



February, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters,

It is natural to feel overwhelmed by the needs around us. Despite the prosperity Canadian society enjoys, the problems only seem to grow: a mental health epidemic, the breakdown of families, and the dire shortage of affordable housing. How do we view these challenges through the lens of Christian hope?

I try to remember that issues like these aren't new. One of my predecessors, Bishop de Charbonnel, led the faithful during a time when most of today's social supports did not exist. Needing help to meet the needs of the poor in his rapidly growing diocese, he asked the Bishop of Philadelphia to send four Sisters of St. Joseph to Toronto, including Mother Delphine Fontbonne.

In just over four years, Mother Delphine established schools, a new orphanage, and a motherhouse, while attracting dozens of new sisters to join her mission. She also planned the House of Providence, which accommodated hundreds of poor seniors, the sick, and recent immigrants. She would not live to see its completion, however, as she contracted typhus and died at the young age of 42.

I believe she is interceding for us today, inspiring others to follow her example. And you are! Today, ShareLife is how we bring the hands of Christ to those in need. Through the faithful generosity of people like you, ShareLife agencies continue to serve the poor and vulnerable among us.

Your support for ShareLife funds 43 organizations, which help families in crisis, people with special needs, elderly people, children and youth, and immigrants and refugees. One of these agencies is the Cardinal Ambrozic Houses of Providence, a long-term care home that meets the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of its residents – just as the original House of Providence did.

The needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ are greater than ever before. In order for our agencies to continue their vital work, it is crucial we meet our parish campaign goal of \$13.8 million.

By meeting this goal, our agencies will continue to:

- offer walk-in counselling to those facing mental health issues
- help victims of domestic violence
- ensure isolated seniors are not forgotten
- deliver food to children in developing countries
- form priests and deacons who will minister in our parishes

By supporting these people and countless others, we continue Mother Delphine's legacy of heroic service.

Our goal can be met, but only with your help. I invite you to join today's generation of heroes by making a sacrificial gift to ShareLife. As you contemplate the blessings God has entrusted to you, please join me in giving to ShareLife to the best of your ability.

Mother Delphine, pray for us, that we follow your example of living the Gospel by providing for those in need.

Yours sincerely in Our Lord,

† Thomas Card. Collins

Thomas Cardinal Collins
Archbishop of Toronto

P.S. Last year, your generosity made a difference in the lives of over 140,000 people locally and countless more around the world. Thank you for helping so many people experience God's love and compassion.