

# ...That You Do Unto Me.

The Justice and Charity Newsletter of the Church of the Incarnation – June 2015

Welcome to our first edition of the Justice and Charity Newsletter! This newsletter highlights parish justice and charity ministries and the impact they have on our community and on parishioners who have answered the call to serve.

## To Bring Them God's Presence: Prison Ministries

This past year when Pope Francis wanted to observe Holy Thursday, he selected 12 inmates to commemorate Jesus example of true service in the traditional washing of the feet and to honor Christ's admonition, "I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:15). In the homily that followed, Pope Francis reminded us all that no one is beyond the reach of God's love when he said, "Jesus never tires of loving, forgiving, embracing us." Deacon Bernie Taylor of Incarnation Parish has heard Christ's call to serve the Eucharist to those marginalized and isolated in our community in his own Prison Ministries at the Albemarle Regional Jail.

Deacon Bernie's Prison Ministry is twofold. For eight years he has made himself available to counsel inmates individually. But his desire and willingness doesn't automatically open doors. When the majority of incarcerated people are being processed into the system, they are not aware that they can add Deacon Bernie's name to their list of visitors, and thus can receive his counsel and support during the difficult time of their incarceration.

Deacon Bernie's other prison ministry is a Men's Spanish Bible Program which he offers with the help of two helpers, Jose Ortiz and Fanny Smedile. This is the only Catholic Bible Program at the jail but it is open to all. The service consists of songs, prayer, a Communion service and the previous Sunday's Bible readings; the men are asked to really reflect on the passages. Taylor's goal is to show them that God speaks to each person individually. His mission in both ministries is straightforward, "to bring them God's loving presence and to walk alongside the men in their walk with God."

Deacon Bernie has seen God work mightily at the jail. Many of the Bible Program regulars were together in the same cellblock, but two years ago they were



separated. The men started Bible study groups in their new cellblocks and the ministry grew. One man who had not read the Bible previously had a tremendous conversion experience and "fell in love with God." Men who once fought each other on the outside now pray and share scriptures together. There was a time when outbreaks of violence were daily occurrences at the jail, but now they are few and far between. Deacon Bernie's eyes soften as he reflects on how his own life has changed. He gets to experience God through these men. They share their faith experiences eagerly with him. They are learning about pain and love and he sees the face of God in them.

– Maureen Spokes

For more information about prison ministry, contact Deacon Bernie: [berniet@incarnationparish.org](mailto:berniet@incarnationparish.org)

## Sin Barreras – Hands of Solidarity at Work

A sizeable number of people in our community have their origins in a culture and language very different from those of us raised in this country. Daily issues and problems that seem trivial for the average U.S. born resident can cause anxiety, stress, and worry when experienced by members of our community of a different culture and language. People who immigrated to our community to escape violence, persecution, or economic deprivation find themselves in a culture vastly different from their country of origin. Where do our immigrant brothers and sisters find assistance when help seems out of reach?

*“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.”*  
– Heb 13:2

Enter Sin Barreras. Founded by an Incarnation parishioner, it is now a community non-profit dedicated to solidarity with our immigrant companions. Representatives of Sin Barreras perform thousands of corporal works of mercy on an annual basis for those in need of a trusting and informed friend. Connecting individuals to community services in addition to workshops on health, immigration and legal matters is part of the mission. Legal consultations on immigration matters are conducted twice weekly, in addition to professional assistance on deferred deportation issues. The work of Sin Barreras is inspired by God’s love and desire that every person be treated justly, including those in our community.

Contact us at: [sinbarrerasville.com](http://sinbarrerasville.com). Experience the joy of assisting the vulnerable. You need not be bi-lingual to participate effectively. There are a variety of ways to contribute. Are you being called? We are all called to walk in justice and love tenderly. An opportunity awaits.

– Joe Ronan

## Salvation Army Dinners

The Church of the Incarnation became part of the Salvation Army ministry in the early 1980s. Since that time, the group has served over 1100 meals to those in need.

Members of the ministry, led by Pinkie Kauffman, serve the first Wednesday and two Sundays each month. Other days are served by other participating parishes in the area. Teams of 8 to 12 individuals serve those in temporary housing at the Salvation Army residence, as well as the homeless in the city.

Members of this ministry follow prescribed recipes. They assemble the casserole at home, and bring it to the shelter to be cooked and served to the approximately 75–100 people every night.

Marlene Satira, a parishioner who serves on the committee, explained that she was inspired to join this ministry because she has always had a desire to help the less fortunate. The team has ample opportunity to interact with the guests. Marlene is impressed at how grateful and appreciative they are. Many times there are mothers with young children there. Some of the guests are temporarily unemployed, but a good number of them have jobs, but are struggling nevertheless to make ends meet. Marlene said that no matter how terrible their circumstances may be, the guests are upbeat and hopeful about their future.

Marlene recommends this ministry to anyone who has a similar desire to serve. Gratefulness and humility have been the take away from the experience for her. The rewards of serving in this ministry have had a profound effect on her life for over 30 years. She truly feels she has gained much more than she has given.

– Judith Cangialosi

### Contributors

Authors: Judith Cangialosi, Maureen Spokes,  
Joe Ronan  
Illustrations: Mike Dennis  
Editing: Jared Mach, Ann Michel

**Questions? Suggestions? Participation?**  
Ann Michel – [wahoomichels@gmail.com](mailto:wahoomichels@gmail.com)



**CHURCH OF THE  
INCARNATION**

A Roman Catholic Community Serving Charlottesville, VA