

St. Charles Helping Hands Mission Statement

St. Charles Helping Hands was formed in December of 2014 prior to the passing of Elizabeth Jochem. Her daughter, Mary LaBadie, approached the parish council asking if she could form some sort of program that could focus on the senior citizens of St. Charles Parish. Not knowing what direction this would go, \$3000.00 was placed into the "Helping Hands" fund for things such as mailings, socials or whatever monetary needs that this group would need to serve our parish seniors.

Upon approval, the St. Charles bulletin was the most useful resource in asking for assistance. Jan. 17, 2015 our first "meeting" was held, and ideas were formed as to what we thought we might do. We met again in February and March and acquired a group of about 12 parish members who really wanted to focus on the needs of our church family seniors. In the past, there has never been a program such as this and there was a desperate need for one.

In May of 2015, with the help of our crew, we were able to acquire the names and phone numbers of most of our seniors over the age of 70. Upon speaking to them, we realized that unless they truly needed something, they were not in need of our help. So, we went on to the 80 and above age group and that is where we stand today. Our committee was able to obtain every parish member, 80 and above, and their contact information. Each month our committee gathers to make certain that our seniors are:

- A) Receiving proper care?
- B) Receiving Holy Communion?
- C) Are they in need of some help with small chores?
- D) Do they have a friend to talk or to visit with?

Pat sends each of them a birthday card and a get well wish if they are ill.

We send out a monthly/ bi-monthly newsletter with information on what has been going on or coming up within our church/school community, as well as community events they may be interested in attending. The birthdays of our seniors within those months are listed in the newsletter as well.

At one of our initial meetings, we had our list of about 120 seniors in our parish and we actually knew where all of them were. We then divided our list among the 10 – 12 committee members and reached out to befriend or "buddy" with our significant seniors. Many have passed away, and many have been added; however, our mission remains the same. Our committee, past and present, can honestly say that we are not only proud to be members of St. Charles Parish, but that we feel privileged to be able to thank our seniors for all they have done for our church. Our mission is to make certain they are properly cared for and can always rely upon a "Helping Hand" from St. Charles Parish as either a guide for resource information or simply a friend to talk to. Our seniors have given their lives to our church and deserve nothing but the best. With spiritual guidance and a little time, we feel as though our goals are being met and that our mission continues to be successful.