

Social Justice NEWSLETTER



WHAT'S NEW?

On **Monday, September 20th**, the Social Justice Committee hosted its monthly **Little Bagged Lunch Mission** to support Beans & Bread. Members of our faith community came together to make 160 complete lunches, and an additional 60 sandwiches to support the mission. The next Lunch Mission is **October 24th at 6:30 pm in Burke Hall**. Donations are always accepted and welcome throughout the month, both physical and monetary. Please contact Sara at socialjustice.sfa@gmail.com with any questions.

The **Just Neighbors Workshop Series** is beginning on **October 7th at 6:30 pm in Burke Hall**.

This workshop series is sponsored by the Social Justice Committee and will cover topics ranging from poverty, and mental health, to the right to education and climate change. **The first workshop is on poverty in Baltimore**. This is a discussion and activity based workshop that is open and accessible to families of all ages. **There are eighteen workshops in this series but all are welcome to attend the ones they find interesting**. Keep an eye out for flyers in the bulletin for more details.

Sodality is looking for new members! If you are looking to join a caring, joy filled group centered supporting the growth of our Parish, Sodality might be a great fit for you. SFA's Sodality participates in outings and fundraising for our Parish and other charities. You are invited to their **Day of Recollection on October 7th from 10am-2pm in Burke Hall**. Potential members are also invited to the **Emmitsburg Bus Trip on October 20th from 7am-7pm**. Please see the flyer for more details. Please direct any questions to Prefect Olivia Whittemore at 410-853-7119.

CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

St. Francis of Assisi's Christmas Assistance Program has officially kicked off for this year! If you or someone you know is in need of assistance this Christmas, please direct them to Sara Agresti at socialjustice.sfa@gmail.com, call the Rectory Office at 410-235-5136, or go to www.sfabalt.org and click on "Volunteer". There you will find an electronic request form labeled "Christmas Basket Electronic Form" and a paper form labeled "Christmas Basket Paper Form".

If you would like to donate or volunteer to help sort items, or adopt a family, please contact Sara at socialjustice.sfa@gmail.com, or head to www.sfabalt.org, and click on "Volunteer". There you will find links to our Amazon Wishlist, a volunteer sign-up form and instructions on how to donate monetarily.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Social Justice Committee has been busy and we're just getting started! In addition to sponsoring the Little Bagged Lunch Mission, Just Neighbors Workshop Series and expanding the Food Pantry (see details below), but we have also been busy prepping for the Christmas Assistance Program. **If you are interested in joining the Social Justice Committee, please contact Nancy at eire52@aol.com. All are welcome to attend our meetings as members or visitors!**

For more information, newsletters and to see what the Social Justice Committee is up to, please visit sfabalt.org/social-justice.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group has been on a roll lately! We've had fun at an impromptu game and movie night, we've baked cookies together and shared them with the rest of our faith family at a Youth Group Open House, and we've made more than 550 lunches together with Our Little Bagged Lunch Mission! And to start off our wonderful fall season, we have a few events in the works:

Bags + More Bingo - 10/15 // If our bingo is postponed, we'll host another event! Stay tuned!

Pumpkin Painting - 10/30 // Our Halloween event has been rescheduled! Bring a pumpkin to paint (or we'll have a few on hand for those that need them!), and we'll watch a spooky movie!

Lunch Making - 10/25 // Sign up to donate food, or your time, to help make 200+ lunches!

FOOD PANTRY

SFA's in-house Food Pantry has expanded and we are looking for volunteers! **Volunteers are needed on Mondays and Tuesdays to help sort and organize the pantry as well as pack grocery bags for pick up.** If you are interested in volunteering or looking for more information on needed donations, please scan the first QR code below with your phone camera to sign up.

If you or someone you know is struggling with food insecurity and would like to receive food assistance, please scan the QR code with your phone camera below or contact Sara at socialjustice.sfa@gmail.com. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out!

FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER

If you would like to volunteer in the Food Pantry, please scan this code!



FOOD PANTRY ASSISTANCE

If you or someone you know would like to receive food assistance, please scan this code!



Social Justice NEWSLETTER



WHAT'S NEW?

St. Francis of Assisi's beloved Fr. Burke has retired after 41 years of service! St. Francis is hosting a retirement party in his honor on September 19th at Boumi Temple in White Marsh, MD.

Call Gina Gross in the office at 410-235-5136 for tickets and more information.

On Monday, August 23rd, the Social Justice Committee hosted their Little Bagged Lunch Mission to support Beans & Bread and Helping Up Mission. Members of St. Francis of Assisi Parish and School came together and were able to make over 375 bagged lunches for these two organizations over the span of two hours! The next Lunch Missions are Monday, September 20th and Monday, October 25th, both at 6:30 pm.

Through September 6th, the Social Justice Committee is still accepting donations for their annual School Supplies Drive. Donations are being distributed to students who attend Montebello and Abbottston Elementary Schools. High need donation items include: Backpacks (no wheels), spiral notebooks, #2 pencils, colored pencils, hand sanitizers and more. These items are needed and appreciated!

VOLUNTEERS

Have cabin fever and need to get out of the house? Looking for ways you can get involved in your local community? Look no further! The Social Justice Committee has created a Volunteer Resource List filled with different volunteer opportunities available to individuals and families throughout the Baltimore and Maryland Areas. The list is organized by the different areas of concern and then alphabetical. **As more opportunities become available, the list will be updated to provide you with the most up-to-date information!** The list also notes which volunteer sites welcome families of all ages; however, most do not have age guidelines.



Scan the QR code with your phone to access the Volunteer Resource List!

Please forward any questions or concerns to Sara Agresti at socialjustice.sfa@gmail.com

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Archdiocese of Baltimore has developed a ministry to offer support and healing to families in Baltimore City who have lost a loved one to violence. Ways to support these families include: prayers, sympathy notes, food, and baby items. To get involved, go to www.archbalt.org/grief-ministry or contact Mary Ellen Russell for details at mrussell@archbalt.org

The Social Justice Committee is also asking for prayers for those affected by the violence in Afghanistan, especially the women and children. Please spare a moment of your prayer for those affected and consider supporting Commonwealth Catholic Charities as they are providing care to those affected.

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group is back! We're working on strengthening our social justice and service bonds, all while being focused on having a good time and building our community!

LGBTQ+ Youth Initiative - Some very driven members of our Youth Group have come together to push forward our All Are Welcome Ministry. For more info, or to get involved, contact Amelia Voos at amelia.voos@gmail.com

Continued Programming - We will have regular events coming up, including Baking, Game, Movie, Painting, and Nerf Nights! Stay tuned for more information and a schedule!

Social Justice - Sandwich making, food pantry, environmental justice, and more! Any ideas for service projects or activities? Reach out!

St. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FOOD PANTRY

St. Francis now has an in-house Food Pantry! **Donations are being accepted to help stock the pantry and assist those suffering from food insecurity in our own community.** Volunteers will also be needed in the future as we begin to distribute food to families. To offer donations of food or time, or get a list of most-needed-donations, please contact Sara Agresti at socialjustice.sfa@gmail.com.

MEET THE MERCY VOLUNTEER:

SARA AGRESTI

Meet the newest member of St. Francis of Assisi, Sara Agresti. Originally from Derry, NH, Sara graduated this past May from Salve Regina University with a dual Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Philosophy. **She is extremely excited to work on the campus as the MVC Social Justice Coordinator, and push forward new initiatives!**

As the 2021-2022 Mercy Volunteer Corps member, Sara will be working with the Youth Group, the Social Justice Committee and the Middle School at St. Francis of Assisi School. Her office is located in the Rectory and can be reached by email at: agrestis@sfa-school.org or socialjustice.sfa@gmail.com

