



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**Diocese of Calgary**

November 7, 2018

To all the faithful of the Diocese of Calgary:

On Sunday, November 18, the Diocese of Calgary will join with the Universal Church in celebrating the World Day of the Poor. Pope Francis instituted this special day at the conclusion of the Jubilee of Mercy as a means to enable the faithful to become "an ever greater sign of Christ's charity for the least and those most in need."

In a country as blessed as Canada, we are called to remember that while many have much, "the earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." While we benefit from God's generosity, the Lord shares the earth with both the rich and poor alike. Regarding our responsibility to share with the poor, St. Ambrose says, "If you have two shirts in your closet, one belongs to you and the other to the man with no shirt."

Although our volunteer work and acts of generosity are good and useful, Pope Francis reminds us that charity becomes transformative when we have "a true encounter with the poor and a sharing that becomes a way of life". "This way of life gives rise to joy and peace of soul, because we touch with our own hands the flesh of Christ."

It is my honour to draw your attention to four of the numerous programs within the Diocese of Calgary which provide opportunities for true encounter and sharing with the poor: St. Vincent de Paul Society; Prison Ministry; Feed the Hungry & Elizabeth House. On the back of this letter you will find information regarding the unique charism of each and the communities they serve. I would like to personally invite you to not only learn about each program, but also pray for them and ask the Spirit to show you how you may participate with them in a deeper and more personal way. In allowing God to transform your heart, you will begin to see those who are poor among you as neighbours, friends and integral members of our family in Christ.

Faithfully,

Theodoric Nowak

*Director of Social Justice & Outreach Ministries*



**WORLD DAY OF**

**the  
poor**

**NOV. 11  
2018**

# PRISON MINISTRY

The Prison Ministry program of the Diocese of Calgary provides practical leadership in the Diocesan community's effort to respond to the needs of prisoners, released prisoners, their families, and victims of crime.

As baptized people, sent by Christ to proclaim the Good News, we are called to offer the unconditional love, forgiveness and justice in word, prayer, and action by creating opportunities for healing and reconciliation for those affected by crime and creating welcoming communities for released prisoners who want to make a new beginning in their lives.

Please contact:

**Marilou LeGeyt**, Outreach Ministries Coordinator  
403-218-5519 - Marilou.LeGeyt@calgarydiocese.ca

# ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Founded by Blessed Frederic Ozanam in 1833, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SSVP) is a lay organization open to all who desire to live their faith in love and service of Christ to their neighbour.

The Vincentian mission calls members to live the Gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love, respect, justice and joy. As one of the most active organizations in the Diocese of Calgary, SSVP welcomes anyone who is passionate and called to actively serve the poor.

Please contact:

**Diocese of Calgary Central Council**  
403-250-0319 - ssvpcalgary@hotmail.com

# ELIZABETH HOUSE

Elizabeth House is a life skills program and family-oriented home which welcomes pregnant and parenting women who need a safe, supportive place to live.

Our compassionate and effective transitional home supports residents in gaining the life skills and confidence to move towards healthy and sustainable independent living. Our goal is for our residents to have access to opportunities and resources that will enable them to take charge of their life.

Please contact: **Michelle Haywood**,  
Elizabeth House Coordinator  
403-228-9724  
elizabethhouse@calgarydiocese.ca

# FEED THE HUNGRY

Feed the Hungry provides Calgarians experiencing poverty and marginalization with a family-style sit down dinner in a friendly atmosphere of safety and respect.

Each Sunday, Feed the Hungry provides a four course meal to approximately 500 guests. Each dinner requires 100 volunteers over the course of the weekend to prepare, cook, serve, greet and cleanup. By interacting one-on-one with guests, each volunteer has an opportunity to truly learn from their neighbours and share in their experiences.

Please contact: **Sartre Jean-Gilles**,  
Feed the Hungry Coordinator  
403) 218-5532  
feedthehungry@calgarydiocese.ca