

Assumption Resurrection
Social Justice Reflection
Participating in the Annual Edmonton Homeless Memorial Service

On Thursday 4th June 2026, the Social Justice Team was joined by other members of our parishes to participate in the memorial service honouring those in Edmonton who have died of causes related to homelessness in 2025. The event was organized by the Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (ECOHH). Hundreds of people died this past year because of the many dangers associated with not having a safe, healthy, and affordable place in which to live, eat, sleep, clean, and wake up.

The coalition uses a process to identify who has died:

- a wide range of organizations that work with people struggling with housing security share names of people who have experienced significant difficulty accessing adequate housing.
- Names are cross-referenced to eliminate duplicates.
- Many may not have died directly on the streets from homelessness, e.g., weather exposure, assault, but it was determined that they would not have died as they did, except for lack of access to consistent adequate housing.

In 2025, the number of people who died (349) rose by more than ten times the number in 2005 (32), when ECOHH began to hold a memorial service honouring the deceased, their life, their relationships, their dignity.

The service was poignant and moving. The students at St. Alphonsus School made beautiful mannequins, one for each of those who passed away. These were placed around the memorial site. Participants were encouraged to take one or two home, and place them prominently in a familiar place at home, work or church, as a reminder to pray for them. The ones displayed at the front of Assumption church and Resurrection church are the ones that team members brought back. We can pray for them that they may find rest in their heavenly home in communion with all the redeemed.

Currently, the number of people in Edmonton without adequate shelter is estimated between 4,000 and 5,000. For further information, go to the websites listed.

<https://homewardtrust.ca/>

https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/initiatives_innovation/response-plan-vulnerable-edmontonians

<https://www.ecohh.ca/>