



## **GIFT APPEAL UPDATE**

The *GIFT* appeal is a five-year partnership between our Parish of St. Thomas and our Diocese of Ottawa, in which church members make special contributions for special projects.

### **Parish Status Report**

Our parish of St. Thomas completed the active stage of our appeal last autumn. Virtually every parishioner received an information package. A great many responded with donations or pledges.

**We've Already Contributed: \$183,268**  
**Our Eventual Parish Goal: \$193,000**

### **Diocesan Status Report**

A small number of parishes completed their campaigns last autumn. Many more are underway now, while others will launch next autumn.

**Contributions in the Diocese: close to \$3,000,000**  
**Eventual Diocesan Goal: \$12,000,000**

# ***GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER***

## **What's happening now in the parish?**

The parish is now receiving monthly cheques from the *GIFT* office, as the funds are available. The money is used to pay for our parish projects, such as the new sign on our lawn. The parish can also apply for diocesan *GIFT* grants for some of our projects.

## **What's happening now in the diocese?**

The Bishop's Child Poverty Initiative is already starting to help impoverished families in some of the poorest parts of our diocese. Partnerships with other service agencies helps to identify those children who desperately need regular meals and other assistance. Money is also coming in to help projects around the diocese, in northern Canada and in Africa.

## **How will we reach our parish goal?**

Anyone who would like to join in should look for extra information packages, pledge cards and one-time envelopes in the Church. There are still some parishioners who have not returned their pledge cards, as it can often take time for people to prayerfully consider their involvement.

## **What's next?**

*GIFT* is a five-year appeal. St. Thomas has now reached 95% of its goal and there is plenty of time for other members to join in and help out. We should take pride and give thanks for our success so far!

