands to share their presence, their personal gifts and their faith; it also involves the sharing of financial resources.

Every year the universal Church dedicates the month of October, in a special way, to reflection on and prayers for the missions. The second to the last Sunday in October is designated World Mission Sunday. On this day Catholics throughout the world, in rich or poor parishes alike, contribute to the Universal Mission Fund of solidarity.

Each year in May, the Pontifical Mission Societies, through the national directors who constitute the Superior Council carry out the distribution of funds received. Approved grants are sent directly to the designated countries from the National Office.

On World Mission Sunday then, in this spirit of sharing, Catholics throughout the world celebrate the Eucharist as one. The liturgy for this celebration centers on Jesus' commission "Go, then and make disciples of all nations" (Mt. 28:19). The faithful are invited to pray fervently for the realization of this great mission of Christ.

The monies our Diocese collects are sent to The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 2219 Kennedy Road, Toronto, Ontario, M1T 3G5

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## The Shepherd's Trust- November of each year

The Shepherds Trust was created to assist Diocesan Priests in retirement. This includes contributions to the Priests Pension Plan, the Clergy Fund and the Xavier Apartments. Since this fund was created the Xavier apartment building as sold, so the portion of the Shepherds' trust that was assisting this facility is now helping to assist the Diocese's Clergy Fund. The pension fund which, in 2010, was in a serious deficit was one of the main reasons for the creation of this trust fund. The fund was created to help those who cared for parishioners in their priestly ministry. This fund also helps the Diocese with its responsibility to fund the pension plan. In the first campaign, Priests and parishioners were asked to give in order to establish the fund and after that first campaign, an annual envelope is included in parish envelopes to help maintain the fund.

At the end of every year monies sent to the Diocese are forwarded to the Clergy Fund and the Priests Pension Fund.

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## Family Services of Eastern Nova Scotia-February and August of each year

This used to be a collection from each parish to help fund a portion of the Diocesan Levy which paid the Family Service Levy to Family Services of Eastern NS. However, during the last several years Family Services of Eastern NS levy the parishes directly. Parishes, in almost all cases pay Family Services directly.