

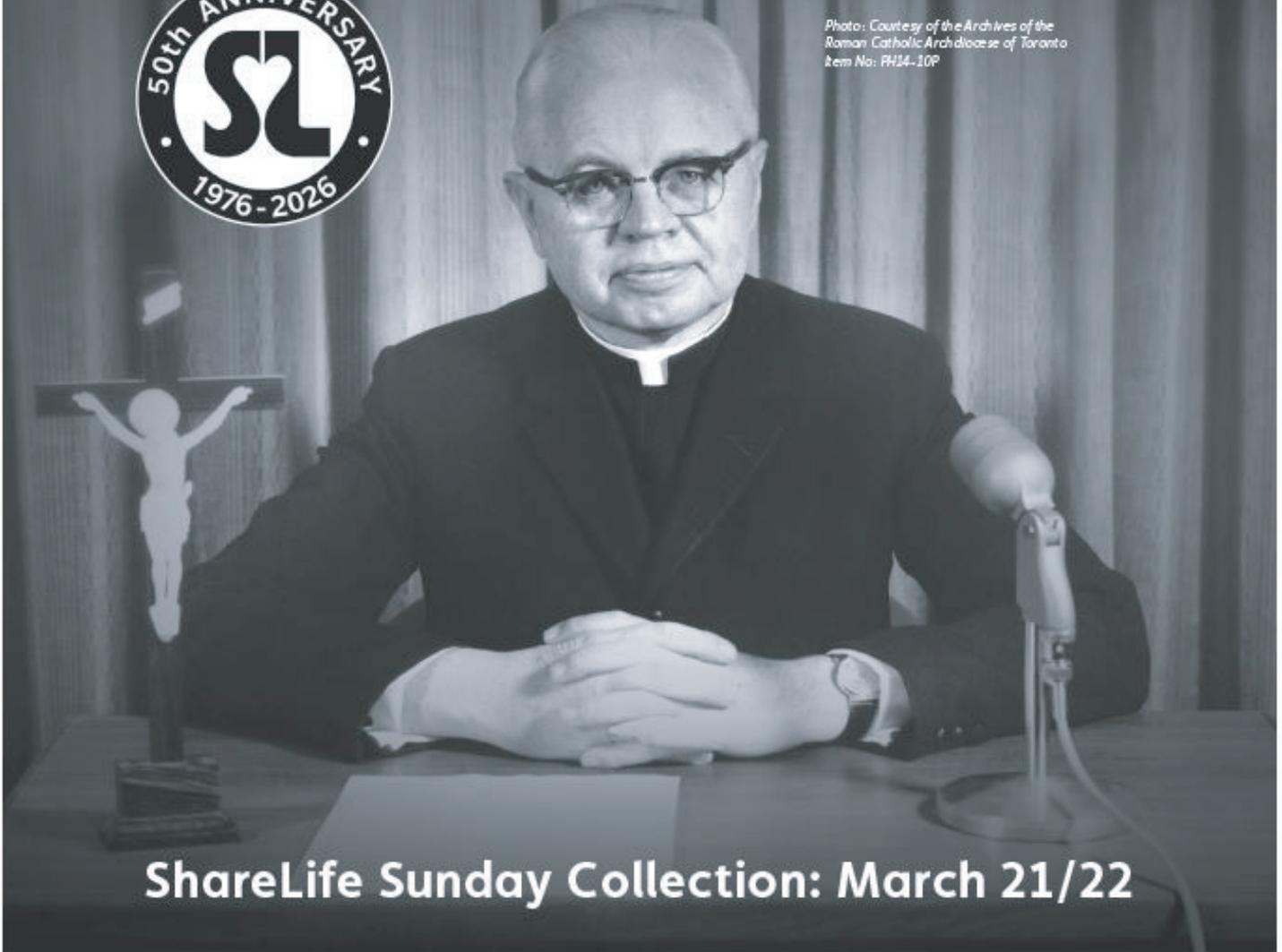
# Living the Gospel



"We believe that every human being is unique and priceless. We hold that human life must be respected at every stage of its development from the first mysterious moment of conception to the declining days of advanced age."

- Archbishop Philip Francis Pocock, A Declaration on Behalf of Life, March 19, 1976

*Photo: Courtesy of the Archives of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto Item No: PH14-10P*



**ShareLife Sunday Collection: March 21/22**

Your gift brings hope to those served by 40 Catholic agencies in our community and beyond!  
Please give at our parish or [sharelife.org/donate](http://sharelife.org/donate)

**SL ShareLife**

[sharelife.org](http://sharelife.org) | [X](#) [f](#) [@](#) /ShareLifeCan

## ST. CHRISTOPHER'S PARISH



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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

36-2



John 11:1-45  
- Jesus  
raises  
Lazarus from  
the Dead



Mass  
Intentions

Mon. Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup>: NO MASS

Tues. Mar. 24<sup>th</sup>:  
9am – Felix Pinto  
Bismal Fernando

Wed. Mar. 25<sup>th</sup>:  
9am - People of the Parish

Thurs. Mar. 26<sup>th</sup>:  
9am - People of the Parish

Fri. Mar. 27<sup>th</sup>:  
9am – Annamaria Carnevale  
Felix Pinto

Sat. Mar. 28<sup>th</sup>:  
9am – Jeffrey Silva  
Ramona Palomar  
5pm – People of the Parish

Sun. Mar. 29<sup>th</sup>: Palm Sunday  
8:30 am – People of the Parish  
10am – Carolyn Arnold  
Rita Campomizzi  
12 pm - Rita Campomizzi

**Prayer Requests:** If you or a family member is sick or deceased and would like to be prayed for, please contact the office.  
**Sick Intentions:** Vivian Youkhanna

**Holy Week 2026 Mass Schedule**

Lenten Stations of the Cross – Every Friday at 6pm.

Palm Sunday (Mar. 28): Saturday Vigil 5pm  
Sunday (Mar. 29): 8am | 10am | 12pm

Holy Thursday (Apr. 2): 7pm only. No morning mass.

Good Friday (Apr. 3): 11am | 3pm | Stations of the Cross 730pm

Easter Vigil (Apr. 4): Easter Food Blessing 1pm | Vigil Mass 7pm

Easter Sunday (Apr. 5): 8am | 10am | 12pm

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** REGISTRATION FORMS ARE NOW AVAILBALE ONLINE!! REGISTRATION DAY IS ON APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup> AND 10<sup>TH</sup> FROM 6:30-8:30PM IN THE VESTIBULE. **FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IN THE PARISH OFFICE.** VBS 2026 WILL TAKE PLACE ON JULY 13<sup>TH</sup> TO 24<sup>TH</sup>. VOLUNTEER FORMS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE. PLEASE CONTACT LEVY ANNE FOR DETAILS!



**DISCOVER THE WONDERS OF TURKEY**  
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Forms are available on our website. For more information, please contact May Chow: 416.993.6297 | mchow@expediacruz.com

**Your Knights of Columbus Round-up call for the Roving Piggies.**  
Maybe your one Piggy Bank went to the market? Please help the Knights bring back any PIGGY BANKS that may have lost their way back to St. Christopher's! Your help to those less fortunate is always appreciated!!!"

**Weekend Collections: March 14 & 15**

- Offertory & Other Parish Collections \$ 6,641.82
- Baptisms/Funerals/Marriages \$ 300.00
- Christmas & Easter \$ 862.00
- Mass Offerings \$ 160.00
- Charity/Outreach Receipts \$ 55.00
- Youth Program Receipts \$ 325.00
- Article/Candle Sales \$ 679.85
- Building Maintenance \$ 140.00
- Share Life - Year-to-Date \$ 9,285.00



**ShareLife is More than a Collection - It's about bringing the Gospel to life.**

It was in January 2005 that I began my role as Executive Director of ShareLife, having been hired just before Christmas 2004. At the time, I was Chair of the Dufferin-Peel Catholic District School Board and was honoured to continue serving the Catholic community by leading the annual appeal of the Archdiocese of Toronto.

In my youth, I had met Archbishop Philip Pocock, who served as Chaplain of our Columbian Squires Circle, and I later had the honour of representing our Circle at his funeral in 1984. If you had asked me then what I knew about ShareLife, I would have said it was founded by Archbishop Pocock as a fundraising appeal for Catholic charitable organizations. I knew the agencies by name but could not tell you much about what they did beyond what I studied in preparation for my job interview. I do remember going door to door with my parents, inviting fellow parishioners to contribute to ShareLife. But that was about it.

Early on, I realized that if I was going to promote the work of these agencies, I needed to know them firsthand. I made the decision to visit every organization that received funds from the campaign. If I was going to invite parishioners to support the annual appeal, I had to understand what these agencies did and how their work was making an impact on the lives of those who turned to them for help. This became, for me, a turning point in my role.

As I met with directors, staff and sometimes clients of the ShareLife-funded agencies, I left each meeting with a sense of “now I get it.” Each visit taught me that their work was more than about physical results; it was about bringing the Gospel to life and putting our faith into action. I soon realized that ShareLife was not simply a collection, but how we, as a Catholic community, bring the hands of Christ to those in need.

I learned of families dealing with difficult situations who were being helped through our network of Catholic Family Service agencies, how the deaf community was supported through the efforts of Silent Voice Canada and how people struggling with addictions were cared for through St. Michael's Homes and the DARE program of the Good Shepherd Ministries. I also learned that ShareLife was how we supported the education of our clergy at St. Augustine's Seminary, youth programs at the Office of Catholic Youth and provided meals for hungry children through the work of Dr. Andrew Simone and Canadian Food for Children. And so much more.

I want to share one story from my initial agency visits. At Mary Centre, which cares for developmentally challenged adults, I met Honey, a resident in one of their homes. As we toured the house, Honey showed me the list of chores she was responsible for — vacuuming, sweeping and other household tasks. As she shared them with pride, I reflected that her responsibilities, which might seem simple to some, were just as important to her as my own daily work at ShareLife was to me. They gave her dignity and a sense of purpose, knowing she was making a meaningful contribution to her home and community.

Since then, we have added support for hospital chaplaincy programs, assisted in the settlement of refugees through the Office for Refugees and more recently provided grants for food and meal programs

across the archdiocese at a time when many people are struggling to afford this basic necessity of life.

Like me at the time, many of our parishioners could not name most of the agencies that were supported by ShareLife. They knew that our annual appeal was good, supported by our bishops and clergy, and was in line with their Catholic values. But they did not know much about what the agencies do to extend these values into the greater community and ultimately the world. Today, this largely remains the same — parishioners know that ShareLife is Catholic, but not a great deal more about what their contributions are supporting.

In 1976, in his Declaration on Behalf of Life, Archbishop Philip Pocock said: “We believe that every human being is unique and priceless. We hold that human life must be respected at every stage of its development from the first mysterious moment of conception to the declining days of advanced age.”

This is what we are doing now, day after day, through the work of over 40 agencies, bringing the Gospel to life in all that they do. ShareLife is more than a collection — it is how we put our love for one another into action; it is how we follow the parable of the Good Samaritan, it is how we bring our Catholic values to life. A contribution to ShareLife helps people like Honey to live with dignity and feel capable, valued, loved and cared for. In John 15:12, Jesus says, “This is my commandment: love each other as I have loved you,” and our support for ShareLife puts this message into action every day.

In his statement, Archbishop Pocock stated, “I am prepared to take the responsibility of sustaining the services of Catholic Charities to the community.” At the time, there were seven agencies, which has grown to over 40 today, caring for our brothers and sisters in Christ not only here in Toronto, but across the world.

Through our annual appeal, we are today continuing the vision that Archbishop Philip Pocock had when we established the ShareLife campaign in 1976, and in this 50th anniversary year we invite all Catholics to support the mission work of the Church by making a contribution toward the work of ShareLife agencies. (*Arthur Peters is Executive Director of ShareLife.*)

**This weekend will be our first 2<sup>nd</sup> collection for the 2026 Sharelife campaign. Our parish goal is \$157,500. Thank you to everyone for their support!**

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