

Outreach Commission Report
January 10, 2017
Ralph Parchment, Chair

Most Recent Meeting – November 7, 2016

Next Scheduled Meeting – Tuesday, February 7, 2017

Outreach Ministry Updates

- Advent Giving Tree - The Giving Tree was a huge success thanks to the generosity of time, talent and treasure of the St Ann parishioners. St Ann supplied over 500 Christmas gifts for local citizens. Volunteers helped write gift tags and sort and distribute gifts.
- Bereavement –currently, 30 volunteers provide food and do the set-up and clean-up for lunch receptions for families and friends after a funeral.
- Children in Need – four collections each year, which separates CiN from Loaves & Fishes and Micah's Backpack.
- Communications – The winter St Ann Reaches Out newsletter was distributed in the December 10/11 bulletin, reporting on nearly all the ministries. A special thanks to Kathy Sebrosky who once again was a terrific help in editing and formatting the document
- English and More – Three-four St Ann parishioners are weekly volunteers, and the center averages 5-6 students per day during the winter/spring due to young children being at home.
- Habitat for Humanity/Apostles Build – no change, hoping for a 2017 Apostles Build
- Haiti Parish Partnership – It will be a busy winter/spring. Father Alexis will be visiting at the end of February. Littlest Angels campaign starts Ash Wednesday. Summer Camp planning is going well, and the team is almost finalized. The music ministry is going well, and Father Alexis will provide an update. The Rosary making is going very well and on schedule, thanks to a group of regular volunteers who help make them.
- Holly Place - currently 10 volunteers provide a meal three times a month to the residents of Holly Place, a low income senior citizen home.
- Loaves and Fishes – One volunteer is scheduled each month to collect the donated food and deliver the food collection to the St Mark's food bank on the following Monday/Tuesday.
- Maryland Catholic Conference Lobby Night – Too early in the season to report
- Micah's Backpack – Our volunteers are shopping, packing and delivering weekend food bags to Maugansville Elementary School each week, and the number of children being served is up to 22 students (up from 16-20).

Clayton Wilcox has resigned from his position as Superintendent of the WCPS system, to become the next superintendent of the Charlotte, NC school system on July 1, 2017. During the December School Board meeting, he announced tentative plans to leave WCPS in mid-March. He was a strong supporter of achieving the "effectiveness triad" for public school students via partnerships with charities and faith communities, which is a proven strategy that works in Washington County as well as in Haiti: education, nutrition and health. His departure has unpredictable consequences for this strategy.

- REACH Cold Weather Shelter - St Ann will sponsor the week of January 22-28th. Only 20 volunteer positions are still open, out of 123 total positions for the week. The center opened Oct 23rd for 7 days each week from 7 pm-7 am. Last year's 46 bed count for men was reduced to 30 because two grants were funded to subsidize the move into housing. Maximum stay is 3 nights except for Washington County residents.

- Shawl Shepherds - The group knits and crochets scarves and hats for REACH, in addition to the prayer shawls.

Ministry Fair on January 21-22

- Several Outreach Ministry Teams have signed up to participate: Bereavement, English & More, Haiti Outreach, Holly Place, Maryland Catholic Conference, Micah's Backpack, Parish Nursing, REACH Cold Weather Shelter, and Communications
- Copies of this winter's St Ann Reaches Out Newsletter will be available for interested parishioners to take with them.

Commission Sponsorship of a Soup Supper – inquiries have been emailed to the team leaders with a request to contact Donna Louzon.

Commission Goals

- Effective internal and external communication about Outreach missions
- Continuity of Commission leadership and mission teams
- Fill gaps in Outreach mission opportunities so every parishioner has one or more opportunities to put faith into action
 - Post-confirmation youth
 - Young adults
 - Retired parishioners
 - Parishioners who cannot drive (“the accessible parish”)