

# Live the Word



## Thank you for supporting Catholic Social Services



Opened by Catholic Social Services in 1987, Kairos House offers residential care and assistance to individuals living with HIV/AIDS, including palliative

care. Through the years, Kairos House has since helped hundreds of residents, like Vanessa, who have struggled with their diagnosis.

At 15, Vanessa left home and lived on the streets after a falling-out with her parents. She was exposed to illegal substances from a very young age, experimented with drugs herself, and eventually became addicted. She then resorted to illegal means of sustaining her cravings, admitting, "I sold drugs to keep the habit."

For the next few years, Vanessa found herself in and out of jail, and watched friends be killed over drugs or die from overdose. There were times she wanted to leave that lifestyle, but she kept getting wrapped back into it. Fortunately, Vanessa found the courage to step away. "I woke up one day and got fed up with it," she recalled.

But Vanessa soon faced a difficult new truth -- she was diagnosed with HIV and pancreatic cancer. "I felt crushed," she said.

Still determined to make a change, Vanessa sought help and support at Kairos House. Through the encouragement and dedication of staff, she remained drug-free and well-cared for in a safe environment, and finally felt "at ease" with herself.

\*Vanessa's name has been changed to protect her identity, and the picture is not representative of the people in this story.

## Thank you for supporting Needs of the Church in Canada



**BISHOPS' COLLECTION  
FOR THE NEEDS OF  
THE CHURCH  
IN CANADA**

### *Helping Bishops Help Us*

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCC) is part of a worldwide network of bishops conferences which are a country's major link to the Vatican. The CCCC enables the bishops to collaborate in their service to the Catholics of Canada. Through the CCCC, the bishops educate and speak out on matters of public interest, such as the legalization of euthanasia or the harmful social and environmental impacts of Canadian mining operations in Latin America. The CCCC's Publication Service provides a variety of liturgical and catechetical publications for use in our parishes, and its various committees work to nurture relationships with aboriginal peoples, other Christians and other faith groups, and lay movements and associations.

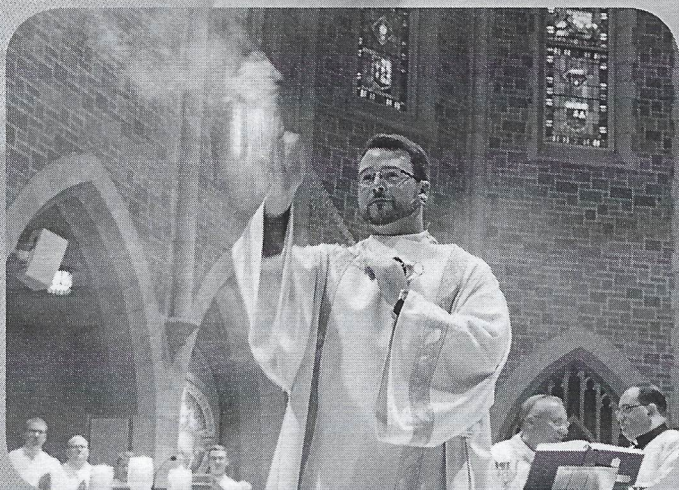
Thank you for living the Word by sharing generously to support our bishops.



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## Sharing a Journey



Once a hesitant seminarian, Robert Lee is now a deacon with a goal of priesthood in the Archdiocese of Edmonton.

Bob was a recent high school graduate in Spruce Grove when he was invited by Father Paul Terrio — then a parish priest, now Bishop of St. Paul — to come along on a hospital visit after Sunday Mass.

He watched as Fr. Paul prayed with patients in the hospital and brought them Holy Communion.

“What I saw there was that the people loved the priest and the priest loved the people,” he remembers. “It was a kind of joy I saw in the eyes of the people that made me think that I want to give that too ... I wanted to be a part of that ministry of Christ.”

But he was far from sure about entering the seminary. With Father Paul’s encouragement, he agreed to try it out for four months.

[caedm.ca/WeServe](http://caedm.ca/WeServe)

“When I entered seminary what I found was a fraternity, a healthy community and a place of prayer that really gave context to what God wanted for me in my life, and here I am ... seven years later.”

Deacon Bob candidly admits that his journey has not been without struggles. In his early years at St. Joseph Seminary, he questioned whether he could really accept the demands of priesthood — celibacy, obedience, and not being able to pursue his dream job or favourite outdoor activities.

“My vocation is no longer about rejecting things, but about accepting love and about offering that love to others.”

Deacon Bob encourages anyone who thinks they may have a call to the priesthood, even just a tug, to come to St. Joseph Seminary to discern.

“The seminary here in Edmonton is a pillar of the Catholic community in the city — not just a sign and symbol but a very practical form of ministry in the Archdiocese.”

Seminarians like Deacon Bob are deeply grateful to everyone who supports St. Joseph Seminary through Together We Serve.

“Our vocation is for the community, and our vocation is from the community. With your help, we can discern God’s will and spread his Gospel throughout the world.”

This Thanksgiving, as we thank God for the many gifts he has given us, let us show our gratitude by sharing them with others.