

From the Christian Service Commission:

*As we continue to explore the charities and activities supported by the SSPP parishioners' regular donations, today's article will focus on two of the parish's own important ministries – the **Transitional Housing Ministry** and the **Homebound Communion Ministry**.*

*These two programs involve many parishioners in apostolic activities and do bring special care and help to our fellow members of SSPP parish. Without your continued generosity, these ministries could not flourish. Thank you for that support.*

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SSPP Transitional Housing Ministry and Bridge Communities

The Saints Peter and Paul Transitional Housing Ministry has been helping homeless families with dependent children become self-sufficient since 1992. The ministry provides each family 2 years of temporary housing, life-skills mentoring, job training and other supportive services as needed. Our ministry works in partnership with Bridge Communities, a non-profit organization that partners with about 40 local churches to provide services to homeless families in DuPage County. Bridge Communities provides intake screening for the families, owns and maintains the apartments, offers employment and educational assistance, mentor training, case management and other professional services.

Donations from SSPP parishioners in the pink THM offering-envelopes provide the funds for rent and utilities for apartments for 4 homeless families. Four teams, each made up of 3 volunteers from our parish, serve as mentors for each individual family. Each team works directly with their assigned family on a weekly basis over the course of their 2 years in our program. Each of the 4 teams help their family to establish budgets, review spending and debt reduction, set job search or training goals, and deal with family issues. The ultimate goal is to help each family have stability, adequate employment, and favorable credit so they can qualify for permanent housing when leaving our program. To date, 67 homeless families have become self-sufficient through the SSPP Transitional

Housing Program. For more information or to volunteer to become a mentor, please call Jack Flowers at 630-355-4886.

### Communion for the Homebound

One of the most difficult things about getting older is that we often lose our mobility. Many of our senior parishioners are unable to attend mass on Sundays or in some cases continue their daily mass attendance. SSPP parish has a very special ministry that serves these parishioners, The Homebound Communion Ministry. Each week over forty households are served by parishioners that volunteer their time to bring the gift of the Eucharist to those who cannot make it to mass regularly. In addition to our priests and deacons, numerous homebound lay ministers give of their time every week of the year to ensure that those who want the Eucharist are able to receive it. Additionally, during Lent these ministers will bring ashes to those who cannot attend services besides bringing them communion that week. Of course the greatest gift brought by these ministers is Jesus, in the Eucharist. These ministers also bring Jesus in another way; they give of themselves by their presence, their kindness and their conversation with people that may often not enjoy a lot of company from others. Many close friendships have developed over the years through this truly rewarding ministry.