

# Charitable Outreach at OLH

## Purpose & Policies

March 1, 2015

### SUMMARY

Why Do We Reach Out?

To Whom Do We Reach Out?

How Do We Reach Out?

What Are Sources of Income For Charitable Outreach?

In an effort to be more faithful to the Gospel and more effective in reaching out to people in need, we are always clarifying **why** we reach out, **to whom** we reach out, and **how** we reach out, and **what are the sources of funding** for charitable outreach? The following criteria are intended to guide our efforts to be a compassionate community.

### 1. Why do we reach out ?

Reaching out to people in need is an essential part of our mission as a Christian community. Jesus continually modeled and mandated service to others as a primary requirement for discipleship. We cannot understand or preach that message unless we are working to bring about changes in social attitudes and structures that oppose the Gospel message.

### 2. To whom do we reach out ?

As disciples of Jesus, whose compassion included all people, we make conscious efforts to direct our time, talent and financial assistance to local concerns, national concerns and global concerns. We are particularly concerned about people who are marginalized, institutionalized or homebound.

### 3. How do we reach out ?

Through direct service and advocacy we identify with people who suffer in any way. We offer compassion in the form of time, talent and financial assistance. We also work to correct the social forces that cause suffering. We do so in the following ways.

#### i. Participation in Charitable Activities

We encourage members of the parish to give of their time and talent to projects that:

- render service to people who are sick, bereaved, homebound or incarcerated
- care for the environment
- educate about peacemaking and promoting social justice
- advocate for people with special needs

## ii. Welcoming Charitable Organizations -

Because we receive numerous requests from charitable organizations, who want to do fundraising at OLH, we use the following criteria in deciding which requests to support:

- Each year we schedule 10 second collections for the charities designated by the USCCB. Those collections benefit national and international organizations or projects.
- Each year the Human Development Committee designates 2 additional charitable organizations to promote their work and accept our donations. The decision is made in July, the beginning of the fiscal year. These criteria should be used to guide the decision:
  - The organization or project should have 501 (c) (3) tax exempt status.
  - The mission of the organization or project should not be contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church.
  - The organization or project should have available an annual report.
  - The organization or project should allow for parish involvement of time and talent, not just financial donations.
  - our involvement should make a significant impact on the success of the organization or project.

iii. **Charitable Grants** – Grants for charitable activities are intended for individuals and families who are in acute need of food, shelter or transportation and live within the geographic boundaries of our parish. This is done through the C.A.N. Project.

## 4. What Are Sources of Income For Charitable Outreach ?

- a. **OLH Charity Account** – Donations to the Charity Account are our main source of funding. All donations benefit all our charitable outreach activities.
- b. **Weekly Collections** – We want to assure that the parish is always remembering the poor and needy, notwithstanding our deficit operating budget. In balancing both concerns, we allocate 1% of our weekly collections and 100% of all donations to the Poor Box, to the OLH Charity account.
- c. **Fundraisers** – Our main fundraising for charity is done at Christmastime and benefits all our charitable outreach activities.