

FAITH IN ACTION

A report to the parish on Social Concerns / Outreach activities in the last quarter.



Our faith sends us forth to glorify the Lord with our lives. Micah 6:8 implores us to act justly, be kind, and walk humbly, giving God all the glory. We want you to be aware of the good works happening in our community, to thank those who have offered their time, talents and treasure and

to encourage "the least of these" because "whoever does this to one of these least of my brothers, he does it to me." (Matthew 25:40) Jesus.



ST. VINCENT DEPAUL CONFERENCE

The Parish Conference of the Society of St. Vincent dePaul allows members to grow in their faith by responding to our brothers and sisters that call the parish seeking assistance. The Conference works within a network of other parish conferences and community ministries to identify available resources and promote long term self-sufficiency for clients. **During the quarter Jan 1 to Mar 31, 2013 we helped 179 clients with our prayers, support and \$6,187 in emergency aid.**

- We received the following note from one of the SVDP clients:
*"I got your message several days ago and it made me cry. God HAS blessed me and is showing me His love through others. You were the epitome of the fruit of the spirit as you talked to me on the phone and listened. So sweetly and kindly you spoke to me. I really cannot thank you enough.
Please thank everyone at St. Patrick's for being so generous. Every gift back to God through offering has made this possible! I am so very thankful for each one and pray a special blessing abundant day for you all!"*
 - We made a \$1000 contribution from the Christ Steps Ministries budget to support the creation of a Family Success Center on the Downtown St. Vincent DePaul Campus. We work closely with SVDP as they provide many ministries and volunteer opportunities for our parishioners. The Family Success Center will provide a community gathering spot for youth in the Smoketown neighborhood, a Dare to Care kid's café, and a Boys and Girls Club.
 - The St. Vincent DePaul collection truck will be at St. Patrick the first weekend in June. Goods collected will be sold at SVDP thrift stores – the stores provide revenue to support the many minis
- Your funds make this ministry possible - we collect funds from parishioners through the SVDP envelopes in the weekly collections and in the gathering space the 3rd Sunday of each month – **thank you for your generosity**. 100% of contributed funds go directly to the less fortunate in our community. Should you have any questions or wish



EASTERN AREA COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

We partner with 46 other congregations in Eastern Louisville to assist those in need. This ecumenical effort provides a variety of services including food and financial assistance as well as teaching English to the growing Hispanic population in the area.

During the quarter Jan 1 to Mar 31, 2013 we provided the following support to EACM:

- \$2500 financial pledge for the general assistance fund (\$10,000 annual pledge)
- Served as the hands and feet of Christ for 68 hours of community service to EACM
- Donated \$2624 worth of food to feed those who are struggling to meet basic needs
- Donated \$6-7,000 of diapers through our Lenten Outreach Collection to help Moms and their babies who need assistance. Diapers cannot be purchased with government assistance funds.



CHRIST STEPS MINISTRY OUTREACH

During the last quarter, Christ Steps Ministries has completed the following programs:

- We hosted one site for the St. Mary's Center basketball tournament for special needs adults on February 2nd. The event was a huge success, involving our 4th graders as part of the Step by Step student stewardship program as well as a myriad of volunteers. We also made a \$500 contribution to the St. Mary's Center as from the CSM budget.
- We help our quarterly Blood Drive for the Red Cross on February 10th. 18 pints of blood were collected.
- We made a \$2000 contribution to Habitat for Humanity for next year's Catholic 4 House. We work with Epiphany, St. Albert, and St. Margaret Mary to build a house every other year – we've built 5 houses to date. If you make contributions to Habitat for Humanity in Louisville, please ask them to apply them to the next Catholic Quartet home. Watch the bulletin if you'd like to participate in the HFH effort in 2014.
- We made a \$500 contribution to Nazareth Farm in West Virginia to support of Appalachian Advocacy and Youth Ministry. St. Patrick regularly sends volunteers to Nazareth Farm for a week long service retreat experience. Volunteers have given glowing reports of their experience at the Farm. If interested, contact Cindy Black at 244-6083



ARCHDIOCESE OF LOUISVILLE

While much of our time is spent in Eastern Jefferson County, as Catholics we are a vital part of the Church of Louisville and the larger global Catholic Church. We support the work of the broader Church by participating in 14 Archdiocesan collections throughout the year and by holding 1-2 mission appeals each year.

During the quarter Jan 1 to Mar 31, 2013 we have contributed to the following collections:

- Since our last report, we've contributed an additional \$3000 to the Catholic Services Appeal, taking our total to over \$87,000
- Opportunities for Life is a ministry that works with pregnant young girls and encourages them not to have abortions. The Archdiocese supports an annual collection to support this effort. We contributed \$556 to Opportunities for Life.
- The Catholic Church supports mission activity to evangelize blacks and American Indians. We contributed \$588 to the Black and Indian Missions.
- Catholic Relief Services is the global outreach arm of the U.S. Catholic Church. They provide emergency relief and community building services to those in most need in over 100 countries around the world. We contributed \$5,000 to support the global work of Catholic Relief Services.
- The students of St. Patrick School (and their families) collected funds during Catholic Schools Week to support Nativity Academy, a Catholic school that serves the urban core of Louisville. We contributed \$4434 to Nativity Academy – what an impressive example of student stewardship.
- During the recent School Play, Alex's Lemonade Stand generated \$416 for outreach.

Thank you - \$26,681 plus collections and volunteering

You have been so very generous with your time, talent and treasure. The Book of James tells us that it is critical to put our faith into action because faith, without works, is dead. Matthew 25 shows us that when we reach out to those in need, we are reaching out to Christ.

May God continue the good work he has begun in us.

Should you have any questions regarding social ministry, outreach, or wish to get involved