

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI, DERWOOD

Mass Intentions

September 30 - October 6

Monday, 9/30	90:0 a.m.	Edward Guild
Tuesday, 10/1	9:00 a.m.	Eva Breeden
Wednesday, 10/2	9:00 a.m.	Msgr. James Lockman
	7:30 p.m.	Ernesto Meneses
Thursday, 10/3	9:00 a.m.	Frances D'Aurora
Friday, 10/4	9:00 a.m.	Barbara Lynn Beall
	7:30 p.m.	Deacon Wilbur Pinder, Jr.
Saturday, 10/5	9:00 a.m.	Joan Raffa
	5:00 p.m.	Bill Farmer
Sunday, 10/6	8:00 a.m.	<i>Pro populo</i>
	9:30 a.m.	Magdalena Banez
	11:15 a.m.	Kay Arnaud
	5:00 p.m.	Sharon Bernard

+ In Memoriam Aeternam +

In your charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Carole Pettit, wife of Richard Pettit and mother of Brian Pettit, Leonard Guild, brother of Sara Dean, Joaquim Encarnacao, husband of Ana Maria Encarnacao.

Please pray for the sick... Mary Bowen, Joseph Tychinski, Joan Lutz-Maltz, William Komlo, Eddie Lutheran, Patrick Ledger, Joseph Arbaizo, Margaret Weiss, Joseph Michael Gardner, Tom Breece, Sandra Kimball, Dennis Parnell, Ed Dudenhoeffer, Jackie Roebuck King, Jeni Stepanek. *(Names will remain on this list for four consecutive weeks, but can be repeated by calling the Office.)*

Readings for the Week of September 29, 2019

Sunday:	Am 6:1a, 4-7/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 [1b]/ 1 Tm 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-31
Monday:	Zec 8:1-8/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23 [17]/Lk 9:46-50
Tuesday:	Zec 8:20-23/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7 [Zec 8:23]/ Lk 9:51-56
Wednesday:	Neh 2:1-8/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [6ab]/ Mt 18:1-5, 10
Thursday:	Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [9ab]/ Lk 10:1-12
Friday:	Bar 1:15-22/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9 [9]/ Lk 10:13-16
Saturday:	Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Ps 69:33-35, 36-37 [34]/ Lk 10:17-24
Next Sunday:	Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/ 2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14/Lk 17:5-10

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR

Today marks the 105th World Day of Migrants and Refugees 2019. I want to devote the next two columns to Pope's Francis Message for this occasion.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Faith assures us that in a mysterious way the Kingdom of God is already present here on earth (cf. *Gaudium et spes*, 39). Yet in our own time, we are saddened to see obstacles and opposition it encounters. Violent conflicts and all-out wars continue to tear humanity apart; injustices and discrimination follow one upon the other; economic and social imbalances on a local or global scale prove difficult to overcome. And above all it is the poorest of the poor and the most disadvantaged who pay the price.

The most economically advanced societies are witnessing a growing trend towards extreme individualism which, combined with a utilitarian mentality and reinforced by the media, is producing a "globalization of indifference". In this scenario, migrants, refugees, displaced persons and victims of trafficking have become emblems of exclusion. In addition to the hardships that their condition entails, they are also looked down upon and considered the source of all society's ills. That attitude is an alarm bell warning of the moral decline we will face if we continue to give ground to the throw-away culture. In fact, if it continues, anyone who does not fall within the accepted norms of physical, mental, and social well-being is at risk of marginalization and exclusion.

For this reason, the presence of migrants and refugees—and of vulnerable people in general—is an invitation to recover some of these essential dimensions of our Christian existence and our humanity that risk being overlooked in a prosperous society. That is why *it is not just about migrants*. When we show concern for them, we also show concern for ourselves, for everyone; in taking care of them, we all grow; in listening to them, we also give a voice to a part of ourselves that we may keep hidden because it is not well regarded nowadays.

"Take courage, it is I, do not be afraid!" (*Mt 14:27*). *It is not just about migrants: it is also about our fears*. The signs of meanness we see around us heighten "our fear of 'the other', the unknown, the marginalized, the foreigner... We see this today in particular, faced with the arrival of migrants and refugees knocking on our door in search of protection, security and a better future. To some extent, the fear is legitimate, also because the preparation for this encounter is lacking" (*Homily in Sacrofano*, 15 February 2019). But the problem is not that we have doubts or fears. The problem is when they condition our way of thinking and acting to the point of making us intolerant, closed and perhaps even—without realizing it—racist. In this way, fear deprives us of the desire and the ability to encounter the other, the person different from myself; it deprives me of an opportunity to encounter the Lord (cf. *Homily at Mass for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees*. 14 January 2018).

Continued in the column to the right.....

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Who in our world do I fail to see who is in need of assistance and compassion? This week, will I take the time and make the effort to see God in their faces?

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

All are welcome! Join the Ministry of Eucharistic Adoration and assist with adoration in the following manner:

- *Become a regular attendee at adoration in the Parish.*
- *Pray that Eucharistic Adoration will increase.*
- *Foster Eucharistic Adoration in our parish by evangelizing His Eucharistic Presence.*
- *Deepen your personal relationship with Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament.*

First Friday Adoration (October 4) will begin in the Church following the 7:30 p.m. Mass until 9:00 p.m.

THE MUSINGS OF THE PASTOR (continued)

“For if you love those who love you, what recompense will you have? Do not the tax collectors do the same?” (Mt 5:46). *It is not just about migrants: it is about charity.* Through works of charity, we demonstrate our faith (cf. Jas 2:18). And the highest form of charity is that shown to those unable to reciprocate and perhaps even thank us in return. “It is also about the face we want to give to our society and about the value of each human life...The progress of our peoples...depends above all on our openness to being touched and moved by those who knock at our door. Their faces shatter and debunk all those false idols that can take over and ensnare our lives; idols that promise an illusory and momentary happiness blind to the sufferings of others” (Address at the Diocesan Caritas of Rabat, 30 March 2019).

“But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight (Lk 10:33). *It is not just about migrants: it is about our humanity.* Compassion motivated that Samaritan—for the Jews, a foreigner—not to pass by. Compassion is a feeling that cannot be explained on a purely rational level. Compassion strikes the most sensitive chords of our humanity, releasing a vibrant urge to “be a neighbor” to all those whom we see in difficulty. As Jesus himself teaches us (cf. Mt 9:35-36; 14:13-14; 15:32-37), being compassionate means recognizing the suffering of the other and taking immediate action to soothe, heal, and save. To be compassionate means to make room for that tenderness which today’s society so often asks us to repress. “Opening ourselves to others does not lead to impoverishment, but rather enrichment, because it enables to be more human: to recognize ourselves as participants in a greater collectivity and to understand our life as a gift for others; to see the goal, not our own interests, but rather the good of humanity” (Address at the Heydar Aliev Mosque in Baku, 2 October 2016).

Until next week,

Fr. John

WELCOME SARAH SEYED-ALI

AS OUR NEW PARISH YOUTH MINISTER

On September 3, parishioner Sarah Seyed-Ali joined the St. Francis of Assisi Parish staff as the new Youth Minister. Succeeding Fr. Jack Berard in this role, Sarah has worked with our clergy, parish staff and the Youth Group’s adult volunteers to continue building upon the solid foundation of the Youth Ministry – a group to which she belonged as a high school student at Magruder High School.

Sarah, 23, recently completed her discernment with the Missionaries of Charity, the religious order founded by St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta. During her year serving with the corporal branch, Sarah served the poor living on the South Side of Chicago on Lower Wacker Drive; she brought food to people, served at the sisters’ home for pregnant women and worked in a soup kitchen. After returning to Franciscan University in Steubenville, OH, and graduating with a degree in business management, she resumed her discernment in the contemplative branch of Missionaries of Charity. During her time with the sisters, she spent most of her waking hours praying in the convent before the Blessed Sacrament and in silence.

“Living in the communal life with other women was very enriching,” Sarah said. “The life was organized in that we were always together – I didn’t know the impact of working together every waking moment. I didn’t realize how important a solid, communal Catholic life was to serving the Church.”

As St. Francis’ new Youth Minister, Sarah said she wants to encourage young people to receive the love of God through their families and the St. Francis faith community and help facilitate the building of a rich, spiritual life for each of them. She wants to help them see what the Christian life is by deepening their baptismal consecration, nurturing their faith formation and offering them opportunities to serve the Church. She’d also like to help cultivate in Youth Ministry members a rich life of prayer. “It is not possible to live a Christian life without engaging in a rich life of prayer,” Sarah said.

Sarah asks parishioners to pray for the parish’s youth and for her. “In the words of Mother Teresa, pray that we don’t spoil the work!” she said.

If you’d like to contact Sarah, please e-mail her at sfayouth@sfadw.org. Please welcome Sarah back to St. Francis!

LAMB OF GOD PRAYER MEETING Lamb of God Prayer Group will meet on Tuesday, October 1 in the St. Clare Chapel. For details, please call Pat, (301) 963-9196.

POOR BOX DONATION – The donations for next week-end will go to Gaithersburg Help. *Thank you for your generosity.*

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PRAYER CHAIN If you have a prayer request, please contact Marianne Bullen, (301) 963-3420 or mariannebu@comcast.net with your requests.

ROSARY FOR PRIESTS

Every Wednesday evening at 6:45 p.m. we pray the rosary for our priests before the 7:30 p.m. Mass.

HOLY HOUR FOR THE DYING

On Thursday evenings in the St. Clare's Chapel in the Rectory, a prayer group meets at 7:00 p.m. to pray for the dying. This is a Holy Hour Devotion for the Dying. As a central work of our Catholic faith, we are called to pray for the dying, especially for those who may die suddenly, unprepared to face God. For additional information, please call the Parish Office, (301) 840-1407.

ROSARY CENACLE OF OUR LADY, QUEEN OF PEACE Cenacle of Our Lady, Queen of Peace to pray for priests and vocations, 2:00 p.m. in the St. Clare's Chapel (Rectory) every Sunday. Please join us.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS - COUNCIL 2323

The Knights of Columbus are looking for new, transferring or readmitted members to share in their Charity, Fraternity, Unity and Patriotism activities. Council 2323 supports many St. Francis activities and has many social events. The KofC offers life and long term care insurance opportunities as well as annuities. A new opportunity: join as an Online Member for \$30 per year; go to www.kofc.org and click on "Join Us". If you wish you can join the Council later. If interested in learning more, contact Gary Palmer (301-948-6494 or email gtdbpalmer@verizon.net).

TEXT TO GIVE THROUGH FAITH DIRECT

Make giving easier and bless your church! Simply text "ENROLL" to (301) 804-2584 and follow the link to sign up for recurring giving to St. Francis of Assisi. No more dealing with envelopes or writing checks and a consistent money flow helping to further the ministry of our church. It's a win-win!"



SOCK-TOBER

So Others Might Eat (SOME) needs adult socks (new or gently used)!! Please place your donations in the "Sock" Box in the Gathering Space during the month of October.

ROSARY PRAYED IN SPANISH IN THE CHURCH

The Spanish Ministry prays the Rosary in Spanish at 6:30 pm on Tuesdays in the church. Please join us. For more information about the Spanish Ministry, please contact Will Garcia at wagarcia@comcast.net or Lourdes Garcia at legarcia@comcast.net

SMALL GROUP SIGN-UPS CONTINUE THIS WEEKEND

Are you interested in making new friends, growing in your Catholic faith and becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ? If so, then sign up for a Small Group at St. Francis of Assisi Parish today. Our parish offers a wide-ranging number of small groups that meet at church and in people's homes to enjoy fellowship, study Scripture and spiritual books, and discuss what topics mean in our lives as Catholics. Sign-up sheets are available in the Gathering Space for small groups, including:

- Gospel of Matthew Small Groups
- Saturday Morning Spiritual Reading Group
- Men of Emmaus
- Martha & Mary Women's Group
- Dining Disciples

If you'd like to volunteer as a host or a facilitator for one of the Gospel of Matthew Small Groups, then please contact Director of Adult Faith Formation and Social Concerns Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfdw.org or call him at (301) 840-1407. All are welcome!

COME JOIN US FOR OUR PARISH PICNIC

Next week is the Parish Picnic! Join us from 12:30-3:30 pm Sunday, October 6 for lunch in the Parish Center. Afterward, join us for the Moon bounce, arts and crafts, outdoor games, face painting, ice cream sundae making and the Blessing of Animals at 3 pm. Come join our St. Francis of Assisi community in celebrating the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi and enjoying each other's fellowship as a parish family. We do ask that every family who attends the lunch contribute either a dessert or side dish. Please RSVP in the Gathering Space with the number of people in your family who will attend and what you will bring. If your last name begins with A-K, please bring a dessert; if your last name begins with L-Z, please bring a side dish. *Thank you!*

ROSARY CRUSADE

Join your fellow parishioners in praying a rosary *Saturday, October 12th* - we are joining American Catholics across the country as part of the America Needs Fatima campaign (www.anf.org). We will start at 10:00 a.m. in the Gathering space. Hope to see you there!



OCTOBER 2019 LUNCH – The St. Francis Lunch Bunch will meet on Wednesday, October 2 at 12:00 Noon at El Mariachi Restaurant, 765-D Rockville Pike, Rockville 20852, 301-738-7177. If you are planning to attend, please contact Mary Lou Habib and she will save a seat for you, (301) 417-0243.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR NEEDS NEW VOICES!

Calling all children and grandchildren grade 2 and up! The St. Francis Children's Choir will begin practicing from 5:30 pm-6:15 pm on Tuesdays beginning in October in the church. If your child or grandchild is interested in singing once a month at the 5 pm Vigil Mass, as well as at the 4 pm Children's Mass on Christmas Eve and on other holidays, then please contact Music Ministry Director Janet Pate at sfdwmusic@gmail.com. Come help our young children raise their voices in praise of God and His Church!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS/EVENTS

Religious Education classes started last week and we are looking forward to a wonderful year! Space is still available in most classes and children are welcome to start classes once registration is received and processed. Registration forms can be found in the Gathering Space, the Parish Offices, and also on the parish website. Please call the Religious Education Office if need more information: 301-258-9193. **Children must be registered before they can begin classes.**

Registering for Sacramental Preparation

Sacramental preparation for 1st Reconciliation, 1st Eucharist, Confirmation, and Christian Initiation for Children/Teens (CIC/CIT) is not grade specific and involves preparation in addition to grade level Religious Education classes. At minimum, children are expected to have participated in religious education in the year prior to preparing for a sacrament. *Please note: students preparing for the Sacrament of Confirmation will attend their grade-level Religious Education classes as well as monthly Confirmation sessions.*

Families requesting sacramental preparation for their child are asked to mark their registration form accordingly so that additional information can be provided. Please note that there is a separate materials fee for sacramental preparation programs. More details will be provided at the parent meetings next year. If you have any questions, please call the Religious Education Office at 301-258-9193.

NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES NEXT WEEK, OCTOBER 6, 7 & 8

There will be no Religious Education classes on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, October 6, 7 and 8. In lieu of class, we hope that all RE families will plan to attend the Parish Picnic on Sunday, October 6.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATE & PARENT MEETING: OCTOBER 10

A reminder to those who have registered for this year's Confirmation Program: There will be a meeting for students and parents on Wednesday, October 8, from 6:45-8:30 pm in the Parish Center. Letters with additional information are being mailed to families with children registered for Confirmation this year. If you have any questions about this meeting or our Confirmation program, please call Susan Anderson at 301-258-9193.

WAYS TO SERVE

The entire parish community shares responsibility for faith formation and the support of many volunteers makes our programs successful. There are a variety of ways to serve, including weekly, monthly, and "as needed" commitments:

- Catechist
- Classroom Aide
- Art Team Catechist
- Substitute
- Support for Service Projects
- Help with Sacramental Celebrations & Special Events

Please consider supporting our Religious Education program as a volunteer! To learn more about this important ministry, please call the Religious Education Office at 301-258-9193.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS/EVENTS

TEENS, COME JOIN THE YOUTH GROUP!

The St. Francis Youth Group meets on selected Sundays from 6:15-8 pm. We will be starting our meeting in the Gathering Space at 6:15 pm. Please join us this fall as we learn from Mary, the Mother of God, on how to live the Christian life. All teens who want to learn more are invited to attend a mini course on the Gospel of Mark this fall. Please see below for the dates for this as well as for the following upcoming events:

- Sunday, Oct. 6, 12:30-4:30 pm: Parish Picnic (NO Youth Group)
- Saturday, Oct. 12-Sunday, Oct. 13: Our Lady of the Rosary Fundraiser Sale (Gathering Space)
- Sunday, Oct. 13, 6:15 pm-8 pm: Youth Group meeting (Meet in the Gathering Space)
- Tuesday, Oct. 15, 6:45 pm-8 pm: Mini course on the Gospel of Mark begins (Meet in the Gathering Space)
- Sunday, Oct. 20, 11 am-6 pm: National Evangelization Team Retreat (NO Youth Group)
- Tuesday Oct. 22, 6:45 pm-8 pm: Mini course on the Gospel of Mark (Meet in the Gathering Space)
- Sunday, Oct. 27, 6:15 pm-8 pm: Youth Group meeting (Meet in the Gathering Space)
- Tuesday, Oct. 29, 6:45 pm-8 pm: Mini Course on the Gospel of Mark (Meet in the Gathering Space)

Finally, our service to the wider community in October is to collect donations of baby diapers! If you would like to participate, please start shopping!

Thank you for your support of the Youth Group! I am looking forward to serving you this fall! May God bless you,

Sarah Seyed-Ali

Spotlight on St. Jude Regional Catholic School We are...St. Jude

www.StJudeRockville.org

<http://www.facebook.com/stjuderockvillemd>

CHILDREN'S CARNIVAL

Saturday, October 19th from 11:00am-1:00pm in the Thaddeus Room. All children ages 2 - 7 are welcome to join us with their parents for free games, activities, prizes and food.

OKTOBERFEST - October 12, 6:30 p.m.

Mark your calendars now and plan to be at St. Jude's for a fun-filled autumn party! Food! Drinks! Games! Football! Remember, Oktoberfest is FOR ADULTS ONLY, so start lining up your sitter. <http://www.stjuderockville.org/Giving/Oktoberfest>.

7TH ANNUAL BULLDOG BOLT

Join us November 9th for our 7th annual Bulldog Bolt--a 5K race or 1K fun run! Registration is now open and sponsorships are available at <https://www.stjuderockville.org/giving/bulldog-bolt-5k-race-fun-run>

Registration fee:

5K \$35 before 10/12, \$40 after 10/12, \$45 onsite

1K Fun Run \$25 before 10/12, \$30 after 10/12, \$35 onsite

ST. FRANCIS ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR & FLEA MARKET

Saturday, November 9

JEWELRY DONATIONS

Please drop the jewelry off at the parish office or leave your treasured items in the mailbox on the Rectory porch if the office is closed.

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED

We are looking for silent auction items such as Time Shares, Sports Tickets, Theater Passes, etc. for our Fall Bazaar (November 9). For more information or to make arrangements to donate, please call the Parish Office, Donna, (301) 840-1407.

BAZAAR CRAFTERS

We have started making crafts for the 2019 Holiday Bazaar on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. If you enjoy being creative and socializing with fellow parishioners, please plan on attending. Also, projects can be taken home to work on.

FLEA MARKET

Please start saving your "stuff" and watch the bulletin for drop off days in November and the items we will be accepting.

HELP WITH SEWING PROJECT NEEDED

Do you like to sew? We are in need of someone to sew a one-time project for the Bazaar. We have all the material, etc., we just need someone who can sew. This project can be taken home and brought back before the Bazaar, November 9th. If you are interested in helping, please call Anne Culver, 301-774-6426 or email gaculverfam@msn.com.

AMAZONSMILE ENABLES ST. FRANCIS TO INCREASE FUNDRAISING THROUGH ONLINE SHOPPING

St. Francis parishioners can support our church whenever they're shopping online at Amazon.com. St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church recently became a recipient of AmazonSmile, which enables the church to receive 0.5 percent of the price of eligible AmazonSmile purchases you make. Go to our Home Page to start shopping!

JOIN OUR JOYFUL GREETER MINISTRY!

A warm hello can make the difference in someone's day and their experience at St. Francis. Would you like to be one of the people who make a difference? Become a Joyful Greeter! Our Joyful Greeter ministers arrive 20 minutes before Mass to open doors and welcome parishioners and stay a few minutes after Mass to wish people a good week. The only pre-requisite for being in this ministry is a smile and a friendly hello and goodbye. If you are interested in being a Joyful Greeter, please contact Helen Hayes at helenlhayes@aol.com for more information. Help make our St. Francis community stronger and become a Joyful Greeter!

VISIT THE REFURBISHED OUTDOOR STATIONS

Thank you to Michael Murphy of Boy Scouts of America Troop 318 (Mother of God School) for refurbishing the outdoor Stations of the Cross for his Eagle Scout project. He and his team replaced all the wood backings, remounted the cast images, straightened and stained the poles and shingled the Station boxes. They will be planting ferns later this fall around the statue of Christ at the center. Pray the Stations and see his work. Thank you, Michael!

FORMED

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The best Catholic content. All in one place. It's EASY and FREE to Register!

- 1) Go to sfadw.formed.org
- 2) Click "Register" and enter your name, email address, and desired password
- 3) You're all ready to access the inspiring and Engaging content on FORMED!
- 4) Enjoy and share with others in our local community!

FORMED is available 24/7 for you to grow in your faith. St. Francis has purchased this gift for parish use.

SAVE THE DATE FOR FR. BOXIE'S TALK ON RACISM ON OCTOBER 26

Please join former Parochial Vicar Fr. Robert Boxie III, as he addresses our parish on Saturday, October 26, from 9:45 am-12:45 pm in the Parish Center. Fr. Boxie will talk about the topic of racism, his second talk to parishioners on this topic since his November 2018 address. Please join us, as we open our hearts and minds to consider this issue that both breaks bonds with our fellow men and women and prevents us from living in true community with our neighbors. For more information on Fr. Boxie's talk, please contact Director of Adult Faith Formation and Social Concerns Tony Bosnick at abosnick@sfadw.org.

THE WAY RETREATS FOR SURVIVORS OF ABUSE

As the Church continues to minister to all survivors of abuse, the Archdiocese of Washington is sponsoring a retreat for survivors. The Archdiocese will offer a men's retreat October 11-13, 2019 and a women's retreat November 15-17 and April 3-5, 2020. This retreat is an occasion for survivors to reflect on God's plan for their lives and healing through prayer and the sacraments. For more information go to <https://adw.org/the-way-retreat>. To register email mcdonald@adw.org or call Deborah McDonald, 301-853-4466.

EVER AFTER RETREAT

Ever After is a day retreat for Catholic couples hosted by St Mary's Catholic Church in Rockville on October 19th, 10-2:30pm. This event is part of an ongoing series committed to the support of dating, engaged, and married couples through spiritual enrichment and community. *Ever After* offers a venue of dynamic speakers, prayer, and the opportunity to connect with Catholic married couples. If you would like to preview the schedule or would like to register please visit CatholicEverAfter.eventbrite.com.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

The Archdiocese of Washington is hiring! We are seeking those who are experienced in accounting, bookkeeping, payroll and human resources to work in Parish offices throughout the Archdiocese. The work is interesting and the hours are flexible if needed. What a beautiful way to serve our Lord through your talents. Kindly send your resume to russl@adw.org or if you have any questions.