



ROMAN CATHOLIC CHANCERY OFFICE

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**DIOCESAN DEVELOPMENT FUND APPEAL 2023
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
BISHOP LAWRENCE SYDNEY NICASIO**

I now know where we have learned to be people with kind and generous hearts. Some of us will give away the shirt on our backs to one who is more needy than ourselves. We belong to a truly giving Church, a Church who is called a 'non-profit organization.' For hundreds of years, we as a Church, stretch our monies in order to educate the children / youth of Belize, the future leaders of this Church and country. Whatever is shared with us, we give it right back to those we serve every day.

This love for giving, did not come from ourselves, it comes from him who keeps nothing for himself. It comes from him who loves to give. It comes from him who loves to do good for others. In his love, He created us in his own image, in his own likeness and breathe into us the breath of life. He gave us life, that is why we can move and have our being; that is why we can do the work we do and earn a living.

Jesus, God's only Son, came to live a mission of giving and service. Remember that as I have done, so you too must do. I have come to serve, to give, not to be served, not to serve and give only to myself. True life happens for us when we learn the lesson of being givers to each other.

Like St. Maximilian Kolbe, the saints in this Church, our Church, we live lives of total surrender and giving to God. It is in giving that we receive. It is in giving that we are repaid a hundred times what we have given up. It is in giving that we become truly children of God. It is in giving that we become rich in God's eyes.

We continue to be a giving Church, even in the most challenging times in our lives. Every year, I make this appeal to you because I know that alone, I am not the Church - we together, are the Church. We together, form this Diocese of Belize City and Belmopan, from North, South, East and West. How beautiful it is when we share our gifts and talents with each other as Church, for our Church.

In June, I hope to ordain two young men to the priesthood; priests to be ordained for our Church, priests whom you have sustained/maintained by your yearly response to this appeal.

I do need an even stronger response from you to my appeal this year, to assist me with our Catholic Public School Office, Youth Ministry Office, the Vocation Office, the building of the new parish priest's house in Belmopan, the new Communication Center, to name a few.

I cannot help but express my sincerest gratitude to our Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Level school presidents, principals and staff for urging the future leaders of this Church, our children and youth, to give from their hearts to the Church they know and love.

Let us, this year 2023, give again to our God, to his Church and to one another. For this reason, we were sent to live life in this Common Home. For this reason, the mission, our mission continues.

May the all-giving and merciful God bless us now and always - In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Servant in Christ,

Most Rev. Lawrence Sydney Nicasio
Bishop of Belize City and Belmopan