

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

Ministry Spotlight: Crisis Intervention

Three years ago, Father William Karg saw a need for a new ministry at St. Sebastian Church. The idea was to link parishioners in need to those with training and experience in counseling and social work.

Betty Regan now leads this ministry. She has a background as a counselor, working in an inner city Cleveland-area Catholic High School and as a Guardian ad Litem in the Summit County Juvenile Court system.

During the past three years, Regan has responded to calls from Father Karg and others who know of parishioners in need. For example, several calls have been made to her regarding senior citizens who have no local family to check up on them.

When she heard about a new mother having a difficult time adjusting after the birth of her child, Regan connected the new mother to appropriate social service agencies.

Most recently, she has been assisting a man who has several medical problems and lives on a fixed income. Like many living on fixed incomes, he has sometimes had to choose between paying for his medicines or buying food. Regan put him in touch with several resources, including the St. Vincent DePaul Society and local foodbanks.

If you would like to help with this ministry, call Regan at 330-864-8019. The ministry could use social workers, medical professionals and volunteers willing to drive seniors to medical appointments and check in on them periodically.

Faith in Action: Betty Regan

A philosophy of service has always guided Betty Regan's life. She was a high school teacher for many years before returning to school to earn her master's degree in counseling.

"I just feel that those who are given the opportunity, should share their gifts of time and talent with those who are less fortunate," said Betty. As a school counselor at St. Joseph Academy in Cleveland, she helped students not only with academic issues but all types of problems relating to home, peer pressure and bad decisions.

Betty and her husband, Michael, lived in Chicago for about 20 years. Then they lived in Detroit for six years before relocating to Akron. Since losing her husband eight years ago, Betty has benefited from the support of other widows. She and friend, Ruth Struglinski and Deacon Terry Peacock are planning a new St. Sebastian ministry/support group for those who have lost spouses. Details will be announced in September.

Betty is the proud mother of five and grandmother of six. "They live all over the place and give me lots of good reasons to travel," she said with a laugh.

A Disciple's Response

"...be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and playing to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father."

Ephesians 5:15-20

