



***St. Gregory's "Nineteenth Annual Christmas Shoebox Campaign"***

Dear Members of St. Gregory the Great Church.

We are about to begin our 19th Christmas Shoebox Campaign for Canadian Food For Children. Since we began in 2002 over 13,000 Christmas gifts have been sent by our parish to Dr. Simone and his wife Joan. From their depot in Mississauga they have delivered them to children in Central America, South America, Africa, the Philippines and other third world countries. So many families have benefited in the past from your generosity. For some this would have been the only Christmas gift they received.

Due to COVID-19 we are unable to work together at Church to make up the annual shoeboxes. Instead of bringing articles for the shoeboxes it would be appreciated if parishioners would make a monetary donation this year, please place your funds in the collection basket market (CFFC—shoeboxes). If anyone has articles for shoeboxes, please bring them to church and we will see it gets sent.

Also, if you normally prepare your own shoeboxes and wish to donate, we will gratefully accept them. Please bring completed boxes marked girl/boy and size to church no later than November 20/21. Boxes will then be delivered to the warehouse for shipping. Boxes can be dropped off during office hours as well.

Here are some ideas for filling the shoeboxes. Games, dolls, new stuffed toys, balls, school/craft supplies, skipping ropes, stickers, marbles, and solar calculators are fun items. Clothing could be shirts, tops, underwear, and socks. Food items such as granola bars, wrapped candy, baby food in plastic jars or foil pouches and baby cereal. Always needed are face cloths, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, brushes and other toiletries. Please put any strong smelling soap or anything that might leak in a zip-lock bag.

Please do not include any battery operated toys or games or any toys depicting war or violence.

When wrapping your shoebox it is necessary to wrap the top and bottom separately and close it with an elastic band. This will ensure that if it is inspected by custom officers at a border that the wrapping will not be torn. Please feel free to include a note to the child and even a picture of your family. On the outside of the box please place a tag telling us the gender and the age of the child - infant to 15 years.

Thank you in advance and have an enjoyable time filling your shoebox. May God bless you for sharing with others.

Mary & Norb Oberle