



St. Matthew Habitat for Humanity Ministry

Prologue:

It is time once again to gear up for the St. Matthew Habitat for Humanity Project. Our parish community will sponsor its 9th Habitat house with construction taking place in the spring of 2011. This is the **first** in a series of articles that will appear in the Sunday bulletin over the next several weeks. These articles are designed to help our parishioners better understand what Habitat for Humanity is all about, provide up-to-date facts, and guide our parishioners in supporting the project.

Chapter One: What is Habitat for Humanity?

Habitat for Humanity is an ecumenical, Christian organization working in partnership with God's people in need to build simple, decent, affordable, energy efficient homes without profit or interest. It was established in 1976 by Millard Fuller and is now an international organization dedicated to eliminating poverty housing. Habitat for Humanity International is headquartered in Americus, Georgia and has more than 1500 affiliates in the United States. San Antonio is the home of the first affiliate. Habitat homes are built in more than 90 countries.

Since 1976, Habitat for Humanity volunteers have built more than 350,000 homes worldwide thus providing affordable and decent shelter for more than 1.75 million individuals. By the end of 2010, 682 of these homes will have been built here in San Antonio. These homes are 2 – 4 bedroom houses located in various parts of our city. The fall of 2005 saw the beginning of Habitat's largest community to date, the Palo Alto Community, where approximately 300 Habitat homes will be built over the course of five years. St. Matthew sponsored its 8th Habitat house located at 3635 Twining in the spring of 2010 and over 400 of our parishioners went out to help build the home for the Molina family.

The first and most important step in sponsoring any Habitat house is prayer. The bible verse that will guide our efforts again this year is from James 2:18, "I will show you my faith by what I do." Please pray for success of our St. Matthew 2010 - 11 Habitat for Humanity Ministry. For more information, contact Susan McClure at 341-9623. God bless. (To be continued next week...)

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making it easier to give

- ❖ Convenient method of making your offertory gift
- ❖ No more "last minute" check writing during mass
- ❖ Automatic, **monthly** contributions deducted from your choice of the following:
 - Checking, Savings
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- ❖ Flexibility to choose your monthly offertory + gifts to specific causes
- ❖ Tax purposes: automatic tracking of your contributions
- ❖ Your offertory gifts are made from a secure site
- ❖ Helps St. Matthew reduce paper
- ❖ Easy to set-up new account

Setting up a new account

- Go to parishpay.com (takes you to secure site)
- Top left: choose "start giving now"
- Type "St. Matthew" under "search by name of church"
- *** choose St. Matthew – San Antonio ***
- choose the **MONTHLY** amount for your regular offertory
(if your used to gifting weekly..... multiply weekly gift by 4.3)
(4.3 = 52 weeks divided 12 months)
- enter your info (create your secure username / password)
- enter bank account / cc info
- **once the account is established, it's easy to make changes**

Your MONTHLY contribution will be debited on the 5th of every month
(please set-up new accounts by the 4th)

Questions / Comments: please call Mike Finger, St. Matthew Financial Mgr.
phone 478-5015 Feedback via email: mike@stmatts.org

PILGRIMAGE

San Juan Del Valle Pilgrimage is planning a trip to the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle & St. Jude Catholic Church September 25, 2010; the cost is \$40.00 per person, this will be a healing mass. We will be leaving at 7:00 am from St. Matthew's Catholic Church, 10703 Wurzbach Rd. and returning the same day.

For reservations you may contact:

Brenda Kahlig 313-1875 Sylvia Garcia 492-9607



OASIS

Would you like to make a difference in the life of a child who is struggling to read?

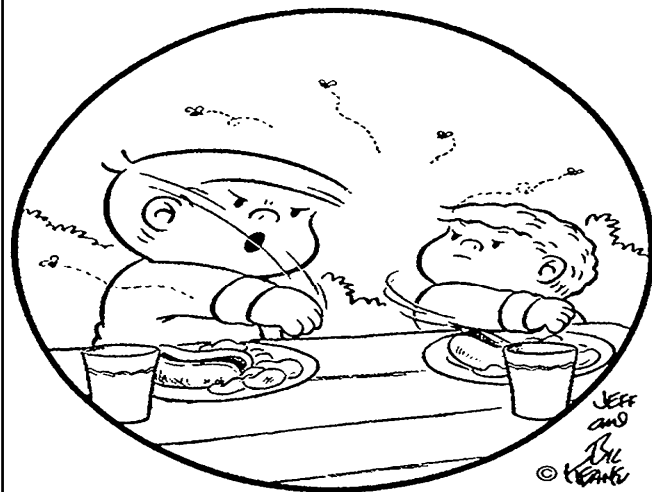
San Antonio OASIS is seeking adults 50 and over to share one hour a week during the school day with a child in grades 1,2,and 3 to improve reading skills and build self-improvement. San Antonio OASIS, is a national non-profit volunteer organization.

Tutor Training classes are Sep 1 and 2, from 10:15 am to 4:15 pm at our Center inside Macy's Furniture Store, 6161 NW Loop 410. No prior experience is necessary.

Your one hour can increase success in these "at risk" children. You may tutor at an elementary school near you.

Call Gloria Jennings, Tutor Program Coordinator, 256-2335 to register or for more information. You'll be glad you did!

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"God did a pretty good job of creatin' everything, but he sure messed up with flies!"

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane



*It takes a great soul to
be a true friend. One
must forgive much,
forget much,
forbear much.*

—Anna Robertson Brown

THE MEANING OF STEWARDSHIP

The Bible uses the words "steward" or stewardship" some 22 times. What do the words mean? A steward is one who has been entrusted to exercise care of another's property or goods or business.

Why does the Bible find stewardship important?

First of all, the Bible insists that God is the owner of this entire earth and all that exists on earth. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein," the psalmist wrote. (Ps. 24:1)

Secondly, since God is sovereign over all who dwell on earth, we are all responsible to God as to how we manage what God has given us. Just as the rich man in Jesus' parable said to his steward, "Turn in the account of your stewardship ..." (Luke 16: 1ff. so, too, God expects us to be faithful stewards of the totality of life.

Thirdly, stewardship relates to everything we have: our bodies, our minds, our talents, our family, our possessions, our finances. Mother Earth and "the fullness thereof." Nothing or no one is outside the realm of God's creation. And you and I are responsible for the care of everything and everyone.

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