



FOCUS: Ordinary people become extraordinary when they answer Christ's call to serve. Today the Church honors Saint Peter and Saint Paul. They were among the most influential people in all of Church history. Knowing that He would be leaving, Jesus chose Peter to lead the young Church. Paul was called to lead the way in preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles. Let us pray today for all in leadership positions in the Church.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The amazing intervention of God in the lives of Peter and Paul is told in today's first and second readings. In the Gospel, Peter declares his belief in Jesus as the Son of the living God. In response, Peter is declared by Christ to be the one who is to lead his Church.

Bishop's Appeal: To date we have received a total \$7,107.00 pledged or given. This amount is the result of 62 families participating in this project. We average each year 80 to 90 families sharing in this request from our Bishop. I'm sure if the remaining 18 - 28 families do their part, we will reach our goal. Please do what you can for our parish.



Reminder: This Sunday June 29th all are invited to the Parish Hall, at 10 am for coffee and donuts. At that time we will report to you the proposals, supporting data and rationale we are making to the

Diocese, regarding the results of our 18 month process of "Called to BE Church." This proposals from us and those from entire Diocese, will be studied from July - December by a Board appointed by the Bishop. January, '09, the approval or disapproval of these proposals will be announced. Over the next 18 months they will be put into place.

*We are entrusted
with blessings
to lead others
to God*

STEWARDSHIP -Thank you for trusting in the Lord's generosity. Last Sunday's collection: \$1,236.50 (Same week last year: \$1,062.45) **New Guinea Mission:** \$516.75 Please remember our parish in your will or at the time of the death of a loved one.

From your PLD

Catholic Charities, USA, a national network of Catholic Charities agencies, has launched the campaign to Reduce Poverty In America, with a goal of cutting poverty in half by 2020. The Diocese of Albany has joined the campaign with the publication of the report "Poverty in the Diocese of Albany: A Threat to the Common Good," The report describes poverty in the 14 counties that make up the diocese, with local statistics and stories about income insecurity, educational disadvantages, hunger and poor nutrition, the shortage of affordable housing, and the lack of health care coverage for many of our neighbors.

On occasion, over the summer, I want to use this space, to familiarize you with the results of this report. Hopefully this knowledge will encourage you to call on or write our legislatures to address the needs of our struggling people.

FACT ONE: Throughout the Diocese of Albany, the hourly wage to afford a two-bedroom apartment at fair-market rent is well above the state's minimum wage of \$7.15. Affordable housing is just beyond the reach of a household with two adults working at minimum wage.

FACT TWO: A survey of bankruptcy clinics in the Albany found that 65% of the respondents had medical-related debt. Of those, the vast majority were women (90%) and were currently employed (68%) and almost half had health insurance. More than half of the respondents reported delays in obtaining further medical care and difficulty obtaining loans and credit as a result of their health-care related debt.

A glimpse into poverty in Montgomery and Fulton counties:

- 26% of children in Amsterdam, and 31 % in Gloversville are living in poverty;
- 22% of adults in both counties have not completed a high school education;
- Montgomery County Catholics Charities provided 675 families including 698 children with food assistance in 2006;
- 16.7% of the non-elderly residents in Montgomery County, and 14.3% in Fulton County, lack health insurance and
- 153 housing units in Fulton County and 146 in Montgomery County lack plumbing facilities.

My hope is that armed with this knowledge, we will be in touch with our local legislatures to address the needs of struggling people.

God bless you,
Sister Johanne McCarthy

