



Jambo Rafikis:

Next month, our St. John's family will have the opportunity to participate in the [Called to Serve As Christ Campaign](#) for our priests, sisters and family of faith. This important fundraising campaign will provide for retired priests and women religious in the Archdiocese of Seattle.

Orchestrated by the Archdiocese and The Steier Group, the Called to Serve as Christ Campaign will fund:

1. Pension and medical benefits of Priests
2. Retirement benefits for women religious
3. Parishes (15% of money raised comes back to St. John). Once we exceed our goal of \$851,000, 85% of the excess comes back to St. John.

I have appointed Frank Feeman and Helen McClenahan as our St. John co-chairs for this campaign. Additional members of the Campaign Committee are:

Bernadette O'Leary
Jonna Skokan
Teresa Gillett
Sheila Marty
Dani D'Amelio

When you see them, please thank them for their generosity and efforts. If they reach out to you about the campaign, please listen to them with open hearts and minds as they are reaching out as a favor to me, to Archbishop Etienne, and to this campaign.

Initially, I thought it was awkward to ask priests and sisters to help lead a campaign for priests and sisters. None of us chose religious life to ask for money. I became a priest to help meet people where they are, as Christ would. I realize now, looking back, that this was my call, to serve as Christ. And the more I have heard about the campaign and prayed about it, I realize this campaign is not about the call to vocation for any one priest or sister. It is about our entire archdiocese's call to serve as Christ. The goals of this campaign will not only help the retired priests and sisters today, but also all our future priests and sisters by putting their pension and medical plans on a sustainable path that benefits our entire archdiocese for many generations to come.

Each parish is asked to do its part by requesting parishioners prayerfully consider a three-year pledge to the campaign. Our parish goal is \$851,000. Through prayer, hard work and generosity, I know our St. John community will do our part to accomplish this goal. I am excited to tell you that St. John will receive 15 percent of all funds raised up to our goal for our own local needs. Then, 85% of any funds raised beyond our goal will be returned to our parish! We will use these funds to purchase the much needed new fire alarm system for Egan Hall.

You will be hearing more about this effort in the coming weeks from me or one of your fellow parishioners, who are assisting me with this project. For now, I ask that you join me in prayer that the *Called to Serve as Christ* campaign may be successful. And please keep your minds, ears and hearts open to the message of this landmark initiative. If we all work together, I know we will be richly blessed.

Asante Sana na Mungu awabarik
(Thank you and God bless you)

Rev. Crispin Okoth
Pastor