



NFL OUTREACH COMMISSION REPORT

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Mission

Cultivating opportunities for all people to answer God's call through works of mercy, charity, justice, and solidarity as inspired by Catholic social teaching to live the Gospel.

Ann Bollheimer

OUTREACH COMMISSION REPORT

July 1, 2018 – April 2018

REPORT

July 2018

Summer Solidarity project

“The Amazing Monarch Butterfly” Caring for God’s Creation

Children from St. Michael and Ss. Peter & Paul VBS participated with a station at Vacation Bible School on the positive effects of pollinator gardens. Students planted a pollinator garden at St Michael’s Church behind the Old Cemetery and students participating with Ss. Peter & Paul VBS planted a small pollinator garden next to the utility shed behind Ss. Peter & Paul cemetery. Outcome: what we do in our own back yards, effects the rain forests in Mexico. (The 4th or 5th generation of the monarch butterfly that live out their life cycle in Ohio, migrates back to Mexico in October each year to hibernate.

Deanna Chappie and Ann facilitated the learning stations for VBS at both parishes. This included a 15-20 min learning station each day on Caring for God’s Creation, with a focus on the monarch Butterfly.

- ♥ **MONDAY** Introduction to the Monarch Butterfly / migration / and video of the monarch
- ♥ **TUESDAY** Mr Alvin Brown of New Bremen demonstrated “raising/protecting/feeding monarchs”
- ♥ **WEDNESDAY** Daniel Francis (Pheasants Forever) demonstrated making mud balls with pollinator seeds of flowers that are not invasive to Ohio. The children took the mud balls home to plant
- ♥ **THURSDAY** Daniel Francis joined us again, and participants learned about different pollinator plants.
- ♥ A pollinator garden and an American Rose Bud tree (Ana’s tree) was planted behind St. Michael’s old Cemetery. A pollinator garden was planted next to the utility shed at SPP along with a ninebark bush.
- ♥ **FRIDAY** (SM only) Deanna summed up the Solidarity Project with El Salvador Rain Forest: El Impossible National Park: Deana showed photos from the delegation in June.

Donations from VBS Participants for this project include: St Michael \$126 | Ss. Peter & Paul \$4.00

EXPENSES: Sod cutter \$80; American Redbud \$26 (SM); Miniature Ninebark & materials for soil prep \$60 @ SPP.

400 Packs of seeds of pollinators donated by the Ohio Pollinator Habitat were distributed at both churches for parishioners to plant. Fifty-two families from children who participated with St Michael VBS requested packs. 7 packets were not claimed.

September 2018

September 18, 2019 7:15p
Outreach Commission Meeting

Summer Solidarity Project

July 9 - July 30

Caring for God's Creation

**Migrating
Monarch
Butterfly**



October 2018

October 13 Sunday Rome Celebration in El Salvador

Romero, El Salvador's First Canonized Saint

Photos were shared by our sister parish in San Cristóbal El Salvador. One image was published in the November Newsletter, and share on Facebook.

October 25-27, 2019 Boston, MA

UNITED STATES CATHOLIC MISSION ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Attended: Paul Timmerman and Ann Bollheimer attended with Mission Director Mike Gable and Jane Pierron from St Denis/ Holy Family, Versailles.

"In virtue of their baptism, all members of the People of God have become missionary disciples. (Pope Francis, Joy of the Gospel, 120). The more the mission calls you to go out to the margins of existence, let your heart be the more closely united to Christ's heart, full of mercy and love.

Herein lies the secret of the fruitfulness of a disciple of the Lord! Jesus sends his followers out with no "purse, no bag, no sandals" (Lk 10:4).

November 2018

November 6, 2019 Tuesday 7:05-8:15p St. Michael Chapel

Stop Human Trafficking Public forum Raven Loaiza, from the Northwest Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition and coordinator of Rape Crisis and Human Trafficking Division of Crime Victim Services, facilitated a public forum exposing the ugly truth behind this multi-billion dollar industry that attacks human dignity, degrades, and often destroys human lives. Learn how to recognize and respond.

Attendance: 45 Paid mileage with donation.

November 27- Dec 16

GIVING TREE No report. The organizations that were included in the gift distribution are: New Choices; Rustic Hope; Clear Creek Farms; Elizabeth New Life Center; and St. Vincent de Paul

December 2018

December 5 & 6, 2018

ADVENT OUTREACH 24 parishioners (11 groups) made visits to 51 parishioners who are homebound or who are at Elmwood, Heritage Center, Elmwood Assisted Living, Dorothy Love, Fair Haven, Landings of Sidney, Otterbein, and Briarwood. Gifts that were brought included: a poinsettia, box of candy, calendar, devotional prayer aid, greeting card, and enjoyable conversation had by all.

DECEMBER 19, 2018

YOUTH MINISTRY CHRISTMAS CAROLING: No report – The estimated visits to the homebound or elderly parishioners from our pastoral region and Heritage Center is about 80. Carolers met at St Michael Hall after caroling, for food and socializing. The event was well attended.

UPDATES:

SISTER PARISH UPDATE: Sponsors for the VLCFF Program in El Salvador are still needed. There are 8 sponsors. Two courses were completed. The third course began in January, 2019. Most of the current sponsors are annual sponsors (120. Yr.). A letter was mailed to all sponsors, past delegation participants, and donors of the library project in San Cristobal. One new sponsor came from this mailing. The sister parish team is working on letters to the US Embassy for friends from El Salvador to participate in our 2019 August "conference" delegation to Ohio.

KATIE AHRNS, Parishioner of Ss. Peter & Paul will begin her second year in service with Net Ministries, Australia, starting mid-January, 2019 through mid-November 2019.

Her blog is on our website: www.nflregion.org/be-a-missionary or [click here](#).

MISSIONERS We started a conversation on how to promote, support and budget for parishioners to become a missionary with one of the many organizations. What does this look like?

*Financial support is provided for parishioners who travel to El Salvador.

*The Mission Office provides a small stipend at Christmas for Missioners from the Archdiocese

St Vincent de Paul Meeting Minutes

OCTOBER 9, 2018

Present: Peg Wray, Ernestine Daugherty, Marsha Hess, Neil Hess, Deb Holthaus, Ted Daniels, John Meyer, Marcia Bensman, Ann Bollheimer, Sandy Gehret.

Treasurer's Report Expenses: \$828.64, Deposit: \$1086.00, Interest: \$.08. Balance: \$1759.00.1st.

Discussed finances; income and expenses. Next special collection in March. Discussed posting notice in the bulletin.

SVDP Associate Activities

- September Food Pantry Numbers: 19 / Items Donated 586
- Bundle Sunday September 15th at Ss. Peter and Paul Church, 9940# donated.
- FOOD DRIVES: School food drive in October / Ratermann Insurance food drive in November

SVDP Dayton District Council

- Matt Graybill commissioned at St. Vincent De Paul at prayer service September 27.
- District bylaws not approved, will be going over them again.
- Marsha will attend the 70th anniversary SVDP celebration at Transfiguration Church in West Milton on October 13

SVDP Old Business

- Soup fundraiser cancellation discussed.
- Reviewed St. Vincent De Paul guidelines for the St. Michael/Ss. Peter and Paul council. All agreed the guidelines were good.
- Marsha did end of year reports.

SVDP New Business

- Christmas gifts discussed, decided to do the same as last year. Motion made, John Meyer 1st, 2nd Sandy Gehret.
- Marsha will be taking care of the financial duties until Kathy is ready to take them back.
- Sending card to Kathy.

NOVEMBER 7, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

Present: Neil Hess, Shirley Larger, Ernestine Daugherty, Joan Maier, Julia Wolfe, Sandy Gehret, Marsha Hess, Peg Wray, Roger Chaney, and Deb Holthaus

Treasurer's Report: Expense: \$1610.57, Income: \$6590.00, Interest \$.28. Balance \$6934.69.

SVDP Associate Activities

- October Food Pantry Numbers: 22 / Items Donated: 1500 total; (Elementary 586, Dannon 128)
- Bundle Sunday will be either April 6-7, two weeks before Easter or one week after.

SVDP Dayton District Council

- Marsha attended board meeting. Matt Grayville, head of conferences
- Deb Smith and Helen will be attending December meeting.
- Getting Ahead program for facilitators is November 28 and December 5. Program is to help people out of poverty. Decided not to participate.
- Marsha emailed policy to everyone to read and discuss at meeting, Many could not open, will try again.
- Marsha will look at Trac Phone

SVDP New Business

- Christmas tree amounts same as last year, \$50.00 Aldi card and \$25.00 gas voucher. Neighbors will sign up at November food pantry. Cards will be distributed December 5. Meet at church handicap parking lot at 1:00pm. Shirley, Peg, Roger, Deb, Marsha and Sandy volunteered. Marsha and Sandy will bake bread.

REMINDER: BI-LINGUAL MISSALETTES (Spanish/ English) are available for use at both St. Michael and Ss. Peter and Paul Churches. There is a basket at the main entrances of each church. Please tell your Spanish-speaking friends where they are, and encourage them to use!

JANUARY 2019

January 15 Tuesday Parish Office

Outreach Commission Meeting

Paul Timmerman facilitated the Meeting

FEBRUARY 2019

February 2-18

Casseroles for a Cause

Peg Pleiman coordinated the project with St Ann’s, SPP Ladies Sodality, and St. Vincent de Paul. 400 pans (with lids) and recipes were available at the entrances of both churches beginning February 2. Volunteers took a pan, made a recipe provided and returned the frozen casseroles on Presidents day Monday, Feb 18 to either church parking lot between 6p-7p. St. Vincent de Paul paid for the pans (\$165). 150 casseroles went Holy Angels Soup Kitchen, and the remainder to SVDP Dayton (about 250).

MARCH 2019

March 6 - April 14

CRS Rice Bowl

Catechists from SPP and SM in grades K-6 were each given an Educators guide and a 3-minute summary of each week’s lesson. Fr Steve gave a Blessing for the Rice bowls at mass. Children in grades K-6 were give rice bowls with a note to parents. Early each week (Sunday or Monday), an email was sent to members of Education commission, Outreach Commission and parents of each student with a short summary of that week’s lesson on catholic social teaching. A link was attached to view a 3-minute CRS video on that topic.

Thank you for your participation with CRS Rice Bowl where 25% of your donations will be used in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati to alleviate hunger and 75% will be distributed internationally.

If you did not return your almsgiving for Rice Bowl, donations can always be made to [Catholic Relief Services](#).

CRS Rice Bowl Participation | St. Michael

Year	St. Michael TOTAL	Other participants	Returned Rice bowls	Coins	Bills	Checks	Taste/See & Retreat
2019	\$ 2,366.10	49	122	949.1	\$1,067.00	\$ 90.00	260
2018	\$1,498.57	40 Taste Iraq	89	553.29	767.28	\$178.00	\$40.00
2017	\$1,307.13	19 Taste El Salv	67	\$595.50	\$ 711.63	\$ -	
2016	\$2,123.86	30 retreat / 80 ret.	80	\$851.00	\$1,011.00	\$135.00	\$203.00
2015	\$2,386.17	60 Taste of Tanz.	109	\$1,137.69	\$1,249.00	\$362.61	\$110.00

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL Rice Bowl Participation report

*2017 Family night introduced CRS Rice Bowl with stations of the spotlight country

Year	SPP	Other Participate	Returned Bowls / envelopes	Coins	Bills	Checks
2019	\$ 217.00	2	9	47.27	\$ 90.00	\$ 80.00
2018	\$111.91	4	9	\$62.91	\$ 9.00	\$ 40.00
2017	\$189.45	87	18	127.14	62.31	\$ -
2016	\$534.00	X	X	X	X	X
2015	\$265.13		15	\$205.13	\$ 40.00	\$ 20.00

March 21, 2019 (THURSDAY)

Taste & See Uganda St. Michael Hall 6:00p-7:30p. The doors open at 5:30p.

The meal included rice, bean dish, chapatti, curry sauce, cabbage salad, fruit native to Uganda and fair trade coffee. Guest Speaker: *Fr. Ruffino Ezama, MCCJ. Fr. Ruffino is a Comboni Missioner from Uganda, living in Cincinnati. It was a diverse crowd.* 49 people attended. The meal was donated at an estimated cost of \$145. A free will donation to CRS Rice Bowl received \$265.

April 2019

April 9 Tuesday St. Denis, Versailles 6:00-8:30p

From Charity to Sustainability

Dr. Kim Lamberty of Catholic Relief Services, Katy Ryan - CRS, Dr Mike Gable – Mission Office facilitated a workshop on how to move charity projects to sustainability. The workshop was excellent and provided examples on how to move beyond the charity model. Relevant for twinning parishes, foreign mission, CRS promoters and all who are active with outreach projects. Paul Timmerman, Joyce Bornhorst and Ann Bollheimer attended. The workshop repeated in Dayton and Cincinnati on consecutive days. The Archdiocese of Cincinnati Mission Office is planning a following up with an event this fall with Dr Lamberty from CRS on moving charity to sustainability.

April 11, 12, 2019 (THURSDAY & FRIDAY)

LENT OUTREACH TO THE HOMEBOUND

Visitors brought a lily, the bulletin, Communion, and the Spirit of caring to 52 parishioners who are homebound, in extended care homes, or who were recovering from an ailment.

April 13, 2019 Saturday Holy Angels, Sidney 9:45a-2:30p

BUILDING THE CITY OF GOD

A Day of Reflection and Prayer Inspiring Action and Fellowship. Peg Pleiman represented the service ministry “Casseroles for a Cause”. The Keynote Speaker: Sister Joyce Zimmerman C.PP.S. The day included opportunities to learn and share ideas for service ministries Testimonials from recipients of the Fruits of our Labor Opportunity to work on service projects Building the City of God

April 13 Saturday 3:00p Ohio Time Parish Office Center

Video conference Call with Sister Parish in El Salvador

April 21 – May 1

CRS Rice Bowls are Collected (see report above)

April 28

CRS Collection (Annual Appeal – see at the end of report)

May 2019

May 1 Wednesday 7:15p Bruckens

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MEETING MINUTES

Opening: The regular meeting of the St. Vincent De Paul was called to order at Brucken's by Marsha Hess.

Present Deb Holthaus, Joan Maier, Ernestine Daughtery, Neil Hess, Shirley Larger, Julia Wolfe, Sandy Gehret, Marsha Hess, John Meyer, Peg Wray, and Roger Chaney

Opening Prayer By Julia Wolf, Spiritual Advisor, gave a reading of history about Louise de Marillac, cofounder with Vincent de Paul of Daughters Charity.

Minutes: Correction: The letter was sent by Sherrod Brown, not Mike Turner.

Treasurer's Report Beginning Balance, \$7,054.38, Expense \$1624.26, March Interest \$0.34, Deposit \$1,280.00 (all from envelopes), Expense \$1,170.97, Ending Balance \$7,163.75 | 1st Ernestine Daughtery, 2nd Joan Maier, approved.

SVDP Associate Activities Food Pantry Numbers: 17 | Food Items Donated: 1,545 (924 Boy Scouts) | Bundle Sunday Weight: 6,500#, trailer was ¾" full. Will schedule fall trailer for Sept. | Cleaning Baskets: May 16th @ 3:00pm Peg Wray, Pat Holthaus & Sandy Gehret will meet at Walmart to pick-up basket items. Joan Maier, Deb Holthaus & 3 or 4 8th graders will meet at Pantry, 3:15pm. Will be baskets & bags.

1st Responders Report – John Meyer: Someone in Yorkshire was in need of a full size bed. We didn't have any. Explained also the neighbor was not in our district.

Dayton District Council: Meeting is May 15th @ 6:30pm. Marsha will be attending. | Alexander Mangus will have an Osman training in the fall. Bill Clark will be advised

Old Business: Marsha will be working on writing up policy with changes | Ernestine Daughtery is running a book drive at school. Collecting books for St. VDP. Drive ends Friday. Marsha will pick up books & take them to Dayton. Money to help conference in need.

New Business: Discussion held on Food Pantry neighbors. Neil Hess has support of group to handle situation.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned: 1st Shirley Larger | 2nd Ernestine Daughtery, approved. Minutes: Sandy Gehret

May 2019

May 18 Saturday 3:00p Parish Office Center
Video conference call with Sister Parish in El Salvador

June 2019

June 22-23 All Masses Deacon (from Louisville)

2019 Summer Co-op Mission Speaker Deacon John Coe from the Diocese of Louisville

2018-19 (Relevant) Second Collections

- **2018 July 29 Mission Co-op appeal**

SM Collected \$1347 SPP collected \$437.21

- **2018 October 19-20, 2018 Mission Sunday Collection 2nd Collection (Pontifical Mission Society)**

SM Collected \$3301 (added \$500) SPP collected \$1000.00

- **2019 November 17-18 Catholic Campaign for Human Development 2nd collection**

SM collected \$2896 SPP collected \$752.95

- **2019 April 28 Catholic Relief Services 2nd Collection (NOT CRS RICE BOWL)**

SM collected \$2187.25 SPP collected \$714.81

- **Tornado Relief Catholic Social Services (or CRS?)**

SM collected \$3163 (added \$500) SPP collected 914.00

June 2018 - June 30, 2019 End of the Year VLCFF Report from El Salvador

Our partnership is receiving Rock Star status from the “mission world”. The University of Dayton posted several cheers on Facebook and wrote an article about the collaboration through VLCFF. The United States Catholic Mission Association wrote a similar article spotlighting our twinning teams.

Date	Course \$50 ea. / Books: Loyola \$6 ea.	COST	Participant	Sponsors	Sponsors
2018 June	1 Book: Well Built Faith	\$ 179.20		2018 June	\$ 120.00
2018 July	1. Course: Introduction to Catholicism	\$ 800.00	15	2018 Sep	\$ 120.00
2018 June	2. Book: The Bible Blueprint (delivered)	\$ -		2018 Sep	\$ 120.00
2018 Nov	2 Course: Introduction to the Bible	\$ 800.00	14	2018 Sep	\$ 240.00
				2018 Oct	\$ 120.00
2019 June	3. Course: Christology (delivered by UD)	\$ 700.00	14	2018 Oct	\$ 120.00
2019 Mar	3. Images of Jesus (included with course)	No books		2018 Oct	\$ 120.00
2019 Jan	4. Course: Sacraments			2019 Jan	\$ 120.00
2019 Oct	4. Book: Sacraments (delivered by UD)	\$ 102.50		2019 Jan	\$ 720.00
	Books to UD for hand delivery	\$ 18.16			
2020 Mar	5. Introduction to Prayer				
2020 Mar	5. Book (Kindle?)				
2020 Oct	6. Introduction to Catechesis				
2020 Oct	6. Book: (Kindle?)				
2021 Mar	7. TBD by the University of Dayton				
2021 Mar	7. TBD by the University of Dayton				
2021 Oct	8 Retreat?				
2021 Oct	8 Retreat?	Expense	Completed		INCOME

*The difference in income/expense is because the donations receivable was for the first year (2 courses). However three classes / courses have already been completed, and books for the fourth course have been paid and shipped. The income for two courses is 1,800. The cost for the first two courses is 1,797.36

FACEBOOK: [Ann Bollheimer](#) shared a [post](#) to the group: [Los Amigos de la Solidaridad](#). 6/19/19 at 10:49 AM
The University of Dayton Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation shared this awesome accomplishment. Three courses completed in one year with 14 or 15 people in each class. Go San Cristóbal!



John D. LeComte VLCFF -Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation

"Agradecemos infinitamente a todos ustedes, su apoyo, que Dios bendiga eternamente."

More proof the VLCFF makes a difference in the lives of people around the world! These adult learners in El Salvador have completed courses in Spanish. The VLCFF is "virtually and literally" a way that folks in the states can collaborate and be in solidarity with others in their twinning parishes. Cycle 5 starts July 21! . [#Wednesdaywisdom](#)

- See more communication from VLCCFF at the end of the report.

COMING EVENTS

July

July 6-12, 2019

El Paso, TX & Ciudad Juarez Mexico Mission Trip

Deanna Chappie (SPP), Nick Peoppelman (St Augustine), and Ann Bollheimer (SM), members of our sister parish team, will be participating with Maryknoll's cultural immersion trip to El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico to engage with those at the border and exploring our common bonds of global solidarity.

July 16? 23?

Outreach Commission Meeting

July 17 – August 6, 2019

EL SALVADOR DELEGATION TO OHIO

Five invitation were sent to members of our sister parish, to participate in the 6-7 day immersion in our pastoral region. All young adults are active in ministry in San Cristobal, El Salvador: Franklin Ayala, Gabriela Mendoza, Maricela Pedromo, Josline Berenice Linares López, Melvin Garcia; They applied for Visas on April 9. Four applications were declined. Melvin received a visa and will visit for three weeks. Agustin will fly in from New Jersey from August 1-6.

July 24

Second Collection: The Right to Read and to Dream Melvin will talk at mass

Second collection for the Right to read and to Dream in El Salvador "Library Project" July 27 Melvin

July 7-Aug 25

Summer Solidarity Project

There won't be stations dedicated to the solidarity project this year during VBS. Rose will implement another project in its place. A flyer will go home with children at VBS. For students to participate in the Right to Read and to Dream in El Salvador "Solidarty project" Students will chose one day to be in solidarity with children in El Salvador:

Be in Solidarity:

1. Choose one day to "Be In Solidarity" with those in El Salvador (and around the world)
2. Set a bowl on the kitchen table
3. Be Aware of your opportunities to Read. Instructions: Every time a family member has the opportunity to read, such as a: Text Message, prescription bottle, road sign, newspaper, book, magazine, note from a family member, the mail, a sign on a van, etc...
4. Each time give thanks to God for having this opportunity. Something like: "Thank you God for the opportunity to read.
5. Offer your gift by putting a coin in the bowl. Bring your solidarity coins/bills to VBS and put in the bowl.

Donations will purchase Kindles. Used kindles are also being accepted through August 25.

August 2019

August 3-4

Speaker for Unbound – A priest for Unbound will speak at each of the masses to promote Global Sponsorship

August 1-8

EL SALVADOR DELEGATION TO OHIO

Five certified letters of invitation were given to members of our sister parish, to participate in 6-7 day immersion in our pastoral region. The five young adults are active in ministry in San Cristobal, El Salvador: Franklin Ayala, Gabriela Mendoza, Maricela Pedromo, Josline Berenice Linares López, Melvin Garcia; They applied for Visas on April 9. Four applications were declined. Melvin received a visa. Details pending.

August 4 5-8p Details Pending
Fiesta The Public welcome: Details Pending from 5-8pm

September 2019

September 17, 2019 (Tuesday) 7:15-9:00p St Michael Church

Distinguished Speaker

Robert Ellsberg, editor-in- chief of Orbis Books.

Sponsored by the Archdiocese of Cincinnati Social Services and Catholic Social Action Offices

He lived with Dorothy Day before she died and has compiled many of her writings in support of her cause of canonization.

October 2019

October 20 Dayton Ohio

World Mission Sunday Mass

Sister Dorothy Stang Award presented in each parish in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati

October 27, 2019

Visit to San Cristóbal El Salvador: Ann Bollheimer will visit Sister Parish, to say hello.

Friday June 22, 2018

By: John LeComte, University of Dayton For the Common good, via El Salvador

Those words from Pope Francis during a homily this year has reminded me of the mission here at the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives and the University of Dayton.

I have never met the people in the photo from El Salvador. I doubt I ever will. But to see the *sonrisas*(smiles) on their faces, and notice them clutching onto a book our Spanish program provides, titled, *Introducción a la Fe Católica* (Introduction to Catholic Faith) and I realize the work here is truly a leaven for good in our world.

The Institute continues to be one of the best kept secrets on campus. Sr. Angela Ann Zukowski manages a team overseeing dozens of campus and global projects, including the Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF), a distance learning program serving more than 70 Dioceses around the world. The online classes provide Catechists, Religious Educators, Youth Ministers, Adults involved in Faith Formation or anybody interested in enriching their faith a platform to learn. (UD alums and employees are welcome to take a class!) Classes are only held for five weeks, with e-seminars three weeks and there's also a track of courses in Spanish.

This brings us back to El Salvador, where leaders from parishes in Fort Loramie, Ohio-through the Archdiocese of Cincinnati-utilize the VLCFF. They met with our Spanish director, Lilita Montoya about their latest venture, traveling to their sister city in San Cristóbal, to introduce our VLCFF Spanish program to the parish.

"We facilitate a successful catechist program in Spanish through the VLCFF in our diocese," said Ann Bollheimer, who helps lead the outreach delegation. "The VLCFF seemed to be a natural fit with our project."

So on their most recent visit in June to the Parish in El Salvador, the group delivered the VLCFF books, as well as assistance, for the 16 adult learners working to achieve course certification.

"We hope these parishioners simply want to learn and take a class, even without being certified," said Bollheimer. "This is very difficult for some, since this is the first time they've actually used a computer. But these people are so grateful."

Ten computers were donated to begin an English program. Our goal is to build relationships across borders, ultimately to build global solidarity.

Reflections...

From participants of the VLCFF in San Cristóbal: November 2018

At the end of this stage of my life and this second module of study of the online catechesis, I want to express a deep appreciation to those who with their help, support, and understanding, collaborate to develop this Bible study. It's a beautiful experience to study and prepare every day. These studies have improved our reading, thus helping us to apply the Word of God in our lives. We learn from His ways and understand His purpose in this world for each one of us. Plus, it has helped me to develop a better understanding and analysis of topics shared within the ministry I work with in the parish of San Cristóbal. Topics such as: Defending our faith, and how to make better use of the Holy Bible.

This module helped me a lot to share with the others.

May God continue to bless your lives. Attentively, *Candelario Arago*

I am very grateful to God and to the people who make possible a study like this. It is a blessing for me and for the whole Church. I am preparing to serve and every day I learn even more.

This study is very necessary for Catholic Christians. It is thorough and important to work in all areas of the church. In addition, it commits us very much to the mandate given to us by our Lord: "go all over the world and teach". As we have received it, in the same way we will take it to others.

I love you and may God bless you very much, *Clara Luz Ramírez de Mancia*

It is my pleasure to have done this study that has broadened my knowledge, in the same way I am committed to implement and share the knowledge acquired with my other brothers in the parish and defend my true faith against those who only dedicate themselves to offending it. With all my heart I thank you for making this possible for me and for each one of our brothers and sisters.

God and Mother Mary, bless you always,

David Alberto Mancia Ramírez

First of all, I want to thank everyone who made it possible for us to receive the catechism course. For me it has been a great treasure. I have always dreamed of studying Theology because I yearn to know more deeply about Sacred Scripture, and the tradition of the Catholic Church. This has been my best opportunity, because the topics that have been taught to us are what we need to defend our Catholic faith, and clear the doubts that constantly arise. It is important to know about the dogmas of the Virgin Mary; knowing how to interpret the Bible and how to use it. The sessions and all the other topics have enriched my spiritual knowledge. I have learned a lot and I am satisfied with the opportunity I have had to participate in this course that is so valuable.

It is very helpful for the work I do in my ministry, because sometimes I teach topics in which I need to know what I am going to teach. About a month ago I was asked to give a theme in Charismatic Renewal at the archdiocesan level, and one of the questions that arose at that time was: what is faith? And how do you analyze the Bible? At that moment I thought of all the tools that you have given us and it was very helpful. I believe that everyone who has received these teachings will help us in our pastoral work that we carry out in our parish, and it will help the others that we live with, within our ministries.

I appreciate the help you have given us. May God bless you a hundredfold for this great contribution and unconditional help for the work of God.

Many blessings! Attentively, your sister in Christ,

Mary Hernes Angel

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Many blessings!

Attentively, Your sister in Christ, Mary Hernes Angel

Plan to increase participation with
2019 CRS Rice Bowl (Lent) Program
Website: <https://www.crsricebowl.org/>

1. Ann will provide CRS resources to catechists grade K-8 once materials arrive
 - Email link and a hard-copy of the CRS Rice Bowl Lesson plan to each Catechist grades K-8
 - Send weekly updates to catechists, to share with parents; include link, short summary of theme and spotlight country; and reflection question for families
2. Ann will prepare short message for handout to children / To distribute with Rice Bowl
3. Share CRS Rice Bowl resources directly with Parish Leaders
4. Rice Bowl Blessing at all mass on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday – March 3, 2019
5. SM Distribute Rice Bowls beginning March 3 or week of Ash Wednesday - March 6, 2019
*SPP will distribute the week prior on February 27
6. A short weekly announcement at each mass
7. Rice Bowl Display in each church
8. Newsletter / Bulletin / Website / Facebook / Email
9. SM Church: If able, Fr will share with children before weekly mass
10. TASTE & SEE UGANDA Thursday, March 22 at SM Hall | 5:30 doors open | 6:00 Simple Supper: Fr. Ruffino Ezama MCCJ (Comboni Missioner in Cincinnati for about 7 years) 7:30 Closing prayer

Sample to Families: Thursday: March 1, 2019 / Ash Wednesday March 6, 2019

EMAIL DRAFT 1: Memo: Introduction to CRS RICE BOWL

Dear Parents,

*Ash Wednesday is next week, March 6. For the mass schedule, [click here](#). Our pastoral region will again, participate with the **Catholic Relief Service's Rice Bowl (CRS Rice bowl)** this Lenten season. A blessing for the CRS Rice Bowl program will take place at mass this weekend March 2 & 3. Each child will receive a CRS Rice Bowl through the CCD program next week.*

You and your family are invited to Pray, Fast, Learn and Give this Lenten season with "CRS Rice Bowl". Each week during lent you will receive an email, introducing the week's spotlight lesson with a link to the 2-3 minute video that you can share with your family during prayer, ideally over the weekend.

Thank you for entrusting us to collaborate with you in the formation of your child's formation of faith.

Staff, Education Commission, Outreach Commission

Sample to Families: Wednesday: March 6, 2019 / Ash Wednesday

Email Draft 1: Ash Wednesday

Memo: CRS Rice Bowl PRAY FAST GIVE

Parents, During these 40 days, we encounter those most in need through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving. We deepen our relationship with Christ and discern where God is working in our lives. How can our Lenten reflection guide us in delving deeper into Catholicism?

First, we focus our hearts and mind on our Lenten journey's ultimate destination: the hope and joy of the Resurrection at Easter. Suggestion: share this with your family prayer time

Bishop Edward Burns reflects: <https://youtu.be/YOpkzaVaHF8?t=2> (2:10 minutes)

PRAYER

We **pray** for others in the global church. We reflect on what type of person God calls us to be, and we ask for his guidance in living up to our potential. There are many ways to pray, and many individuals and communities that need our prayers.

Helen Alvaré of George Mason Law helps us recognize how the Parable of the Good Samaritan can inspire us in our prayer lives: <https://youtu.be/b9mX1FUlEcU?t=2> (3:20 minutes)

FASTING

We fast, or give things up, as a reminder to remove things in our lives that get in the way of our relationship with God. When we feel hungry or choose not to eat the things we like, we are reminded that everything we have is a gift from God. Our fasting also reminds us of those who do not have enough food, who experience hunger without a choice. God calls each of us to care for those who are in need.

Hosffman Ospino of Boston College reflects on how the Parable of the Good Samaritan guides us in our fasting. <https://youtu.be/Y0pkzaVaHF8?t=2> (3.0 minutes)

ALMSGIVING

We **give alms** with a spirit of generosity to our brothers and sisters in need, honoring Jesus' call to serve our neighbors. This Lent, through our sacrifices, we can empower and transform the lives of our brothers and sisters in need. Lisa Hendey, founder of CatholicMom.com, shares insights into how the Parable of the Good Samaritan motivates us to give alms during Lent. <https://youtu.be/xMQHOQqAAak> (3.04 minutes)

Thomas Awiapo shares his own story of how what we give up for Lent changed his life:

https://youtu.be/RB1g3-czZH0?list=PLt5PsPjJAK-2ziLW0kdmG1r7_J2rNGiCl (3:09 minutes)

Sunday, March 10 **Week 1 Guatemala: Life and Dignity of the Human Person**

A Story of hope from Guatemala https://youtu.be/gsqloCjlu_4?t=1

Psalm 139: You formed my inmost being You knit me in my mothers' womb

I praise You because I am wonderfully made Wonderful are your works

We have a responsibility to protect one another. Norma is from Guatemala. She is a leader in her mother's group, and she shares what she learned with other mothers. The first 1000 days of the life of a child is crucial. The mother's program provides education on pre-natal care and the first two years after a child is born; having a good diet, planting a garden and having routine medical checkups.

3 minute Video: https://youtu.be/gsqloCjlu_4?t=1

For Catechists: Lesson Plan Grade 4-6 https://www.crsricebowl.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Gr4-6_Guatemala_English.pdf

Reflect: ■ What stood out to you in this story? ■ What was the experience of Norma's family before and after encountering CRS? ■ How was Life and Dignity of the Human Person demonstrated in the story?

Black Bean Soup – Guatemala <https://www.crsricebowl.org/recipe/black-bean-soup>

Sunday March 17 **Week 2 Uganda: Options for the Poor and Vulnerable**

Corporal Works of Mercy / 16 year old, Annet: Refugee from South Sudan living in Uganda

Taste and See Uganda: Thursday, March 21 St Michael Hall RSVP [Here](#)

Sunday March 24 **Week 3 Sri Lanka: Call to Family, Community, and Participation**

Sunday, March 31 **Week 4 Sierra Leone: Rights and Responsibilities**

Sunday, April 7 **Week 5 Gaza: Dignity of Work and the Rights of workers**