

ANNUAL ACTIVITIES

Thanksgiving Food Drive for Assumption Parish

- Assumption Parish in Anacostia supports many very poor families through its food pantry.
- Each year on Thanksgiving day St. Patrick's collects food to help Assumption replenish its pantry for the winter.
- Contact Phil Chimento at 301-260-0559.

Holiday Giving Program

- St. Patrick's coordinates the efforts of several organizations in zip codes 20853 and 20906 to provide Thanksgiving dinner and Christmas dinner and children's gifts to local families in need.
- Parishioners can help in different ways:
 - ⇒ "Adopt" one or more families and personally put together and deliver the "baskets" at either Thanksgiving or Christmas, or both.
 - ⇒ For Thanksgiving, food "baskets," including turkeys, provided by St. Patrick's, local companies and individuals, are organized and distributed from St. Patrick's Parish Center on the Tuesday afternoon and evening before Thanksgiving.
 - ⇒ Contact Lisa Mix at 301-924-8262, Mary Bennett at 301-570-3534, or Kathy Lyons at 301-570-5577.
 - ⇒ For Christmas, St. Patrick's sets up a "Gift Tree" with the names, ages and genders of children for whom parishioners provide gifts. Gifts are also collected for the Spanish Catholic Center and for Catholic Charities. In addition, St. Patrick's holds a special canned goods collection a couple of weeks before Christmas for use in preparing the food baskets. Sometime before Christmas at St. Patrick's Parish Center, parishioners organize, assemble and distribute the food baskets and toys.
 - ⇒ Contact Joe and Jeannie Raia at 301-598-3629

SOME "Shoe Box" Christmas Gifts

- At Christmas, SOME collects and distributes to the homeless shoe box gift packages containing warm clothing and toiletries.
- Parishioners purchase recommended items to create a "shoe box" gift.
- Contact Mary Ann or Steve Bruce at 301-460-5378.

Rebuilding Together

- Our parishioners join with other religious groups in April of each year to rehabilitate the houses of very low-income homeowners.
- *Program is Inactive*

Refugee Ministry

- Parishioners help persons immigrating to the US to transition into our society by providing tutoring, transportation, job assistance and friendship.
- Contact Peggy Seleski at (301) 260-9757.



ST. PATRICK'S PARISH SOCIAL CONCERNS PROGRAMS

Committee Co-Chairs: Kathy and John Lyons (301-570-5577)

"Whatsoever you do for the least of my brothers, you do for me." Matthew 24:40

St. Patrick's has many dedicated parishioners who support a large number of programs of Christian service in our community. This pamphlet provides information about our programs and how you can become involved in them by volunteering a couple of hours per month. Each program is headed by a parishioner who runs the program independently but with the support of Monsignor Hart, the Social Concerns Committee and other volunteer parishioners. Each of the programs is briefly summarized in the following pages.

By participating in our programs, you have the opportunity to respond to the Scriptures and the principles of Catholic social teaching. In *Pastoral Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish* our bishops stated, "We need to build local communities of faith where our social teaching is central, not fringe; where social ministry is integral, not optional; where it is the work of every believer, not just the mission of a few committed people and committees." St. Patrick's programs pursue social justice with efforts to provide the poor and vulnerable with short-term relief and to assist them in creating long-term solutions to their difficulties.

Each and every program discussed in this pamphlet needs the active involvement of many people to succeed and thrive. A couple of programs are inactive and require new leaders immediately. Others need additional volunteers to lighten the load and prepare for an orderly succession of leadership. **Please take the time to review the summaries in this document and consider how you can contribute your time and talent to one or more of the programs.**

For more information about St. Patrick's Social Concerns Committee and its various service programs, please contact Kathy or John Lyons, or the leader of any of the programs. In addition, look for announcements about ongoing activities in the Social Concerns Corner of the Sunday bulletin. Thank you.

May 2008

CONTINUOUS ACTIVITIES

Emergency Financial Assistance

- St. Patrick's makes available limited emergency financial assistance for rent, utilities, prescriptions, and other emergency situations.
- Requests for financial assistance are evaluated and a course of action is recommended to the Social Concerns treasurer.
- Contact Vince Pistolessi via the Rectory, or Joe Speicher at 301-774-5595.

St. Patrick's Food Pantry (at the Rectory)

- Our rectory distributes bags of food to people who come to the door.
- Parishioners maintain the pantry by stocking the shelves and preparing bags of food for distribution.
- Contact Carmen Lado at 301-460-0065.

Legislative Network

- The Legislative Network works in conjunction with the central office of the Archdiocese and other parishes to affect legislation related to social concerns issues, including pro-life activities.
- Parishioners lobby state legislators on one day during the session, write to legislators, and participate in county hearings to advocate for social concerns and social justice matters.
- *Program is Inactive*

Respite

- Caretakers of the seriously ill often are not able to leave their homes even for short periods for shopping or recreation.
- Parishioners relieve caretakers for a few hours.
- *Program is Inactive*

Poor Box

- Each weekly poor box collection is designated for a different charitable organization that requests assistance.
- Parishioners evaluate requests and plan the sequence of collections for the Pastor's review.
- Contact Kathy Lyons at 301-570-5577.

Pro-Life Committee

- This committee promotes reverence for life at all its stages by working with the Archdiocesan Pro-Life Office, the Maryland Catholic Conference, the Gabriel Project, local pregnancy centers and Right-to-Life Montgomery County.
- Contact Marilyn Goldhammer at 301-570-9613 or Elsie Bergamini at 301-929-1908.

Transportation to Mass

- A number of parishioners need transportation help to Mass on Sundays.
- Members of this committee arrange rides for these parishioners.
- Contact Steve Goldhammer at 301-570-9613.

Support of Shelters for the Homeless

- Parishioners prepare and deliver meals and food to several area shelters, as well as facilitate donations of furniture, household items, clothing and personal items to the shelters and families in transition.
- Contact Cathy Alessi at 301-330-6319 or Debbie and Russ Strosnider at 301-871-2538.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

S.O.M.E. (So Others Might Eat)

- ⇒ Through volunteer organizations, SOME in Washington, D.C., serves two meals per day to a large number of homeless. St. Patrick's provides the main meal on the first Sunday of every month.
- Parishioners help in three main ways:
 - ⇒ Many prepare meatloaf, a starch, a dessert, or give large cans of green beans.
 - ⇒ Some participate in a monthly reminder phone tree.
 - ⇒ Others receive and organize the food and contributions at the Parish Center.
 - ⇒ Still others deliver the food to SOME, and reheat and prepare it for serving.
- Contact Barbara Hoffman at 301-871-1266 to volunteer to prepare food, Trish Young at 301-929-9051 for food collection questions and Don and Pat Kisicki to help in food delivery at 301-774-3112.

Food Collection for St. Martin's Pantry

- St. Martin's in Gaithersburg serves a large community of poor families. The parish needs regular assistance in stocking its pantry. Donations are collected on the third Sunday of every month.
- Contact Glen Terzi at 301-570-5958.

Coupon Collection

- Coupons from Sunday newspaper supplements are collected, sorted, and used to buy food for shelters.
- Many parishioners donate coupons, which are collected from the ushers' room and delivered to Interfaith Chapel twice a month.
- Contact Glen Terzi at 301-570-5958.