

Good morning/afternoon/evening,

In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus said, "I have come to serve" (Matthew 20:28), and so should we. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus emphasized the need to, "Pray always." (Luke 18:1) We should also. But how? How can we respond to this call of duty? Today, I would like to invite you to participate in a ministry of care to our parish family members. Though some individuals have already been carrying out some of this intentioned compassionate care that we hope to provide, it is hoped that our new outreach ministry can be even further expanded to assist and benefit a broader representation of our parish community, who can participate in this service and who may also be in need of this support. Pope Francis has said that, "we must restore hope to the young people, help the old, be open to the future, and spread love..., and that service is the sign of true love, those who love, know how to serve others." This is your opportunity to do just that – provide loving service.

At our baptism, each of us became a very important member of the Body of Christ. By our baptism we are called to share in His mission of service which focused on the gathering of people into one family where all are welcomed, cared for and loved. We were given gifts, by the Holy Spirit, to develop talents to assist us in imitating the servant example of Jesus, completing God's work on earth. As Bishop Baron recently said, "the Master has need of you." Most importantly, each of us was called as disciples to witness to the Gospel message and to the love of God through ministry and service.

A brochure has been developed to further explain this endeavour. It presents a number of offerings of assistance that we hope to and should be able to provide. For example, we would like to provide response to prayer requests, wellness checks, assistance with yard work, minor home repair, transportation to church, tutoring, emergency childcare and the list of assistance goes on as you will

take note of in the handout and could be expanded even further with your input and as we realize commitment to assist in carrying out response to the need. As you will see there are service opportunities for everyone no matter your state in life.

As we act upon our duty, we welcome any suggestions and additional outreach that you wish to offer and that can help us as we journey forward. Please complete the form and return it in the offering basket. If you know of someone who could benefit from this outreach please, with their permission, complete the section of the form included for this purpose.

Those who choose to respond to continue the mission of Jesus, will be required to complete a police check. To provide service you will need to be accompanied by another committed member of the parish community, as the early disciples of Jesus once did, in order to ensure the safety and reputations of all concerned. We will also try to meet occasionally and offer workshops to assist in providing the outreach and to aid in any challenges that may be encountered.

We just heard Father Paul repeat the words of Jesus at the consecration, "take this all of you and eat it." Receiving Jesus in the sacrament of communion and by the power of the Holy Spirit you will be given the strength that you will need to fulfill His command to love one another and to succeed in carrying out the great commission.

Our committee is asking you to take some time to discern, by placing yourself in the presence of God and asking Him what it could be that he is asking of you, and what your role could possibly be in this vision of outreach ministry. Each of us is needed as we journey forward together as a Church and each of you is welcomed in this effort to achieve the goal of ensuring that each and every community member feels welcomed, valued and essential to our parish family. We hope that by our outreach and service, we will deepen communion, fuller participation and a more fruitful result of fully living out our mission to evangelize and share the Good

News as we witness to those we encounter in our community. The future of the Church depends on us to take action in this ever increasingly secular, broken world that has turned away from God. We need to be His light in the darkness.

If each of us committed to just one act of care bearing what a difference we could make. Just imagine how we can grow our parish and what a vibrant loving Christian community we could be with each of your participation.

Thank you for taking time to listen, please keep this endeavour in your prayer and we look forward to your response in how you may be called to participate in this effort of putting your faith into action.

So as each of us strives to grow in faith, holiness and witness to the love of God through ministry and service, I would like to end with prayer for God's powerful response to the success of this effort.

Thank you heavenly Father for the gift of the Church. Send Your Holy Spirit to accompany us on this journey as we undertake our mission to love and bring it to fulfillment, for the common good and the good of Your Church. Let our hands reach out with deeds of mercy and our hearts overflow with joy as we live out the Gospel of Your love. I ask this in the name of Your Son Jesus. Amen.

"Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth Your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth." Mary Star of Evangelization pray for us.

Shelley Tamas

& The Outreach Committee of St. Andrew-the-Apostle Church

