

PPC Social Justice Committee

By Ray Jones

I wanted to personally thank the parishioners who generously donate food to the Food Bank. Notre Dame is responsible for a specific food item each month: **April-soup, May-sugar, and June-oatmeal/cereal**. Please check the bulletin for the food item. Items are due the second Sunday for each month. There is a major social justice issue that will affect every American Catholic and it **WILL** be in this so-called healthcare reform. I am referring to taxpayer-funded abortions. As Catholics we need to be informed about this issue, get the facts, then contact your representatives and let them know where you stand on this issue. The local Habitat for Humanity needs our support; they can be reached at **638-3838** or on the web www.greenecountyhfh.com.

Relay For Life of Greene County

By Tom DuBois

One person dies from cancer every single minute of every single day!

Six of the ten states with the highest mortality rates from cancer are in the Mid-South (Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi). Tennessee has the sixth highest mortality rate in the United States. Unfortunately, Greene County is among the highest mortality rates in the state of Tennessee. The high mortality rates are directly related to individuals living without insurance or having inadequate insurance, not understanding or following through with early detection and prevention, not being able to get to treatments, or not being able to get medications when they are diagnosed. This disparity is not a world away; it is our neighbors and friends.

The American Cancer Society is working to eliminate these disparities through education, research, service, and advocacy. In 2008, \$268 million was spent for patient support and \$189 million for cancer prevention and education. In addition, \$156 million was spent for research and another \$142 million for detection and treatment. The majority of this funding was raised through Relay for Life events around the world. Locally, programs and services such as Reach To Recovery; Look Good, Feel Better; and Camp Horizon, the Hope Lodge are available to cancer patients along with many forms of educational materials provided to hospitals, doctors, businesses, and schools.

We have all heard the call to participate in charitable activities within our communities. The Relay for Life of Greene County and the team at Notre Dame can use your time and talents to help the American Cancer Society in their mission to create a world with *LESS CANCER* and more birthdays. Go to www.RelayForLife.org/greennetn or call Tom DuBois @ 423-278-8831 to learn more.

Upcoming Relay For Life Events are Grillin' For a Cure, April 17 (GMS); Relay Road Block, May 1; Spaghetti Fest & Auction, May 26 (Notre Dame); Rockin' For a Cure Concert, May 29 (NPAC); and Relay For Life, June 18-19 (GMS Track).

Immaculate Conception de Roseaux, Haiti, Our Sister Parish

By Alicia Singleton

I hope you have taken the time to look at the pictures Fr. John took on his early December trip to join Fr. Alexis in their Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Isn't it encouraging to see evidence of the responsible spending of the money we at NDCC have sent? They now have a toilet at the school and one at the church! He also witnessed footings being dug for the foundation for the two classrooms!

We have asked for high school students there, who know English, to write the parishioners of NDCC. When we receive them, we will definitely share with all of you. We believe Fr. John's visits are building rapport and communication with the people of de Roseaux. If you are interested in traveling there in the future, please let us know.

As you know, only weeks after Fr. John visited, an earthquake devastated the city of Port au Prince. An influx of misplaced families in the next few months will most definitely impact our sister parish, which is about 200 miles from Port au Prince.

As they live the challenge, their needs will most certainly grow. Remember that only what we, the parishioners, designate specifically for Immaculate Conception will be sent. Let us not forget this community as they carry this cross! Let us be generous both in our offerings of money and also our involvement. It occurs to me that we do not have to wait for the quarterly collection!

First Friday's Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

By Lou Marrone

Promise #12 made by Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque on our behalf: *"I promise thee in the excess of the mercy of My Heart, that its all-powerful Love will grant to all those who shall receive Communion on the First Friday of Nine consecutive months the grace of final repentance; they shall not die under My displeasure, nor without receiving the Sacraments; My Heart shall be their assured refuge at that last hour."*