

Blessings

IN THE MIDST OF TRIAL

The COVID-19 pandemic kept our parishes closed for three months, but it hasn't kept the good work of the Church from taking place. The Stewardship and Development Office asked for a few examples from our pastors and parish leaders, and the response was so great that we want to share as many as we can with you. A few are listed here, and we'll have more in the weeks to come!

ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA, HAMILTON

"We arranged for a number of parishioners, including high school students, to phone each person on our parish database.

Some who were away for a long time were gratefully surprised by the call, and particular needs of some people, especially for prayer, were uncovered. It opened us to see the need for greater outreach in the future!"

– Fr. Mark Gatto

ST. MATTHEW, OAKVILLE

"I'm very encouraged by how many people are coming to our weekly and daily livestream of the Mass and the growing number of envelopes and online pledges we are receiving. There is a definite sense that the parish, our faith, holds a central place in people's hearts. We have had several families give donations well beyond their usual giving (four and five times their annual offertory) and each have relayed the same sentiment, 'Father, we know the parish really needs this right now.'"

– Fr. Allen Varlaki

HOLY FAMILY, NEW HAMBURG

Parishioners are viewing Masses online and offering donations, and they also have had access to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from the parking lot; containers of holy water left outside; and grocery, pharmacy and other items for those in need.



DMIOCESE OF HAMILTON

CAMPAIGN, PARISHES COMING TO AID OF MIGRANT WORKERS HIT BY VIRUS

Funds from the *One Heart, One Soul* Campaign are playing an unexpected role in dealing with the tragic outbreak of the COVID-19 virus among Ontario's migrant farm workers.

As of early June, more than 240 migrant workers across Ontario had tested positive for the virus, and two had died. More than two-thirds of the cases were near where the Diocese of Hamilton's migrant worker ministry is active through parishes such as Blessed Sacrament in Burford. The ministry focuses on the spiritual care of the workers, who come from other countries and play a vital role in the region's agricultural industry. The outreach includes Spanish-language Masses and receptions, and other events.

The ongoing *One Heart, One Soul* Campaign is aiming to raise \$500,000 for the ministry, and Fr. Peter Ciallella, pastor of Blessed Sacrament and its mission church, St. Anthony Daniel in Scotland, spearheaded an effort that will provide each of the quarantined workers a gift bag and a greeting card for Father's Day once they are released. That effort has been supported by a number of other Catholic parishes in the region, as well as non-Catholic churches and other organizations.

The diocese has determined that as much as \$100,000 of the campaign's migrant worker ministry funds, some of it already in hand, will be used to help deal with the immediate crisis. An additional \$20,000 per year for five years will be available for immediate needs. The remaining \$300,000 would be used as it is raised for projects such as improving transportation options for the workers and providing additional help with special events and projects.

"When we started the campaign, we couldn't have envisioned this crisis," said Francis Doyle, director of stewardship and development for the Diocese of Hamilton, "but now that it is upon us, we feel fortunate that through the generosity of our parishioners, we are able to provide timely support to these workers. They leave their families for long periods of time to provide for them, and to provide food for us in Canada, and our aim is to minister to them as best we can while they are here."



A Campaign for the Diocese of Hamilton