

## St. Charles Borromeo's Social Ministry Committee

2026

**Mission:** The Social Ministry Committee exists to fulfill Christ's example to love one another. The committee will therefore support, advocate, inform, and educate in order to ensure basic human needs and essential human rights whenever these needs arise.

### What we do/have done:

**Advent Giving Project** – yearly, requests from minimally 7 different agencies/places asking for gifts . Approximately 300+ gift tags are placed on the wreaths with suggestions for gifts. The parish community has been faithful in taking those tags and returning the suggested gifts. Also, food and extra contributions of gift cards and various gifts that can be used as the SMC sees fit. This is a parish highlight!

**Christmas Food "Baskets"**-donations of food are collected from parishioners. Lists of recipients are obtained through different venues and made available to approx 45+ families at Christmas. Youth Group and CYO basketball players have been extremely helpful with this endeavor. This past year we did change the food give away due to SNAP changes and food shortages.

**Food collection** all year long - mostly taken to Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf. In 2025 over 3800 lbs of food, paper products etc. brought to GEFS. During Spring (Lent) and Summer (partner with Summer Religion Camp) we also have given to;

Catholic Charities Family & Community Services (CCF&CS) Greece Schools Resource Room, Sister Regis Food Cupboard and several other food pantries

**Hygiene, Cleaning & Paper Products Collection** -during Lent Donations brought to CCF&CS & St. Joseph Neighborhood Center

**Soup Supper & Stations of the Cross** - Lent. Soup is made by SMC members and parishioners. More cans of soup collected and distributed to food pantries.

**Sock Collection** - Summer. Over 500 pairs collected on average. Last summer socks were given to CCF&CS, House of Mercy, Bethany House, St Joseph House of Hospitality,

**Catholic Relief Services' Lenten Project (Rice Bowls)** - SMC manages bulletin announcements and Rice Bowl distribution.

**Baby Shower** on Fathers' Day. All donations go to Birthright and Willow Domestic Violence Center.

**Parish Sharing** – a subsidiary group meets 4 times/year to vet places to send \$125. It serves as an information source and nice place to look to for volunteering. Mostly local grass root places and usually connected to St. Charles because a parishioner volunteers or has a connection to the agency, \$6500/year in donations.

**\*\*\*American Red Cross Blood Drive** -may be doing another blood drive this year.

Social Ministry Committee formally meets 3-4 times/year to set up our schedule of events and to discuss past events. We understand that people have a difficult time with long term commitments, but will volunteer for one or two events, i.e. making ornaments for Advent Giving Project, sort food for holiday baskets, involvement with delivering.