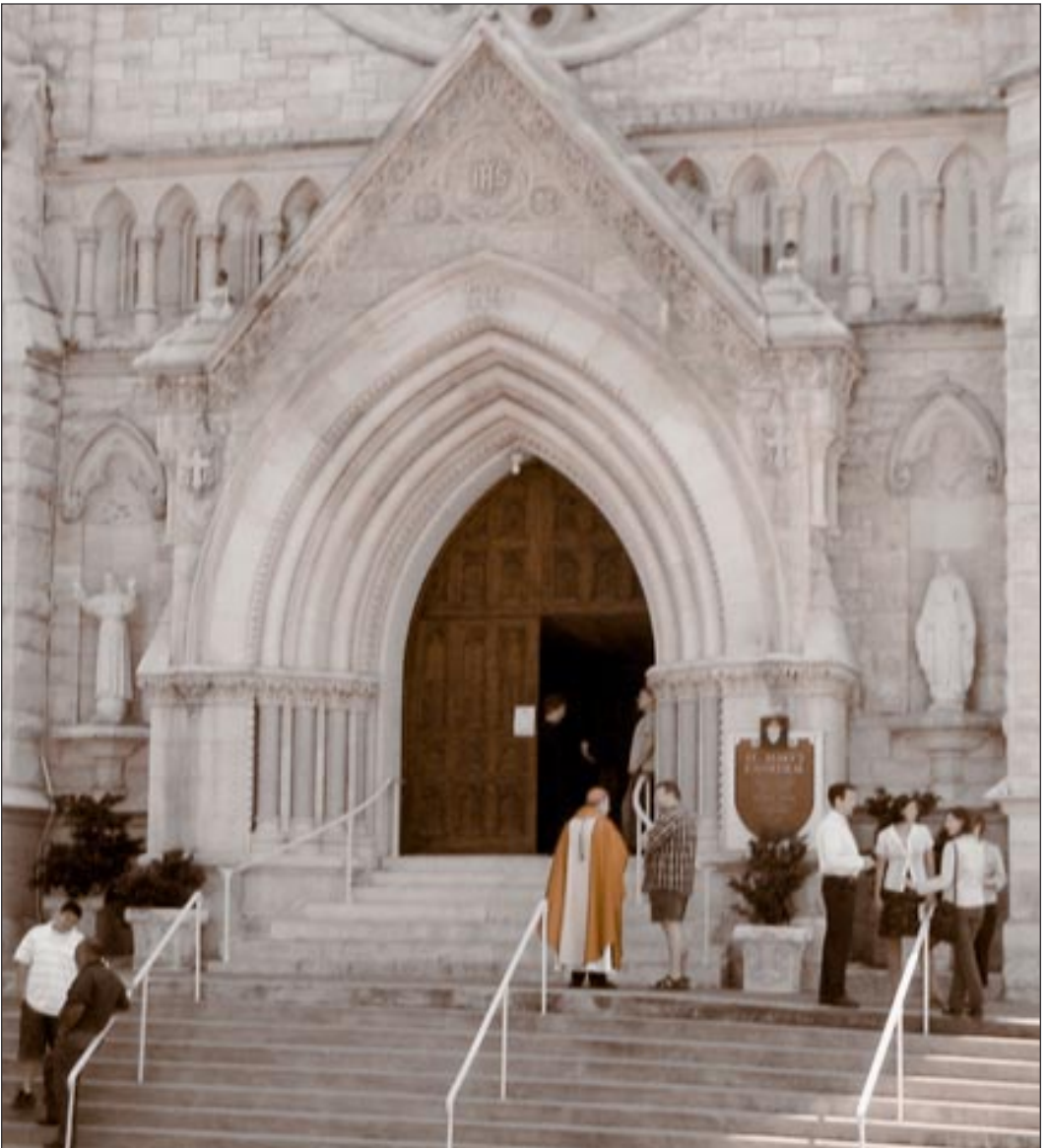

SOMETHING FOR MARY

Sharing Our Gifts of Faith

—A GUIDE TO THE MINISTRIES AT ST. MARY CATHEDRAL—



ST. MARY CATHEDRAL, 203 E. 10th Street, Austin, TX 78701 (512) 476-6182

AIDS Ministry

"...I was sick and you took care of me." (MATT. 25:36)

The AIDS Ministry provides education programs, financial assistance and caregiving to families living with AIDS or other life-threatening diseases. Ministers receive training for caregiving through Interfaith Care Alliance or Project Transitions. They also sponsor fundraising activities to provide financial assistance.

MEETINGS: Monthly

STRENGTHS/ABILITIES NEEDED: A compassionate and non-judgmental attitude and a desire to minister to patients and their families.

Altar Servers

"Worship the Lord and do all that He commands. Love Him, serve Him with all your heart." (DEUT. 10:12)

Altar Servers play a vital role in the liturgical life of the Cathedral. In addition to assisting during Holy Mass and other liturgical services, altar servers assist the priest to prepare the altar for the liturgy. Altar Servers edify the congregation who look to them for the proper disposition while participating in the Mass.

MEETINGS: No formal meetings. Training sessions are held in the evening at the Cathedral one or two times a year, or as needed.

STRENGTHS/ABILITIES NEEDED: To be able to perform liturgical duties attentively and devoutly in body, mind, and spirit.

Altar Society

"Lord, I love the beauty of your house—the tenting place of Your glory." (PSALM 26: 8)

The Altar Society cleans the sanctuary and sacrists out of love for the Cathedral and a desire to keep it inviting for all who visit.

MEETINGS: 8:30 a.m. on first Saturdays and 1 p.m. on third Saturdays—all other Saturdays to be determined. There are four teams who serve one weekend a month.

STRENGTHS/ABILITIES NEEDED: Working hands, a willing spirit and a prayerful heart.

Beautification Committee

"How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts" (PSALM 84:1)

The Beautification Committee serves to preserve the historical character and sacred beauty of our beloved Cathedral. The committee meets to discuss aesthetic concerns regarding the exterior grounds of the

Cathedral, Bishops Hall, and Cathedral school. The committee prepares a written report with photographs, surveys, and notations of the existing conditions together with recommendations to the Rector and Pastoral Council.

MEETINGS: Once a month, or as needed on Monday, 6:30 p.m. in the Bishops Hall

STRENGTHS/ABILITIES NEEDED: A willingness to serve and to listen to others.

Christian Faith Formation

"Prepare ye the way of the Lord. Make a straight path for him to travel...all mankind will see God's salvation!" (LUKE 3: 4,6)

St. Mary Cathedral believes that religious education is formation in Christ, given to make "faith become living, conscious, and active, through the light of instruction." (National Catechetical directory for Catholics of the United State-NCD) Religious education is proclaiming to others the Gospel of the Risen Lord, while showing that this "Good News" gives meaning to life.

MEETINGS: Religious education classes are held on Sunday mornings.

STRENGTHS/ABILITIES NEEDED: volunteers are needed in a variety of activities.

Egg Ministry

"Each one, as a good manager of God's gifts, must use for the good of others the special gift he has received from God." (1 PETER 4:10)

The members of the Egg Ministry provide hard-boiled eggs and other foods to Austin's homeless and day laborers.

MEETINGS: No formal meetings. Ministers distribute food at the corner of 7th Street and Red River in front of Bunkhaus Shelter every Wednesday at 7 a.m.

STRENGTHS/ABILITIES NEEDED: a desire to help the less fortunate, a non-judgmental attitude and an ability to rise early in the morning.

Eucharistic Ministry

"... then Jesus took a piece of bread, gave thanks to God, broke it, and gave it to His apostles, saying, "this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in memory of Me." (LUKE 14:11)

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion assist priests by distributing Holy Communion during Mass. They are instructed in the history and sacred significance for the Holy Eucharist as well as the proper manner of the distribution of



Holy Communion.

MEETINGS: No formal meetings. Training sessions are scheduled during the year.

STRENGTHS/ABILITIES NEEDED: Practicing Catholic who has received the required sacraments and devotion for the reverence of the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist.

Evangelization Committee

“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations...” (MATT. 28:19)

The Evangelization Committee initiates and completes evangelization projects under the direction of the Rector and strives to share our Catholic faith and the gospel through active participation within and outside the parish. This ministry serves parish members, traveling visitors, weekday downtown workers, and the general public.

MEETINGS: First Tuesdays, every third month, 7 p.m. in the Bishops Hall

STRENGTHS/ABILITIES NEEDED: Desire to share the Catholic faith openly with others.

Gabriel Project

“Rejoice! God has found favor with you. The Lord is with you... do not be afraid.” (LUKE 1:26)

The Gabriel Project ministry helps pregnant women in crisis by befriending each woman and pairing her with “an angel”.

MEETINGS: Second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in an announced location

STRENGTHS/ABILITIES NEEDED: Volunteers as trained angels.

Girl Scouts

“On my honor I will try to serve God and my country, to help people at all times and to live by the Girl Scout law.” (THE GIRL SCOUT PROMISE)

Programs provide a strong, solid foundation upon which girls, ages 5-17 of all races, cultures, and religious groups can build the future. This is accomplished by belonging to troops and special interest groups in activities that focus on fun, friendship, while affirming the gifts that young girls have to offer.

MEETINGS: Troop meetings vary by troop. Traditionally troops meet for Annual Lock-In and Girl Scout Sunday.

STRENGTHS/ABILITIES NEEDED: Adult volunteers for troop leadership. Wanting to serve as role model and willingness to share interest and skills.

Interfaith Hospitality Network

“...for everyone who tries to honor himself shall be humbled... and he who humbles himself shall be honored.” (LUKE 14:11)

The Interfaith Hospitality Network serves families who are in transition. Ministers team with Central Presbyterian Church to shop for food, prepare a hot meal and host families.

MEETINGS: No formal meetings. There is a rotation every three months.

STRENGTHS/ABILITIES NEEDED: Cooking, caring, activity planner.

Jail and Prison Ministry

“I was...in prison and you came to see Me...In so far as you did it to the least of these, my brothers (and sisters), you did it to Me.” (MATT.25: 36,40)

St. Mary's Jail and Prison Ministry serves inmates in prison. Ministers attend the Sunday night Catholic services at Travis county Correctional Complex in Del Valle. They provide music, sing, maintain the altar and assist the priest or deacon. Ministers also lead praying the rosary on Tuesday nights.

MEETINGS: Second Tuesday of every other month at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 4 p.m.

STRENGTHS/ABILITIES NEEDED: Musicians, singers, bilingual volunteers who want to share Christ's love with inmates.

Landscape Ministry

“The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.” (ISAIAH 35:1)

The Landscape Ministry maintains the landscaping and flowerbeds by watering and feeding the flowers, trimming the shrubs and weeding the beds.

MEETINGS: Saturdays at 8 a.m. and as required on the Cathedral property.

STRENGTHS/ABILITIES NEEDED: An appreciation of the beauty of St. Mary's gardens and enjoy being outdoors.

Legion of Mary

"Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" (LUKE 1: 42 - 43)

The primary work of the Legion of Mary are the Spiritual Works of Mercy—visiting the sick, bringing Holy Communion to the homebound, visiting prisoners in jail, bringing lapsed Catholics back to the church, and promoting Catholic religious education.

MEETINGS: Every Thursday at 7 p.m. in the school library.

STRENGTHS/ABILITIES NEEDED: A caring attitude and willingness to serve others spiritually with the same love that Mary has in serving her son, our Lord.

Los Amigos

"All of you are Christ's body and each one is a part of it." (1 COR. 12:27)

Los Amigos serves the Hispanic community of the Cathedral by serving during the Spanish Mass, providing religious education and Baptismal classes in Spanish and serving breakfast to raise funds for Hispanic activities including celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

MEETINGS: Every three months, second Wednesday, 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Donahue Center. There are also meetings before Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration.

STRENGTHS/ABILITIES NEEDED: Spanish-speaking religious education teachers, cooking simple foods, liturgical ministers for the Spanish Mass.

Mary's Hands

"Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you." (MATT. 7:7)

The ministry of Mary's Hands offers support to

persons returning home from the hospital, are currently ill, homebound, or for whatever reason need assistance with physical mobility, daily living tasks, transportation, or spiritual comfort.

MEETINGS: no formal meetings.

STRENGTHS/ABILITIES NEEDED: Time, willingness, compassion, and patience to drive, to prepare a meal, to shop, to clean, and/or to pray.



Music Ministry/Schola Cantorum

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord." (PSALMS)

"He who sings well, prays twice." (ST. FRANCIS)

The Schola Cantorum serves the Lord, His church, and His people by leading the Cathedral congregation in praise and song and by creating a meditative atmosphere. Ministers serve as music ministers during the Sunday noon Mass and all major feast days.

MEETINGS: Every Wednesday, 5:45-7:45 p.m. in the Bishops Hall

STRENGTHS/ABILITIES NEEDED: Tenors, altos, basses, and sopranos.

Respect Life

"...that they all may have life." (JOHN 10:10)

The Respect Life ministry works to instill respect for human life at all stages of existence and to bring about a conversion of hearts and minds for all to be open to God's special gift. The Office of Respect Life offers programs and activities in the following four areas: pastoral,

spiritual educational, and advocacy.

MEETINGS: To be announced.

STRENGTHS/ABILITIES NEEDED: Dedication to the dignity of every human individual.

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

"Jesus said, 'I am the Light of the world, whoever follows Me will have the light of life and never walk in darkness.'" (John 8:12)

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the process by which people become members of the Roman Catholic Church. In this process, persons who have heard the message of the Gospel and the mystery of Christ, "...consciously and freely seek the living God and enter the way of faith and conversion as the Holy Spirit opens their hearts." RCIA is not a program, but a process that assists people to hear and respond to the movement of God's grace in their lives.

MEETINGS: Monday evenings from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in an announced location.

STRENGTHS/ABILITIES NEEDED: sponsors of candidates

The Cathedral School Parent/Teacher Club

"Pour out your heart like water in the presence of the Lord. Lift up your hands to him for the lives of your children." (LAMENTATIONS 2:19)

The Cathedral School Parent/Teacher Club supports the school in its educational mission, contributes assistance with fundraising activities, and arranges social activities for families. The purpose of this ministry is to enrich the school by developing and supporting education, religious and cultural programs that will enhance the students educational experiences.

MEETINGS: third Wednesday of each month, 5:30 p.m. in the Donahue Center.



St. Vincent de Paul Society

“He has come to the help of His people and has set them free.” (LUKE 1: 68)

The St. Vincent de Paul members serve the poor of Austin by listening and assisting in their spiritual needs as well as offering financial and food assistance.

MEETINGS: First Thurs. of each month at 7 p.m. and 3rd Saturday of each month at 10 a.m.

STRENGTHS/ABILITIES NEEDED: Desire to serve the poor with a non-judgmental attitude.

Senior Adult Ministers (SAM)

“Lord, give success to the work of our hands.”

The Senior Adult Ministry membership includes parishioners age 50 and better, and provides both social and service projects. There are no meetings and no dues. Social events of the ministry consist of seven luncheons, on the third Saturday of the month as well as a bi-annual bus tour. Service projects of the ministry consist of four taco and bake sale breakfasts on the first Sunday of the month, and an annual silent auction. All proceeds from these service projects are returned to the parish for needed items.

STRENGTHS/ABILITIES NEEDED: To share knowledge, experience and enthusiasm and to remain active in service to the Lord and Cathedral parish community.

Taize Ecumenical Prayer/Music Ministry

“...that they may be one.” (JOHN 17: 20-23)

This ministry hosts occasional prayer services for Christian unity which include music from Taize.

MEETINGS: Prayer services are held in the Cathedral. Practices are held at members' homes.

STRENGTHS/ABILITIES NEEDED: singers, musicians, greeters, persons to help set up and take down

Young Professionals Singles Group

“The Spirit’s presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.” (1 COR. 12:7)

The mission of St. Mary Cathedral Young Professional Singles Group is to reach out to single adults within the St. Mary Cathedral parish and provide fellowship as well as the opportunity to grow spiritually and personally as a single adult.

MEETINGS: Bi-weekly at various locations throughout the Austin area.

St. Mary Cathedral
203 E. 10th Street
Austin, TX 78701

Youth Ministry

“God’s Spirit joins himself to our spirits to declare that we are God’s children.” (ROM.8:16)

The Youth Ministry presents topics that matter to teens—teen pregnancy, drug/alcohol abuse and violence. Ministers offer experiences that involve responsible participation in the life and mission of the Catholic faith community. This ministry serves young people between the ages of 13-19 years.

MEETINGS: Bi-monthly on Sunday

STRENGTHS/ABILITIES NEEDED: Strong personal faith, love of young people and a desire to work with teenagers.



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