

## 2018 Giving Tree Project

St. Agatha Parish and My Brother's Keeper are joining hands for our 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Giving Tree Project to help families in need throughout the South Shore and beyond. Last year was the most successful yet, as My Brother's Keeper helped 2,760 families in 76 cities and towns. St. Agatha Parish is second to none in responding to the cry of the poor, and last year alone your extraordinary generosity aided over 100 families. In the last 26 years, you have contributed greatly to the exciting expansion of the ministry of My Brother's Keeper by helping over 2,350 families experience the warmth of friendship and the renewal of hope. With so many families struggling in these tough economic times, we hope that this will be the best year ever!

We will again have an opportunity to join our "Helping Hands" with those of My Brother's Keeper as we kick off this year's effort on December 1. Many parishioners have made this a family tradition, and you and your family can join in this rewarding project in a number of ways:

**1. If you would like to sponsor an entire family** – My Brother's Keeper asks that you send an e-mail to [sponsor@mybrotherskeeper.org](mailto:sponsor@mybrotherskeeper.org). By doing this, you can request a family whose size and make-up fits your budget and interests. Generally a Sponsor Card is sent to you the same day as your request is received.

**2. If you would prefer to help by buying an individual gift**, "Giving Trees" will be set up before and after each Mass on the weekends of Dec 1 - 2 and Dec 8 - 9 so that you may select an ornament with a child's or parent's name. On each ornament will be the name, age, sex, clothing size, and a suggested gift for the child or parent you will be touching with your generosity. You then purchase and wrap the gift, write on the back of the original ornament what you purchased, and attach it to the package. Then bring the gift with you to any Mass (except the 5:00 PM) on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>. If you would prefer to buy an unwrapped generic gift to help families who make last minute appeals, those are most welcome as well. After the 12:00 Mass on December 16<sup>th</sup>, volunteers from the parish will help group each family's gifts together for delivery, and the gifts will then be brought to My Brother's Keeper for distribution.

**3. You can also select a "turkey" ornament** which gives instructions for contributing \$10 towards purchasing a turkey or, if your means allow, \$35 to purchase a complete dinner.

A special way of expressing our gratitude to God for giving us the gift of His Son is to share some of our blessings with those who are less fortunate. After all, He has no hands but ours. For those who are unable to afford a gift this year, your prayers for the success of this mission of linking St. Agatha Parish with the poor served by My Brother's Keeper will be more than enough in the way of support.

The St. Agatha Parish Community has been blessed in many ways, and has always responded by sharing of its treasure to help others. We thank you so much for your past support, and hope that you will help make this year's effort – our 27<sup>th</sup> – the best yet!