

Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

Ministry Spotlight:

Legion of Mary

Six women of the parish are committed to carrying on a tradition of prayer, service and devotion to the Blessed Mother that dates to 1921, Ireland. It was there that Frank Duff (1889-1980), a member of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, founded the Legion of Mary.

"Today, the Legion of Mary has 3 million members in 168 countries," said Maralyn Yanko, president. "Monsignor Zwisler began the chapter at St. Sebastian. Father Karg's mother was once an active member here."

The Legion of Mary is a lay apostolic organization at the service of the church. Members attend a weekly meeting on Mondays at 6:30 p.m. and commit themselves to at least two additional hours of ministry each week. This typically includes visiting and taking Holy Communion to nursing home residents and homebound parishioners. They may also lead the Rosary and help the nursing home residents get to and from their rooms to the chapel.

In addition to Maralyn, the other members are Vinceen Davis, Marilyn McDonald, Judy Ley, Eleaza Gandy and Tommy Chuey.

The group regularly schedules visits and serves Communion at Rockynol, the Village of St. Edward, Manor Care, Sumner on Merriman, White Pond Villa, and Akron General Medical Center.

"Last year, we made 2,445 visits and served Communion to 1,071 people," said Maralyn. During their visits, the group often offers gifts of religious articles and publications, which are much appreciated by the people they are visiting. In addition, one member shared her talent for sewing by stitching 75 baptismal bibs for the parish last year.

During their Monday evening meetings in the sacristy, the members share their weekly service experiences while always placing a high priority on confidentiality. The meetings include prayer and readings.

If you would like more information about the Legion of Mary, call Maralyn Yanko at 330-864-0305.

Faith in Action: Maralyn Yanko

Maralyn Yanko has been a St. Sebastian parishioner for 59 years and a member of the Legion of Mary for 30 years.

Maralyn, who lost her husband, Victor, 14 years ago, has four children and 11 grandchildren. Many people will connect her last name to her husband's family restaurant, which was located in Highland Square and then Fairlawn Plaza until 1990.

Maralyn said she joined the Legion of Mary shortly after her mother, Adelaide, died.

"When my mother passed away, I felt I really needed a mother and turned to the Blessed Mother," she said. "I know I speak for all the women of the Legion of Mary in saying that we are fortunate to carry out our ministry. We meet so many wonderful people and they are so grateful for our visits. It truly is a blessing."

Thoughts on Stewardship

"Jesus answered, 'My kingdom does not belong to this world.'" John 18:36

These ministry profiles are being brought to you by the St. Sebastian Stewardship Committee. Would you like to share the story of your ministry? Contact David Tschantz at 330-864-0646 or dtschant@neo.rr.com, or Holly Pupino at 330-665-2248 or spupino@neo.rr.com.