

GIVING TREE

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For many years St. Aloysius Parish Social Responsibility Committee has sponsored the Giving Tree during the Advent season. As our focus turns to Christmas and Christmas shopping, the Giving Tree provides a way for parishioners to help those in need. This year over 600 ornaments have been crafted by St. Aloysius parishioners and students for the ministries represented.

Please keep your ornament as a reminder of our parish effort to help those in need. And please use the prayer on the last page of this brochure to pray for those in need this holiday season. On Christmas Eve the lights of the Nativity Scene will be illuminated and Baby Jesus will be placed in the manger, becoming a shining symbol to our community of the Christian love that we celebrate.

Each ornaments is a different symbol that represents a particular ministry or organization. Every ornament is tagged to describe a gift that you may give to help someone in need. Beginning with the 4:30 p.m. mass on Saturday, November 18th you will be invited to select one of these ornaments from baskets located on tables at the side doors of the church:

Ornament	Ministry
*Angel	Prison Fellowship (Children of Prisoners)
*Gingerbread children	Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge Holy Grill Kids
Heart	Joseph Home Residents
Madonna & Child	Women in Crisis Pregnancies
Poinsettia	Myriam's House
Santa Hat	Bishop Ott Shelter
House	Habitat for Humanity
Present	Southern States Scholars and Scholars Laboratory (formerly known as Boys Hope/Girls Hope)
Wreath	Developmental Disabilities
Christmas Tree	St. Vincent de Paul – Sweet Dreams
Cross	Cenikor

*Those who select an **Angel** ornament to provide a gift for the child of a prisoner must return the gift to the church by **Sunday, December 10th** to allow enough time for gifts to reach the children by Christmas.

*Those who select a **Gingerbread Child** ornament to provide a gift for the children served by the Holy Grill must return the gift to the church by **Sunday, December 10th** in order for the gifts to be delivered in time for their Christmas party on December 15th.

All other gifts MUST be returned to the church by the 5:30 p.m. mass on Sunday, December 17th. The UNWRAPPED gifts should be placed in the area designated in the decorated boxes for each specific organization located at the back of the church. PLEASE PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION WHEN YOU RETURN YOUR GIFT THAT YOU PLACE IT IN THE APPROPRIATE BOX FOR YOUR CHOSEN ORGANIZATION. All of the boxes will be removed from the church after the 5:30 p.m. mass so **it is most important that you return your gift by SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17th.**

There will be over 600 ornaments from which to choose this year. They will represent the following eleven groups who need our help:

PRISON FELLOWSHIP (CHILDREN OF PRISONERS)

This program, which is nationwide, is sponsored by Prison Fellowship, an ecumenical program to help prisoners in religious services. The **ANGEL** ornament represents the child of an inmate from a prison. Churches of all denominations are being “angels” to these children. This program was started to bridge a gap between parents in prison and the children at home. Most of the parents write special greetings to their children on their request forms which are then put on their gift tags. Children are also encouraged to write their parents thank-you notes. We provide the paper and the addressed stamped envelopes to the children. Bible stories and ecumenical religious material are provided by Prison Fellowship to be given to the children and their guardians with the gifts churches provide in the name of the inmate. Instructions and a child’s name with his/her wishes will be at our tables at the side doors of the church. **GIFTS MUST BE RETURNED BY SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th.** We ask that you bring your gift UNWRAPPED, but please bring boxes, paper, ribbon and bows since we do need wrapping materials.



INTERFAITH FEDERATION OF GBR HOLY GRILL KIDS

The Holy Grill is an operation of the Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge. Five days a week, meals are served at the BREC Center at the Zion City Cadillac Street gym. Between 300 to 500 hot meals are served monthly, many of these are to small children and, in the summer, to students through high school age. Also, on Mondays through Thursdays, BREC holds tutoring sessions for Pre-K to Middle School children from 3:30 to 5:30 pm.

Their Christmas party will be held on Dec.15th at the Cadillac Street gym; already over (80) eighty children have applied to be remembered with a toy and/or clothing. This may be the only gift some children receive.

To support the Interfaith Federation and the Holy Grill's smallest patrons, choose a **GINGERBREAD CHILD** ornament. Please return your gift **UNWRAPPED with the child's name attached by Sunday, December 10th**. We welcome boxes, paper, gift bags and ribbon since we do need wrapping materials.



JOSEPH HOMES

Joseph Homes is supported by the Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge and provides transitional housing in the form of single dwelling apartments to men recently released from prison. They have recently added more facilities and are now able to accommodate 14 men. Other than \$10 they are given when released, these men are typically without funds, friends or family who care about them. Joseph Homes offers their residents a temporary living situation and guidance as they work towards productive and independent living.

Household items these men would be grateful to receive this year include: TWIN size comforters, towels, alarm clocks, toasters, pots/pans and dishes.

If you would like to contribute to the needs of the Joseph Homes facility, please choose the hand-painted, **HEART** ornament. Please bring your gift unwrapped.



WOMEN IN CRISIS PREGNANCIES

Every year St. Aloysius parishioners are extremely generous in helping women and their families who are experiencing crisis pregnancies. Gifts of baby formula (Enfamil with iron), disposable diapers (size 1-2), packs of infant socks, pacifiers, baby bottles, receiving blankets, baby towels, onesies (newborn), baby lotion, baby shampoo, Desitin, diaper wipes, newborn baby outfits, 3-6 month baby outfits, women's toiletries (cocoa butter cream, body wash, body lotion), women's bathrobes (size large), women's slippers (medium and large).

All items are distributed to clients of the North Baton Rouge Women's Help Center, the Mom and Me Shop at the Pregnancy Problem Center, the Diocesan Sanctuary House (maternity home), and the Woman's New Life Center. Please choose the **MADONNA AND CHILD** ornament for the babies and their moms. Unwrapped gifts please! God Bless You!



MYRIAM'S HOUSE

Myriam's House is a permanent housing program for homeless women with disabilities. St. Vincent de Paul views everyone who comes to us in need as a child of God, and accepts participants from all backgrounds. All funding comes from private donations and grants. It provides housing and services to support women in becoming self-sufficient. According to their needs, these women can remain permanently housed and receive case management, service linkages, counseling and more. Given the opportunity to live in the community with the appropriate supports, these women can be meaningful members of our community.

Items requested this year are: Cleaning supplies (sanitizers, disinfectants, deodorizers, glass cleaners, dusting sprays, laundry detergent, buckets, brooms, mops, **no bleach please**), Kitchen supplies (dishwashing liquid, dishtowels, potholders, cooking utensils, drinkware, cookware, kitchen garbage cans), Bathroom products (shower rods, shower curtains and liners, rugs, hampers, wastebaskets, toilet brushes, plungers), Bedroom supplies (full size comforter sets, full size sheet sets, pillows), Household supplies (irons, full size ironing boards with pads, wall clocks, batteries: size 9-volt, D, AAA, AA, universal tv remotes), Rain gear (umbrellas, coats, ponchos), Paper products (paper towels, napkins, plates, cups, forks), Garbage bags (tall kitchen, wastebasket sizes)

Our ornament is the **POINSETTIA**. We ask that you bring your gift unwrapped.



BISHOP OTT SHELTER

Society of St. Vincent de Paul (Bishop Ott Shelter) is a 26-bed shelter for homeless men established in 1992. Services are geared towards moving homeless men toward independent living on a permanent basis. Services include lodging, three meals, daily shower and laundry, personal hygiene items, health evaluation, prescriptions, clothing, transportation, and counseling. Required counseling is structured to help the homeless find employment, improve their education, and receive substance abuse treatment from an outside source, along with their many other needs. All services offered by the shelter program are free of charge to those served.

Our goal this year is to collect as many of these items as possible:

Undershirts, fleece/plaid shirts, pajamas, underwear, shower shoes/flip flops, jogging suits/sweats (XL-3X), jackets, t-shirts, sweaters/pullover fleece, shoes (casual walking shoes), twin sheets, twin blankets, pillows, bath towels (all sizes), dish towels, rain gear, umbrellas, bus passes, soap, shampoo, deodorant, lotion, brushes/combs, foot powder, toothpaste, razors, shaving cream, hand sanitizer.

The ornament for the Bishop Ott Shelter is the **SANTA HAT**. We ask that you bring your gift unwrapped.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity is a Christian ministry that builds and renovates houses in partnership with the community in order to provide opportunities for families in need to purchase their own homes, build community, and improve their lives. Since 1989 Habitat of Baton Rouge has built approximately 343 homes providing over 1090 Baton Rouge residents with a safe, decent and affordable home to call their own. St. Aloysius has been a longtime and valued supporter having provided some sweat equity toward the construction of many of these homes. St. Aloysius has also generously contributed to this ministry since the beginning of the affiliate.

The ornament for this ministry is the **HOUSE**. Your monetary gift to Habitat for Humanity will help deserving families. **Please send your checks directly to Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge**, 6554 Florida Boulevard, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70806. Please note "St. Aloysius Giving Tree" in the Memo field on your check.



SOUTHERN STATES SCHOLARS AND SCHOLARS LABORATORY (FORMERLY KNOWN AS BOYS HOPE/GIRLS HOPE)

Southern States Scholars and Scholars Laboratory is a human capital development organization that teaches underserved youth how to reach their full potential in life, work and the community. In addition to reading, writing, STEM, respect and responsibility, they offer the scholars experience and exposure in advocacy, policy and programming that promotes well-being, human dignity and equity.

Southern States Scholars is the backbone of a voluntary collaboration of multi-disciplined partner organizations that use the “collective impact model” to realize a shared vision of well-being for our children and adults from the cradle to occupation. The collective impact model is a highly structured set of collaborative efforts to achieve substantial impact on a large scale problem, e.g. promoting participation of under-represented groups in STEM education and occupation. These efforts share five conditions: common agenda, shared measurement, mutually reinforcing activities, continuous communication, and a backbone organization.

Scholars Laboratory is a residential home with non-residential services that help academically capable, motivated but underserved youth reach their full potential. Specifically, it offers tutoring, mentoring, enrichment and scholarships for youth in K5-12, trade school and 2 or 4 year college degree programs.

This year, the Giving Tree will be sharing gifts that teenage boys and girls would enjoy. Some gifts include gift cards, books, art supplies, and games. Our ornament is a **PRESENT**. Please deliver gifts unwrapped.



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

“Developmental Disabilities” is a diagnosis used for a person who needs supports in caring for their home or personal needs, managing money, and/or getting around in the community. This could be a person in the autism spectrum, someone with severe cerebral palsy, or a person with a brain or spinal cord injury. There are many individuals here in Baton Rouge who struggle to live as part of our community. These are adults who live on their own – and children and adults who live with their families. Your support will assist them in staying connected to the community in which they live.

We have included these individuals on the Giving Tree – not because they have disabilities – but because many of them who live well below poverty level need the support of their community, and we as a church community should be the first to reach out. We want to show that we value these individuals and their involvement in our community. We support their moving into our community – which is now their community as well – and we want to reach out and include them in the spirit of Christmas.

Many face extraordinary costs, such as medical supplies or special dietary needs, while living well below poverty level. They often face the challenge of paying rent, utilities, groceries on the sole income of an SSI check that may total \$800 per month. Living on such a tight budget, something like a second set of sheets or a warm night gown, is considered a luxury. Let’s support these individuals by helping them cover the basics of everyday life. Help by contributing blankets, pillows, sheets, bath towels, kitchen towels, hot pot holders, umbrellas, lotion, powder, tooth paste, tooth brushes, soap, shampoo, deodorant, nail file & nail polish, nail polish remover & cotton balls, groceries, dishwashing liquid, clothes detergent, other cleaning supplies... or any of the items listed on the back of each **WREATH** ornament. We ask that you bring your gift unwrapped.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL – SWEET DREAMS

Sweet Dreams is a project of the St. Vincent de Paul Society which benefits the new Bishop Ott Shelter for Women and Children. It opened December 1, 2001. When you choose a **CHRISTMAS TREE** ornament, your donations will help complete the project by providing items the homeless women and children will need when they arrive at the shelter. This year our goal is to collect as many of the following items as possible:

Size Med.-3X Robes, Jogging Suits/Sweats, Gowns, Pajamas, Jackets, Sweater's/Pullover Fleece, Underwear, Slippers, Socks, Shoes (Keds/similar & Walking shoes), Shower Shoes/Flip Flops, Children's Pajamas, Children's Underwear, Baby/Children's Clothing, Baby Lotion, Baby Bottles, Sippy Cups, Pacifiers, Baby Teething Toys, Baby/Children's Soap, Shampoo, Diapers & Wipes, Children's Toothbrushes & Toothpaste, Bibs, Baby Towels, Washcloths, Strollers.

We ask that you bring your gift unwrapped.



CENIKOR

Cenikor is one of America's most successful long-term treatment facilities. There is a Cenikor facility not far from St. Aloysius. Most clients come to Cenikor as indigent men and women and Cenikor provides treatment at no cost. 99% of the residents are from Louisiana and many from the Baton Rouge area. Cenikor is in need of Christmas gifts for their residents. It is important to Cenikor that amidst the work of recovery, they make the holidays as warm and memorable as possible. Cenikor has approximately 200 clients this season that have a need for the following items:

For men: thermal undergarments (sizes M – 4XL), heavy work socks, work gloves, work beanie caps, ties, dress shirts (sizes M – 4XL), dress shoes (sizes 7 – 13)

For women: curling irons and hair dryers, thick leggings (sizes S – 4XL), slippers, scarves, knit hats, pajamas, dress clothes (sizes 6 – 22)

For men and women: alarm clocks, small bedside reading lamps, twin size comforters and blankets, inexpensive watches, clothes hangers, tennis shoes (sizes 6 – 13), hoodies, sweaters and jackets (sizes M – 4XL), socks, underwear (sizes M – 3XL)

When you choose the **CROSS** ornament, you will help provide items that are necessary for these residents. Please bring your gift unwrapped.



Giving Tree Prayer

Generous Lord, it is we who have been gifted
by this opportunity to serve.

We are grateful that we have been allowed
to represent the community,
the larger Church and You
in the work we have done.

Make us increasingly mindful of all who are in need.

May we seek to serve the poor
and their needs of both body and spirit,
with natural, humble and holy service.

Make us more and more mindful of our own poverty
and need of You.

May this work that we have just performed
be a true prayer to You.

May our service ever give You glory and honor.

May those whom we serve know that you are with them
in their joys and sorrows.

May they see You in our service to them
and come to know Your
love and compassion.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Healer.

Amen+