

REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL  
JANUARY 17, 2012

**INSTITUTION MINISTRY**

Volunteers continue to visit Calvert Memorial Hospital daily. This is very important to those who are in need of healing. Today I had the opportunity to pray with an elderly gentleman who was ready to leave the hospital, but needed a visit from his doctor. It was late afternoon and he told me his doctor would not visit today. We prayed (including for the doctor to visit) and I gave him the Eucharist. Immediately after, the nurse came in and told him his doctor was on his way. The look on his face was priceless. There was a woman who did not go to Church, but needed someone to talk to. After twenty minutes, she told me she was returning to Church. A gentleman from Florida was visiting his daughter and grandson. He was tripped and injured his hip. He cannot walk. After I left his room, his wife ran after me. They made a one hundred dollar donation to the homeless shelter, Project Echo, and asked me to deliver it.

I continue to visit the Detention Center twice a month for a prayer service. Most of the time I get 3 or 4 men, with none or only one being Catholic. I could not visit for a few weeks because of water damage to the security camera system. When I returned the inmates wanted to know if I hated them, because they missed me. Don Mueller continues to work with the jail in Virginia under the KAIROS program. In Calvert County we are in need of Catholic Bibles. I get them through PAULIST EVANGELIZATION MINISTRIES in Washington, D.C. because Bibles must come directly from the publisher and the Paulists know how to do this. Unfortunately, donations are down. If anyone wants to endorse donations, their web site is [www.pemdc.org](http://www.pemdc.org).

Chris and Donna Wallmark continue to celebrate a Eucharistic Service at the Nursing Center. I celebrate a Service on All Souls Day, commemorating the deaths of those at the Center from the past year. Since Christmas was on a Sunday this year, Joe Mills volunteered to do the Service so Chris and Donna could be with family.

We continue to lead Prayer Services every Sunday at the Carol Porto Treatment Center. Residents there must be offered a choice, so those who attend the service (between 12-20 persons) want to be there. Carol continues to support us and reports on how much we do to help the residents.

I want to thank all of you for your prayerful support!! God is obviously working through all of our organizations.

“When a program is successful, I thank God. When a program is not successful, I thank God because it was not meant to be.” Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton (on the wall of her chapel in Emmitsburg, MD.).

Deacon Ed Chrzanowski

## THE GOOD SAMARITAN MINISTRY

### STATUS REPORT FOR 2011:

The Good Samaritan Ministry has 41 volunteers who assist St. John Vianney parishioners in the following ways:

1. Prepare and deliver meals during illness and other emergencies (usually for a 2 – 3 month period of time).
2. Provide rides within Calvert County to doctor appointments, to the grocery or pharmacy, and to church.
3. Barbara Johnson continues to coordinate 3 or 4 volunteers who send cards to those who are ill and bereaved.

During 2011, we provided meals for 4 parish families during times of illness. In addition, we provided respite for one family who cares for a loved one with Alzheimers. We provided transportation for a parishioner on dialysis, and for three parishioners coming to Mass. Also ran errands for an elderly couple who came to our attention through the Summer Work Camp last year.

St. John Vianney is fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers, eager to help those in need. I would like the Parish Council to especially recognize the following volunteers who have been helping with the needs of others for a significant length of time:

Barbara Johnson, who has been coordinating the Card Ministry since July 2005.

Marga DiAgostino, who has been providing transportation for 3 parishioners since April 2006.

Ruth Lauderbaugh, who has been helping a disabled family with errands since August 2009.

Victor Wisniewski and Chuck Knapper, who have been providing respite care since February 2011.

### NEEDS/SUGGESTIONS:

1. Most requests for assistance come by referral from parishioners. Is there another way, in addition to the bulletin, that those needing assistance can easily request it?
2. Volunteers don't always respond to bulletin requests. Is it possible to have a volunteer form on the SJV webpage that parishioners could fill out at anytime to volunteer for the different ministries?

Mary Ann Zaversnik

## **SAFE NIGHTS**

### SJV SHELTER – NOVEMBER 20-26, 2011:

We give thanks to all of our volunteers (approximately 120) who made our shelter experience a blessing. While we only had 3 guests during the week, the volunteers came with a smile and dedication to serve. Just a note as to the low number of guests this season, we believe that the warm weather and the new ECHO, with increased beds, made a difference.

Safe Nights sign-up was held in the Festival Room on two weekends, 10/22-23 and 10/29-30. Following sign-up, we were still short on 7 female and 1 male overnight monitors. After putting out two urgent requests for help, and having one female volunteer for three nights, we filled the slots.

Due to the proposed construction in the Vianney Room, we held the shelter in the basement of the church. While we made it work, it was not the ideal solution. It was difficult preparing the food in the kitchen upstairs and carrying it downstairs. Also, it would be better if we didn't have to take the guests through the Gift Shop to take showers.

### NEEDS/SUGGESTIONS:

At the end of the shelter week, we sent out an evaluation form to all of our volunteers. We will use their input to plan for our shelter week next season.

We thank SJV for providing the food for breakfast. All other food for the shelter is provided by our volunteers.

We would like to request the use of the Vianney Room and Kitchen for all future Safe Nights shelters.

Safe Nights has 23 host churches this year, and we expect all to return next year. Therefore, it is expected that SJV will host only one week.

The Safe Nights host churches will be discussing the possibility of rotating Christmas week among the host churches. If necessary, we would like to request that SJV switch Thanksgiving Week for Christmas Week for one year in the future. We would work with Jan Pedone to coordinate the CCD schedule.

Mary Ann Zaversnik

## **ECHO HOUSE**

The tentative date for a Homeless Summit at St John Vianney has been set for February 21, 2012. Trish is checking with Joanne to confirm this date.

Trish Gipspn

## **SISTER PARISH, NICARAGUA**

In the last four years, 81 houses have been completed in Limay, Nicaragua . The building on the next group of 10 new houses has begun. Also, land has been purchased to build a house for seniors, who have no family to care for them. Finally, work is beginning on roads and wells in the subdivision. We are planning for nurses and teachers -- so they can have a chance to get a home and, hopefully, remain in the community.

Don Mueller

## **FOOD PANTRY**

The food pantry is exceeding its expectations. Since November 8, we have served over 10,000 pounds of food. As of today, we have 122 families signed up. In the future, we expect to feed between 50 to 100 hundred families per week. This coming week, we will start offering luncheon meats, and on the third week give the families something special, like chicken, ground beef, etc. We have a very good rapport with our families and our goal is to make them feel like they are part of our family at SJV. This is working because of the volunteers that work each week. We have a great parish and surrounding parishes that are starting to get involved more. The grants and donation which we receive each month, along with foods, is making this mission a success. Today we are fine, but we have to look out of the box, and worry about tomorrow. God bless and keep praying for this great mission.

Larry Donnelly