

Holy Family Outreach

Bringing New Life, Hope
and Healing to our Community



Issue 5: March 2016

Outreach Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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Inside this issue:

- Brian's Corner 2
- Rediscover
Mercy 2
- Client Profile: 3
Mercy Begets
Mercy
- Corporal Works 3
of Mercy Ideas
- Partner Profile: 4
The Salvation
Army



Jubilee Year of Mercy



Madonna of the Streets

Holy Family Outreach Prayer

Come Holy Spirit
Give us patience and
understanding to live
this day your
way. Bring to us the
unity of working
together to help those
in need. We are here
to do your plan without
being prejudiced or
judgmental, but with
kindness and
humility. We ask this
through Christ our
Lord. Amen.



**Donate to Outreach
through the Online
Giving Program at
[https://
www.osvonline
giving.com/1417](https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1417)**

Brian's Corner

When we first started this newsletter in 2014, we had the intention of giving a face to the clients we serve. Their situations are as varied as the number of individuals. They all have one thing in common with each other: a need for mercy.

We strive to show them loving support with food, clothes, a sympathetic ear, or a prayer. We may be the only contact in their day who will listen to their

story of hardships.

It is very heartwarming when we come across a client who is like the one highlighted in the Client Profile this month. She has little but considers that, with God's help, it will be enough to help others also. She continually extends a merciful hand to others.

I pray that we all might find a way to be merciful to those in our lives.

Brian Holyfield



Pope Francis has proclaimed for the Church a Jubilee Year of Mercy. He writes, "At times we are called to gaze even more attentively on mercy so that we may become a more effective sign of God's action in our lives." The Pope wants all of us to more deeply experience God's mercy so that we in turn can show that mercy to others. An important question, though, is what is mercy?

Mercy at its core has to do with restoring what has been lost. For example, imagine if we were walking down the street and we see someone trip and fall. We could keep on walking and leave the person on the ground, but mercy demands that we stop and help because we recognize a loss

has occurred – in this case, the good of being upright! Hence, the divine mercy of God seeks to restore us to our rightful relationship with Him that we have lost through sin and selfishness.

The mercy we show to others on a physical level seeks to restore what is missing, be that even the basic needs of food, water, or shelter. We can sometimes think that mercy simply means accepting people. Mercy, however, is always an act of restoration in which we receive people where they are, but we love them too much to leave them there. That is thankfully how God loves us and He calls us to do the same!

Fr. Gary Koenigsknecht

Client Profile: Mercy Begets Mercy

This is a story about a woman with a really big heart and open arms. Lydia lives with her husband and her mother. She is caregiver to both. Her husband is disabled and her mother is wheelchair bound due to a stroke, which occurred during brain surgery.

Lydia also has been raising two of her godchildren, who are sisters. She has had the 12-year-old since three months old and the sister is eight years old. Lydia has had her from birth. Lydia has now also taken in a third sister of the children.

Even though Lydia is on a fixed budget, she never turns anyone away. She housed her mother-in-law for awhile, as well as a teenage boy who belonged to a friend of hers. The boy had behavior issues and was asked to leave after he stole money from her.

A friend had a 14-year-old girl who got pregnant. The girl was afraid to

tell her mother. Lydia helped her break the news and ultimately took her and the baby in.

One would think Lydia and her family have more than they can handle, yet another event happens that changes her world. Lydia had a sister who was a mother of four young children. The children's ages are 6, 4, 3 and 1. This past summer, on a trip to northern Michigan with her boyfriend, the sister was killed. Lydia cries while telling the story. She shared that there is an ongoing investigation into the incident. Lydia just won custody of the two youngest children. The two older children are with their father. The father doesn't have a stable home disposition or lifestyle to take in the younger children.

Lydia and her husband have an open door to anyone who needs a warm home and care. They greatly appreciate the help they receive from the Food Pantry. It helps them feed the most vulnerable in their lives.



“Two works of mercy set a person free; **Forgive** and you will be forgiven, and **Give** and you shall receive.”

St. Augustine

Corporal Works of Mercy Ideas

Feed the hungry. Invite someone, who lives alone, over for dinner.

Give drink to the thirsty. Know someone in Flint? Help to make sure they have filtered water.

Clothe the naked. Donate used and/or new clothing to appropriate charities.

Shelter the homeless. Have nutrition bars and bottled water handy, in your car, for the homeless.

Visit the sick. Reach out, in support, to someone with an addiction.

Visit the imprisoned. Pray for victims of violent crimes.

Bury the dead. Pray outside an abortion clinic. Have a Mass said for someone who has died.



**Would you like to
volunteer with our
North End
Soup Kitchen
Teams?**

Contact
Liz Manzo
at
(810) 603-2611



**Interested in
volunteering for
Family Promise
with our
Holy Family
team?**

Contact
Amy Deloney at
(810) 444-2376
or
amdel143@
hotmail.com

Partner Profile: The Salvation Army



When we think of the Salvation Army, many of us think of the red kettles in front of businesses around Christmas. The Salvation Army is so much more. The Salvation Army started in London England in 1852 by William Booth and his wife Catherine. Booth wanted to take the gospel to the streets to the most vulnerable and lost people in London. They ended up setting residence in a Quaker graveyard. Today, the Salvation Army is international. The Army started in the states in 1879. The organization not only gives Christmas assistance, but also prison ministries, aid to families and children, world services, disaster relief and so much more.

The Holy Family Outreach partners with the Salvation Army in assisting people with unmanageable Consumer bills and the risk of losing power. If a family is without power and has children, the Department of Social Services and Child Protection Services has to get involved.

Yvonne Davis is a caseworker at the Flint Salvation Army office. She mostly deals with this challenge in our community. Yvonne feels the most important thing is to help the most vulnerable people in this country. "I can help those who can't help themselves" said Yvonne.

The Army has an intake office, which uses a "Ten-Caller System." Yvonne describes it as a grueling process. This means that every day she and others can take ten calls regarding utilities, two calls regarding water, and one call needing help with rent. After that quota, they shut down the phone requests. These calls result in an appointment at the office the next day.

The persons then have difficult requirements to prove income. They need their Social Security statement, or if they are employed, three to five paycheck stubs. They need the proof of the shut-off notice, plus any other bills they pay each month. Assistance in managing budgets is done if it is apparent that someone is having difficulty getting a budget system set. "We want to help you not have to need us again," says Davis.

Each core of the Salvation Army gets a credit for their discretionary spending each year. This year they have \$33,000. Consumers Energy provides \$900,000 each year nationally in matching funds of donors to this charity. People can help match a particular bill as a donation up to \$6,000. LOVE Incorporated also helps match when possible. There are funds also donated from local sources such as the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

**Blessed are the merciful for they
shall obtain mercy. Matthew 5:7**