

## Helping the Poor here in Southeast Michigan ~



### *~ food for the poor of our Sister Parish*

I (Tom McGuire) wish to thank all the people of St. Francis who contributed to the food drive in June. Food has been identified as one of the greatest needs of those who are poor in the Detroit area. From the food gifts you donated, both St Benedict Food Pantry and the Wellness House Pantry will be able to help many who otherwise would not have been helped.

For those of us with enough to eat, a day of fasting is good for our spirit and body. We can choose to do fast with confidence that if necessary food is available to quickly recover from the pain of hunger. Not so for poor people. People without resources to purchase food are frequently forced to go without meals sometimes for more than one day at a time. This is not voluntary fasting, and seldom contributes to the health of the person.

St. Francis Parish now helps with two "Shelter Programs" each year and has three "Food Drives" each year. Along with many other various service projects these would not be possible without the work and leadership of Allen Sherzer (Christian Service Committee Chair 2000-2002) and Marty Javornisky (Christian Service Committee Chair 2002-2004).

We look forward to continuing the sister parish relationship with St. Benedict and St Francis. Much good has come from this relationship and more will come as we grow in that relationship.

In Christ, *Tom McGuire*, Evangelization Coordinator  
St Benedict Church, Highland Park, MI



### *~ meals for the hungry, transportation . . .*

Along with dozens of other St. Francis of Assisi parishioners in the last few months, I have served hot meals to the hungry, helped people without transportation get back on the road, and delivered food to a food bank for distribution. All the people helped were right here in Southeast Michigan, and I was able to meet many of them personally. I'm grateful that our parish St. Vincent de Paul Society has directed me to such opportunities.

*By Chris Kempton, 2002 parish SVDP chairperson*



### *~ a garden of fresh produce*

Usually, little or no fresh produce makes its way to the local food pantries because most food banks cannot handle perishables. A Sustainable Garden Project is part of our parish community support for the hungry at Perry Nursery School – which benefits the struggling single parent families of our area. Thanks to the leadership of Grace Potts, and the help of many volunteers, we have two gardens this year. One is here at St. Francis and the new second garden is on the Perry Nursery School grounds.

We give a "Thank You" to the members of our parish St. Vincent de Paul Society, our Christian Service Committee, and our Peace & Justice Committee whom have organized these and other service projects.

See our pictures and other information at:

[www.stfrancisa2.com/socialministry/](http://www.stfrancisa2.com/socialministry/)