

Fr. Martin's Reflection – 09/05/21 Bulletin

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There are so many people in need currently that it all seems so overwhelming that we often feel inadequate in helping anyone. We feel a great depth of sympathy for the people of Haiti as they recover from the earthquake, the refugees from Afghanistan, and the many natural disasters that have taken place here in America, thinking of the people of Louisiana at this present time.

If you can give a little to all, that is great, but if your resources are limited it is important that you do not overstretch yourself and leave yourself in need that could harm you or your family. Sometimes the greatest gift we can give is simply lying in a closet in our home, something that we have outgrown or no longer use.

An officer at Fort Dix approached the First Presbyterian Church, Bordentown, to ask if they would be able to co-ordinate an appeal for supplies for the Afghan refugees that are presently at Fort Dix? The list of supplies needed are in this week's bulletin, and it will run for the next number of weeks. Please take note of the dates for collection and the place of delivery.

With all the needs of the world some may feel that we should care for 'our own' first. I can understand that reasoning for some, but for us as Christians every human being is one of our own as we are all created in God's image and likeness. The words Jesus spoke in Matthew 25:35-40 ring so loudly at this time:

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick, and you looked after me, I was in prison, and you came to visit me. Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' The king will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

Friends, if you can help in any way, please do. Something as simple as a tube of toothpaste can mean so much to someone who hasn't brushed their teeth in weeks, or a toothbrush to brush their teeth with.

I pray that you and your family will have a wonderful and safe Labor Day weekend. May God bless you and keep you forever in God's loving care.

*Fr. Martin*