

Committee Reports: 2017 - 2018

Submitted for St. Stephen's

Parish Pastoral Council

Annual General Meeting

To be held on: **Tuesday, MAY 22nd, 2018 at 7:00PM**

St. Stephen's Parish Basement

Although these reports will not be read aloud at the Annual General Meeting; questions regarding the Parish Committee Report Ministries will be welcomed.

St. Stephen's Catholic Parish Parish Pastoral Council REPORTS (2017-2018)

Message from Parish Pastoral Council Chair, Judy Dahl

St. Stephen's Parish **MISSION STATEMENT**: to build a new strong Christian community by serving others with love and mercy as Jesus taught us.

Ladies and Gentlemen, trust this finds you and your families well. January 16th, 2018, I accepted the nomination invitation presented to me by Parish Council members for the position of your Parish Pastoral Council Chair. Such positions shall hold office until the next Annual General Meeting and Elections. In review of past Chairpersons duties performed; along with the hustle of all volunteers and participants in our parish; it is clear that St. Stephen's Parish is a vibrant growing faith family. In review of the past 4-months business; I encourage you to browse newly posted Parish Pastoral Council "Minutes" on our parish website: www.ststephens-olds.net click on "Our Parish" – PPC Minutes. Council members are mindful in decision making on your behalf; taking into consideration all committees, while working within the Constitution of the Parish Pastoral Council for St. Stephen's. We applaud you for your "teamwork" patience and kindness during this time of growth in our faith CommUNITY. Your wisdom and talents as volunteers is the greatest gift of giving a Parish can achieve. You are the power behind the social well-being of our Parish as we learn to help each other, not because we want something in return, but because we are connected to each other as divine souls. The kindness you give will reinforce that person's belief and faith that there are people who really care. One act of kindness can truly create a ripple effect, and you never know who will be touched and affected by your ripple of GOD'S law of love. Share and spread the energy.

Father Adam Daniluk

OPENING PRAYER:

All: Lord we are present here together for our Parish Pastoral Meeting. Relying on the intercessions of Our Lady of Fatima, St. Anthony and St. Stephen, we are gathered together in your name, and you are in our midst. Guide our discussion this day and all those who are making presentations. Help us to focus our attention on what is good for the Parish and parishioners. Centre our thoughts on you and your will. Help us to make wise and careful decisions. Thank you for all the blessings you have bestowed upon our community and we pray we may share your goodness with others. Amen

I have a dream of this great communities of St. Stephen, Our Lady of Fatima and St. Anthony. I dream to see St. Stephen, Our Lady of Fatima and St. Anthony coming back to its glorious days. I dream each member of this communities embracing the Stewardship as a way of life, claiming the ownership of these parishes with a deeper of sense of belongingness and responsibility.

I dream, every member of these communities taking the responsibility to invite friends, neighbors and family members to join us on Sundays to celebrate Lord's gift of the Holy Eucharist, thus becoming Intentional disciples of Jesus and evangelizers for him.

I dream we as a single family becoming more cordial and welcoming to everyone who enters here. I dream for a steady growth in the active and continued participation of the Sunday and Weekday Eucharist celebration and other devotions and spiritual exercises that are offered here.

I dream a steady growth in the enrollment at school and active participation of the parents and families in the life of St. Stephen, Our Lady of Fatima and St. Anthony communities.

I dream to see this communities of ours grow deeper and stronger in our faith and in our several ministries with the Parish Pastoral Council.

I dream to see more and more of our seniors becoming the prayer warriors for this community by joining for the daily Mass, Adoration and Holy Rosary. It is a noble responsibility to pray for the rest of the community members religiously, to be the prayer warriors for the rest of the community.

Growing in our love for God and one another, I dream for a flourishing Christian communities here, overcoming our short comings and becoming a true beacon of hope for the generations to come.

We can achieve all these by offering our TIME, TALENT AND TREASURE unreservedly to the Lord and his Church. Let us remain united in prayer, with greater dedication and love for this wonderful communities of ours, St. Stephen, Our Lady of Fatima and St. Anthony.

As we now prepare for another year together, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone on the Council, and your helpers in all the many ministries who have blessed this parish with your selfless service of time and talents. It is a privilege to be your pastor and also ask parishioners to pray for me, and parish Deacon.

May God bless each and every one of you in your faith journey in our parish.

We are a caring, loving, growing parish. We are the people of God.

Fr. Adam Daniluk

Catholic Women's League CWL Maureen Gustafson

The CWL is a national organization rooted in gospel values, calling its members to holiness through service to the people of God. In Olds we have approximately 60 members who come together in prayer, service and community, either as individuals or as a group, and work toward the following objectives of the Catholic Women's League.

1. To achieve individual and collective spiritual development.
2. To promote the teachings of the Catholic Church.
3. To exemplify the Christian ideal in home and family life.
4. To protect the sanctity of human life.
5. To enhance the role of women in church and society.
6. To recognize the human dignity of all people everywhere.
7. To uphold and defend Christian education and values in the modern world.
8. To contribute to the understanding and growth of religious freedom, social justice, peace and harmony.

Meetings are held every month (except July and August), alternating between a Friday morning and a Monday evening. At each meeting we collect change to donate to Nickels for the North, and toiletries for immigrants.

Beyond meetings we are active, individually and collectively, in the ministries of the parish. We assist wherever and whenever we in the life of the parish. One of our outreaches to the parish is in the form of cards to those who are ill, bereaved or have a new baby. You can help us in this ministry by letting us know of parishioners that need to be reached. Another outreach is through hosting Bingo at the Lodge and sponsoring a tea in long-term care. As well, we are available to serve a lunch following funerals, if requested to do so.

To maintain contact with all our members who may not be able to attend meetings, we have developed email sisters. A member who has email is paired with one who does not, who then makes copies of email correspondence and shares it with her partner. We are also providing some respite care for a the spouse of a member.

We have representatives at our Council attend the Fall Diocesan meeting in Onoway, the Zone meeting in Three Hills and the Diocesan convention in Fort Saskatchewan. It is always an enriching experience, especially because of the top-notch speakers. We were also renewed in our commitment to the CWL by the example of so many faith-filled sisters in the League.

A CPR review was held at one of our meetings.

Our social events of the year include our Christmas Dinner in December, the Nostalgic Fashion Show in May and our Family barbecue in June.

Our major fundraisers this year were the Swiss Yodellers' concert and our January garage sale.

We raised approximately \$9,000. We are especially thankful for the purchase of tickets and the donations of time and materials that is provided by the parish as a whole. Where does this money go? Our major purchase was the new cooler for the kitchen and we continue to save for other renovations in the kitchen. Much of it is donated to charities that include: St. Charles Refugee fund, Our Lady of Victory Camp, Together We Serve, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, the new playground at Holy Trinity, Esk-Omi Missions, the CWL 1% program, Development and Peace, Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO), Sign of Hope, Christmas Angels, flowers for the church at Christmas, St. Benedict's Chapel in Edmonton, the Chrism Mass, Alberta Pro-Life, Natural Family Planning, and the Catholic Missions in Canada. We also sponsor an award for Music 30 at the Olds High School. We provide a gift to our First Communicants, as well as a luncheon following their Mass. We also gave a donation to the Knights to assist their Basketball Free-throw competition. In March, we participated in the World Day of Prayer, celebrated at the Presbyterian Church. The Lenten lunches on Wednesdays following the noon Mass were coordinated by the CWL. Approximately \$1200 was raised through these donations, and was donated to the Olds and District Hospice Society and the Catholic Near East Welfare Association. We also promote Prayers for Palliative Care on May 4. We ask parishioners to spend an hour in prayer, at home or at Church, on that day. We encourage parishioners to continue to contact our MP to ensure that the conscience rights of health care professionals are protected with regard to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD). We collected signatures on a petition regarding the Summer Jobs Program application form requiring an attestation to believing in the Liberal stance on issues of life (e.g. abortion and the right to assistance in dying.) Joan Palardy has kept us well informed on issues at the provincial and federal levels of government. Members have written many letters. The CWL participated with the Knights in a Memorial Mass for Deceased Members. We also lead the Stations of the Cross on one Friday in Lent. We have an adopted Seminarian for whom we pray throughout the year, sending him the occasional letter. It is impressive to know that, at a National Level, our CWL executive is granted annual meetings with Cabinet Ministers and/or the Prime Minister. The Archbishop is impressed as the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops is not able to gain such access. Our local CWL is only one part of a much larger group so we can make a difference. Even if you are not able to attend meetings, but are a member, your voice is then represented to Parliament. Thank-you to Father Adam for your ongoing support and to all parishioners for their support as well. For God and Canada,

Knights of Columbus Jack Sell

The Knights had a very good year. We welcomed four new members. Knights raise money so we are able to make contributions to different causes. Some fundraising events included:

- Sale of beer for a year tickets (although not sold out we did very well).
- Highway clean-up
- Perogy dinner was well supported and very successful

Our pancake breakfast is basically a social event, although it is a fundraiser for the Knights, we barely break even. We participate in a number of special events at the church that include Christmas, Easter etc.). We help at the school, building planter boxes, cooking hot dogs for the opening of the new playground.

Youth Committee Tammy Stankieveh

Youth group has continued to be successfully ran by Selena Valencia this year. Each week, there are 10-20 students who attend youth events. Selena will be attending a conference in BC for youth ministry and is looking forward to bringing new ideas back to the parish. In January 2018, Tanya Schaber stepped down from the role of chairperson and Tammy Stankieveh stepped into the position. Our committee is currently just the young adult leaders that help with youth group and a few parents of the youth. We initially had been meeting once a month, but have recently decided to simply meet twice a year to discuss and determine the direction for our youth. All other communication will happen via email. Currently, we are looking to add more people into this committee. We encourage all members of the parish to consider if they would be willing to join us in supporting the youth of our parish by joining the committee.

Parish of St. Anthony's DIDSBURY John Kohut
Parish of Our Lady of Fatima SUNDRE

(no written submission)
NO REPRESENTATIVE

Building and Maintenance Larry Bruder

Projects Completed

- 1) Three new furnaces installed, all furnaces have now been replaced.
- 2) Fire Inspection was completed and all items identified have been resolved.
- 3) All electrical inspections have been completed.
- 4) All doors have been rekeyed.
- 5) A contract with a new vendor for our elevator service and maintenance has been established.

Projects in que for upcoming year

- 1) Update security system.
- 2) Repair parking lot Asphalt.
- 3) Repair North Windows.
- 4) Roof & Skylight to be repaired (Insurance Claim).
- 5) Replace front sidewalks.

I would like to offer my most sincere thanks to the very many people who do so much to help maintain our Church.

Sincerely, Larry Bruder

Spiritual Development Sandy Rock

I presented to parish council back in early 2017 the possibility of our Tri-Parish signing up for St. Augustine Institutes digital format Formed.org which contains 100% Catholic content. The cost of the program is based on the size of the Parish and at that time, would have cost approximately \$1,780.00 per year. The format would have been available for all Parishioners and I felt it would have greatly benefitted those that home school as well as youth. I had invited Parish Council to preview the content prior to the next PPC meeting, but there were only a few people that chose to visit and explore the sight during the free preview, so it was therefore tabled until a time when Parish is willing to revisit the proposal. There are many parishes throughout the province who use this digital format, so hopefully in the future, we can see if the opportunity presents itself again to see if this is a program that could be used by our parishes.

Queen of Heaven Series-

In late October a group of interested individual from the parish met weekly on Tuesday afternoons to watch the 8 week information series on the "Queen of Heaven." Although attendance varied from 4-12 according to peoples busy schedules, it was, over all, very well received. This was not a bible study but an information study based on Biblical truths on Mary's role in salvation history according to God's plan.

Advent Mission-

Our Advent mission was held in early December and Peter Van Kampen, who is the youth coordinator for Red Deer and Rocky Catholic School systems was our speaker. The name of the mission was "The Joyful Mysteries" and was based on those mysteries of the Rosary, in which Peter explained God's plan for salvation using scripture from both the old and new Testaments. He was certainly loved by the young people that attended...it was easy to see why he is a youth coordinator!

Lent-

Prior to Lent, I was given the opportunity to preview "RISE," a 30 day challenge program for men. It was produced by Chris Stefanik, a leading Catholic speaker from the United States. As with most of today's programming, through the use of digital media, each day during the challenge, a short five minute video was sent to the recipient's mail box to preview and challenge the individual on how they could enhance their faith each day for the thirty days. The cost was relatively low, \$32.00 for each participant. I was able to show the format to Fr. Adam and he was quite pleased and encouraged me to proceed with efforts to get this out to the men in our Parish. We agreed that the Knights of Columbus might be a great avenue to present this program to, but unfortunately, I never heard back from the contacts I was able to make and therefore we were too late to get involved for this Lent. This program was very well received throughout North America, by those who participated, including clergy and is endorsed by the likes of Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia. I have received updates from Chris Stefanik and due to the success of this series, they are looking at running a fall program. I will be happy to keep our Parish informed on any future developments concerning this.

Parish Lenten Mission-

It was our hope to host a parish mission during Lent, but sadly the gentleman, Rev. Joseph Jacobson, (a convert to Catholicism who was a former bishop of the Lutheran Church here in Alberta) whom I had asked to speak to us, was unable to commit due to his wife's battle with ovarian cancer. She lost her fight in early April. May Carolyn rest in peace. Father Adam has heard Fr. Jacobson speak and suggested that if possible, we may be able to bring him out for a day mission. It is my hope to contact him in the future.

Bible Studies-

In recent weeks, I have been advertising in the bulletin for an upcoming condensed bible study entitled "Follow Me" based on the Gospel of John, however in my estimation (in a parish this size,) there has been a very poor response (3 people), however, I will continue to work with those interested to see that they get the materials for this study.....Where three or more are gathered in His name!

Of note...I have also offered to hold studies in the trip-parishes of Didsbury and Sundre as well, to lessen the burden of travel for some.

Yours In Christ, Sandy Rock

Catechetics Donna Litwin

PASTORAL ASSISTANT'S REPORT – Submitted by Donna Litwin

April 30, 2018

May 6, 2018 - 18 children will have made their 1st Holy Communion.

May 21, 2017 – 28 young people celebrated their Sacrament of Confirmation with Bishop Gregory Bittman. Our next Confirmation celebration will take place on **June 2, 2019**

August 14 – 18, 2017 – Vacation Bible School; Cat.Chat program: Birthday Blast

During last year's program 46 (46 – 2016) children ages 3-12 were registered to participate. While adult volunteers filled key supervisory positions, thanks to the encouragement of our parish's Youth Ministry, Selena Valencia, the majority of our volunteers ranged in age from 12 – 18 years of age and helped in various capacities from; helping to prepare the daily snack and the subsequent cleanup, acting as additional help at one of the three activity stations, or in leading the kids in prayer and song. A good time was had by both participants and family when we gathered on the last morning for Mass, followed by a Birthday Party luncheon. **Summer of 2018 – VBS: TBA.**

September 19-23, 2017 – Olds Food Drive

In August of 2015 the parish of St. Stephen was approached by the Olds Church of Latter Day Saints with regards to assisting them with the annual food drive for the Mountain View Food Bank. Thus, 2017 was our third year of participating in this venture. Last year we, as a parish took on 23 routes (18 routes in 2016). We also helped out by picking up donations on an additional 4 routes on September 23rd. Over the course of the week at least 23 parish families (24 – 2016) participated over the course of the event. A total of 8,420 (10,593 in 2016) pounds of food with an estimated value of \$21,050.00 (@ \$2.50/lb.) was collected between the communities of Olds and Carstairs, helping to meet the needs of those living in the County of Mountain View.

December 2016 – St Stephen's Angel Tree

Although there is an established Christmas Angel Gift Program already in place in the town of Olds there were those in the parish community who felt that we, as a parish, could also be helping some of our own. Of those families who were approached as to whether or not they would want to participate, 4 families who had accessed the parish Feed Your Neighbour Food Box over the course of 2017 felt they might need assistance with providing Christmas presents for their children. In 2016 only one such family expressed a desire to participate. Due to a great outpouring of charity from our parish community we were able to provide clothing, toys, or gift cards to 19 children and their parents (plus one grandparent).

September 24, 2017 – May 6, 2018 – Catechism Program

The number of children officially registered in the Sunday morning Catechetics Program continues to drop from **54** (2015-16) to **40** (2016-17) to **27** (2017-18). Attendance for the 25 week program averages out to be 18.29 children per week.

Monica Andrew has been my co-coordinator over the last four years but as of the end of this program year, she will be stepping down. I want to extend my deepest appreciation to Monica for all the time and attention she has contributed to our parish Catechism program.

One area that Monica oversaw was that of searching out and signing up teachers for the program. Once again we opted to run the program with two teachers per classroom. The following are the names of the eight people who also gave of their time and talents to make our Catechism classes so successful:

- Grade 1 – Cobi Grisack, Holly LaBrie
- Grade 2/3 – Shayla Boutwell, Brittany Van Vlanderan
- Grade 4/5 – Valerie Organ, Danielle Prevost
- Grade 6/7 – Monica Andrew, Jason Jackson

Next year Cobi Grisack will be filling the position left vacant by Monica's leaving. Over the summer Cobi, myself and a handful of over interested parties will meet and discuss how best to move forward with the program.

September 24, 2017 – June 24, 2018 – Children's Liturgy

Attendance for the Children's Liturgy Program (pre-K, K) is harder to gage because no official registration is required but we try to keep a weekly head count and it averages out to be 9.79 children per week (12.5 per week in 2016-17). This year there were 6 adults who volunteered to co-teach this program.

- Katie Allen
- Gelaine Andrusiak
- Michelle Dendekker
- Kali Leatherdale (replaced Melissa Bell in February)
- Alana Robertson

ONGOING:

FEED YOUR NEIGHBOUR - Back in October of 2015 the FEED YOUR NEIGHBOUR: Food Box Campaign came into being because of the need to help those within our own parish community meet their day to day needs during this latest economic downturn. This program runs in conjunction with the Catechism Family Mass and the Youth Masses which alternate monthly during the school year. The children have always brought non-perishable food items during this Mass as part of the Offertory but as we who work in the parish office had noticed a significant rise in requests for assistance it was decided to ask the parish as a whole to help out.

- From October – December 2015: 5 families made use of our parish food bank
- From January – April 2016: there are 6 individuals or families were helped
- From May – September 2016: 7 individuals or families were helped
- From October – December 2016: 5 individuals or families were helped
- From January – April 2017: 3 individuals or families were helped
- From May 2017 – August 2017: 8 individuals or families were helped
- From September – December 2017: 6 individuals or families were helped
- From January – March 2018: 4 individuals or families were helped
- April: 1 family was helped

Parish Calendar - As of January 1, 2016, the Monthly Parish Community Calendar has been reinstated. Thus, on the first weekend of the month the new calendar is inserted in the bulletin.

****Anyone willing to have their wedding anniversary, birthday or parish based activity printed in the Parish Calendar should contact me at least six weeks prior to the date in question.**

Ongoing – The Parish Website - The website is an ongoing project. If you are looking for a copy of the bulletin or a list of all that is happening in the parish during any given week this information and more can be found on our website. The parish website averaged 1000+ 'unique' visitors per week over the winter months. www.ststephens-olds.net

Parish Pastoral Visits – I continue to take appointments for home visits. I feel that these encounters have been rewarding as they help keep me better aware of the ongoing needs of the people and the parish, and at the same time I have been able to share my story with those who have invited me into their homes. Thus, they learn what it is that I do as the Pastoral Assistant in this large parish and they then get better acquainted with me.

Stewardship Committee – As a means of keeping myself apprized as to where the parish was most in need I had been attending this once a month committee meeting. However, since the spring of 2017 there is no standing Stewardship committee in the parish.

Liturgy Committee – Because I am responsible for preparing the Liturgy Schedule I also attend this bi-monthly committee meeting so that I am aware of any upcoming special events or Masses.

Olds & District Ministerial – Father and I currently alternate attending this monthly meeting.

Didsbury Communion Visits – In March of 2015 my name was added to the roster of volunteers who take communion to those elderly who reside in either one of the two senior's residences in the town of Didsbury. Currently, there are five residents at Aspen Lodge and eight at Bethany Care who receive Communion on Sunday mornings. In addition to the above, my workday consists of but, is in no way limited to, participation in community prayer and Holy Mass, visiting parishioners in hospital and at home as the need arises, preparation of ministry volunteer schedules (Weekend Music Schedule, Liturgical Ministries Schedule), preparing the Monthly Parish Calendar, attending the Parish Pastoral Council Meeting in Olds as the Youth Catechetics representative, answering the phone and attending to email messages, teaching parishioners how to use the photocopier, and impromptu counselling (relationship, grief, etc.) and ministering to all those who might come through the door of the church whether they be parishioners or strangers, alike.

Community Life **JoAnne Sell**

St. Stephen's parish council constitution states: "Community Life creates opportunities for parishioners to meet on a social/recreational basis and thus enhance the sense of community in the parish. "

To fulfill this mandate the following activities took place:

- Fall welcome back barbecue was held in September. We had an excellent turnout. Many thanks to the Knights of Columbus for their help in cooking hamburgers and hot dogs.
 - Annual Parish Fall Supper was held October 23. 546 guests were served and a profit of \$6339.39 was realized. The success of this event is due in a large part to the efforts of the organizing committee (Theresa Coupal, Cindy Boffey and Kathy Dole) and the participation of St Stephen's parishioners. It truly is a time when we all come together. Plans are well underway for next year. Our committee members will be stepping down after this fall's supper so we would appreciate new people stepping forward.
 - Christmas Santa visit and hot dog lunch was held in mid-December. Close to 50 goody bags were handed out to the children by Santa. This event was held in conjunction with the Franciscan fraternities cookie walk and crèche display. We appreciated their contribution to parish life.
 - A spring potluck social and dance with the theme celebrating our diverse ethnic backgrounds was held in April. It was a stormy evening and attendance was small.
 - A senior's appreciation tea will be held in June.
 - Sunday coffee: Thank you to all who have served coffee over the past year. It has been a struggle to fill the signup sheet for coffee after mass on Sunday. I would appreciate any suggestions parishioners might have to help alleviate this problem.
- Pastoral Visits: Under the very capable leadership of Theresa Coupal shut-in parishioners are visited on a weekly basis and are given the opportunity to receive the Eucharist if they wish. Currently we have 12 wonderful volunteers who visit 16 parishioners both in their homes, the Mountain View Lodge, Seasons, Seasons Encore and the hospital.
- Jo-Anne Sell
Community Life parish council rep

Family Life

NO REPRESENTATIVE

Liturgy **Francis & Teresa Joosten**

The purpose of the Liturgy Committee is:

- 1) To ensure that weekly and seasonal celebrations of the Paschal Mystery give praise and thanksgiving to God in a grace-filled atmosphere.
- 2) To provide sacramental and devotional opportunities for parishioners to grow more deeply in their relationship with Jesus Christ

The committee consisted of: Father Adam Daniluk, Deacon Charles Johnston, Francis (Liturgy Coordinator), Teresa Joosten (Secretary), Veronica Reist (Art & Environment), Mary Trenholm (Music), Cindy Boffey (Sacristans), Theresa Coupal (past coordinator of Liturgy), Eden Lalani and James Smith (members at large). The committee meets every other month from September to June to plan the monthly liturgies and discuss new initiatives and deal with concerns that involve this ministry.

Accomplishments:

- A survey taken on having Father's written homilies distributed prior to Mass (well received and continued) Sept 1
- Living Rosary during October
- Commissioning Weekend – Oct 21/22
- Holy Trinity School masses
- Music Ministry hosting Community Carol Fest
- Assisted Father Adam with arrangements for Advent and Lenten Penitential services
- Prepared Liturgy Budget for 2018
- Scheduling for Christmas and Easter Triduum services
- Stations of the Cross during Lent
- Francis & Teresa Joosten accompanied Father Adam to the Chrism mass to receive the holy oils on behalf of our parish.
- Divine Mercy Sunday celebration at Sundre Parish. Olds/Didsbury parishioners encouraged to attend.

Events Planned

- Multi lingual *Intercessions* on Pentecost Sunday
- Grad mass June 21
- Corpus Christi procession June 2 following 5:00 p.m. mass ??

Thank you to Father Adam, Deacon Charles and Deacon Jim for their continued support and guidance and to the many parishioners who assist with the Liturgy Ministry on a daily basis. Your commitment is outstanding.

Social Justice Tara Miller

April 29/18 Refugee Sponsorship/Social Justice Report

This past while the Social Justice Committee has not had a representative on the Parish Pastoral Council and have been continuing to meet as a group in order to continue what was started a few years ago. The members of the Social Justice Committee include John and Joan Palardy, Cathy Wright, Angy Spiller, Joe Gustafson, Deacon Charlie and Tara Miller. We also have members that help with the Syrian Christian Refugee Sponsorship Program. The focus the last while has been on the sponsorship of the family.

Some of the ongoing projects for Social Justice include:

1. Roots of Change (Angy Spiller)

This is the charitable organization based in Nicaragua that Angy and her family have been involved in for the past few years. She has helped organize mission trips there to help build homes and get water systems into communities. Another trip is planned for Feb/March of 2019 but may not occur due to the civil unrest.

2. Together We Serve (Deacon Charles)

Deacon Charles keeps us apprised of what is going on with this charitable program through the Archdiocese of Edmonton, including where our Parish's fundraising efforts stand in relation to the goal set for us by the Archdiocese.

3. Just Equipping (John and Joan Palardy)

This is a charitable organization that has its roots in Rawanda and the African countries in that area. John and Joan have done mission trips there and assisted in training the people to do restorative justice after the Genocide that occurred a few years ago. They have fundraised to put roofs on houses, a cow and small farmyard animals as well as money for supplies at a clinic and a retreat for the Chaplains that are involved with restorative justice in their countries (PTSD has become a problem for some of them). This year they are fundraising to help a group of women sew clothing for the prison inmates.

4. A Better World (Cathy Wright)

Cathy has been on mission trips a few times with this organization and has participated in different roles. She has used her medical background to participate in medical missions as well as her skills as a Vet in others. She will be fundraising this year to help upgrade the anesthetic equipment at a hospital in Kenya that will be doing orthopedic surgeries. A group from Finland will be training the surgeons in Kenya so that they can do the surgeries themselves, making this a sustainable endeavor. All of the above 4 projects also utilize the perpetual bottle drive set up by the parking lot of the church as part of their fundraising, Angy is also involved with Our Lady of Victory Camp. We support the Pregnancy Care Centre in Olds by accepting donations of baby goods. We will also be taking over the Food Bank Food Drive that happens in the Fall with the Church of the Latter Day Saints (with the expertise of our mentor, Donna Litwin).

5. The Christian Syrian Refugee Sponsorship Program: All

This project has been the main focus for 2 years. It includes the fundraising, choosing of a family, the application process and the long wait. We finally received word that their arrival date is on May 18/18. The sad event is that our family of six is now only five because of the death of the Grand Father. We have a 3 bedroom, half duplex that we will take possession of May 1/18 and will be getting it set up for the family the first week in May. The funds are in place with extra to spare as we will have to pay more for the recommended rent due to the rental market. The government recommends a maximum allowance of \$900 for rent for a family of 5. The funds for this project will be monitored through the church office following the regular office procedure. Mia has set up a spreadsheet for the Refugee Project and all cheques and receipts will be monitored. We will be assisting the Father to set up his bank account at the same bank that the Church uses in Olds. Once the family is here they will be given the necessary help in managing their finances. Each month a cheque will be issued to the family that they will use to support themselves. They will be responsible for their own expenses. We will ensure supervise this until we know that the bills are being paid on time and that they are managing on their own. Selina and Erick Valencia are their landlords so we have a great team. Our biggest hope for their success is helping them to learn English. Dave Heilman is taking care of everything related to this big job. They will have an assessment of language skills done and classes are being organized for them. We also have some volunteers who will help them practice speaking English. Jayme Locke will help the family get registered in school. John Palardy, Ernie Kasawal and Francis Joosten will be assisting with the paperwork end of getting them settled as well as helping them manage their finances. There are many questions about our family and we have only been given a snapshot of who they are. It won't be until after May 18th that we find out what their work background is, whether the Father will be able to get a drivers license, what their medical requirements are and how we can best assist them to transition to life in Canada.

We have much work to do but many hands to do it with. We thank Parish Pastoral Council for their support on all our projects. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Tara Miller - Social Justice Committee 403 507 1793

Stewardship

NO REPRESENTATIVE

Safe Environments Deacon Charles Johnston

The Archdiocese of Edmonton has received accreditation for its program titled Safe Environments and Abuse Prevention. You may recall that selected parishes were audited along with the Archdiocesan Pastoral Offices last year. Our accreditation is the result of that audit and we are the first in Canada. Work has also begun on the process of creating ministry descriptions for each of the ministries in our Parish. We begin, of course, with the high-risk ministries to ensure that everyone who works with our children, youth and seniors knows their role and responsibilities.

I encourage you to go on-line at armatus2.praesidiuminc.com and explore the training available there, especially if you have not completed the "called to protect" seminar.

You will be required to enter your user name (your first initial and last name – all lower case) and your password (for most of you that is the last four digits of your home phone number and the letters 'ab', for example 3084ab). I recommend the course entitled "Meet Sam" but feel free to explore whatever is available to you. The computer program records when you complete each of the training sessions. Parishioners who are registered in the Praesidium system as Parish Volunteer ministers are only required to give address and phone numbers as basic contact information. E-mail addresses and business contact information are no longer required. As always, police record checks are only required for high-risk ministries to protect our children, youth, seniors and our volunteer/ministers. As a part of the Accreditation process, I am required to consult with our volunteer leaders and submit a report to the Archdiocese. Basically, the report asks for assurance that our parishioners are volunteering in a safe environment. The main concern, apart from safety, is that our volunteers are having an enjoyable and rewarding experience and that our programs are effective and appreciated by those we serve in Christ's name.

Respectfully Submitted Deacon Charles Johnston

Together We Serve Deacon Charles Johnston

Together We Serve is an annual charitable-giving campaign organized by the Archdiocese in support of 11 Catholic charities which started during Lent 2014. The 2017 goal is \$2,000,000, which is the same amount as last year. Funds will be forwarded quarterly to each of these charities.

Bulletin inserts are to be used instead of brochures to focus on the individual groups: Development and Peace, Evangelization of Nations and the Holy Land; Papal Charities, St. Joseph's Seminary and the Priests' Foundation. Prayers of the Faithful will also be supplied electronically to save printing costs. Parishioners and Parish teams only have to log on to www.caedm.ca/weserve/resources to find these items.

The Parish secretary (Mia) and Coordinator (Deacon Charles) and the Parish Finance Council manage the campaign. Our Pastor, Fr. Adam, supports our efforts but is not required to take an active role in the fundraising. As a Parish we raised just over 60 % of our 2017 goal of \$21,000. Our 2018 goal remains the same and we hope to achieve our goal this year. Development and Peace, one of the 11 Catholic charities we support has recently been challenged by our Archbishop over its relationship to "partners" in the global South who seem to support abortion and contraception. The funds collected for this charity will be withheld until Archbishop Smith can be assured that our donations will not be used to fund organizations which do not follow the teaching of our Catholic faith.

Please be assured that the other 10 organizations need our support and please continue to donate as generously as you can to Together We Serve with the knowledge that your contribution will be used to help those in need.

Respectfully Submitted Deacon Charles Johnston

Please join us at the Annual General Meeting to be held

Tuesday, MAY 22nd at 7:00PM

St. Stephen's Parish Basement

Your attendance is a great show of support and every voice helps the Pastoral Council members to grow and better serve our Faith Community.