

REACHING OUT

Parish Mission Statement

Resurrection Catholic Community is dedicated to growth in Christ and to the challenges of loving service.

Easter 2019

From the Deacon's Desk

I welcome you to this special Easter edition of our Outreach Newsletter!

As we gather during these Holy Days to remember, give thanks, and celebrate what God has done for us in Jesus Christ, let us also remember, give thanks, and celebrate what God continues to do through his Church, the Body of Christ on earth.

The Outreach Ministries featured in this issue are wonderful examples of how today's disciples of Jesus carry on his mission of salvation, healing, hope, and comfort to those who suffer.

The back page of this newsletter lists all of the Outreach Ministries that we support here at Resurrection. A simple perusal of the long list is inspiring!

So, be inspired and embrace the "challenges of loving service" (from our Parish Mission Statement, see above). Pray and ask God how you can help, and contact one of our Outreach Ministry coordinators.

God has a place for you to serve and bring consolation and joy to others. May you discover God's promise that, in giving, you will receive even more!



As we celebrate the mystery of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, may we pray for the grace to see his Risen Presence ever more clearly in his often distressing disguises, in the sick and elderly, in the homeless, in children, and in the incarcerated.

Happy Easter! Alleluia!

Deacon Patrick Conway
pfconway@sbcglobal.net
831-840-3750

Homebound Communion Ministry "When I was sick, you cared me."

There are many ways that we can care for people (and, therefore, for Jesus) when they are sick. Visits, cards, food, medicine, trips to the doctor, prayers, and a compassionate presence all help to heal the body and bring comfort and strength to the soul.

Our Homebound Eucharistic Ministry provides what is perhaps the ultimate medicine for body and soul: the special Presence of Christ in his Precious Body and Blood.

I remember visiting a woman who was undergoing treatment for acute leukemia, and I was

amazed at her insight into this: "Jesus is giving me his healthy body in exchange for my sick one."

Even as her body was being ravaged by this terrible cancer and its toxic treatment, she experienced Jesus giving her his strength, his healing and his own body in her suffering.

This is the essence of what this ministry is all about. We have the incredible privilege of bringing Christ to those who are suffering at home or in convalescent homes.

Currently we have 9 parishioners who bring communion to 12 of our homebound members. The ministers are on a two-team rotating schedule, so on any given week one person from each team is visiting the homebound, sharing God's word with them, praying with them and giving them Eucharist.

If you'd like to become a Eucharistic Minister to the Homebound, please contact me (Deacon Patrick) at 831-840-3750 (voice/text).

And let us all continue to pray for our suffering members!



Get On the Bus!

All children need their mothers and their fathers, even if one of their parents is in prison. This basic human need inspired Sr. Suzanne Jabro, CSI to establish Get On the Bus, a special program that brings children and their caregivers from throughout the state of California to visit their incarcerated parents. This is made possible because of the dedication and hard work of all the donors and volunteers, and last year over 1,100 children were united with their parents in 11 prisons throughout the state (7

men's and 4 women's facilities).

This year, through the generous support of parishes throughout our Diocese, many buses will again be provided to bring the children and their caregivers to the two prisons in the Salinas Valley on June 22nd, where they will visit with their fathers (and grandfathers). Prison visiting rooms will be transformed into family-centered spaces for children to visit, hug, play games, pray, and share a family lunch. We have committed to sponsoring an entire bus this year, at a cost of

about \$2,000. Your donation to Get on the Bus will bring hope, love, and great joy to the children and to their parents. (Funds received over \$2,000 will help pay for other buses.) If you would like more information about Get on the Bus you can go to www.getonthebus.us. Please use our "Outreach Ministries" donation envelopes and indicate that your donation is for "Get on the Bus". Envelopes are available on the counter above the bulletins. All donations must be received by May 12.

Get On the Bus not only connects children with their parents in prison but also when they are released from prison. Data shows that recidivism decreases when families stay connected. Children who are allowed regular visits with an incarcerated parent demonstrate better emotional and social adjustment; they can be assured they are loved and that their parents have not abandoned them by choice. The number one barrier families list as preventing children from visiting is distance, followed by finances. Thanks to your generosity our families and our society will be strengthened for generations to come!

Mobile Shower Ministry "Shower the People!"

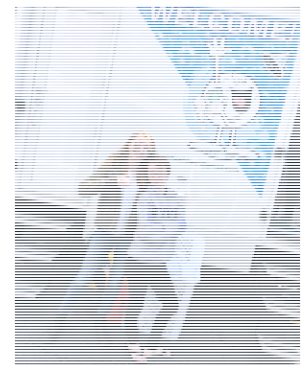
Of all the dehumanizing hardships of being homeless, one of the worst is not being able to bathe on a regular basis. (Just try going for a week without bathing and see how it affects your state of mind, not to mention how others treat you!) Out of compassion for our homeless brothers and sisters, nine churches in the Aptos area came together and purchased a two-shower trailer unit with

funds raised from our annual "Great Chili Cook-off" held here at Resurrection for the past several years. Staffed by volunteers from the nine churches, the mobile shower is here every Saturday afternoon (following the free Manana Ministries lunch in our cemetery parking lot). It also follows our homeless shelter program around the county, including when it is here every other Tuesday.

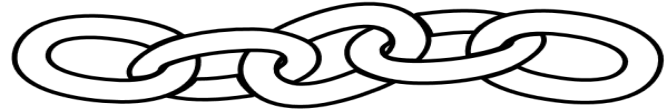
Our volunteers greet our guests and schedule the showers. Guests are provided with soap, shampoo, and towels. After each shower is completed, the volunteers clean out the shower to get it ready for the next guest. It is wonderful to see how this simple act of hospitality can transform how our guests look and feel about themselves. It helps to restore some of their human dignity, and gives

them renewed hope and strength to carry on.

If you'd like to learn more about this ministry, contact Steve Sage at (831) 761-5869 stephensage@hotmail.com



Jail Ministry



The Jail Ministry is an outreach to our brothers in the Santa Cruz County Jails in Santa Cruz and Watsonville. We are currently a team of 9 volunteers. We take turns conducting communion service on Mondays at 1 pm in Santa Cruz and on Tuesdays at 6 pm in Watsonville.

We begin the service by asking the men their names and something about themselves and their families. (We are not allowed to ask them why they are in jail. The introductions help us to know the men as human beings, not just as criminals. It helps us realize that these are people with

families and children, whom they miss very much. The men always thank us for taking our time to visit them in jail.

We are always looking for new team members, especially now that we have been asked to go into the Women's jail in Santa Cruz. (Only women are allowed to do this, so

we need to form a women's team.)

If you'd like to learn more about this ministry that Christ calls the Church to do, and how you can share in its joy, contact our coordinator Bill Littell at 831-688-8599 or blittelljr@aol.com



"When I was in prison, you visited me"

The mission of the Prison Ministry is to offer a Christian meditation program to inmates at the Correctional Training Facility (CTF) in Soledad. CTF is a state prison that houses an all-male population of Custody Level I, II and III inmates. Many of the men are serving out lengthy sentences, and some are even lifers.

The Prison Ministry team currently consists of volunteers from a number of Christian churches in Santa Cruz County who visit the prison three times a month to teach and lead Christian meditation groups. To gain access to the prison, volunteers undergo a yearly training and provide a negative TB test. They are then either put on a volunteer list or fingerprinted and issued an ID card to enter the facility, depending on the length of their volunteer service.

Typically, the meditation program opens with pray-

er, then proceeds to instructions in meditation, silent meditation practice, a short reflection given by one of the volunteers and an often lively discussion on the theme of the reflection in which all may participate.

There are no special requirements for inmates to join the meditation group, and the inmates who participate profess to a variety of faiths. The program began about 13 years ago, and a number of inmates have attended faithfully for many of those years. Others see the fliers posted around the facility and come to try it out once or twice. Anywhere from a handful of men to two dozen or more may show up for meditation on a particular day. All are welcome.

But why would the prisoners come to a meditation program at all? What does meditation offer to the incarcerated?

At the simplest level,

Prison Ministry

the silence of the prison chapel can be a welcome respite from the otherwise brutal environment of the prison facility. The majority the inmates' time is spent in a 6'6" x 10'6" x 8'8" cell (about the size of a bathroom), and there are usually two inmates in a cell. The ambient noise level is high and inescapable.

The emotional environment of the prison is equally as challenging as the physical environment. The inmates are governed by rules, rules, rules, about which they have no say. Several have expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to talk during the discussion after the reflection because they so rarely get to state an opinion and have someone listen to it. They have also said that they appreciate the safe environment of the meditation group; they can't risk exposing themselves or their thoughts even in conversation to a friend while

standing in line in the cafeteria or out in the yard where anyone might hear.

In his book, *Finding God Within: Contemplative Prayer for Prisoners* Raymond Leonardini, a lawyer and volunteer with the Prison Contemplative Fellowship at San Quentin, quotes an inmate who explains what a meditation practice offers to prisoners: "We are drawn to meditation as we are drawn to any practice that promises to give us relief from that deep, nagging, negative self -- the continuing experience of being less than who we truly are and who we want to be."

Anyone who would like further information on the Prison Ministry, including how to volunteer, may contact me.

Valerie Roach

vmd@cruzio.com

831-274-1150

Resurrection Catholic Community Outreach Ministries

Outreach Ministry/ Organization	Contact	Outreach Ministry/ Organization	Contact
Angel Tree Christmas gifts for families in need	Deacon Patrick Conway pfconway@sbcglobal.net 831-840-3750	Nursing Home Ministries Mass & Communion Services at Aegis and Hearts & Hands	Deacon Patrick Conway pfconway@sbcglobal.net 831-840-3750
Association of Faith Communities 25 Churches serving the Homeless	Pat Lorenzo pat.lorenzo@yahoo.com 831-708-2068	Parish Assistance Ministry Food, referrals, bus passes, financial assistance	Jan Finney jer63jan@sbcglobal.net 831-684-2879
COPA Faithful Citizenship for our Community	Mary Litel-Walsh mlitelwalsh@comcast.net 831-662-3376	Prime Timers Social and educational gather- ings for Seniors	Erma Coty, RN elcoty@att.net 831-688-4300 x17
Dominican Wellness Mobile Clinic On-site mobile clinic	Sr. Michaela Siplak, OP Michaela.siplak@dignityhealth.org 831-457-7168	Prison Ministry Weekly Christian meditation pro- gram at Soledad Prison	Valerie Roach vmd@cruzio.com 831-274-1150
Food Pantry Distributing donated food to those in need	Rody Hilbert darhilb@got.net 831-688-2270 Maggie Cross rmbcross@cruzio.com	Ruby's Outreach Helping people in need apply for benefits	Margaret "Ruby" Caylor riteaidruby@yahoo.com 831-662-3585
Gabriel Project and Siena House Helping Women in Crisis Pregnancies	Crockett Hinga thinga@sbcglobal.net 831-831-684-0953	Senior Resource Ministry Assistance for our Senior members	Erma Coty, RN elcoty@att.net 831-688-4300 x17
Get on the Bus Helping children to visit their parents in Prison	Karen Victorino kmvictorino@sbcglobal.net 831-688-4300	"Shower the People" Mobile Shower Ministry Mobile shower unit for homeless persons	Steve Sage stephensage@hotmail.com (831) 761-5869
Homebound Ministry Weekly Communion & support for our Homebound Members	Deacon Patrick Conway pfconway@sbcglobal.net 831-840-3750	SPIN-Socks for People in Need Providing new socks for people in need	Pat Lorenzo pat.lorenzo@yahoo.com 831-708-2068
Homeless Shelter Ministry Food and shelter for homeless men and women in Markey Community Center	Pat Lorenzo pat.lorenzo@yahoo.com 831-708-2068	St. Francis Catholic Kitchen Providing weekly noon lunch, clothing and showers	Kathy Manus kathrynmanus@gmail.com 831-688-0129
Hospice of Santa Cruz Support and care for those approaching the end of life	Shirley Sapena ssapena@hospicesantacruz.org 831-430-3078	Thanksgiving Boxes Providing Thanksgiving food box- es to families in need	Deacon Patrick Conway pfconway@sbcglobal.net 831-840-3750
Jail Ministry Weekly Communion services for those in County jails	Bill Littell bliittelljr@aol.com 831-688-8599	Tithing Ministry Distributing parish tithe four times per year	Kathy Manus kathrynmanus@gmail.com 831-688-0129
Jesus, Mary & Joseph Home Sheltering homeless women, children & the impoverished terminally ill	Kathy Manus kathrynmanus@gmail.com 831-688-0129	Tutoring Ministry tutoring children of farm workers	Hugh Voris hugo6184@gmail.com 831-688-7288
Knights of Columbus Catholic men serving our parish and community	Larry Gonzales larrydgonzales@aol.com 831-722-3159	Wings Helping homeless and recently- housed people with simple tasks	Deacon Patrick Conway pfconway@sbcglobal.net 831-840-3750
Manna Ministries Free hot lunch every Saturday at noon in cemetery parking lot	Kathy Manus, 831-688-0129 kathrynmanus@gmail.com Mike Howley, 831-688-8273 mikehowley1941@yahoo.com	Women's Guild Women of the parish serving parish & community	Doris Duncanson djamassa@sbcglobal.net 831-662-8605
Mantles of Caring Knitting items with love for those in need	Pat O'Brien fpob69@gmail.com 831-685-8639		