

43rd BALTIMORE ARCHDIOCESE SOCIAL MINISTRY CONVOCATION Bishop P. Francis Murphy Recognition Awards

Service

Glenn Rabut

Immaculate Conception

Glenn Rabut serves as a lector. He is responsible for the scheduling of other lectors for Mass, and provides training & support to newer lectors. He facilitated the most recent Synod and is a member of the parish's the Racial Justice Circle. Glenn provides rides to Mass for parishioners who lack transportation, and helps others in need in many different ways.

Advocacy

Karen Whittington

Immaculate Conception

In addition to chairing the Formation Board of the Racial Justice Committee, Karen Whittington serves on the leadership team of Immaculate Conception Parish. She is a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Conference, and is Chair of the Formation Committee for the SVDP Archdiocesan Council. She serves at St. Cecelia's Soup Kitchen, and in her own community, Karen assists with food distribution to those in need, and shares vital information about Covid-19.

Service

James Fabian

Shrine of the Sacred Heart

Jim has led our social ministry outreach for 15 years. He regularly facilitates distribution of food and clothing to those in need, coordinating with other churches and charitable organizations. His infectious spirit of giving has inspired many other parishioners to commit to giving and serving at Our Daily Bread & St. Gregory's Parish to help those experiencing food insecurity.

Service

Joan Coughlin, Jane Phillips, & Adon Phillips St. Alphonsus

Jane, Joan and Adon work as a team to provide service to the poor and marginalized in their generous support of parish social justice ministries. They take seriously the call to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and care for the vulnerable with their dedication & commitment to the food pantry, clothing drives, and garnering support for the pregnancy center. They go well above & beyond the call of duty, contributing on a weekly basis. Their work evangelizes, and promotes the cause of justice by the example they set as a family and a team, thereby inspiring other parishioners to serve as well.

Advocacy

Regina Smutz St. Alphonsus

Regina Smutz leads the social ministry on racism. To engage her fellow parishioners, she offers insights & recommendations on articles, books, movies and other materials that educate and inform regarding historical and current issues around racism. She coordinates with other organizations to offer opportunities for continued growth and knowledge, such as the Redlining presentation and the round-table discussion at our local library. Regina authors a weekly column in the parish bulletin on the topic of racism that addresses the Christian response.

Service

Amina Amedu St. Anthony of Padua - Most Precious Blood

Amina is an amazing member of the St. Anthony faith family because of her deep spirituality displayed through her involvement in parish life. As a mother and grandmother, Amina emigrated from Nigeria to the U.S. in 2005 and joined the parish. Her dedication & commitment to her faith shows each week, as she volunteers her time to clean the sanctuary and the entire main worship space. Mrs. Amedu also serves at weekday Mass and Lenten Stations of the Cross.

Service

Dennis Myers

St. Athanasius - St. Rose of Lima

Dennis Myers serves consistently every week organizing the food pantry. He assists with food distribution to help meet the needs of individuals and families experiencing food insecurity, both within the parish communities and beyond. He takes into account dietary restrictions & diverse needs of each household to ensure, whenever possible, those needs are being met. He is dedicated and serves faithfully whenever he is called upon.

Service

Gregory Cleveland

St. Bernardine

Greg has been serving on the parish team that distributes 280 boxes of fresh produce to neighbors-in-need, every Saturday, since the Fall of 2020. Greg arrives early (coffee in hand), meets the truck, helps set up for distribution, and even does free “home-delivery” of produce boxes to neighbors-in-need who have transportation and/or mobility issues.

Advocacy

Michelle Bass

St. Bernardine

In 2019, Michelle joined BUILD (Baltimoreans United in Leadership Development) an interfaith coalition that teaches citizens how to advocate for themselves with elected officials and government agencies to create positive change. Michelle attended BUILD training, and since has conducted many one-on-one relational meetings with parishioners and neighbors. She now leads the community's efforts to maintain and develop (what once was) a vacant lot. She has spoken at large city-wide BUILD actions, addressing the Mayor directly on critical issues that affect the community, and advocates for the needs of Edmondson Village residents.

Service

Therese Wilson Favors

St. Cecilia

Every week, Therese is a faithful and dedicated servant at St. Cecilia's Soup Kitchen. She serves soup kitchen guests with grace and joy. In addition, Therese is a dedicated servant to the Oblate Sisters Of Providence. For the last 10 years, Therese has Chaired the OSP annual fundraiser. She is also Chairperson for Oblate Tea, successfully coordinating with a team of individuals each year, to bring joyous occasions to the Oblate sisters.

Advocacy

Charles Dorsey III

St. Cecilia

Charles Dorsey consistently demonstrates his attentiveness and commitment to the under-served, both in the parish and the Walbrook community. His dedicated work in advocacy gives voice to the voiceless, and strives to ensure all are treated with dignity and respect. He works with fellow parishioners in advocating for community members struggling through social and life challenges.

Service

Joan G. Carlson

St. Francis Xavier

Joan Carlson's life is, and has always been, centered on helping and serving others. She is a member of the parish Outreach and Advocacy Committee and the former Youth Minister. Joanie leads fellow parishioners, youth and their families, to participate in service work with a variety of local organizations, such as: Sarah's Hope, the Franciscan Center, Helping Up Mission, VIVA House, First Fruits Farm, Mother Seton Academy (to name just a few). For her, serving isn't just about providing a 'good' for others in need, service involves making connections and getting to know the people being served. During the early months of Covid-19, Joanie and her 94-year-old father made sandwiches together for Franciscan Center. Her pastor says he "can think of no finer example of Christian service in line with the Gospel than the life and witness of Joan Gentry Carlson".

Advocacy

Amy S. Mason

St. Francis Xavier

As the current Chairperson of the parish Outreach and Advocacy Committee, Amy facilitates opportunities for parish advocacy. She continuously seeks ways to educate fellow parishioners on current day issues relative to Catholic Social Teaching. She attends, and invites others to participate in, the Social Justice conversations sponsored by the Northeast Catholic Community. She promotes parishioner advocacy by regularly sharing Action Alerts on topics like the environment, immigration, support for food production, and the death penalty. Amy keeps parishioners abreast of issues before the Maryland Catholic Conference, and has encouraged many to attend this Social Ministry Convocation. Amy's dedicated heart and persistence serves as a reminder that together we can effect change.

Service

Dan Conley, Kacy Conley, and Dan Reese St. Gabriel

The Conleys', alongside Dan Reese, organized a food pantry distribution program that began on Palm Sunday 2020 to support those most affected by Covid-19. Coordinating with the Maryland Food Bank, and organizing donations from Food Rescue, For My City, Farm Rescue, Panera Bread and individual giving, they grew the program from the initial 500 families served, to processing 5 tractor trailer loads of food each day. This far-reaching program has benefitted those experiencing food insecurity in Westminster, Essex, Dundalk, Glen Burnie, Bethesda, and other areas. While demand for food has diminished, the St. Gabriel's Food Pantry still distributes 50 containers a day 4 days a week to those in need. Dan runs his own business & is a foster dad to 3 in his family of 6. He also serves as St. Gabriel Pastoral Council Chair. Dan and Kacy are retired and spend most of their time working in the office of the Food Pantry managing the day to day operations.

Advocacy

Don Monahan St. Gabriel

For more than 20 years, Don has managed the Social Action Committee. He conducts interviews with neighbors-in-need requesting funds for utilities and/or rental assistance and facilitates food pantry distribution. Advocating for those in need, he has coordinated with motel management to grant extended-stays, while providing funds for rooms, and food, as needed.

Service

Theresa Furnari St. Ignatius

Although Theresa is now a parishioner at St. Ignatius in Baltimore City, she coordinated with the Social Action Ministry of St. Pius X (her former parish) to lend her expertise as a Master Gardener to support the bio-retention garden project in the spring and summer of 2021. Theresa was instrumental in training & educating volunteers on bio-engineering construction & maintenance, and its benefits. In the many hours she dedicated to this project, she professed the Stewardship of Creation principle of Catholic Social Teaching, and encouraged others to live this principle through service. The parish is grateful for her incredible generosity of time, talent and commitment.

Service

Joanne Motto
St. Joan of Arc

Joanne is an essential volunteer for the St. Joan of Arc Good Samaritan ministry. The ministry serves those in need by providing food, crisis referrals, and financial assistance for utilities and medical prescriptions. As a volunteer, Joanne directly interfaces with our clients to determine their needs and guides them in accessing government and community resources for assistance. She identifies requirements to the Parish staff and makes recommendations for emergency support for clients.

Advocacy

Anne Dulik
St. Joan of Arc

Anne Dulik serves as lead volunteer for several parish outreach ministries advocating for the marginalized and underserved in the community. She coordinates parish support of the Welcome One Emergency Shelter, which provides a safe place to sleep, meals, wrap-around services and comprehensive case management. Advocating for the men & women of Harford County experiencing homelessness ensures they are connected to critical resources needed for positive outcomes. Anne fulfills a monthly commitment to Martha's Meals - an ecumenical group of Aberdeen Christian Churches providing meals to those experiencing food insecurity. In addition, she lends her expertise to assist those in need with tax preparation within the community and her parish.

Service

Alan Pultyniewicz
St. John - Columbia

Mr. Alan Pultyniewicz was the first President of St. John's Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Serving for 6 years, Alan did it all. He established the SVdP program and recruited a team of loyal & dedicated members, committed in their faith, to help assist neighbors experiencing financial hardship. He implemented a system that provides rental & utility assistance, grocery & gas gift cards, clothing, school supplies, car repairs & referrals to other organizations & agencies. Alan was instrumental in raising money through parish donations and fundraising events, resulting in the support of nearly 900 calls for assistance and the distribution of more than \$82,000 to those in need. Alan is also a current member, and former Grand Knight, of the Knights of Columbus and is continuously working on programs to help those experiencing poverty and other hardships.

Advocacy

Kathy Gross

St. John - Columbia

Ms. Kathy Gross is a social justice advocate of exceptional capability. Undeterred by the Covid-19 pandemic, she single-handedly revitalized a dormant Environmental Committee, leading the way for St. John's Green Team, which in 2 years, has rejuvenated the rain garden, stenciled storm drains, planted a pollinator garden, and worked with the local Interfaith Center Board to "green" the worship spaces and offices. In addition, Kathy is the driving force behind the Afghan team, which is working to support an Afghan refugee family of 7. The team assists the family with food & clothing, and connects them to resources for transportation, medical issues, and job opportunities.

Service

Jeanette Middleton-Sudano

St. John the Evangelist - Severna Park

Amazing grace through works of love! As Executive Director of "Giving Back, Linda's Legacy" Homeless Drive, Jeanette partners with local organizations and coordinates over 500 volunteers to directly serve the homeless in shelters and the streets, delivering each winter over 3,000 backpacks filled with basic needs. Jeanette actively recruits and trains parish families to experience the blessing of serving together. Most recently, and extraordinarily, Jeanette's leadership has extended to Afghan Refugee Relief, coordinating efforts for material, legal, educational, religious, and social resources, as well as ecumenical events to educate the public. Having lost a son in Iraq, her pastor believes "her heart for Afghan refugees is an example of St. Luke the Evangelist's Sermon on the Plain - returning good and blessing in all situations".

Service

Kathryn Welty

St. Katharine Drexel

For many years Kathryn has chaired our social justice ministry, providing leadership for our many parish efforts in our local community and abroad. This has included weekend food bags for a local elementary school, mobilizing volunteers for a local family shelter, and coordinating support of the CRS Operation Rice Bowl.

Service

Veronica "Ronnie" Georg St. Margaret

Ronnie's heart is for the underserved. She makes & delivers lunches for residents of an impoverished neighborhood, and prepares dinner for those in need at a local homeless shelter and church. She works with the St. Lawrence Team, which provides financial assistance to prevent eviction, utility shut-off, and assists those experiencing homelessness. Ronnie delivers holiday gifts & food to neighbors-in-need, and makes rosaries & cards the parish provides to those in nursing homes and hospitals.

Service

Helene Perry St. Mary of the Assumption

When you think of the Social Ministry at St. Mary of the Assumption you automatically think of Helene Perry. She organizes the Giving Tree during Advent, and coordinates with multiple charitable organizations to distribute donations. She spearheaded the "Trash-Bashers" project, and regularly participates in a Saturday morning community cleanup along several blocks of York Road near the church. Helene's diligence and collaboration with the League for People with Disabilities is now expanding the reach of this project.

Advocacy

Mary Louise Petrik St. Mary of the Assumption

Mary Louise Petrik dedicates much of her time at St. Mary of the Assumption with the St. Vincent de Paul Conference, which provides emergency assistance of food, utility payments & rental assistance to those in crisis. She currently serves as the SVdP Treasurer. Mary Louise advocates for those in need by connecting them to other resources necessary to be successful through the CARES-GEDCO program. Mary Louise is a primary point-of-contact to serve the marginalized and underserved, and does so with compassion and respect for their dignity.

Service

Barry Schech

St. Pius X

Tirelessly dedicated to St. Pius X parish, Barry Schech is a mainstay of the Social Action Ministry. Aside from his role on the Pastorate Council and other duties, he finds time weekly to gather all food and gift card donations and deliver them to the food pantry. Barry also collects over 50 casseroles and delivers them to Our Daily Bread. The Social Action Ministry could not be successful without his service.

Advocacy

Elizabeth Wagner

St. Pius X

Elizabeth Wagner developed the Giving Garden Ministry to keep people connected while serving the greater community. She fundraises from local businesses and develops reports to document results. One of the most impactful outreach projects she did this year was to teach people who come to the local food pantry how to grow vegetables in their own backyards. Elizabeth organized a team of volunteers to visit homes and build raised garden beds. She has been highly successful coordinating with businesses and parishioners to advocate for those in need.

Service

Christina Engerman (Deceased – Posthumous Award)

Transfiguration Catholic Community

Every year, Christina dedicated her time with the Bea Gaddy Family Centers to provide those experiencing homelessness and underserved residents with a nice Thanksgiving meal, companionship, and bags of food to take home. Respecting the dignity of all, meals and groceries were provided to everyone who attended the event, with no questions asked. Christina ensured all were welcomed with compassion and made to feel comfortable.

Advocacy

Gertrude "Trudy" Scott

Transfiguration Catholic Community

Trudy has great care & concern for the many individuals who are homeless and living on the street in the neighborhood surrounding the church. She extends her hand in friendship and makes them feel welcome at parish events. In some cases, Trudy connects with a relative of the person who was homeless, and stays in touch, to ensure they are okay. She regularly delivers food to homeless encampments, and is developing a monthly parish food distribution program.