



The Mustard Seed

Social Apostolate of Savannah



From the Desk of the Director

It is a joy to send you this first Social Apostolate newsletter, "The Mustard Seed". We chose this name because we read in the gospel of Matthew (17:20) "if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you". With faith in God and the dedication of those who have been part of the Social Apostolate since its beginning in 1968, we continue to grow and assist the poor, homeless, disabled and at risk of Chatham County.

During my orientation with Sr. Pauline, she repeatedly said, "Remember, God takes care of this place". I have seen for myself the truth of her words – that with trust in God and our hard work, the Social Apostolate continues God's work of service.

We meet the clients, but the spirit and generosity of our donors are an essential part of this place and ministry. May God bless our staff, volunteers, clients and donors. Together we do the sacred work of serving our brothers and sisters with love and in faith.

Sincerely,

Sr. Julie Franchi,
Director

Meet our Clients: Chris Butler and Timothy Quinn

CHRIS BUTLER is homeless and is a regular shower, clothing and soup kitchen client. We have helped him get a birth certificate and ID. He always brightens our day with his delightful personality and winning smile. He is originally from Miami, but has been living in Savannah off and on since 1992.



Chris is also a regular at many of the other agencies in Savannah. He is 42, has some family in the area, but has lived in the woods for the past two years. His sunny disposition is always a gift to us.

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After the death of his father, TIMOTHY QUINN was homeless, broke, feeling hopeless, and living in the park. He heard about Grace House, a shelter run by Union Mission and about the Social Apostolate, and came to us to ask for some help as he looked for a job. He followed through on every step of the process, and, step by step, with the help of Tom and Latacia,



he now has a good job, and has begun to recover his life and smile. His desire to move forward, his diligence, and his warm personality, have brought us great joy. He is now well on the road to self-sufficiency.

Did You Know?



Last year over 3776 clients were served.

Golfing for Good!

Our biggest fundraiser each year is The Golf Open, which is held in October. This past year God blessed us with beautiful weather, and the golfers had a great time in a spirit of friendly competition. Joy and relaxation filled Deer Creek Golf Club as we gathered afterwards for a delicious lunch.

Many people who could not attend generously supported the event as hole sponsors. The fundraiser was a great success due to the tireless effort of the committee and the generosity of many people.



90 golfers joined us for the Annual Social Apostolate Golf Tournament.

This year Bishops Hartmayer and Boland, and Monsignor Costigan came to lend their support. The smiling faces speak volumes.

The 2014 Golf Open will be on October 20.

Check out our webpage at www.socialapostolate.org and like us on Facebook at Social Apostolate.



Food Pantry Needs

- tuna and canned meat (such as beef stew)
- peanut butter and jelly
- pasta and sauce
- soup, especially hearty soups
- macaroni and cheese
- canned vegetables.

Summer Volunteers Needed

During the summer months, many of our volunteers are away from Savannah. Help is needed in:

- Thrift shop
- Soup kitchen
- Clerical tasks
- Bilingual (Spanish) assistance

Franciscan Sisters – In Savannah and Around the World

Sr. Julie is the fourth Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception (MFIC) to serve as director of the Social Apostolate since its founding in 1968. Her community is an international community of Roman Catholic Sisters, founded in 1873 by Elizabeth Hayes, (Mother Mary Ignatius of Jesus) a convert from Anglicanism, who began the first mission of the sisters in Belle Prairie, Minnesota.

They number approximately 250 sisters worldwide, follow the Third Order Rule of Saint Francis of Assisi, and seek to embrace a Gospel way of life through a simple life-style of service. Nourished by God through prayer, and living in community, they minister

especially to the marginalized of the world in Australia, Bolivia, Canada, Egypt, England, Italy, Northern Ireland, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Republic of Ireland, South Sudan and in the USA in several dioceses on the east coast.

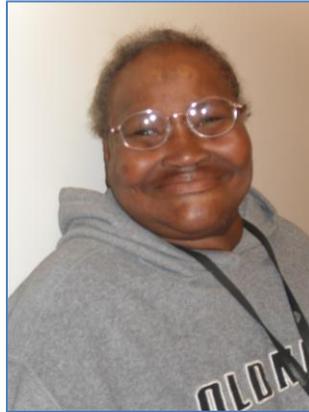
They have worked in the Diocese of Savannah since 1879 and presently serve in Savannah, Port Wentworth, Albany, Augusta, and Valdosta. You may see some familiar Missionary Franciscan Sisters' faces by checking out their International website: <http://www.mficgen.org> or the USA website: <http://www.mficusa.org>.

PRAYER OF ST FRANCIS

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled, as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen

A Special Program, "Prevent Blindness"

The Social Apostolate recently teamed up with Prevent Blindness of Georgia (funded by the American Diabetes Association) to administer free eye exams to the poor and homeless of Savannah.



able to see clearly. Their delight was often hard for them to conceal and the joy they felt was extremely contagious.



One day in October and again in January was set aside for just this program. Ninety-six people were examined. If glasses were needed, those who qualified were allowed to pick out a pair of glasses to order, with the cost of those glasses covered by a generous donor of the Social Apostolate.

Referrals were made for the clients who needed to see an ophthalmologist, who will get the help they require. The finished eyeglasses were received and distributed in less than thirty days.

For many of those who got glasses, it had been many years since they had been

96 clients were screened and 94 pairs of eyeglasses were distributed.

We Remember ...

"... We are surrounded by such a great 'cloud of witnesses'... let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus." (Hebrews 12:1-3)

Our cloud of witnesses, inspire us by the example of their lives. These donors, volunteers, supporters and clients of the Social Apostolate have recently passed away. As each of us run toward the finish line, we recall with love and gratitude the example of their lives:

Andy Blalock
 Agnes and Tom Brennan
 Fr. Francis Ehnat, OSB
 Harry Haslam, Sr.
 Richard Lutz
 Betty Purdy
 Lydia Smith
 Larry Turner

Edward Boyle
 Elizabeth Downs
 John Goldkrand
 Ernest Hosti
 Joan Madison
 Dolly Smith
 Marjorie Story

Well done, thy good and faithful servant. (Matthew 25:21)

Changes in Clothing Policy

For many years every Thursday morning, we have been busy giving free clothing to the homeless.

Upon evaluation, we decided to discontinue this program because it was not meeting an un-met need in the community and was not helping our clients move forward in their lives.



We no longer set aside a specific time for free clothing, but do provide clothing as needed, to the elderly, disabled, those who are in job readiness or substance abuse programs, families who have suffered a disaster, or someone who is receiving other services from us.



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What's Going on at the SA?

Regular Schedule:

The Crisis Intervention Office (to help people with groceries, prescriptions, birth certificates, IDs, baby needs, school uniforms, work clothing, eye glasses)

Monday - Friday 9:00-12:30 and
Monday - Thursday 1:30-3:00

Soup Kitchen serves a delicious hot meal
Tuesday - Friday 11:00-12:15

Showers: Tuesday - Friday 9:45-12:30

Thrift Store: Tuesday - Friday 10:00-12:30 &
1:30-3:00

Regularly Scheduled Meetings:

The Advisory Board meets the second
Monday of each month
The Staff Meeting is the second Friday
of each month

Special Events

March 8th: Volunteer Appreciation
Luncheon



March 17th: Closed St Patrick's Day



April 18-21st: Closed Good Friday –
Easter Monday



May 26th – Closed Memorial Day

