



September 2020

Dear brothers and sisters,

At the start of 2020, who could have imagined the great trials we have experienced? Please know that, throughout this time, I have been praying for you and your loved ones.

Many aspects of pre-COVID life are returning, such as the reopening of our parishes. But we must remember that, for many people, **their suffering continues**.

ShareLife-funded agencies have been helping **thousands of people** since the pandemic began. They **quickly adapted their programs** in light of safety and the changing needs of the people they serve.

For many of our agencies, your gifts to ShareLife represent a significant portion of their funding. We have committed to maintaining this funding in 2020, save for programs that were unable to operate as a result of the pandemic. It is important to me that those who rely on our agencies will not be turned away due to lack of funds.

Here are just a few examples of the life-changing programs that need our support:

- Catholic Family Services agencies have been offering phone and video counselling to people experiencing **mental health crises**, often related to job loss, family breakdown and addiction;
- LA Centre of Active Living and its partners have brought **3,000 meals weekly** to vulnerable seniors, while also providing friendly check-ins by phone;
- Agencies for young mothers have delivered **hundreds of care packages** with diapers and formula, while shifting parenting classes online and helping clients continue high school remotely.

Our faith community **has always responded heroically** to the needs around us, particularly through our enthusiastic support of ShareLife. This year we are continuing the Parish Campaign into the fall, when we will hold our ShareLife Sunday Collections. At the beginning of August, we stand at 39% of our \$13.8 million goal. If we each do our part, we can reach our goal and ensure those helped by our agencies don't fall through the cracks.

Please join me in **making a sacrificial gift today**, either with the form below or securely online at sharelife.org. If you have not yet given, please consider an increase in your usual contribution. For those who have already contributed to ShareLife, **I'm deeply thankful!**

We can help **alleviate the suffering** of those whose lives have been upended by the pandemic. Let us **say yes to Jesus' call** to live the Gospel by providing for those in need.

Sincerely in Christ,

+ Thomas Card. Collins

Cardinal Thomas Collins

P.S. If you would like to learn more about how your gift will make a difference, I invite you to visit ShareLife's new website, sharelife.org.