

Thank You Abundantly for Sharing the Journey With Us!



Pictured above: Bishop Douglas Crosby, OMI, Bishop of St. George's and Labrador City-Schefferville with a group of students from one of his dioceses.

Since a permanent national voluntary fund in favour of Catholic Missions In Canada was established at the 83rd annual national convention in 2003, donations from councils have soared. The impact of this financial support is felt all across the country, as the six chosen mission partners that provide religious education programs benefit from your care and hard work. These programs continue to reach out to the children, youth and families in mission communities with the Good News of Our Lord. What a great blessing it is to have the support of League councils all across the country! You are a true gift to these missionaries and all the families these religious education programs touch.

One of the mission partners is Mrs. Sheila Sullivan in Happy Valley-Goose Bay on mainland Labrador in the Diocese of Labrador City-Schefferville. Sheila is the catechetical coordinator for the diocese and her work has been supported by Catholic Missions In Canada for many years. It has been six years since the province stopped funding Catholic schools and the responsibility for religious education was downloaded to parishes and families. Sheila explained that this gave parents back their ministry of attending to the faith development of their children. Sheila's bishop is Bishop Douglas Crosby, OMI,

and the League's former national spiritual advisor. Sheila gives him credit for making the formation of parents as the primary catechists a hallmark of his ministry.

Sheila is also quick to express gratitude to benefactors whose generosity enables her mission to continue its work. "We remind ourselves that the Good News we announce is in partnership with the whole family of God, and YOU are the backbone of our catechetical endeavours. I am reminded of the ways you are part of our diocesan theme, *Go! Be GOOD news!* **Thank you abundantly for continuing the journey with us.**"

League members' good works have yielded such great rewards. Every book sale, bake sale, craft sale, raffle, luncheon or mass collection taken up for the national voluntary fund has been an instrument for faith development across Canada. Each of the mission partners – Fr. Gerald McDougall in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Sr. Anna Stauber in Nelson, British Columbia, Sr. Lorraine Couture in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Sr. Margaret Sadler in Keewatin-LePas, Manitoba and Srs. Frances Molloy, Mary Ryan and Carmelita MacNeil in St. George's, Newfoundland and Labrador – have expressed gratitude to League members for their financial and spiritual support. Just knowing there are so many devoted League sisters interested in their work is great encouragement to them.

May Our Lady of Good Counsel continue to bless you for sharing your blessings with the mission communities across Canada.

Beth Ryan Aitken is the Assistant Director of Fundraising for Catholic Missions In Canada.



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