

# Pastoral Plan of the Archdiocese of Toronto



To the faithful of the Archdiocese of Toronto:

This brief summary of the pastoral plan for the Archdiocese of Toronto offers us the opportunity to reflect prayerfully on how Jesus asks us to live as His disciples.

Our pastoral plan is deeply rooted in prayer, the foundation of our efforts.

Our mission is two-fold. Our pastoral (inward) mission is to nurture and strengthen the faith experience of committed Catholics, drawing on the model of St. Peter, to whom Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” Our apostolic (outward) mission is to announce the Gospel, both to the faithful and to those outside the Church. Our model for this effort is St. Paul, who first encountered Christ through conversion and then proclaimed Him throughout the world.

Our pastoral plan invites each Catholic in the archdiocese to reflect on our role as stewards of God's many gifts, calling us to a profound inner conversion that leads us to a spirit of generosity, most fully revealed in the sharing of time and talent with others. We live every moment in a spirit of gratitude, looking for ways to use fruitfully all that has been given to us, in the service of God and neighbour.

We are mindful of key threads that will be woven throughout the pastoral plan. To do our work effectively we must ensure that we: engage the family, especially youth; celebrate our cultural diversity; use resources wisely; and communicate effectively.

This summary will draw on the biblical image of the vine (Jesus) and the branches (his people). Five key priorities will help guide us on the journey.

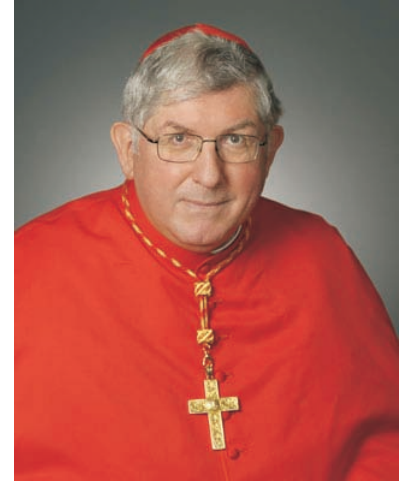
I invite you to learn more about our “roadmap” for our journey by visiting a special online space: visit [www.archtoronto.org/pastoral](http://www.archtoronto.org/pastoral) to access the complete pastoral plan in addition to other resources and tools for reflection.

I am grateful for the role that you play in strengthening our community. Be assured of my prayers as we joyfully labour together in the vineyard of the Lord.

Sincerely in Christ,

*+ Thomas Card. Collins*

Thomas Cardinal Collins  
Archbishop of Toronto





# Five Core Directions

## Parish Life

*And all who believed were together and had all things in common... – Acts 2:44*

Our parishes are spiritual homes where we meet one another to encounter Christ. Our plan calls on us to make our 225 parishes places of welcome and hospitality, both for those who are with us each week and those who return home after many years. We will prepare ourselves with care each week to celebrate the sacraments and encourage attentive and active participation from everyone. We will support our priests and deacons as they lead the way, and when asked to assist, we will respond. We're all in this together. It's important that we celebrate the many parishes already engaged in outreach ministries and programs that support the family, the domestic church. We can learn from their wonderful example. Visit [www.archtoronto.org/parishlife](http://www.archtoronto.org/parishlife) to view the eight goals associated with "Parish Life".



## Vocations

*"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. – Matthew 4:19-20*

God is asking each of us to "cast our nets" and discover where He is leading us. We need priests to lead the parishes of the archdiocese, deacons to assist them, qualified lay people to support our diverse ministries and flourishing religious communities. Every Catholic can be a vocations advocate, through prayer, encouragement and invitation. We recognize the need to integrate our formal programs of formation for ministry, to ensure their effectiveness. We also can't forget the priests who have faithfully served us over the years, ensuring they are cared for in their retirement. Together, we can foster a culture of vocations in our archdiocese. Visit [www.archtoronto.org/vocations](http://www.archtoronto.org/vocations) to view the six goals associated with "Vocations".







## Evangelization of Society

*Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.*

*– Mark 16:15*

The “New Evangelization,” simply put, is appreciating the joy that faith in Christ brings us and sharing it with others. We will strive to ensure the voice of faith is heard in the public square. We believe the world needs the gospel proclaimed now more than ever. Practically, we need to strengthen our public witness, and to provide informed Catholic voices by working with schools, universities and other institutions. We will utilize modern technology to participate in the dialogue, through religious and secular media, embracing social media and other tools that will lift up the gospel and provide powerful instruments of evangelization throughout our archdiocese. Visit [www.archtoronto.org/evangelize](http://www.archtoronto.org/evangelize) to view the five goals associated with “Evangelization of Society”.



## Catholic Outreach in Justice and Love

*The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners. – Isaiah 61:1*

Our pastoral plan challenges us to witness and serve in diverse ways and to be advocates where injustice occurs: through pastoral care to those who are poor and marginalized, to students on campus, to those who are imprisoned, seeking refuge or suffering physically or spiritually. We can do all of this by working with our parishes, lay movements, Catholic institutions, chaplaincies and various pastoral services. We are grateful for the good works accomplished through Catholic Charities and ShareLife, yet we need to do more. We hear the words at Mass, “Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life”. How can we be the hands and face of Jesus in our community? Visit [www.archtoronto.org/outreach](http://www.archtoronto.org/outreach) to view the four goals associated with “Catholic Outreach in Justice and Love”.





## The Cathedral as Sign of our Mission

*In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. – Ephesians 2:20-22*

St. Michael's Cathedral, the mother church of the archdiocese, through the ministry of the archbishop, unites every local Catholic under the heavenly patronage of the great defender of the faithful, the archangel Michael. As the prototype of parish life, the cathedral will lead the way in pastoral care and public witness. The work already underway to maintain and repair the cathedral will continue. We also have exciting plans to develop the area near the cathedral - the "Cathedral Block" - into a place of gathering, worship and outreach, through St. Michael's Choir School, space for outreach to the poor, and a centre to gather and teach, as well as to provide opportunities to engage the world through media and the arts. In a city of diverse cultures and a growing media presence, the Catholic Church must become a gateway of faith and evangelization. Visit [www.archtoronto.org/cathedral](http://www.archtoronto.org/cathedral) to view the four goals associated with "The Cathedral as Sign of our Mission".



[www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org)

## Continue the Conversation

We're excited to engage you in our pastoral plan. Visit us online to view the complete "roadmap" along with plenty of other tools to help us on the journey. We already have amazing things happening in our churches – we want to celebrate and build on that foundation, recognizing that more can be done. Here's how you can help:

- a) Get involved at your local parish – serve at the altar of our Lord or on parish council, become a lector, choir member or home visitor. We encourage every Catholic to discern their local involvement.
- b) Visit [www.archtoronto.org/pastoral](http://www.archtoronto.org/pastoral) and offer your feedback on the pastoral plan. How do you see this unfolding in your own life? What is your parish doing well? Where can it strive to raise the bar?
- c) Prayer – we ask every Catholic in the archdiocese to offer prayers for all the people of God who labour in the vineyard each day. We rely on each other to spiritually support the pastoral plan and help discern steps forward, both locally and as an archdiocese. We entrust this plan to Mary, Mother of God, and ask her to pray that we may be faithful disciples of Jesus.

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# Pastoral Plan of the Archdiocese of Toronto



The core branches of our pastoral plan will promote our goals of care and outreach to the community. As we reflect on these goals, it is our prayer that this plan will benefit the life of every Catholic in our archdiocese:



## Parish Life

*And all who believed were together and had all things in common... – Acts 2:44*

- (i) Celebration of the Sunday Eucharist with full, conscious and active participation by the faithful
- (ii) Opportunities for prayer, spiritual formation and enrichment
- (iii) A communal life in the parish which offers welcome, hospitality & outreach
- (iv) Strong pastoral leadership in the parish which promotes diverse & collaborative roles of pastoral service
- (v) Effective pastoral governance – structures & committees in the parish which promote stewardship and ensure accountability
- (vi) Supporting the family, the domestic church
- (vii) Commitment to a renewed evangelization – catechesis & formation in the faith
- (viii) A strong witness to an apostolic mission – outreach ministries and service



## Vocations

*“Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will make you fishers of men.” At once they left their nets and followed him. – Matthew 4:19-20*

- (i) Pray for vocations
- (ii) Foster vocations to ordained ministry and religious life
- (iii) Promote lay pastoral ministry roles within parishes and archdiocesan offices
- (iv) Integrate programs of discernment and formation for ordained ministry at St. Augustine's Seminary
- (v) Strengthen programs of formation and training for the laity
- (vi) Ensure ongoing formation for pastoral leaders through programs for clergy and laity



## Evangelization of Society

*Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. – Mark 16:15*

- (i) Collaborate with Catholic academic institutions to strengthen the church's intellectual witness in our culture
- (ii) An ongoing partnership among the archdiocese, parishes, our publicly funded Catholic schools and students attending secular schools
- (iii) Collaborate with Catholic academic institutions to promote education, catechesis and the formation in faith and holiness for those in all areas of society
- (iv) Collaborate with Catholic media and communication agencies to engage the culture through media and social communication initiatives
- (v) Collaborate in developing formation and training for those engaged in the intellectual apostolate, social communications and media





### Catholic Outreach in Justice and Love

*The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners. – Isaiah 61:1*

- (i) Ensure effective outreach initiatives of justice and love through catholic charities
- (ii) Provide effective pastoral services, chaplaincies and pastoral care ministry
- (iii) Promote effective social justice advocacy
- (iv) Strengthen the outreach initiatives of parishes through greater collaboration with the archdiocese



### The Cathedral as Sign of our Mission

*In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. – Ephesians 2:20-22*

- (i) Restore and enhance the architectural beauty of St. Michael's Cathedral
- (ii) Develop the cathedral & cathedral block into a place of gathering, worship and outreach
- (iii) Collaborate with the Catholic school board & St. Michael's Choir School
- (iv) Revitalize the cathedral & cathedral block as a centre of evangelization



### Rooted in prayer...

Our Pastoral mission



Our Apostolic mission



- Engage the family, especially youth
- Celebrate our cultural diversity
- Use resources wisely
- Communicate effectively

...Towards deep stewardship

