



OUTREACH PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES

St. Athanasius Parish
Outreach Ministry
June 2006

FOREWORD

Parish communities must show by their deeds of love and justice that the gospel they proclaim is fulfilled in their actions. This . . . challenges our priorities as a nation, our choices as a Church, our values as parishes.

*Statement of U. S. Bishops, 1993
Communities of Salt and Light*

The St. Athanasius community welcomes you and invites you to join in Parish efforts to respond to the Gospel teachings.

Sharing time, talent, and treasure to help “the least among us,” the poor and those in need (whether friends or strangers), is a central message of the Gospel. The parish’s outreach ministries provide opportunities to give life to the Christian ethics of charity, compassion, justice, and service to others.

PARISH MINISTRIES offer many ways to get involved. Your involvement can be as frequent or as occasional as you choose.

The list of Parish ministries is not carved in stone. We encourage outreach and will endeavor to support you in your efforts.

FOR OVERALL QUESTIONS, please contact Eliza Jang at 847-328-7689 or brianeliza@earthlink.net.

Again, welcome.

Parish Outreach Coordinating Group

Statement of U. S. Bishops, 1993
Communities of Salt and Light

We seek to affirm and encourage local parish commitment and creativity in social ministry. We know pastors and parish leaders do not need another program to carry forward or more expectations to meet. We see the parish dimensions of social ministry not as an added burden, but as a part of what keeps a parish alive and makes it truly Catholic. Effective social ministry helps the parish not only do more, but also be more—more of a reflection of the gospel, more of a worshiping and evangelizing people, more of a faithful community. It is an essential part of parish life.

CONTENTS

Bereavement Ministry	7
Ministry of Care	8
Elizabeth Ministry	9
Ministry of Mothers Sharing	10
Ministry of Praise	11
Peace and Justice Ministry	12
St. Agnes Readers Ministry	14
Soup Kitchen Ministry	15
Respect Life Ministry	16
Toddler Care Ministry	17
St. Vincent DePaul Ministry	18
Driver Services Ministry	19
African Project	20
Annual / Periodic Outreach Opportunities	21

The parish is where the Church lives. Parishes are communities of faith, of action, and of hope. They are where the gospel is proclaimed and celebrated, where believers are formed and sent to renew the earth.

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Matthew 25:35-40

Come, you who are blessed by my Father.
Inherit the kingdom prepared for you
from the foundation of the world.

For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
a stranger and you welcomed me,
naked and you clothed me,
ill and you cared for me,
in prison and you visited me.

Amen I say to you, whatever you did
for these least brothers and sisters of mine,
you did for me.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

Mission: To offer aid and comfort to members of our parish family who have lost a family member.

Activities: Members of this ministry contact parishioners who have recently lost a loved one and offer any assistance needed. For example, volunteers can help the family arrange liturgies for wake and funeral services. They also coordinate the formation of groups that support parishioners for a period following their loss.

The archdiocese requires and provides a six-session training program for participants in this ministry.

Contact: *Lori Goszczyński*
847-475-6324
slgos@comcast.net

MINISTRY OF CARE

Mission: To provide the comfort of visitation and the Eucharist to members of our community who, because of age or infirmity, are unable to travel to parish liturgies and other events.

Activities: Volunteers receive training offered by the Archdiocese. After training, participants make weekly or bi-weekly social visits to members of the community who are unable to leave their homes, or are confined to local care facilities such as Evanston Hospital, Three Crowns (formerly the Swedish Retirement Home), the Presbyterian Home, and the Alden Home. Participants also offer the Eucharist to those unable to attend Mass due to age, infirmity, or disability.

Because of unmet needs, this ministry is especially interested in acquiring new members.

Our Hospital Chaplain is Sr. Ann Weiler, OSF: Evanston Hospital Pastoral Care Office, 847-570-2330 or Parish House, 847-328-1430.

Contact: *Lori Goszczyński*
847-475-6324
slgos@comcast.net

ELIZABETH MINISTRY

Mission: To support women and their families during the joys, trials and sorrows of the childbearing years. The aim is to cherish children, encourage families, and build community by offering peer support, mentoring, spiritual nourishment, and educational and inspirational resources.

Activities: Monthly informal gatherings for conversation and networking on the first Sunday of the month after 9:30 Mass (approximately 10:30–11:30 a.m.). Non-walking children may join us. Other pairings are on an as-needed basis. Ability to listen well is a *big* part of this ministry. Volunteers become Elizabeth Ministers in areas of their experience—women with histories of:

- normal or troubled pregnancies,
- miscarriage or infertility,
- regretted abortions,
- multiple births,
- having a child with physical difficulties or cerebral palsy,
- being a foster or adoptive parent.

Contact: *Pat Schmidt*, 847-673-2621
mptschmidt@comcast.net

*See also website for Elizabeth Ministry International
at <http://www.elizabethministry.com>.*

M.O.M.S. MINISTRY OF MOTHERS SHARING

Mission: To form a formal peer ministry for all mothers to help put mothers in touch with their inner wisdom and gifts. It affirms who the mother is as a person while increasing her spiritual growth and confidence in this important, lifelong role.

Activities: Discussion sessions, based on a series of 6–8 “lessons” developed by Sr. Paula Hagan, focus on a woman’s personal and spiritual growth. The ministry validates mothers as persons with gifts to share and develop, and stresses the importance of their relationships with family, peers and God. It supports friendship on a deep level.

The wisdom of experienced mothers is needed both in the role of facilitator and participant.

Contact: *Mary Rooney*
(847) 492-9679
rooneymb@sbcglobal.net

MINISTRY OF PRAISE

Mission: To offer daily prayers for the concerns of the parish community. The goals are simple: to remind all of us of the value of daily prayer, to assure that the concerns of the community are held in daily prayer, and to provide our homebound parishioners a meaningful way to participate in parish life.

Activities: The ministry welcomes anyone interested in joining. There are many blessings to those who offer their prayers for others. There are no meetings, no dues, and the requests for prayers are mailed to the prayer group every other week.

Contact: *Mary Anne King*
847-328-8674
making@comcast.net

Marianne Zelewsky
847-866-8965

PEACE AND JUSTICE MINISTRY

Mission: To lead the parish in fostering the Gospel values of peace and social justice, especially through direct involvement in issues of contemporary relevance including dialogue with other faith traditions.

Activities: Members meet monthly to promote numerous opportunities for outreach, direct involvement, and dialogue. The ministry also maintains active affiliation with various action groups. Some ongoing activities are:

- Activities with, and fund raising for, our Sharing Parish, St. Agnes. *See also St. Agnes Readers Ministry, p. 14; St. Agnes Thanksgiving Baskets, p. 21.*
- Participation in Interfaith Action of Evanston (IAE) (formerly Evanston Ecumenical Action Council (EEAC)), supporting soup kitchens, hospitality/job center, Hilda's Place (homeless shelter)
- Monthly food drives for the needy
- Monthly letter writing to elected officials and national leaders on issues/legislation
- Peace and Justice liturgies / paraliturgies
- Christmas Gift Sale in cooperation with 10,000 Villages, a foundation supporting indigenous artisans and free trade. *See also Gift Sale, p. 21.*

This ministry maintains liaisons with various organizations, including the following, and seeks more participation and representation:

- **Interfaith Action of Evanston (IAE)**
Contact: *Mary Ellen Moore* 847-328-6970
- **United Power for Action and Justice**
Contact: *Bob Doyle* 773-262-5938
- **North Suburban Peace Initiative**
Contact: *Mary Sotir* 847-864-4015
- **Sunlight African Community Center
(Youth Activities)**
Contact: *Eliza Jang* 847-328-7689
- **Ten Thousand Villages Volunteers**
Contact: *Mary Rooney* 847-492-9679
- **New Foundation of Hope (Chicago Youth)**
Contact: *Jim Rooney* 847-492-9679
- **El Salvador Center for Interchange and
Solidarity**
Contact: *Harold Kimball* 847-475-1345
- **Evanston Housing Coalition**
Contact: *Mary Sotir* 847-864-4015

**Contact: *Mary Sotir* 847-864-4015
*sharnysot@aol.com***

***Jim Rooney* 847-492-9679
*rooneyjc@sbcglobal.net***

ST. AGNES READERS MINISTRY

Mission: To provide students at St. Agnes of Bohemia Parish (our Sharing Parish) with tutors and materials to help them raise their reading levels to be prepared for high school and eventually higher education and careers.

Activities: This ministry collects tradebooks, textbooks, and reference materials for distribution among the students at St. Agnes of Bohemia Parish and for integration into their library collection. So far, over 1,000 titles have been collected.

*For tutoring opportunities, contact
Sister Betty Smigley, 773-522-0132.*

Contact: *Maurice Ann Sullivan*
847-570-4719
mauricesullivan@aol.com

RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY

Mission: To proclaim The Gospel of Life and educate the faithful on the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death.

Activities: Members provide opportunities to create programs to educate and mobilize Catholics on key teachings on all of the life issues including abortion, euthanasia, embryonic stem cell research, reproductive technology, and capital punishment.

Activities include: work with crisis pregnancy counseling centers, post-abortion healing, sidewalk counseling, prayer services and liturgies for life, organizing and mobilizing legislative efforts such as phone trees lobbying, organizing and/or participating in public speaking on the Life Issues, and fund-raising efforts to help save babies.

Contact: *Eunie Nondorf*
847-475-4245
Enondorf@aol.com

Mary Higgins
847-674-7432
Mprender@rcn.com

TODDLER CARE MINISTRY

Mission: To directly serve Parish members who need assistance looking after young children during the 9:30 Sunday family liturgy.

Activities: Volunteers assist, or are available as substitutes, in looking after children while their parents attend the 9:30 mass. Greater awareness of this ministry helps achieve the parish goal of increased Sunday Mass attendance and a more involved membership.

The archdiocese provides the training required for all volunteers who work with children.

Contact: *Karen Sellers*
847-869-8968, 847-328-1430
Sellersx6@aol.com

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MINISTRY

Mission: To respond to the Christian calling that we seek, find, and bring comfort to the forgotten, the suffering, and the deprived.

Activities: Members of this ministry respond to calls for emergency help—including requests for food and assistance with rent, security deposits, and utilities--from people within parish boundaries; visit those requesting assistance in teams of two; and meet about twice monthly to pray and develop plans to address clients' unusual requests.

In addition, members of the ministry collect clothing and household goods, which are then distributed to those in need through the St. Vincent DePaul stores in the Chicago area.

Contact: *Tom McRaith*
847-332-2800
tmcraith@ft.newyorklife.com

DRIVER SERVICES MINISTRY

Mission: To ensure that all parishioners may worship as one Eucharistic community by providing transportation to elderly parishioners for Sunday liturgies.

Activities: Volunteers provide door-to-door transportation to elderly parishioners for Sunday liturgies.

This ministry has a great need for volunteer drivers.

Orientation and on-going support is provided to volunteers.

Contact: *John Leonard*
847-425-9795
chefdadu@comcast.net

AFRICAN PROJECT

Mission: To reflect and put into action the principles of Papal documents on relations with Africa, including *Ecclesia in Africa*.

Activities: This ministry sustains the Cardinal Nuh-soo-boo-ga Secondary School in Uganda, which it funded. Contributions are welcomed. It also creates parish relationships with that enterprise as the twin school of St. Athanasius School.

It also sponsors an African essay contest and an African liturgy.

See also Sunlight African Community Center under Peace and Justice Ministry, p.13, above.

Contact: *Jeff Teske*
847-864-0197
jmt@hmltd.com

ANNUAL AND PERIODIC OUTREACH

The following outreach projects are periodic or annual in nature. They all welcome participation.

ST. AGNES THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE: Raises money and purchases food to provide Thanksgiving dinner for families at St. Agnes of Bohemia (our sharing parish). Volunteers package groceries and load the truck.

Contact: *Katie and Lloyd Maday*
847-475-1538
lloydkatie@sbcglobal.net

CHRISTMAS WISH BASKETS: Project solicits, collects, and delivers Christmas gifts and Christmas dinner items for needy families through the Howard Avenue Community Center. Parishioners may provide gifts/food for specific families.

Contact: *Carmelina Stoklosa, 847-328-3257*
cmstoklosa@msn.com

10,000 VILLAGES CHRISTMAS GIFT SALE: An event promoting fair trade goods and indigenous crafts of unemployed/under-employed third world artisans in cooperation with the 10,000 Villages Store (non-profit) on Main Street.

Contact: *Mary & Jim Rooney 847-492-9679*
rooneymb@sbcglobal.net

Carolyn Groves 847-328-1430, x130
carolyn.groves@gmail.com

CROPWALK: Annual fall event to raise awareness of hunger and the means to end it in our world. Participants solicit sponsors and take a 3-mile walk with friends and family. In 2005, our total raised was \$2,000 — 75 percent to needs abroad; 25 percent to local needs.

Contact: *Mary Ellen Moore* 847-328-6970
maryellenmoore@sbcglobal.net

INCLUSION AWARENESS SUNDAY: Annual September liturgy that emphasizes the importance of valuing all members of our community, especially those with any type of disability. Volunteers are needed to help plan the liturgy and assist parish members to approach the altar during the Mass.

Contact: *Tom Bobowski* 847-733-1498
Susanna Bohacsik 847-864-2153

BLOOD DRIVE: Annual event conducted with “Life Source” of Chicago to help solve on-going blood shortages.

Contact: *Joan and Tom Harvey*
847-475-1538 or 847-570-1345

NATIONAL MIGRATION WEEK: Recognizes our ancestors’ diverse cultures as a Sacrament of Unity on the feast of the Epiphany. Volunteers are needed for planning the celebrations honoring the diversity of language, food, art, etc.

Contact: *Parish Representative*
847-328-1430

Our parish communities are measured by how they serve “the least of these” in our parish and beyond its boundaries—the hungry, the homeless, the sick, those in prison, the stranger (cf. Mt. 25:31). Our local families of faith are called to “hunger and thirst for justice” and to be “peacemakers” in our own communities (cf. Mt. 5:6, 9). A parish cannot really proclaim the gospel if its message is not reflected in its own community life. The biblical call to charity, justice, and peace claims not only each believer, but also each community where believers gather for worship, formation, and pastoral care.

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