



Church of the Immaculate Conception
**Community, Justice and Outreach
Commission**

Annual Report 2009

Mission Statement:

Taught by the example of Jesus, the Blessed Mother, the saints and our church community, the Immaculate Conception Social Justice and Outreach Commission recognizes that as a people we are very blessed, and that by sharing our blessings, we work, in a most fundamental way, for peace and justice in the world.

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Social Justice and Outreach commission, I am pleased to present this report of the Social Justice ministries 2008-2009 initiatives and accomplishments.

As you will see in the following pages, the parishioners of Immaculate Conception are working hard to improve the lives of our neighbors, both locally and globally. From serving meals to the homebound and homeless, to making our voices heard at the capital regarding Right to Life, to helping build rooms for Catechesis in Estelí, Nicaragua, we work towards our vision of bringing peace and justice in the world.

Thanks to all of you who dedicate your time and commitment to providing help and creating hope for our community. Together, we are making a difference.

Sincerely,
Julie Zilka
Chair, Social Justice and Outreach Commission

The Social Justice & Outreach Committee encourages parish participation in its mission through education and advocacy of the many programs identified by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. A sample of these programs includes:

- A Minnesota without Poverty
- Environmental Stewardship
- Faithful Citizenship
- Respect Life
- Homeless Persons Memorial Day

Our outreach ministries include:

- Brothers Keepers
- The Giving Tree
- Hot Meals for Shut-Ins
- Branch III Breakfast Club
- SACA (Southern Anoka Community Assistance) Foodshelf
- Coins for Social Justice

This past year the Social Justice and Outreach ministry has been able to contribute to the welfare and basic needs of the some of the most vulnerable people in our community as well as empowering the Immaculate Conception parish through education in justice and outreach issues. None of this would have been possible without the time, talent and treasure of the generous people of our Parish. With your help we've been able to accomplish the following:

- 21 volunteers from Immaculate Conception served breakfast to 2400 hungry people through our Branch III Breakfast Club ministry. Branch III is a service of Catholic Charities providing breakfast and lunch and also offers services such as hygiene maintenance, employment resources and access to social workers and nurses to people experiencing homelessness.
- 34 volunteers from Immaculate Conception brought 2900 meals to the homebound elderly and disabled through the Hot Meals for Shut ins/Meals on Wheels ministry. Immaculate Conception was one the founding churches for this non-profit organization that operates out of Unity Hospital in Fridley, MN.

- The seven members of Our Brothers Keeper ministry sewed and donated:
 - 377 pairs of mittens
 - 152 caps
 - 75 headbands and scarves
 - 110 quilts
 - 3 carloads of fabrics donated to the Fridley Senior Center
 - Many boxes of sheets, blankets, mattress pads and more

Organizations benefitting from these donations include Bridging, SACA, Birthright, Red Stocking, Branch III and Sharing & Caring

Brothers Keepers is also responsible for collecting the jewelry sold at IC Funfest resulting in proceeds of \$500 benefiting Immaculate Conception.

- Immaculate Conception parishioners donated \$4,715.96 and 8,261 pounds of food along with clothing, and other household items to SACA. SACA (Southern Anoka Community Assistance) is a 501C non-profit food shelf and community assistance program located in Columbia Heights. SACA serves the communities of Columbia Heights, Fridley, Spring Lake Park and Hilltop. SACA is able to serve the less fortunate in our communities with the following programs for eligible residents:
 - Emergency Food Program
 - Clothing and Household Needs
 - School Supplies Distribution, MAC/NAPS Distribution
 - Christmas Toys and Dinner
- Immaculate Conception parishioners donated more than 500 gifts and over \$600.00 in gift cards through the Giving Tree ministry, for men, women and children at SACA, the St. Anthony Park nursing home, and several area shelters brightening the holidays for many who would have gone without.
- Immaculate Conception parishioners donated over 250 pairs of new socks along with personal hygiene items for the second annual Sock Drive. These donations were presented to clients of Branch III at the December breakfast.
- Immaculate Conception parishioners signed more than 300 postcards for the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) campaign expressing their concern about abortion to their senators and representatives.

- 20 Immaculate Conception parishioners attended **Understanding Poverty** an interactive presentation from the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis Office of Social Justice that explores the facts of poverty, the underlying causes, and the long term solutions.
- Immaculate Conception parishioners have donated \$1,179.83 in coins for the Coins for Social Justice (formerly Coins for Nicaragua) ministry. Coins for Social Justice raises funds to support programs that promote the gospel of peace and social justice locally, nationally and globally. These programs include Elim Transitional Housing, Inc., Sharing and Caring Hands, La Cruz de El Calvário in Estelí, Nicaragua, Southern Anoka Community Assistance (SACA), Youthlink, and Catholic Charities.
- In December 2008 Immaculate Conception sent \$6000.00 from the Coins for Nicaragua collection to our Sister Parish La Cruz de El Calvário in Estelí, Nicaragua towards their building of rooms for catechesis. Approximately 250 children receive First Communion and 80 to 90 teens receive Confirmation each year in this parish of 25,000 families.
- On December 20 & 21, the first day of winter and the longest night of the year, Immaculate Conception parishioners acknowledged National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day remembering over 100 lives lost as a result of homelessness. Through prayer we hope to bring attention to the tragedy of homelessness and to remember those who have paid the ultimate price for our nation's failure to end homelessness.

As you can see, IC Social Justice and Outreach ministries are active and busy. Our parish and its many volunteers live our belief that every person is entitled to the human dignity bestowed upon us by God.

Immaculate Conception Parish
Social Justice & Outreach
Statement of Transactions for July 2008 thru June 2009

Social Justice & Outreach Program

	Income	Expenses	Balance
Beginning Balance - July 1, 2008	2,700.00		2,700.00
<i>Catholic Charities</i>			
Branch III Breakfast		2,375.02	
<i>Holiday Giving</i>		0.00	
<i>Exceptional Needs</i>			
Holly Stadnick Funeral lunch contribution		500.00	
Rainbow Foods – gift cards		155.00	
<i>Meals on Wheels</i>			
Program Contribution		100.00	
<i>General Program Expenses</i>			
Understanding Poverty Program		200.00	
FOCA Postcard Campaign		24.60	
Postage for FOCA Campaign		47.25	
<i>Donation received from Coins for Social Justice</i>	630.00		
Ending Balance - June 30, 2009			-\$71.87

Coins for Social Justice (formerly Coins for Nicaragua)

	Income	Expenses	Balance
Beginning Balance - July 1, 2008	6,669.76		6,669.76
Coins collected - July 2008 thru June 2009	2,062.74		8,732.50
Donation to de El Calvario, Estelí Nicaragua for Catechism rooms		6,000.00	2,732.50
Bank fee to wire funds to Nicaragua		15.00	2,717.50
Donation to IC, Social Justice Program		630.00	2,087.50
Ending Balance - June 30, 2009			\$2,087.50