

January 15, 2021

Dear Friends,

As 2020 has come to a close, we find ourselves humbled and grateful for the opportunities God has provided for Social Concerns this year. In spite of the difficult situation our country has faced with COVID; and the economic hardships many people are still experiencing, Social Concerns has been able to continue the same level of assistance that we always have. This could not have happened without your faithful, generous support. We continue to prayerfully consider all requests, and seek the Lords guidance in all of our decisions.

We continue to support Bridges of St. Mark, Foundation Dinners and Shelter, along with Pregnancy Decision Health Center with semi-annual donations. We coordinated the Nine Days for Life Novena, The Spiritual Baby Program, Project ABC school supply program, and the Religious Freedom Week Program in cooperation with the Knights. We received a grant from the Fairfield County Foundation in support of our Holiday Giving Projects, which include gift cards for Seton Senior Apartments residents to assist them in purchasing Thanksgiving Dinner items. Christmas gift baskets containing fresh fruit, nuts, cookies, and a giving tree gift card were provided to residents of Seton Apartments, Windsor Place Senior Apartment residents, and others referred through parishioners. As we have done in the past Social Concerns organized the Job and Family Services Giving Tree Program for Families. We also provided funds to assist with the purchase of food items to help stock the food pantry at Windsor Place for needy low income seniors.

In 2020 we have continued to help individuals and families with a wide variety of assistance requests, such as home and auto repairs, utility bills, medication, funeral expenses, and work boots. As the Federal COVID assistance for housing expenses is winding down, we are seeing a spike in the number of housing assistance requests. Almost all of these additional requests are related to job layoffs and decreased hours at work due to COVID. We expect these requests to continue for some time at an elevated rate.

It is our privilege to represent St. Mark in this important mission to the poor and needy. We would welcome anyone interested in helping with one project or all.

On behalf of the Social Concerns Team,

Jan Zerovnik