

2009 Thanksgiving Mission of Gratitude in Appalachian Kentucky during the Year for Priests



This June I was privileged to spend a week in northeastern Kentucky at a place called Point of Hope, which is part of Father Ralph Beiting's Appalachian Mission Center. I worked with a team of Catholic volunteers who help the homeless in the area. In five days, the team built a two-story duplex to replace a decrepit house trailer which had been irreparably damaged by ice storms last winter. The new home will be used to offer temporary housing to homeless families with children, who often come to Father's door with little more than the clothes they are wearing. I heard that the county's social services send folks to see Father Beiting when the county can't help enough.

Some of us worked at jobs less "glamorous" than construction. We painted railings, fed the team, washed floors, power-washed the mildew off the outside of other trailers, restored some used furniture, cleaned Father's house and organized his storage room. Father Beiting is now 85 years old and has been serving the Appalachian poor for over sixty years. He has begged the bishop of the Lexington Diocese more than once **not** to make him retire! He is still pastor of two parishes, says mass at each one daily, evangelizes in a region that is approximately 3% Catholic by "street preaching" in town on Friday evenings, and actively raises funds for the mission.

Working at the rectory (above) I couldn't help but notice the need for some essential maintenance. The plain wood siding has not been stained for many years. The Kentucky sun has bleached the wood in places and turned it grey. Rain water comes under two doors that were salvaged for a supply room, because there are no door sweeps on the bottom. The sun and rain combined have completely rotted the wood around a sliding glass door track. There are three broken windows to replace at the back of the house, and several hugely overgrown evergreens to remove.

In gratitude for Father Beiting's lifetime of service, a volunteer team is headed back to Louisa, Kentucky for the week of Thanksgiving. Our goal is to prep and stain the exterior of his home, and accomplish as many of the other maintenance projects as we can. We will also bring to the mission donated clothing, housewares, furniture and other supplies for distribution to the needy. On the back are many ways you can join your hands and heart to our Thanksgiving project. May God bless you for your support! With gratitude,
Kaija Jeantet

Lord, we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. Eucharistic Prayer II

Many Ways to Help

**On Saturday, November 14th, from 9 to 11 a.m.,
the mission truck will be in the area from Kentucky for a
"Donation Drop Off Day" sponsored by the 8th grade Confirmation class
at Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish on Portage Trail in Cuyhaoga Falls.**

PRAY for Father Beiting, the homeless in need, and the Thanksgiving mission trip.

CONTRIBUTE toward the team's expenses. Our goal is to raise \$2,400 for project materials, food, and gas for the 610-mile round-trip. (We have raised \$1,720 as of October 26th.)

VOLUNTEER with the team and help us get the work done! We also need a head cook.

ORGANIZE A CLOSET to donate clothing, shoes, things outgrown or never worn, bed linens, towels, sporting goods, toys, books and games.

CLEAN THE BASEMENT, GARAGE or WORKSHOP to share your accumulated housewares, kitchen items, lamps, tools, and extra furniture directly with those in need.

FORWARD this announcement to others; post or distribute copies at church or work.

WISHLIST FOR THE MISSION

laundry detergent, diapers, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, non-perishable food

WISHLIST FOR THIS PROJECT

12 pair safety goggles

4 gallons white exterior semi-gloss trim paint

100' garden hose with spray nozzle

24 tubes clear exterior door and window caulk

16 large disposable aluminum baking pans

paper plates, napkins, towels

8 nylon scrub brushes

4 long handle pruning shears

plastic eating utensils and cups

WalMart or VISA gift cards

gas cards

*O Lord, may your ear be attentive to my prayer
and that of your willing servants who revere your name.
Grant success to your servants this day. Nehemiah 1:11*

For more info call Kaija 330-842-9522 or Dale 330-807-1266
email kaijajeantet@sbcglobal.net website fatherbeiting.org

Please make checks payable to Father Beiting Appalachian Mission Center ("FBAMC")
and forward to: Kaija Jeantet, 911 East Ave., Tallmadge, OH 44278
or bring to "Drop Off Day" on November 14th at IHM.

FBAMC is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.
Tax receipts will be sent directly from the mission in early December.