

SAINT ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH'S PARISH PROFILES

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Social Justice Committee

The mission of Saint Rose parish—Glorify God. Follow Jesus. Love one another. Invite everyone.—is at the heart of Saint Rose's Social Justice Committee (SJC).

“Saint Rose's parishioners share two important qualities: 1) they care and 2) they will act to help others,” says Nancy Reszetar, chairperson of the SJC. “Our lives get so busy with everyday activities that sometimes it's a challenge to fit in things outside of our family responsibilities. That's why the SJC will continue to provide opportunities for Saint Rose's parishioners to engage in important work in our broader community that furthers our church's mission.”

With goals such as developing awareness, taking action and promoting advocacy, the SJC has:

- Hosted speakers and provided information about issues affecting our community.
- Taken on service projects such as Adopt-a-Park litter cleanup in Reservoir Woods, Feed My Starving Children and the School Supply Drive.
- Advocated for social justice by collaborating with Catholic Charities and submitting petitions in support of legislative action.

“By attending the talking sessions for the Building the Beloved Community Public Safety program and listening to the commissioner of public safety, I have gained a new understanding of some of the challenges that police and the individuals encountering the police face every day,” says Julia Sherman, a member of SJC. “It was very educational to gain those perspectives.”

Sue Heather, another SJC member, says that her prayer life has been enhanced by participating in projects such as the School Supply Drive, putting together packages for Bridging and other non-profits, hosting the alms basket during Lent, and participating in educational sessions about Pro-Life and human trafficking in Roseville. Both Julia, who joined Saint Rose in 2019, and Sue, a 50-year member of the parish, say meeting and interacting with others is a great benefit of the SJC. “I have been able to get to know a number of parishioners more personally,” says Julia. Sue concurs: “I have met so many wonderful, capable and caring people by being on this committee.”

Nancy is also proud to be part of the SJC. “I've educated myself about important, relevant, and sometimes uncomfortable topics and advocated for initiatives to heal and advance our community. Participating in SJC activities is one important way that I demonstrate the values of my faith in the community working with those outside our parish and our faith. When I participate in service projects, using my time and talents, I feel the Holy Spirit guiding me to implement my values and faith in purposeful ways and building bridges with others that don't know us yet.”

Care Centers

For at least two decades members of Saint Rose have been holding Communion Services at Rose of Sharon Care Center. Every Tuesday morning the residents gather together to participate in the service.

“Just by looking at their faces you can tell how much this service means to them,” says Cathy Murphy, Center’s Life Enrichment Director. So we observed them on a typical Tuesday morning.

When the residents enter the room their eyes light up and they wave to the Saint Rose volunteers. As they are individually greeted by members of the team, they grasp their hands and you can see the appreciation in their eyes. As the Service proceeds they join in as best they can and when the Body of Christ is offered to them they accept it with heartfelt reverence.

Cathy appreciates “that all denominations are welcome at this Service as it is meaningful for them as well.”

After the Communion Service the volunteers take the Blessed Sacrament to the residents who were unable to attend. They, too, express their gratitude with words and/or smiles. Not everyone can receive Communion but they really like having the team members pray with and for them.

Family members have also expressed appreciation that their loved ones have this opportunity. The wife of one of the residents who recently passed away asked if one of the team members could participate in reading Scripture at her husband’s funeral Mass. She said, “The Communion Service meant so much to my husband John. On Tuesdays his spirit was lighter and his eyes had a sparkle to them. It was truly a blessing for him.” If you ask any member of the team they will tell you that it is a wonderful blessing for them as well.

Saint Rose volunteers also provide regular Communion Services at Eagle Crest, RosePointe and Roseville Senior Apartments.

Homebound Eucharist

Marie Nordby, a member of Saint Rose for 70 years, used to bring the Eucharist to her neighbor Agnes Maitrejean. Today at age 97 Marie receives Communion weekly from homebound minister Claire Tschida. “I never thought that I would receive this wonderful blessing in my own home.”

Currently 35 homebound ministers regularly bring Communion and/or pray and visit with approximately 140 senior residents in the Roseville area (mostly parishioners).

“Words can’t express the impact this ministry has brought to countless parishioners and those in the local community that are either unable to attend Mass and/or desire fellowship and communal prayer,” say Brian Hindt, Pastoral Associate. “A heartfelt thank you to each of our homebound ministers for sharing the three greatest gifts anyone can receive: Eucharist (God Himself), love, and community with our homebound and/or senior communities. Also, a special thanks to the recipient’s of our homebound ministry (myself included) for inspiring us with your faith, kindness and courage. Every time I speak to our homebound ministers they always reiterate that they receive more than they give in their ministry.”

Claire spends about an hour a week when she visits Marie, updating her on parish news and talking about their families, friends, pets and a variety of other subjects. “I look forward to her visits—and those of her substitutes—and over time they have become good friends,” says Marie. “It is such a wonderful blessing to receive the Eucharist at home.”

Claire says it is “a gift to bring Christ in the Eucharist to Marie. She is such a kind and joyful woman, and is so positive about life, her faith and love for her family. I really look forward to visiting her each week.”

We are grateful to all those reflecting God’s glory through good works within and outside of our parish community. If you would like to join (or financially support) any of these ministry teams please call the Parish Center Office, 651.645.9389.