

ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO



Priest Fund



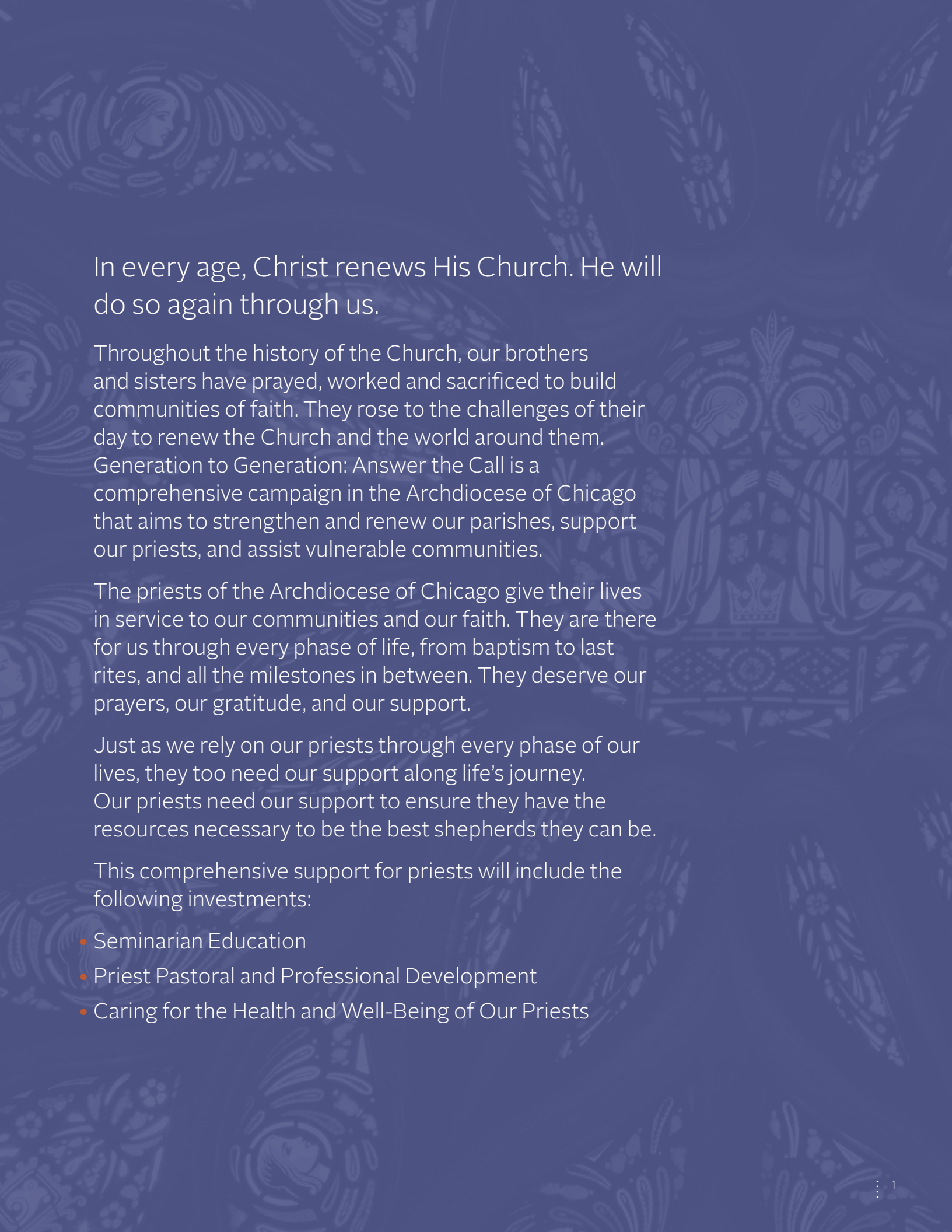
.....GENERATION
TO GENERATION:
ANSWER THE CALL



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**“DEAR LAY FAITHFUL,
BE CLOSE TO YOUR PRIESTS
WITH AFFECTION AND
WITH YOUR PRAYERS, THAT
THEY MAY ALWAYS BE
SHEPHERDS ACCORDING
TO GOD’S HEART.”**

— Pope Francis



In every age, Christ renews His Church. He will do so again through us.

Throughout the history of the Church, our brothers and sisters have prayed, worked and sacrificed to build communities of faith. They rose to the challenges of their day to renew the Church and the world around them.

Generation to Generation: Answer the Call is a comprehensive campaign in the Archdiocese of Chicago that aims to strengthen and renew our parishes, support our priests, and assist vulnerable communities.

The priests of the Archdiocese of Chicago give their lives in service to our communities and our faith. They are there for us through every phase of life, from baptism to last rites, and all the milestones in between. They deserve our prayers, our gratitude, and our support.

Just as we rely on our priests through every phase of our lives, they too need our support along life's journey. Our priests need our support to ensure they have the resources necessary to be the best shepherds they can be.

This comprehensive support for priests will include the following investments:

- Seminarian Education
- Priest Pastoral and Professional Development
- Caring for the Health and Well-Being of Our Priests

Supporting seminarian education

For over 100 years, we have been dedicated to preparing men for the priesthood through undergraduate and graduate education. The archdiocese sponsors the tuition for our Chicago seminarians, and this fund will help us educate and form our next generation of parish priests.

Just as we are encountering a new era in the life of the Church, our approach to educating our seminarians is also adapting. Our seminarian education programs are now specifically focused on evangelization and skills for renewal, including an innovative approach to form priests in pastoral listening and accompaniment. As part of our commitment to excellence, we have introduced new formation methods inspired by medical simulation labs. The approach places seminarians in simulated pastoral experiences where they practice accompanying and ministering to people with pastoral needs, such as those grieving a loss or facing a difficult personal choice.

Your generosity and assistance are crucial in sustaining this mission and nurturing the future leaders of our faith.





“The modern Church is dynamically changing. A parish priest must now be socially capable of not only sending a tweet but also personally interacting with people from all walks of life and in every conceivable pastoral situation. Above all, he must be a man of deep interior prayer. At Mundelein, our academic and formation teams integrate their missions into a common goal of forming priests with precisely these qualities.”

— Fr. John Kartje, rector/president of University of Saint Mary of the Lake

Investing in priest pastoral and professional development

Our priests are becoming pastors much earlier than in prior decades, and the challenges of leading a parish are more complex. To ensure our priests have the capabilities they need to pastor in today's times, we must continue investing in the lifelong pastoral and professional development of our priests. These investments cover three areas:

PRIEST GROWTH PLANS

Based on input from new assessment tools, our priests are developing growth plans along core areas of development: Disciple, Shepherd and Steward. Priests review feedback from the assessment tools and then chart out a plan for personal and professional development for the year.

COACHING

Our priests are engaged in coaching through the Catholic Leadership Institute. This coaching will offer support to priests in areas such as professional development and leadership growth, as outlined in their growth plan. This support is particularly crucial during assignment transitions, ensuring they thrive as pastoral leaders in Jesus Christ.

CURRICULUM

Efforts are underway to identify and create curriculum opportunities for priests that align with their core development plan. Examples of curriculum areas include the following:

Disciple

Spiritual Direction Training Cohorts
Priests' Days and Convocations
Priest Retreats
Recently Ordained Cohort Program
Mentorship Program for Newly Ordained

Shepherd

Preaching for Encounter Program
Conflict Engagement and Resolution Workshop
New Pastors Workshop Cohort
Mentorship Program for New Pastors
Pre-Retirement Retreat

Steward

Team Leadership Workshop
Time Management Workshop
Leading Effective Meetings Workshop
School Pastor Summer Institute at Notre Dame
School Pastor Engagement Workshop



“We very often teach our parishioners that they need to grow, and we lead by example in doing it ourselves through the Priests’ Growth Plan.”

— Fr. Sebastian Zebrowsky



“I am grateful for this opportunity to improve and to do better in my life and ministry. This is the beginning of a lifetime commitment.”

— Fr. Hernan Cuevas-Contreras speaking about a professional development workshop offered to pastors

Ensuring care for the health and well-being of our priests

The Archdiocese of Chicago provides comprehensive medical, wellness and other care to seminarians, active priests and priests in retirement, ensuring that our clergy are supported throughout their journey. This care includes a modest retirement benefit to allow priests to retire with dignity. We also invest in proactive wellness support for priests through two nurse practitioners who visit priests to check on their health.

Care for priests is managed responsibly, and funds for priest retirement are overseen by a board of financial professionals. However, given rising medical costs and the aging of our priests, funds are needed to ensure our priests continue to receive high quality care and support.





“Our priests have committed themselves to a lifetime of service to our Church and our communities. We are thrilled the archdiocese supports our ministry to impact the health and well-being of priests. It has been a privilege to work with them to make sure they are getting the care and attention they need.”

— Mary Kay Gawne, APRN, and Dr. Catie Poronsky, PhD, APRN, two nurse practitioners who care for priests health



“It has been a privilege to serve as a long-time member of the Priest Health and Retirement board, which is a group of priests who care for other priests. We ensure our active and retired priests have good health care and that our retired priests have what they need. If one of our priests doesn’t have a family to look after them, we can step in and be that family.”

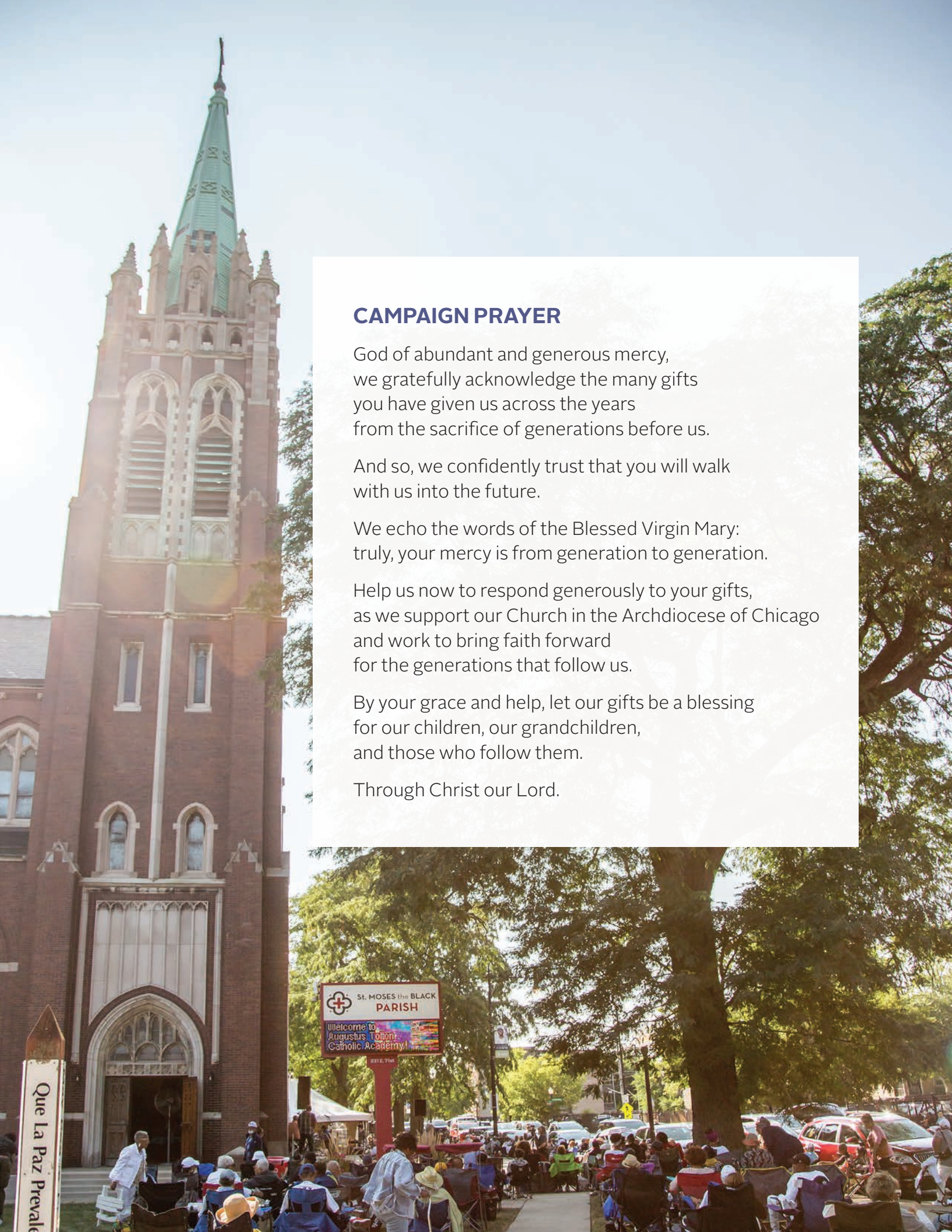
— Msgr. Patrick Pollard, retired priest



The priests of the Archdiocese of Chicago have dedicated their lives to the service of their communities. Now is the chance for these communities to support the care and well-being of their priests.

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For more information about supporting our priests at the archdiocese through the Generation to Generation campaign, please contact **312.534.7959** or **gentogen@archchicago.com**.



CAMPAIGN PRAYER

God of abundant and generous mercy,
we gratefully acknowledge the many gifts
you have given us across the years
from the sacrifice of generations before us.

And so, we confidently trust that you will walk
with us into the future.

We echo the words of the Blessed Virgin Mary:
truly, your mercy is from generation to generation.

Help us now to respond generously to your gifts,
as we support our Church in the Archdiocese of Chicago
and work to bring faith forward
for the generations that follow us.

By your grace and help, let our gifts be a blessing
for our children, our grandchildren,
and those who follow them.

Through Christ our Lord.



Que La Paz Prevale



Gifts to Generation to Generation will be held in separate, restricted accounts and used solely for the specific priorities set forth in the Generation to Generation campaign case statement as well as the relevant local parish case statement. The campaign goals are approximate and based on anticipated needs and contributions. Final distributions will be based on actual contributions and net of related campaign expenses and fees.

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