



St. Theresa First Fruits

*The portion of the harvest
offered in thanksgiving to God*

2007 is the 20th anniversary of John Paul II's encyclical "On Social Concerns," where he developed the theme of solidarity flowing from compassion. Compassion is a deep human emotion that fills us with sympathy and moves us to respond to another's suffering. **Solidarity includes compassion, but it is more.** Solidarity takes place when a person or community sees a need, acts, and commits to work to eliminate the need in the future.

Some of the ways we live out the virtue of solidarity in our parish is through a ministry of hospitality to refugees, immigrants, and the displaced (Katrina victims). We also practice the virtue of solidarity when we purchase and support the St. Theresa Coffee Project in our regular purchase of Fair Trade products. We cultivate solidarity in our local community through our involvement in AMOS. We stand in solidarity with large families who face anti-life discrimination in our local housing market by the ongoing help given through the St. Theresa Transitional House. We learn more about solidarity by participating in *Just Faith* at St. Theresa this fall.

Additionally, we offer compassion and solidarity through **St. Theresa First Fruits** where people in desperate circumstances receive financial assistance, emotional support and spiritual direction. It can be through a direct connection with a parishioner or working with St. Mary's Family Center, St. Benedict's Mission, DMARC's Compassion in Action, St. Joseph's Homeless Shelter, or assisting people who come to our Church door.

Below is a listing of First Fruit expenditures for the time period January 2007 to July 2007. If you haven't donated yet to First Fruits, start today and join your fellow St. Theresa parishioners that reach out to those in need with compassion and stand with them in solidarity through St. Theresa First Fruits.

To learn more about St. Theresa First Fruits, pick up a brochure at the back of the church or contact John McMichael at 279-4654.

First Fruits information is available online--go to www.sainttheresaiaowa.org Then click on Parish, click on Social Concerns, and click on First Fruits.

St. Theresa First Fruits Donations/Disbursements	
-St. Mary's (Utility Assistance Account)	\$4,027
-Emergency Shelter Needs (St. Joseph's Shelter/Beacon of Life)	1,273
-Refugee Assistance (St. Ambrose Refugee Program)	949
-Pro-Life (House of Mercy/St. Theresa Pro Life Committee)	952
-St. Theresa Transitional House	5,399
-Current Need Disbursements:	
Assistance to St. Theresa Families/St Theresa Pastoral Care	2,950
St. Benedict's Mission	1,750
DMARC Child Care Program	1,100
Compassion in Action	1,100
St. Theresa Church Walk-in Assistance Fund	600
Connection Café	500
Chiapas Project through Catholic Worker	550
Casa Hogar	400
Hispanic Ministries/Catholic Charities/Just Faith National	400
Catholic Campaign for Human Development	100
Total First Fruits Disbursements January 2007 to June 2007	9,450
	\$22,050