

Serving Others in Christ's Name



Dottie Vuono (center) has traveled to Lewes on Mondays for the past four years to participate in an Education for Ministry seminar. This work has been vital in her journey to the diaconate. Liz Shea of St. Peter's, Lewes (right) and Helena Bravo of St. Jude's Catholic Church, Lewes (left) are also part of the group.

Deacon Postulant Dorothy (Dottie) Vuono of Christ Church, Milford, has found a full range of diaconal ministries in which to serve. Here is her description of some of the major endeavors that she's taken on with members of her congregation in her journey to the diaconate.

by Dorothy Vuono, Christ Church, Milford

A major project that I have begun with the mayor and other officials of Milford, as well as the ministers from the Milford Lincoln Ministerium, is the formation of a women's shelter in Milford. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, we are making good progress in the work, and it will require broad, sustained support in order to come to fruition.

My chaplaincy work at Bay Health Hospital in Milford and Delaware Hospice continues to show me how God's work can be richly rewarding. I find that when I am reaching out to others it is rare that the presence of God does not make itself known, and I am grateful that I have been led to this ministry.

I also began a program called "Don't Come to Church Empty Handed" at Christ Church. This program affords

the congregation opportunities of bringing food items that are needed for the Milford Community Pantry. I work with the director of the pantry in assessing their needs, and, with the help of the children of the parish, we are able to obtain the items needed. I then organize distribution of our donations to the pantry with the help of fellow parishioners. It is my plan to bring this program to other local churches in Milford. Thanks to the hard work of parish members, Christ Church's outreach and annual craft fair committees gave over \$4000 toward the monthly vouchers for milk, bread, and eggs.

I organized a presentation at our annual meeting for a representative of Episcopal Relief and Development and the director of the Milford Community Pantry to discuss hunger and poverty issues. Through education and awareness, we are doing God's work within our community. I have also asked my parish to become a ONE Congregation that supports the Millennium Development Goals, especially Goal #1 to fight poverty and hunger.

Ladies of the parish and I also completed making 850 plastic canvas "Cross in Your Pocket" bags that were distrib-

uted to local nursing homes, The Home of the Brave, and the Veterans Home.

I am also working on another fun craft service project with another parishioner: teaching local Girl Scouts to knit. The girls are making blankets for the ASPCA, earning a special community service badge in the process. Last year I organized a "Sewing Night" with the Girl Scouts and ladies of the parish, where we taught the girls to sew, cut out material, and made over 50 hats that were given to the Seamen's Center in Wilmington.

Writing the Prayers of the People each month with teams of parishioners has brought me great joy. With the help of another parishioner, I also started a women's monthly Bible study. We have just started our second year, and it is a wonderful experience. I have also been organizing Evening Prayer during Lent, incorporating prayers for the ONE campaign this year.

These are just a few ways the Holy Spirit has been directing me in the work needed within my community. I find great joy and fulfillment in my diaconal work and continue to thank God for the opportunity to serve Him.

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