



OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

To be read at all Masses on Sunday, October 27th, 2024

Catholic Social Services Sunday, October 27th

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today marks our fourth annual Catholic Social Services Sunday. It is a day in which we express our profound gratitude for the gift of this remarkable Agency to the people of this Archdiocese.

In this Sunday's gospel reading, we encountered Bartimaeus, the blind man sitting by the roadside, crying out, "Jesus, son of David, have pity on me!" He wanted to see, to have his sight restored. Similarly, in our own day, we witness many other people calling out to Jesus with their needs, their privations, and their poverties, all looking for some kind of healing and new beginning.

For many of these people, Catholic Social Services is there, serving as the hands and feet of Christ, helping to offer some of the restoration they seek. It could be the woman escaping domestic violence and looking for a safe place to stay, the refugee fleeing war-torn lands in search of a secure country to raise their family, the person with a developmental disability longing for acceptance, or an isolated senior seeking to soothe their loneliness with the listening ear of someone who cares. No matter the circumstances, for over six decades Catholic Social Services has been there to meet them with the unwavering love of God.

Every year, over 20,000 Albertans – old and new – turn to Catholic Social Services as a beacon of hope and healing, and, every day, the 2000 employees and 400 volunteers of Catholic Social Services show up to respond, always without an ounce of judgment. They simply show up with love.

Trusting in the Lord's goodness and constant care, let us wholeheartedly thank Him once again for the gift of Catholic Social Services, an essential member of our Archdiocese of Edmonton family of faith.

Sincerely in Christ,

✠Richard W. Smith

Archbishop of Edmonton