



## *St. Joseph's Parish*

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January 18, 2016

Ministry Co-ordinators of St. Joseph's Parish,

I first of all want to thank you for the ministry you do in and on behalf of St. Joseph's Parish and especially for your leadership in your particular ministry. Secondly, I wish to ask for your assistance in a special project.

Over a number of years, the Archdiocese of Ottawa has developed a Responsible Ministry Program. This program has several aims: to assist the parish in screening members for ministry, establish guidelines and protocols for ministry, and safeguard those in ministry as well as the vulnerable individuals with whom we minister.

St. Joseph's Parish Administration Team is now preparing to implement the Responsible Ministry Program that has been mandated by the Archdiocese. This implementation will be done in various stages over a number of months. You, as co-ordinator of your particular ministry will be asked to assist us in the beginning stages of the implementation. In a short while you will receive communication from Maria Virjee requesting you to fill out a position description for your ministry as well as an assessment template. There will be detailed instructions sent with the documents from Maria.

Why a Responsible Ministry Program? Programs such as this, which are mandated in dioceses across Canada, are a continuation of the response to the cases of abuse in the Church that began to emerge in the mid-1980's. In their document "From Pain to Hope", published in the early 1990's, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops called on dioceses to establish policies and protocols to deal with cases of abuse or suspected abuse within the Church, responding to the needs of victims and dealing with perpetrators. Responsible Ministry Programs are the next step in this process and are aimed at preventing abuse as well as safeguarding ministers from false allegations of abuse. With this program in place, we can also demonstrate that the parish has done its due diligence with regard to those involved in our various ministries; that we have done all that is possible to avoid any possibility of abuse. Insurers who provide our liability coverage are also now requiring that we have programs in place.

I ask you to assist us as fully as you are able in the implementation of the Responsible Ministry Program. It is to the benefit of all members of the community and all those from outside the community whom we serve that we have the program in place in a reasonable time.

Sincerely,

Richard Beaudette, OMI