

Human Concerns—Pastoral Care

Care Center Ministries

- **Oakwood Village Care Center:** Mass is celebrated on the second and fourth Fridays of the month at 10:00 AM. The Rosary is prayed the first and third Fridays of the month. Help is needed to move residents to and from the Chapel. Communion Visitors are needed for the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.
- **Sebring Assisted Living Center:** A Word and Communion Service is led by parish members on the first and third Sundays of the month.
- **Wynwood Assisted Living Center:** A Word and Communion Service is lead by parish members every Friday of the month at 11:00AM. Mass is celebrated on the third Friday.
- **Other Facilities** are in need but we do not yet have the personnel to offer ministries.

Elizabeth Ministry

This group assist women and others in the joys and sorrows of their lives. You may mentor a new mom or come to their aid in time of crisis, or prepare meals for families with new babies or people just out of the hospital.

Funeral Luncheon Volunteers

This ministry provides support to families who are grieving by offering hospitality on behalf of the parish. Volunteers can bring prepared food for funeral luncheons, help with setting the tables, serve the food, or assist with clean-up.

Home Communion Visitors

Our parish homebound population is growing and many can not participate in parish life on a regular basis. Homebound visitors bring the care and compassion of the parish to help the homebound stay connected to the life and prayer of the parish which may include bringing the Blessed Sacrament to share.

Ministry of Consolation

Parish members offer the care and concern of the parish community through notes, conversation and our annual Bereavement Series. They help the grieving remember that they are not alone in their journey to healing. Members pray for the dead and all those who mourn them.

Prayer Network

The list of people needing prayers is distributed to the prayer chain participants by email or mail every other week. Special emails are sent to participants on behalf of people having surgeries or tests on the day of their procedures. Anyone who is interested may put people on the prayer chain or become an active person of prayer.

RESPITE Care Team

RESPITE is a term that refers to rest and relief for family or informal caregivers. We at St. Thomas like to think of it as more than that. We view RESPITE as an acronym which stands for **RE**nual of both **SP**irit and **Temp**oral. Our RESPITE team gives caregivers time away from their loved ones so they have the opportunity to take care of themselves. The caregiver calls team members when they are needed, or they can make weekly arrangements. Team members stay about 2 hours. The care team also provides assistance to the elderly. Every other month the team members get together for some spiritual renewal, sharing, and education.

Catholic Multicultural Center Meal Program

St. Thomas Aquinas hosts the evening meal on the first Thursday of every month. Several cooks arrive at 1 pm to make the meal (all food is provided by the CMC), and six to eight other volunteers provide help from 3:30-5:45 pm with setting tables, serving the clients, and cleaning up. Older children (ages about 12+) are welcome to participate in serving the guests.