

Outreach Ministries at Saint Elizabeth's

Twenty years ago Deacon Bob Kratchman began an Outreach Ministry for the poor and hungry at St. Elizabeth's. This ministry has evolved into our monthly food bag collection as we distribute grocery bags on the first Sunday of the month and parishioners return them on the second Sunday. The current beneficiaries of the grocery bags are:

Emmanuel Cancer Foundation, Midland Park (helping neighborhood families).

Star of Hope, Paterson.

Oasis, Paterson (Shelter for Women and Children). Oasis is primarily dependent on St. Elizabeth's.

The good news of this ministry is the feeding of so many nearby persons and families who are hungry. The challenge is that 10 years ago we could distribute as many or more than 359 bags from a given Sunday. Now with 500 bags given out at Mass an average of 224 are returned. This food bag distribution is a direct and impactful way to assist our neighbors...ages, genders, home and work situations reflecting varied degrees of struggle.

Another outreach begun by Deacon Bob Kratchman and directly tied to assisting nearby people in difficult straits is the Van Ministry. During the week our van daily picks up bakery goods and produce from local stores and deliver them to Oasis and Eva's Kitchen (these centers feeding a combined total of 800 homeless and working poor each day). As in the gospel, parishioners are sent out "two by two", a driver and an assistant, to pick up food and bring it to Paterson. From Monday to Friday, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. start to finish, teams execute the Van Ministry. Weekly or monthly, men and women, retired or not, drivers and non-drivers, the schedule can be made to work for our volunteers.

Please consider a share in these corporal works of mercy. Ministries always need to be replenished, and good causes always need to be re-invigorated.

Please take a bag each month and return it for someone whose family is hungry. If you would like more information about helping with the Van Ministry please visit the Parish Center or call 201-891-1122. Saint Elizabeth's is caring for others "right in our own back yard." Your help is necessary and appreciated.

Thank you for your prayerful sacrifice and support.