



Servant Leader

Changing lives in the Diocese of Lexington



Vol 3 Issue 1

Email: missions@cdlex.org

Winter 2008

Mission Board

- Mr. Wally McMasters, Chair
- Sr. Gayle Brabec, BVM
- Dr. Carol Cottrill
- Rev. Robert Damron
- Ms. Debbie Goonan
- Rev. Terence Hoppenjans
- Sr. Amy Kistner, OSF
- Sr. Diane McGuirt, O.P.
- Rev. Chuck Niehaus, S.J.
- Mrs. Carolyn Rynkowski
- Rev. Jay Von Handorf
- Ms. Mary Breiner
- Mrs. Vicki Wenz
- Mrs. Vivian Woolley
- Mrs. Ruslyn Case-Compton
- Deacon Jim Paris
- Deacon Bill Wakefield

Serving with an Open Door St. Luke Parish, Salyersville

St. Luke Catholic Church is situated at the eastern end of Kentucky's Mountain Parkway in Salyersville, KY, a community of about 1,600 people. The beautiful stone church reflects the region's mountain heritage through artistic details such as pews crafted by local artisans from native hardwood, and stained glass windows that incorporate geometric designs often seen in local quilts. Fr. Bob Damron makes the 50 mile round trip each Sunday to celebrate Mass with St. Luke families.



Sr. Susan Baumann outside The Open Door

The sign at St. Luke's Catholic Church in Salyersville, KY, describes the mission of the small parish: "Extending God's Love Through Worship and Service." St. Luke lives this mission through several outreach activities, especially the Open Door program/thrift store which the parish runs from a trailer on the church property. Contributions from parishioners and donations from a wide variety of businesses and individuals help stock the Open Door with affordable items. Pastoral Associate Sister Susan Baumann, CDP, explains that the Open Door works with the regional health department and social services to provide much-needed baby care items for low-income families. Families who complete baby care training with local agencies earn vouchers they can present at the Open Door to receive diapers, baby food, clothing, etc. Sister Susan points out that it's also important that the Open Door provide a bright, welcoming environment as a way of showing respect for the dignity of each customer and to truly exemplify God's love for each person. The Open Door, now operating five days a week, served about 1,400 people and filled about 350 vouchers last year. The parish is seeing another increase in requests this year, with rising fuel and food prices causing more hardships, especially since there is already a high rate of poverty and unemployment in this area.



With fewer than 20 families at St. Luke, funds from the Appalachian Mission Fund Program are essential to maintain a pastoral associate as well as support general operations. Through their generosity, AMAP donors help to sustain this mountain parish as a faith-centered Eucharistic community and to participate in their ministry to reach out to those in need. —Jill Heink

Helping Find "Wheels for Work" St. Paul Catholic Church, McKee KY

St. Paul Catholic Church in McKee, KY, lies in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. The parish shares its pastor, Fr. Nick Pagano, with two other parishes, while Sister Theresa Bowman, CDP, and Sister Mary Dormody, CSJ, serve as pastoral associates at St. Paul. Twenty-three families seek to fulfill the mission of the parish: "We are a faith community... motivated by love of God and led by the Spirit to be a sign of the Lord's loving presence in the lives of all God's people. We aim to serve the people of our county with care and compassion by providing a place of worship, opportunities for spiritual growth....and by offering crisis/emergency assistance, thus making known the caring presence of the Catholic Church to those in need."

(continued on back page)

What Is AMAP?

The Appalachian Mission Assistance Program is a diocesan program through which funds are awarded to aid in outreach programs primarily in the eastern Kentucky region of the Diocese of Lexington. AMAP is funded by the Diocesan Annual Appeal, the Mission Coop program, donations from individuals, and various grants from Catholic Extension and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Home Missions. Many parishes and missions in Appalachia rely on AMAP funding for staff salaries and to cover basic operating expenses in remote areas where a Catholic presence would otherwise be non-existent.



While politicians discuss the economy, many families struggle under financial stress and fear. Most

of these families don't worry about Wall Street: they're occupied with feeding and clothing their children, keeping the heat on, and avoiding eviction.

Praise God for these diocesan ministries that offer help for those in need, recognizing the dignity of every human person. They embody the love of Christ, and through their service, provide all who generously support them a direct opportunity to offer a light of hope amid troubled times.

Grace and peace,

Mike Allen
Director of Family Life
Ministries

(St. Paul continued)

Recognizing that reliable transportation is critical for finding and keeping a job in this very rural area, parishioners at St. Paul have developed a unique "Wheels for Work" program to help others help themselves. For the past six years, St. Paul's has sought out donations of used cars or received donations to purchase low cost vehicles or help individuals make repairs on cars they already own. After repairs and maintenance, St. Paul sells the cars at a reduced price, setting a repayment schedule that is workable for the individual who qualifies. Gloria, a widow on a fixed income, wrote to express her thanks to St. Paul's for helping her with her car repair and noted, "This church is a blessing to the community, for me and for all the others that have received help."



A Wheels for Work recipient

St. Paul also partners with agencies in Jackson County to assist people in emergency situations, such as illness or extremely cold and icy weather that drives up utility bills and often damages their houses. However, the county is small, with limited funding for few local agencies, and residents have very little extra money available for donations and fundraising. Grants through the AMAP program provide critical support to St. Paul's general operations as well as providing some funds for St. Paul to help others in the community, including the Wheels for Work program described above. With assistance from AMAP, St. Paul's will continue to serve the people of all ages and abilities in various areas of need. As Sister Mary writes, "While it is challenging to serve here, it is rewarding and essential work." - Jill Heink

Revitalizing St. Joseph the Worker Elkhorn City

St. Joseph the Worker is a small outreach mission in Elkhorn City, KY, deep in the mountains and just a few miles from KY's border with Virginia. After being closed as a church for roughly three years, St. Joseph was re-opened in 2006 when Sister Margie Zureick, CPPS, came out of "retirement" to serve as pastoral associate at the mission. The Community Closet, the mission's thrift store/gathering place outreach ministry, had remained open a few hours a week with the help of dedicated volunteers during the time the church was closed. The volunteers enthusiastically welcomed Sister Margie to the mission, ready to work to make the building fully usable and to extend the hours the Closet could serve the community. After restoring the water supply, cleaning up the overgrown grounds, and making repairs to the structure of both the church and the Closet, St. Joseph the Worker is once again a center of worship as well as place of support and hope for many needy people in the area.



Debbie Ratliff, Sr. Margie Zureick, and Clara Anderson operate The Community Closet



During my recent visit, Sister Margie lit a fresh candle to serve as the sanctuary light outside the small Eucharistic Chapel that also serves as the vesting area and the Reconciliation Chapel. Fr. Will Fraenzle makes the 50-mile round trip from Pikeville on Sundays to celebrate Mass at St. Joseph. Sister Margie proudly shows off the list of people who come to Mass each Sunday- the parish currently has 8 members. "We may be small," says Sister Margie, "but we almost always have perfect attendance!" The church also keeps a "Request for Prayer" book in the Community Closet that invites anyone in the community to ask for prayers for any special intention.

As outreach ministry, St. Joseph provides low-cost items at the Closet and helps administer financial assistance - both through FEMA and through other donations and grants - to residents who find themselves in difficult situations due to medical issues, loss of job or income, or the sharp increases in the price of heating fuel and gasoline. Sister Margie has also established ties with the local ministerial association in order to work together on special projects, such as preparing Christmas baskets for needy families and organizing visits to inmates at the regional prison facility.



The Appalachian Mission Assistance program is a vital component in keeping St. Joseph the Worker open. The AMAP provides funds for salaries and general operating expenses. Through the combined efforts of all who contribute to AMAP, St. Joseph continues its all-important work of maintaining the Catholic presence in this far corner of the state and reaching out to all in both physical and spiritual need. - Jill Heink

I wish to make a gift/pledge (circle one) of: \$ _____
(Please make checks payable to: Diocese of Lexington,
and write AMAP in the Memo)

- Weekly Monthly One Time Gift
- In Honor of _____
- In Memory of _____

Name _____

Address _____

Send card to _____