

**Our Lady of Fatima  
Catholic Church**  
San Clemente, CA

**November 2012**

*Social Awareness Leadership Team Presents*

## **Spotlight on Service: FiSH-Fatima Serves the Hungry**



Welcome to the first "Spotlight on Service" newsletter! The Social Awareness Leadership Team (SALT) was established at Fatima to help organize our parish social ministry and engage more parishioners in that work. Periodically, SALT will highlight an outreach ministry that our parishioners are personally participating in. You will hear one of those parishioners share their personal experience at the end of mass and have an opportunity to learn how you can become involved. Please enjoy learning how the actions of our parishioners reflect the heart of our Catholic Tradition as they make a difference in our community. This edition features our FiSH ministry. Working in collaboration with Welcome INN, our parish prepares and serves meals several times a month to the homeless and working poor of our community. These meals are funded through donations made to the parish "poor box" which also supports our parish Assistance Fund. Read about this on the back page!

### **Fast Facts:**

Parish Assistance Fund \*  
Disbursements

July 2012–October 2012

Rent	\$2,195
Temporary Lodging	\$ 766
Utilities	\$ 193
FiSH	\$ 893
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,047</b>

\* Funded exclusively through donations to the parish "poor box" located just inside the side doors of the church.



"We don't know a lot about those that we serve. We don't know why or how they ended up in the situation they are in. God doesn't call us to question it but asks us to follow Jesus' example. Jesus embraced, accepted, loved and felt compassion for those he encountered. *It really is simple although sometimes we complicate it.*"

*FiSH Dinner Volunteer*



### **Catholic Social Teaching—A bit of background info!**

Catholic Social Teaching is a body of doctrine developed by the church to help us put into action the teachings of Jesus Christ in our lives, community, our parish and families. It's fundamental principle recognizes the dignity of the human person. Social ministries which reflect Catholic Social Teaching are an essential part of a Catholic parish because they help a parish do more and be more. They are a reflection of the gospel and help build a faithful and spiritual community.

Our FiSH Ministry highlights one of seven themes in Catholic Social Teaching : **Option for the Poor and Vulnerable**

A basic moral test for any community is how the most vulnerable members among us are faring. In a society marred by deepening divisions between rich and poor, our tradition recalls the story of the Last Judgment (Mt 25:31-46) and instructs us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.

According to the US Conference on Catholic Bishops website on Poverty. *"In the United States one in six of us lives in poverty and one in four children lives in poverty"* <http://usccb.org/about/catholic-campaign-for-human-development/povertyusa/>

## Catholic Social Teaching continued...

The primary purpose of this special commitment to the poor is to enable them to become active participants in the life of society. It is to enable all persons to share in and contribute to the common good. The “option for the poor”, therefore, is not an adversarial slogan that pits one group or class against another. Rather it states that the deprivation and powerlessness of the poor wounds the whole community. The extent of their suffering is a measure of how far we are from being a true community of persons. These wounds will be healed only by greater solidarity with the poor and among the poor themselves.

Economic Justice for All, #88

The Catholic bishops of the United States believe building a just economy that works for all encompasses a wide range of issues, including food security and hunger, work and joblessness, homelessness and affordable housing, and tax credits for low-income families, as well as protecting programs that serve poor and vulnerable people throughout the federal budget.

Want to read more? Go to: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/economic-justice-economy/>



**Fatima Serves the Hungry** (aka FiSH), working in col-

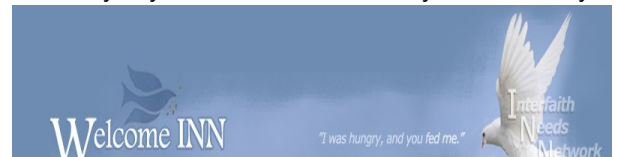
laboration with Welcome INN, prepares and serves meals several times a month to the homeless and working poor of our community. Fatima has both a morning group that prepares and serves breakfast and an afternoon group that prepares and serves dinner. Both groups provide meals on Saturdays every three weeks. These meals are funded **exclusively** through your donations made to the parish "poor box" located just inside the side doors of the church. To learn how you can help, contact the Social Awareness Leadership Team at [salt@olfchurch.net](mailto:salt@olfchurch.net)

**Avg cost per meal: \$1.76**



Travis, Kyla and Priscilla Agbayani prepare a "FiSH" dinner in McGowan Hall.

**W**elcome INN has been helping the needy and marginalized of South Orange County for over 20 years. Seven days a week, 365 days a year, volunteers serve no-cost meals to homeless and low-income people in the Capistrano Beach. A dinner meal is served every day and breakfast on Friday and Saturday mornings. Approximately 50-70 people are served daily – many of them regular guests.



Welcome INN is a non-profit, all volunteer organization reflecting the collaboration of more than a dozen faith communities throughout south county. In addition to offering hot meals and other necessities, Welcome INN works with groups like FAM, iHOPE and Mission Hospital to connect its guests with other resources. While meals are served literally on the street, Welcome INN dreams of a permanent location where folks can eat with more dignity.

Welcome INN was founded by Christian volunteers who desired to follow Jesus' command to care for the less fortunate treating all with dignity, love, and respect. There is no requirement for those coming for a meal. Everyone is welcome.

### Other service opportunities for the OLF community!

- ⇒ **Father Hayden from CNEWA was at OLF last weekend. To learn more or to support CNEWA's great work go to [www.cnewa.us](http://www.cnewa.us)**
- ⇒ **Are you interested in keeping our youth safe from gang involvement in San Clemente? If so, contact [salt@olfchurch.net](mailto:salt@olfchurch.net) for the Gang Reduction Intervention Program (G.R.I.P.)**
- ⇒ **Free Flu Clinic at OLF Wednesday 11-28 from 4pm-7pm. Volunteers needed for one hour shifts, contact Daisy Nueva at 949-492-5427.**
- ⇒ **Fair Trade Opportunity on December 9th - Volunteers from Concern America will be returning with unique, quality handcrafts that provide us with the opportunity to purchase conscientiously. View their selection at [www.concernamerica.org](http://www.concernamerica.org)**

### How the Fatima family is helping other families in need...

Earlier this month, donations to the parish Assistance Fund helped a single mom with two teenage children. Last spring she was laid off from her teaching position and exhausted her savings to make her rent and utility payments. Our Lady of Fatima in collaboration with Family Assistance Ministries and St. Edward's Church was able to help her bridge the gap this month. Fortunately, she has been rehired by the school district and will be back to work soon.