

## 9. REPORTS

### 9E. 5 Together We Serve – Deacon Charles Johnston

Together We Serve

**St. Stephen's Monthly Report**

**November 2018**

*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 log on to [www.caedm.ca/weserve/resources](http://www.caedm.ca/weserve/resources) to find these items.

Our informal committee consists of Parish administrator (Mia) and Coordinator (Deacon Charles) and the Parish Finance Council chair (Joe) who manage the campaign. Our Pastor, Fr. Adam, supports our efforts but is not required by the Archdiocese to take an active role in the fundraising.

**News:** We have received and submitted the mid-year Parish Evaluation to the Together We Serve office. We highlighted two items in our response that we felt were important.

The Chair of Finance has called the Archdiocese and been informed that weekend collections for the Sunday after Easter as well as the Good Friday collection are to be submitted as part of our Together We Serve total. He is in the process of complying with this directive.

Parishioners should be informed that they may continue to donate to the individual charities they support, for example the Seminary, the Papal Charities and Catholic Social Services in our Archdiocese. All you need to do is indicate on the donation that you are a member of St. Stephen's Parish in **Olds** (there is another St. Stephens in our Archdiocese) and we will receive credit towards our goal for this year.

Parishioners are also reminded that they may continue to use the envelopes to donate to Together We Serve throughout the year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deacon Charles Johnston

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### **Safe Environments and Abuse Prevention    St. Stephens Monthly Report    November 2018**

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. The “Parish Council Member” ministry description is attached for you to review. High-risk ministries continue to be my focus. I hope to ensure that all volunteers who work with our children, youth and seniors are screened, know their roles and minister effectively in our community.

I encourage you to go on-line at [armatus2.praesidiuminc.com](http://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).

**News:** Those responsible for “Safe Environments” at the Archdiocesan level want to be reassured that we are doing our best to protect vulnerable Parishioners from abuse in all its many forms. We do that by registering our volunteers and checking the references of those who work with children, youth and our seniors. We also ensure that all volunteers know their role in keeping everyone safe and are aware of the safe practices we have implemented as a Parish.

We will work together with the members stewardship committee to supervise and evaluate all our ministries.

Fr. Adam, Donna Litwin, our Pastoral Assistant, and I share the responsibility with all Parish Pastoral Council members to ensure that the volunteer-ministers we work with and all the participants in the many programs at St. Stephen’s, Our Lady of Fatima and St. Anthony’s are not only safe physically, mentally and emotionally, but are having a good and positive experience thanks to our volunteers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deacon Charles Johnston