



## Caritas & Food Programs

March 2006

### Time and Talent



The Stewardship Committee has initiated this monthly update to share with you the tremendous generosity of our parishioners who give of their time, talent and money to St. Gabriel Parish. We will focus each month on various aspects of ministry.

We have very active ministries that provide food and shelter to the homeless. The Caritas ministry provides food and supplies to care for the 40 individuals who stay at our church for one week 2 to 3 times a year. St. Peter's Lunch ministry is a lunch prepared monthly for homeless individuals who gather at St. Peters. We also prepare a hot meal monthly for the Richmond Friends of the Homeless. St. Anthony's Bread is a youth ministry which prepares bag lunches for that same shelter in downtown Richmond. Each program serves approximately 150 meals per month. The food for the lunch programs is supplied from our food pantry which we stock monthly with food collected at liturgy once a month. We also provide assistance to families from our food pantry. Finally, the food weekend also provides enough items to send 75 to 125 bags of groceries to the Catholic Charities each month.

### Money

<u>Talent</u>	<u># of People</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Value of Goods + Cost to Parish</u>
Caritas	203	2451	\$ 9,964
St. Peters	8	512	\$ 1,000
Richmond Friends	10	290	\$11,700
St Anthony's Bread	10	136	\$ 1,000
Food Pantry	8	144	\$12,000

All the ministries discussed this month rely on the parishioners who provide the goods and services involved. While very little cash is given to these programs, the value of the donated goods is quite considerable. Our parish is composed of very generous, giving people who opens their hearts and wallets to those around us in need. Some individuals make sizable monthly donations to these programs. Many families eagerly sign up to prepare Caritas meals or volunteer to help. The Food Weekend Program is generously supported and without it we could not provide most of the provisions for the lunch programs. The Church provides a building for these ministries. We prepare food and provide shelter for Caritas guests. The building use costs are absorbed by the parish budget. It is through stewardship and planning that St. Gabriel's can continue to support these ministries. We encourage you to continue your financial contributions so that we may continue assisting these ministries as we provide services to those in our community with the greatest need.

### Stewardship and You

The word "Stewardship" is a Greek term formed from two words meaning "manage" and "house". The word Steward is found 87 times in the New Testament, where writers make the point that all people are God's stewards because everything that exists belongs to God. In relation to God, no one ultimately owns anything. God is the owner of everything that exists. God created it, and it is God who continually keeps it in existence. That is the fundamental meaning of stewardship: *Everything Belongs to God.*

### Commitment Update

Annual Amount Pledged:	\$ 487,520
Year-To-Date Pledged (Jan-Feb):	83,827
Year-To-Date Given (Jan-Feb):	70,582
Redemption Rate:	84.2%
Total Contributions Jan-Feb 2006	80,842
(Total Contributions Jan-Feb 2005)	71,811
Does not include loose (unidentifiable contributions)	

An Individual Giving Report will be sent to each household every quarter.