

St. Leo The Great Parish

May 2016 Newsletter



Rebeka Baranyibikiye (right) and her family



Melanie Nsabimana
and Simeon Banyankiyubusa

Three Burundian adults have recently become US citizens. Rebeka Baranyibikiye, Simeon Banyankiyubusa and his wife Melanie Nsabimana who were naturalized this spring join some seven other adult parishioners who have made the United States their home country.

When an adult becomes a citizen so do their children under 18 who were born in another country so we have many more new citizens than just the grown-ups. Several more are close to taking their citizenship tests and learning English is a big step in the process, It's hard work but both

A Cause for Celebration



they and their ESL teachers are determined and all celebrate when they have achieved their goal.

Though they are proud to be US citizens, the refugees never forget their home country which is now experiencing violence and political turmoil.

They worry about family members still there and pray for peace.

Cell phones and email help keep them connected. They make sure their children know their relatives in Africa and try to pass the values and traditions of their homeland.

Congratulations! - *Angela Anno, Pastoral Associate*

Photos provided by Sr. Mary Dudley and Angela Anno



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

“Mercy, Mercy, Mercy!” “Have Mercy!” Often one hears these words from the veteran radio voice of the Cincinnati Reds and Hall of Famer, Marty Brennaman. Mr. Brennaman will beg for mercy on behalf of the Cincinnati Reds professional baseball team from the opposing team when the game is all but lost for the Reds and there is no chance that the Reds would be able to win the game. When the opposing team is so much better than the Reds or when the Reds are playing so badly, the kind and loving thing to do for everyone, including the fans in the stands, is to ask the other team to have mercy. Go easy. Let the substitutes play. Take out the starting players. Get the game over quickly so everyone can go home and the pain of losing and watching the home team who is beaten so badly can end.

Once, I stood before a judge in a court of law, on behalf of someone who had been found guilty by a jury of her peers. It was at her sentencing hearing that I begged the judge and the court to show mercy. Based on the fact that the accused had no prior record and that she was a very good person and an asset to society and a blessing to the many people she served in her profession; based on the fact that she had already served a couple of years in jail waiting on her trial and knowing and believing that she had shown remorse for what she had done and that she had suffered much pain being separated from her children for so long, I asked the judge to show mercy and to be lenient in sentencing her.

What is mercy? It can be difficult to define and describe. But I believe when we ask for this incredible virtue for ourselves or for someone else or when we are asked to show it or offer it to another, mercy has everything to do with not inflicting unnecessary pain upon another or allowing the existing pain to cease and the healing and redemptive qualities for suffering to begin. It is a choice to love and not to condemn. With mercy, one receives the gift of salvation and redemption and one is restored to life. With mercy, love and life get the final say over us and not death. Mercy includes forgiveness and allows one to distinguish the sin from the sinner. Mercy doesn't abolish the Law. It

fulfills it. The Good Samaritan who cares for the man who was beaten by robbers, the Prodigal Son and the Prodigal Father, the woman caught in adultery, Jesus forgiving the good thief and offering him eternal life are wonderful stories of mercy.

Psalm 118 uses love and mercy synonymously. The refrain is: *Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.* The first verse is: *Let the house of Israel say, “His mercy endures forever.” Let the house of Aaron say, “His mercy endures forever.” Let those who fear the Lord say, “His mercy endures forever.”* And again the refrain: *Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love is everlasting.*

In this Easter time, the eternal life and love that the Lord offers to everyone through his Resurrection is clearly expressed with an everlasting mercy that covers all of creation. It redeems and saves. Jesus redeems and saves us with a merciful love. Behind, around and deep within every Alleluia that we sing is God's merciful love. Singing and saying Alleluia, the church praises and thanks God for God's redeeming, saving, eternal, merciful love.

Let the House of St. Leo and the Church of God say, *“His mercy endures forever.”* Giving food to the hungry and drink to the thirsty, *Let those who fear the Lord say, “His mercy endures forever.”* Visiting the sick and those who are in prison, *Let those who fear the Lord say, “His mercy endures forever.”* Welcoming the immigrant and the refugee, bringing light and love to those who are in darkness, healing the broken-hearted, lifting up the lowly, forgiving endlessly, praying ceaselessly, serving others selflessly, let the entire House of God say, *“His mercy endures forever.”*

The Easter Season ends this month with the great Feast of Pentecost. On that day, 36 adults and three teenagers from St. Leo will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and many of them will also receive Eucharist for the first time. Completing their initiation in Faith and in the Church, they became ministers of God's mercy. With the apostles and with us, they witness to the Lord's resurrection and new life and they live as the Body of Christ for others. The Lord is kind and merciful, indeed. His love is everlasting. Let the Church say, “Amen! Alleluia!!”

- Father Jim

ST. LEO PARISH & COMMUNITY ♦♦♦ SCHEDULES & CONTACT INFORMATION

E-MAIL: stleocinti@aol.com **WEBSITE:** www.saint-leo.org **FACEBOOK:** St. Leo The Great Catholic Church

PHONE: 513-921-1044 **FAX:** 513-921-8048 **PARISH NURSE -** 513-862-4398

WORSHIP SCHEDULE - Saturday 6pm Mass in Spanish; Sunday Mass: 10:30am; Weekday Mass: Thursday 7pm

FOOD PANTRY – across the street at Carll & Baltimore

When Food Pantry is open, hours are: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 1pm to 4pm

PANTRY REQUIREMENTS: Serving only those in North Fairmount area including English Woods, East Westwood, Roll Hill Apts & Millvale, only once every 30 days (only small part of 45225). Current proof of residence (Duke or telephone bill), photo ID & Social Security Cards for all members of household must be presented at every visit to the Food Pantry to determine eligibility using Federal guidelines.

COMMUNITY PHONE NUMBERS

North Fairmount Community Center/Referral Services-Lois Broerman: 513-921-5842

HOUSING: 513-921-5889

Healthy Moms & Babes: 513-591-5600 — Hopple Street Neighborhood Clinic: 513-541-4500

GED Referral: Roll Hill: 513-542-8333x5 — Literary Network: 513-621-7323

~ Newsletter content and articles are written and/or compiled by the editor unless otherwise noted. ~

PANTRY PRESS

In March, 912 people (includes 376 children & 75 seniors) in 290 families were served.



HAPPY HIKING (or napping) TIME

On Monday, May 30th at 9:00am, thousands will gather in unanimity to feed the poor at Hunger Walk 2016. Romping and prancing around and across the beautiful scenic Ohio river is a wonderful way to start the day in support of the St. Leo Food Pantry. Join the Leo Leading Lights Hunger Walk Team. Captain Clancy already has! Entry forms are available online and on page 7. For more information, contact Casey at 921-1044x30.

Meanwhile, Clancy says it's happy napping time and he's sending happy hiking thoughts and prayers for the Food Pantry...and everyone's feet!

NEEDS FOR MAY—Hygiene & household items: toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, toilet paper, bar soap, detergent, and plastic & paper grocery bags. Monetary donations are needed for extra food & hygiene purchases, and operational expenses to keep the pantry functioning, including such items as: freezers, refrigerators, pest control, van use, repairs, gasoline for multiple trips for food pick-up, and Pantry related errands. Monetary donations are never used for the general parish operating expenses, staff, or pantry management expenses.

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CLANCY'S CACKLES



Knock, knock! Who's there? Ooze. Ooze Who? Ooze joining the Hunger Walk Team with me???

1. What did Elvis sing at the animal shelter?
2. What kind of music do old clothes like best?
3. What's the best way to find a screeching rock star?
4. What kind of music do Kentucky landscapers listen to?
5. Why did the cat get the Pandora app?
6. Why did the fish make such a good musician?

(answers on page 6)

CLANCY'S CLICHES

The music around this place is pretty fantastic. From the rounded deep vowels of a boisterous "Jambo" to the enlivened lilting line of an "Oh, Padre!", it is a linguistic symphony that envelops the offices at St. Leo.



And then there's the fugal instrumentation: just get Luz, Obed, Jake, and the rest of the gang together in the hallway or the kitchen! Beethoven, you got nothing' on St. Leo!

"Musical training is a more potent instrument than any other, because rhythm and harmony find their way into the inward places of the soul, on which they mightily fasten, imparting grace, and making the soul of him who is rightly educated graceful."--Plato

Music has a lot to teach us. For one, the only way to finish a song is to start it NOW even if you don't know how you're going to arrive at the finished destination. Get your musical car in gear; set your GPS and it will take you there.

Then there's dissonance—that surprising yet acceptable tension coming at the oddest moments, interrupting the beautiful melodic strains of life. The more exposure to these different, zany, conflicting sounds, though, the better one can attune themselves to the uniquely individual tones of those seemingly ugly sounds to a resolution that can be handled harmoniously. The challenge of life's discordant sounds is preparation for the challenges of life, and the appropriate response to its conflicts. A valuable musical lesson, indeed!

Finally, duets and ensembles impart great tutorials on how to work with one another. You can either just do it your own way, or look at the newness of the partner's way. And listen. Truly listen. There's always something to learn through different eyes and ears. What a gift, if you have an openness to it.



A brotherly duet

For my Coda, I'd like to share a quote from Gustav Mahler: "What is best in music is not to be found in the notes." Truly, what is best in life are the multitude of choirs that surround us! Arf Arf!



A St. Leo ensemble!

MAY'S MARVELS & MARBLES

- *May 2: Brothers & Sisters Day. Hey, Jake, let's celebrate!
- *May 5: Cinco de Mayo.
- *May 6: No Diet Day (we celebrate that every day around here—especially if Cookie Man stops by!)

- *May 8: Iris Day—one of my fave flowers, too!
 - *May 16: Wear Purple for Peace Day.
 - *May 28: International Jazz Day. Bop-de-bop!
- Howlin's hootn'; Growlin's not gooten!** - Clancy



TREASURE CHEST FUNDRAISER



PARISH
SUPPORT

Congratulations to the Treasure Chest winners for March: Frances Alderson (twice!), Jane Lanzerotta, Robt.F.Bruser, Marilyn Zacchari, Charlene Huber, Barb Gruver, Don Webster and Laura Hueneran.— *Marianne Brater, Chairperson*



IRIS YOU A SPECIAL DAY!

Mothers Day, First Communions, Graduations, or Un-Birthdays are always perfect occasions to stuff a Treasure Chest Ticket into an envelope or give as a present. And what a fun

and different thoughtful gift! - *S.Sepate*

We have no festival. We have no silent auction. We have no Bingo. Our Fall & Spring Appeals and Treasure Chest are our major parish fundraisers. Ticket donation: \$5 ~ Support is always needed!

MAYDAY! MAYDAY!

If you need rescued and are desperate for interesting reading material, send an SOS to us at 921-1044 and we'll add you (or anyone else you know) to the mailing list.



ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASS

is held every Thursday 9:30am-12:30 and Saturday 10am-noon at St. Leo. All are welcome to attend. Call for information.



ONE-on-ONE TUTORING

Held every Tuesday at St. Leo, 6:30-8pm. Bring homework and Citizenship questions. Tutors are always welcome to assist—please call the parish office for more information.



SEWING CLASS

Held every Friday from 9am-noon.



ST. LEO ONLINE

www.Saint-Leo.org

Enjoy the online edition with color photos!

Save the site in your "favorites" list to visit often. Feel free to send corrections, updates, news and/or information to be included on the website to Casey Betz, Development Director, at cbetzstleo@aol.com

St. Leo's Facebook Page

St. Leo the Great Catholic Church

St. Leo's YouTube Channel StLeotheGreatParish

Online Giving



WHOOSHED WISH LIST

Wowie Zowie! Your response to the Wish List has been incredible! We've ordered the computer turntables and the pamphlet holder for the Pantry, and we are now at the ready for any minor Emergency needs. Enough Wish List funding has come in for a 2016 computer to make the central office very happy, indeed! Additional funds and a Home Depot gift card have also been received to



Composters!



put toward our Wish List goals! Finally, the Wish List request for a Monday driver for the Food Pantry has been prayerfully filled. We are overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness you, our extended family in serving others, bestow.

And for our next act: the former Food Pantry's "Lion's Den", named accordingly with Leo the Lion, will have a new life as the breakout room for youth and meeting needs. Replacement lighting, ceiling, carpeting (indoor/outdoor, of course!), and a fresh coat of paint will spruce it up for it's renewed use.

All of these little bits of the puzzle put together unites us all as one big undaunted configuration!

For the great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together.

- Vincent van Gogh

PARISH WISH LIST ITEMS

- >Ceiling Tiles, framing materials & Lighting (\$625)
- >Indoor/Outdoor carpet (app \$120)
- >Dymphna meeting room replacement windows (\$850)
- >Lowe's, Home Depot, Hobby Lobby, etc. gift cards for projects

-*Stephanie Sepate*

MAYK MY DAY!

Clint Eastwood would enjoy hearing you say that! You can Make OUR Day by supporting St. Leo ministries through these various award programs:



Kroger Community Awards: Become a member online at krogercommunityrewards.com with your Kroger Plus card. Select St. Leo from the list or enter our ID#**28680** and click confirm. You still benefit from the coupons and special deals provided through the Kroger Plus card.

iGive: Shop the sites you love and support St. Leo! Sounds easy? It is! Sign up at <http://www.igive.com/>

SmileAmazon: You shop—Amazon gives! If you sign up for their Smile Program listing us, they'll donate .5% of your purchases to St. Leo! Just sign up at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/31-0538556>

➔ Check our website (or call Casey for help at x30) for details
- *S.Sepate*

THANKS, MOM

It's a sad, but not uncommon reality that we often get to know and appreciate people even more after they are gone. This will be my first Mother's Day without my mom who died last May 18 and I find myself thinking about her and what it was like for her to be my mother.

Though I've been told I was a sweet solicitous big sister at two offering infant Karen my shoes "Baby got no shoes," I was quite a handful as I got older. I remember when I was about 10, putting my hands on my hips and telling my mom, "If it makes you feel better to think you are right, go ahead. But I know you are wrong." We didn't have much money when I was growing up, so Mom sewed me two dresses for grade school graduation. They were beautiful, but I didn't want to wear them—I wanted something from the store like other girls had—and I told her so. She loved me anyway. I wish I had those dresses and could wear them now. One was a pink and white plaid; the other, yellow with flowers.

Mom had other struggles, too. She had high risk pregnancies and after my brother John was born, she was advised to not get pregnant. But along came my sister Julie who was born six weeks early. I didn't realize how difficult that was until my own daughter had premie twins. Mom buried my younger sister when Karen was only 32 and had two young sons. I can't imagine the grief she must have felt. She had a life-long battle with lupus, survived cancer, lost her eyesight to macular degeneration, became a widow, losing the love of her life, and spent her final years in a nursing home because of a broken hip that would not heal. Her love of God and spirit prevailed until she died. Her blessing us by making the sign of the cross on our

foreheads was a life-long parting ritual even to her final days.

In her era, women had few options and accepted whatever life dealt them. The top student in her graduating class, she wanted to go to nursing school, but had to put those plans aside because her dad had died and she had to help support her mother. She did what was before her—no questions asked. That's how it was. Though she herself never graduated from college, she edited my dad's papers and supported his desire for education for the 31 years it took for him to get a degree going part time. She was in the background cheering all of us on. We couldn't have done it without her.



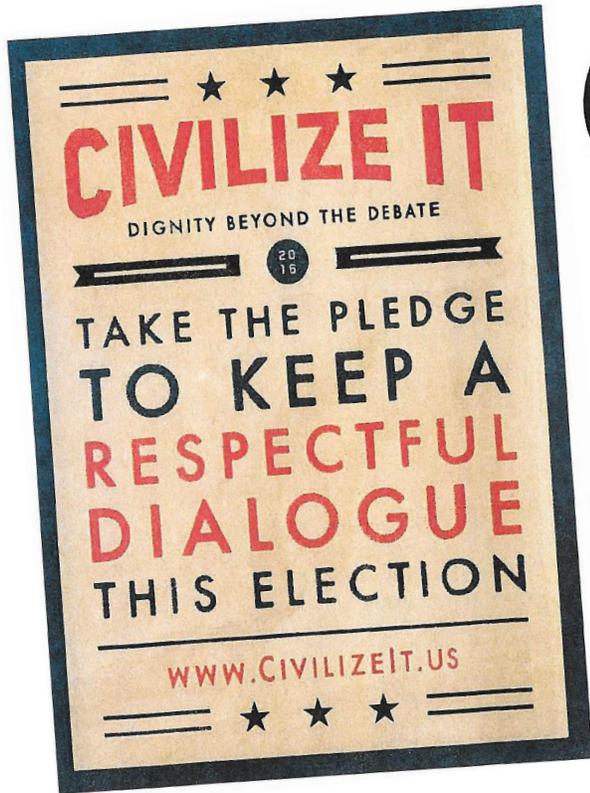
I wish I could have known her even better, but she still continues to reveal herself to me through things she left behind. I see her excitement in being a mother in a picture of her holding a squirming me as an infant. I understand her deep love of Dad in her engagement ring that I got in her will. I've saved a hand-sewn smocked white flowered dress she made for my daughter Sara for a future granddaughter. My twin grandsons enjoy the alphabet wall hanging with items lovingly hand-stitched for each letter. And there are the glimpses of her spirit at work in the ways I parented and am a grandma.

Unlike my mother, I've had many career opportunities outside the home. I've been a reporter, worked in public relations, was a high school teacher, was a counselor with alcoholics and addicts, had a private counseling practice, worked with troubled children, and am now pastoral associate at St. Leo's. But like her, I believe the most important and satisfying career I've ever had is being a mother. Nothing else can compare. Thanks, Mom.
- Angela Anno, Pastoral Associate

YEAR OF MERCY—PILGRIMAGE SCHEDULE

- Doors open:** Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm (please come to parish office); Sunday: 10am to 4pm
Mass Schedule: 7pm Thursday in Spanish; 6pm Saturday in Spanish
10:30am Sunday in English & Kirundi
Reconciliation: By appointment on Thursday evenings after mass
Saturday 5 to 5:30pm and after mass; Some Sunday afternoons TBA
Adoration: Anytime church is open

**During the Holy Year there will be opportunities for Exposition and Sacrament of the Sick TBA
*Pilgrims are encouraged to add petitions to our Book of Prayers for the Faithful, add names to our Book of the Faithful Departed and place petitions in our prayer wall (in our parking lot)
Pilgrims can also bring can goods for our food pantry



TIRED OF ALL THE SHOUTING & INSULTS?

Civilize It is a non-partisan movement.

Civilize It is a call for all of us to
 help change the tone,
 follow our faith,
 quiet the quarrels this election season.

Civilize It is about
 making room in your heart &
 speaking peacefully with those with whom you disagree.

We've all experienced it
 A Facebook post, a family dinner, a water cooler conversation
 that suddenly turns political with opposing viewpoints.
 You might get angry. You may go silent.

Imagine what would happen if
 aggressiveness were transformed into openness &
 confrontation were turned into thoughtful conversations.

Join the movement! www.CivilizeIt.us

A mother is not a person to lean upon,
 but a person to make leaning unnecessary. — Dorothy Canfield



JAKE'S JABS & JABBER



It's my birthday month. Typically, New Years and Birthdays mean it's time for a makeover and new resolutions! I'm starting with a new 'do—shorter facial hair and an eyebrow trim. No more unibrow for this guy! My official birthday? ...May 24 since that's when my master made the adoption official! It was Memorial Day Weekend, last year, 2015.

I've learned so much this past year in my new home. The big thing: second chances give us all another opportunity for a new life full of friendships, surrogate families, and love. Practically everyone here has been "adopted". There are folks displaced from warring factions, immigrants fleeing for their lives and from persecution, former criminals and addicts, and poverty-stricken and jobless U.S.-born persons who are now part of the St. Leo family. There are also folks who have adopted *us*, sharing their time, talent, and kindness. We consider everyone family. Because, let's face it, we're all part of this one big world. You and me, me and you, you and you and you. There's a book around here. I think you know it. It's pretty thick and it has the letters b-i-b-l-e on the front. On one of the pages, there is something about 'though many, we form one body.' Seems we fit that bill. Second chances only work if there's someone who will stand with you and join you for that second chance, being a support beam and becoming one dynamic force. See why ending up in this crazy place glad to have been rescued and adopted is the bestest birthday gift ever?!

JOKES, JOLLIES, and JOTABLES

- *Which books are the hardest to force yourself to read through? Friction books.
- *What happens when electrons lose their energy? They get Bohr'ed.

Arfin' is Awesome;
Yippin's so Yuckie! - Jake



Hard at work on my monthly newsletter article. What a tough job typing with only 4 fingers on each paw!



Me and a member of my new family. Every week she comes to the sewing class and always leaves me in stitches!

CLANCY'S ANSWERS from Page 3

1. What Elvis sang at animal shelter?
You Ain't Nothin' But a Pound Dog!
2. Old clothes favorite music?
RAGtime!
3. How to find a screeching rock star?
With a Heavy Metal detector!
4. Music Kentucky landscapers like?
Bluesgrass!
5. Why cat got Pandora app?
She liked all kinds of MEW-sic!
6. Why fish made a good musician?
He knew all his scales!

HUNGER WALK AND 5K RUN

2016 REGISTRATION

Only one entry per form please. (FORM MAY BE COPIED)
 All mail entries must be received by Thursday, May 26, 2016.

Make checks payable to: Freestore Foodbank Hunger Walk
Mail to: Hunger Walk 1141 Central Parkway, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202



REGISTRATION FEES

\$20 = Entry Fee	\$	_____
\$25 = Entry Fee with T-Shirt	\$	_____
Additional Contribution	\$	_____
Total	\$	_____

We only guarantee t-shirts to the first 1,000 registered participants.
 All t-shirts are adult sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL. Preferred T-Shirt Size _____

PARTICIPANT INFO

first name _____ last name _____
 street address _____
 city _____ state _____ zip _____
 daytime phone _____ evening phone _____ email _____
 age as of 5.30.16 _____ gender _____ emergency contact phone _____

Please check one:
 I am **RUNNING** or **WALKING** for this agency:
ST. LEO FOOD PANTRY #297

To identify an agency you'd like to help, please refer to the list of agencies at

cincinnatihungerwalk.org

WAIVER

In consideration of the acceptance of my registration fees and for being permitted to participate in this event, I hereby release, waive and discharge, on my own behalf and on behalf of my heirs, executors and assigns, the Freestore Foodbank, its employees, volunteers, officials, sponsors or affiliated individuals, from any and all claims of any nature, including personal injury, arising from my participation in this event. I also hereby agree to abide by all rules for participation. I further consent to emergency treatment in the event of an injury or illness. I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to consult my physician prior to beginning an exercise program or otherwise engaging in strenuous physical exercise, I also understand the risks for such a run/walk and I am physically able and have trained adequately in preparation.

I hereby give permission for images of myself, captured during the event through video, photo, and digital camera, to be used solely for the purposes of Freestore Foodbank promotional material and publications, and waive any rights of compensation or ownership thereto.

signature _____ date _____

parent or guardian signature (if under age 18) _____

For the safety of all participants, inline skates and pets are not permitted on any part of the route during this event. Thank you for your cooperation.



TOGETHER WE CAN SOLVE HUNGER
 MEMORIAL DAY MAY 30 2016



COURSE SPONSOR



THE BANKS DOWNTOWN CINCINNATI

REGISTER ONLINE
cincinnatihungerwalk.org



FOOD • CONNECTION • HOPE

ST. LEO THE GREAT CHURCH

2573 St. Leo Place At Baltimore Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45225-1960

Non-Profit Org.
U.S.POSTAGE
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Cincinnati, Ohio
Permit No. 3402

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Mass:10:30am; Parish Council	2 Food Pantry open	3 Tutoring 6:30-8pm	4 Food Pantry open	5 Mass 7pm; Adoration 9am-noon & 8-9pm; Burundi women's support group 9:30am	6 Sewing Class 9-12; Food Pantry open; Adoration 6-11pm; AA Meeting 8pm	7 Vigil Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang.class 10-noon
8 MOTHER'S DAY Mass:10:30am	9 Food Pantry open	10 Tutoring 6:30-8pm	11 Food Pantry open	12 Mass 7pm; Adoration 9am-noon & 8-9pm; Burundi women's support group 9:30am	13 Sewing Class 9-12; Food Pantry open; Adoration 6-11pm; AA Meeting 8pm	14 Vigil Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang.class 10-noon
15 Mass:10:30am	16 Food Pantry open	17 Tutoring 6:30-8pm	18 Food Pantry open	19 Mass 7pm; Adoration 9am-noon & 8-9pm Burundi women's support group 9:30am	20 Sewing Class 9-12; Food Pantry open; Adoration 6-11pm; AA Meeting 8pm	21 Vigil Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang.class 10-noon
22 Mass:10:30am	23 Food Pantry open	24 Tutoring 6:30-8pm	25 Food Pantry open	26 Mass 7pm; Adoration 9am-noon & 8-9pm Burundi women's support group 9:30am	27 Sewing Class 9-12; Food Pantry open; Adoration 6-11pm; AA Meeting 8pm	28 Vigil Mass in Spanish 6pm; English as 2 nd lang.class 10-noon
29 Mass:10:30am	30 MEMORIAL DAY Hunger Walk-9am; Food Pantry closed	31				