**Social Action Committee, what we do**

**Lenten Almsgiving**

We are responsible for the yearly Lenten Almsgiving Project. That includes selecting the charities, information hand-outs, a display in the Gathering Space, a collection process, and articles for the SPUR and LIGHT. Donations may be financial, goods-based or both. Typically there are two charities each year, for example: Miami Valley Meals (local) and Caritas International/Ukraine.

**Summer Lunch Program**

The goal of the Summer Lunch Program is to provide food and positive interaction for Kettering School students living in the Trails of Oak Creek. We plan, purchase and prepare food, set up equipment, and serve lunches for one week during the summer. Typically around 200 lunches are served for the week. The St. Charles Youth group joins us to organize playground games and crafts, and spends time with the kids.

**Peace Pole**

We were responsible for a Peace Pole being erected and dedicated in the church plaza, and now make sure it is properly maintained going forward. Through articles and events, we continue to provide awareness of the Peace Pole to remind parishioners to work and pray for peace.

**Prayer Ministry**

The intent of this ministry is to give people who may not be able to be physically involved the opportunity to be a part of the work of the Social Action Committee through prayer. Each month we provide suggested intentions that are in concert with Social Action initiatives to people who have volunteered to pray. We mail the intentions with hand written signatures.

**Sustainability**

We have a Sustainability subcommittee that promotes the idea of Reuse, Recycle and Reduce. They provide sustainability information in the SPUR and typically organize at least one event each year, such as:

* Project Read. Nearly 8000 books were collected for a wide variety of individuals and groups. Books that are unusable are recycled.
* “Eyes of Hope.” Eye wear was collected and sent to the organization “Eyes of Hope” to be refurbished and distributed to those in need.
* Campaign to reduce plastic pollution. A display and information event was held in conjunction with the Parish Pet Blessing and St Francis Feast Day.
* Obtained Laudato SI recognition for the parish. Laudato Si recognition is granted by the Archdiocese to parishes who have demonstrated compliance with the teachings in the Pope’s encyclical Laudato Si, “On care for our common home.”
* The first Sustainability project was a book drive to support the recycle/reuse goal.  Books were donated to the One Dollar Book Swap on Webster Street.

**Weavers**

Weavers of Justice is a group of Dayton parishes and Catholic organizations that work together on social justice issues. We attend monthly meetings and participate and/or promote events such as the yearly Fair Trade Sale and Distinguished Speaker series. We organize activities at our parish based on Weavers programs, such as the Breaking Open the Sins of Racism Workshop and letters to legislators to end the death penalty,

**Diakonia Steering Committee**

A Social Action Committee member assists in stewarding Diakonia funds. Diakonia is the parish outreach fund for individuals within parish boundaries and for area agencies that have a relationship with St. Charles parish.

**Food barrels**

We recruit and coordinate volunteers from our parish to deliver donated items (from the food barrels at the entrance of the church) to the Catholic Social Services Food Pantry on a weekly basis throughout the year. For churches and other independent agencies, we continue to be the largest contributor.

**Thrive Together dinners**

“Thrive Together” is a program hosted by Fairhaven church to help alleviate poverty through relationships. They have weekly group meetings that include a meal. St. Charles serves six of those meals through the year. Social Action serves two meals and coordinates volunteers to serve the others. Typically 30 to 40 people are served at each meal.

**SPUR and LIGHT**

Articles are provided for the SPUR and LIGHT to educate and engage parishioners on our activities and social justice issues in general.

**Faith in Action**

Many St. Charles parishioners quietly go about putting their faith into action by performing Christ-like works in the community.  We periodically highlight these works by providing articles for the SPUR and LIGHT, not necessarily to honor these individuals, but rather to serve as inspiration to others.

**Pill bottle collection**

Social Action Committee members bring used pill bottles to each meeting. They are given to Mathew 25 Ministries for including in shipments of medical supplies to developing countries.

**Giving Tree**

The Social Action Committee helps coordinate the gathering and distribution of the presents from the Advent Giving Tree with the Youth Group.

**Homicide prayer vigils**

On the second Saturday of every month, members of our committee attend a prayer service in Dayton’s McIntosh Park to pray for Dayton area victims of homicide from the past month.

**Outreach Commission**

Social Action Committee activities are reported to the Outreach Commission for sharing with the Parish Council..

**Opportunities that arise. Examples:**

* Provided a student recently paralyzing by a gunshot with meals until he could obtain other assistance.
* Provided parishioners with voter information.
* Coordinated a special collection at the church for specific food items in response to an emergency assistance request from the Catholic Social Services Food Pantry.
* Donated a membership share in the Gem City Market