

SPECIAL NEWSLETTER FROM SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE (SJC)

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy, for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.’” (Luke 2:10-11)

Thank you to all the volunteers of SJC as well as the generous supporters for the different projects.

May God bless you all.
Fr. Lukose C.M.F.



An Expression of Gratitude from the Social Justice Committee

During the month of November, you may have felt that there was a continuous appeal for assistance from many different groups of your fellow parishioners. Indeed, there was a concentrated effort to make up for lost opportunities resulting from the pandemic's effect on our lives. In case you felt overwhelmed below is a summary of those appeals.

Development and Peace Campaign Nov 14-15 Recovering together

D&P, the national organization founded by the Catholic Bishops 50 years ago, has an annual appeal in Lent which had to be cancelled this year. The Recovering together campaign was focused on providing support to the less developed countries struggling to cope with the ravages of the virus. Their international partner organization, Caritas Internationalis, carries out the dispensing of aid through their contacts in the host country. More information about D&P can be found at devp.org. The collection from Holy Cross Parish was \$1,257.

Ottawa South Conference of the St Vincent de Paul

SSVP supports the poor in our city in many ways. There are two stores in Ottawa which sell clothing and furniture items donated by many of us. The proceeds are used to provide for families in need with vouchers for food, clothing, and furniture. Volunteers with the Conference respond to requests for assistance by visiting the families in their homes to understand their needs and provide gift certificates for essentials. Our Conference also hosts parish-centered events such as the bottle drive, food drive and clothing drive, annually. The North of 60 annual project gathers food items of usefulness to people in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. The people of this village become the beneficiaries of these donated items which are sent by cargo ship once a year before the ice pack forms.

If any of our parishioners are in need of help through SVP, the parish representatives will be happy to reach out to them.

Debra Dynes Family House

This community is located within a few kilometres of the parish and is home to 500 children and 300 adults. The residents are lower income and working poor who need assistance provided through the Family House which has a lunch program, raises funds for scholarships and disperses donations such as school supplies, clothing, and Holiday gifts to those most in need. Holy Cross volunteers and parishioners have been most helpful over 10 years helping in these many ways. This year parishioners were asked to direct their monetary donations to DDFH directly in November for the Bright Futures Scholarships which awards post-secondary scholarships for Debra Dynes residents.

Food Drive Nov 28-29

Three times a year the parish is asked to donate food to stock the shelves at four local food banks or agencies. The four are Banff Ave. Community House, Debra Dynes Family House, Greenboro Pavilion Food Bank and Heron Emergency Food Centre. The next food drive is planned for the First Sunday of Lent at masses on February 20 & 21.

Some parishioners have in the past, contributed donations weekly and their donations have been delivered to the food banks. This activity has been suspended until further notice.

Mitts, Hats and Scarves Clothing Drive Nov 28-29

Club 55+ initiated an appeal for winter clothing to fill the gaps in winter clothing which schools and communities face during our winter. The very generous response was sorted and delivered to Debra Dynes Family House, Holy Cross, Holy Family, Prince of Peace, and St Patrick's schools. The recipients greatly appreciated the items which will be used to warm newly arrived refugee children and those who have lost their mittens or destroyed them in rough housing at recess.

Elimu

Based in Kenya the focus of this charity is on empowering learners of all kinds, especially youth, women, and other vulnerable members of society, in achieving their educational and work-related goals. Founded by Nina Chung, a parishioner, who has dedicated her life to this work, it is supported at Holy Cross most notably by a barbecue in August which this year was replaced by a virtual one in September. Elimu is a registered charity and information is found about its work at Elimu.ca.

The recipients of Holy Cross Charity in the year 2020 are:

- Chalice – Sponsorship project for children
- St. Joe's Supper Table
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Elimu
- Miriam Centre
- Claretian Missionaries
- Catholic Christian Outreach
- Shepherds of Good Hope
- Queenship of Mary Community
- Banff Community House
- Debra Dynes Family House



Monthly Charities Envelope

Included with your envelopes for weekly offerings is a monthly envelope marked Parish Charities. The funds from this source are used by Father as the need arises.

For all of the above charity, Father Lukose and the members of the Social Justice Committee thank you for your continued generosity and support of these causes. The parish has a local, national, and international outreach through these programs. There is much still to be done to fulfill our aspirations as Christians and to love our neighbors as ourselves. SJC members are few in number and welcome recruits to assist in any ministries under our banner. Contact Mike Brady at brady1760@gmail.com. The causes are worthwhile and the friendship and fellowship that develops are heartwarming. We support one another and are in turn supported by you the parishioners. For these gifts we are most thankful and wish you a Joyful Christmas.

SJC Members: Fran Hadley (Club55+), Brigitta Fernandez & Mike Brady (D&P), Geri & Bob Laird (DDFH), Nina Chung (Elimu), Joanne Lynn (Food Drive), Pauline Houlahan (SSVP).

