

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time B

February 11, 2018

Readings: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1; Mark 1:40-45

The work of the Church extends far beyond what most of us are able to appreciate on a daily basis. Twelve counties comprises 5,595 square miles, this local Church extends far beyond the space in which most of us live our daily lives.

The Office of Marriage, Family, and Life is another Collective Ministry of our Archdiocese. From serving people directly through programs like the Life Fund which provides financial assistance to desperate mothers, The Washington DC March for Life and Archdiocesan Youth Day; to providing leadership training and support to parish leaders so they can more effectively live their parish mission. \$430,000

Our prison (\$45,000) and hospital (\$600,000) chaplains do the same. Being very near three of the 13 hospitals in the metro area, I am happy to receive calls to provide assistance so that the chaplains can have a needed day off. That is intense ministry, but many hospitals do not fund Catholic chaplains, so it is left to their respective churches to do this.

College is such a critical time in your people's lives. We are now blessed with an excellent New Man Center at the U of Minnesota, staffed by our own Archdiocesan priests, but also funded largely through the generosity of CSA, to the tune of \$264,000.

The Venezuelan Mission parish operates amidst poverty, malnutrition, and chronic unemployment, serves the poorest of the poor in Ciudad Guayana, Venezuela in very dangerous and desperate circumstances. (\$204,000). In fact, so respected is Fr. Greg Schaeffer, that he was named Diocesan administrator during the period between bishops of that vast diocese of 20,701 sq. miles. Because of your generosity, the 18 Collective Ministries of the Archdiocese reach over 200,000 people each year - the homeless,

the hungry, the imprisoned, the students in financial need, the hospitalized, seminarians, missionaries, the immigrants.

In the brief second reading, Saint Paul powerfully speaks of doing everything for the glory of God. This has become one of his most quoted lines in all the Scriptures, and indeed we seek to do good for God's glory, not our own. Our priests in Venezuela are living this passage each and every day, enduring hardship out of love of others.

I am particularly pleased that a new ministry has been added this year and that is the Rachel's Vineyard Twin Cities, a Catholic version of the retreats for women who have experienced the loss of a child through abortion. We in the Church need to be present. Since the first retreat in November of 1999, RVTC has offered more than 48 retreats in the Twin Cities area, served 515+ women and men, providing needed healing, hope and forgiveness.

Finally, I am a big believer in Catholic education including at the high school level (\$800,000) and I am delighted that the CSA helps our high schools to provide tuition assistance to families who seek a Catholic education. All the ministries as well as the amounts designated are clearly listed in the CSA materials and I for one appreciate this transparency.

These funds go directly from CSA to these ministries and are not passed through any other offices. It is a clean and transparent process. I invite you to take a few moments to reflect and consider a gift. Your envelopes may be placed in the regular collection, mailed in, or brought back next week. Please consider listing the Cathedral parish on the form, as each parish that reaches its goal, receives 25% to support its own mission. Thank you for your generous support.