



ARCHDIOCESE *of* KINGSTON

Thank you to our Volunteers

Our Lady of Guadalupe
12 December 2020

Dear Volunteers of the Archdiocese of Kingston:

My greetings to you in the name of the Lord.

Over these past several months, since the pandemic protocols have become a part of our daily routine, I have witnessed an extraordinary generosity on the part of our volunteers. By way of appreciation, I felt that I needed to acknowledge the volunteer involvement of all those who, during this pandemic, have devoted themselves to helping others in one way or another.

For some of you, life has taken a different path. It requires a daily decision to remain steadfast and not to give up in the face of these exceptional circumstances. The pandemic, has, put you in a vulnerable place of looking after an isolated or fragile person. Your gift of simple presence is heroic. For others, volunteering means donating food to the local food banks, making masks, writing letters of encouragement, sharing information on social media, hosting online meetings, tutoring students or talking to a despairing friend. These many ways of reaching out show me that your faith is alive and is being strengthened, despite the virus. For this, I am truly grateful.

As I travel around the Archdiocese and experience the welcoming atmosphere created by the parish ushers—even in the midst of having to sanitize pews, wear masks and take Mass attendance—I am warmed by your willingness to pitch in, where needed. The pandemic has made volunteering more complicated, as safety measures must be observed and protocols followed. However, you have used your numerous gifts and talents in a way which permits the priests to carry out their duties of caring for souls and administering the Sacraments. In this Advent season, now more than ever, I hope that you do not grow weary and continue to be encouraged and strengthened in your volunteer involvement.

My dear friends, I close by expressing my deep appreciation for your dedication to this essential ministry. Your willingness to volunteer is the backbone of our parishes. Without you, we could not function as an Archdiocese.

With prayerful best wishes, I remain,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

+Michael Mulhall
Archbishop of Kingston