



May 26, 2020

## **MAMAWEWESINI-TA**

### **First Nations and Archdiocese of Saint Boniface Food Sharing Project**

**Launch: June 1, 2020**

**Feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church**

The Anishinaabe word “*mamawewesini-ta*” means “eating together.” In response to a food shortage identified by Band Councils and our four priests and two Religious sisters working as missionaries in Indigenous communities in north-eastern Manitoba, the Archdiocese of Saint Boniface is undertaking a food-sharing project. The communities are: Sagkeeng, Hollow Water, Bloodvein, Little Grand Rapids, Pauingassi, Berens River and Poplar River First Nations, as well as communities such as Manigotagan and Seymourville.

These communities, through their Band Councils, are already tackling the food shortage for many of their members. Winnipeg Harvest is also assisting with food donations, as they have done in the past and will continue to do so.

However, the needs in this time of COVID-19 are greater than what both Band Councils and Winnipeg Harvest can respond to. Our archdiocesan project will not replace the present efforts but complement them. It is a matter of solidarity, of fraternity, of being brothers and sisters with each other as Christians.

We invite all the faithful of the Archdiocese, starting with the city parishes, to donate food (non-perishable) or money to this food drive. In the city, the effort is organized along deanery lines, i.e. DUF (French Urban), Kilcona (North Urban English) and SUED (South Urban English).

**For the drop-off of food items, please contact your own parish office for details as to how, where and when it is to be done.**

All foods will then be assembled in three parishes:

- Saints-Martyrs-Canadiens
- Saint Alphonse
- Christ the King



Mr. John Courchene, long-time Winnipeg Harvest Coordinator at Sagkeeng, will then come to pick up all the items and bring them to the parish hall of St. Alexander Parish in Sagkeeng. From there, the food will be delivered to the various communities for distribution to the households in need.

**The foods most needed include:** sugar, flour, yeast, peanut butter, soups, pasta sauce, pasta, oatmeal, brown sugar, canned processed meat, canned salmon or tuna, baby food, Cheese Whiz, dried peas, granola bars, cookies, crackers, Jello, rice, puddings, jams, dried beans, cream of wheat, pork & beans.

As for monetary donations to buy perishable items such as vegetables, fruit, eggs, dairy products, etc. the donations can be made by online donation or by cheque. To donate online, click [Donate](#) on the archdiocesan website and designate your gift to the **Mamawewesini-ta Food Sharing Project**. Please note that the website function to accept your monetary gifts will be operational as of **June 1, 2020**. You can also make a donation by sending a cheque made payable to the *Archidiocèse de Saint-Boniface*, with Food Sharing Project indicated on the memo line, to the Archdiocesan Centre at 151 Avenue de la Cathédrale.

We are starting by having food items collected by the urban parishes; once running, we will see how best to involve the rural areas of our diocese.

I wish to sincerely thank you in advance for your great generosity and manifestation of God's boundless love. In this time of pandemic, and at all times, let us in a Christ-like manner, always assure that we can indeed be "*mamawewesini-ta*" (eating together).

Sincerely in Christ,

*+ Albert LeGatt*

+Albert LeGatt  
Archbishop of Saint Boniface