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**St. Bridget Church
Human Concerns Ministry
6006 Three Chopt Rd
Richmond, VA 23226**

**Human Concerns Ministry
2012**



Human Concerns Ministries Presenting Your Tithe Of Treasure: We Invite Your Tithe of Time



"There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day. And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table. Dogs even used to come and lick his sores. When the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried, and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me. Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames.' Abraham replied, 'My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad; but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented. Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours.'

Luke 16:19-26



The sin of the rich man is one of indifference and contempt toward the poor and suffering at his own door.

The ministries of our parish take us to the doors of the poor and suffering. Whether you buy a pound of fair trade coffee after Mass or bring a meal for our guests from CARITAS you are the hands and feet of the risen Christ bringing compassion to our world. Our ministries provide us with opportunities to grow in our love of neighbor and enter into a more intimate relationship with God.

You are invited to look over the ministries of our parish and be aware your treasure helps to support them. Note the opportunities these ministries afford for your tithe of time and talent. Check all boxes that indicate your interest. Fill out your contact information and return as directed on the inside back cover.

**On behalf of those served,
Thank You!**

Instructions—Please Check One:

- I would like to participate in the following ministry(ies) - check all boxes following in the ministry descriptions as appropriate, or
- I would like more info about the following ministry(ies) - check all boxes following in the ministry descriptions as appropriate, or
- I would like to be informed of any opportunities you might have that I may be able to do with my children ages ____ to ____.

Instructions

Please use this form to either sign up for one of the listed ministries/adult faith formation sessions or obtain more information. Fill in all requested information and return it in the baskets provided near the church exits, to the church office, or mail your registration booklet to the church (6006 Three Chopt Rd, Richmond 23226). You may also call in your registration to Paul Amrhein at 525-7902.



Name: _____

Phone # _____ or

Best time to reach me via phone: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

I cannot find the ministry that suits me. I would like to be involved as follows:

Grow in Understanding of Our Faith



IS SPIRITUAL DIRECTION FOR YOU?

- Spiritual direction is a process carried out in the context of a “one-to-one” relationship in which a competent guide helps a fellow-Christian to grow in the spiritual life by means of personal encounters that have the directee’s spiritual growth as their explicit objective. Paul Amrhein has attended a two year program in spiritual direction at Richmond Hill and can let you know what to expect in spiritual direction as well as advise on where to find one.

- Salt and Light: A Spirituality for our Times**



There are three constitutive elements to our faith:

- a. Scripture—faith as wisdom
- b. Sacramental—faith as experience
- c. **Social—faith as witness**

This hour and a half session will focus on this third element. We will look at the themes of Catholic Social Teaching and talk about how it brings the scripture and our tradition alive in our world today. This session is offered whenever enough people check this box.



Human Concerns Committee – Host events and provide opportunities that promote education and spirituality in the social mission of the church, and set policy and budget for our ministries. It can be more fun than it may sound and is a service our parish sorely needs.

- We need committee members willing to attend a monthly meeting and do between 1/2 and 3 hours additional committee work each month (average time commitment of 2 hours per month—except summers when there usually are no meetings).



BeFriender Ministry— Who are people in your faith community who need a BeFriender? Maybe it is a parishioner who is ill, someone who is grieving a loss of someone close, a single parent struggling with raising children, a person living with a chronic illness, or a new mom.

BeFrienders provide pastoral care for people in all kinds of life transitions. They are trained volunteers who extend the care of our faith community. BeFrienders: listen with compassion, accept people as they are, respect another's spiritual journey, and most of all embody God's caring presence.

- I would like a call from a BeFriender to see if I may be helped through one of my life's transitions
- I would be interested in more information about becoming a BeFriender.

We are in critically short supply of men for this ministry.



CARITAS – “Congregations Around Richmond Involved to Assure Shelter” is a non-profit organization of more than 100 faith congregations in the Richmond area that provide shelter for the homeless. St. Bridget parish will host 40 men during the week of February 18, 2012. We provide a place to sleep, hot meals and other services such as showers and laundry. There are numerous ways to help, watch for signs and announcements in the bulletin.

- I would like to serve as an overnight host
- I would like to provide food
- I would like to provide welcoming hospitality

Catholic Charities HELP Program – HELP Program is a partnership with local churches providing food, financial assistance, and credit counseling to persons in need. This Program is staffed by volunteers from local congregations and the community. Volunteers are currently needed 2 to 3 hours per week in time slots that can be tailored to meet your personal schedule as follows:



- We need people to answer incoming calls. Most are from potential clients seeking assistance or clients following up on the status of their application.
- We need people to assist entering completed applications into the data bank and to help with filing.

The Coal Pit Learning Center - Preschool offered free to at-risk children in the Glen Allen and Lakeside areas. Meals and transportation are provided, and afternoon daycare service is provided for \$2/hr

Volunteer opportunities are listed on the next page.



William Byrd Community House—WBCH works to be a catalyst for transforming the lives of people, particularly children and youth, by helping them move from dependency toward self-sufficiency as quickly as possible. Volunteering can be for an hour once in a while or as a long-term mentor.



- Volunteer in early childhood program by being a computer tutor, lunch buddy, present a craft project, chaperone a field trip, or help with playground maintenance.
- Volunteer in the after-school or youth program helping with homework, leading activities like art, music, dance, or storytelling, chaperoning an event, or teaching computers.
- Be a Food Pantry Captain for Saint Bridget to assist in providing food and working with other congregations in coordinating food and home supply drives. May take 1-2 hours a week for one person or 1-2 hours a month per person, as a group effort

Neighbor to Neighbor Network— Developed early 2009, in response to the current fiscal crisis to help parishioners in need, the network supports women facing problem pregnancies and helps settle refugees from Iraq.

- Help sell fair trade coffee after Masses to raise money to help parishioners
- Participate in a baby shower for a woman in need
- Help welcome and settle an Iraqi refugee family





Virginia Society for Human Life - Promote the right to life in Virginia through education, legislation and political action.

- Volunteer at the Virginia Society for Human Life by helping in the office (telephone, data entry, mailings, preparing education materials, etc.) or helping staff pro-life booths at exhibits promoting pro-life messages.

Virginia Catholic Conference— The Virginia Catholic Conference has created an e-mail advocacy network for parishioners, Catholic-school parents, and others interested in legislative advocacy especially for Catholic schools and prolife issues.



- Go to <http://www.vacatholic.org> to sign up

Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy— Each faith community has unique concerns, but broad public policy consensus brings together diverse faith communities to make a common witness around common concerns. The Interfaith Center is structured to represent the moral voice of the faith community on behalf of the politically weak and marginalized.



- Sign up: <http://www.virginiainterfaithcenter.org>

Visiting the Sick and Home Bound — Take communion, pray or just chat with those parishioners who are sick, in nursing homes or are homebound.

- Bring the Eucharist to the sick or visit once or twice a month or more



- Lunch Servers:** Cook/serve a lunch (nuggets, mini pizzas, sandwiches, fish sticks & fruits or vegetables) from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. We have the food and oven, or you can bring your own food.
- Tutors:** Help out our preschool kids or our afternoon K-3rd grade kids with homework.
- Light Office Duties:** Type thank you letters or other correspondence and filing.
- Teacher Assistant:** Read a book or share a passion of yours with our kids!

Cross Over Ministry provides health care, promotes wellness, and connects the talents and resources of the community with people in need in the name of Jesus.

- Everyone in the medical field is needed from physicians, nurses and dentists to pharmacists and medical students. St. Bridget Church helps to staff a clinic generally on a Saturday several times a year.
- Administrative support and Spanish translators needed for Saturday clinics.



Daily Planet— Plan and serve a nutritious meal to the homeless patients staying at the Medical Respite Program. The Daily Planet allows homeless to recuperate in a shelter. Groups of 3 to 6 volunteers need to bring all utensils needed, this includes: plates, napkins, forks, spoons, drinks, ice and cups. You are encouraged to bring enough food for up to 21 people and yourselves and eat with the residents. Come by 6 and stay and visit or bring things to have an activity such as Bingo or an UNO Tournament with the residents until 7:45 p.m.

- Share a meal at the shelter at 2864 Hull St.
- Share a meal at the shelter at 1700 Front St.





Door Ministry - Prepares lunch at St. Peter Church for the downtown Richmond needy. The number of folks to feed has gone up 10%. Without volunteers it is a cold world.

- Lunch workers help cook, serve and clean 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month.
- Lunch captains coordinate the lunch workers with reminder calls and direct lunch worker assignments. They also call the church coordinator before the fourth Tuesday to make sure the food needed for the lunch menu is on site (average time commitment of four hours/month).
- Coordinator training is set for Winter 2012.

FAIR TRADE



Fair Trade Sales—The fourth weekend of each month we offer an assortment of fair trade coffee and tea. Profits from purchases help fellow parishioners in need while helping the farmers in third world countries make a better living.

- Volunteers needed to sell after each weekend Mass. Takes about 15 to 30 minutes once a month.
- One volunteer willing to keep track of stock, set up for the sales, and decide what to order and when. Commitment is about 2 hours a month.

Freedom House Ministry - This ministry, which is currently comprised of three teams, provides food for homeless adults who are in transition from shelter and street life into independent living in the community. Each team meets four times per year the first Tuesday of the month. We welcome all those interested in serving on a team and/or adding their name to our substitute list. Donating a few hours throughout the year greatly touches the lives of many.



St. Francis Home - initiated by Bishop Sullivan and the people of the diocese of Richmond to provide high-quality residential and assisted living care and services for older adults of limited financial means in a home-like environment where independence, dignity, and self worth are nurtured.



- Drive residents to medical appointments
- Assist with special activities
- Visit with a resident that has few or no visitors, youth and children are especially welcome

Support Life Ministry – This ministry aims at the root causes of problem pregnancies through the Pregnancy Resource Center. The PRC provides compassionate care to women and men unprepared for pregnancy by offering resources and practical assistance for life-affirming choices. This ministry provides education, counseling and assistance to women with unplanned or crisis pregnancies. This ministry works to promote the pro-life message.

- Attend the Pregnancy Resource Center training in the spring or fall and minister to clients who are experiencing an unplanned pregnancy
- Coordinate events that support the PRC at our church such as diaper drives, baby showers, car washes for life, baby bottle campaigns (fill bottles with change), etc.
- Commit to praying regularly for the PRC and our clients
- Participate in planning and attending a baby shower for a woman making a choice for life





Rebuilding Together— The rising cost of living and falling social service budgets have left some of our most vulnerable neighbors without the most basic of necessities a warm, safe, and dry home. Rebuilding Together focuses on the elderly, the disabled, and families with children, and helps them repair and maintain their homes.

- Participate in the annual rebuild day event on the last Saturday of April by working on a house sponsored by St. Bridget Church
- House captain looks over and plans for the needed repairs

Richmonders Involved to Strengthen Our Communities (RISC) - is composed of a variety of denominations and faith traditions and came about through an initiative by the Catholic Diocese of Richmond, along with Bon Air Presbyterian Church and Crusade for Christ Family Ministries. These three faith communities wanted to right injustices in our area and approached DART to help bring that about. DART is a national 501©(3) non-profit organization that educates clergy and lay leaders to bring religious congregations together around shared concerns and values to challenge the economic, political and social systems to act justly. This is an opportunity to pray and work alongside Christians, Jews and Muslims for common cause in aiding the poor. St. Bridget Church does not provide financial assistance to this group. It is a great way to be involved in solving problems that impact the poor of our community.

- Attend occasional meetings, typically no more than four during the year.



- Four volunteers who cook/package Sloppy Joes (9:00 -11:00 a.m.)
- One volunteer who delivers the meals to Freedom House (11:15 a.m.)



Habitat for Humanity of Metro Richmond – Builds low income housing locally. Through Apostles Build we will combine with 11 other congregations to build a home. Volunteers are need for:

- A building crew of 10—all skills and no skills needed (time commitment 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on a Thursday and/or Friday)
- A building crew—all skills or no skills needed (time commitment 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on a Saturday)

HAITI — St. Bridget Parish in partnership with Cathedral of the Sacred Heart has established a twinning relationship with the village of Carissade in Haiti focused on education.



- We meet the fourth Monday of the month 7-8:30 p.m. We need you!

Hilliard House — assists homeless women with children to build their capacity to live productively within the community. Hilliard House addresses the problems of domestic violence, low educational attainment, lack of job skills and mental health issues related to severe childhood traumas. The following opportunities each last about two hours:

- Leading/sponsoring a group activity for children crafts, recreation, tutoring
- Leading life skills sessions for adults – job readiness, financial education, parenting
- Front desk receptionist – greeting residents





Home Again— Assists homeless families and individuals by providing emergency and transitional shelter and programs to build skills leading to permanent housing.

- Teach finance and budgeting to our residents to successfully stretch limited finances and resources and gain and maintain good credit (flexible schedule)
- Assist our administrative office with mailings, phone calls and filing (Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
- Use your skills (i.e.—HR, computers, professional coaching, etc.) to teach our residents to obtain and successfully maintain employment (flexible schedule)



Hull Street – Hull Street Community Shelter is a transitional shelter housing approximately 40 people. Supportive services are offered to assist these adults in their successful transition from shelter and street life into independent, self-sufficient living in the community. Volunteers are always appreciated. This ministry is in need of:

- Two or more chairpersons to coordinate cooking and the delivery schedule (commitment is for an hour or two every few months)
- Preparing or transporting food and visiting with the residents during the evening on the second Thursday of each month (hour or two every few months).

Jail Ministry - The time commitment for this ministry can be whatever you care to commit because the ministry is multi-faceted and is well suited to different God given talents.

- 2 to 3 hours of bible study facilitation a month
- Letter writing correspondence with inmates and upholding the human dignity of the inmate



Micah Initiative—St. Bridget Parish has partnered with Blackwell Elementary School here in Richmond. We provide volunteers as classroom assistants, tutors in math and

reading, help with an In-House TV Communication program, and assistance in the library and the art department. We also have started an after-school Multiplication Marathon Program, using students from Benedictine and St. Gertrude High Schools as tutors. You can volunteer weekly or on a one-time basis. Our volunteers really do make a difference, and they love doing it!

“And what does the Lord require of us, but to do justice, to love mercy, And to walk humbly with our God?” – Micah 6:8

- Join our group of volunteer mentors at Blackwell Elementary



Ministry With Persons With Disabilities —

Advocates for the inclusion of persons with disabilities into the full life of the Church.

- Join our group of parishioners that meet on an as needed basis to provide advice to staff and help plan activities
- Help bring the faith to children with disabilities by volunteering to work in faith formation and sacramental preparation

Parish Nurse— This Ministry strives to be an active and positive part of the St. Bridget faith community through wellness education, referrals to community health care resources and support services. This program is not designed to be a substitute for regular medical care through a healthcare provider nor "hands on" nursing care. Membership is open to healthcare professionals. For more information call: Lucy Casey, RN and Margot Lee, RN at 282.9511 ext. 503.

- Members of the ministry meet at 7 p.m. in the PCMR on the third Monday of every other month

