

SAINTS THERESA & CHRISTOPHER

OUTREACH PROGRAM

Until recently, requests for assistance from individuals and families experiencing severe hardship were handled informally without the safeguards necessary to determine the appropriate ways to insure that those seeking help were fully aware of additional forms of assistance available from local, state and federal agencies in our area. When our ministry was formed, it was quite clear that we had a responsibility, not only to our parishioners, but also to help those in our community who are in need as well. Keeping in mind that we must be certain that assistance is given to those who are truly in need, and that our available funds are reserved for only them. To this end, we determined that requests forwarded to our ministry through the parish offices would be addressed quickly, documented, and acted upon by way of visiting those who request our assistance in their homes, with a promise to them, and to all, that we visit with love, respect, and more importantly, a promise of confidentiality.

When we visit, we observe, ask questions, document the need, and make a recommendation to, what if anything, we can do to lighten their burden. Under no circumstances do we make cash disbursements directly to those we assist, but rather, if deemed appropriate, we request Father approve a payment either to a utility company, heating service, or other approved types of service. Additional resource information is also made available to them.

As we visit, our eyes have been opened to realize that there is a desperate need in Tiverton, yes, Tiverton. Our visits to those in need have reinforced and even increased our determination to do as our Lord has commanded. As an example of a typical visit we have been in homes where even a winter coat cannot stop a chill from running up your spine, homes where the curtains blow straight out even though the windows are closed and much more which confidentiality does not allow us to mention.

On Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday, information was to be presented at all masses at both parishes pertaining to our ministry, and asking for your help both in prayer for those in need and financially to allow our ministry to continue. As you are aware, Mother Nature did not let this happen. We still need your help. You may have already noticed that there was a budget envelope entitled "Ash Wednesday Offering" for Parish Outreach. If you have used this envelope we thank you. If not please, please consider. If you do not have it, a plain envelope marked "Outreach Program" will do just fine, Please drop it in the basket. The monies donated within these envelopes will be reserved for our Outreach Ministry and will be used wisely within our community. We ask that you pray over this request. Pray also for those in need of assistance, and while your in the praying mode, say one for our ministry. Please remember that these people desperately need your assistance, they could be your neighbor or even one day even you. Please help.

If there are any questions or you are in need yourself, please call the rectory for more information.

For St. Theresa call 624-8746

For St. Christopher call 624-6644

Thank you for your prayers and generosity. OUTREACH PROGRAM COMMITTEE