

Loaves & Fishes -- *Did you know?* (3/27/11)

Nearly all of us are familiar with **Loaves & Fishes Community Food Pantry**, and have donated either products or monetarily over the years. The Peace & Social Justice Committee recently took a full tour of Loaves & Fishes on Grand Opening Day, and we found there was quite a bit we did not know! We're here to share what we learned with the Saints Peter & Paul community.

Did you know...

that Loaves & Fishes was started over 20 years ago from just a small closet at St. Raphael's church? Good ideas start small, and a dedicated group of organizers helped serve 8 needy families that first year.

that Loaves & Fishes currently occupies a brand new, from-the-ground-up, 16,000+ square foot facility on High Grove Drive? (just off Quincy Ave.)

that the new facility was custom built to accommodate the smooth flow of food donation and distribution, and interaction with clients? And it was built with the help of many community and corporate donors.

that in addition to food distribution, Loaves & Fishes also offers an array of new assistance through a program called **Pathways To Empowerment**, which includes the following:

- Income tax: help in preparing and filing income tax returns
- Federal food programs: help assessing and applying for government food benefits
- Tutoring: English classes from Literacy of DuPage
- Counseling: personal and family advising with Samaritan Interfaith
- Nutrition: classes on making wise food choices with Benedictine University
- Finances: classes on banking, budgeting, credit, how to avoid or work out of debt

And finally, did you know that [Loaves & Fishes](#) has a brand new, very complete website with details of their services, and loads of information and photos of the grand opening, mission, guidelines, and ways to volunteer? Maybe you'll be able to refer someone in need to the new offerings at the brand new Loaves & Fishes.

