

SAINT ROSE OF LIMA CATHOLIC CHURCH'S PARISH PROFILES

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Giving Back

During the COVID-19 pandemic the people of Saint Rose have accelerated the parish's commitment to helping others in need. Here is one of their stories:

Catholic Charities has been serving the poorest and most vulnerable members of the community for almost 150 years, and for more than half that time the Saint Rose Parish has been generous in its support. One of the newest ways volunteers are helping the largest comprehensive social service nonprofit in the region is by making facemasks to help control the pandemic.

A lifelong seamstress and Saint Rose member for seven decades, 85-year-old Lillian Deters retired last year from sewing clothes for others. Her sewing machine did not stay idle for long. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit she began making masks for family and friends. Soon her daughter Susan joined in after not sewing for 40 years.

So far they have donated approximately 630 masks to Catholic Charities (and another 50 to Oakdale Senior Living). "They are extremely grateful," says Susan. "Whenever I make a delivery and ask if they need more, the answer is always 'yes.' We will keep making them. In fact, we will be happy to donate to any organization looking for masks." The joy for Susan, she says, is being able to help during this time of need. "I love being able to donate things and share what I can do for other people. My Mom feels the same way."

Mary Spaulding also heard the call from Catholic Charities. She previously used her sewing skills to make and repair adaptive equipment as a long-time volunteer at Courage Center. "I began making masks in mid-April when it became apparent that so many people — including hospital workers — were having trouble securing enough," says Mary. "I kept making them until I ran out of materials."

She produced 425 masks with 325 earmarked for Catholic Charities (100 went to family and friends). One hundred of them are made out of Christmas fabric and will be delivered to Catholic Charities later this year.

"That organization has a real need—every client that comes to their door gets a mask," says Mary. "They were requiring masks long before it was mandated, and the last I heard, Catholic Charities had no cases of the virus at any of their facilities. That makes me so proud to help prevent people from getting sick."