



DIOCESE OF LONDON

The Pope Francis Fund Invitation to Apply

This notice is to bring to your attention the Pope Francis Fund and invite you to consider an application for a grant.

BACKGROUND

Created by Pope Francis in 2016, the World Day for the Poor was connected to the end of the liturgical year to draw the attention to our "preferential option for the poor."

Inspired by the Holy Father's call to serve those who are under-privileged and lacking in basic human needs, Bishop Fabbro announced the Pope Francis Fund on 17 November 2019, the Third World Day of the Poor. The initial investment in the Fund was one million dollars and the interest earned will be distributed on an annual basis.

In his Letter to the Faithful, which is available at <https://dol.ca/pope-francis-fund>, Bishop Fabbro writes,

In the Pope Francis Fund, it is my goal that our faith community is taking concrete action to serve those who are struggling to meet their basic human needs. It is a public declaration that we must take to heart the words of Jesus; "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40).

HOW TO APPLY

Registered Canadian charities and not-for-profit organizations interested in applying for a grant from the Pope Francis Fund are invited to carefully review the fund criteria, which follow.

An applicant organization must submit a request for an application form, including the following information:

- The name of your organization
- Your address
- A brief description of the proposal to use the grant and how it meets the criteria
- Amount requested
- Name of contact person along with phone number and email address

This information must be submitted in writing: Diocese of London, attention Senior Leadership Team, 1070 Waterloo Street, London, Ontario, N6A 3Y2. Eligible applicants will receive an application form upon approval of their request.

Grant applications must be submitted between January 1st and February 28th of each year.



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The Pope Francis Fund Criteria to be Considered for Qualification

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FUND

This is an endowment fund for which the capital and purchasing power is to be preserved. The Fund shall follow the “Payout Policy” of the Diocese of London. The initial investment in the Fund was one million dollars and was made possible when the Diocese sold lands adjacent to St. Peter’s Seminary.

CRITERIA AND APPROVAL PROCESS

1. Only organizations, including parishes, will be considered. Individuals will not be considered.
2. Only organizations which have charitable status or not-for-profit status and which are located in Canada, and conduct their activities in Canada, will be considered. Preference will be given to organizations within the Diocese of London.
3. Requests from Catholic entities must be submitted by the Bishop of the diocese from which they originate or must be accompanied by a letter from the Bishop, except for parishes of the Diocese of London. Requests from Religious communities or congregations must be accompanied with a letter from the Major Superior.
4. Applicants must be able to demonstrate how they will use the grant given to assist those lacking in food, medicine, housing, education and other basic human needs.
5. In addition, applicants must demonstrate that their organization, and the use of any monies granted, will be consistent with Catholic values and teachings on morals.
6. The Pope Francis Fund will not fund entire projects or initiatives. Organizations must demonstrate that the Pope Francis Fund is not the sole or major funder.
7. Funding in the current year does not guarantee funding in future years.
8. Applications for funding must be submitted between January 1st and February 28th of each year. Funds will be awarded by the end of March each year.
9. Any recipient of funds must submit a written report by December 31st of the year the grant was given, showing how the monies were spent.
10. Funding applications will be reviewed by the Diocese of London Senior Leadership Team with the Bishop of London having the final decision.
11. Amount of funds granted at any given time will depend on the number of requests and the funds available.
12. The funds will not be used for the following:
 - a. Buildings belonging to the Diocese of London;
 - b. Assisting parishes in debt; or
 - c. Any payments connected to sexual abuse claims (i.e., settlements, legal fees, counselling).