

SERVICE MINISTRIES REPORT
January 15, 2013

FOOD PANTRY **Mr. Larry Donnelly** **410-414-2936**

We serve about 85 families a week. There are about 60 volunteers. There are numerous jobs to be done: office work, filling bags with food, driving the truck to pick up food and carrying food to the cars when the family arrives.

Our needs are met by donations of food and cash plus the money placed in the Poor Box on the first Sunday of each month. So far we are doing O.K.

GOOD SAMARITAN **Parish Office** **410-535-0223**

The Good Samaritans respond to parishioners in need of home visits, meals and transportation. Mike told me she hasn't received any calls for quite some time.

ARIMATHEANS **Mrs. Linda Dolecki** **410-535-9178**

Linda Dolecki works with Amy Chafee, Linda tells me that each one of them has just the right talents that when combined make this ministry work well.

The process begins when Linda gets a call from Mike (Fr. Daly's secretary) about the upcoming funeral and expected number of people attending. Linda Contacts Amy, who sends emails out to many of the volunteers. and Fran Reigle and Mary DeRight who call the rest of the volunteers.

There are about 80 volunteers who prepare and serve meals at funeral receptions. Other parishioners frequently prepare additional dishes to be served.

Donations from the deceased's family go to Mike who maintains a fund for the Aramatheans that provides for paper, plastic and other expenses. Monetary needs are always met. "Miracles do happen." If there were a need for funds, Linda said she would notify the volunteers to bake up some goodies for a fund-raising bake sale.

Linda donates flower arrangements for the tables by scavenging for greenery and purchasing flowers.

The volunteer list needs revamping. Early in 2013, we plan to put a notice in the bulletin. We will ask for those who desire to be removed from our list of volunteers to notify us. We will also include an invitation for others who wish to join our group to notify us.

We need to look into the purchase of new aprons.

CURSILLO/ULTREYA**Mrs. Toni Abresch****410-610-5414**

Ultreya is a continuation (the 4th day) which is a continuation of the Cursillo weekend for the rest of your life. Cursillo (small course) is a movement and a method. We call it a group reunion of cursillo. At this time there are four leaders: Toni Abresch, Gisela Victoria, Linda Pixton and Rita LeClerc

The volunteers comprise the Leaders of each County group who serve ideally for 2 to 3 years. The members of the group as needed, e.g.: food for weekends.

There is an annual picnic which is supported by volunteers and the Archdiocese of Washington. There is no budget therefore no money

We are always looking for people to go on a Cursillo weekend. It would be nice if a priest from the Cursillo Movement could come to SJV to celebrate a mass and mingle with parishioners after to answer some of the questions people might have.

We meet once a month (always in the bulletin)

GRIEF SUPPORT**Mr. Bill Prochownik****410-414-9986**

Supports individuals during time of loss and grieving. Nothing has been scheduled yet. The program will run for 6 weeks and unfortunately there aren't 6 weeks until Lent begins. Father requested that activities not be held during Lent.

Jim Caldwell is the volunteer. At this time no others are needed.

Currently there are no expenses, could be incidental expenses in the future which Bill says he will take care of.

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MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT**Joe & Dot Stein****410-586-1751**

We used to do "Marriage Enrichments" at SJV. Then we attended a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and were asked to serve on the WWME presenting team. It is unlike any other ministry we have been involved in. It takes a tremendous amount of time. The DC area Team covers all 200+ parishes in the Archdiocese of Wash.

Writing and revising talks is a continuous process. We give pulpit talks in as many parishes as we can, as often as we can. We hold 3 to 4 Weekends a year. We attend meetings in N.C., VA. etc. throughout the year. We usher and hand out certificates at the Jubilarian Mass at the Shrine every year. We search for the Longest married couple in each state so we can honor them. We hold Enrichments and monthly follow-up groups for those who have been encountered. Every year on World Priest Day we send a letter to every priest in the Archdiocese thanking them and offering our prayers. This year we held a 24 hour prayer vigil in support of our wonderful priests. We have been doing these tasks with just three couples and Fr. Pete (and some back up support from couples who have been Encountered).

We explained to Fr. Daly that we did not see how we could continue to do a decent job putting on Marriage Enrichments at SJV and serving on the WWME Team. Fr. Daly said that was another way to promote strong marriages and that was fine.

We absolutely need more volunteers, but they are selected off Weekends and both husband & wife must be Catholic and they must be married at least 3 years. We make it clear the amount of time and effort that is required. Most couples do not feel they are willing/able to make a commitment like that. But we now have a new couple that just joined us! Joe and I feel this is where the Lord wants us. This is our main ministry.

WWME helps couples to have good marriages and encourages priests and religious in their vocations as well. This February Joe & I will take over as Area Leaders for the DC Area. We will form an Ecclesial Team with Fr. Pete. We will serve as Area Leaders for two years.

The main support we need is permission to give pulpit talks. We also want to get information about WWME in parish bulletins, in Catholic school take home folders, and in newspapers, radio, etc. We also need meeting room space in various parishes. Fr. Daly has been very supportive of WWME.

SISTER PARISH – MEXICO Mrs. Rosa Ortiz 410-535-4423

SISTER PARISH – NICARAGUA Mr. Don Mueller 703-966-9560

The Nicaragua Housing Ministry began about 5 years ago with a visit to Limay, Nicaragua by Fr. Daly, his sister, Maureen, my son, Eric, Liz Snyder and myself. Following this visit, we established a sister parish relationship and a mission devoted to providing simple, basic mud brick houses for the poorest of the poor. In the past five these five years we have funded the building of 120 of these basic homes. Our cost for constructing a house is \$2,500. In addition, we have funded the building of a home for the "ancient ones" which will have eight bedrooms (capacity of 2 per room), a kitchen and dining area, and three showers and toilets. We hope to dedicate this old age home on our mission trip in January. In addition to that, we are in process of developing a "subdivision" that has approximately 55 lots. The subdivision project is a little different than our on-going homes for the poorest of the poor in that the subdivision is planned for the working poor -- nurses, teachers, police officers, etc. who earn at most \$150 a month and are rarely able to afford a home of their own, hence they come and go from the community with great regularity. These working poor will be able to buy lots and homes in the subdivision with a down payment of \$300 and then monthly payments of \$30. These monies will be used for upkeep of the subdivision and its wells and such and will be put into a revolving fund administered by the Bishop and the church in Limay with a goal of this project becoming self-funding.

One non-housing project began by this Ministry was the sewing machine project. We funded the purchase of a dozen sewing machines and paid for an instructor to teach women how to sew. Once the project got underway, it has become largely self-sustaining. The women graduates sell clothing items they make which raises money for paying for instructors to teach more women to sew -- it has been going along nicely and slowly growing with each new graduating class.

Who leads this mission: Clearly, it has been led by the Holy Spirit as it began with just a handful of homes and now has grown to 120 homes and it is continuing at a pace of 20 homes a year for the poorest of the poor.

We will be going on our 9th mission trip to our sister parish this January 23 - 30th. Generally, seven or eight missionaries travel to Nicaragua -- two interpreters, and a priest (usually Fr. Daly or Fr. Jaime), myself and folks who donated one or more houses. The missionaries themselves cover all their travel expenses. Several SJV parishioners have generously funded any miscellaneous administrative expenses. The result of that generosity is that every single dollar donated for a house goes to a house.

I believe that as long as we follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, this mission will continue and the desperately poor people of this area of northern Nicaragua will find hope and joy and continue to give thanks to God for their new houses in the years to come.

GOD'S GIFTS SHOP **Mrs. Judei Dudman** **410-586-0380**

Who Volunteers: There are seven hard-working volunteers. On Sunday, when the shop is open, ideally there are two volunteers on location. Judy says she lovingly puts in one to three hours during the week. Two or three more volunteers would be very helpful. Judy had put a flyer in a past bulletin requesting volunteers but had no responses.

In June of 2012 Judy received \$1,500 from Fr. Daly. She put that into three categories: General, First Communion and Christmas. That money is holding out so far.

?Whenever there is an announcement from Fr. Daly after Mass a few more than normal come to the shop. A plan to display items behind glass in the church lobby might encourage people to come over.

Sometimes people say "keep the change." Or bring in small items they have received as gifts or just come in the mail with requests for donations. There is a basket in the shop with these items which are free.

There are a couple of problems in the building: the front door slams and there appears to be a leak in the roof as moisture has been detected on the carpet in the God's Gift's office. Judy plans to do further check-up on this situation.

SAFE NIGHTS **Joe & Mary Ann Zaversnik 443-486-8670**

Joe and Mary Ann are retiring at the end of this season. Their job will become four:

**Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Brooks
2013 – 2015**