



***Annual Report
2008-2009***

St. Anthony Parish

Our Mission:

"We are a People of God
called to be a Visible and
Active Sign of the Life and
Love Christ offers All Creation."

*"Somos el pueblo de Dios
llamado a ser un signo visible y
activo, de la vida y el amor
que Cristo ofrece a toda la creación."*

*Kami Ay Lingkod Ng Diyos Na Tinawag
Upang Magsilbing Hayag at Buhay
na Taga-Pagpaalala Ng Buhay at Pagibig
Na iniaalay ni Kristo Para sa Buong Sanlibutan*

**Chúng ta là Dân Chúa, được kêu gọi
trở nên dấu chỉ tích cực và hữu hình cho
sự sống và tình thương mà Chúa Kitô
ban cho mọi tạo vật.**

“You have everything
When you have within you
The ONE who made all things,
The only ONE who can satisfy
The longings of your spirit,
Without whom everything else is nothing.”

-St. Anthony of Padua

A letter from our Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

The Finance Council, Parish Staff and I present to you our Parish Annual Report. As for most of you personally, this past year was a very challenging one with the economic downturn. Archbishop Brunett called for a one year salary freeze for our schools and parish employees beginning with the current fiscal year in response to what we have experienced in the last year.

Our faith calls us to live with even greater faith in times of difficulty. One of the most common phrases in the Bible is "Do not be afraid." Our faith doesn't rise and fall with the Dow Jones average.

I am grateful that our parish staff has done so much to keep our expenses in check. I know that many continue to make sacrificial financial gifts to the parish even when the economy is not certain. Faith in God, not fear, is what will lead us forward.

With my promise of prayer,

Fr. Gary Zender

Mensaje de nuestro párroco:

Queridos hermanos:

El comité de finanzas, el personal parroquial y un servidor les presentamos el reporte anual de nuestra parroquia. Del mismo modo en que lo fue para muchos de ustedes, el pasado año fue uno de numerosos retos, dado el deterioro de la economía. El arzobispo Brunett ha pedido que, a partir del presente año fiscal, se congelen los salarios de los empleados parroquiales y de quienes trabajan en nuestras escuelas, como respuesta a lo vivido el pasado año.

Nuestra fe nos llama a que la vivamos aún más intensamente en tiempos difíciles. Una de las frases más comunes en la Biblia es "No tengan miedo". Nuestra fe no sigue los altibajos de los índices bursátiles. Le estoy muy agradecido a nuestro personal por su esfuerzo para mantener a raya nuestros gastos. Sé que muchos seguirán haciendo sacrificios en forma de donativos financieros a nuestra parroquia, a pesar de la incertidumbre económica. La fe en Dios, no el temor, es lo que nos guiará hacia adelante.

Con mi promesa de oración,

Padre Gary Zender

A letter from the Finance Council

As members of the Finance Council, we assist Father Gary with the stewardship of Parish Resources. With the help of our Parish staff, we present this annual report so that you may be aware of our Parish's general and financial condition. But, beyond the financial numbers and statistics provided in this report are the sacrifices you as parishioners and parish staff have made in this past year of your time, talent and treasure. Your stewardship enables our Parish to fulfill its mission of leading people to Christ and to serve and help those in need.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, the economic downturn that has affected many of us has, in return, impacted our parish finances. Excluding monies received from our debt elimination campaign, we budgeted \$2,004,000 in gross income. The parish received only \$1,795,000 in gross income; a \$209,000 shortfall. To offset this shortfall, the parish staff carefully managed its spending and cut many expenses that had been planned for the year. Tighter controls on purchasing were also implemented. Total expenses, excluding the debt elimination payout, were budgeted at \$2,003,000. Due to the parish staff's efforts in managing its expenses, total actual expenses amounted to \$1,883,000, or \$120,000 under budget. Despite the \$209,000 shortfall in gross income, the parish lost only \$88,000 for the year. We thank the parish staff for the work they have done in controlling their expenses.

Due to decreased income received this past fiscal year, we have adjusted the 2009-2010 budget accordingly. To anticipate the decreased income, the parish will do the following for the upcoming 2009-2010 fiscal year:

- Salaries frozen at 2008-2009 rates
- Supplies cut 24%
- Program expenses cut 10%
- Operations and maintenance cut 20%
- Total expenses cut will amount to 14.3%

Last year, we initiated our debt elimination campaign "*Sharing our Blessings, Securing our Future.*" As of June 30, 2009, our current debt related to our Gym construction amounted to \$1,144,000 a \$478,000 decrease. We continue to decrease the debt related to our gym construction. We thank you for your continued giving towards our campaign to eliminate our debt.

This year has no doubt been difficult due to the economic downturn. For those significantly affected, we offer our prayers in hope that this upcoming year will be better and we thank you for the time, talent and treasure you managed to give despite the difficulties you experienced. We want to reiterate that no amount of your time, talent and treasure is too small.

As finance council members, we will continue to strive to provide Father Gary the support he needs to make sound decisions on the stewardship of Parish resources. We will carefully monitor and communicate to you as needed the financial condition of our Parish this upcoming year.

We encourage you to read the following pages of this annual report and some of the stories shared. Despite the economic downturn, you will find that we are still "a people of God called to be a visible and active sign of the live and love Christ offers all creation."

Peace,

St. Anthony Finance Council

Our story began...

On December 3, 1905, Catholics from Renton met in the Library Hall to form plans for building a Catholic Church. When Parishioners had made enough money, they bought land from Erasmus Smithers, who also donated an additional lot. Approval to build our church was given by Bishop O'Dea and on a Sunday in 1906, ground was broken for a new church. The church, which stood until 1954, faced Morris Avenue, and was built at a total cost of \$3,000. It was a 40' x 100' wood frame structure, seating 300 persons. St. Anthony's was formed as a parish under Bishop O'Dea in 1907, and its original territory was the town of Renton, with missions in Newcastle, Issaquah, Snoqualmie, North Bend, Kirkland, Bellevue, and Bothell. Over the years, four other parishes have "branched off" from St. Anthony (St. Stephen the Martyr, St. Madeline Sophie, St. Paul and Holy Spirit.)



Parish Staff today.

Our Parish today

This year we welcomed over 33 families into our community. This brings the total of registered households to 2,279. Today, St. Anthony remains one of the largest and most diverse parishes in the Archdiocese of Seattle. Our campus has grown, and we maintain a school of over 500 students. Early in the 1990s land was purchased with the plan to integrate our campus and pave the way for future expansion. The gym is now a reality and is a support to our growing parish & school community. As a community, in 2005 we set a common goal of Evangelization that will be attained by focusing on Hospitality, Stewardship and Catechesis. For the future we are working to operate from one common platform while at the same time celebrating our differences.

We are still growing...St. Cecilia Music Center

In January of 2008, we took ownership of the Podiatry Clinic located just north of the Church. We had arrangements for the purchase since July of 2005 and now it was really ours! A "Best Use" committee

had determined that we would get maximum usage of the facilities if it were turned into a music center so the planning began. Contractors were called for bids and the demolition of the podiatry clinic began. Under the guidance of Jim Morrissey, Facilities Manager, and with the help of Richard Vranjes, David Sauve, Wayne Gores, Juan Gonzalez and other volunteers it was totally gutted inside. As with most remodeling, it is only when you tear down what is seen that the reality of the structure presents itself. We found that the roof needed to be totally replaced as well as electrical work and plumbing work to accommodate two handicapped bathrooms that we needed. After a few months of work, multiple visits by inspectors from the City of Renton and spending about \$180,000 for remodel and furnishings the St. Cecilia Music Center was ready for habitation. St. Anthony School children started using the center in early October and we officially dedicated the St. Cecilia Music Center for parish use on October 18, 2008. This building is now used for music classes, choir practices and meetings for slightly larger groups when available. We continue to grow our facilities ever attempting to meet the needs of a growing and changing community at St. Anthony Parish.

Liturgy

Gathering together in worship as a faith community is the most important thing we do in our parish. We continue to receive positive comments and feedback from our parishioners and visitors about the spiritual and hospitable environment of our Masses. To support our liturgies, we rely heavily on our volunteers. This past year there were 73 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, 83 Altar Servers for the weekday and weekend masses, 44 Ministers of Hospitality, 26 Lectors, 12 acolytes, and over 150 music ministers who all have visible roles in providing the Eucharistic liturgies we have come to appreciate at St. Anthony's. Setting the scene for liturgy in roles often unseen are 5 sacristans, 7 members of the Liturgy Commission and 15 - 20 volunteers for the Environmental Arts Committee, who decorate for each season of the Church Year.

There are approximately 15 people who serve on the Adoration Committee. They plan prayer services focusing on the Blessed Sacrament and conduct Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every Thursday afternoon. They also correspond with, and pray for, the seminarians of the Archdiocese.

This past year, continuing to support our parish objectives and in conjunction with the Generations of Living Faith program, catechesis on the Creed was started in November 2008. On the second Sunday of each month at all the Masses, a short talk was given on one of the elements of the Nicene Creed. Children's Liturgy of the Word attendance has increased again this past year, and three new catechists joined the team, bringing the total to nine. Annually, we meet with the individual liturgical ministries to share information and to accomplish refresher training. This is producing positive results and encourages a feeling of "ownership" on the part of the volunteers.

Sacraments

Key to our growth as individuals and as a church is the celebration of the sacraments within the parish community. The sacraments accompany us throughout our life from birth to death and as we participate we renew our belief in the Lord's presence with us as we walk through life---we are not alone. The communal aspects of the sacraments also supports the belief that we are not alone on our life's walk but have many to support us.

This past year we had a total of 171 people baptized: 126 infants, 26 children from 2-7 years, 18 from 7 to 18, and one adult and the RCIA program welcomed 5 people into the Catholic Church. Our parish of St. Anthony's is growing and we are reminded to open our hearts to accept these new members.

We were pleased that thirty-nine high school students responded to the call to become adult Christians through the Sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop Elizondo confirmed them in May after completing eight sessions of preparation and a service project. Helping the St. Vincent de Paul Society feed the hungry homeless by packing lunches was a good introduction to the responsibility to "feed the hungry" as we are instructed in scripture. What an encouragement that is to us to see the youth embrace the faith!

Twenty-one couples were married in our church this past year. As their faith community it is important that we pray for these young couples that they may grow in faith together and remain faithful to their vows.

One hundred seventy- three people celebrated the sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick either individually or at one of our two communal services. Knowing of the prayerful support of your faith community in time of illness can be very comforting. Remember to keep our sick brothers and sisters in your prayers.

Communal Penance services were held twice during the year, during Advent and Lent and approximately 125 people attended each service. Approximately 1200 individual confessions were heard during the past year.

There were sixty-nine funeral services celebrated.

Faith Formation

“We are called to evangelize all people in the life and love of Jesus.”

Faith Formation Assessment: St. Anthony’s Faith Formation Commission continued its two-year process of evaluating all of our Parish efforts to share the great treasure of our Catholic teaching with every parishioner. They invited the Archdiocesan Office of Catholic Faith Formation to conduct an assessment of our parish efforts. We conducted an in-pew survey at Masses and collected information packets on all Parish groups involved in faith formation. Our Commission will continue the process of analyzing the Archdiocesan recommendations as well as reviewing their own data which was collected and discern a 3-year plan for faith formation at the end of this coming pastoral year.



Family gatherings at GoLF

GoLF: The Generations of Living Faith (GoLF) Program continues to provide a marvelous opportunity for parishioners of all ages to come together to pray, learn and share a meal. During this past year we explored the statement of our Faith, “The Creed”. This coming year we will learn more about our Catholic teaching on “Justice”. We had more than 100 families attending one of two sessions offered six different months during the year. The energy, enthusiasm, and learning are delightful. We have many people involved in a variety of ministries like meal preparation, room set-up and clean-up, curriculum design, hospitality, and session facilitation that support the program. We are very excited about the numbers and diversity of parishioners that are taking the time to learn about the basics of our faith. We hope that more and more parishioners will join us for this marvelous learning and community building opportunity.

Sacramental Preparation in English: 60 children received First Reconciliation and First Eucharist in 2008-2009. Their classes were a part of the program of Generations of Living Faith.

Hispanic Community Education: The Hispanic Community continued to hold Religious Education classes every Saturday morning and evening. Over 240 youth strengthened their faith through these teachings. 120 children prepared for and received First Reconciliation and Eucharist in this program.

The Children's RCIA is offered during the Saturday morning sessions (for children who are baptized but are older than 10 and have not yet received First Communion). Children's RCIA is also offered on Sunday evenings one hour before Mass for children who are not yet baptized. Seventeen children received Baptism and 14 received First Eucharist during Pentecost 2009.

Saturday mornings while the children are receiving instruction, educational opportunities for the parents are provided for as well. The Archdiocese of Seattle sponsors classes on religious topics, as well as social service and other topics to help parents in their endeavors to integrate into American society. Parents from the evening group attend a Prayer Group while their children attend classes. Approximately 20 catechists are participating in the Archdiocesan catechist certification process in Spanish. On Tuesdays, approximately 25 children who act as altar servers (called Monaguillos) have continuing Catholic education classes and pray the rosary together.

Archdiocesan classes in scripture studies are offered at St. Anthony's with attendance of approximately 10 people per session. RCIA for Adults (offered in Spanish) included approximately 15 people in 2009.

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd: This Montessori-style approach to Religious Education invites children ages 3 to 12 into a sacred space, called the Atrium, where they experience the rich traditions of our Catholic faith. The child's work is focused on the sacred scripture and liturgy. The atrium is a place primarily of community and worship rather than a classroom for academic study. During 2008-2009, there were 75 students served in our Atrium, ages 3-10. As we grow, so too does the need for volunteers, Atrium space and catechist training. During this past year we were able to send two catechists to complete Level I training (to work with children ages 3-6), another catechist began Level II training (to work with 6-9 year olds) and two additional catechists began training at Level III (for students ages 9-12.) St. Anthony's was unable to fund all the training needs we currently have identified, but we hope to be able to do so in the future. The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is a unique and profound learning experience for all who participate.

RCIA Adapted for Children (Ages 7 to 16): Our formation process for children is modeled after the RCIA process used to prepare adults for the sacraments of initiation. Adaptations to this process are made to accommodate the unique learning styles and needs of children. Children wishing to prepare for baptism may do so in this process beginning at or around the age of seven. They participate in the RCIA for a period of one to two years, and receive Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Children who wish to receive Eucharist for the first time who have already been baptized are typically involved in a shorter process. If they are baptized Catholic, they prepare for Reconciliation and Eucharist. If they are baptized into another Christian tradition and wish to become Catholic, they make a Solemn Profession of Faith, are confirmed, and then receive First Eucharist. Twenty-eight children participated in the process in 2008 – 09.

Baptism Preparation: Parents attend 2 sessions (Friday evenings, 6:30-8:00) to learn about the Sacrament of Baptism. The parents & godparents then attend a rehearsal on Saturday morning on the weekend of Baptisms. At this session we celebrate the Anointing with the Oil of Catechumen with the children. We celebrate the Sacrament with our Parish family on the last weekend of the month. We offered 10 preparation sessions with about 8 to 12 couples in each session. We hope to get more people involved in this important ministry of welcome and hospitality.

Marriage Preparation: We offered a 6-week Marriage Preparation process four times during the past year. We have 5 teaching couples on our Team. The 6 sessions are: Personality; Communication & Conflict Resolution; Finance; Spirituality; Sexuality; and Marriage as a Sacrament. We prepared 35 people in 2008-2009 for Sacramental Marriage.

Scripture Study: We currently have three Scripture Study groups, two of which meet on Tuesdays. The morning group studies the Sunday readings and the evening group was studying "Women in the New Testament" in the fall and then "Scripture 101" in the second part of their year. We also have a home group

that has been studying books of the bible at a home on Monday evenings. This year our evening groups will begin a four-year study of the entire bible using the “Denver Catholic Biblical School Program”.

Parish Pilgrimage: Fr. Gary led 40 people to Greece and Turkey last November in our “Pilgrimage in the Footsteps of St. Paul”. We celebrated the Year of St. Paul by studying his letters and then spending 12 days walking and learning about Paul’s missionary journeys.



Our youth in Yakima on Mission

Youth Ministry

Over 50 junior and senior high school students were involved in our Youth Ministry programs throughout the year. The ministry includes aspects of religious education, service, prayer and community building for our youth. Our youth had the opportunity to participate in Archdiocesan Events – High School Youth Convention & Junior High Rally, Regional Events – High School Lock-In & Junior High Boat Cruise, as well as numerous monthly activities and youth nights. Other highlights include the Mission Trip to Yakima, participation in the Archdiocesan Junior High Leadership Camp 4:12, and teaming with the Spanish Community to provide the Via Crucis for the parish on Good Friday.

Gifts Ministry

Gifts Ministry is the vehicle by which generous St. Anthony Parish members find ways to give back to God through their donation of talents. Through these efforts we proclaim the Good News of God present in our lives. We invite others to gratefully give themselves, to assess the needs, gifts, and talents of our parish family, to welcome all in the name of Jesus, to be a resource to all parishioners concerning spiritual gifts, and to train and develop lay leadership. With our love comes hope that our faith will always create a place of worship where goodness and justice will reign. Ultimately we are moving one another and the community of Renton closer to Jesus Christ. We are a Catholic parish and we care, therefore we are called to respond in service every way we can.

Over the past year, St. Anthony parishioners gave of themselves by volunteering nearly 49,000 hours of their time to various ministries in our church. The following are just some examples of how people have used their gifts to benefit our church and outside community.

St. Anthony parishioners--through St. Vincent de Paul, ARISE, the Christmas projects, Renton Crop Walk, collection for flood victims, and a number of other ministries--have fed the hungry, clothed the naked, sheltered the homeless, consoled the broken hearted, visited the lonely and aged. Some specific examples include: 20-30 homeless men were offered food and nightly shelter in our Parish Hall through the ARISE program in September and February. Despite the heavy snowfall during Christmas time, we were still able to

deliver food and gifts to those on our list needing help. Due to your generosity, there were even enough gifts left to give to other families in need that were not in our original list.

Since many are living into their 90's, we have experienced an increase in requests for homebound ministries. Our Eucharistic Ministry serves 10 Retirement or Rehabilitation centers in Renton and several small Resident care centers. Sixty-four carefully trained ministers serve over 100 recipients. Included in our Eucharistic Ministry are Hospitals. Currently 4 volunteers make phone calls and 5 ministers go out to give communion. Over 600 calls were made this past year to Hospitals. To serve our growing Hispanic community, 8 new Spanish-speaking ministers were added.

Beyond the spiritual needs of our elderly, we have been asked frequently to provide volunteer services that they can no longer do such as lawn care, vacuuming, chores or rides to appointments. People are also calling and asking for in-home visits or check-ins with neighbors. Although we are not a social work agency, we do have about 10 people willing to do one of these services as needed. The opportunities in this area are great and we'd gladly accept more volunteers for this enriching ministry.

This office also has responsibility for background checks and Safe Environment workshops. Three hundred ninety school staff, CYO coaches and parish volunteers working with children and frail adults have directly benefited and are better able to help us keep our children and adults safe from sexual abuse.

Gifts Ministry is a parish umbrella of social outreach, community building and general response to people's needs. Virtually every desire to share personal gifts can be met through some program in this area. Give Mary Ann Smith a call to find your specialty.

Special Collections

Once again St. Anthony parishioners have reached deeply into their hearts being responsible Stewards and sharing of the abundance given to them by God. We donated \$6,099 to the Build Hope Campaign, \$4,104 to the Black and Indian Missions, \$8,735 to the missions on World Mission Sunday, \$8,017 to Catholic Relief Services, \$11,726 to Catholic Community Services, \$17,205 for the Rice Bowl program, and \$8,402 to Peter's Pence. Your generosity is recognized by the joy and prayerful spirit generated by our membership. God bless your open-hearted kindness.



Serving meals for ARISE.

Social Outreach

When the City of Renton has a social concern they call St. Anthony Parish for assistance since we are noted for our care for the poor and needy. We support the Northwest Medical Team Dental Van financially and by supplying our parish as a visitation site for the twelfth year. Thanks to the leadership of Therese McAndrews and other dedicated volunteers, the poor receive affordable dental care.

Once again St. Anthony's parishioners participated in the Renton Crop Walk adding approximately \$4,100 to the support of World Church Services and the Renton Hunger Fund. When we support the Crop Walk, our outreach stretches to the poor of the world.

At the end of the year the Funeral Committee, chaired by Charlotte Zielie changed leadership to Therese McAndrews. We thank Charlotte for her years of dedication providing the support for grieving families by offering a welcoming atmosphere where families may share memories and tears over a good meal after the celebration of the Funeral Liturgy here at St. Anthony's. God bless all the members of this committee.

St. Anthony School

Sharing Faith through Love and Service ~ this was the theme that guided our planning and gave special character to the educational program at St. Anthony School during the 2008-09 school year. As we considered how we could express our "faith in action," students and their families as well as staff came to a clearer understanding of how the Gospel is "caught" more than "taught."

There was plenty of love and service to see throughout this school year! Our school community rallied round and supported the families of medically fragile students, and generously responded to emergencies from unexpected teacher illnesses to extended snow emergencies! In this year of such economic uncertainty, the students' commitment to supply our food bank never wavered, and they creatively found ways to give service to many in our community – initiatives to participate in hunger abatement, environmental projects, and research to combat diseases.

During 2008-2009 we implemented a new student information system, which includes online grade access for our students and parents. Our teachers continued working on Curriculum Mapping, utilizing newly acquired software which enables us to do our planning and evaluation of curriculum more thoroughly. Our 6th grade students utilized Rosetta Stone software for learning Spanish as part of their curriculum, and we offered an after school program for parents and students who wished to learn Spanish as well.

We also made many improvements in our facilities, including a beautiful new garden at the front of the school building, and new stair treads between our second and third floors.

We are so very grateful for the enthusiastic and creative parents of our students who serve on countless committees, support our fund-raising efforts, and provide the organization and support needed for the extra-curricular and special activities through which our students learn much about community and what it means to be joyful Christians. The time given to building a solid budget, raising funds and friends, planning for the future – these are equally evidence of faith in action.

When you have time, please look at our website to find continuing evidence of a school which is thriving and finding its way through all the twists and turns of contemporary education. We are seeing to sustain the best of our tradition and always be open to "the new" that will enable to educate better and form ethical, compassionate, thoughtful and committed future leaders of our church and society. We are grateful for your interest and support.

There were many more highlights during 2008 – 2009 for St. Anthony School. See the St. Anthony School Annual Report for a complete report.



**Highlight on the Vietnamese Community, Multi-Cultural
Committee and St. Vincent de Paul Society**



Vietnamese Celebration

Vietnamese Community

St. Anthony Parish is well known for its diversity and the Vietnamese group is one aspect of that diversity. Even though they represent a small group, the Vietnamese community comprised of about 70 families makes a significant contribution to the Parish. Their participation in the liturgies and in the various ministry programs reflects their strong Catholic faith and their determination to spread the word of God to their people.

The installation of the picture of Our Lady of Lavang inside the church reflects their strong devotion to the Virgin Mary. There are ten active and forty auxiliary Vietnamese members in the Legion of Mary. The active members attend meetings every Sunday and they visit the sick and the homebound in the nursing and retirement homes. The auxiliary members commit to pray the rosary daily and say the Legionaries prayer to bring people back to Mary.

They are dedicated to being good stewards sharing their time, talent and treasures in the parish and greater community. Every Friday a group of Vietnamese parishioners meet to help in the stuffing of the Parish Bulletin. They also raised a significant amount towards the Securing Our Future debt reduction campaign of the parish.

The community celebrates the Vietnamese New Year and Vietnamese Martyrs' Day. These two occasions are observed with Mass followed by a reception and fellowship. They also actively participate in the parish Multi-Cultural Committee joining a group of parishioners from different cultures and countries who help celebrate feast days and these special events from around the world during the past year: Epiphany in January. Black History on February 14, a Multi-Lingual Rosary in May and October, St. Lorenzo Ruiz feast on September 28, St. Francis Cabrini feast on November 16, Our Lady of Guadalupe feast on December 12 and Simbang Gabi also in December.

Multi-Cultural Committee
"Let's celebrate in unity"

The Multi-Cultural Committee spearheads most activities done to celebrate different cultural feast days in our parish. The activities not only showcase the uniqueness of each culture as they express their faith and at the same time demonstrate the practice of one faith, one worship, by members and volunteers who come from diverse cultural backgrounds.

In 2008/2009 we had many memorable and inspiring celebrations and events. As we do every year we helped the Filipino Community (St. Lorenzo Ruiz), the Vietnamese Community (Vietnamese Martyrs) and the Hispanic Community (Our Lady of Guadalupe) during their celebration by making it a multi-lingual Mass. We hosted the St. Francis Cabrini Mass (with lots of different flags, international dresses and offerings that are used in different countries) and followed with a reception at the St. Anthony Hall. It was a beautiful event and we all had to come together to make it happen. In addition we also organized the Community Rosary as well as the Living Rosary led superbly by the Vietnamese Community and their children. A very touching and inspiring time for all of us was when we served the homeless men sponsored by the ARISE program in the St. Anthony Hall.

We are very excited that the St. Anthony Adult Ministry (SAAM) group and the Multi-Cultural Committee came together to host different celebrations. The biggest we offered was our Retreat at the beautiful site of St. Mary on the Lake in Bellevue. We met many new parishioners at the retreat and it was amazing how we made it happen with a fee of \$20 per person and no money from the parish. We are very thankful for the relationship we have with the SAAM group and are excited to work with new volunteers and groups of the St. Anthony Parish.



SAAM and the Multi-Cultural Committee on Retreat



RENTON MAGAZINE / ANDREW FICKES

Volunteers with the St. Vincent de Paul conference at St. Anthony's Church have seen more demand in food bank services.

St. Vincent de Paul

Since 1954 St. Anthony Parish has had an active St. Vincent de Paul Society. The purpose of this organization is the spiritual development of its members through service to the poor. With a budget of over \$70,000, we were able to help over 5,000 people last year. Despite all this effort, we still turned away 23% of the people who called for help. Response to requests is given to non-Catholics and Catholics alike allowing an evangelization in charity of those who are in need. Much work lies ahead so that all who ask are helped.

The needy hear about us from a variety of sources: King County assistance line (211); social workers; utility company workers; through their church or by word of mouth. Once they reach us, the client is prescreened and referred to one of the 52 St. Vincent de Paul "conferences" near their home. We also receive many walk-in clients due to St. Anthony's location in downtown Renton.

The most important thing we do for those who seek help is to listen to their story, asking questions to clarify the need and talk about ways to alleviate their issues. We show respect for the independence of our clients by helping them with a portion of what they need such as rent and/or utilities (\$100 - \$200), food, gasoline or necessary household items. All our work is done by voucher; no cash is ever given to a client. Our motto is "No work is foreign to the Society."

We work with agencies throughout King County such as the Salvation Army, Kent Multi-Service Center, DAWN, local school districts, Renton Clothing Bank and Catholic Community Services. When we encounter a client whose need requires professional help, we refer them to a St. Vincent de Paul social worker who works out of the Francis House in Seattle.

We have a food bank that provides emergency meals for two days for families. A lunch sack program for the working poor and homeless, distributed through the parish offices, provided lunch for over 3,000 people this past year. All of the food is non-perishable and comes from food drives, mostly by St. Anthony School, and food purchased with cash donations.

Our budget since inception has come from St. Anthony and its parishioners. This past year, we received a \$1,000 grant from the Renton Community Foundation, a \$500 grant from Renton Kiwanis and a \$20,000 grant from the City of Renton Human Services Department. We received this grant mainly because of the volume of clients we serve and the small amount of administration cost (\$400) we incur.

Our administration cost is low because all office costs normally incurred are donated and all of our help comes from parishioners who volunteer their time. St. Anthony Parish provides a space for our office, pays the phone bills and covers the cost of our office supplies. The parish also provides us the storage facility to store the food we give to the needy. Our volunteers range in age from 5 to 92. Volunteers work in the office, the food bank, meet clients, deliver food, track cash donations, delivering food to and from our food bank.