



ARTICLE 7

GO OUT

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Go out into our community and make a difference. When I think about this part of our mission and purpose, I think about the 25th chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. The scripture verses are familiar. It begins with, "For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me." Our parish family is particularly good at accomplishing these things in our community. Our Saint Vincent de Paul Society embraces all these acts in helping our neighbors and local organizations. Our Prison Ministry regularly visits with our brothers and sisters. We always rise to the challenge of helping the less fortunate and those in need in our community. Many of you in our parish family help and volunteer with Community CARES, our local homeless shelter and Project SHARE, the local food bank. These, among other organizations represent areas that our parish family volunteers with. This service is an incredible blessing to our community.

This part of "Go Out" is not about creating new ministries here at Saint Patrick's but about finding organizations in our community and helping them to expand their ministries to our neighbors! It is important for us to be active, not just among those who are least in our communities, but with our friends and neighbor's as well. In Matthew, in the last chapter, we are reminded to go out and make disciples! Making disciples means spending time with people, listening, and talking with them, helping them out in times of need. I always joke that many of the homes in the developments and communities in our area are owned by Catholics, they really are! From Pin Oak and Indian Hills in Boiling Springs to Westgate and Callapatcink in Mt Holly Springs; to Clarendon Estates and Wertz Run in Carlisle, we are many. And there are more that are not listed here! What if we started having "block parties" in our neighborhoods to strengthen our communities?

This is just one way our parish family could connect with your neighborhood "family."

Part of going out is connecting our parish family to our neighborhood families in whatever way we can. All this is to help with our mission to introduce people to Jesus and together fully follow Him! This part of our purpose is not just continuing the things we already do well but finding new ways to reach out into our neighborhoods and show people what being a part of Saint Patrick parish family is all about! There are so many ways to be the light of Christ to others and see the same in others. It just takes one or two in each neighborhood or development to get things started! Saint Theresa of Calcutta said, "the reason for our existence is to quench the thirst of Jesus. When He asked for water, the soldier gave Him vinegar to drink - but His thirst was for love, for souls, for you and me." Going out means helping others to quench their thirst, to help them find that love of others that will help them quench that thirst!

Points to Ponder

- What am I doing to meet the needs of others in my area and in my neighborhood?
- When thinking about others do I ask myself, what would Jesus do for them?
- Are their organizations or ministries in my community that need my help?

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