DIOCESE OF SAINT JOHN



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Office of the Bishop

November 1, 2011

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Since 1987, the annual "Christ the King Collection" has been taken up in parishes throughout the Diocese in support of the education of future priests and the Priests' Pension Plan. This year's collection will be taken up on the weekend of November 20th. On behalf of the Priests of the Diocese, our Seminarians, and myself, please accept our grateful thanks.

At the moment we are blessed to have 43 priests who are still in active service and 24 who are either retired, away, on sick leave, or serving elsewhere.

Some of our priests benefit from the Priests' Pension Plan while others will benefit from the plan at some time in the future as they retire. As a diocesan church, we are committed to assuring that our Priests' Pension Plan is adequately funded to cover both present and future needs.

As is the case with so many pension plans today, our Priests' Pension Plan is not fully funded. We rely on your generosity to support the plan and our priests who have served or continue to serve you throughout our diocesan church.

The "Christ the King Collection" also benefits our seminarians. Presently, we have three men studying for the ministerial priesthood and others who are in the process of discernment. The average cost of educating each candidate is \$25,000 per year. Thank you for your financial support.

To contribute to the "Christ the King Collection" you may do so either through the parish collection and/or by sending your donation directly to: Priests' Pension and Seminarian Fund, Diocese of Saint John, One Bayard Drive, Saint John, NB, E2L 3L5. Income tax receipts are issued for contributions.

Please pray for vocations to the ministerial priesthood. Please pray for our seminarians. Please remember all of our priests as well as myself in your prayers.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Robert Hames

+Robert Harris

Bishop of Saint John