



The Twinning Times

News on our Exchange of Catholic Faith & Culture

As St Joseph's Appleton continues to grow, the Twinning Committee thought it would be good to put out information about our Twinning Parish, St Joseph's Clintwood, VA and how we assist them.

St. Joseph's in Clintwood is in the heart of Appalachia in a very impoverished area. Approx. 20% of the people live in poverty and the recent job growth is **-2.16%**. The main industry for this region has traditionally been coal mining and related services. The parish itself covers about 350 square miles. St. Joe's has 35 members, many of whom are past the age of 65. They sponsor many outreach programs including, -- maintaining the largest food bank in the state, which serves approx. 750 people each month; 3 outreach centers in different areas of the county that supply food, clothing, tutoring in basic reading, math and health, and computer job training skills; a mobile health van and area-wide health fairs; and a housing repair program for the elderly and the poor which has high school students from around the country coming to Clintwood for 1 week each, all summer long, to repair homes. How do they accomplish this? According to their former lay associate Christine Ramirez, "Every single person in the parish serves as a volunteer."

St Joseph's Clintwood was started by Glenmary Missionary Services, but they no longer support St. Joseph's. Several years ago they were assigned a priest by the Diocese, who is also a pastor to 3 other parishes. Just recently Fr. Tim retired and Fr. Arnel Ayo has taken his place.

Our commitment to this small community is both service and monetary oriented. This month is our ***Share The Warmth Clothing Drive***. We will be collecting gently used, warm clothes the weekends of October 17/18th and 24/25th in the back of church. They will then be sorted and sent down to Clintwood for distribution to their community. Each year we commit to a \$3,000 contribution made in 4 equal installments. We also send extra money in February from our ***Warm Hearts Bake and Jewelry Sale*** to help with winter utility costs for some of their poorest members.

Attached you will find our Twinning Green envelope. We hope that St Joseph's Appleton parishioners can continue to support St Joseph's Clintwood with warm clothes and financial assistance. When you are considering how you can help please think about how much God has blessed you and what you can do to pass that along to others less fortunate.

The Twinning Committee