



Cardinal's Appeal Newsletter

SHARING GOD'S GIFTS

June 17, 2016



"This I command you: love one another."

- John 15:17

Everyday Stewards



Located in the heart of Rockland County is St. Catharine Parish in Blauvelt. Nearly 150 years old and located right next to Dominican College, St. Catharine Parish has a strong and tight knit faith community. With a vegetable patch behind the rectory tended to by Father Abraham Vallayi, C.M.I., Associate Pastor, and a large gathering space below, parish life is vibrant with weekly activities, outings and gatherings.



Every Tuesday afternoon, the prayer group at St. Catharine meets to pray, reflect and share. The group is led by Mrs. Aida Dalandan, a 93 year old long time parishioner. She can no longer drive or write, but each week, thanks to the kindness and kinship of fellow group members, she shows up to lead an hour of prayer and holy reflections.



Last week, after an opening prayer and reading, Aida asked the members of the group to take a minute to reflect on the gifts they have been given in life. Some members chose to share their recent blessings, and some even shared recent hardships. Through all this, Aida reminded everyone that everything God has given us, whether good or bad, is a blessing.

The lesson of the day was the Similes of Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-16), and the discussion turned to how to make use of the light God has given us and share it with others, and reiterated the message of Pope Francis to simply love one another. It was a true privilege to be able to attend this prayer group and meet the amazing parishioners who strive to be good stewards of their Church and faith. With such generous spirits, it's no surprise that the parishioners of St. Catharine Parish have already come together to help the parish reach and exceed its 2016 *Cardinal's Appeal* goal.

2016 APPEAL RESULTS

Goal: \$20,000,000

Pledged: \$19,318,998

Paid: \$15,027,632

Number of donors: 52,225

Percent of goal: 97%



2016 AREAS of SUPPORT

