

## At Holy Disciples Parish, members work to realize the reign of God

PUYALLUP  
BY ARMANDO MACHADO

The community of Holy Disciples Parish is a welcoming place where people celebrate their unity and their differences, "knowing that through the Holy Trinity our gifts are realized and shared."

Members also believe that life is a journey of faith filled with service, growth, love and hope — and they are "committed to the Gospel values of peace, justice and reconciliation. . . . The mission of Holy Disciples Parish is to build and nurture the Christian community through the consistent sharing of prayer and worship, faith formation, hospitality, outreach, stewardship and evangelization."

The parish, founded in 1996, has 898 registered households. The pastor is Father J. Paul Dalton; the parish pastoral associate is Sue Ford; and the faith formation coordinator is Carmen Bryant.

Ford said last week that the parish celebrated its 10th anniversary in January. She noted that during the first six years, the community worshipped at a local junior high school. "We have been in our own worship space for the past four years," she said. "We are a parish that holds outreach in the community as a high value. We operate a food bank — along with FISH — on our grounds for the Graham/South Hill neighborhoods." FISH is Friends In Service to Him, a Pierce County food bank network.

The worship space is the parish center, which also serves for other parish functions. The parish community hopes

to eventually build a church building and a school.

Ford also noted that the parish has a high school age group and a college age group of people who work to earn money throughout the year in order to go to Mexico each summer — under the Esperanza program — to help build houses for poor families. The parish has participated in that program since 1997.

The parish offers two bible study programs led by parishioners, as well as several small groups whose members gather to discuss the weekly Scriptures and how they live the Gospel message in their daily lives.

This school year, parish groups have been studying Catholic Church history, offering a morning and evening class for adults. "Our preschool through sixth-grade faith formation program is staffed by dedicated volunteers," Ford added. "We include five Family Faith nights throughout the year for all families of the parish. . . . We have active youth groups (middle school and high school) that participate regularly in the life of the parish."

The parish ministries include the social action program, youth ministry, Moms Group, Knights of Columbus, and homebound ministry.

The social action efforts include food bank and hot meals programs; participation in the Spring 24-Hour Cancer Relay for Life; and involvement in the Fall Hunger Walk.

Under the parish's outreach goals, staffers and volunteers look to raise awareness of the needs of the wider community — to be an advocate of the oppressed and to advance the social

justice teachings of the Catholic Church.

These are done by: identifying those to be served and prioritizing the needs; teaching the social justice agenda of the church; providing physical and mental assistance to those in need; organizing communication among care providers; and directing 10 percent of parish income to those in need.

Through the parish's evangelization goals, coordinators of ministries seek to share the Good News "and nurture personal conversion in order to realize the Reign of God."

### Holy Disciples Parish

**Founded:** 1996

**Registered Households:** 898

**Pastor:** Father J. Paul Dalton

**Pastoral Associate:** Sue Ford

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April 29-30 Holy Disciples will participate in the new Progress P3 subscription program. Five dollars from each subscription sold will go to their Esperanza group. For more information on this program contact Marketing Associate Keri Hake at 206-382-2075 or [kerih@seattlearch.org](mailto:kerih@seattlearch.org)