

Come, All Ye Who Hunger



The Cup Overfloweths—or rather the pantry! Every year the number of clients we serve in the Food Pantry inches up. In January of 2006 when we started tallying numbers, we served 563 people; in January of this year we served 1,269 clients—more than double the people we served 9 years ago.

With this supply and demand, it raised the questions, “...where do we store the food? ...can we fit another freezer in here? ...where do the 20+ people waiting in line sit? ...how can we best provide service while giving individual attention in the most efficient way possible?”

Shortly after the February newsletter went to press, confirmation came that a long, sought-after move for the Food Pantry will truly become a reality! St. Leo Food Pantry and Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio have been collaborating on bringing about an Expanded Services Choice Food Pantry for over a year. Rest assured the Food Pantry will continue to grow and expand, while providing options and additional services on-site. Clients will no longer need to go up and down steep steps—nor will our dedicated volunteers who deliver and haul in the food and product items. We have heard 100% “yays” on that score!



The facility, located caddy-corner to St. Leo where Carll Street dead-ends at Baltimore, was a Kroger grocery store in a former life and had recently been a place of worship. It has not been used regularly for quite some time. Major removal of a stage area, decades-old carpet, and pillars are just a few “projects” being undertaken to prepare for our anticipated move sometime (hopefully!) in April. Thanks to our parishioners and friends of St. Leo for jumping in with crowbars, carpet slicers, and lots of muscle!

We have growing pains, of course, and lots of work on the horizon.

But, as spring brings forth new life, so it shall be for the St. Leo Food Pantry!

- Stephanie Sepate

