

## **Report of the Diocesan Social Outreach Committee 2008**

The Social Outreach Committee held its organizational meeting with Bishop Little on February 23, 2008. The Bishop asked the Committee to make recommendation to Diocesan Council as to where the monies set aside for the Millennium Development Goals, 0.7% of the diocesan annual budget, should be sent, so one of our duties would be to determine who would be the recipients of these funds.

A diocesan fund for social outreach provides resources for distribution for worthy projects or ministries within the diocese that fit within the parameters of helping those in need which our Lord Jesus articulated in **Matthew 25:35-36: "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was in prison and you visited me."** The primary responsibility of the Social Outreach Committee is to receive, evaluate, and respond to requests for funds from parishes within the diocese. It was decided that all such requests must be approved by the respective vestry/chapter, regardless of whether the project or ministry is a specific parish outreach or the concern of a small group or an individual within the parish. A grant application form was developed and is posted on the diocesan website.

Our second meeting was held on May 17th, and a major portion of this gathering was devoted to a discussion of projects to recommend to Diocesan Council as recipients of the MDG funds. Our recommendation was that the funds be split evenly between the Diocese of Eldoret, Kenya and the Agency for the Development of Honduras. In Kenya, the funds will be used to assist many persons displaced in the post-election violence rebuild their lives again. They intend to use the grant to buy food for returnees as they try to resettle in their original farms and to pay school fees for 20 children from very poor families. In Honduras, the funds will assist the Agency in a sanitation project desperately needed in the village of Delicias del Norte near San Pedro Sula, the headquarters of the Diocese of Honduras. They will be building foot bridges across their river and decent latrines, and developing cleaner sources of water.

We discussed the five grant application requests for social outreach funds and determined that only one of them fit within the guidelines established for the use of these funds. The committee decided that further discussion of grant application forms could be accomplished via e-mail, so we have been in frequent contact throughout the summer and early fall, as grant applications were received. This year, we had \$5,000 available to distribute. At this writing, we have distributed \$4,500 as follows:

St. Anne's, Warsaw: two grants of \$1,000 each

- 1) Thanksgiving Basket Ministry
- 2) Mustard Seeds Outreach Program: the Department of Health provides names of children living in poverty in Kosciusko County and Mustard

Seeds provides necessities to the families of these children on a weekly basis for a period of four months. This ministry has already responded with the required report as to how the funds were used: five families with a total of eight children received assistance through our grant. Items dispersed included a car seat, clothing, bedding, diapers, medicine, shoes, and hygiene and safety products.

St. Paul's, Munster: two grants of \$1,000 each

- 1) To help fund St. Paul's ministry at the State Street Shelter in Hammond, IN, a day program for the homeless. St. Paul's prepares a meal once each month for the residents.
- 2) For emergency flood relief - to assist with gift cards for flood victims

Holy Family, Angola

- 1) A grant of \$500 for medicine for the newly established community health clinic the parish is helping to sponsor. We are offering an additional matching fund grant of up to \$500 if the administrative board of the health clinic can raise additional funds in that amount by December 1st.

Respectfully submitted by

Deacon Janice H. Miller, Chair  
Diocesan Social Outreach Committee