



# Year of Mercy

*Learn, Experience, Share*

## Divine Mercy Sunday

April 9-10, 2016

### Parish Ministries Extend Activities to Celebrate Year of Mercy

As part of our parish celebration of the Year of Mercy, various ministries are focusing on the Works of Mercy and enhancing their ongoing activities. We will feature their stories throughout the year.

### Giving Tree Ministry: Christmas at Easter



For the past few years the parish Giving Tree Ministry has provided Christmas gifts to needy families in Collinsville through the generous donations of parishioners who select tags from the tree the purchase and wrap gifts. Headed by Debbie Sanders, the ministry extended this act of mercy to the Easter Season. Parishioners selected eggs in an Easter basket and purchased items or donated

money for a special Easter basket for 10 families. "All the families were very excited and surprised. It seemed like they were even more so than at Christmas," says Debbie. "I guess it was because it was unexpected. I delivered one of the baskets on Sunday and the entire family came out to greet us. They were so thankful.

"Our Parishioners seemed to really like this project," said Debbie. "I received many positive comments over the last few weeks. I continue to be overwhelmed by the generosity of our Parish." The

ministry was able to collect \$180 plus all of the cleaning supplies, toiletry items and Easter candy and small Easter items. In addition, it was able to buy 10 Adult Catholic



Bibles, 9 Children Catholic Bibles and 1 Teen Bible and include 10 "Rediscover Jesus" books.

### Make Mercy a Concrete Reality in Your Life

*(Excerpted from a letter from Bishop Paprocki in the Catholic Times)*

We should also remember that the stewardship and discipleship way of life involves our own time and talent, as well as our treasure. Thus, for example, in addition to making charitable donations, we can volunteer our time to help serve meals at a soup kitchen. We can visit the sick who are hospitalized or who are in nursing homes or who are homebound. We "bury the dead" by going to wakes and funerals.



We can also practice the spiritual works of mercy in our daily lives. Parents, for example, can counsel their own children when they express doubts about the faith and instruct them in the Christian way of life. Friends can admonish each other and provide fraternal correction in a charitable manner. All of us can comfort those who are grieving the death of a loved one, forgive those who hurt us, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and dead.

