

Saint Francis Peace Through Justice Ministry (SFPTJ) Actions

- Charitable Projects at the God's Love Family Transitional Center Unit (FTC)
 - Provided Halloween treat bags to 8 children, Christmas stockings for 13 children and Easter baskets for 7 children.
 - Provided gifts for the children to give to their parents under what we call the "Give to Give" program. Gifts were given by children to 8 parents at Christmas, 6 on Mother's Day and 3 on Father's Day.
- Initiated a twice yearly Adopt A Highway project. In May, 25 parishioners picked up trash on both sides of the road along a 2-mile section of Highway 12 west of Helena followed by a barbeque at a nearby picnic area.
- Stocked the parish "Blessing Box" throughout the year. Items provided included necessities for all 4 seasons as members restocked it twice a week. Some items provided were winter hats and gloves, water, food, hand warmers, toiletry items, baseball caps, socks and blankets.
- Focused on the unsheltered and indigent in our community by honoring those who have died and have no family to claim them upon their death. In December several of our group attended the "Longest Night" celebration sponsored by the YWCA and Helena's United Way. We honored 11 unsheltered or indigent people by lighting a candle for them at our parish November Mass of Remembrance.
- At Christmas, the SFPTJ ministry provided requested items for the newly opened Life House – a home that provides a safe living environment for young men designed to foster emotional, social and spiritual growth. We provided a wheel barrow, blender, some basic tools, AA batteries, manly scented candles and a vacuum cleaner.
- Sponsored four presentations in 2024 attended by 40-50 people. The presenters were:
 - Jacob Kuntz, Executive Director of Helena Area Habitat for Humanity on Habitat's vision for creating housing in Helena
 - Bro. Dale Mooney, FSC on The De La Salle Blackfeet School
 - Clay Scott on his experiences as a journalist in war zones and refugee camps
 - Jeanette Fregulia, PhD on "Is Peace Attainable in the Middle East?"
 - Barbara Chillcott of the Western Environmental Law Center on the Held v. State of Montana (youth climate justice case).
- Wrote 25 articles focusing on social justice issues including prayer, education, advocacy, and actions for every Saint Mary Catholic Community bulletin.
- Held 7 meetings attended by approximately 10 people. In our meetings we pray, discuss and plan actions to address social concerns and social justice. Meeting announcements and summaries and articles on relevant information are emailed to 23 parishioners. We had 2 guest speakers Theresa Ortega of Good Samaritan Ministries and Veronica Whitaker of the Helena Area Refugee Resettlement Team.