

Coffee & Cookies, Hospitality & Listening —

A Lenten outreach to our neighbors during Social Ministry's Foodbank Distribution

A sample of what the Parish Life team heard and saw during the spirited morning:

"If I couldn't come here each month my daughter and I could not survive."

"Through this food bank I have been blessed. I want to return the blessing in whatever way I can."

"The people who work at the food bank are so friendly and helpful."

"I did not know I had high blood pressure until the foodbank nurses told me. They saved my life."

"Since I lost my job, my family is struggling. This food bank feeds my family and I am so grateful!"

"I live around the corner and I am willing to help you in any way I can. It is my way of paying the blessing of this food bank forward."

Highlight of the morning

When Ed Lahoda arrived with the cookies, Bill Guy offered condolences about the recent death of his father. One of the guests overheard the comment and immediately called to all the other guests in the room "Come. Come, we have to pray." She led all of us, guest and committee, into a circle hands joined. Then she prayed with deep conviction for Ed, his dad and their family. We were deeply touched!

◆ *How can you, your group, or your ministry carry on this outreach of hospitality?* ◆

~ A team of 5-6 is best. Call the Rectory (412,241.1392) for details. ~



Our **Parish Life Ministry** offered hospitality to guests for St. James Foodbank's February distribution. The team provided a friendly welcome along with coffee, cookies and listening ears as participants waited in the warm Chapel for their turn.

The Parish Life team also invited each participant to fellowship on our Donut Sunday on March 11th in the Chapel. The invitation also welcomed them to join us for our 10:00 a.m. Liturgy.

Why? St. James' Mission is to be a community that is inviting, hospitable and faith-filled. Parish Life Ministry wanted to extend to foodbank participants the love and fellowship of St. James Parish.

However, the members of the ministry were the ones who were blessed by the sincere gratitude and love they received in return.

"Do not neglect to show hospitality, for by that means some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:2)