

International Sharing Outreach The archdiocese encourages parishes to share internationally. OLPH has taken on a mission parish, Santo Tomas, in Santiago Chile, which is run by the Columban Missions. This community lives in extreme poverty. OLPH parishioners have been very responsive to this effort.

Bread Collection The Sharing Room often smells like a bakery as car and vanloads of day-old bread and pastries pass in and out each day. Seventy OLPH volunteers pick up from local bakeries, restaurants and grocers and deliver goods to needy institutions each week.

Operation Ricebowl The parish participates in an archdiocesan Lenten effort to address dire need in third world countries. Parishioners are invited to make small sacrifices throughout Lent and donate related monetary savings.

Sharing Picnic We invite our sharing parishes for a summer picnic on our parish grounds. An average of 600 people attend this annual event.

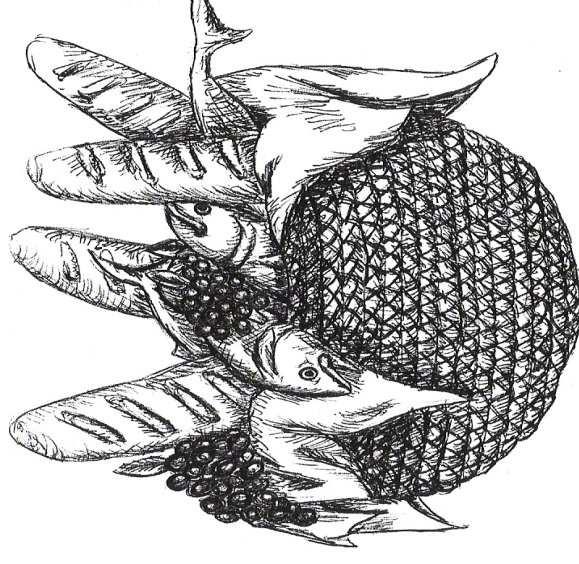
Social Justice OLPH has been involved with workshops on racism and ethnic sensitivity, sponsored by the MICAH Committee Ministry (Catholics Against Racism). MICAH also organizes an annual Festival of Cultures Mass and Dinner in our parish. OLPH is a member of ICAN, Interfaith Community Action Network, a group representing various local faith organizations, whose goal is to pool resources and work together for social justice, especially within our community.

Project Hope, coordinated through Catholic Charities, enlists parishes to cover rent expenses to help lift at risk families out of poverty and into self-sufficiency. We are currently involved in supporting two families, one in conjunction with two area parishes and one on our own. Catholic Charities provides adjunct support.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Contact Rich Tilghman, Chairman of the Sharing Committee, (724-4386) or Jane Reynolds (657-7262) for a particular volunteer interest.

OLPH SHARING

27 Years of Caring



The Joy in Living... Is the Joy in Giving!

The Sharing Committee celebrates 27 years as a parish ministry. OLPH primarily shares with four inner-city parishes: St. James, 2942 S. Wabash, St. Sabina, 1210 W. 78th Place, St. Philip Neri, 2132 E. 72nd St., and Our Lady of Tepeyac, 2225 S. Whipple. Collectively, their pantries serve close to 10,000 people each month. Local needy families and individuals are also given prompt help with food, clothing and other assistance as they come to the attention of our parish staff. The Sharing Ministry works to provide assistance to those who materially have so little, but we also enjoy opportunities to share socially, spiritually and culturally.

OLPH parishioners are quick to mount support for those in need. During the past 27 years the parish has donated and delivered just over 1 million non-perishable food items.

Non-Perishable Food We invite parish-wide participation in our monthly food drive, conducted the third Sunday of the month, though food is welcome at any time and can be brought to the Sharing Room (rear entry to the LaFayette Building) or back of church. Food is also collected through Operation Matthew, with the children bringing up food donations during the Offertory at Sunday Masses. Over 79,000 food items were donated in the 2008 calendar year.

Clothing donated by our parish is sorted weekly and delivered to our sharing parishes as they express need. It is otherwise given to select needy institutions. Our sorting crews welcome additional help. Drop in after the 6:30 Mass any Monday or after the 8:30 Mass on Friday mornings.

Monetary Donations Money donated through the collection envelopes, earmarked for our Sharing Parishes, is sent directly to those parishes for use at the pastors' discretion. Other donations are directed as the donor wishes to Sharing Parishes or to Sister Paulanne's Needy Family Fund, which serves local need.

Operation Turkey and Operation Ham Turkeys and hams are collected for Thanksgiving and Easter delivery to needy families.

Help for the Homeless OLPH prepares and serves up to 200 people at Marquard Center, a soup kitchen run by Franciscan Outreach, several times a year. We prepare and distribute meals through The Open Door Shelter and Beat the Heat, which minister to teens on the streets. The Sharing Ministry serves occasional Thursday night meals for about 80 homeless who visit a Catholic Charities shelter in Des Plaines. Operation Open Door finds us preparing lunch bags of nutritious non-perishables for hungry people who come to the doors of OLPH and our four Sharing Parishes. And we make sandwiches for distribution through Night Ministry. Special thanks to the Women's Club, Youth Group and all who contribute to these efforts.

Parish junior high students and the Youth Group also provide hands-on assistance to residence of St. Vincent DePorres, a shelter for women and their children.

New Christmas Toys Over 700 new toys were donated for needy sharing parish children in 2008 along with 100's of hats, scarves and mittens. Our parish children donated most of this.

Be-Friend A Family Our Be-Friend a Family program finds over 200 needy sharing parish and local families receiving help at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter from OLPH individuals, families, or groups, on a one-on-one basis. Most of those who participate send down food, used clothing, and even a few gifts at Christmas. Some choose to do more.

Emergency Shelter Program OLPH cooks provide prepared, frozen casseroles, (15 per month) for an inner-city shelter for burned out or evicted families.

Meal Ministry OLPH volunteer cooks serve fellow parishioners in times of bereavement, illness or crisis. Hundreds of meals are delivered each year.

Sharing Service Day took place in June. Close to 200 parishioners provided manpower for projects to benefit inner-city, local and international need.