



Roman Catholic Diocese of Kingstown

Telephone Office: (784) 457-2363
Telephone Home: (784) 456-2427
Fax: (784) 457-1903
Email: catholicsvg@gmail.com

Chancery & Pastoral Centre
Edinboro
P.O Box 862
Kingstown VC 0100
St. Vincent & the Grenadines

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My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

May the Grace and Peace of God be with you all throughout the year 2019.

The sudden illness of two of our Priests has awakened our attention to the fact that there is no structure in place for the care of Priests, especially for sick and retired diocesan priests in the Diocese of Kingstown. There is no retirement home and no retirement financial investment fund.

Through the initiative of the members of the Cathedral Parish Pastoral Council, the "I Care" Project which aims to support our Priests has been created. This venture, however, would require the support of all Catholics through pledges to the Fund.

The "I Care Trust fund" is an arrangement whereby parishioners make a financial contribution which is set aside for the specific purpose of assisting with the critical medical needs of active and retired priests and also to provide for all aspects of life after retirement from priestly ministry.

The proposed "I Care Trust Fund" will be managed by a Board of Trustees consisting of 3 to 4 committed persons. Parishioners will be asked to commit themselves to making a monthly, quarterly or annual pledge to the fund. Pledge envelopes will be given out in the parishes. However, parishioners can choose to make the contribution directly to the Bank account.

In each parish there will be a cell (a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 15 persons) who will be responsible for driving and managing this project in the respective parish. This initiative has my full approval and support.

I make an urgent appeal for your support to the "I Care Trust Fund." Diocesan priests and their Bishop have to depend on the Diocese to which they serve for their care and the Diocese has an obligation to care for its priests and Bishop.

May Mary, Our Lady of the Assumption intercede for us and may her son, the Eternal High Priest, bless this worthy and noble venture.

Yours in Christ,

+ Gerard County, C.S.Sp.,
Bishop of Kingstown.