

**For adaptation or publication in parish bulletins (or distributed by other means e.g. website or email) the weekend preceding the collection (19-20 September 2020)**

***Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada: Support for the Bishops of Canada to pursue the Church's pastoral mission***

This year, the Catholic Church in Canada, along with the rest of society, has been seriously affected by the Coronavirus pandemic: from an inability to gather in worship, through limitations on pastoral and personal interaction, to office closures. Bishops, as shepherds who watch over their flock, felt this disruption very keenly.

As we continue to address the challenges and impact of the Coronavirus upon our families, communities of faith and ecclesial outreach, your prayers, gestures of kindness and generosity are invaluable, heartfelt and true sources of consolation, comfort and renewed encouragement in the pursuit of the Church's pastoral mission.

The Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada will take place on 26 and 27 September 2020. This annual charitable initiative assists the Bishops in their ministry of accompanying, teaching, guiding, sanctifying and caring for the Church in Canada.

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***Collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada: Thank you for your ongoing support!***

Each year, and with the generosity of Catholic faithful from coast to coast to coast, the Bishops of Canada continue their work on important doctrinal and ethical questions; ecumenical initiatives and interreligious dialogue; international relations; evangelization, faith education and catechesis; relations with Indigenous peoples; questions of social justice; and the development of a culture of life and family. In addition to their national Conference, the Bishops of Canada also meet in four Regional Assemblies (Atlantic, Quebec, Ontario and the West). The CCCB and the regional assemblies include the Bishops of the Latin Church, as well as the Eparchial Bishops of the Eastern Catholic Churches. On behalf of all Bishops of Canada, the Most Reverend Richard Gagnon, Archbishop of Winnipeg and CCCB President, shares his gratitude for the continued support of the Church's pastoral mission through prayers, gestures of kindness, encouragement, and generosity. "I thank all of you for your support and ask the Lord to bless you and your loved ones abundantly, and keep you safe always."

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