

Two Feet of Love in Action

Getting to the Root of Social Concerns

By Jeannie Daunch

We have all heard the expression, "We are Christ's hands and feet", but I wonder how many truly appreciate how the generosity and social awareness of the Holy Angels family really brings that phrase to life? With our Christmas Giving Trees, "WeCan" collections for the Chagrin Falls Park food pantry, Disaster Relief Missions, "Family Promise" for homeless parents and children, cleanup and renewal of Slavic Village, feeding the hungry at St. Pat's Hunger Center, or helping impoverished students at St. Thomas Aquinas School, we have a myriad of ministries and giving opportunities throughout the year. It is gratifying and humbling to see the ways our parish rallies and expands programs to meet the needs of the poor, marginalized, hungry and suffering in our world....and yet, we have barely scratched the surface of addressing human need and being truly responsive to the directives of Catholic Social teaching.

Holy Angels is very proud to announce the creation of the new **St. Michael's Social Concerns Commission** which began on April 1, 2013. This Commission was formed to further organize the variety of diverse groups and ministries which our parish has been involved in for numerous years, as well as to expand our knowledge and influence in previously unaddressed social issues. A number of these ministries were known at Holy Angels as "Faith in Action", led faithfully for many years by Joy Gallagher. Joy states, "As our parish has grown, many new ministries have developed over the years and now our parish is embracing a Diocesan model for Social Concerns to best take care of things in the future. Our many FIA programs will now fall under different groupings within the new Diocesan model for Social Concerns".

Staff member Donna Angelotti has been selected to direct the Social Concerns Commission Core Team with parishioner Paul Bachman as co-Director. Representatives from Parish Council and Finance Council will join the Core Team, along with Barb Schaar as Treasurer, Mary Kay Domo as Secretary, and Father Adam Zajac, our new parochial vicar. The Commission will include leaders from all of the various entities such as mission efforts, justice formation, fundraising, Church in the City, Christian service and dignity of life concerns. Together, these



Donna Angelotti

leaders will continue the Gospel's call for justice and the care of the poor and the hurting among us. The Core Team will organize a yearly calendar of events while promoting collaboration among various groups and make decisions on budget and fundraising efforts. In addition, they will discuss new initiatives brought forth for consideration and establish parameters for groups to operate within as needed.

I have had the pleasure of working closely with Donna Angelotti for many years, and truly cannot imagine a more passionate, committed, loving and caring individual to head up this vital new Commission at Holy Angels. She embraces and "walks the walk" of social service in a quiet, effective and selfless way that is beyond extraordinary to witness, and her passion for helping others in need is boundless. Donna shared with me that she has always felt called to this work, and appreciates the enormous task of channeling our numerous outreach services and ministries under one umbrella, with the help of so many.

According to Donna, "The idea of the new Social Concerns Commission is a direct reflection of the amazing generosity and kindness of the Holy Angels parishioners. For me, the excitement comes from seeing the face of God in our parish family, when they are so willing, ready and eager to help! It is overwhelming that our parish is involved in so many ministries, and I'm excited to see the new directions we may go in the future".

The new Social Concerns Commission will follow a Diocesan model on "The Two Feet of Christian Service", focusing on social justice and charitable works. This concept was shared with the parish at a "Morning of Reflection" on April 20th, with a presentation by guest speaker Karen Leith of the Diocesan Office for Social Concerns to provide motivation for moving forward in addressing the "two feet of love in action" that comprise our Catholic call to justice (creating hope) and charity (providing help) to one another. According to Donna, "The people who attended our "Morning of reflection" were truly overwhelmed with excitement and eagerness as they appreciated the vast reaches of Holy Angels work in the world."

One primary goal of the new commission is to include ANYBODY, on ANY one of those ministries where an individual feels



"We are all one human family, and we are responsible for the well-being of each other. This responsibility reaches across national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Indifference to the pain and suffering of others has no place in our interdependent society. We are all responsible for all."

-Diocesan Social Action, Akron Ohio

passionately called to serve. Donna states, "We hope to educate both ourselves and the parish, on how those "two feet" of Catholic social teaching are connected and balance one another. Our charitable works may help to address immediate needs of feeding the hungry, providing shelter for the poor, or crisis relief, but we'd like to create a greater awareness of the underlying causal factors of certain social issues, and then be able to address those root causes to bring about lasting, permanent changes. We need to ask the questions, "Why are people in need? How can we help to battle the larger, societal issues which contribute to the day-to-day suffering of so many?"

As Donna and I talked, I was reminded of the old adage, "Give a man a fish, he'll eat for a day; but teach a man to fish and he'll eat for a lifetime". Under the guidance of the Commission, it is hoped that Holy Angels parishioners can work to affect a more global and lasting impact at the root of some social issues, in essence, enabling and teaching so many how to "fish for a lifetime".

As Donna explained, "Each ministry, each area of social justice and charitable works, will have its own voice on the Commission, right here, in order to grow and nurture its particular works in collaboration with the greater, overall parish vision for social concerns. The works of the Commission are open to any and all parishioners who feel the call, who share the passion and fervor to get involved in making a difference in our world". All are welcome to participate in Commission meetings and presentations on relevant topics as they are scheduled.

Congratulations and many blessings to Donna Angelotti for heading up the new St. Michael's Social Concerns Commission, and to all those who are serving on the Core Team! For further information and to learn about opportunities to become involved, contact Donna@holyangelschurch.com.

Holy Angels Mission in Slavic Village

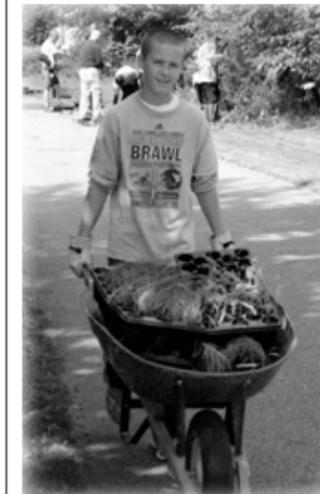
"we've only just begun..."

By Mickey LoPresti



Mission work at Holy Angels is something you hear about all the time. We go to the Dominican Republic; we go to El Salvador; we go to Bay St. Louis; we go to Joplin, Missouri. Well, now we go to Slavic Village, in Cleveland, Ohio, too.

Actually, we have worked in Slavic Village for some time now, but this summer is the beginning of many new and exciting opportunities for Holy Angel parishioners to get involved in local mission work. The summer calendar of events began with a clean-up day on Saturday, April 27th. All were welcome, young and old alike, to come and work with our neighbors in Slavic Village to get the neighborhood spruced up. They brought shovels, weed whackers, and wheelbarrows and spent the day getting ready for summer in the Slavic Village. But that was just the beginning... keep your eye on the bulletin for information on more clean-up day opportunities throughout the summer!



Another way you might want to get involved in Slavic Village is through our partnership with **Habitat for Humanity**. Beginning in June, Habitat will be rehabbing abandoned homes on Clement Ave. Skilled labor work is needed with these rehabs, so if you have skills with plumbing, electrical or woodworking, we need you! There are also opportunities for those of you who would like to paint or do some clean-up on the property. We would love to establish a crew who would like to take this project to completion.

Finally, Holy Angels will be volunteering to help with **Rebuilding Together**, another organization doing rehab work in Slavic Village. There will be a Rebuilding Together Day in Slavic Village in July so look for the bulletin notices with more information.

Holy Angels is a church with many wonderful, giving people. Let's help our neighbors in Slavic Village get their neighborhood back to the beauty it once had and in doing so we will find friendship and God's love in our work.

For more information or to volunteer in the Slavic Village Mission work, contact Mickey LoPresti at mickey.lopresti@gmail.com.