

JUSTICE, PEACE, AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

End-of-Year Report: 2018 to 2019

The year began with launching a year-long journey to explore what “Doing God’s Work in Love” looks like at Holy Cross. The goal of the year was to include opportunities to learn about our faith, learn about the needs of the Durham community, care for one another, pray together, and see how we are called to walk with Jesus and follow Jesus out into the world as healers of brokenness and as advocates for justice and peace.

This report summarizes the efforts of the Justice, Peace and Human Development Commission in achieving this ambitious goal.

FAMILIES MOVING FORWARD

Mission: To partner with other Durham congregations and service organizations to provide meals and childcare on a quarterly basis for families in temporary housing at Families Moving Forward who are transitioning from homelessness.

From July 2018 to May 2019, Holy Cross provided 45 meals to families. Four volunteers consistently served meals and provided childcare.



QUILTING MINISTRY

MISSION: To provide care and encouragement to parishioners who are permanently or temporarily homebound due to major surgery, as well as citizens in the Durham Community who are in need.

From July 2018 to May 2019, the members of the Holy Cross Quilting Ministry gave 48 quilts to parishioners and Durham citizens. There was over a 100 percent increase in the number of quilts given. Often one of the members would take Communion to parishioners who are homebound.



SHARE YOUR THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS

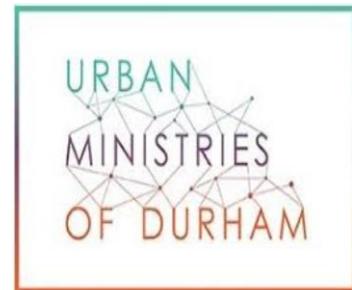
MISSION: To partner with Catholic Charities to provide families who are food insufficient with a Thanksgiving meal, and Christmas gift cards for families who seek assistance from Catholic Charities.

Thanksgiving 2018, Holy Cross donated enough funds to provide 72 families with a meal that included a turkey, stuffing, vegetables, bread and dessert. For Christmas, parishioners donated money so that the Coordinators could purchase 64 gift cards

URBAN MINISTRIES COMMUNITY CAFÉ CASSEROLES

MISSION: To support the Urban Ministries of Durham in providing dinner meals to citizens who live in the shelter and citizens who need a meal.

From July 2018 to May 2019, parishioners cooked and donated 127 casseroles.



POVERTY AWARENESS MONTH

MISSION: To increase parishioners' understanding about poverty in the Durham community, the state, the nation, and the world.

During January 2019, activities were posted on the website and handouts were available in the Gathering Space to give parishioners of all ages opportunities to learn more about poverty and to develop a concern for our brothers and sisters who have limited wealth resources. The service project for the month was to collect donated toiletry supplies, nonperishable food items, and money to purchase gift cards to give to the city's "Welcome Home Project". Three complete boxes were donated and \$125 in gift cards.

BACKPACK BUDDIES PROGRAM

MISSION: To partner with Interfaith Food Shuttle to provide kid-friendly nutritious food for students in Durham schools who come from low-wealth families. Food is distributed to students for weekends when free and reduced breakfasts and lunches are not available. From July 2018 to May 2019, parishioners donated 829 food items.



GARDEN MINISTRY

MISSION: To provide a steady supply of fresh produce for the Durham Community Food Pantry, homebound parishioners, and homebound parishioners. To support the Health and Wellness Ministry by promoting healthy eating, outdoor activities, and a place to relax and meditate.

From July 2018 to May 2019, the Garden Ministry increased the number of volunteers to twelve. The garden also donated nearly 830 pounds of produce to the Durham Community Food Pantry. On June 1, an irrigation system was installed, paid for with donations from parishioners.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES FOOD PANTRY

Mission: To support Catholic Charities' efforts to provide food for Durham families who are food insufficient through donations of non-perishable food items.

From July 2018 to May 2019, parishioners donated one 1,556 pounds of packaged food items.

VOTER REGISTRATION AND EDUCATION

Mission: To help parishioners understand their role in all elections and how to form and use a Gospel-based conscience for decisions.

A voter registration campaign was conducted October 7 and October 8, 2018. For two weekends, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' document, *Forming*



Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, was inserted in the Church Bulletin.

DURHAM CROP HUNGER WALK

Mission: To support the efforts of Church World Services to end hunger in the world and in the Durham community.

On April 7, 2019, 11 parishioners walked with the Holy Cross team for the 45th Durham CROP Hunger Walk. The team raised \$2,123.

RICE BOWL SPECIAL COLLECTION

Mission: To support Catholic Relief Service's efforts to end hunger in the world

Fifty parishioners received Rice Bowls and a special collection was taken up on March 31. At the time of this report, the total collected was not available.

DURHAM CAN AND DURHAM CONGREGATIONS IN ACTION

Mission: To partner with existing organizations in the Durham Community who advocate for low to moderate income families. These organizations seek to create solutions through collaboration with faith communities, neighborhood associations, and other non-partisan groups.

From July 2018 to May 2019 a team from Holy Cross attended monthly meetings with Durham Congregations in Action and Durham CAN. Topics for discussion have been: eliminating cash bail, criminal justice reform, homelessness, affordable housing, Durham becoming a living wage city, and treatment of immigrants and refugees in Durham. Being a member of Durham CAN and Durham Congregations in Actions allows Holy Cross to advocate for the poor and vulnerable in a way that would be difficult to accomplish as a separate faith community.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The Justice, Peace, and Human Development Commission has set these goals for July 2019 to June 2020.

- **Continue existing ministries:**
 - Urban Ministry Café Casseroles
 - Backpack Buddies Donations
 - Sharing Garden



- Durham Community Food Pantry Donations
 - Families Moving Forward
 - Quilting Ministry
 - Share Your Thanksgiving and Christmas
 - Voter Registration and Education
 - Durham Hunger Crop Walk
 - Durham CAN Membership
- **Initiate new stewardship opportunities for parishioners:**
 - Hygiene Kit Hero for Urban Ministries
 - Provide food for Families Moving Forward
 - Welcome Home Project Boxes
 - **Engage with our neighbors in the McDougald Terrace Community through a partnership with Durham CAN**
 - **Increase parishioner engagement in service opportunities by publishing a quarterly Stewardship Newsletter.** The newsletter will feature selected ministries and service opportunities for the quarter.

JUSTICE, PEACE, AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Marie Richards-Barber, Voter Ed/Registration
- Lorie Crump, Quilting
- Elizabeth Deshaies, Families Moving Forward
- Warren Harris, Food Pantry
- Deborah Hilliard, CROPWALK
- Marcia (Micky) Jones, Casseroles
- Art LaPerre and Brenda LaPerre, Share Your Thanksgiving and Christmas
- Dianne Ponder, Durham CAN
- Kathleen Richards, Voter Education/Registration
- Anna Rzewnicki – Garden
- Cherrie Siewert, Quilting
- Ava Thompson, Coordinator, Durham Congregations in Action, and Backpack Buddies