

To Jesus through Mary

Every Monday after the 8 a.m. Mass six people meet in St. Sebastian's Servers' Sacristy. They pray, review the apostolic work they did during the previous week and discuss the tasks they will tackle in the coming week. Lately, to their delight, says ministry leader Vinceen Davis, they have been joined by Fr. Peter Kovacina, as spiritual director.

The group is St. Sebastian's Legion of Mary contingent. It is a unit of the international Legion of Mary that was founded in Ireland in 1921 and is active in approximately 170 countries.

Vinceen, who has led the parish ministry for the past 15 years, further explains the group's work.

"Basically we help the pastor with any jobs that are needed to be done," she says. That has included, in the past, visiting new parishioners and more recently helping with the parish census.

Active Legion members are obliged to carry out two hours of service (apostolic work) each week. The bulk of their work involves the home bound, which takes a lot of time, Vinceen says.

The ministry chairman explains that this includes bringing Communion to sick parishioners at their own homes, in nursing homes and in hospitals.

Combined in recent years with Legion members from St. Vincent's parish, the group goes once a month to a nursing home such as Rockynol, Manor Care or Hickory Ridge, when the Mass is celebrated there by a priest from one of the two parishes.

Vinceen explains, "We help set up for the Mass; we wheel people in and sometimes we go to the rooms to give Communion."

The entire focus of the ministry is spiritually strengthening its members through prayer and religious devotion and doing lay apostolic work through service to the parish, says Vinceen. She adds that there is no type of fundraising or social activities.

In order to accomplish their goal of bringing more of the world to Christ through Mary, the group admits to the need for spiritual support. This is given by auxiliary members of the Legion (about 120 people) who say the rosary and special prayers to further the group's active work but do not attend the weekly meetings.

Anyone who would like further information about either active or auxiliary membership in the Legion of Mary can reach Vinceen at 330-805-4116.

