

Bike Collection 2009 – Sunday, October 25, 2009

Hold onto unwanted Bikes!

Please remember to hold any unused and/or unwanted bikes until Sunday, **October 25, 2009** when St. John's will again hold a bike collection. Since 2003 **St. John's Third World Apostolate** has asked parishioners to donate bicycles to send to the **poor in developing countries**, in conjunction with the **Bikes Not Bombs (BNB)** program in Jamaica Plain.

Bikes can be remarkably effective in developing countries, improving men's and women's ability to haul farm produce or other goods to market and increasing access to health care, jobs and schools. Bike repair shops stimulate local economies as well.

Donated bicycle materials from BNB have been used to build pedal-powered machines for agricultural uses: corn shellers, grain grinders, peanut shellers, and well water pumps.

BNB has sent over **38,000 bikes** to Central America, the Caribbean, Africa, and New Orleans in the last 25 years. BNB also sends technicians and tools for start-up projects in developing countries.

Bikes Not Bombs is a non-profit organization working for alternative transportation and community development. The bikes donated **directly benefit communities around the world** and sometimes they **help youth right in Boston**. The group operates a **Bicycle Recycling and Youth Training Center in Jamaica Plain**, to promote environmental education, meaningful employment, and self sustaining communities, both in the Jamaica Plain area and abroad.

BNB currently receives approximately 6,000 used bicycles and tons of used parts each year. They ship a major portion of these bikes to economic development projects (micro-enterprise bike businesses, sustainable technology projects, Earn-A-Bike and youth training programs) in Ghana, Guatemala, South Africa, Tanzania, and Nevis Island. BNB's uses the remainder of the collected bikes at their Jamaica Plain center; some are used in their co-ed youth Earn-A-Bike programs and others are repaired by teenage mechanics as part of their Vocational Training programs and are for sale at BNB's bike shop. BNB also offers girls-only programs all year round. Adult volunteers help teach youth in the Earn-A-Bike programs.

Recycling is a large part of what BNB does. Each year BNB processes about 6,000 used bikes, brought in as donations by people who cannot stand to see good resources getting thrown out. Most bikes and parts are put back into use, in Boston's lower-income neighborhoods or in developing countries. Useful parts will be salvaged from broken bikes, and any metal or rubber that can't be reused is taken to the appropriate recycling facilities.

The bike collection will be Sunday, October 25, 2009 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. However, bikes may also be dropped off at St. John's Monday, October 19 through Saturday, October 24. **Bikes should be left in the very back parking lot, completely around behind the Parish Center (look for our sign).**

BNB requests a donation of \$10 per bike, to help defray the costs of international shipping, bike storage, and/or youth programs that get the bikes into positive use again. It costs BNB an average of \$35 cash plus a lot of volunteer labor to get each bicycle back into use. BNB will of course accept bikes without this donation.

Read more about BNB's **International Involvement** in Ghana, Tanzania, South Africa, Central America and Nevis as well as its **Youth Programs** by visiting **their website at www.bikesnotbombs.org**.