St. Mary Social Justice
Social Concerns Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 1 January 2020

Greetings and Blessings!
2020 Vision for our Ministries

As we begin a new calendar year, the OUTLOOK for our Parish Ministries and our Social Justice Ministries is clear and bright! At our Ministry Fair in November, parishioners were invited and encouraged to get involved in Liturgical Ministries to Social Justice Service to Spirituality programs for Men, Women and even our next session of Bible Study which began on Monday, January 13th.

As so often is the case, MANY opportunities will present themselves to us in our daily lives to love God and love our neighbor. We bring who we are to those encounters and strive to let God shine through us, to build His kingdom one brick at a time. May this New Year help us to better discover God’s call and mission for us — individually and as a parish community. And also inspire and guide us to live as Christ lives and to love as Christ loves. Join our Social Justice Events and allow your VISION to be “refocused” to a perfect 20 - 20.... and FOR 2020!

Social Justice Events— January through March, 2020

JANUARY—
The social justice team will be visiting 2 local nursing homes in January to help bring some cheer and needed companionship to the lonely in our community. We visited the Aristocrat @ 1:30 PM on 1/25 and Northwestern Nursing home at 2:00 PM on 1/26. This event is open to our Confirmation Candidates and our St. Mary School children provided handmade note cards!

FEBRUARY-
The team will be working with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to further their mission of Faith, Action, and Results. Catholic Relief Services carries out the commitment of the Bishops of the United States to assist the poor and vulnerable overseas. Alex Spenik, Seminarian and CRS Ambassador will speak at 7:00 pm on February 18th. St Mary will also participate in the CRS Rice Bowl Program—Watch the Parish Bulletin and website for more details

MARCH- Homelessness
Homelessness affects men, women, families and CHILDREN! March is the month to raise our awareness of how deep and wide the effect of being homeles has on our brothers and sisters who lack this basic need of daily life. Watch the Parish Bulletin & website for how WE can help!!
December—Christmas Caroling – Social Justice in Action

Our Young Couples and Families visited 6 homes in Berea to bring some holiday cheer, Christmas carols and the Light of the Christ Child.

30 Carolers of ALL AGES brightened the night and were even “thanked” at one home with an invitation inside for cookies. Afterward, the group shared some warm beverages and snacks and fellowship back at the FJG Center.

Amazing what God can do with a small gift of our TIME!

December—The Giving Tree —Social Justice in Action

Our Parish is amazing! Van loads of over 500 gifts were sent to families and children! The gifts were delivered to the West Side Catholic Center and University Settlement House and were distributed to the needy in the inner city.

The donated gift cards were given to a local needy family.

December —Quarrytown Christmas Meal —Social Justice in Action

On Wednesday, December 18th six parish volunteers from St. Mary served an estimated 90 Quarrytown residents a delicious Christmas meal. The program was sponsored by Berea Community Outreach whose mission is to connect the community by lending a hand to make a difference.
December — Habitat for Humanity — Home Dedication and House Warming Gifts— Social Justice in Action

The three homes that the St Mary team worked on were dedicated on 12/23/19. The families will be moving in soon. Beyond the hard work provided on the homes, the St Mary family provided overflowing house-warming baskets for each of the three families. Thank you for your generosity.

Greater Cleveland Habitat for Humanity®

October—The Impact of Family Violence—Presentation—Social Justice in Action

Did you know that most domestic violence incidents never get reported? Following the 11:30 Mass on October 20th, Carrie Joseph from the Domestic Violence & Child Advocacy Center (DVCAC), shared statistics, knowledge and ways that one can get help if a victim of domestic violence. This is a sensitive topic that consists of physical, emotional, financial and sexual abuse. DVCAC empowers those who are victims of abuse, and advocates for justice. The organization provides many services including a 24/7 Helpline. The direct number is 216-391-HELP (4357).

Parishioners showed their compassion and generosity by donating items on the WISH list. These items will help men, women, children and teens who are victims of abuse. A HUGE THANK YOU to all!

November—Berea Leaf Raking Day—Social Justice in Action

A team from St. Mary participated in the Berea Leaf Raking Day in November. Fortunately good weather aided the team and the homeowners they served were very appreciative of the assistance. Groups from all over Berea participated in the event, and a good time was had by all. Be sure to join the team in 2020!
How You Can Help the Social Justice Committee

Join our team! Make new friends and help your community.

The Social Justice Committee needs more people like you to help our ministry. From swinging hammers for Habitat Humanity to serving meals to the less fortunate and providing companionship to the lonely, there are opportunities for everyone in our parish to join our team.

If you would like to be part of our organization, please call the parish office.

Update on The Prime Timers-
In December, the Prime Timers sent (70) Christmas cards and rosaries to the incarcerated at the Richmond Correctional Institute and also gave (65) cards to local veterans. Keep up the good work Prime Timers!

COMING NEXT QUARTER!

**BABY SHOWERS**
April

**The Fisher House—Veterans**
May

**Refugees**
June