

2025 Lenten Collection Update

By Taylor Lynch, Director of Family Ministries and Outreach

Throughout scripture, we observe God's particular concern for the downcast and marginalized, along with His desire for us to open our hearts to them. In the Old Testament, the most vulnerable in society are represented by the neediness and vulnerability of the stranger, the orphan, and the widow (see Psalms 146:9 and Deuteronomy 10:18). In the New Testament, Jesus broadens the scope of our concern to include all our neighbors with the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25a-37). Today, in our local communities, vulnerability manifests in issues like food insecurity, homelessness, mental illness, drug addiction, violence, exploitation, loneliness, and unstable families. This represents a poverty, both spiritual and material, that requires our compassionate attention and care.

Every Lent, our parishioners are called upon to help address poverty in all its forms by contributing to the Lenten Collection. This year, the collection was taken up on Ash Wednesday and remained open throughout the season, drawing

attention to the charitable aspect of Lent that colours its full forty days.* Parishioners, as they have done in the past, responded to the Lenten call for almsgiving with overwhelming generosity. To date, we have received a total of **\$89,825.73** from our parishes to be allocated to agencies serving our most vulnerable populations. This total was rounded to **\$88,000** to make distribution easier. The remaining funds and any additional donations will be rolled over to the 2026 collection.

As the liturgical seasons turn from the penitential season of Lent to the joyous celebration of the fifty days of Easter, and finally back to the regular cadence of Ordinary time, it can be easy to lose focus on the plight of our most vulnerable brothers and sisters. For our Young Adults Social Justice Committee, however, changing seasons means the reconvening of meetings and a renewed focus on pressing community issues. In May, a group of parishioners, 40 and under, from across the Archdiocese began to discern which agencies they would suggest for donations from the 2025 Lenten Collection. By August,

the committee submitted a list for Archbishop Mulhall's consideration and the final selection was circulated to parishes shortly thereafter.

Though many community organizations are working tirelessly to address the systemic issues of our time, St. Paul's Great Hymn to Charity (1 Corinthians 13:1-13) reminds us that without love, even our most well-placed intentions become hollow. Committee members thus intentionally sought agencies assisting vulnerable populations in practical and immediate ways, while also prioritizing hospitality, community, and connection. As in past years, agencies assisting with food insecurity, pregnant mothers, disadvantaged youth, and the unhoused were identified as recipients for donations in 2025. Human trafficking was also identified as a new priority during this collection cycle, as represented by the inclusion of **Beacon Bags** in Prescott.

Father Daniel Casey, Father Denis Casey and Sister Margaret Tierney in the Hotel Dieu Hospital, Kingston, Bishop's Suite [1920s]. From the beginning of the Hotel Dieu Hospital in Kingston in 1845, the Sisters and the clergy maintained a special relationship. Priests provided spiritual care for the sick and dying at the hospital and the Sisters cared for ill and infirm priests, including reserving a "Bishop's Suite" in the Sydenham Wing for their care.

