

JUSTICE AND PEACE DECEMBER 2023 BULLETIN NOTES

DECEMBER	
CHARITY, PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR & VULNERABLE, CHILDREN EASTERN SHORE & ST. GABRIEL	
Sundays	Soup Kitchen
Tues./Thur./Sat. weekly	Catholic Worker, Soupline
12/3-	Memorial Mass Neil Walsh
12/2&3	Advent Giving Tree (Eastern Shore and Saint Gabriel Children)
12/4-	Annual Justice & Peace Advent Dinner, in lieu of meeting 6:00 pm-7:30 pm, (all members of J&P ministries, family & friends, & Community Partners)-Commons
12/12-	<i>Haiti Twinning Ministry (HTM) 6:00 pm light dinner, meeting 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm, 3rd floor J&P Room</i>
12/18-	Care For Creation Meeting, 7:00 pm-8:15 pm-Commons
12/9-10-	Advent Giving Tree (Eastern Shore and Saint Gabriel Children)
12/10-	Return All Gifts for Eastern Shore Children
12/11-	Pick up Eastern Shore Children 9:00 am
12/16 & 17	Sign-Up AGT (St. Gabriel's Children) Donations accepted until Epiphany
12/25	Nativity of Our Lord

Dec. 2/3-2023

ADVENT GIVING TREE Our Advent tradition has online signups this year. Our gifts will go to our outreach ministries, the children of migrant workers on the Eastern Shore, and the children of St. Gabriel Parish, our twin parish in Haiti. For the Eastern Shore children, we ask for gifts of toys or clothing. For the children at St. Gabriel in Haiti, we ask for monetary gifts which will be used to help purchase textbooks for the students. Detailed instructions are on the parish website. You can sign up to bring a gift for a child. **Wrapped** gifts, with the child's name firmly attached, must be brought to the church **by Monday, December 10th at noon**. You can bring them during weekday office hours, or at mass times on the weekend. To purchase textbooks for Haiti the sign up is on the parish website. These gifts can be mailed to the church, or put in the collection basket, or done online with Haiti Giving Tree/Building Fund on the memo line. For more information, please contact Pam Housler at (757)-536-2442 or pamhousler@cox.net

CARE FOR CREATION | Celebrate a Sustainable Christmas

Christmas is a wonderful time of year, but it is not kind to the environment. The Christmas season generates an additional 30% more trash than is produced and discarded throughout the rest of the year. This additional trash includes platefuls of food, Christmas lights, Christmas trees, wrapping paper and unwanted Christmas presents.

If these facts make you feel uneasy? Think about how you can reduce Christmas waste this year by

- Choosing LED Christmas lights
- Choosing an eco-friendly Christmas tree
- Shopping locally and carefully considering what you buy.
- Buying sustainable gifts
- Choosing the right wrapping paper: use brown paper bags or gift bags saved from last year, newspaper from the comics or cloth wrappings.
- Thinking carefully when buying and preparing food to reduce waste.

Be creative and think of new ways you can put the *green* back in Christmas.

THANKSGIVING BASKET 2023 Karen will send the office a thank you note after the event.

COMMUNITY PARTNER-NORFOLK COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD (NCSB)

Mission Statement--To provide the citizens of Norfolk who experience behavioral health and developmental disabilities with quality services that instill hope and recovery.

Vision Statement--Every citizen of Norfolk, who experiences behavioral health and developmental disabilities, will realize hope and recovery.

Today, we provide treatment and rehabilitation services to over 9,000 Norfolk citizens yearly. The level of service each person needs can vary from ongoing support to short-term intervention, with most having needs that fall somewhere in between. In whatever manner people come to us, we assure their full participation in decisions about what services are appropriate to their individual needs and circumstances. We provide those services in the least restrictive environment possible - usually at one of our service locations or in the consumer's home. [Norfolk Community Services Board | City of Norfolk, Virginia - Official Website](#)

Dec. 9/10-2023

ADVENT GIVING TREE Our Advent tradition has online signups this year. Our gifts will go to our outreach ministries, the children of migrant workers on the Eastern Shore, and the children of St. Gabriel Parish, our twin parish in Haiti. All the children from the Eastern Shore whose names we were given have received a gift. To purchase textbooks for Haiti the sign up is on the parish website. These gifts can be mailed to the church, or put in the collection basket, or done online with Haiti Giving Tree/Building Fund on the memo line. For more information, please contact Pam Housler at (757)-536-2442 or pamhousler@cox.net

DIGNITY OF LIFE WORKSHOP send update for bulletin after the event, Nov. 27th, 2023.



NEWS FROM OUR TWIN PARISH IN HAITI, SAINT GABRIEL (SG)

At the heart of the Diocese of Richmond's Haiti Ministry lies its twinning or partnership programs. Over 50 parishes in the Diocese of Richmond are twinned with a parish or organization in Haiti. The twinning program is based on relationship and solidarity; it is understood that each partner has gifts to share with the other and that we stand with each other as we journey forward in faith.

In addition to the twinning relationships, several diocesan boards, teams and special projects address specific needs in Haiti. Education, Healthcare and Sustainable Development are among those issues that are addressed in this way.

The Diocesan Haiti Commission is the oversight and advisory body which helps guide the direction of the ministry and provides the support necessary for those who are engaged in work with Haiti.

The Haiti Twinning Ministry (HTM) meets the 2nd Tues. of each month to study the 7 Themes of Catholic Social Teaching, and support SG with projects that are making them increasingly independent from outside aid. Let us join in prayer for our family at SG. For more information on SG Parish and its School, contact Brendan Pigott: bp2004bch@aol.com and view: <http://www.sacredheartnorfolk.org/ministries/justice-and-peace/haiti-ministry/>

December 16/17-2023 UPDATED

ADVENT GIVING TREE 2023 | Thank you for your generous response to the Advent tradition. Sacred Heart provided 53 gifts for the children on the Eastern Shore. We still need support for the children of our twin parish, St. Gabriel in Haiti with monetary contributions to a fund that will be used to purchase textbooks for children in the 8th and 9th grades. Each book is \$36. These gifts can be mailed to the church, put in the collection basket, or done online. Be sure to use Haiti Giving Tree/Textbook Fund on the memo line. If you have questions, contact Pam Housler at 757-536-2442 or pamhousler@cox.net. Thank you for your generosity.

THE TIDEWATER SOWERS OF JUSTICE | Do you carry deep concern for people impacted by racism, lack of affordable housing and healthcare, immigration laws, high rates of incarceration, climate, and many other injustices? You are not alone! The Tidewater Sowers of Justice is a faith-based group that addresses social justice causes of our world. We invite you to come journey with us. We meet on the second Friday of each month in different churches to learn about, accept and respond to the challenges of the Gospel. POC: Helen White at 757-270-8074 or email dolfingal8@gmail.com.

CARE FOR CREATION | What is ecological conversion? | In *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis calls us to undergo an ecological conversion. But what is ecological conversion? [Laudato Si' Movement](#) defines ecological conversion as the “transformation of hearts and minds toward greater love of God, each other, and creation. It is a process of acknowledging our contribution to the social and ecological crisis and acting in ways that nurture communion: healing and renewing our common home.”

In his book *The Ten Green Commandments of Laudato Si'*, Fr. Joshtrom Kureethadam, Head of the Vatican's Ecological and Creation Office, writes that an “ecological conversion calls for a return to the Creator,” a turning to God in the humble and genuine spirit of repentance, acknowledging God as the Creator and source of all things, and repairing the broken relationship with God and each other. Fr. Kureethadam also writes that an “ecological conversion calls for a ‘turning’ to the creation itself” as caring and responsible stewards. To learn more about *Ecological Conversion* take five minutes to watch “What is Ecological Conversion?” (<https://youtu.be/xSctOJ49FRQ?si=rMuVZd6-AgxEMRvc>), a video prepared by eco-catholic.com.

December 24/25-2023

The members of Social Ministries wish you and your families a Merry and Blessed Christmas.

ADVENT GIVING TREE 2023 | Thank you for your generous response to the Advent tradition. Sacred Heart provided 53 gifts for the children on the Eastern Shore. We still need support for the children of our twin parish, St. Gabriel in Haiti with monetary contributions to a fund that will be used to purchase textbooks for children in the 8th and 9th grades. Each book is \$36. These gifts can be mailed to the church, put in the collection basket, or done online. Be sure to use Haiti Giving Tree/Textbook Fund on the memo line. If you have questions, contact Pam Housler at 757-536-2442 or pamhousler@cox.net. Thank you for your generosity.

DIGNITY OF LIFE MINISTRY | **If alcohol is causing problems in your life, contact A.A.** We're alcoholics helping other alcoholics get sober. 757-490-3980. info@tidewaterintergroup.org. [Click here](#) to find a meeting near you.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS | Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia has services to strengthen individuals and families in need. Please visit our website at www.cceva.org to find out more. If you'd like to help, please consider donations of diapers and baby items, or give through the second collection at all Christmas Masses. Thank you! **Tracy Fick CEO**
| [Catholic Charities of Eastern Virginia](#)

December 30/31-2023

The members of Social Ministries wish you and your families a blessed and Happy New Year.

ADVENT GIVING TREE 2023 | Thank you for your generous response to the Advent tradition. Sacred Heart provided 53 gifts for the children on the Eastern Shore. We still need support for the children of our twin parish, St. Gabriel in Haiti with monetary contributions to a fund that will be used to purchase textbooks for children in the 8th and 9th grades. Each book is \$36. These gifts can be mailed to the church, put in the collection basket, or done online. Be sure to use Haiti Giving Tree/Textbook Fund on the memo line. If you have questions, contact Pam Housler at 757-536-2442 or pamhousler@cox.net. Thank you for your generosity.

SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER IN TIDEWATER VIRGINIA AREA | Come and see about Franciscan Spirituality. We are lay men and women from throughout the Tidewater VA Area who are learning to follow Christ in the footsteps of Saint Francis of Assisi. Our fraternity, OSF Sacred Heart meets the 3rd Sunday of each month at Saint Gregory the Great at 2:15 pm. For more info., please contact Anne O'Leary, OFS (757) 572-1749, pjrainbow@juno.com | and William Wallace, OFS (757) 553-8767, wgwbraveheart@hotmail.com | [Website](#)

COMMUNITY PARTNERS | Virginia Supportive Housing continues to provide safe and permanent housing with wrap-around social services to more than 600 individuals in Hampton Roads. This summer and fall they hosted tours of their 6 properties across the area in Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, and Virginia Beach. They would like to thank the members of Sacred Heart Church who were able to attend a tour and invite others to join next spring when they restart the touring season. VSH would like to express their sincere appreciation to Father Paul and the congregation of Sacred Heart Catholic Church for continuing to support their mission of working to end homelessness in Virginia. And their residents were delighted to have received Thanksgiving Baskets again this year. Thank you - You are truly a blessing, and your care and generosity is truly helping to transform the lives of our most vulnerable neighbors. **POC:** Nancy Perry nperry@virginiassupportivehousing.org

DIGNITY OF LIFE | **Pregnant and need help?** [Click here](#) to find pregnancy resources offered by our two dioceses.