

Hi Everyone,

The statistics for January 2017 at the Fr. Hilkert Ozanam Center are as follows:

Food Pantry

Total number of people served was 1124
Total number of households served was 377
Total number of children served was 404
Total number of seniors served was 126

Clothing Bank

Total number of families served was 233
Articles of clothing given away: 2493
Winter coats given away: 141

Furniture Bank

Total number of clients served was 29
Couches given away: 12
Armchairs given away: 12
Mattresses/box springs: 22
Dressers given away: 9
New cribs given away: 1
Misc. given away: 58

The number of households that came in for food this month averaged 94 per Saturday, which is quite a few for being open only two and a half hours. The furniture bank was very busy each week, probable because of the mild weather most of the month. The total number of winter coats given away so far this season is 429, and the cold weather will increase that significantly. God bless you all for keeping up this good work. ~ Jim & Cathie Perusek

Young Adult Retreat

Are you experiencing a lot of change in your life? Perhaps this retreat can help you in that journey by offering an opportunity to meet other young adults and reflect on your transitions as they connect with Jesus' journey to resurrection. The "What Next" retreat will be held at **Bethany Retreat Center in Chardon, OH. It starts on Saturday, March 25 at 8:30am and concludes at noon on Sunday, March 26.** Mass is included in the retreat. The cost is \$45 and includes meals and supplies. Scholarships are available. **For additional information or to register, visit www.CharisMinistries.org or contact Sr. Kelley Rush, SND at krush@ndec.org or 440-241-3124.**

DSWC

The **Divorced, Separated and Widowed Catholics of Akron** is sponsoring a talk by **Bob Friend**. Bob is a retired Radio host of the past program Dream Machine. He will be speaking about dream interpretation. Held **Monday, February 13 at 7:30pm at Immaculate Heart of Mary Convent Building, 1945 Portage Trail, Cuyahoga Falls. Refreshments at 7:15. Talk will begin at 7:30pm.** Open at no cost to single people of all faiths. For more information call **Sue at 330-554-5626.**

Saturday Program

Do you know an adult, age 21 and over, with a cognitive disability who is looking to further their education, meet new friends, go on fun field trips and more? Maybe the Saturday Program is what you are looking for? For 28 years, the CAEP has provided educational and social skill building for adults with developmental disabilities. Participants enhance their skills in math, reading and history. They also work on the computer, make arts & crafts and have fun making friends, watching movies and having holiday parties! Participants also learn about their local community by going on field trips. The **Saturday program** meets at **OLA/St. Joseph Center (2346 W. 14th St., Cleveland, OH) from September - May.** Call **216-334-2962** or email **Marilyn Scott** at mjscott@ccdoble.org to set up an appointment to visit this program to see if it is the right fit for you!

Visitation of Mary Parish

Visitation of Mary Parish (formerly Annunciation) invites you to join their 200 Club for 2017. Start the new year the right way by becoming a part of this great opportunity. Starting in February, 2017, through September, 2017, for a yearly donation of only \$52, you could be one of two \$100 winners every month for eight months PLUS be an additional \$500 winner in March, 2017 and in September, 2017. The first drawing is February 17, 2017. Drawings are at Visitation of Mary rectory office on a monthly basis - 3rd Friday of each month. Locations for the \$500 drawings to be announced. **For more details, call Jerry at 330-592-4155 or 330-535-4141 x12 (Your \$52 must be paid before the February 17 drawing). Remember, only 200 tickets are sold. Don't miss out! These tickets sell fast!**

Demkee Family Scholarship Fund

The Demkee Family Scholarship Fund of the Catholic Community Foundation provides an annual academic scholarship to a registered parishioner of a Catholic parish in Summit or Wayne County who is presently enrolled at The University of Akron or satellite branch. Scholarship applications are available at www.catholiccommunity.org/grants or call Colleen Rigo toll free at 800-869-6525 x4080. Students eligible to apply: are currently accepted to, or enrolled in, as part time or full time students at The University of Akron or any satellite branch of the University; can document a minimum scholastic achievement of 3.0 GPA; and are registered in a Catholic parish in Wayne or Summit County. Note: though financial need will be considered, it is not the sole factor in award selection. The 2017 scholarship award will be \$1,015. Applications due by May 1 to The Catholic Community Foundation. Written notification to the awardee will be mailed by May 15.

Please check the vestibule for more information on upcoming events, registration forms, prayer cards, and notices.

Spring Celebration

The Women's Board of Catholic Charities of Summit County invites you to join us at our Annual Luncheon, Style Show, Silent Auction and Raffle on Thursday, March 2 at 11am at Guy's Party Centre (500 E. Waterloo Rd., Akron). Cost is \$20 per person. Make checks payable to Women's Board of CCCS/SC. Pre-paid reservations should be sent by February 17 to Mikey Stewart, 45 Bermont Ave, Munroe Falls OH 44262. Include your name, address, and phone number. Please indicate if you have a seating preference with specific people. For additional information, please visit www.ccdocle.org/summit-county/womens-board/luncheon. Proceeds will benefit the programs of Catholic Charities Community Services of Summit County.

Engaged Encounter

Catholic Engaged Encounter is a comprehensive weekend of marriage preparation held three times a year at the St. Leonard Retreat Center, 4076 Case Rd., Avon, OH 44011. For more info and to register, visit www.clevelandencounter.com or call Alex and Lily Fuentes at 216-849-3769. The dates for 2017 are March 17-19, May 19-21 and September 15-17, 2017.

PREP Marriage Skills Workshop

PREP fulfills the Pre-Cana requirement for engaged couples and offers enrichment to married couples. Held Sunday, March 12, 2017 from 8:30am to 4:30pm at Holy Spirit Catholic Church (410 Lear Rd., Avon Lake, 44012). Mass at noon. Please register by March 3. \$125 per couple. Also held Saturday, April 29 from 9am to 6:30pm at Holy Martyrs (3100 Old Weymouth Rd., Medina, OH 44256). Mass at 5:30pm. Please register by April 21. Also \$125 per couple. For more information about PREP, call 216-334-2978. Download registration forms at www.ccdocle.org/program/prep.

Retrouvaille

Retrouvaille is a three-month program to help couples struggling in their marriages. It has three phases, starting with a weekend experience in which couples learn to re-establish communication and to gain new insights into themselves as individuals and as a couple. Post sessions are held over a period of 12 weeks to further develop and enhance the techniques learned on the weekend. A support group is available offering interaction with other couples who are striving to improve their relationship. The 2017 weekends are scheduled for April 21-23 and September 8-10, 2017 at the Fairfield Inn & Suites in Beachwood. For additional information, please visit www.helpourmarriage.com or contact Marce & Liz Gliha at 3031@retrouvaille.org.

2017 First Step Programs Continuing Education Regarding Marriage and Divorce in the Catholic Church

Attempting to pick up the pieces of one's life after the tragedy of divorce is an area that can impact a person's relationship with God and the Church. One of the significant issues that a person faces is their place in the Church. Does the Church still care about me even though I am divorced? Am I allowed to go to Mass? Can I receive communion? How can the Church help me heal? If I decide to marry again, what do I have to do?

The Tribunal of the Diocese of Cleveland offers it's First Step Program to help individuals deal with these questions in order to renew and/or strengthen their relationship with God and the Church. This program is offered to help everyone, especially those who have experienced divorce, learn more about Catholic teaching regarding marriage, divorce, and remarriage. Representatives from the Ministry to the Divorced Office of the Department for Marriage and Family Ministry will also be present to explain the resources they offer to the divorced.

Everyone is welcome to:

- Deepen knowledge of the Church's teaching on marriage...*
- Learn about the Church's ministry to the divorced/separated in the Diocese...*
- Hear about the annulment process and how to submit a case...*
- Discover a path to healing after divorce in order to strengthen and/or renew a relationship with God and the Church.*

In any endeavor, taking the "first step" is always the most difficult. The First Step Program helps individuals to navigate the path of healing and closure. Please visit www.dioceseofcleveland.org/tribunal for testimonials about the program from past participants.

The schedule for the general meetings in 2017 is:

Tuesday, March 21, at St. Peter Parish, Lorain, at 7pm.

Tuesday, May 16, at St. Mary Parish, Chardon, at 7pm.

Tuesday, Sept. 12, at St. Paul Parish, Akron, at 7pm.

Tues., Oct. 10, at St. Ambrose Parish, Brunswick, at 7pm.

Note that the Diocese of Cleveland no longer requires any fees for this process. For more info, call the Tribunal at 216-696-6525/800-869-6525, x4000 or visit www.dioceseofcleveland.org/tribunal.