

(continued from page 3)

tow.

"She was estranged from her husband, on maternity leave, but she was not getting her salary, was behind in her rent and had no food in the house," Williams said. "So we took her to the grocery store to buy food for herself and her children and we connected her with an agency that was able to assist her in her back rent.

"A few weeks later she was able to return to work, she found relatives that she didn't even know existed in the area,

and she found a place to stay -- she's in a new location. The last we spoke, she's doing well. She's found baby-sitting arrangements for the infant."

"It's been a rewarding vocation," Williams said, using the term "vocation" advisedly, because she really believes it is God who called her to this work. "If God blesses us, we should be able to help other people who may not be as fortunate."

Learn more about Birthing and Care by calling 301-441-1472.

### Forward in Faith Address/Email Address Update Form

If your address has changed or you would like to provide us with an email address and telephone number, please complete this form and mail to Forward in Faith, Inc., P.O. Box 29260, Washington, DC 20017-0260. If you have questions about your pledge, or if you would like to make another gift to *Forward in Faith, Inc.* please call our donor relations office at 301-853-5344.

Name _____	Parish _____
Old Address _____	City _____ ST _____ Zip _____
New Address _____	City _____ ST _____ Zip _____
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# FORWARD *in* FAITH

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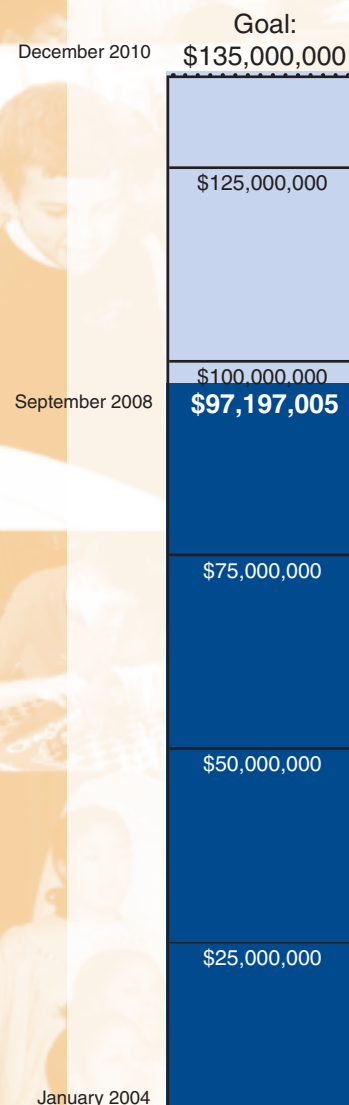
# Looking Forward

Strengthening the Church of Washington into the Future

Winter 2008

## Towards the Goal!

\$97,197,005 in pledges paid as of September 30, 2008



FORWARD IN FAITH, INC.  
POST OFFICE BOX 29260  
WASHINGTON, DC 20017-0260  
T: 301-853-5344 F: 301-853-7692



A message from...  
Monsignor John J. Enzler  
Vicar for Development

Dear Forward in Faith Donors,

Thank you very much for your support of the Forward in Faith campaign. Your support is assisting the Church of Washington in meeting the needs of our archdiocesan community in six important areas: education, Catholic Charities, pastoral services, multi-cultural apostolates, ministry enhancement and parish sharing. As the Vicar for Development for the Archdiocese of Washington, I sincerely appreciate your dedicated support of Forward in Faith.

As we enter the final two years of the campaign, I am mindful of the sacrifices that the Catholic faithful of the Archdiocese of Washington are making in fulfilling their pledges to Forward in Faith. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$135 million to support parishes and ministries today while building a foundation of support for the future. So far, we have collected more than \$97 million toward this goal.

Each and every contribution is having a wonderful effect on the Catholic community in our area. Please read the enclosed information about the status of the campaign and two wonderful examples of how Forward in Faith is working in our community.

Forward in Faith is more important than ever as we find ourselves in a time of extraordinary economic challenge and uncertainty. Circumstances in the economy have made it more difficult for many of our brothers and sisters in Christ to make ends meet. The need for services and support has increased across the board through all of our ministries, programs and services.

We should all be very proud of the many milestones that have been achieved through Forward in Faith. In closing, I ask for your continued support and earnest endeavor as we see Forward in Faith to a successful conclusion.

May God bless you during the upcoming Advent season and provide you with peace and happiness.

Sincerely,

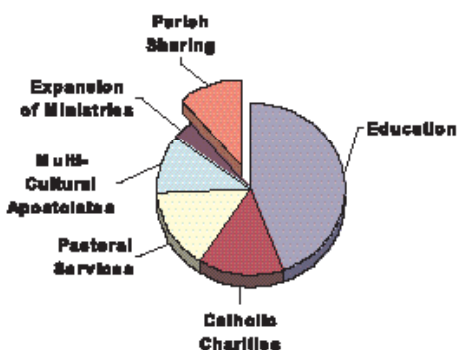
Reverend Monsignor John J. Enzler  
Vicar for Development

ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

## Meeting Critical Needs in Our Community

A goal of \$135,000,000 was set for Forward in Faith to meet the critical needs of our community in six areas:

1. **Education (Endowment)** \$60,000,000
  - Scholarships for Catholic Elementary Schools \$30,000,000
  - Scholarships for Catholic High Schools \$5,000,000
  - Revolving Parish and School Building Fund \$25,000,000
2. **Catholic Charities** \$20,000,000
  - Catholic Charities Foundation (Endowment) \$10,000,000
  - Family Services \$5,000,000
  - Homeless Shelters and Rehabilitation Programs \$5,000,000
3. **Pastoral Services** \$20,000,000
  - Needy Parish Fund (Endowment) \$5,000,000
  - Construction of the new Missionary Seminary \$5,000,000
  - Seminarian Education (Endowment) \$3,000,000
  - Archdiocesan Charitable Needs \$3,000,000
  - Pastoral Conference Center \$1,000,000
  - Howard University Catholic Campus Ministry Center \$1,000,000
  - Provide Housing for Communities of Women Religious \$1,000,000
  - Pro-Life Apostolate \$1,000,000
4. **Multi-Cultural Apostolates** \$15,000,000
  - Endowment for immigrant and minority ministries \$10,000,000
  - Hispanic Pastoral Center \$3,000,000
  - Spanish Catholic Center in Langley Park \$1,000,000
  - Spanish Catholic Center in Montgomery County \$1,000,000
5. **Ministry Enhancement Fund** \$5,000,000
6. **Parish Sharing** \$15,000,000



This newsletter will keep donors informed of progress towards these goals.

## Starting over Prison ministry program helps the incarcerated successfully reenter the community

"No stone is unworthy of being part of the building up of the church of God," said Father Michael Bryant.

He was talking about the Welcome Home Reentry Program of Prison Outreach Ministry, in which Catholic volunteers in Maryland and the District mentor newly released prisoners to help them reintegrate themselves into their community.



Photo by Michael Hoyt/Catholic Standard

Kevin Gilbert, of St. Mary Parish in Rockville, serves as a mentor to a client in the Welcome Home program in fall 2007.

The Archdiocese of Washington's Forward in Faith capital campaign has made a \$60,000 grant to the program, which is now in its third year.

Patricia Marks, executive director of Prison Outreach Ministry, described Welcome Home as "a ministry rooted in the Gospel to serve the poorest of the poor, those individuals who have been incarcerated and are transitioning back into the community."

Father Bryant, 68, retired three years ago after 25 years as staff chaplain at the DC Jail, but he continues to volunteer there, celebrating Mass for inmates in English and Spanish on some weekends.

On other weekends he goes to parishes in the District, Montgomery County and Prince George's County to preach on the needs of prisoners facing reentry into the community, challenging parishioners to become their mentors.

"All of them have to have certain things in place when they're released," he said. "They need to get a job and they have to have a stable environment to live in. They need positive, pro-social people around them, community people. They need to stay drug and alcohol-free. That's not always easily accomplished, given the fact that people are simply indiscriminately released from many jails and prisons back into the community," he said.

"There is a vast number of people that are serious about transitioning back home, coming out and staying out," he said, but if they don't find the support they need they are likely to get back in trouble. "Everybody loses when people fail to transition back."

Many of them may need help with math or reading skills, computer training, or developing job interview skills, he said.

Within the Washington Archdiocese, 10,000 prisoners with felony convictions reenter the community each year upon their release from state or federal systems, Father Bryant said. In addition the DC Jail and the county jails of Montgomery and Prince George's counties release a combined total of more than 50,000 a year, he added.

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"That's the basic statistical reality we're facing," he said. "Our program is a drop in the ocean compared to the numbers of people, but we are making an impact on the lives of the people that we are working with."

Prison Outreach Ministry was formed in 1984, initially to provide DC Jail inmates with Christmas packets of toiletries, candy, writing supplies and other needs. It launched the Welcome Home Reentry Program in Washington in early 2006, expanded it to Montgomery County later that year, and then to Prince George's County in 2007.

The ministry is an independently established charitable corporation, but it works closely with parishes. The reentry program now has about 50 pairs of vol-

unteer mentors trained to offer guidance and support to released prisoners, executive director Marks said. The big issues facing prisoners on release are housing and employment, but mentors may also help with many smaller issues, "like learning to navigate the Metro system."

The mentors also serve as spiritual guides, "role models, based on their own faith and how they cope day to day," she said.

"Faith is not a requirement for the mentee," she said, but for the mentors the program wants people with a solid spirituality, stability and "most importantly, compassion" that is rooted in their faith.

Father Bryant said since the Welcome Home Reentry Program was started he

has visited about 60 parishes in the archdiocese to preach on the issue. He said he can regularly tie his message to the day's Scripture readings because "the Scriptures, every Sunday, pretty much address issues that are at the heart of what we are to do as Christians."

While most of the mentors have come from the Catholic community, their mentees may come from any background.

"It's not because they're Catholic, but it's because we're Catholic -- that's why we do what we do, and that's why we're called to do what we do," Father Bryant said.

For more information about volunteering with Prison Outreach Ministry contact Patricia Marks at 301-448-7026.

## Helping women in crisis Program provides help and hope to pregnant women and mothers in need

When Jane came to the Birthing and Care Program in October, her husband had recently abandoned her, leaving her with an eight-month old baby and another child on the way. She had no income, no medical insurance or prenatal care and could not work.

She was referred to Birthing and Care, which provides help for at-risk pregnant women and mothers, for prenatal care. "As her story evolved, we discovered that she was two months behind on her rent ... and was going to be evicted," said Michelle Williams, director of the Archdiocese of Washington program.

Birthing and Care staff enrolled Jane in prenatal care and helped her buy groceries with gift certificates donated by a pro-life group. Working with other service agencies it helped her move into a shelter and made arrangements for child care for her other baby when Jane goes to the hospital to give birth in February.

Williams, who has a degree in social work, has been with Birthing and Care

since its inception in 1991 and has been its director for the past eight years. Now-retired Cardinal James A. Hickey started the program of funding prenatal, natal and postnatal medical care as an alternative to abortion for pregnant women in need. It receives funding from Forward in Faith, the archdiocesan campaign to raise \$135 million for vital social, pastoral and ministry needs.

About two-thirds of the women that Birthing and Care helps are Hispanic, Williams said.

The program focuses on "crisis cases -- the abortion-vulnerable, the medically high-risk and those that are financially strapped," Williams said.

"We have found that we need to help the whole woman, not just the prenatal care. There's the social challenges, there's

the spiritual alienation, the practical needs, the emotional needs," she said. "We rely heavily on the pro-life community, on parishes that can help."

Williams recalled another woman,



Photo by Matthew Lester

A couple who received help from Birthing and Care are pictured with their six-week-old baby in September 2008.

whom she called Kim, who last August came to the program's office in College Park with a four-week-old baby and two other children, age four and seven, in

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