



*Gratitude for God's Generosity:
News from Saint Eleanor
Tithing the Tithe Committee*

In our third year of St. Eleanor's *Tithing the Tithe* program, fiscal year 2017-2018, the Parish continued to donate 3% of the ordinary Sunday collections to individuals in need and organizations involved with the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy within our local and greater Philadelphia community as well as for missionary works in other lands. Over **\$36,000** was donated to worthy ministries.

Our *Tithing the Tithe* efforts place us in the heart of the Gospel, in the heart of Christian living. To quote Matthew Kelly, "God is by His very nature generous. God wants to convince us of His generosity, and in turn wants us to live generous lives."

By sharing a portion (a "tithe") of our ordinary Sunday collection with those who are in need, with those who fulfill the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy, we are placing our trust in God and hope to grow more passionately as disciples of Jesus, thereby actively and concretely making present the generous love of God in this world.

To keep our parishioners informed about this effort in the last fiscal year, we profile those entities who received support, as approved by our *Tithing the Tithe* Committee. For each of the organizations profiled, you will find contact information, should individual parishioners wish to learn more, volunteer their time, or provide additional financial support to the organization or entity. *All of these donations were made on behalf of our parish family. We are deeply grateful to the generosity of our parish family.*

MOM'S HOUSE ~ \$500 Mom's House located at 145 South Main Street, Phoenixville. Mom's House is a state-licensed daycare operation that provides safe, secure and free childcare for children, aged 3 months to 5 years, of low income, single parents while they are pursuing full time education. In addition, children receive nutritious meals, clothing, diapers and other essentials. While services are free, mothers volunteer their time at the center and are expected to maintain passing grades and attend monthly parenting meetings. Mom's House also offers scholarship opportunities, tutoring, and emergency needs grants. To learn more about this Mom's House or to offer additional financial assistance, visit their website at <https://momshouse-phoenixville.org/giving-to-moms-house>.



BIRTHRIGHT OF POTTSTOWN ~ \$500 Birthright is located on King Street in Pottstown. Birthright provides friendship and support to women facing unplanned pregnancies, including free pregnancy tests, information and resources, as well as referrals for medical, social, legal, financial, and educational assistance. It operates a toll-free help line that is staffed 24 hours every day of the year. All of the services provided by Birthright are free of charge and available to all women, regardless of age, race, religion, marital status, or financial situation. If you would like to learn more about Birthright, volunteer, or to offer additional financial assistance, visit their website at <http://birthright.org/en/landingpage/lp-pottstown>.



ABBEYFEST MINISTRIES ~ \$2,500 AbbeyFest is the premier celebration of family, friends, and contemporary Catholic/Christian music in the greater Philadelphia area, each Fall. In addition to the music, they have exceptional speakers who inspire and encourage attendees to pursue their Catholic faith with passion and purpose. The culmination of AbbeyFest is a large outdoor Mass and solemn evening candlelight Eucharistic procession, Adoration and Benediction. This Catholic family focused event and celebration is held at the Daylesford Abbey, Paoli, PA. For more information about AbbeyFest, or to offer additional financial assistance, visit their website at: <http://www.theabbeyfest.com>.



BLESSED SARNELLI COMMUNITY ~ \$1,000 Blessed Sarnelli Community is an organization founded by the Redemptorists of the Baltimore Providence. It is dedicated to providing for the needs of people who are poor and abandoned in the Kensington area of Philadelphia. Blessed Sarnelli Community serves a homemade hot meal five days a week to their neighbors in the Kensington Community of Philadelphia. Every Wednesday they also offer every guest access to their clothing room, which provides clothing and toiletries. The weekly meals are prepared on site by staff and several volunteers who arrive every day to assist with meal prep and serving. Their monthly expenses to offer these services average \$2,200. "Blessed Sarnelli is an organization dedicated to providing for the needs of people who are poor and abandoned with an emphasis on empowering young adults to share in this commitment through prayer, hospitality and service." They are located at 2739 Kensington Avenue, Philadelphia. You can reach them to learn more, volunteer or donate at 571-314-3428 or kcollins@bscphilly.org.



METANOIA YOUNG ADULTS ~ \$1,000 The Metanoia Young Adults is our local active community of Catholic young adults in Montgomery County. The group supports Catholics in their 20s and 30s who are looking to deepen their faith and meet fellow Catholics in the area. They have a team of leaders with Father Brian Connolly as Spiritual Director. You can learn more, connect with them or support them by visiting their website at: <http://metanoiayoungadults.weebly.com>.

FATHER CHUCK’S CHALLENGE ~ \$5,000 Father Chuck’s Challenge, working with Food for the Poor, is dedicated to building homes and developing villages for families in need located in Nicaragua and Haiti. This vitally alive small local charity is doing heroic work for the desperately poor people in Haiti and Nicaragua. They utilize clear definite plans to “shelter the homeless” by building at no cost new homes and sanitation facilities; to “feed the hungry” providing chickens, fruit trees, seeds; to “give drink to the thirsty” by providing pure water supply. They want their impact to be permanent, fundamental, economical and immediate. Our Saint Eleanor Parish has a long history of involvement with Father Chuck’s Challenge, including donating the funds needed to build a clinic in Nicaragua.

Father Chuck’s Challenge works exclusively through appeals made exclusively to parishes within the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. If you would like more information about this organization, to donate directly or to participate in annual mission trips, please visit their website at <https://www.fatherchuckschallenge.com/> .



LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR ~ \$6,000 Our parish family has been supportive of the Little Sisters of the Poor for a number of years. The Little Sisters of the Poor offer the needy elderly a family-like home where they are welcomed as Christ, cared for as family, and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to Himself. The Sisters have been in Philadelphia for almost 150 years and care for close to 100 elderly men and women at their residence, the **Holy Family Home** on Chester Avenue, Philadelphia. Through a long tradition, the Little Sisters of the Poor rely predominately on the generosity of benefactors to meet the ongoing daily and long-term needs related to their ministry for the elderly poor. Among their many activities to offset operating expenses, they operate a ‘begging van’ in Philadelphia, visiting local markets and businesses to seek food and commodities. If you are interested in learning more about this religious order or volunteering, please visit <http://www.littlesistersofthepoorphiladelphia.org>. If you wish to provide additional financial support, donations can be made directly through their website or can be mailed to the Holy Family Home, 5300 Chester Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19143. May God bless the Little Sisters, their residents and their work!



SISTERS OF LIFE ~ \$1,000 The Sisters of Life is a contemplative, active religious community of women founded in 1991 by John Cardinal O’Connor. In addition to vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, the Sisters are consecrated under a vow to protect and enhance the sacredness of human life. The Sisters assist pregnant women in need with practical assistance and the opportunity to live in one of their convents; in addition, the Sisters sponsor retreats, educational opportunities, seminars and weekend programs that are centered on the Eucharist and drawn from the teachings of the Church, including retreats for individuals who have suffered abortion. The Sisters of Life operate mission centers in New York, Connecticut and Denver, Toronto and *now in North Philadelphia* to serve women who are pregnant and vulnerable to abortion. If you would like to learn more about this religious community, their programs or provide additional support, please visit their website at <http://www.sistersoflife.org>



A BABY’S BREATH ~ \$5,000 A Baby’s Breath, Collegeville offers free counseling, prenatal and parenting classes, resumé assistance and an incentive program to provide baby supplies to mothers and their families in the community since 2005. They also provide free ultrasound services to women in a crisis pregnancy. They are in need of additional volunteers to work one-on-one with their clients. If you would like to learn more about A Baby’s Breath, their work, or to volunteer your help, and/or to offer additional financial assistance directly, visit them at www.ababysbreath.org .

SAINT JOHN'S HOSPICE ~ \$1,000 As many know, Saint John's Hospice is a Catholic Social Services shelter for men in center city Philadelphia, established in 1963. It is an outreach ministry to serve and assist poor and homeless men in the community. Saint John's continues to provide crucial, life-sustaining services with dignity, respect and compassion. Some of our parishioners participate in their casserole program. To learn more about Saint John's, to volunteer and/or to donate directly you can reach Saint John's at <http://saintjohnshospice.org> or 215-563-7763.



TRINITY MISSIONS ~ \$5,000 This donation was to support the work and efforts of two Trinity Missions priests in Savane Perdu, Haiti (northeast section near the Dominican Republic). The needs and the poverty in Haiti are extreme. Father Frank Conkle, S.T., one of the priests working in Haiti, has family living here in Saint Eleanor parish. To learn more about this missionary group and their work or to donate directly you can reach them at www.trinitymissions.org or 888-248-8577.



SAINT EDMUND'S HOME ~ \$1,900 Saint Edmund's Home is where the skilled professional staff provide an exceptional holistic outcome oriented plan of care for children diagnosed with severe and profound disabilities, who are also very medically fragile, needing 24-hour nursing care. They offer a broad spectrum of medical/nursing and therapeutic services to assist each child in achieving their greatest potential. You can learn more about their exceptional work or donate directly to assist this beautiful effort at <https://www.stedmondshome.org>.



SUMMER WORK CAMP EXPERIENCE FOR YOUTH GROUP ~ \$1,500 This donation was given to our Youth Ministry in order to help meet the expenses of room/board/transportation costs so that several of our youth participants could engage in a 5-day service and work camp in the Archdiocese of Newark among the poor. Besides working at various sites each day, the youth also experienced daily programming and social events. It was a great experience of helping those in need and helping our youth grow in their faith.



DIOCESE OF SAINT THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS ~ \$5,000 donation was made on behalf of our parish family to assist the Diocese and its people in rebuilding after Hurricane Maria devastated the islands. This was at the same time we took a second collection up to assist Puerto Rico who also suffered tremendously from that same hurricane.



It's our way of living the Gospel a bit more fully, and of living in gratitude, generously sharing God's blessings with others.