

Diocesan Updates

CCCB Lenten Reflections — Each Lent, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) offers a series of video reflections on the Gospels for Lent. This year these reflections are given by our very own Archbishop Dunn. Each of the seven video messages will be released the week leading up to the gospel the reflection is based upon. When they are released you will find the reflections by going to www.cccb.ca.

Turkey and Syria Earthquake Relief — Archbishop Dunn invites the faithful to donate to the relief efforts being made in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria. The best way to give is through organizations that have partners in the affected areas. The following Catholic organizations have begun to collect donation online and we would encourage you to give as you are able.

- Development and Peace Caritas Canada: <https://www.devp.org/en/>
- The Catholic Near East Welfare Association: <https://cnewa.org/>

Let us pray for all who have been impacted by the earthquake and for those who are providing aid and relief.

CCCB: Pastoral Letters to the Indigenous People of Canada — The Canadian Bishops desire to be more intentional in their efforts to strengthen the relationship between the Indigenous People of this land and the Church. The hurts and damage done in the past are not to be forgotten and must be acknowledged. In apologizing for the wrongs of the past we also must take action to do better and thus conscious efforts to create opportunities for healing and reconciliation must be made.

Last week the Canadian Conference of Bishops (CCCB) released a series of four pastoral letters under the title: **That We May Walk Together**. There is a unique letter addressed to each community: First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, while the fourth letter is addressed to the People of God in Canada. The letters are available now on the CCCB website. Locally, Archbishop Dunn continues to meet members of the Mi'kmaq communities in our diocese to listen and learn from their experiences and together work towards healing and reconciliation. An important part of those efforts is developing a Mi'kmaq Pastoral Council to provide consultation to Archbishop Dunn. This council has several core members (Indigenous and non-indigenous) currently and have been meeting with the various Mi'kmaq communities to hear their hopes and dreams and recruit more members.

Let us pray for continued courage and strength to build a better Church together for all people of this land we now call Canada.

Advisors with Purpose — Parishes have been invited by the Archdiocese to include in the tax receipts envelopes an information card from Advisors with Purpose. This organization offers financial advisors who can provide compassionate help with the often daunting task of estate planning.

Their full name is Advisors with Purpose Financial Discipleship Canada and their **aim is to help disciples nationwide consider their finances through the lens of faith**. They partner with charities and churches to offer free and confidential estate plans for their donors/supporters. Some key things to know:

- It is absolutely free. There is no obligation and none of the advisors will try to sell you anything.
- Advisors are available by phone or Zoom.
- The Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth pays for this service so that there is no cost to parishes or parishioners.
- Other organizations they work with include Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO), The Mustard Seed, and Trinity Western University.
- This is a way to consider the stewardship of your finances in keeping with your faith values.

On February 28 at 9:00 pm, Advisors with Purpose are hosting a free webinar titled: **Money and Your Discipleship Journey**. Many of us struggle with money and feel like we never get ahead. We find it difficult to balance between our wants, our needs and our desire to do well. Yet, Jesus called us to live counter-culturally. He calls His people out of the world's systems and narrative to have a Godly perspective. Jesus wants us to walk in freedom and lays out the guidelines to do so. Join Advisors with Purpose as we explore together what the Bible has to say about Jesus' teaching on finances and how our perspective and use of money can affect our walk with the Lord.

To register: <https://calendly.com/awpwebinar/money-your-discipleship-journey-feb-28>

To find out more about Advisors with Purpose visit: <https://www.advisorswithpurpose.ca/>.

Pray for our Seminarian: Bruce Muise — Archbishop Dunn was at Saint Peter's Seminary in London, ON last week and had a chance to visit with Bruce Muise who is studying there as a seminarian for our diocese. He entered the Seminary in September of 2022 and is currently completing his Pre-Theology year.

Raised in the village of Hubbard's Point, and currently living in Springhaven, Yarmouth Co., Bruce is a dad to two adult sons, Tristen and Blake, son to Marion and brother to Annette and Edwin. Bruce graduated from Ste-Anne du Ruisseau High School (1992) and then from the Funeral Services program at NSCC Kingstec Campus, Kentville in 1994, one week after which he began working with H.M. Huskison's Funeral Homes and Crematorium, where he became manager in 1998 and where he was still working prior to leaving for the seminary. He is fluently bilingual (French & English) and is a licensed funeral director and embalmer. Bruce is a member and Past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, Council 8988 Tusket, a member of the Msgr. W.E. Young Fourth Degree Assembly No. 1428, Yarmouth, and is also involved in the Cursillo movement. He is very involved in his church of St. Anne's in Ste-Anne du Ruisseau (Notre-Dame de l'Assomption Parish) where he served on the Parish Leadership Team, Pastoral Team, as a Eucharistic minister and a lector. Aside from spending time with his family, in his spare time he enjoys researching his Acadian roots, cooking, baking, and trying his hand at amateur theatre.

Steubenville Atlantic 2023 – Exciting news! Registration will open Monday February 13, 2023 for Steubenville Atlantic, our annual high school youth conference! This year's conference is July 7-9, 2023 at Dalhousie University in Halifax. This year's theme is Refuge, based on Matthew 11:28: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest." Please check the Steubenville page on the Archdiocesan website for regular updates and more information. Any questions or concerns can be directed to Bradley Van Dam by email bvandam@halifaxyarmouth.org or phone (902) 429-9800 x311. We look forward to welcoming everyone to Halifax this July!

Diocesan Collection: February — The first of three diocesan collections will happen at the end of February. As in previous years, this will be a direct mailout to donors across the Archdiocese. See below the letter that will be mailed out along with a donor card. The theme and focus of the collection: Formed in Faith. Contributions to this collection will be used to support diocesan and parish initiatives that help us pass on the faith to all the baptized.

How can you give?

- Mail the Donor Card to the Archdiocese or drop it in the collection basket at your parish.
- Donate online: www.halifaxyarmouth.org and click on Donate.
- Send a donation by e-transfer inance@halifaxyarmouth.org Please note "February 2023 Donation" in the memo box.
- Consider a monthly pledge.

Did you know that...

Pope Francis is praying for you! His prayer intention this month is for parishes. Specifically, "We pray that parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need." You can check out the video and reflection on Pope Francis' prayer intention for February at the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network.



Archdiocese of | Archidiocèse d'
Halifax-Yarmouth

1559 Brunswick Street, Suite 101, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 2G1
Tel. (902) 429-9800 | Fax. (902) 423-5201

February 21, 2023

Dear Sisters & Brothers In Christ:

Each year I invite the faithful to give. Give of their prayers, their skills & talents, and their finances to continue the pastoral works of the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth. Because of your generosity we have been able to do many things in our local Church to help those in need, strengthen disciples, and build up the kingdom of God. This work happens year-round and so throughout 2023 you will hear from me three times: February, June, and November. Each time I will encourage you to give as you are able to financially support a particular aspect of the pastoral work of our diocese.

This first invitation to give happens on February 25-26, 2023. I ask you to support the programs and initiatives that help us to pass on, and form people in, the faith. Some of the ways we do that are by:

- Forming adults in the faith through the EQUIP program. Currently 28 students are enrolled in the three-year program that gives people the teachings and tools to become leaders in their parish community.
- Providing diocesan staff to support, coach, and guide parish leadership, clergy and laity, to develop parish pastoral plans that pass on the faith to the children, youth, and adults that they serve.
- Developing diocesan resources such as webinars, video messages, diocesan celebrations, to help the faithful understand more fully their identity as a disciples of Christ lived out in the local parish.

Our giving is a way in which we can respond in thanksgiving to all that God has given us. God has blessed us abundantly in the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth. Let us respond with equal generosity so that together we can continue to boldly witness His goodness in our local Church.

How can you give?

- Mail the enclosed Donor Card to the Archdiocese or drop it in the collection basket at your parish.
- Donate online: www.halifaxyarmouth.org and click on Donate.
- Send a donation by e-transfer to inance@halifaxyarmouth.org Please note "February 2023 Donation" in the memo box.
- Consider a monthly pledge. This can be indicated on the Donor Card.

Please prayerfully consider your gift. Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely in Christ,

+Archbishop Brian J. Dunn
Archbishop of Halifax-Yarmouth