

June 6, 2017

Dear Friends and Supporters of St. Agnes Outreach,

In June 2017, the St. Agnes Outreach Ministry concluded its ministry. For the past 45 years, St. Agnes Outreach has been a friend, supporter, and advocate for members of our community who live with mental illness in group homes in the Dayton View, Five Oaks, and other neighborhoods in the west and northwest communities of Dayton.

The ministry originated in 1972 when the Dayton View Apostolic Team, made up of Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur and the priests living and working at St. Agnes Parish, recognized the need for services to the mentally challenged living in the nursing homes in Lower Dayton View. They made a request to the Provincial of the Sisters of Notre Dame to use part of the salary of two SNDs who were working in the Dayton Public Schools to fund the first two Outreach Ministers. After a few years, St. Agnes Parish took over the financial backing and when that was no longer available, a group of men from St. Agnes began the fundraising for the program, which by that time grew substantially. The needs of the mentally challenged poor were the motivating principles that lead the members of St. Agnes to continue the program for the past forty five years.

In the 1990s, the ministry was joined by Corpus Christi Parish, and in the 2000s the ministry was joined by Pastoral Region II (Corpus Christi and Our Lady of Mercy Parishes – now Our Lady of Grace Parish and Queen of Martyrs). St. Agnes Outreach, the longest running support ministry to group home residents in Dayton, has provided weekly Dustin House recreation activities, fellowship and shared community prayer, Thanksgiving Dinners, summer picnics, Christmas parties, pilgrimages, birthday parties, prayer groups, and shared times at liturgy.

Over the past year, the St. Agnes Outreach Support Committee engaged in a process of discernment about the future of the ministry. The needs St. Agnes Outreach addressed in the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s have changed, and today residents have more mobility and access to new community based services. Victoria Burke, our Outreach Minister plans to retire in June, and after reviewing the ministry's financial situation, needs of the residents, resources available in the community, available volunteers, and the responsibilities involved in providing St. Agnes Outreach, the support committee decided the time was right to close and conclude St. Agnes Outreach. Our final day was our closing picnic on Tuesday, June 6 at Sinclair Park. The pictures on this page capture the memories.

With the support of Our Lady of Grace Parish, Queen of Apostles, Incarnation, St Francis, and many other parishes, faith communities, individuals, and charitable organizations, St. Agnes Outreach has provided a high quality ministry that brought friendship and respect to the lives of an average of 169 individuals a year, totally well over 7600 interactions since the beginning.

On behalf of the St. Agnes Outreach Support Committee, please accept our deepest appreciation for the many ways you have supported the ministry over the years.

With our deepest appreciation for all your support, and in peace,

Cindy

**Cindy Currell
Chair, St. Agnes Outreach Support Committee**