

SOCIAL AWARENESS & JUSTICE MINISTRIES

Prison Ministry

Local Immersion

Dress A Girl
Around the World

Sr. Jose
Women's
Center

Care For
Creation

Mental Health

Casa Alitas

CCST /
Foster Teens

Refugee
Ministry

Snack Pack Program

Troubled Youth

Casa Maria Kitchen



SAJM MINISTRY DIRECTORY

SOCIAL AWARENESS & JUSTICE MINISTRIES

Caring Feeding and Clothing Encouraging

CARE FOR CREATION



CASA MARIA FOOD KITCHEN



CHRIST CHILD / FOSTER TEENS



CASA ALITAS



DRESS A GIRL
AROUND THE WORLD



MENTAL HEALTH



LOCAL IMMERSION



SISTER JOSÉ WOMEN'S CENTER



PRISON MINISTRY



REFUGEE



SNACK PACK PROGRAM



TROUBLED YOUTH



Santa Catalina
Catholic Church

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The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society.

As Catholics, we strive to Respect Life and Dignity of the Human person; to defend Human Rights and Responsibilities; to protect Marriage and Family; preference for the Poor and Vulnerable; to safeguard the Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers; to pursue Justice and Peace, and to be Stewards of God's Creation.

--Seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching

Santa Catalina Catholic Church is committed to the social mission of the Church. We dedicate our lives to be the Voice, Hands, and Spirit of Christ, to serve our brothers and sisters in need through these Catholic Social Teaching Principles. We respond to God's call through the Social Awareness and Justice Ministry (SAJM). The ministries of SAJM are centered on encountering the individuals where they are and by walking with them.

At Santa Catalina, we are blessed to have dedicated parishioners who are aware of the needs of others and of the world. By our commitment to the wounded world, we hope others could join us to continue God's call to Love.

Fr. Huy Vu, C.S.s.R.

For with the Lord is Mercy, with Him is plentiful redemption.

Ps. 130:7

TROUBLED YOUTH



This ministry recognizes the great need to reach out to the homeless and vulnerable teens in the area. We are currently attempting to do this in several ways.

Volunteers from the parish travel weekly to Sycamore Canyon Academy in Oracle to mentor and tutor troubled, at risk, and vulnerable boys



ages 13-17 that the staff feels may benefit from more individual attention.

The ministry members also bake cookies for the boys at the Sycamore Academy at Christmas.

The ministry also supports the Youth On Their Own program in Tucson, a non-profit dropout prevention agency that works to empower youth to stay in school by providing guidance and physical assistance. The parish has contributed monetarily and also in the form of collection of new clothing for the boys and girls in the program.

For more information about this ministry, please contact:

[Al Crawford - sajm@santacatalinaparish.org](mailto:sajm@santacatalinaparish.org)

Local Immersion Ministry takes parishioners several times a month to Tucson, to witness first hand our homeless situation and organizations which are trying to make a difference. Specifically, LIM visits Casa Maria Catholic Worker Community, which provides meals and clothing to homeless and poor families, and to Sister Jose Women's Center, which provides meals, shelter, clothing, and counseling for homeless women. Before and after these tours, parishioners are asked to reflect on the following quotes from Mother Teresa:

LOCAL IMMERSION



- "Today it is a very fashionable day to talk about the poor. Unfortunately it is not fashionable to talk with them."
- "I want you to be concerned about your next-door neighbor. Do you know them?"
- "The most terrible poverty is loneliness and the feeling of being unloved."
- "When we touch the sick and the needed, we touch the suffering body of Christ."

For LIM dates, please check the bulletin. For more info, please contact:

[Don Fore - sajm@santacatalinaparish.org](mailto:sajm@santacatalinaparish.org)

REFUGEE



The purpose of the Refugee Ministry is to welcome, embrace, and stand alongside newly arriving refugees and their families to help them navigate their day to day living and integrate into the Tucson community and their new country, USA. These refugees have fled violence, persecution and/ or war in their homeland hoping to find safety for themselves and their families.

The parish has welcomed and supported two refugee families in the past three years. A family of four, from Syria, has integrated well into our community and loves the USA! A family of eleven, from the democratic Republic of Congo, waited 20 years in a refugee camp before finally being welcomed into our community. This family created a great challenge to volunteers who persevered for many months in supporting this family's transitions to their new home. The children are doing well and receiving honors in school. Plus, two of the family members have jobs and much of their success is due to the steadfast support of volunteers.

There are now more than 82 million refugees and displaced people around the world. Tucson is one of the locations for a government Resettlement Agency which handles hundreds of refugees every year. In addition to sponsoring refugee families, the ministry also does many things to welcome refugees to Tucson. Consider joining us when we welcome them as they arrive at the airport with signs, balloons and a warm smile; help Resettlement Agency personnel to set up their apartment before they arrive; donate



needed items; or volunteer in a Resettlement Agency office.

For more information about this ministry, please contact:

Judy Lynch & Judy Ludwig - sajm@santacatalinaparish.org



Welcome to our Parish and to our Ministries

This Directory is provided to you as a source of information about many of the ministries that are supported by the Social Awareness and Justice Ministry (SAJM). You are encouraged to be aware, to engage and to volunteer in our Caring, Feeding and Clothing and Encouraging Ministries.

We provide food and clothing to the homeless and the migrants.

We create educational programs around issues of concern and sensitivity.

We offer support for those who serving their sentences but still want to walk with our forgiving Lord.

Each ministry is led by a parishioner and we invite you to consider joining us. You bring your life experiences to Santa Catalina and we welcome your participation.

Please contact us at: sajm@santacatalinaparish.org for more information. A SAJM member will contact you.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Ida Androwich and Kathie Calbone, SAJM Coordinators

SAJM Mission Statement

Guided by the Holy Spirit and the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching, the Social awareness and Justice Ministry provides educational, advocacy and volunteer opportunities for initiatives and programs that address poverty, oppression, inequality, and other social issues. We work to take appropriate action to help bring about an improvement in these situations.

DRESS A GIRL AROUND THE WORLD



This ministry is part of an international organization that creates beautiful hand-made dresses that go to many areas around the world, including Africa, Puerto Rico, South America. The dresses have a Dress a Girl label on the front and they are told that this gives the appearance that these young girls are being looked after.

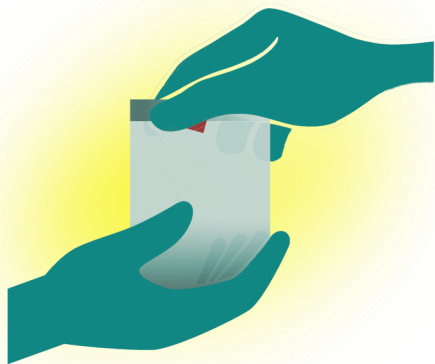
This ministry began eight years ago and gathers together women who like to sew and contribute their talents to provide

dresses to those who have none. A group of 15 to 20 women sew the dresses in their homes, and bring them to the monthly meeting at the church on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from 10-11 a.m. where they receive new fabrics and turn in finished dresses. All who like to sew and socialize are welcome!

For more information about this ministry, please contact:
Geri Conser- sajm@santacatalinaparish.org



SNACK PACK PROGRAM



The purpose of the Snack Pack Program is to provide supplemental food to children who are nutritionally at risk at Catalina's Coronado K-8 School. We participate with the Vista de la Montano Methodist Church in supporting this program. Some of these kids eat lunch only when they are in school as they don't have enough food at home. The Snack Pack program provides healthy nourishment when school is not in session. Each week parishioners volunteer to pack food in individual "Snack Packs" for approximately 60 children. Santa

Catalina Parish also provides the funding for this program through the generous donations of our parishioners during the annual collection.

For more information about this ministry, please contact:
Mariallyn Oczak- sajm@santacatalinaparish.org

CASA MARIA FOOD KITCHEN



The goal of the Casa Maria Catholic Worker Community in Tucson is to practice the Works of Mercy and the Works of Justice. As part of these goals, Casa Maria operates a soup kitchen that is open 363 days/year. Dedicated volunteers from Santa Catalina travel to Casa Maria twice each month to distribute cups of soup and lunches to hundreds of under privileged men, women and children that line up daily for these rations. In addition to the serving of the soup and sack lunches, the parish conducts a monthly food drive to help fill the grocery bags of families in need. Items collected are then delivered by a parish volunteer to the food kitchen for distribution.

Volunteers are very positive about the overall experience as they meet the needs of this vulnerable and needy population. "One feels good about handing out a lunch or serving a bowl of soup as a part of our Catholic values to serve the hungry and the homeless."

Currently we have 2 groups of volunteers that help on the 3rd Wednesday and/or Friday of each month. We leave from Santa Catalina by 7:45am and finish up our tasks by 11 am. For more information about this ministry, please contact:

Al Crawford - sajm@santacatalinaparish.org

Casa Alitas is a program of Catholic Community Services. The program serves migrant families who have left their home countries to escape violence and poverty. Most are parents, children, and pregnant women from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) provides them with documentation and an immigration hearing date and drops the families off at Casa Alitas. Hundreds of travelers arrive at the hospitality center every day.

Casa Alitas provides care, short-term shelter and travel assistance to help to reunite the migrants with family members in the U.S. Volunteers from this ministry assist at the four shelters greeting guests, serving food, providing clean underwear and clothing and many other welcoming and supportive activities. We also organize parish drives for donations of clothing, shoes and school and activity supplies for the children in support of this wonderful Casa Alitas program.

For more information about this ministry, please contact:

Ida Androwich - sajm@santacatalinaparish.org

CASA ALITAS



PRISON MINISTRY



Communion Service is conducted weekly at the prison. Volunteers provide Communion, have a service and say the Rosary with prisoners.

Residents Encounter Christ (REC) is a volunteer opportunity which allows you to enter a prison for all or part of a 3-day retreat. This retreat helps prisoners establish strong Christian relationships during their remaining time in prison and to have a better lifestyle when released. This annual retreat is staffed by a team of volunteers, (many of whom are from Santa Catalina's parish).

Prisoners' testimonies: At the midpoint of the retreat the men were asked to share how the retreat has affected them so far. Some comments:

- Volunteers are very humble people, my pride has gotten in the way, I opened up to them like I have never opened up to anyone in my life before. Now I am back to a relationship with God and my life with Him.
- I never had time for a retreat but had heard about them. I can use my time here to become closer to God and be at peace. I feel at peace now to serve out my time.
- This retreat brought me closer to God. Thank you for sharing such personal but valuable information to know we're not alone.

For more information about this ministry, please contact:

Deb Auclair- sajm@santacatalinaparish.org



Santa Catalina parishioners who participate:

L to R standing: [1] Mark Kvidera, [2] Budge Givler;

Sitting: [3] Deb Auclair, [4] Tom Meyer, [5] Chris Kvidera

SISTER JOSÉ WOMEN'S CENTER



Sister Jose was a Franciscan nun who dedicated her life to helping the poor. A close friend of Dorothy Day and Cesar Chavez, she followed the gospel of St. Francis and was a passionate speaker on the presence of God in the ordinary life. The Sister Jose Women's Center in Tucson is dedicated to the care and nurture of homeless women in a welcoming environment. Her legacy is in the spirit of all those who volunteer there. Visitors to the Center come from the street, from broken homes or abuse. They bring their fears and their fatigue in a search for safety, shelter and self-respect.

At the Center, they are treated with respect and with love. The Center provides hot meals and sack lunches daily. The women can sign up for showers, laundry, or shop at the retail shop (stocked by donations). They can receive guidance by counselors or enroll in the program "Create", a curriculum of life skills and job readiness which helps the women work toward independence, find a job, an apartment, a new life. We celebrate each individual who finds their way back into society.



Members of our ministry and parish volunteer at Sr. Jose in the kitchen, the reception desk or the retail shop. Others provide opportunities to do basic art, bead work, puzzles etc.

If you are interested in living the motto of the Center "Sisters Helping Sisters", contact the Center directly by email at volunteercoordinator@srjose.com.

For more information on this ministry, please contact

Sally Sample sajm@santacatalinaparish.org

Our ministry also coordinates an annual fundraiser working with the Center's staff to plan, develop and organize this event. Volunteers are needed to seek auction items within the community, as well as, to help organize the event. For more information on the annual benefit, please contact

JoAnn Weston- sajm@santacatalinaparish.org

CHRIST CHILD / FOSTER TEENS



The *Christ Child Society of Tucson* is a non-profit association of volunteers whose mission is service to God's children in need, regardless of race or creed. We are one of 45 chapters of the National Christ Child Society which has a presence in 22 states with over 5,600 nationwide volunteers.

Working with various community partners, we provide layettes a.k.a. "baby shower in a bag" for mothers of

newborns filled with diapers, clothing, blankets and toys. We read and provide books to elementary school children and provide foster teens with their basic hygiene needs after they are displaced from their homes.

Through donations and talented quilters, we help over 300 moms of newborns each year.



The Christ Child Society of Tucson's *Wings* program supports Aviva Children's Services and Casa de Los Ninos who serve foster children in the Tucson area with their basic needs after they are displaced from their homes. Through parish donations of items for the drawstring bags, we help over 400 teens each year. We collect toiletries and sew and fill drawstring bags so that teenagers who have been removed from

their homes in a crisis situation have basic hygiene items and spiritual support.

In addition to toiletries, undergarments, each teen receives a daily devotional to provide daily inspirational thoughts. For more information about this ministry, please contact/ checkout:

Deb Auclair- sajm@santacatalinaparish.org

Tucson's Chapter website: www.christchildtucson.org

MENTAL HEALTH



The Mental Health Ministry was created to be the voice for the silent, connecting the mind, body and soul embraced through faith, respect, empathy and dignity by removing the stigma about mental health. We believe that people who live with mental illness, like any other illness, are deserving of love, compassion, respect and inclusion. Whether you are experiencing symptoms or have a loved one who is suffering, we are here to let you know, you are not alone.

We offer *Mental Health Focus Sessions* every other month (September - May) to provide education on various topics and put people in touch with resources to help them. We also partner with National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Southern Arizona for classes and support groups for people living with mental illness and their families. Watch the parish bulletin for announcements about upcoming events and articles about mental health.



For more information about this ministry, please contact:
Leslie Fore -
sajm@santacatalinaparish.org

"What kind of world do we want to leave for our children?" asks Pope Francis. Pope Francis's *Laudato Si* has emphasized the growing importance of climate and environmental concerns.

Our mission is to care for our common home while listening to the voices of the poor, youth, indigenous people, and wildlife. We sponsor the Blessing of Pets in October, Earth Day events in April and improving our Memorial Garden to name a few initiatives.

Please join us as we expand our focus to address Pope Francis's concerns.

For more information about this ministry, please contact:
Kathie Calbone or Mary Hojnacki at sajm@santacatalinaparish.org.

CARE FOR CREATION

