



Jubilee Year of Hope December 2025

For those to Minister
to Families

HEROES OF HOPE

Heroes of Hope is a monthly newsletter from the Diocese of Hamilton, shining a light on the extraordinary individuals and ministries who inspire hope and transform lives in our communities.

#HEROESOFHOPE

The Catholic Church describes the family as a **Domestic Church** since it is in family that faith is first lived and communicated. Parents draw children to the faith through prayer, love, holiness and engagement in the Church. The home is a sacred space where Christian life is set as a foundation in children's lives. Parents are vital heroes of hope since they are the primary educators of their children.

Beyond parents, grandparents give so much to their families to help nurture and support them. As Pope Leo XIV stated at the Jubilee of Grandparents and the Elderly, *"Let us look to grandparents and the elderly as witnesses of hope, capable of lighting the path for new generations. Let us not leave them alone, but join them in a covenant of love and prayer."*

"The Christian home is the place where children receive the first proclamation of the faith. For this reason the family home is rightly called 'the domestic church,' a community of grace and prayer, a school of human virtues and of Christian charity." – CCC 1666



Ministries for Families

Across our Diocese, many organizations and ministries work tirelessly to support families, especially the most vulnerable. Through their efforts, they offer strength, care, compassion, and hope – reflecting God's love in action.

Heroes of hope work and/or volunteer in various places: the **Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton**, through the **Good Shepherd's** numerous programs, by offering assistance at **The Working Centre**, by providing homes that support new families such as **Marillac Place** and **Angela's Place**, by providing for the challenged through **Rygiel Homes Support for Community Living**, through the works that occur at the seven school boards, by delivering a multitude of programs for children through the **Catholic Youth Organization**, or by assisting at the many other places that provide support. All have a mission to help families become the best version of themselves.

The Catholic Children's Aid Society of Hamilton puts children first by supporting their safety, well-being, and healthy development. Through family-centered, culturally responsive services and strong community partnerships, we work to protect children, strengthen families, and help them thrive.



Ministry for Families in the Diocese

Many parish ministries, such as the St. Vincent de Paul Society and others, seek to support families who may be struggling to meet their many needs. Their tireless efforts and outreach provide hope, often on a daily or weekly timeline.

In our parishes, as well as the Diocesan Offices, numerous ministries exist to assist families meet their needs. They offer support in passing on the faith through catechetical programs, assistance when preparing children for the Sacraments and aid to help families fulfill their important foundational role. These heroes of hope see that families are encouraged to pray together, supported in teaching and living Catholic values, assisted in celebrating the liturgical seasons and in living the Gospel in their daily lives.



By offering **Marriage Preparation** at both parish and diocesan levels, our heroes of hope help couples build strong, faith-filled relationships — foundations that support families rooted in love, charity, forgiveness, and service. The Diocese further strengthens marriages through enrichment opportunities, **Retrouvaille** for couples facing difficulties, and **ReStart** for those with changing family situations after divorce.



Support from the Diocese for families as they navigate their ever-changing family dynamics and the many unexpected issues that arise in everyday living allows families to become their own heroes of hope in dealing well with these challenging situations. **Catholic Moms Groups** offer support to moms with monthly meetings, which include faith and practical elements to support mothers in their vocation. Families are often in need of support, and the Diocese remains committed to meeting those needs with compassion and care.

“As you join together to marry and form a new circle of love, never forget that you are surrounded by a larger circle of family, friends and a faith community who are there to celebrate with you. As you welcome children your circle of love will expand further, but that same larger circle, which includes the Church, will continue to surround and uphold you.” – *Bishop Douglas Crosby*



HEROES OF HOPE PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO MINISTER TO FAMILIES

Lord God, by the grace of our baptism, you have given us new life in Christ and called us to serve as pilgrims of hope.

We pray in thanksgiving for those who uphold the dignity of marriage, built on the firm foundation of love and faithfulness, and for those who assist families to grow in mutual love, that they may enjoy your peace in their homes and become a source of blessing for one another and for the life of the world.

Through their varied ministries, may they touch the hearts of all in our community who long for the hope, born of our Christian faith, that never disappoints.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We invite you to visit the **Family Ministry Office** for resources, workshops, and support.

