

Live the Word



St. Joseph's College Campus Ministry



In the middle of the May 2016 Fort McMurray wildfire, Mary Lucia Joseph and her family were frightened. Above them the sky was red, getting darker and darker, and little pellets from the flames were showering down. Their city would soon be evacuated.

"We started praying a lot at that time, but it was hard to concentrate," said Mary. "We didn't know what to do. It was very scary."

Then her brother John received an email from his former professor Father Glenn McDonald, Chaplain of Campus Ministry at St. Joseph's College. Father Glenn asked if they were all right, if they needed any help, and ended up arranging for the family to take refuge at a college residence.

"In an uncertain situation like that, they were like angels

who were coming to help us because we were really scared and we didn't know what was going to happen to us," said Mary. "It was amazing how they were helping us and other families too."

The college community put out a call for donations to help the evacuees, and people responded generously.

"Everything we needed was coming in — food, clothing, toiletries — but not only the material goods; they were all easily available to talk to," Mary said. "They were all there, not just helping out with things but for emotional support as well. It was a very disturbing time for all of us to be away from our homes."

John said the response from St. Joseph's College brought him and his family closer to God.

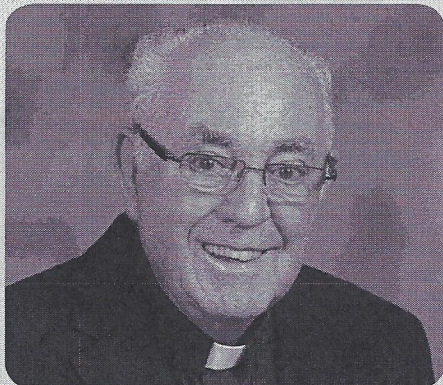
"When things like that happen and you can see the community — everybody — coming to help you out, it's just a reassurance that God is there."

The Campus Ministry program provides a friendly, nurturing place where students, faculty and staff at the University of Alberta can explore the relationship between faith and reason and the ways in which this should be lived out in day-to-day life. This is achieved through spiritual counselling, peer support, worship services, reflection and discussion groups, and interfaith and volunteer activities. Your gift to Together We Serve helps St. Joseph's College Campus Ministry truly to live the Word of God.

Live the Word



St. Joseph Priests' Foundation of Edmonton



At 82, Father Don Stein has been retired from parish ministry for many years, but he still looks forward to serving the People of God whenever he can. He is happy to help, whether it's by hearing confessions at a parish penitential service, offering spiritual direction to an individual, or leading Holy Week services in a northern mission with no resident priest.

"Many of our retired priests are still active," he says. "It's really good to be with the people. They are so grateful to us, and it's very moving for the priests."

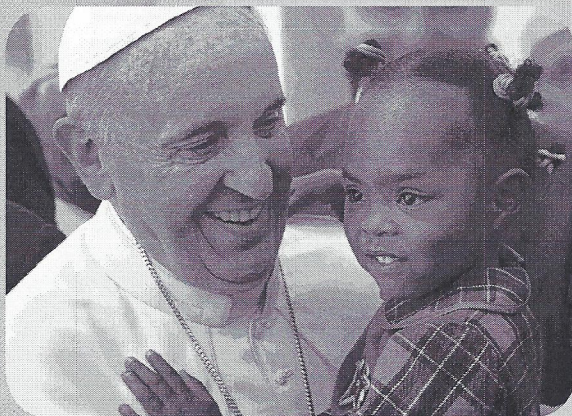
Father Don says he and his brother priests are thankful for the support they receive from the St. Joseph Priests' Foundation.

"People do care, and they're always concerned about how we're doing," he says. Many like to thank their former pastors by giving to the Foundation.

"I must say that in the Archdiocese of Edmonton, we're very blessed to have that support. We're very grateful, and we always remember the donors in our prayers."

Your gift to Together We Serve helps the St. Joseph Priests' Foundation of Edmonton provide a modest retirement income and other assistance as required to ensure the dignified care of archdiocesan priests when they retire or can no longer serve the People of God.

Pope's Pastoral Works



The mission, rooted in the love and compassion of Christ, is to provide financial help in the name of the Pope and on behalf of Catholics everywhere. Each year the office receives thousands of requests for assistance, and offers relief to victims of natural disasters, violent conflict, and other crisis situations.

Thank you for living the Word by sharing your gifts.