

# St. Theresa's Parish

## *St. Theresa's Vision:*

*St. Theresa's invites all to follow Jesus Christ by celebrating the sacraments and building a diverse community.*



## **Annual Report on Parish Ministries & Finances** **Fiscal Year July 01, 2016– June 30, 2017**

## *St. Theresa's Mission:*

*Guided by our beloved St. Theresa, who performed the ordinary tasks of everyday life with extraordinary love, and nourished by the Gospel and the Eucharist, St. Theresa's Catholic faith community strives to live with awakened hearts and open minds. With compassion, we serve the poor and the needy and work for peace through justice.*

## A word from Linda DeMarce, Pastoral Coordinator

September, 2017

My Dear Friends,

I am excited to offer you, the parishioners of St. Theresa Parish our parish annual report for the fiscal year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. We have been richly blessed with a vibrant and giving community of volunteers which realizes that God is the source of all blessings. In stewardship, we choose to give back to God what God has first given us. We are a people of all ages worshiping together, ministering together, serving God's people together and especially growing in faith together. Through our ministries and programs, we are making God's presence ever more real, not only for our parishioners, but throughout the Federal Way and Tacoma community.

The Liturgy, as the center of our parish life, continues to nourish us in our faith and challenges us to live it. From this springs the commitment of our volunteers who share their time, talent and treasure and, in so doing, nurture the fruits of the Holy Spirit within each one. Stewardship is a mark of true discipleship, and underscores the power of God in our lives as an energy which impels and equips us to love and serve each other. Our Patron, Saint Theresa of Lisieux, urges us to do ordinary things in extraordinary ways.

As I reflect on the contents of our Parish Annual Report, I am excited to be reminded that we are certainly an extraordinary community. Let us all become enthusiastic in our awareness of the thousands of hours spent in service as hundreds of you accept the challenges that God presents daily. I am inspired by how you have personally answered the call to live life as a steward of Jesus. It is in these small services that we become more like Christ; it is in serving others that we serve God. Yet, let us not stand on what we have already accomplished. Instead, let's look to the road ahead, for around every turn we will have the opportunity to be the hands and feet and heart of Christ for those that are in need. He relies on us to be stewards of His boundless and healing love for all creation.

Thank you all, and may God continue to bless you for your generosity, and love that you give so freely to St. Theresa Parish.

Yours in Christ,

Linda M. DeMarce

Pastoral Coordinator

---

Septiembre, 2017

Mis queridos amigos,

Estoy emocionado de ofrecerles a ustedes, los feligreses de Santa Teresa nuestro informe anual parroquial del año fiscal 1 Julio 2016-Junio 30, 2017. Hemos sido ricamente bendecidos con una comunidad vibrante y aportadora de voluntarios que se da cuenta de que Dios es la fuente de todas las bendiciones. En corresponsabilidad, decidimos devolver a Dios lo que Dios nos ha dado primero. Somos una comunidad de todas las edades que adoramos, llevamos misterios y servimos juntos al pueblo de Dios, pero sobretodo crecemos en Fe juntos. A través de nuestros programas y ministerios, estamos haciendo de la presencia de Dios cada vez más real, no sólo para nuestros feligreses, sino de toda la comunidad de Federal Way y Tacoma.

La liturgia, como el centro de nuestra vida parroquial, nos sigue nutriendo en nuestra fe y nos desafía a vivir. De ello brota el compromiso de nuestros voluntarios que comparten su tiempo, talento y tesoro y, con ello siguen cultivando los frutos del Espíritu Santo dentro de cada uno. La corresponsabilidad es una marca del verdadero discipulado y subraya el poder de Dios en nuestras vidas como una energía que nos impulsa y equipa a amar y servir unos a otros. Nuestra patrona, Santa Teresa de Lisieux, nos insta a hacer las cosas ordinarias de manera extraordinaria.

Al reflexionar sobre el contenido de nuestro informe anual parroquial, me emociona recordar que somos sin duda una extraordinaria comunidad. Volvémonos entusiastas y ágamos conciencia de las miles de horas que damos al servicio aceptando los desafíos que Dios nos presenta todos los días. Me inspira cómo han respondido personalmente la llamada a vivir la vida como un mayordomo de Jesús. Es en estos pequeños servicios es que nos volvemos más como Cristo; es servir a los demás que servimos a Dios. Sin embargo, no demos por terminado en lo que ya hemos logrado. En su lugar, echemos un vistazo a la camino por delante, ya que en cada vuelta que tomemos tendremos la oportunidad de ser las manos, pies y corazón de Cristo para aquellos que están en necesidad. Él confía en nosotros para ser administradores de su amor sin límites y sanación para toda la creación.

Gracias a todos y que Dios siga bendiga por su generosidad y amor que le dan tan libremente a la Iglesia Santa Teresa.

Suya en Cristo,

Linda M. DeMarce

Coordinadora Pastoral

# Remembering those who have died: July 01, 2016– June 30, 2017

## *Prayer for Those Who Have Died*

In your hands, O Lord, we humbly entrust our brothers and sisters.  
In this life you embraced them with your tender love; deliver them now from every evil  
and bid them eternal rest. The old order has passed away:  
welcome them into paradise, where there will be no sorrow, no weeping or pain,  
but fullness of peace and joy with your Son and the Holy Spirit forever and ever.  
Amen.

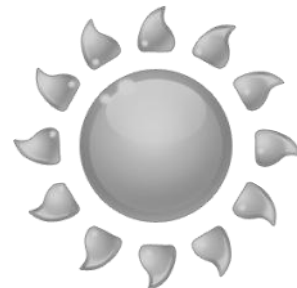
John Amundson  
Edmund Bieleski  
David Blok  
Maria G. Carrillo  
Carol D'Angelo  
Danilo De Castro  
Gema Fernandez  
Albert Fitzsimons  
John Gillespie  
Francisco Hinojosa  
Dorothea Hoffman  
Marjorie Hoffman  
Felicitas Hunt  
Leonor Jacinto  
Victor Jacinto  
Irvin Karasuda  
Joyce Ann Lichty  
David Liddel

Those we love  
don't go away,  
they walk beside us  
every day...  
unseen, unheard,  
but always near,  
still loved,  
still missed  
and very dear.

Betty Lewis  
James Mancuso  
Irene McNerney  
Doris McNult  
Ruth Myger  
Maria Osburn  
Rosa Palomo Herrera  
Audrey Pederson  
Elvia Perez Gonzalez  
Mary Lynn Pete  
Harold Rogers  
Miguel Saldona  
Kenneth Shattock  
Eileen Smith  
Harriet Stieglitz  
Ronald Vandenberg  
Thomas E. Watson



*"And He will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of his hands."*



# Financial Report for Fiscal Year/ Reporte Financiero del Año Fiscal 2016-2017

	Actuals/ Actuales	Budget/ Presupuesto	Variance/ Variante
	7/2016-6/2017	7/2016-6/2017	Favorable (Unfavorable/ No favorable)
<b>Income/ Ingresos:</b>			
Sunday Collections/ Colectas Dominicales	\$ 590,975	\$ 597,000	\$ (6,025)
Holy Day Collections/ Colectas de días Festivos	20,396	27,000	\$ (6,604)
Annual Appeal Refund/ Rembolso de Apelación Anual	21,348	18,000	\$ 3,348
Gifts/ Regalos	7,955	7,500	\$ 455
Rental Income/ Ingresos de Renta	1,600	1,000	\$ 600
Coffee Hour/ Hora de Café	1,336	1,600	\$ (264)
Sacramental Income/ Ingresos Sacramentales	2,675	3,325	\$ (650)
Faith Formation/ Formación de la Fe:			
Elementary/ Elementaría	5,473	6,500	\$ (1,027)
Youth/ Jóvenes	6,100	12,140	\$ (6,040)
Adult/ Adultos	2,285	700	\$ 1,585
Business & Other Revenue/ Negocios y Otros Ingresos	10,291	7,824	\$ 2,467
Hispanic Ministry/ Ministerio Hispano	12,370	13,900	\$ (1,530)
<b>Total Income/ Ingreso Total:</b>	<b>\$ 682,803</b>	<b>\$ 684,437</b>	<b>\$ (13,686)</b>
<b>Expenses/ Gastos:</b>			
Salaries, Benefits, Training/ Salarios , Beneficios, Entre.	\$ 335, 048	\$ 358, 332	\$ 23,284
Office Supplies/ Material de Oficina	31, 501	27, 273	\$ (4,228)
Liturgical Expenses/ Gastos Litúrgicos	11,568	9,800	\$ (1,768)
Faith Formation/ Formación de la Fe			
Elementary/ Elementaría	11,521	10,100	\$ (1,421)
Youth/ Jóvenes	8,341	14,400	\$ 6,059
Adult/ Adultos	5,297	5,350	\$ 53
Other Programs/ Otros Programas	2,481	3,100	\$ 619
Facilities, Contracts & Utilities/ Instalaciones, Contratos & Utilidades.	164,214	139,826	\$ (24,387)
Business Expenses/ Gastos de Negocio	30,054	30,067	\$ 13
Diocese Assessments & Tithing/ Evaluaciones & Diezmo Diocesano.	69,984	74,138	\$ 4,154
Hispanic Ministry/ Ministerio Hispano	10,909	12,052	\$ 1,153
<b>Total Expenses/ Total en Gastos:</b>	<b>\$ 680,918</b>	<b>\$ 696,489</b>	<b>\$ (3,519)</b>
<b>Deficit/ Déficit:</b>			<b>\$ (10,167)</b>
Additional principal payment (s) to Church Loan paid from Operating Account/ Pago (s) Adicionales al principal del préstamo Parroquial pagado de la cuenta operante:			\$ (5,000)
<b>Total Operating Deficit/ Total Operativo de Déficit:</b>			<b>\$ (15, 167)</b>

# Financial Comments/ Comentarios Financieros

**THANK YOU**, to all of you who made contributions to the parish last year. Special thanks to those parishioners who signed up for Electronic Funds Transfer. Continuity in cash flow helps in budgeting and planning for expenditures. For the second straight year we fell short of the budgeted income planned to meet expenses. We offset this shortfall by under running our budgeted expenses and reducing our operational reserves to less than three weeks of expenses. We are thankful for your continued generosity.

GRACIAS, a todos ustedes que hicieron contribuciones a la parroquia el año pasado. Especial agradecimiento a aquellos feligreses que se han inscrito para la transferencia electrónica de fondos. La continuidad del flujo de dinero ayuda en el presupuesto y planificación de los gastos. Por segundo año consecutivo nos caímos por debajo de los ingresos presupuestados para sufragar gastos. Para compensar este déficit que corre de bajo de nuestros gastos presupuestados y reducir nuestra operativa se reservan al menos tres semanas de gastos. Estamos agradecidos por su continua generosidad.

**INCOME:** Total revenue was \$13,686 below budget projections. Shortfalls were in Sunday collections (\$6,025) Holy Day collections (\$6,604) and Faith Formation Youth (\$6,040) were the major contributors in not meeting income projections. These shortfalls were somewhat offset by increases in the Annual Catholic Appeal (\$3,348), Business & Other Revenue (\$2,467) and Faith Formation Adult (\$1,585). The remaining accounts were positive by \$908.

INGRESOS: El total de ingresos fue de \$13,686 debajo de las proyecciones del presupuesto. El déficit fue en colecciones dominicales (\$6,025), las colectas de días Festivos/Santos (\$6,604) y en la formación de jóvenes (\$6,040) estas fueron las principales contribuyentes por lo cual no se cumplieron las proyecciones de ingresos. Estas deficiencias fueron algo compensadas por aumentos en la Apelación Católica Anual (\$3,348), negocio & otros ingresos (\$2,467) y formación de fe adulta (\$1,585). Las cuentas restantes fueron positivas por \$908.

**EXPENSES:** Expenses were \$3,519 below budget projections. Salaries, Benefits, and Training were the major expenses under run (\$23,285) due to lower than expected salary expense and associated benefits. Faith Formation Youth was another expense under run (\$6,059). However, Facilities, Contracts, & Utilities were expense over runs (\$23,387) due to the major electrical repairs in the Rectory that could no longer be deferred. Also there was major moss removal and gutter repair on the Church. Tithing again, as in the past decade, was below what we had hoped to give to the needs of the community.

GASTOS: Los gastos fueron \$3,519 debajo del presupuesto. Salarios, beneficios y capacitación fueron los principales gastos en funcionamiento corrieron por debajo del ingreso (\$23,285) debido al menor gasto de salario esperado y seguro de vida. La Formación de jóvenes fue otro gasto en funcionamiento que corrió por debajo de lo presupuestado (\$6,059). Sin embargo, instalaciones, contratos y servicios públicos fueron gastos en los que se corrió por encima del presupuesto (\$23,387) debido a las reparaciones eléctricas que tuvieron que llevarse a cabo, principalmente en la rectoría algo que ya no podría ser aplazado. También hubo un importante removimiento de musgo y reparación del canal de la iglesia. El Diezmo de nuevo, como en la última década, estuvo por debajo de lo que esperábamos para ayudar a las necesidades de la comunidad.

**WORSHIP SPACE DEBT ELIMINATION:** We paid \$34,087 for Worship Space debt elimination. We have \$115,000 remaining to be paid on the debt.

ELIMINACION DE DEUDA DEL ESPACIO DE ORACION: Pagamos \$34.087 por eliminación de deuda espacio de adoración. Nos falta por pagar \$115.000 de esta deuda.

## PRIORITIES:

- Repair sidewalk in front of St Theresa's office building
- Repair/Replace fascia boards on edge of Church roof
- Paint Parish offices
- Rebuild reserves
- Increase donations made via EFT to 30% of our collections

## PRIORIDADES:

- Reparación de la acera frente a Oficina
- Reparación/Reemplazo de las tablas de fascia del borde de iglesia
- Pintar el techo de la oficina parroquial
- Reconstrucción de las reservas
- Aumento de donaciones hechas mediante EFT a 30% de nuestras colecciones

**CLOSING COMMENTS:** This fiscal year will present difficult financial challenges for St Theresa. We expect our expenditures to grow by nearly 6%. Therefore we need a corresponding increase in revenue. We have held our revenue projections steady for the last four years, but now we need to increase them to cover growth in insurance, taxes, infrastructure maintenance, and personnel costs. The continued and consistent generosity of our parishioners will help us meet these challenges. Thank you for all that you do.

COMENTARIOS DE CIERRE: Este año fiscal presentará desafíos financieros para Santa Teresa. Estamos expectativos a que nuestros gastos crecerán casi a u 6%. Por lo tanto tenemos un correspondiente aumento en los ingresos. Hemos tenido nuestras proyecciones de ingresos constantes durante los últimos cuatro años, pero ahora tenemos que aumentar para cubrir el crecimiento en seguros, impuestos, mantenimiento de infraestructura y gastos de personal. La generosidad continua y coherente de nuestros feligreses nos ayudará a enfrentar estos desafíos.

*Sincerely/Sinceramente – The Finance Council/El Consejo Financiero: Jay Van Nest, Ralph Reinhart, Jim Traynor, Rosanne Buckner*

# Faith Formation– Children, Youth and Adults

In our Faith Formation programs at St. Theresa's, we seek to invite all into a personal and communal relationship with God by engaging in ongoing education, celebrating the sacraments, building community, and connecting our faith at church to our lives beyond the parish walls. No matter our age, we are all called to lifelong learning and growth and to approach the mysteries of our faith with the natural openness and humility of children, for as Jesus says, "let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14).



**First Communion class with sandwiches made for the homeless community during their First Communion retreat.**

## Children's Faith Formation:

In the children's faith formation program, we provide a mix of core faith formation curriculum taught in the classroom by our team of catechists along with communal activities such as engaging in the Rosary and Stations of the Cross together and the Advent and Lenten rallies which help us to prepare ourselves to enter into the liturgical seasons. We also held singing sessions, praising God and praying "twice" as Augustine would say!

In our sacramental preparation program for children, students prepared to receive First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. We had 29 students who received these sacraments in the English program. Two children were also baptized and came into the Catholic Church through the RCIA for Children process.

We've started a Passport Faith Adventure Program which provides whole family catechesis and an opportunity for students to connect their faith

at church to their lives outside of the parish by participating in a variety of faith-filled field trips. This year we held a campfire sing-along, an outing to a local community garden where we practiced principles of Pope Francis' *Laudato Si* encyclical by learning about caring for the environment and helping to grow food that feeds vulnerable members in our community, as well as a trip out to Small Blessings Farm where we were able to learn about topics such as how sheep are raised and cared for while comparing this to how Jesus cares for us!

## Adult Faith Formation:

This was an exciting year in adult faith formation! During the fall, we held a series of sessions on Carmelite spirituality that were presented by guest speakers from throughout the region. Additionally, we began Just Faith's Good News People program, a small group program that brings people together to learn, pray, discuss, and act on our calling to be good news in the world. There were also several opportunities for contemplative prayer during the season of Advent and Lent, providing a quiet time and place to be with God in this listening form of prayer. This year, we also had the privilege of accompanying several adults on their journey through the RCIA and confirmation process.

Ministry and faith formation simply cannot happen without the help of dedicated volunteers. I would like to extend a huge thank-you to all of those who have served as catechists, RCIA team members, adult faith formation organizers, and in numerous other roles. You have truly been a tremendous gift to our St. Theresa's community!



**Passport Program: Community garden activity.**

## Youth Ministry:

St. Theresa's has a long tradition of empowering the youth of the parish to be servant leaders in our families, our parish, our schools, and our community at large. This year we kept to that tradition. Our Edge ministry (middle school), and our Life Teen ministry (high school) served in a wide variety of ministries throughout the parish.

## Service to Parish and Community:

Every Sunday at 5 p.m. Mass our Life Teen Band, led the congregation in worship. At the Nativity House in Tacoma, we prepared and served lunch for low-income and homeless members of the community once a month. During Advent our youth worked with the St. Vincent de Paul Society to prepare food baskets for families in need, and during Lent our youth volunteered as servers for the Knights of Columbus Fish and Fries Friday's. The youth also prepared and performed the Passion play on Good Friday.

During the summer the Edge and Life Teen students from our Parish together with St. Louise Parish participated in the Agape mission trip, which serves the migrant community of the Bellingham area. The trip ran from June 25-30. Both of the groups worked in collecting, setting up and organizing food for the migrant food bank. They also ran games and activities with the children from the migrant work camps.

# Faith Formation– Children, Youth and Adults

## Spiritual Enrichment:

Energy from our summer mission trip guided us towards deeper understanding of Christ's love for us. We were challenged to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to all members of the community through prayer, love and actions.

In November our Life Teen ministry combined with those of St. Louise and Holy Disciples Parishes attended the annual Catholic Youth Convention held at Puyallup Fairgrounds. The weekend was filled with great moments of prayer, fellowship, praise and worship, experiencing the amazing CYC experience.



Catholic Youth Convention 2016:

Reckless Mercy

## Retreats:

Our Edge, Life Teen and Confirmation ministries each participated in a retreat at Camp Don Bosco, located in Carnation, WA. The theme of the Edge retreat was "Be Not Afraid." throughout the retreat participants gathered in the name of Jesus and were empowered together by the Holy Spirit. The positive energy from this experience carried throughout the weekly ministry sessions, for the remainder of the school year.

Confirmation ministry had 3 candidates this year for the Sacramental preparation. They attended their Confirmation retreat at Camp Don Bosco, where they discussed how we are all made in image and likeness of God, and how we are all called to follow Jesus' footsteps. Everything came together at our annual Life Teen retreat, as the youth and core members sought a deeper relationship with our Lord. With every lesson, every song, every prayer, and every activity the youth not only grew more as a family, but truly began to see the face of Christ in one another.

## Confirmation:

In April Archbishop Sartain celebrated the Sacrament of confirmation in our Parish, for 3 youth and 4 adults in our community. This group of teens were faced every challenge, doubt, question, experience, and answered with maturity and a longing for truth and belonging. They grew as a family, and felt more called than ever to serve their brothers and sisters in the community.

The blessings of this year could not have been possible without the love, support, and dedication of all the staff, parents, core ministers who made of the events a possibility. Every Edge, every Life Night, every retreat, and every service project was made stronger thanks to everyone's participation, support and love for our youth.



AGAPE MISSION TRIP 2017:

St. Theresa's and St. Louise Life Teen & Edge Ministries group picture with children of migrant workers in Bellingham, WA.



# Hispanic Ministry

In our Faith Formation programs at St. Theresa's, we seek to invite all into a personal and communal relationship with God by engaging in ongoing education, celebrating the sacraments, building community, and connecting our faith at church to our lives beyond the parish walls. No matter our age, we are all called to lifelong learning and growth and to approach the mysteries of our faith with the natural openness and humility of children, for as Jesus says, "let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14).



**Kids Dance Group/ Grupo de Danza de Niños:**  
**Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast/ Celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe**

## CHILDREN FAITH FORMATION:

The Family is the primary environment where faith is shared and nurtured in our children. The community at our Parish is the one that provides the support for the families to form our young Catholics, making the goal of our Faith Formation Program: to have active learners as the basis of an active faith. This year 114 children between Kindergarten and Fifth grade were involved in the program and had the opportunity to live their faith, with their families and friends, throughout various activities like :

- Core curriculum according to the grade.
- The Floral procession on the feast of our Patron Saint.
- The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, where the children participated in singing, dancing with the Quetzal Dance Group, bringing flowers, and acting in the apparitions of Our Lady of Guadalupe.
- Floral procession and rosary for Mary's Crowning Day.
- Advent & Lenten Rallies.
- During Advent the children also participated in the **Posada\***, where they together with their families sang, reflected and prayed about the birth of Baby Jesus. In this event they were also presented with a play by the adults on the Nativity of Jesus.
- During Lent: Children and their families prayed and reflected on the death and passion of Christ, by attending the Stations of the Cross.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

In our Sacramental preparation program, we give parents, children as well as adults receiving Sacraments, the knowledge on the reception of each of this. For the Sacrament of Baptism this fiscal year we had 28th children between the ages of 0-6 baptized at our Parish. This year **First Reconciliation** was celebrated on February 25th, having 44 children receiving this sacrament, that led to getting them one step closer to receiving 1st Communion. On June 24th **First Communion** was celebrated in June 24th, in which 42 children received this Sacrament. We also had 6 adults attend our RCIA program this year, 2 of them receiving all sacraments, 4 of the receiving First Communion during the Holy Saturday Vigil 2017.



**Hispanic Faith Formation, First Communion day:**  
**Fr. Gilberto with the class of 2016-2017**

## OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- Ministry Fair.
- Faith Formation Year End Potluck.
- This year we had two kermes as part of the fundraising.
- In our Church we also celebrate the Blessing of the Quinceañera, and although is not a sacramental celebration it is an important cultural and family event. This blessings are and event of evangelization within the 15th birthday of a young lady. In our parish this year 4 received this blessing.

**\*Posada:** A tradition in Mexico during advent time, that prepares for the coming of Baby Jesus by doing novena before Christmas Eve.



En nuestros programas de Formación de la Fe en Santa Teresa, buscamos invitar a todos a tener una relación personal y comunitaria con Dios por medio del aprendizaje continuo, la celebración de sacramentos, crecimiento de la comunidad, y la conexión de nuestra Fe mas allá de los muros de la Parroquia. Sin importar nuestras edades, todos somos llamados a seguir aprendiendo y creciendo siguiendo los misterios de nuestra fe de manera abierta, y con humildad como los niños. Así como Jesús dijo “dejar que los niños vengan a mí” (Mateo 19:14)

## FORMACION DE LA FE PARA NIÑOS:

El contorno de la familia es lugar primario donde la fe es compartida y nutrida en nuestros hijos. La comunidad Parroquial es la cual provee la ayuda para las familias para formar a nuestros jóvenes Católicos, haciendo que la meta de nuestro Programa de Formación de La Fe sea: Tener estudiantes activos como la base de una fe activa. Este año 114 niños y niñas dentro de los grados de Kinder a quinto grado estuvieron envueltos en el programa de catecismo, y tuvieron la oportunidad de vivir su fe, con sus familias, y amigos por medio de muchas actividades como:

- El currículo de catecismo de acuerdo a cada grado.
- La procesión floral en la Fiesta de La Patrona de la Iglesia.
- En la celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, donde los niños participaron cantando, bailando con el grupo de Danza Quetzal, trayendo flores, y actuando en la representación de las apariciones.
- En la procesión floral de la Coronación a María.
- Los ralis de Adviento y Cuaresma.
- Durante Adviento también los niños participaron en la Posada\*, donde junto con sus familias cantaron, reflexionaron y oraron en espera del nacimiento del niño Jesús. En la posada también se les presentó una obra por los adultos sobre la Natividad de Jesús.
- Durante Cuaresma: Los niños y sus familias oraron y reflexionaron sobre la pasión y muerte de Jesús, atendiendo a el Viacrucis.



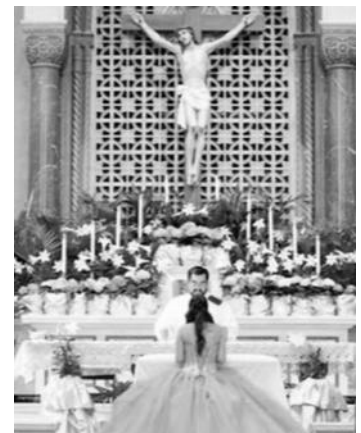
Fr. Gilberto giving a blessing, for Mother's Day/  
Padre Gilberto dando la bendición a las mamás por el  
Día las Madres.

## PREPARACION SACRAMENTAL:

En nuestro programa de preparación Sacramental, le damos a los papas, a los niños al igual que los adultos que revivirán Sacramentos, el conocimiento en cada uno de los sacramentos que recibirán. Este año fiscal en nuestra Parroquia 28 niños dentro de las edades de 0-6 años revivieron el Sacramento del Bautismo. Este año la celebración de la Primera Reconciliación se realizó el 24 de Febrero, 44 niños recibieron este sacramento en nuestra parroquia, preparándolos y llevándolos un paso mas cerca para el recibimiento de la Primera Comunión. La Primera Comunión fue celebrada en Junio 24, en este 42 niños recibieron este Sacramento. También tuvimos 6 adultos en el programa de RICA, 2 de ellos recibieron todos los sacramentos, y 4 recibieron la Primera Comunión durante la Vigilia Pascual.

## OTROS PUNTOS:

- Feria de Ministerios.
- Convivencia de Fin de Año de Formación de la Fe.
- En nuestra Parroquia también celebramos quinceañeras, y aunque estas no son celebraciones sacramentales, es un evento importante dentro la cultura Hispana. Estas bendiciones son un evento de evangelización en la cual se celebran los 15 años de las señoritas. Este año 4 jovencitas recibieron su bendición de quince años.



# Faith In Action

**Jesus told his disciples to love one another as he loves us. The Faith in Action ministries show love to others in the community who are in the most need of love. Their actions toward others show us how Jesus calls us to live.**

## REACH OUT

It is the mission of Reach Out to provide shelter and support services to adults without homes in South King County to help them attain stable housing and living conditions.

Reach Out partners with local churches to shelter men and women in the Federal Way/Northeast Tacoma area from October - March. St. Theresa's provided four weeks of meals, and over 25 different parish families prepared and served hot dinners at the shelters. In addition, 18 parishioners welcomed the women as hosts at the women's shelter. Site and case management is provided by Catholic Community Services.

During the season, Reach Out sheltered 76 men and 44 women. Of these, 14 men and 4 women found stable housing, and 16 men and 5 women attained jobs.



Reach Out is financially supported by members of St. Theresa's in a variety of ways. Many of our parishioners attend and make donations at the annual Pay It Forward Breakfast, the Knights of Columbus gave money for new sweatshirts for the men at Christmas, and the budget committee gave money to provide breakfast and lunch items at the shelters during the weeks our parishioners provided hot dinners.

The goal of Reach Out is to evolve from a 6-month shelter program to a 12-month program to assist clients in meeting program goals to attain housing. For other information on how to become involved in Reach Out, please contact **Betsy LeDoux at 253-350-1399 or by email at [bledoux78@aol.com](mailto:bledoux78@aol.com)**

## SANDWICH MIISTRY 2017

Thanks to the dedication of 80 households from our parish, about 16,000 sandwiches were made and delivered to hungry and homeless people in Tacoma this past year. Not only do our sandwiches help fill their stomachs, but they feed their hearts as well - knowing that others care about their well being.

According to a pre-determined schedule, each member of this ministry makes about 20 sandwiches once a month and brings them to the church kitchen wrapped and labeled. We have a few dedicated "delivery men" who bring the sandwiches to Tacoma's Guadalupe House twice a week. A member of the "Keep 'em Warm, Keep 'em Fed" program brings those sandwiches directly to the streets of Tacoma, where our hungry neighbors receive these gifts that are made with love by our volunteers. The number of people in need continues to grow and more sandwiches are needed to help keep them fed. If you would like more information or are interested in joining this wonderful ministry, please contact **Laurie Fiorito at 206-817-6327 or by email at [Ljfiorito@comcast.net](mailto:Ljfiorito@comcast.net)**



## DESIGNS FOR LIFE:

Designs for Life continues its work to help those in need. This last year we delivered hats, scarves and some mittens to 301 children of the St. Theresa's giving tree. We have given numerous layettes to pregnant women in need, lap blankets and prayer shawls to St. Francis hospital and Sisters in the Philippines and washcloths to the Federal Way Day Center. Many of us crochet and sew and some knit. We are always looking for donations of fabric or yarn or baby items.



There is a blue box in the narthex for any donation of handcrafted items, fabric or skeins of yarn and thread. All donations are much appreciated and put to good use. Contact **Diane Kellar at (253)874-0537 or by email at [kellar@centurylink.net](mailto:kellar@centurylink.net)**

## GRIEF MINISTRY:

From July 2016 through June 2017. The grief committee has served at 6 funerals. The volunteers have provided the salads and desserts for the receptions following the funeral as well as purchased meat and cheese trays, breads and punch ingredients. We set the tables and the buffet up. We have about twenty-five volunteers that we can call on. Most of the volunteers are seniors although we do have a few ladies that drop off food on their way to work. We also have some Knights of Columbus members that are available on occasion. Volunteers are always welcome.

Grief Ministry 

## FUSION

FUSION – Friends, United to Shelter the Indigent, Oppressed, and Needy, continues to operate as an all-volunteer non-profit that provides transitional housing and support services to homeless families, particularly women and their children. We maintain and manage 19 fully-furnished homes and contract case management services through Catholic Community Services.

This past year, FUSION provided fully-furnished homes with support services to 22 families consisting of 79 individuals. This total comprises 32 adults, 47 children (40% of children were between the ages of 6-12). Seven families exited our transitional housing program and moved on to permanent, stable housing. The average length of stay was 17 months per family. Eighty-six percent of the families served successfully moved to a stable, permanent home.

In 2017, FUSION purchased a commercial building in downtown Federal Way to house the FUSION Décor Boutique. The upscale, resale store sells gently used furniture, décor, antiques, and collectibles. Proceeds from the sale of donated merchandise are invested in the housing program. The new business address is: 1108 S. 322<sup>nd</sup> Pl., Federal Way, WA 98003. To donate or schedule a pick-up of donations please contact us at: [fusiondonation@gmail.com](mailto:fusiondonation@gmail.com) or call the Boutique at: 253-839-4045.

Over 200 volunteers work throughout the year to manage our homes, raise funds, work in the boutique, collect donations, or prepare for the annual art fund-raiser. Anyone who would like additional information or would like to volunteer, can visit our website: [www.fusionfederalway.org](http://www.fusionfederalway.org), email: [info@fusionfederalway.org](mailto:info@fusionfederalway.org), or call: 253-874-1257.

By working together, we “fuse” our resources, and we empower families so that they may realize their dreams for a stable, productive, and self-sufficient future. Your donations help us to cover our costs for contracted case management services, maintenance of our housing, insurance, HOA dues, and other valuable services provided for the families. Thank you for your continued support of our all-volunteer non-profit.

## PRAYER LINE:



The Prayer Line at St. Theresa remains committed to being prayer warriors for anyone with a need or a reason to rejoice and share good news. Our membership has remained stable over the years, and we welcome anyone who would like to join us. Each of us pray in our own chosen way, whether that is at daily Mass, or daily devotions, or prayer conversations with God throughout the day. The most amazing things happen with the power of prayer, not the least of which is the transformation experienced by those who offer up prayers for others. Our prayer line is via email only, with no email addresses shared between members (blind copy only) for everyone's protection. You are welcome to join the prayer line or to request prayers; simply contact us by the email address published in the Parish bulletin.

**“A bother who’s helped by a brother is like a strong city.” (quotes by St. Therese of Lisieux)**

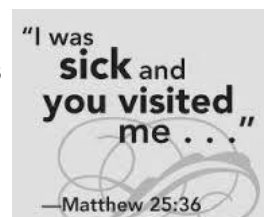
## HOMEBOUND MINISTRY:

**“Suffering wears a thousand faces, and every face is Christ’s” is the opening sentence of the Catholic Handbook for visiting the sick and homebound.**

One of the deepest causes of suffering by those whom sickness or aging confines to the narrow world of home, hospital, or geriatric facility is the sense of isolation. Often this is followed by feelings of being misunderstood, not heard, not valued or useful, or embarrassed.

Eucharistic ministers have the honor to bring the love of Christ to our neighbors who are suffering both physically and emotionally as we offer them the greatest gift one can offer, Christ himself in the form of Holy Communion. Testimonies of many of those ministered to report that the visits of St. Theresa’s Eucharistic ministers are the highlight of their week. We currently have fourteen active ministers serving three Federal Way care institutions and ten individuals who are homebound.

Those of us at St. Theresa’s Parish who are honored to work in this ministry report that following each visit we ourselves receive a sense of God’s peace and joy. We are the beneficiaries’. To journey with another in their time of sickness and sometimes death is sacred and is often life-changing to the minister.



# St. Vincent de Paul



Last year the Society received about 700 requests for assistance from families or individual in crisis. About 500 of these callers qualified for assistance. Of these 270 families required financial assistance (utility, motel and rent) and the other 230 families received food, food vouchers, gas vouchers, bus tickets or Orca cards and clothing. All appreciated a home visit and the comfort and hope that comes from someone coming to see them, listen to them and pray with them.

The Society held four "Clean Your Closet" Sunday clothing drives during the year and was very pleased by the response. We collected more than 150 large leaf bags of clothing each time the drive was held. Your combined donations helped generate funds through resale at our St. Vincent de Paul thrift stores. Profits from the sales serve to fund programs that help the poor.



On the Saturday before Christmas in 2016, the Society delivered 110 Christmas food baskets to the neediest families with children that our records showed we had helped during the year. We were pleased to include in the Christmas delivery at least two gifts for each child in the family. More than 322 children received these gifts. The deliveries by volunteers from the parish were a bright spot in each household's holiday celebration.

## Recently one of our Vincentians traveled to Spain on a pilgrimage to walk the CAMINO DE SANTIAGO.

He reported it as an amazing experience. He stated that: "the Camino Pilgrimage gave me an opportunity to reflect on my Vincentian vocation, to follow Christ through service to those in need, to strength my Vincentian commitment through person to person contact, and how to better serve the individuals asking for help when I make a St. Vincent de Paul Home Visit to them. During those long peaceful walks in my Camino journey, a goal I had set for myself 5 years ago, I was able to spend time reflecting on some of my own spiritual goals – how to give priority to the poorest of the poor and to those who are most rejected by society. Perhaps you too will want to join people from all walks of life walking on the CAMINO DE SANTIAGO. I can assure you that you will never be the same!"



Cross along the  
Camino de Santiago



Inside the  
Cathedral of Santiago de  
Compostela

Thank you Parishioners for your continuing support of the St. Vincent De Paul Society.  
Virginia Roni, SVDP (253) 838-8919

**From July 1 2016 to June 30, 2017 the Society spent more than \$95,000 in donated funds to provided goods and services to those in need. It was distributed as follows:**

Motel/Shelter	28%
Rent	25%
Utilities	19%
Food	19%
Gas/Transportation Assistance	06%
Other (furniture, clothing, medical prescriptions)	03%
	<u>100%</u>

**Some demographics of the households we helped were as follows:**

About 1700 individuals were helped, including 840 children.

50 % were single parent headed households  
40% were homeless households  
11% were disabled individuals

95% had yearly income less that 30 % of HUD median  
(~\$27,000/ year for family of 4).

# Knights of Columbus– St. Theresa Council #7908

The Knights of Columbus, Council 7908 is dedicated to supporting the Catholic Church, our Local Parishioners, the Local Community and more. Our efforts are organized into six integrated missions of Church, Community, Council, Family, Culture of Life and Youth. The Knights were involved in the following activities during the past fraternal year of July 1 2016 to June 30, 2017.

## CHURCH

Our Church Activities Director is Tom Smith. We rebuilt picnic tables and built the hand rails to the play area and power washed the sidewalks and stairs. We supported the diocesan seminarians with a donation of \$3,000. Our local Knights are involved in virtually all of the parish ministries as well as the parish and finance council.

## COMMUNITY

Our Community Director is Mike Wallace. We supported and assisted many community organizations such as Reach Out, Camp Prime Time, and the Bridge Ministry for the disabled. We hosted the annual Mothers Day brunch which generated \$1000 for FUSION.



Camp Prime Time

## FAMILY

Our Family Director is Ray Vankat. We sponsored the annual Easter egg hunt for the parish youth and spent an afternoon bowling with Father Jean Pierre. Jim and MaryAnn Traynor were selected by our council as Family of the Year and were recognized by the Washington State Council as the State Family of the Year. Jim and MaryAnn support the community through Reach Out, Blood Drives and more.

## COUNCIL

Our Council Director is Jim Traynor. Our council was awarded the Harry J. Tucker award for Fraternalism by the Washington State Council for painting the home of Nancy Joslin, Widow of our Past Grand Knight “Billy” and mother of Past Deputy Grand Knight Tim. We sponsored five blood drives during the year where 186 pints of blood were collected.

## CULTURE OF LIFE

Our Culture of Life Director is Bob Gaines. The Knights sponsor an annual spaghetti dinner in January to raise awareness for Culture of Life Activities. Through this event we provide transportation to the annual Mass & March for Life and Catholic Advocacy Day events held annually in Olympia, WA. We attend and work the 4US Family Event in August with a number of our Hispanic brothers. This event raises money for ultrasound machines for pregnancy resource centers. This year, in the spirit of fraternalism with our Chaplain Father Jean Pierre Kasonga, we raised awareness both locally and at the state level of the dire situation of the people in Father's homeland, the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Toward this end, we initiated a program of prayer and potential plans for political action in an effort to bring peace.

## YOUTH

Our Youth Director is Joe Bazzetta. We hosted our six annual Friday Lenten dinners (Fish Fry's) with the help of our parish youth which raised money for their summer mission trip. We also hosted the annual soccer challenge and the Easter egg hunt.



Father giving a blessing before Dinner



Spaghetti Dinner



House Painting Project

# 50+ Club and Pastoral Council

## Mission

Provide an opportunity for 50+ parishioners to gather in worship and prayer, assist parish youth and needy families, and enjoy monthly potlucks and social activities.

## Activities:

We gather for Mass at 9 a.m. every first Friday of the month year round. After Mass we breakfast together at Brown's Point Diner. Other activities this past year include:

September—Oktoberfest potluck

October—Trip to Port Gamble & Lunch

November—Thanksgiving Potluck

December—Vienna Boys Choir & Dinner at Old Spaghetti Factory

January—New Year Potluck and Bingo

March—Potluck & Book Sale

April—Tulip Festival



## OFFICERS FOR JULY 2016-JUNE 2017

President: Bernie Jacobs

Vice President: Pat Smith

Secretary: Jan Gillette

Treasurer: Mary Ann Earles

Activities: Carrol Clemens

## PASTORAL COUNCIL:

For the 2016-2017 year, St. Theresa's pastoral Council—consisted of Rosanne Buckner (Chair), Truxton Terkla (Vice-Chair), Matthew Bittle, Ernie King, Dawn Kjos, Denise Lichty, Sandy Yamat, Mary Escarcega, Abigail Farley, Yadira Lomeli, and Linda DeMarce.

The pastoral Council met monthly to review and discuss challenges facing our parish now and in the future. Some of the topics this year were: Coordinating with SVDP parish, priest shortage and how as a parish we can respond, coordinating to make Saint Theresa's a more welcoming parish, facing our financial issues joint with Finance Council, and Staff restructuring to better serve the needs of our Parish.

Mary Escarcega, Sandy Yamat, Rosanne Buckner, Ernie King & Abigail Farley finished their three-year terms on the council. Matt Bittle also stepped down from Pastoral Council as he is now our new Youth Minister. Truxton Terkla will now serve as the Pastoral Council's new chair for 2017-2018.

## PARISH STAFF 2016-2017

<b>Linda DeMarce</b>	Pastoral Coordinator	<b>Andy Jowett</b>	Pastoral Assistant For Youth Ministry
<b>Fr. Jean Pierre Kasonga</b>	Parochial Vicar	<b>Frank Lewis</b>	Pastoral Assistant for Music
<b>Fr. Gilberto Mora-Tapia</b>	Parochial Vicar	<b>Pam Stromberg</b>	Pianist/Organist
<b>Tom O'Loughlin</b>	Deacon	<b>Chelsea Bjorkman</b>	Bookkeeper
<b>Dawn Sample</b>	Pastoral Assistant for Children/Adult faith Formation	<b>Isabel Soledad</b>	Administrative Assistant
<b>Jose Ramirez</b>	Pastoral Assistant for Hispanic children/ Adult Faith Formation	<b>Marcia Ducusin</b>	Administrative Assistant
		<b>Charles Dance</b>	Custodian





**Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love."**

**- St. Therese of Lisieux**