

Spreading the Good News of God's Love . . .

. . . to the ends of the earth . . .

. . . Continued from front page



Parishioner Jon Trauth has been carrying the message of St. Leo's work with refugees to the ends of the earth. An adjunct professor of social work at Miami University he joined other teachers from the school at two international conferences. In July they were in Rome presenting at a conference on "Working on Threshold Concepts in the Helping Professions." In early January they presented at an international conference on counseling and psychotherapy in Bangalore, India. Here they talked about refugee resettlement and "Threshold Concepts for Teaching Students.

Prominent in each of these conferences were

findings from his work on horticultural therapy with the Burundian refugees which led to his doctoral dissertation evaluating St. Leo's refugee ministry.

Jon first came to St. Leo's to complete an internship for a graduate theology degree at Xavier. He had always loved gardening and began working alongside Burundian refugees who had been farmers in their home country. They liked showing him farming methods they had used in Africa and though they didn't speak the same language they developed friendship tilling the soil together.

He observed that gardening gave the refugees a chance to do something familiar and seemed to ease their transition to a new country. This experience led to his focus on horticultural therapy and its impact on refugees.

Whether in Italy or India, he found that people were interested in ways to understand and aid refugees which fits in with St. Leo's commitment to live out the corporal and spiritual works of mercy—in this case "welcoming the stranger."



St. Leo's Mission Statement

We are a welcoming Catholic Community, grounded in Eucharistic prayer, celebrating our diversity and sharing God's love through ministries of serving and being present in our urban neighborhoods, while focusing on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

St. Leo's Mission Statement Prayer

Lord God, in your infinite wisdom and love, you are inviting us to be a welcoming Catholic Community, grounded in Eucharistic prayer, celebrating our diversity, and sharing your love through ministries of serving and being present in our neighborhoods while focusing on the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

Help us to accept your invitation to be church, and to generously live together this mission statement. Teach us your works of mercy and unite us as your people, who serve our urban neighborhoods with your presence and grace. Let your works of mercy be common, holy ways for celebrating our diversity, and for leaving the Eucharistic table, heeding your command to "Go in peace glorifying the Lord with your life."

With those whom you entrust to our care and among ourselves, may we see you when you are hungry and thirsty, and recognize you when you are naked or a stranger, or sick or in prison, and then welcome you, feed you, clothe you and visit you. With those whom you entrust to our care and among ourselves, bless us with your works of comforting, consoling, forgiving and patiently forbearing; We ask this always through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Works of Mercy

THE SEVEN CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. Feed the hungry.
2. Give drink to the thirsty.
3. Clothe the naked.
4. Shelter the homeless.
5. Visit the sick.
6. Visit the imprisoned.
7. Bury the dead.

THE SEVEN SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY

1. Counsel the doubtful.
2. Instruct the ignorant.
3. Admonish sinners.
4. Comfort the afflicted.
5. Forgive offenses.
6. Bear wrongs patiently.
7. Pray for the living and the dead.