

March 5, 2013

Dear Parishioner,

Thank you for your involvement in helping to build the body of Christ through the work of social outreach, Faith in Action or opportunities our parish has provided to live the Gospel's call for justice and the care of the poor and the hurting. Some of the programs we sponsor have a long history (e.g. St. Patrick's Hunger Center, the Giving Trees) and others are relatively new initiatives such as Slavic Village and El Salvador. The "good news" is that the growth of these ministries and initiatives has been tremendous and we can be proud of the ways our parishioners have responded to the call to love and serve our neighbors near and far.

Much of this has been accomplished through the work of Faith in Action. We owe a debt of gratitude to leaders like Joy Gallagher, Kelly Noble, Pat Denny, Paul Bachman, Mickey LoPresti and so many others who have graciously given of their energies and passion to create opportunities for our parishioners to invest their time, talent and treasure in the building of the Kingdom of God.

With this exciting growth has emerged the need to create a way of organizing the variety of groups and ministries under the umbrella of a "Social Concerns Commission." This structure would provide a venue for coordinating calendar planning, communication with parishioners, fund-raising and collaboration on events. It would also provide a place for parishioners to bring new suggestions and opportunities for consideration. Pastoral Council has approved this model, recommended by the Diocesan Pastoral Planning Office and consistent with other commissions and structures in our parish and Diocese (e.g. Worship, Education). As of April 1st, Holy Angels will adopt this structure which will coordinate all current and new social outreach programs (see attached chart).

On the chart provided you will note many of the existing programs already in place as well as growth in important areas which have been underserved such as Education for Justice, Advocacy, and important issues such as Human Trafficking and Euthanasia.

The Commission will include leaders (or their representative) of all those entities listed on the organizational chart as well as a Core Team which will serve as the governing

body. The Core Team will consist of a member of the Parish Staff who will serve as Director, a Member of the Pastoral Council, a Member of the Finance Council and a Secretary.



I am pleased to announce that **DONNA ANGELOTTI**, from our parish staff, has agreed to be the Director of our new Social Concerns Commission. Donna has a heart for this important work and has been involved in the We-Can program (Chagrin Falls Park), Souper Bowl of Caring, Relief Missions to Mississippi and Joplin, Workcamp, St. Thomas Aquinas and Jr. High Camp. Donna has already begun investing time and effort into this new ministry by studying diocesan guidelines, studying church documents and has begun networking with other ministers with this role throughout our Diocese.

Each of you shares a passion for some dimension of this work. Your continued involvement is necessary and appreciated. Each of us is capable of great things. Together, we are capable of extraordinary things.

As a way of initiating the Social Concerns Commission at Holy Angels we are inviting you to a gathering on **Saturday, April 20th from 9:00 a.m. until 12 Noon in the Community Room.** At this gathering, Donna and the Core Team will further explain the vision for the Commission and what it means for you. We will also have a guest speaker from the Diocesan Office for Social Concerns, **Karen Leith**, who will give us some motivation for moving forward by addressing the two feet of love in action that comprise our call to justice.

Thank you for all that you continue to do for the Lord and for our brothers and sisters in greatest need. I invite you, and your constituents, to attend this April 20th gathering knowing that it forges a new and hopeful future for the work God has entrusted us to do.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Daniel F. Schlegel
Pastor