

Jubilee Ministry and Micah 6:8 Update for 2015/16

Our 12 Jubilee Parishes and 1 Jubilee Center are continuing their many ministries, touching local communities in ways which are sustaining and enriching lives. Feeding ministries, i.e. community meals and food banks, and housing support are the two most common forms of outreach that are being provided.

This year in my role as Jubilee Officer I visited parishes around the Diocese, averaging one to two Sundays a month. During my parish visit, at the invitation of the rector, I preached, led an adult forum and/or provided diaconal liturgical support. On the Sundays I was not visiting around the diocese, I was at St. Stephen's Cathedral, primarily providing diaconal liturgical support.

With the support of the Diocesan Refugee Resource Group, and in collaboration with the Harrisburg Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Office, I led the Diocese in the Advent Epiphany Opportunity titled ***Welcoming the Stranger***. From Hollidaysburg to Harrisburg, from York to Williamsport, from Lancaster to Bellefonte, from Newport to Marietta, and from numerous points in between--- boxes and van loads of pots, pans and pillows, as well as children's books and school supplies arrived in Harrisburg. These donations were distributed to Syrian, Congolese, Rwandan, Bhutanese Nepali, Iraqi, Afghani, Somali, and Burmese refugees who have settled in Central PA.

The Diocesan Refugee Resource Group has continued communication with the Harrisburg Resettlement Office of Catholic Charities and in May 2016 sent ideas to all parishes for individuals and church communities to continue support for our refugee neighbors. The Group, which is open to new members, is meeting in early fall to discuss some possible new ministry ideas.

Deacon Loretta L. Collins, Diocesan Jubilee Officer