

# Charity . . .



St. Elizabeth tirelessly serves the poor.

Freely distributing her husband's wealth (with his approval), giving away her fine clothes, and using the money from her dowry in service to those in need all exemplify Elizabeth's commitment to directly serve the poor in every way she could. Although her charity is criticized by those in power and by certain relatives, Elizabeth never ceases to find joy in giving alms.

Compassion ❖ Faithfulness ❖ **Charity** ❖ Humility ❖ Prayer

# Charity . . . Serving the poor in every way



St. Elizabeth of Hungary is best known for her generosity to the poor and all those in need. For fifty years our parish has been deeply committed to works of charity.

The centerpiece of Parish Social Ministry is **Outreach**. This ministry “reached out” to even more folks already served by the St. Vincent de Paul chapter that had begun soon after the parish opened. (See the chapter on the Compassion of St. Elizabeth for more on the Society.) Outreach began in April, 1979 with an office and pantry.



Art Frisenda, Barbara DiNuzzo, Pat Kosubinsky, Anita DosSantos (Director), Patricia Huber



Cindy Spira, Lillian Sharkey, Mary Schaefer, Anita Roth, Patricia Huber



Frank Panzella, Helen Miller, Fran Adams



Anita Roth, Molly Pepino, Marie Marchesiello

The original Outreach workers were Rita Bowden, Ann Farrell, Kay Horsch, Dorothy Lyons, Kay Muir, Molly Pepino, Lillian Sharkey, Betty Vasta and Jean Wendell. (Molly and Lillian continue serving Outreach until today.) Over the past thirty years the Outreach facilities have expanded; many core workers have been trained and continue diocesan updating. Currently, the Outreach pantry feeds approximately 80 families every month.





Debbie Jacobs, James Miley,  
Regina Goodman, Pat Delaney



Fran Adams, Irene Barrett, Helen Miller



Barbara Barlotta, Peter Needham



Marie Dybec, Anita Dos Santos, Lillian Sharkey,  
Molly Pepino, Debbie Jacobs

Outreach worked with Ray Murphy (president of St. Vincent de Paul) and delivered Thanksgiving food baskets and Christmas food baskets. By 1997 the **Thanksgiving to Christmas** ministry was founded by chairperson JoAnn Messina. Past leaders include Michelle Bischoff and Marie Dybec.



Barbara Potenza, Marie Dybec



Matthew Goodman



Fred Wolf delivers gifts to St. John of God Church in Central Islip from St. Elizabeth's parishioners



Pat Del Col, Regina Goodman, Deborah Jacobs,  
Cindy Spira (chair)



Cole Dybec





Lillian Sharkey, Molly Pepino,  
Fran Jacobowski



Karen Dowd, Joseph Potenza, Joe Potenza  
Pat Delcol, Marie Dybec, Cole Dybec



1983 Thanksgiving Drive

Gift cards began to be included in 2004, giving families more freedom in choosing gifts for their children. Seven years ago this ministry also experienced the help of Family Program middle-schoolers to help at Thanksgiving.



The Cipriano Family



P.J. and Alexandra Bischoff

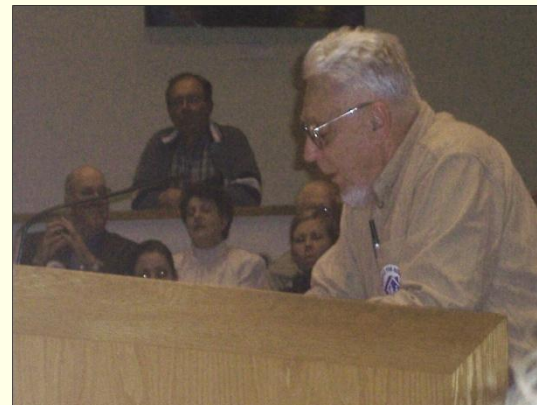


A similar initiative began in 2003 when Michelle Bischoff began the **School Supplies** collection over the summer to prepare needy families and their children for the return to school. Martha Screeney and Sheila Pio also chaired this charitable work.



Regina Goodman, Debbie Jacobs,  
Sheila Pio (chair)

Two groups have especially worked in fostering justice education and works of charity during our fifty years. In the 1970's, a **Peace and Justice Committee** was formed whose early members included Pat and Larry Darcey, Pat and Bill Friedman, Charles Kerner, Florence Rooney, and Alexis and Terry Stafford. In the late 1980's Charles Kerner became the chair and educated those involved on civil rights, nuclear disarmament, hunger and the Long Island Catholics for Peace.



Charlie Kerner



The committee went on retreat in 1994 when it changed its name to **Journey to Justice**. The group became involved with LICan, Operation Rice Bowl and for more than twelve years sponsored a pasta dinner to raise money for the poor. Cathy Cangemi's sauce was always served. Midge Thompson became the chair in 2004 and served until 2010.



Marguerite Jones, Jeannette Daddona, John Daddona, Cathy Cangemi, Lillian Sharkey, Paul Kutasove, Mary Farmer, Midge Thompson



Midge Thompson, Charlie Kerner



Irene Barrett, Anita Dos Santos

The second group which continues to foster justice education is **Joy and Justice**, part of the Family Program. The group began in the 1990's and has been chaired by Rosemary Roggenkamp, Dawn Kelly and Ann Marchesiello. Highlights over the years include the walkathon, toiletry drive, Christmas boutique and Operation Rice Bowl.



Students from the Family Program assist with the toiletry drive.



Our parish had a **Thrift Shop** from 1999 until 2005. It was set up as a boutique in the parish center where the Outreach food pantry is now located. With Barbara Green as their leader, workers included Josephine Pellegrino, Irene Schuler, Lorraine Powers, Barbara DeNuzzo and Sue Ricigliano.



Margot Mladinich, Betty Rees, Joan Kaweck, Sue Ricigliano

Since our parish was founded, we have relied on the charity and generosity of all our parishioners.

The parish began developing an awareness of stewardship as a way of life in the early 1990's. By September 1995, the **Stewardship Committee** was formed under the joint chairs of Glenn Gray and Joe Sequino. The following spring, the first (now annual) Time and Talent Ministry Fair was held under a tent. A highlight of this committee was the production of the video, *Stewardship – A Way of Life*, which received a national award. Patty Wilson has also chaired the committee.



Front Row: Marie Sagel, Pat Kosubinsky, Harry Perepeluk  
Back Row: Mary Gunning, Jane McAuley, Brian Dolan, Steve Caputo

Stewardship as sharing time and talent took concrete forms over the years as men of the parish helped with our **Buildings and Grounds**. In the 1990's, under the leadership of Mickey Szyptot, this became a more focused ministry. Projects included planting trees, shrubs and flowers, painting classrooms, removing and replacing ceilings, repairs and maintenance.



Bob Ahlstrom (and Timothy), Mickey Szyptot (chair) Ken Warburton, Ed Vasta, Karen Dowd, Brian Dolan, Paul Dauscher, Matthew McKenna, Tom McKenna, Richard Satnick



Harry Perepeluk, Hank Bungart, Al Ruenes, Bernie Varrone, George Pepino (chair), Tom Franco, Frank Lonardo, Bob Lambert, Andy Rainone

One of the groups behind-the-scenes, is the **Collection Counters**. In early 1963, the first counters were Dorothy Conboy, Jean McGloin and Kay Brady in the summer of 1963.

At first the counters worked in the rectory on Pidgeon Hill Road (and made supper and left it for the priests before they went home).

Over the years, counters have included George Rau, Joe Helj and Ray Murphy.



The parish trustees have been part of the “parish corporation” since we were founded in 1962 as *The Roman Catholic Church of St. Elizabeth, Melville, New York*. Our earliest trustees included John Cregg and Frank Schneider. Over the years trustees have been Anthony Giambalvo, Al Canagiani, Patricia Kosubinsky, Robert Mockrish, Robert Ahlstrom, Jr. and David Klaum.



Trustees: John Cregg & Frank Schneider



Paul Kutasovic, Steve Distante, Harry Perepeluk, George Richardson, Kathy McIntyre, John Toohey (chair), Robert Ahlstrom (Trustee), Msgr. Frank Schneider, Paul Scudieri, Dave Klaum (Trustee), Alec McAuley

The **Finance Committee** is a behind-the-scenes group, advising the pastor on parish budget, investments, and tenants. The Finance Committee began in October, 1984, when all Catholic parishes were mandated to have a finance committee. Earliest members were Mary Diebold, Anthony Giambalvo and Frank Schneider. In the early 1990’s the finance committee was expanded to its current members. This group included Alex Cover, the first chair of the finance committee, Patricia Kosubinsky, Bill Flister, and Jeff Schmitz. Subsequently added were Tony Giambalvo, John Harrigan, Tom Rooney, Henry Rossi, Al Canigiani, Ted Kolakowski, Doug DiSalvo and Patty Wilson.



Margaret Mesecher, Nancy Dunn (co-chair), John Ferrante, Evelyn Polvere (co-chair)



In 2009, the **Catholic Climate Covenant Committee** was formed as a way for the parish to raise awareness on care for God’s creation, environment and “green” issues. Nancy Dunn, Evelyn Polvere, Margaret Mesecher and John Ferrante organized information evenings, email updates and parish awareness events.