

**Re: Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada**  
**23-24 September 2017**

**Dear Pastors and collaborators in pastoral ministry,**

The annual Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada is taking place on 23 and 24 September 2017. It is an opportunity for all the faithful in our country, laity, consecrated and clergy, to be co-responsible with the Bishops in proclaiming the saving message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. All the faithful indeed participate in the life and mission of the Church through their active involvement in the life of their parish community, their prayers, their diverse charisms, their moral support, and the contributions of their time and talents.

The Collection for the Needs of the Church is an opportunity for Catholics to truly help their diocese/eparchy participate in the Regional Episcopal Assemblies and the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB). Any additional revenue which is raised is used by the diocese/eparchy for its own pastoral programs and other activities.

The Bishops of Canada gather in four Regional Assemblies (Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario and the West), as well as in their national Conference (the CCCB). The CCCB is mandated by the Holy See and the Bishops who are its members in a number of areas of pastoral life and evangelization: faith formation and catechesis, doctrinal questions, ecumenical initiatives, international relations, interreligious conversations, liturgical resources, relations with Indigenous Peoples, social justice questions, and building a culture of life and family. This annual charitable initiative furthers the collegiality and synodality of the Bishops' ministry in leading, shepherding, teaching, guiding, sanctifying and pastorally caring for all of God's children, disciples of Christ in our country.

The CCCB has prepared the attached promotional material to help you inform your parishioners of the purpose and importance of this annual collection. This same material will also be posted on the CCCB website in early September.

Thank you in advance for your generous contribution for ensuring the success of the collection and the ongoing work of evangelization.

Yours sincerely in Our Lord,

**+ Bishop Douglas Crosby, OMI**  
Bishop of Hamilton and  
President of the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

For more information: [www.cccb.ca](http://www.cccb.ca)