



THE POPE'S PASTORAL WORKS

The Office of Papal Charities is the department of the Holy See charged with exercising charity to the poor in the name of the Holy Father.

This tradition goes back to the earliest centuries of the Church. Originally one of the immediate responsibilities of the Deacons, responsibility for the Pope's charities was later exercised by one or more members of the papal household with no particular hierarchical dignity, which was granted later. A Bull of Innocent III (1198-1216) mentions the post of Almoner as already in existence. The first Pope to organize the Office of Papal Charities was Blessed Gregory X (1271-1276), who set down the duties of the Almoner. In a Bull of 1409, Alexander V laid down guidelines and regulations for the Office, which has always functioned as an expression of the constant concern of the Roman Pontiffs. The *Almoner of His Holiness* has the rank of Archbishop; he is a member of the Papal Family and as such takes part in the Holy Father's liturgical celebrations and official audiences.

https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/institutions

The Pope's Pastoral Works collection was established by the bishops of Canada in 1970. The Papal Charities allow the Pope to contribute to various charitable causes around the world, particularly toward aiding the victims of war, famine and natural disasters. By contributing to the Pope's Pastoral Works, the faithful of Canada give a universal dimension to their charity.

