

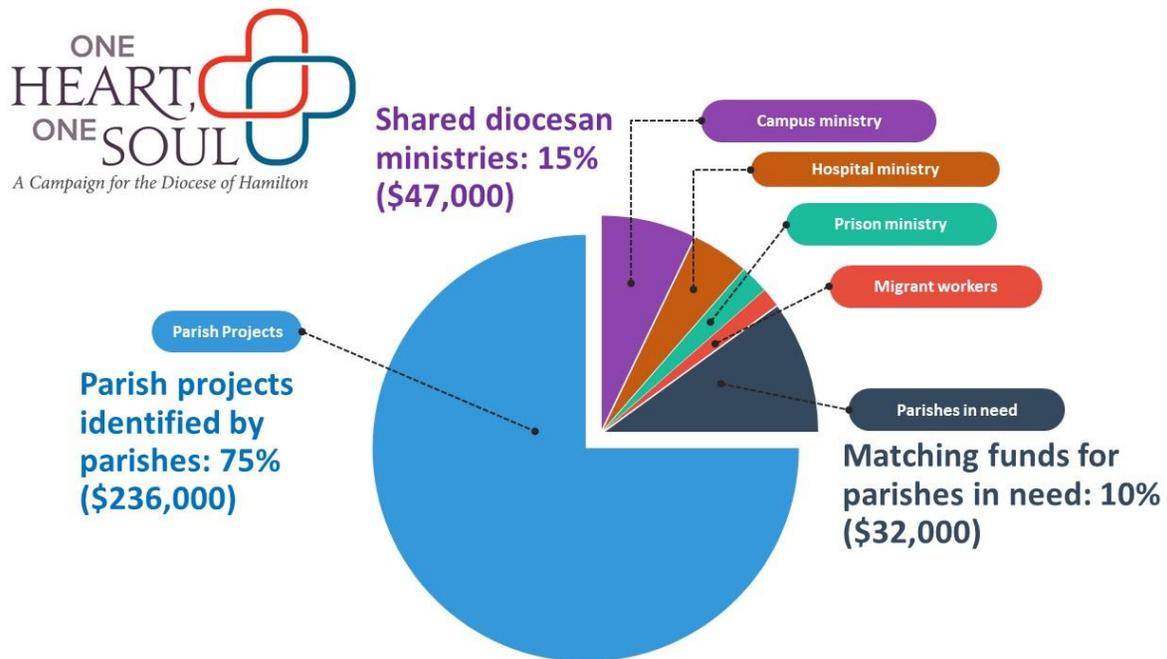


**Dear Parishioners,**

Over 100 years ago, the Polish Community here in Kitchener expressed a great need for a Polish parish, and it is out of this desire that Sacred Heart Church was built. From the very beginning, parishioners have always been and continue to be very kind and generous with their time and financial contributions; in these ways you have been immensely helpful in maintaining and improving our church all these years. After completing work on the church interior in 1920, we have since installed central heating and cooling, replaced the roof, constructed an elevator, built washroom facilities, and renovated the parish hall. All this was accomplished between 1990 and 2015 and would not have been possible without your help.

It is because of these improvements and through parishioners' support that the Sacred Heart Church has been able to continue to faithfully minister to our community's spiritual and social needs. The Second Vatican Council encouraged parishes to find novel and creative ways to enliven the parish community in keeping with our changing times; the parish hall has in a particular way enabled us to gather as a parish family for various social events, fulfilling our longing for a more vibrant parish life.

A couple of years ago, bishop Douglas Crosby conceived the idea for the “One Heart, One Soul” campaign for the Diocese of Hamilton. The goal of the initiative is to provide financial support to all of the parishes in the diocese (ours included); the funds can be allocated to material improvements of the church building, aid in parish programming and ministries, and most importantly, to deliver parishes that are on the brink of a financial collapse. The funds raised will also be used to help in the various apostolates run by the diocese, including for subsidizing residences for students, hospitals, and prison and migrant ministry (mainly, the seasonal workers who work on Canadian farms for part of the year). The “One Heart, One Soul” Campaign is the avenue by which the parish family can continuously support the church while giving back to the community.



Sacred Heart Parish has committed to raising a minimum of \$315,000.00 for this campaign. If we are able to achieve this goal, our parish will be able to keep 75% (\$236,000.00) of the raised amount to use for our parish needs. If we raise more than this minimum target, we will be able to keep 85% of the funds (an additional 10% of total funds). The rest of the funds will be used to assist other parishes and diocesan ministries, as mentioned above.

This campaign will span three years, and will not cost our parish anything. All campaign costs are covered by the diocese.

Now that you are familiar with the general outline for this campaign, you are likely wondering what these funds will be used for here at Sacred Heart Parish.

Our main priority, which we have spoken about on a number of occasions in the past, is a complete restoration of the main entrance stairs into the church. For the past 30 years, these stairs had been renovated numerous times, but they had all been temporary fixes that simply enabled us to safely enter the church. Unfortunately, due to the nature of the problem, that being the foundation itself, these stairs continue to pose problems and every year have caused water to leak into the coat room and parish hall.

The only sensible and long-term solution is to completely demolish the existing stairs, excavate the front church grounds, and pour a new foundation. While this is a large and costly project, it will be the only thing that will prevent future problems and frequent fixes. At the same time, we will also renovate the existing coat room and add new stair railings.

The faith Community of Sacred Heart Parish is aware of the substantial request this project poses, but we want to assure you that we are not starting with nothing. Since our parish is under the jurisdiction of The Congregation of Resurrection for the Ontario-Kentucky Province, we have been blessed with a considerable donation of \$30,000.00 from the congregation itself to help start our campaign. This means that as of this day, we have only \$285,000.00 to raise to reach our minimum goal.

As we launch the “One Heart, One Soul” campaign, we would like to share with you that we are one of the largest parishes to undertake this initiative during the Covid-19 pandemic. This campaign has already successfully raised millions of dollars for long-awaited parish projects and stimulated parish life throughout the diocese, even amidst the pandemic lockdown. Our hope is that with your generosity, our Parish, also, can contribute to this success and lift up the hearts of our fellow parishioners.

For the past 100 years, generations of families from this community have sacrificed their time, energy, and offered their financial support to care for, improve, and promote the beauty of our church. Let us come together now to preserve our heritage and ensure that their sacrifice had not been in vain.

Be assured of our prayers in your intention, and may God bless you abundantly for helping to build up our parish family — One Heart, One Soul at a time.

Thank you and God Bless

Fr. Adam Wroblewicz, CR,  
Pastor of Sacred Heart Church

One Heart One Soul Sacred Heart  
Parish Campaign Leadership