

Community Support AGM Jan.31/16

In 2001, 15 years ago, our community members here at Lift Jesus Higher, had a monumental decision to make.

Our priest and leader, Fr. Bob, during that period, was also a member of the Companions of the Cross and the Companions had just informed Fr. Bob that they wanted him to move down South, to be part of a church in Houston, Texas.

Committing to the Companions and moving to Texas or, stay in Ottawa and become full-time Director at Lift Jesus Higher... Fr. Bob, now too, had a monumental decision to make.

Leaving the Companions of the Cross meant that Fr. Bob would no longer receive a salary nor would he have a place to live. Since Lift Jesus Higher is not a parish and receives NO funds from the Diocese, he would have to rely on the committed generosity of the membership of LJH.

Fr. Bob's heart's desire was to stay in Ottawa, with us, so after much prayer and discernment, he approached the community with his dilemma. We were informed that, on top of Fr. Bob's salary and living expenses, all funds collected to operate and maintain Lift Jesus

Higher, which includes: rent, all sacristy and office supplies, stipends, other salaries, hospitality supplies, music, phone, internet, and more) would have to come from us, the members of Lift Jesus Higher. THIS was the decision that we, as a community, had to make.

We all took this to prayer and came back, UNANIMOUSLY, with one answer...YES! We all wanted Fr. Bob as our Director and we wanted this community to flourish. So we made the choice...We all said yes to support Fr. Bob and LJH financially. We chose to partner together to make this work.

Of course, this meant no more nickel and diming when the collection basket came around as we now realized what it would take to sustain our community. We were seriously committed to tithing as well as offerings.

Now, over the years, this community has seen many faces. Some faces have stayed and some faces have moved on. Perhaps not all the faces here today are even aware of the commitment that was made back in 2001 and how much your financial support is appreciated AND necessary for the ongoing operations of Lift Jesus Higher.

One thing, however, has not changed and that is Fr. Bob's continued commitment and love for all of us here.

We love Fr. Bob and we love our community and I would like to ask all of you now if you are prepared to remake that commitment again, like we did 15 years ago, to financially support our shepherd and this community. I, for one, choose YES...how about you?

So please, take to prayer and ask the Lord what HE would desire you give, to support and bless Fr. Bob and our community of Lift Jesus Higher.

Thank you and God Bless