

FROM OUR PASTOR (Fr. Joseph Mary Lukyamuzi)

This week we continue our annual reporting to the parish by highlighting our Social Ministries. At the root of social ministry lies a profound hope. It is a hope which emanates from the promise of the Lord who says: ***“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’”(Matthew 25: 34-36)*** And again: ***“These are they who have come out of great tribulation—they shall neither hunger nor thirst anymore and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”*** (Revelation 7:14) That hope springs from the prayer of Jesus, who at the time of death spoke to the Father, ***“I have brought glory to you here on earth by doing everything you gave me to do.”*** (John 17:4)

This prayer becomes our prayer in our social ministry as we take care of the needs of others; and with what awesome results - to glorify the Father and to look forward to enjoying the fullness of life with the heavenly Father! The work for us is to bring the world to Christ. Parish Social Ministry is the empowerment of a parish as the people of God to fulfill the Church’s mission of love, justice, freedom, and peace. We, communally, respond in organized ways to societal and individual human needs. We provide ongoing support through the following ministries: **1- Downtown Outreach 2- IMPACT 3- Haiti 4- Uganda Partners 5- Right to Life**

Parish Social Ministry is staffed by our ministry Chair, Chuck McCurdy, who coordinates our parish volunteers for each particular committee. *Holy Comforter Downtown Outreach* has provided the most effective and most appropriate assistance to those in need under the supervision of Ann Friedlander and Bridget Davis. We are very grateful to the staff and volunteers who are so helpful in this ministry.

GIFTS FROM GOD

Offertory February 4-5, 2017 (Plate)	\$5,901.50
Offertory (Online)	3,724.00
Outreach	475
Justice and Peace	316
Haiti	286
Weekly Offertory Budget	\$7,173.00
Offertory Received	9,625.50
Surplus	\$2,452.50

SOCIAL MINISTRIES END OF YEAR REPORT 2016

DOWNTOWN OUTREACH (by Ann Friedlander)

There are so many people and organizations that have supported Outreach this year! **Holy Comforter Church parishioners** have been incredible with their donations and their time. The **Angel Tree project** in December was so successful that we ran out of Angel tags. Thank you to the families who shared their Christmas with those in need, and to Father Joseph Mary for his pulpit announcements.

During the year, the **Diocese of Richmond, Office of Social Ministries**, awarded \$2,500 to our Downtown Outreach Committee. This award helped to provide hygiene items for food pantry bags, and fresh fruit and salads for the soup kitchen menus.

Food Pantry volunteers and Soup Kitchen volunteers deserve a HUGE “Thank you” for their dedication, especially during the downstairs renovation’s dust and construction noise. This past year, the **Food Pantry provided 3,421 food bags** to families in the area. This count includes over twenty home-bound recipients who have their monthly bags delivered to them by **Love, Inc.** and by the **manager at Parkview apartments**. The Soup Kitchen **volunteers served 9,143 meals** during the year, in spite of the kitchen being a major part of the downstairs renovation. The volunteers served the same high-quality meals each week, and worked around and with the very cooperative and understanding contractors.

During 2016, we continued to receive bread, bakery, meat, produce and deli items from **two Food Lion stores**, and **two Kroger stores**, all at no cost. **Albemarle Baking Company** continued to supply us with their wonderful breads, pastries and cookies (which are served at the hospitality table of Sunday Masses.)

In addition to these donors, here are some groups and people who help us do God’s work of helping those less fortunate in our community:

St. Thomas Aquinas parishioners who donated 3,944 pounds of food pantry food and 726 pounds of soup kitchen sandwiches; **Charlottesville Catholic School** students and parents who donated 902 pounds of food pantry food during their spring food drive, and 616 pounds of soup kitchen sandwiches; **Crozet Catholic Community** members who provided hygiene and food pantry donations; **Congregation Beth Israel** members who continue to donate delicious soups, casseroles, salads and sandwiches; **Widow’s Sons Lodge #60** for donating 155 pounds of food pantry and soup kitchen items; **The Greene County Women’s Club** for donating 710 pounds of food pantry items; **The Double Tree Hotel** whose food drive brought us 143 pounds of food pantry items; **The Dollar Tree at Pantops** whose food drive

brought us 383 pounds of food pantry items; **Broadus Baptist Church** whose members supply our soup kitchen guests with bottled water during the hot summer months; **The Egg Salad Sandwich Lady** who brings her wonderful sandwiches every week, all year; **The Hard-boiled Egg Man** who brings us hard-boiled, peeled eggs every week, all year; **The CSM (Campus Social Ministries) students** who regularly donate sandwiches; **The Pet Food Lady** who donates dog and cat food each month; **Tip Top Restaurant** which is our soup kitchen source for boxes of 2-pack saltines; and **All of the people who donate** to the Food Pantry or Soup Kitchen in honor or in memory of a loved one.

One of Pope Francis's Top Ten Tips to Happiness is: "Be giving of yourself to others." Thank you all for your generous support of our ministry, our volunteers and our families in the community who benefit from your willingness to share your time, talents and donations. Thank you and God bless you.

IMPACT (by *Chuck McCurdy*) (Interfaith Movement for Promoting Action by Congregations Together)

Holy Comforter was a founding member of this organization that completed its tenth year in 2016. There are two important developments to report:

UVA Health Careers Pathways

In 2011, IMPACT learned from our parish/congregation meetings that youth struggling to find jobs and decent pay was a problem. Subsequent research showed the unemployment rate for people aged 16 to 31 was three times higher than for any other age group in Charlottesville. IMPACT asked the UVA Medical Center to invest in our local workforce by providing free job training for entry-level healthcare jobs. After three years of IMPACT persistence, the **UVA Medical Center** committed to a two-year pilot program to provide free CNA (certified nurse's assistant) training, transportation, on-the-job experience, and mentorship for 40 people over two years. The pilot program ended in December 2016. It was a fantastic success. By partnering with Charlottesville Works Initiative, more than three-fourths of the students completed the program and all but one of them became CNAs and each of them has a job in the health-care sector. But there is still more. The **Charlottesville Works Initiative** will continue the program with federal, state, and private funds and will quadruple its capacity—that is, provide free training for 80 CNAs in 2017.

Women's Treatment Center

In 2014 we learned that over 3,000 people who go through our regional jail each year are battling addiction. In 2015 we persuaded **Region Ten** to begin planning for a **facility for women**. We focused on women because

Charlottesville-Albemarle has a facility for men while women needing residential treatment to address their addictions must travel 70 miles, leaving family and community behind. The facility is now under construction on Old Lynchburg Road. It will treat up to 50 women per year; each woman will be able to bring up to two preschool aged children with her. To date, Region Ten has raised nearly \$700,000 of the \$1 million goal for the capital campaign. But these funds don't cover operating costs. At the 2016 Nehemiah Action, IMPACT got personal commitments from three city councilors and three county supervisors to support a line item of \$75,000 for operating costs if that sum is in their locality's budget. IMPACT is now working to make sure the operating funds get appropriated.

HAITI ST. MICHEL PARISH (by *Ginny Zeller*)

The Haiti twinning parishes of Holy Comforter and St. Thomas continued to raise money in 2016 for construction of the first clinic to provide ongoing health care in our sister parish, St. Michael. A fundraiser in December netted approximately \$30,000, enabling completion of the clinic in time for a March 2017 dedication. The people of Saltadere have provided labor for the project and formed committees to oversee the clinic in partnership with Fr. Petina. St. Michael School has grown to over 900 students as it continues to provide a fine education and a hot meal to the parish children.

UGANDA PARTNERS (by *Theresa Lynch*)

In 2016 **Uganda Partners Committee** was established under **Parish Social Ministry** to help the poor in the remote villages of Kitasiba and Kamuzinda in Southern Uganda. We collected \$10,000 for solar kits to replace polluting kerosene lamps which were used to light the little homes in the villages. The money was used to purchase and install the kits in about half of the village homes. This project will continue into 2017.

Other members of the committee are: Liz Wetzel, Pat Coldewey, Donna Lazar, Kelton Flinn and Diane Auger-Smith

RIGHT TO LIFE (by *Parish Administration Staff*)

In keeping with Catholic tradition, Holy Comforter parishioners support the Right to Life. Every year we March for Life and participate in 40 Days for Life activities. In 2016 we contributed \$596 to the Diocese Respect Life campaign. Jo Jo Dorss organized a renovation project of the baby room at The Pregnancy Centers of Central Virginia with donations from parishioners, and an additional \$960 was sent there thanks to your generosity.

PARISH NEWS

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please call the parish office at 295-7185, to arrange to receive Holy Communion or a visit by Fr. Joseph Mary.

THE ILL & HOME BOUND:

Parishioners: Normand Auger, Mike Charlie, Frances Charlie, Clyde Pax, Jack Andrews, Shawn Simpson-Smith, Mary Fusco, Eileen Foster, Jack Valloric, Tam Nguyen, Rachel Witt, Jack Andrews, Joe Murray, Helen Edwards, Betty Jane Prufer, Fran Cannon Slayton, Ron Lavis, Michael Ludgate, Frank Pologruto, Al Bracuti, Norman Bednarczyk, Nicholas Sisman, Mary Ann Williams, Rose Bowker, Hermann Ortmann, Katherine Russo, Charley Moore, Kitty Moore.

Friends and Relatives: Thomas Johnson, Brenda Gayle Johnson, Sue Newman, Ron Lavis, James Worley, Carolyn Ann Davis, Andy Gillespie, Michael James McNeil, JoAnn Fox Klein, George Lilly, The Campbell Family, Fred Crane, Bill Eddy, Susan Steeby, Lisa Marshall, John Lank, Susan Straub Martin, George William Polhill, II, Claudia Hartland, Betsy Boyce, Michael Norton, Josephine Nampijja, Grace Dawn Wicke, Melyssa Dove, Nicole Carpenter, Beth Mauk, Evan Dotas, Dave Halley, Cullen McQuhae, Bill & Marie Jones, Christine Bentéjac, David Rumpf, Mrs. Jessica Viglietta, Pam D. Goines, Charlie Previtali, Nicole Shaw, Jean Clayton, Rich Hawkins, Kimberly Hasenfus Hulick, Kristin Fagan, June Atherton, Natalie Potter, Harper Grace, J. Sloan, Paul Hillard, Dale Evans, Marie Johnston, Suzanne Lank, Diane Schmidt, Earl Scheetz, Shirley O'Rourke, Xavier Van Bastelaer, Mary Griffin, Makala Thomas, Sibylle Llewellyn, Duncan Nixon, John Patrick Dennison, Christine Russo Carpenter, Elaine Roberti, Benedict Pax, Jerry Colgate, Timothy Lee Smith, Ned Foss & Jennifer Rinehart, Janet Dunham, Fr. Michael Hann, Fr. Joseph Torretto, Mike Charlie, Joel Rivera, Pam Heron, Elizabeth Scott, Kwasi Johnson, Marianne Rossner, Angie Lee, Residents of Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women, Residents of Albemarle County Regional Jail, Residents of Blue Ridge Juvenile Detention, In memory of James Brazell.

Members of the Military: Tom Logan, William Murray, Trey Linebrink, Jeff Woodside, David Alvey, Jamie Torbet, Mike Eiermann, Charles G. Ellison, Eric Emmott, and Matthew Mickiewicz.

WELCOME OUR NEWEST PARISHIONER

Zane Jones

STEWARDSHIP FAIR MARCH 18-19

Stewardship is a rewarding way of living. It is a lifestyle of accountability and responsibility. It is the acknowledging of God as the creator and the owner of all. Christian stewards see themselves as the caretaker of all of God's gifts. Gratitude for these many gifts is expressed in our prayer, worship, offerings and action. Our Stewardship efforts are a way of thanking God for all our blessings by returning to God a portion of the many gifts. There is an old saying that further exemplifies stewardship: "You have not lived until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

ADULT FORMATION

You are still welcome to join our adult study on Pope Francis's Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia, The Joy of Love*. We meet following the 8:30 AM Mass in the chapel. Pope Francis has an important message for families, and it is a great way to spend the hour while your children are in Religious Education classes!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY

Our next class will take place on **Sunday, Feb. 26**. This will be a SOCIAL, as we gather for a fun afternoon at the Escape Room on the Downtown Mall at 3:00 followed by Christian's pizza. Be sure that you have let Sue know if you plan to attend so that you can be registered.

FIRST SACRAMENTS

The First Sacraments Class meets **THIS Sunday, February 12 at 9:45**. The next class, **February 26**, is **required attendance for all students** as it will be the practice for First Reconciliation, which will take place on **Saturday, March 4 at 11:00 AM**.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION PRE-K-8

Please note that classes will NOT meet on Sunday, Feb. 19 due to the President's holiday. Classes will resume on Sunday, February 26.

COMMUNITY CHOIR FOR CHILDREN

Brian Souza, Music Director at St. Thomas Aquinas, is starting a community choir for children in grades 3 - 8. No prior musical experience is necessary. Choristers may attend either the Monday practices at Crozet United Methodist Church from 5:30-7pm or the Thursday practices at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Charlottesville from 5:30-7pm. Please contact Brian at childrenschoircentralVA@gmail.com to schedule a 10 minute interview.

SAINTS TO REMEMBER

February 12 St. Saturninus and Companions
 13 St. Catherine de Ricci
 14 St. Valentine
 15 St. Claude de la Colombiere
 16 St. Onesimus
 17 Founders of the Orders of Servites
 18 St. Simon of Jerusalem

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 11
8 AM Living and Deceased Schneider Children (Lisa Schneider)
5 PM Birthday of Anna Witkowski (The Witkowski Family)
 Sunday, February 12
8:30 AM †Hamilton C. Davis (Beth and Matt Quatrara)
11 AM Members of our Parish
1:30 PM Members of and Visitors to our Parish
 Monday, February 13
NOON Birthday of Annie Gilstrap (Dorothy Gilstrap)
 Saturday, February 18
5 PM Birthday of Witold Witkowski (The Witkowski Family)
 Sunday, February 19
8:30 AM †Hamilton C. Davis (Nancy and Paul Dierdorf)
11:00 AM Members of our Parish

**NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS
 SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

First Reading
 Leviticus 19:1–2, 17–18
 Be holy, for I, the Lord, your God, am holy.
Responsorial Psalm
 Psalm 103: 1–4, 8, 10, 12–13
 Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness.
Second Reading
 1 Corinthians 3:16–23
 Are you not aware that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?
Gospel Reading
 Matthew 5:38–48
 My command to you is: love your enemies, pray for your persecutors.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

SATURDAY (2/11)

8 AM: MASS
3:30-4:30 PM: Reconciliation (*Chapel*)
5 PM Vigil MASS

SUNDAY (2/12) SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Altar Flowers Provided by The Mackey Family)

7-7:45 AM: Reconciliation (*Chapel*)
8:30 AM: MASS
9:40-10:50 AM: RCIA (*CRE Office*)
9:45-10:45 AM: Pre-K-8 Christian Formation (*Lower*)
9:45-10:45 AM: Adult Formation:
Amoris Laetitia, The Joy of Love (*Chapel*)
11:00 AM: MASS
1:30 PM: Latin MASS
4 PM: Confirmation (*CRE Office*)

MONDAY (2/13)

10:30 AM: Divine Will Prayer Group (*Chapel*)
NOON: MASS
7 PM: Parish Council Meeting (*Lower Level*)

TUESDAY (2/14)

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry
NOON: MASS

WEDNESDAY (2/15)

10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry
NOON: MASS
NOON: AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)
6:15 PM Rosary Prayer Group (*Chapel*)
7 PM: Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY (2/16)

7 AM: MASS (*Please note time change*)
NOON: Soup Kitchen

FRIDAY (2/17)

8 AM: MASS
10 AM-NOON: Food Pantry
NOON: AA Meeting (*Lower Level*)

SATURDAY (2/18)

8 AM: MASS
3:30-4:30 PM: Reconciliation (*Chapel*)
5 PM Vigil MASS

SUNDAY (2/19) SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(Altar Flowers Provided by Anonymous Donation)

7-7:45 AM: Reconciliation (*Chapel*)
8:30 AM: MASS
9:40-10:50 AM: RCIA (*CRE Office*)
9:45-10:45 AM: Adult Formation:
Amoris Laetitia, The Joy of Love (*Chapel*)
11:00 AM: MASS