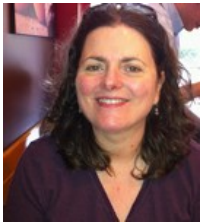


# March 2016 Newsletter



## CATHOLIC PARISH OUTREACH

### A message from Terry Foley



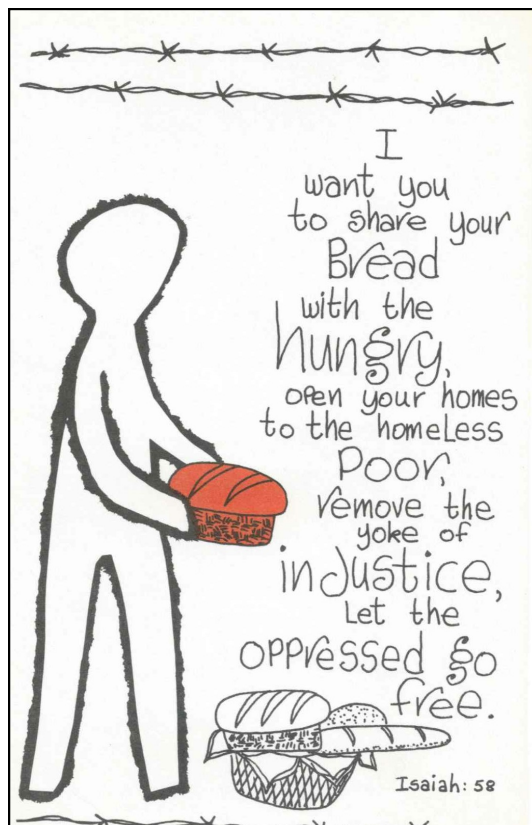
#### Happy Easter!

I love this time of year, when we celebrate our faith and the miracle of Jesus rising from the dead for all of us, including our poor and often forgotten brothers and sisters. As Easter approaches, many of us are in the midst of our Lenten journey of sacrifice and helping others. In modern times, we often forget that the Lenten sacrifice is also a means to charitable giving. I was reminded from a Catholic parenting website ([www.catholicap.com](http://www.catholicap.com)) that "Traditionally, Christians abstained from meat during Lent partly so that they could use the money they saved on meat to give to the poor, to those who couldn't afford meat." What a wonderful connection to our CPO community's Lenten journey, to our mission of helping our less fortunate neighbors with food, children's clothing, maternity clothing, and baby items!

Thank you for your devotion to serving our less fortunate neighbors, like Donna, who you will meet on page 2. It takes our large community of

volunteers, staff, donors, parishes, schools, businesses, and partner agencies to keep CPO open every day. I continue to be awed by the every day "miracle" of CPO.

Please continue to keep our ministry and clients in your thoughts and prayers. May God bless you.



### Words of Wisdom & Artwork volunteer Judy Lamanna

#### MY FAVORITE NEIGHBOR

I KNOCK ON HIS DOOR OR JUST HANG OVER THE BACK FENCE AND CHAT. SOMETIMES I THINK HE IS NOT REALLY LISTENING TO ME. HE IS BUSY PLANTING FLOWERS AND CUTTING THE HEDGES AS I DRONE ON.

BUT THEN I FEEL A CONCERNED LOOK ON HIS FACE. THIS REMINDS ME THAT WE ARE FRIENDS AND HE CARES.

MY CONCERNS WIND UP AT THE FRONT DOOR—SOLVED, TIED UP IN WHITE WRAPPING PAPER WITH A RED RIBBON, WITH NO NOTE ATTACHED TO SAY WHO IT IS FROM. I KNOW JESUS, MY FAVORITE NEIGHBOR, SENT THEM WITH LOVE!

WE CAN CALL ON THE LORD AS OUR FRIEND WITH FEW WORDS, AS IF WE ARE NEIGHBORS, AND HE IS ALWAYS JUST NEXT DOOR.



# CATHOLIC PARISH OUTREACH MARCH 2016 NEWSLETTER

## Bread for the World NC Annual Convention



Saturday March 19, 2016  
8:30am—3:00pm  
Highland United Methodist Church  
1901 Ridge Rd.  
Raleigh, NC 27607  
Registration website:

<http://RaleighBFTWconvention.eventbrite.com>

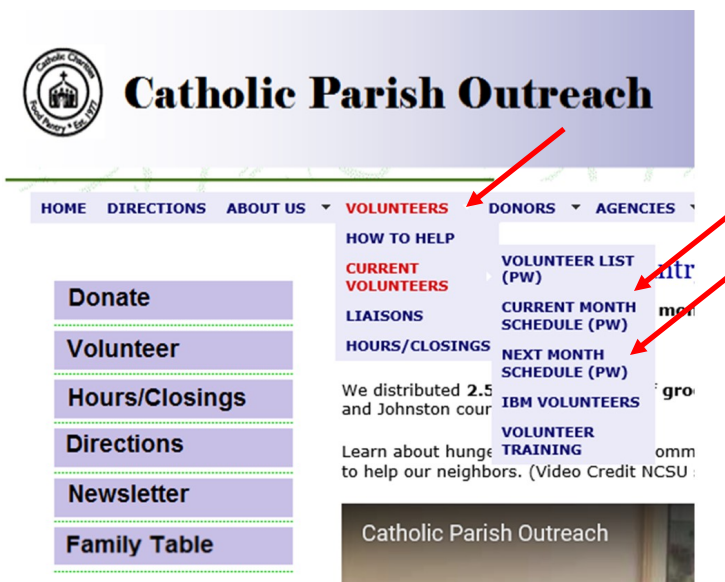
Cost \$25

Please join us in the 2016 statewide convention “Abolishing Hunger: A Moral Mandate”. Bread for the World is a Christian advocacy organization with the goal of urging our nation’s leaders to end hunger. We are challenged to end hunger in our time...whether the hungry live in the next house, the next state, or the next continent.

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Ray Buchanan, President and founder, Stop Hunger Now

## Updated Volunteer Schedule On Our Website

Did you know you can go to our website [www.cporaleigh.org](http://www.cporaleigh.org), and check out the most recent version of the volunteer schedule? Select the “VOLUNTEERS” pulldown, then “CURRENT VOLUNTEERS”. If you don’t have the username or password, just ask one of our staff. The username and password are also sent out in the monthly newsletter/calendar e-mail.



## Donation Highlights

• St. Andrew food drive:	1,545 lbs. of groceries & \$3,645
• St. Catherine baby shower:	2,374 lbs. of children’s items & \$1,750
• St. Francis food drive:	10,379 lbs. of groceries & \$8,045
• St. Francis Prayer Shawl Ministry:	134 handmade children’s items
• Harris Teeter:	5,100 paper bags & 50,000 plastic bags
• St. Raphael School:	1,082 lbs. of groceries
• St. Raphael Preschool:	220 lbs. of groceries
• N. Raleigh Presbyterian Church:	3 corrals of children’s clothes, toys, & books
• The Franciscan School:	75 children’s birthday kits

## Tweet from Pope Francis

*As Christians, we cannot be self-centered, but must always be open to others and for others.*





# CATHOLIC PARISH OUTREACH MARCH 2016 NEWSLETTER



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Twitter (www.twitter.com/cporaleigh)  
Instagram (catholicparishoutreach)

## Beyond the numbers from Myra: Donna

We often hear words of empowerment from the Pope, encouraging us each day to make changes in our lives and society. Making these changes will help us to become the hands and the feet of Jesus Christ. Myra Bradley, The Family Care Coordinator at CPO, demonstrates daily how a grant through United Way, and the collaboration of local community agencies such as StepUp Ministry, Alliance Medical Ministry, Dress For Success, The Boys and Girls Clubs and Childcare Resources, are the hands and feet that make a difference in the lives of our clients and in our community.

A grant that started in September has helped our clients not only to receive food, but jobs, employment training, professional clothing, medical care, and childcare resources assistance.

In November 2015, Donna came into CPO seeking assistance for food. She was discouraged, disappointed and depressed because she had no job, a criminal background and no hope for a brighter future. After speaking with Myra, she was signed up to attend a Jobs Orientation training at StepUp Ministry.



This was the beginning of a turnaround for our client. She attended the week long orientation and began to feel that there was a possibility for her to move forward and set a good example for her son. Donna began to feel encouraged; she attended the weekly Energy Meeting that Step Up Ministry hosts on Wednesdays, and was then encouraged to get her son involved. He is now enrolled in The Boys and Girls Clubs. She attended the weekly meetings at StepUp Ministry, and she recently found employment through the program.

We congratulate Donna and her son for becoming a part of the Family Table Collaborative, and we wish her well on her journey.

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Website: www.cporaleigh.org

## Stats for January

	<u>Jan 2015</u>	<u>Jan 2016</u>
Households served	3,136	2,660
People served	11,701	9,283
Total clothing	1,146	737
Total diapers	675	489
Total volunteer hours	3,588	3,620
# of new volunteers (includes groups & youth)	62	53
Note: On average a family visits CPO 2.9 times a year		

