

# 2020 Bishops' Lenten Appeal



The 2020 Bishops Lenten Appeal did not fully achieve its aims for 2020 because of Covid-19. Herewith the reports.

The new Lenten Appeal is to be launched on 17 February and, despite lockdown regulations persisting, parishioners are asked to make donations to enable the continuance of the invaluable work being done by its beneficiaries in these difficult times.

DONATION INCOME	2020	2019	% to last year
Aliwal North	R 24 825,00	R 95 691,55	26%
Bethlehem	R 30 757,60	R 99 942,40	31%
Bloemfontein	R 21 643,20	R 81 123,00	27%
Cape Town	R 801 572,09	R1 681 043,68	48%
De Aar	R 9 930,00	R 28 982,90	34%
Dundee	R 153 876,45	R 161 281,70	95%
Durban	R 565 910,96	R1 360 060,85	42%
Eshowe	R 51 439,20	R 102 234,80	50%
Ingwavuma	R 42 603,00	R 70 982,00	60%
Johannesburg	R 652 472,89	R1 765 989,21	37%
Keimoes/Upington	R 50 000,00	R 240 000,00	21%
Kimberley	R 186 070,00	R 479 755,90	39%
Klerksdorp	R 5 000,00	R 239 050,00	2%
Kokstad	R 88 079,65	R 194 711,45	45%
Kroonstad	R 51 838,30	R 107 391,99	48%
Mariannhill	R 45 217,20	R 371 993,01	12%
Manzini	R 14 554,63	R 49 585,84	29%
Mthatha	R 111 981,10	R 225 582,94	50%
Oudtshoorn	R 55 658,85	R 141 496,30	39%
Polokwane	R 29 170,00	R 128 801,70	23%
Port Elizabeth	R 251 098,10	R 498 132,60	50%
Pretoria	R 271 805,09	R 636 173,00	43%
Queenstown	R 45 872,33	R 126 955,09	36%
Rustenburg	R 85 326,95	R 229 387,05	37%
Tzaneen	R 45 546,00	R 160 187,00	28%
UMzimkulu	R 26 902,00	R 107 503,60	25%
Witbank	R 109 046,50	R 385 472,64	28%
Othe (unable to locate)	R 8 730,00	R 8 493,70	103%
St John Vianney	R 6 224,40	R 12 070,00	52%
Daughters of Charity	R -	R 3 500,00	0%
FMM Sisters	R 500,00		
FCSCJ-Matikwe Sisters	R 4 000,00		
MFG	R 15 000,00	R 12 000,00	125%
Franco Phone Community	R 5 000,00		
Zim Catholics in SA		R 3 771,00	133%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>R3 867 651,49</b>	<b>R9 809 346,90</b>	<b>39%</b>
Opening balance	<b>R 16 387,30</b>		
Returned Grant (WTB)	<b>R 25 000,00</b>		
Bank Charges	<b>-R 5 803,52</b>		
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>R3 903 235,27</b>		

## Dear people of God,



This has been a really challenging year for all of us – two weeks of Bishops Lenten Appeal collections and over 150 days of lockdown on different levels, leaving us now on level 2. This has truly been a hard time for you the laity adopting to use social media for Holy Mass as well. But we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the true dedication shown throughout this pandemic and your commitment shown to being faithful to the Church

during this challenging time of the Covid-19 pandemic. I thank the Lord for your generosity.

During the first two weeks of Lent, our different parishes held their annual collections for the Bishops Lenten Appeal and a total amount of R3 903 235,27 was collected, which is 39% of what collected last year. For this we are so in debt to you all. As a member here at Khanya House said, we are lucky to have received more than R 500 000.

And yes, I would say we are most blessed by your support

shown to the poor and needy and the works of the Church during these difficult days.

With the R3.9 million that we received through your generosity we would like to give you a financial break down as to how we intend to use the money during this coming financial year:

Unfortunately this leaves us with a deficit of R224 425,67. Through Zoom meetings with the different Diocesan Lenten Appeal directors we brought this deficit to their attention and asked that any outstanding money be forwarded to the Bishops' Conference as soon as possible.

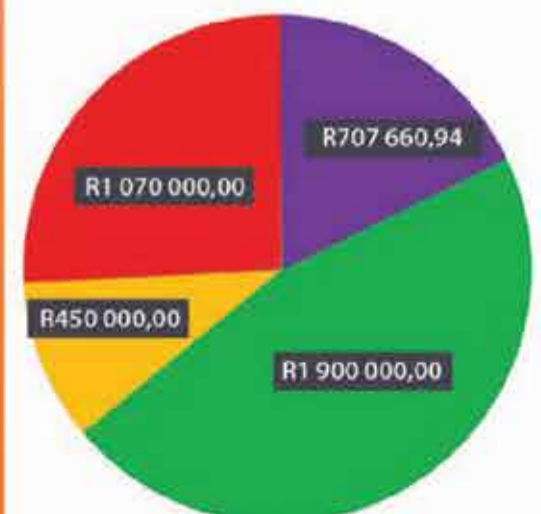
Tabled on the left is a list of collections received from the different Dioceses up until 26 August 2020. To conclude this message, I once more, on behalf of the Bishops Lenten Appeal Office and the Bishops of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, would like to thank you all for your generous support amidst this pandemic.

With thanks for your generous support.

*Sincerely in Christ  
Bro Ashley Tillek, OFM*

## 2020 Bishops' Lenten Appeal Fund Allocation

- Lenten Appeal Administrative & Promotional Cost
- Seminary Education and support, Vocation Awareness Programs, Permanent Diaconate Program
- Catholic Charities, parish subsidies and other charitable works that assist people in need
- Diocesan development Programs that assist our Partners with fostering specific objectives



## Thanks for generous donations despite Covid-19

"Next, brothers, we will tell you of the grace of God which has been granted to the churches of Macedonia, and how, throughout continual ordeals of hardship, their unflinching joy and their intense poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. I can testify that it was of their own accord that they made their gift, which was not merely as far as their resources would allow, but well beyond their resources; and they had kept imploring us most insistently for the privilege of a share in the fellowship of service to God's holy people". (2 Cor 8: 1 – 4)

The Bishops' Lenten Appeal has a long history in our Bishops' Conference area. There is hardly a need to explain it or to motivate it every year. We do not even have the need to design "new more attractive posters" to encourage contributions. Quite the opposite. We have been asked to stick to the same posters every year because it is the best sign that the Lenten Season has started and together with it, our commitment to support the poorest and the work of the Church.

This year was no exception. Our Lenten Season and Lenten Appeal started like any other year. Posters appeared on the walls and envelopes were distributed. The exception came during the Lenten Season when, for the very first time, masses were stopped due to Covid-19 regulations and we were even unable to celebrate Easter together.

During the Easter season, though, we became aware that even if we were unable to come together for the celebration of Mass, collections still took place in different ways. Not being able "to go to Church" did not stop many of you from sharing. Even if Covid-19 regulations also meant not having the same income as before, you still decided to share what you could, aware that more brothers and sisters are now in need and the Church needs to continue to proclaim the Gospel.

It reminded me of Paul's words to the Corinthians where he testifies to the generosity of the Macedonian communities who contributed even beyond their means, placing the needs of the Jerusalem church before their own.

It was overwhelming to us bishops when we became aware that it had happened in every single diocese. Though you have always been generous during the Lenten Season with extraordinary needs, this was a totally new situation and we did not know what to expect.

How much each diocese has contributed has already been made available. We do know, it is not the final number as Covid-19 has also brought some delays in the sending of the funds.

We would like to thank everyone for their generous contributions. We thank the priests who, together with their parish councils, looked for ways to make this possible. With Paul we pray: "May the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all time and in every way The Lord be with you all". (2 Thes 3: 16)

+ José Luis Ponce de León IMC  
Bishop of Manzini

# SACBC Justice and Peace and the feeding of the poor during the pandemic

During the pandemic, the SACBC Justice and Peace Commission worked closely with the United Nations to provide food relief to the poor and the suffering. There have been two stages of involvement in food relief. First, we made arrangements with the United Nations to donate food through the dioceses. We contacted bishops in three dioceses, Klerksdorp, Johannesburg and Pretoria and distributed food parcels to areas identified by the bishops.

Secondly, there were various categories of vulnerable people in various provinces who were identified by UN: informal



Thousands of food parcels were distributed.



settlements, sick miners, farm workers, women living with HIV/Aids, shelters for the homeless, shelters for abused women etc.

We assisted the UN in distributing food parcels to these vulnerable categories. Between May and June, we distributed 18 000 parcels.

There has also been a great concern regarding protection of community health workers and other forms of community workers during the pandemic.

Most of the community health workers are from disadvantaged communities and do not have financial access to personal protective equipment (PPE). The SACBC Justice and Peace Commission is therefore work-

ing with two organisations – the UN and the DG Murray Trust to distribute PPEs for the protection of community workers during the pandemic. The target assigned to the Justice and Peace Commission is to protect 30 000 community workers during the pandemic.

We have made arrangements with the UN and DG Murray trust to distribute the PPEs through our dioceses. We contacted various bishops and justice and peace chaplains who identified the beneficiaries. The UN also identified the beneficiaries. Between June and December, there were four rounds for the distribution of the PPEs.



... contribute directly to the Lenten Appeal:

Account name: SACBC Lenten Appeal  
Account number: 010009744  
Bank: Standard Bank  
Branch: Pretoria Cnr Paul Kruger & Church St

As a reference:  
use LA, your name and your diocese





#### LAY COUNSELLING SKILLS (for De Aar and Oudtshoorn)

- Substance abuse & dependency – theoretical input.
- The effect of substance abuse on the brain and its link with aggression.
- Basic counselling and intervention skills.
- Basic interviewing skills & techniques.
- Practice sessions monitored by a professional.

The impact is that the leaders of parishes (in this case the clergy and religious) are better equipped to engage with the challenges of poverty and human development that surround them. The Church is part of the broader community and both individual members and the parish as a whole are often called on to play a leadership role. We believe this role should be well informed and skilled. Self-reliance of the local Church is so often associated only with financial income. We aim to build the local Church by equipping its leadership with some of the most important pastoral skills needed. As we have the full support of the bishop of the 2 diocese, we expect them to participate in achieving the objective by promoting the programme and encouraging their clergy to be part of it.

Equipped with the Understanding and Addressing Substance Abuse Training, priests and religious will be empowered to achieve the following:

- Break the silence surrounding the problems of family violence and substance abuse by speaking about these publicly and bringing them into the liturgy.
- Challenging patriarchal systems and a lack of respect for women, which provide fertile ground for gender-based violence.
- Becoming more aware of how children are affected by family violence and mobilising the parish community to help them.

With the formation of parish support groups (our initial target is three in each of the 2 dioceses), the following kind of impact becomes possible:

- Finding ways to help families in financial distress, which often

- leads to violent behavior, for example through starting food gardens.
- Running door-to-door campaigns offering support to households in conflict or dealing with substance abuse.
- Awareness raising campaigns, particularly about the Domestic Violence Act.
- Including men in these solutions, particularly those who can act as role models to younger men.

- Starting something as simple as a "Clothes Bank" – supplying 2nd hand clothes and hygiene packs to women who have left their homes or been to the police to report abuse.
- Organising parenting skills workshops in the community.
- Seeking further training in counselling skills in order to specialise in this ministry.

## Project report

### Implementation of the project

Before we applied for funds for this project, the Holy Spirit Sisters collaborated with the leaders of the areas, the police and the local municipality who helped us realise our plans. We involved them in the planning and implementation of the programme which allowed for smooth and peaceful distribution.

We are blessed and grateful to have full support from our Sisters from Steyl, our SVD Brothers from S Gabriel Mission, Germany our Archbishop Emeritus William Slatery, OFM of Pretoria, our parish priest Fr David Sefiri Motsepe, the youth, the parishioners and the sodalities of St Vincent de Paul and the ladies group of his parish, Maria Regina, Fr Patrick Mphepo from the Passionist Community House, Brother Ashley Tillek, OFM, Brother Kgosietsile Sefiri, OFM and the Franciscan seminarians who journeyed with us joyfully.

We are grateful to God for the blessing of being gifted with so many kind and loving people who generously shared their time, talents, resources and loving service for the underprivileged people in Gauteng. Their kindness and generosity enabled us to assist more people than we budgeted for. Our target was 500 families, but God is so good that He sent us many

generous people who were willing to contribute.

The Franciscan Brothers, Fr Sefiri, Mr Armenio and Mr Herbert Smith used their own fuel, vans and bakkies for collecting items and distributing the parcels. The Kit Kat shop manager always gave us big discounts that helped us to buy more food parcels for the people. The whole programme of food parcel distribution was more than 100% realised. We distributed food parcels in six informal settlements (three at LNJ location at Olifantsfontein, Laudium, Diepsloot and Olievenhoutbosch, Olifantsfontein).

We are grateful to have assisted 85 families in Valhalla. Valhalla is a place for the retired military and army personnel, although now it is no longer exclusive to them. We were surprised to learn that many families from our neighbourhood also struggle to buy food and other basic necessities. Many have been retrenched. It has shown us that this pandemic affects both rich and poor.

### Achievement of the project objectives

The large amount of food and detergents which we distributed, helped them with nourishment while confined to home for a few weeks. We hope that it also helped to lessen the number of cases of Covid-19 in the area. However,

## Oudtshoorn beneficiaries



The SACBC's Bishops' Lenten Appeal provided funds to Rural Development Support Programme (RSDP) for its work with rural parishes in the Diocese of Oudtshoorn. These rural communities suffer a great deal with the issue of substance abuse and related gender-based violence. Parishes are not able to address these issues due to a lack of knowledge and skills to implement programmes to help victims of substance abuse and GBV. RDSP has as its focus the capacity-building of rural parishes and communities through intensive training and mentoring to be able to implement programmes in their communities.

In October 2019, RDSP held a roadshow to inform parishes of the prospective training. In January 2020 the first module: General Training of Substance Abuse and Addiction was attended by 14 participants from the following parishes and community organisations:

- St Nicholas Parish
- St Laborious Parish
- St Conrad's Parish



Participants at the training courses

- St Luigi Scrosoppi Care Centre
- Family in Need Organisation
- Dysseisdorp Community Aftercare
- Real Life Commit
- Knysna Alcohol and Drug Centre

In February 2020, module 2: Substance Abuse and Addiction Information Methodology Training was presented. The impact of RDSP's Substance Abuse program is that beneficiary organisations implement community-based initiatives promoting abstinence, substance use reduction and harm reduction in their local communities.

Everyone who attended the training was very excited to share and implement what they learned.

Thank you so much for the support!

it is difficult to have exact statistics. According to Mr Mkhadi, the councillor, while people have been tested for the pandemic, they are still waiting for the results.

Another big challenge is how to help people become self-reliant. Many have lost their jobs and those who came back from work, their income is very small, especially labourers, gardeners and housekeepers. Some cannot go back to work because their employers are afraid of Covid-19 infection. Transport is also a big challenge for the workers.


We, the Missionary Sisters of Pretoria, wish to continue supporting the people with food parcels, but we also wish to offer people vegetable seedlings and the tools needed for gardening. When we did house-to-house registrations, we saw that some families have small vegetable gardens in their

back yards, so we are now thinking of helping them to improve them while encouraging their neighbours to do the same. We will only give seedlings and tools to those who would be interested.

Again, before doing this, we will collaborate with the leaders in the areas which we have done already to a certain degree. In doing this, we hope that the people will have something to eat and if they have good harvest, they can also sell it. If funding allows, we may suggest raising chickens to those who are not interested in gardening. But since we do not know yet how much funds we can raise, we would like to start small vegetable gardens and see how the project evolves.

*Marichu Gacayan, SSPS*

Sr. Marichu Gacayan, SSPS



### THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' FOUNDATION

The Foundation extends its gratitude and good wishes for the year ahead to all its members.

Together last year, 2018, we supported 18 projects nationwide ranging from Care centres for children, School infrastructure, equipment for an Old Age Home, church renovation, disabled children's homes and other.

The Foundation can't do everything, obviously — but it helps and lets people know that their efforts are not going unnoticed especially in the rural and less resourced areas of the country.

For more information see the website [www.catholicbishopsfoundation.org.za](http://www.catholicbishopsfoundation.org.za) or phone Msg. Barney McAleer at 072 469-3710.

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