

The Open Table at St John the Evangelist
February 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for your interest in our Open Table Ministry, where we seek to help our brothers/sisters to transform their lives by engaging with them in a relationship and sharing our life skills and experience with them.

40 million people in America live in poverty; this rate has been unchanged for 43 years. Food pantries, backpacks, and cold weather centers, while helpful, have not solved the problem.

Catholic Charities of Central Florida is encouraging parishes to apply the Open Table model so that we can make a concrete impact on this issue in our local area. St John the Evangelist is the first parish in Brevard County to embark on this ministry.

Open Table is a model for faith communities to assist people in poverty to transform their lives by sharing with them our intellectual know-how, our social capital, and our life skills and experience. You can learn more about the model by going to this link: www.theopentable.org

At St John's, we have 4 tables in progress, with another planned to start in Spring 2019. We are currently working with Young Adults who are homeless and have been referred to us by Crosswinds Youth Services in Cocoa, Florida.

After training in the Open Table model, members of this ministry meet weekly with a brother/sister and, through relationship and sharing of life skills, experience, and social capital, assist them in making concrete steps toward their short term and long term goals.

Parishioners can also assist in this ministry on an as-needed basis by providing specific skills or services to our Brother/Sister, such as a free dental checkup, music lessons, or tutoring.

If you are interested in truly making a difference in someone's life, please contact Deacon Michael McElwee at michaeljmcElwee@gmail.com (321) 946-3388 or Linda Morrisson at linda.morrisson@yahoo.com (321) 750-2376.

Please watch this video for more information:

<https://vimeo.com/96615335/98feb1f65f>

May God Bless You!