



REACHING OUT

Parish Mission Statement

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

Christmas 2018

From the Deacon's Desk

Our volunteers have been very busy over the past couple of months with our seasonal outreach efforts, as you will see in this special Christmas issue.

We are so blessed with so many compassionate and generous people, not only the "hands-on" volunteers, but with all of you who support our Outreach Ministries with donations of food, material goods, and money.

Speaking of money, I want to share with you the amazing numbers from our past fiscal year (ended August 31st). In restricted donations to specific Outreach Ministries, you gave nearly \$68,000! We spent every penny on financial assistance (rent, utilities, car repairs, gas, etc), bus passes, laundry vouchers, food pantry, pregnancy support, shelter for the homeless, prison ministry, and our

seasonal outreach (Thanksgiving food and Angel Tree), and other outreach efforts. (And it doesn't even include the additional \$30,000 that you gave to Coats for Kids! - see p. 2)

To me, this is extraordinary and profoundly inspiring. This money is given in addition to the regular Sunday offering. It is such so wonderful to see how this abundant generosity flows out from you to bless so many, many lives. What joy this brings!

The last two pages of this newsletter list 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 God-with-us in Jesus Christ, may we pray for the grace to open our heart ever wider, that Our Lord, in his often distressing disguises, may find a loving home in us. Merry Christmas!

Deacon Patrick Conway
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The story of the First Thanksgiving teaches us the joys of sharing, mercy and how very different peoples can come together to create community.

However shrouded in myth the historical facts may be, the story calls to us and challenges us to create the world of loving solidarity that God created us to live in.

This is the inspiration for our Thanksgiving Food Drive. No matter how rich our Thanksgiving meals may be, we know that we are truly poor if we feast while others go homeless and hungry.

Over the past 22 years, this community has provided Thanksgiving feast boxes for over 1,400 families. The boxes include a turkey (or ham), all the fixings for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner

Thanksgiving Food Boxes

(including a pie), as well as pantry items for the rest of the week (tuna, bread, peanut butter, jam, oil, rice, beans, flour, sugar), about \$75 worth of food. (This year our Youth Group made for each box beautiful living table centerpieces from greenery.)

But most of all, the boxes contain the priceless message of love!

Angel Tree

Certainly one of the main features of this season is gift-giving! It's a joy to give and to receive. Sometimes, however, this holiday gift-giving can seem more of an obligation than freely-given love and appreciation. This can be challenging!

We might ask, "What's it all about? Why do we give gifts at Christmas?" One way to answer this is to remember that it is the birthday of Jesus that we celebrate. We love to give people gifts on their birthdays, to express how much we appreciate the gift of their lives. Since Christ-

mas is Jesus' birthday, shouldn't we do the same for him? What does Jesus want for his birthday?

Now the purpose of the Angel Tree becomes clear. Jesus tells us that whatever we do for others, we do for him, and he especially wants us to care for his humanity as it suffers in all humans who suffer. When we do this, we are truly giving him what he wants for Christmas, and every day of the year. It was for this purpose that he was born into our world, to show us the way to love and peace in our world.

This year we provided gifts for nearly 400 people in Santa Cruz County. They are:

- * Very-low income families
- * Children in foster care
- * Women and Children at the Monarch Women's shelter
- * Very low income children at the Fairgrounds Child Development Center

Our gifts given to the people on our Angel Tree are gifts given to Jesus for his birthday. A

Over the past 22 years we have provided gifts to over 9,200 people. "We" of course, is all of you

who so lovingly adopt these individuals and return such beautifully wrapped packages, obvious expressions of your compassion and unconditional love.

It is our prayer that these gifts will be "sacraments" of God's love, and that those who receive them will know that God is real, that God is love, and that Jesus Christ is God.



Coats For Kids!

Anyone who is or has raised children know that last year's winter coat just won't fit this year! This is true for all children, rich or poor. That's why the Knights of Columbus created the Coats for Kids program, so that all of God's children could experience the warm hug and dignity of a winter coat that fits.

We are so blessed that our own Knights of Co-

lumbus Council has invited us to participate in this program each year.

Once again, an anonymous donor gave a \$5,000 challenge grant that we had to meet. To say that we "met and raised the bet" is an understatement. You gave more than \$25,000 for a grand total of over \$30,000!

This purchased brand new winter coats for

over 800 children here in our area, as well as for an additional 650 children in the Camp and Tubbs Fires communities, who have lost everything.

Locally, the coats are distributed by Sister Rosa at Casa de la Cultura in Pajaro. Sister Rosa said that a child asked her if the Knights were bringing coats again this year, and Sister said that she was praying for it.

The little girl said, "Well, if they do, then please give my coat to a girl who lost everything in the fire. She'll need it more, and I can make do with my old coat."

Because of your generosity, both girls got new coats this year!



Ministry/Organization	Mission	Contact	Email/Phone
Angel Tree	Providing Christmas gifts to those in need	Deacon Patrick Conway	pfconway@sbcglobal.net 831-840-3750
Association of Faith Communities Homeless Outreach	25 Churches Collaborating on Interfaith Solutions to serve the Homeless in the Santa Cruz Metro Area	Pat Lorenzo	pat.lorenzo@yahoo.com 831-708-2068
COPA	Bringing People together for Faithful Citizenship in our Community	Mary Litel-Walsh	mlitelwalsh@comcast.net 831-662-3376
Dominican Wellness Mobile Clinic	Bringing Healthcare Where You Are	Sr. Michaela Siplak, OP	michaela.siplak@dignityhealth.org 831-457-7168
Food Pantry	Distributing Donated Food to those in need	Rody Hilbert Maggie Cross	darhilb@got.net 831-688-2270 rmbcross@cruzio.com
Gabriel Project and Siena House	Helping Women in Crisis Pregnancies	Virginia Kaufman	ginnypk@comcast.net 831-247-5461
Get on the Bus	Helping Children to Visit their Fathers in Prison	Renetta Parry	pandas205@msn.com 831-662-3067
Homebound Ministry	Providing Weekly Communion & Support for our Homebound Members	Deacon Patrick Conway	pfconway@sbcglobal.net 831-840-3750
Homeless Shelter Ministry	Providing food, shelter and hospitality to about 20 homeless men and women in Markey Community Center on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month	Pat Lorenzo	pat.lorenzo@yahoo.com 831-708-2068
Hospice of Santa Cruz	Provides professional, compassionate care recognizing that individuals and families are the guiding force in their own end of life experience.	Shirley Sapena	ssapena@hospicesantacruz.org 831-430-3078
Jail Ministry	Providing weekly Communion Services to those in County Jails	Bill Littell	blittelljr@aol.com 831-688-8599
Jesus, Mary & Joseph Home	Sheltering Homeless Women, Kids & Impoverished Terminally Ill	Kathy Manus	kathrynmanus@gmail.com 831-688-0129
Knights of Columbus	Catholic Family, Fraternal & Service Organization Supporting Our Parish	Patrick McMenemy	patrick.mcm@att.net 831-688-1974
Mantles of Caring	Knitting/Crocheting with Compassion & Love Reaching Out to Those in Need	Pat O'Brien	fpob69@gmail.com 831-685-8639
Manna Ministries	Providing free hot lunches to the hungry & homeless in Aptos every Saturday noon, along with new socks, used clothing, pet food & more.	Kathy Manus Mike Howley	kathrynmanus@gmail.com 831-688-0129 mikehowley1941@yahoo.com 831-688-8273
Nursing Home Ministries	Providing Mass & Communion Services for Residents of Aegis & Hearts & Hands	Deacon Patrick Conway	pfconway@sbcglobal.net 831-840-3750

Ministry/Organization	Mission	Contact	Email/Phone
Parish Assistance Ministry (PAM)	Providing food, information, bus passes, laundry vouchers, limited financial assistance	Jan Finney	jer63jan@sbcglobal.net 831-684-2879
Prime Timers	To Provide information and assistance, social and spiritual opportunities and support to older adults and caregivers of Resurrection.	Erma Coty, RN	elcoty@att.net 831-688-4300 x17
Senior Resource Ministry	Provide senior members with resources that support independence and safe and healthy aging in mind, body, and spirit to maximize opportunities for senior participation in parish ministries and educational & social events.	Erma Coty, RN	elcoty@att.net 831-688-4300 x17
Prison Ministry	Offering a Weekly Christian Meditation Program at Soledad Prison	Valerie Roach	vmd@cruzio.com 831-274-1150
Ruby's Outreach	Helping Overwhelmed People Apply for Benefits	Margaret "Ruby" Caylor "Ruby the Clerk"	riteaidruby@yahoo.com 831-662-3585
"Shower the People" Shower Ministry	Mobile shower unit for the homeless	Steve Sage	stephensage@hotmail.com (831) 761-5869
Socks for People in Need/SPIN	Providing new socks for people in need	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
Thanksgiving Boxes	Providing Thanksgiving food to people in need	Deacon Patrick Conway	pfconway@sbcglobal.net 831-840-3750
Tithing Ministry	Distributing parish tithe four times per year	Kathy Manus	kathrynmanus@gmail.com 831-688-0129
Tutoring Ministry	To provide one-on-one tutoring to help children of farm workers	Hugh Voris	hugo6184@gmail.com 831-688-7288
Wings	Helping homeless and recently-housed people with simple tasks	Deacon Patrick Conway	pfconway@sbcglobal.net 831-840-3750
Women's Guild	Uniting women of the parish in service to the parish & community	Doris Duncanson	djamassa@sbcglobal.net 831-662-8605