

7 Parish Social Outreach Meeting Notes - April 21, 2026

Present: **Holy Cross:** Kathy Fennell, Sheila Metzger
 St. Charles Borromeo: Kathy Hunt, Kathy Termine
 St. Lawrence: Patty Amico, Mary Ann DelVecchio
 St. Leo the Great: Rosemary Childs
 St Mark's: Norma Johnston, Liz Munson

Not Present: **St. John the Evangelist** and **Our Mother of Sorrows**

Intent: The intent of this meeting was to open the lines of communication between the Parish Social Outreach ministries, share ideas, and build a partnership to expand the reach of our efforts and maximize their impact.

Requests:

- Kathy T. would like to know the dates of any Blood Drives hosted by other parishes to help with scheduling one for St. Charles Borromeo. Please see the attached Parish Social Outreach Contacts file for her number.
- Schedule another meeting sometime in September.

Current Outreach Efforts

Holy Cross:

- There is no official social ministry committee, but around 30 volunteers make things happen.
- The bulk of their efforts supports their food pantry, which mainly serves the residents of the neighboring Highrise apartments in Charlotte. They do not work with Foodlink but depend on monetary and food donations to provide for as many as 50 families a week. Food donations are stored in their office space or the basement if necessary. People, mostly with no means of transportation, can go to the pantry on Thursdays and fill out a request for the items they want that week.
- They provide baskets of food, including meat, for Thanksgiving and Easter meals for anyone who signs up for them. (approx.74 this year)
- They have volunteers who help serve lunches at Blessed Sacrament and take communion to the Waterview Nursing Home.
- Their Advent Giving Tree provided gifts this year for nursing home residents, Caring Choices pregnancy home, parish families, and Catholic Charities (40 gift tags received from OMOS).
- They support school youth group efforts, have a Shawl making group, participate in the CRS Rice Bowl collections, host parish coffee hours, and more!

St. Charles Borromeo:

- There are 12 core members of the Social Ministry Committee.
- Please see the St. Charles Borromeo attachment for details about their ministry.
- They host a pancake breakfast once a month for the parishioners.
- The Lenten Hygiene, Cleaning & Paper Products Collection delivered 3 carloads of items this year.
- Parish funds are used for the Parish Sharing donations.
- They have a card making group, a quilting group, a prayer shawl group, and more!

St. Lawrence:

- There are 31 members of the Human Development committee.
- The committee meets every month (except July, August, December) to plan “Share Sunday” collections and several special collections that occur throughout the year.
- “Share Sunday” collections occur once a month. Committee members deliver three to five carloads of parishioner donated goods to whatever agency is picked for that month. The list of possible agencies is over 30 and includes food pantries, schools, pregnancy centers, shelters, hospices, etc.
- CRS Rice Bowls are distributed/collected during Lent.
- A special collection for school supplies in August supports Hope Hall, Nazareth Elementary, and St. Lawrence.
- A special collection for Aldi Gift Cards supports the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf Thanksgiving Program. Last year over \$11,000 was collected in gift cards and cash.
- The Advent Giving Tree collection supports multiple agencies as well as several parish families. Last year 326 gifts were collected and wrapped for 6 agencies and 3 families. Additionally, \$2,470 was collected for the Finger Lakes Developmentally Disabled Organization.
- The Sock Sunday special collection in January supports Bethany House, Cabrini, St. Joseph’s House of Hospitality and St. Peter’s Kitchen. 3512 pairs of socks as well as 6 garbage bags full of hats and gloves were collected this year.
- A group of volunteers helps once a month in St. Peter’s Kitchen.
- Additional monetary donations are made to various agencies as needed.
- Volunteers from the Keeping in Touch Ministry deliver communion to the homebound and conduct communion services in area nursing homes.
- Volunteers from the Cards for Comfort Ministry hand make cards to be delivered to nursing homes, the homebound, area veterans, etc.

St. Leo the Great:

- There are approximately 15 members of the Social Justice Ministry.
- The ministry works very closely with the Hilton Food Pantry throughout the year and donates to around eight agencies on a regular basis.
- The Youth Group collects blankets, personal care items, socks, etc. in January to be packed in backpacks provided by the Social Justice Ministry. 30 filled backpacks were delivered to St. Joseph's Northside for the homeless this year.
- The Undies Sunday project in January supports the Hilton clothes closet.
- They participate in the Box of Joy Program, flyer attached.
- CRS Rice Bowls are given to the children in Faith Formation as part of their Lenten program. They are encouraged to add "change" to the bowls.
- They partner with the Columbettes (Lady Knights) in May to collect baby items for Birthright.
- They partner with the Knights of Columbus for "Socktober".
- In November, the ministry hosts a "Public Suppa" which is a free dinner for the community and the parishioners. This year they provided 80 meals.
- During Thanksgiving and Christmas that provide filled gift bags for shut-in parishioners.
- In December, they collect designated food items, such as boxes of potatoes for the Hilton Food Pantry and they collect gift cards for the families in need that they adopt.
- Groups of four volunteers help serve lunches at Cabrini two times a year on Saturdays.
- They have a group of young adults in their 20's who are available for special projects.
- St. Leo's is trying to "Go Green" to care for God's creations.

St. Mark's:

- There are 21 members of the Social Ministry Committee.
- Please see the St. Mark's flyer attachment for details about their ministry. Copies of this flyer are kept in the narthex of the church for the St. Mark's parishioners.
- Please see the Box of Joy flyer attached for an Advent project through Cross Catholic Outreach. If other parishes wish to participate, boxes can be dropped off at St. Mark's which is a collection site.
- Please see the Blue Star Mothers ROC flyer attached for a military care package project. Donated items are packed and mailed by the Blue Star Mothers.
- Volunteers knit white christening blankets for every baby baptized at St. Mark's.
- The Winter Coat drive accepts used or new coats.
- The Food Cupboard donated almost 8000 lbs. of food to the Greece Ecumenical Food Shelf last year. Four groups rotate delivery of the food.
- Volunteers check and sort the clothing in the St. Pauly Shed two times a week.

Other:

- 25% of the money collected for CRS Rice Bowls stays in the Rochester Diocese.
- Willow Domestic Violence Center only accepts donations one day a week. Items are transferred to a vehicle.
- Arcadia Middle School has the largest school food pantry that supplies students.
- Our Mother of Sorrows backpack program supplies food to the students at English Village School.