

Reason for the Programme and these Guidelines

Since the earliest days of the Church, we have come together to worship and to live out our faith. As followers of Jesus we are called to show love to one another and to the world as well as to share our gifts and resources. We continue that tradition today. We reach out to those in need; we counsel, help and teach. Each of us brings unique gifts to share.

Volunteers are the lifelines of our parishes. Without the time, effort and gifts of our volunteers, the Church would not be able to fulfill its ministry to help those in need. We recognize and appreciate the invaluable contribution of our many volunteers. Given the importance of our call through the Sacrament of Baptism to share our gifts with one another and with the world, it is essential that we, as a community, do all we can to ensure that the right gifts are shared in the right way, at the right time, by the right people. We fulfill our mission more effectively when we make every effort to foster a richer, stronger, more vibrant and safer community of faith.

Through Screening in Faith, we can provide support and protection to our volunteers. Screening in Faith is simply a process designed to create and maintain a safe environment in our parishes. The goal at all times is the protection of our vulnerable people, our volunteers, our paid staff and our Church resources. The programme also ensures that the most appropriate match is made between the volunteer and the position.

Thus, it is now a permanent policy of the Archdiocese of Kingston to screen all parish volunteer ministry positions. Our actions as volunteers and as a Church should be guided at all times by our goal: the protection and safety of our vulnerable people, our volunteers and our Church. The *“Screening in Faith, Guidelines for Parish Volunteers and Lay Employees”* are designed to assist you in performing your ministry.