

# INCARNATE WORD REACH OUT MINISTRY

On the third Sunday of each month, the Incarnate Word Reach Out Ministry asks our parishioners to donate to a special collection that benefits three local St. Louis area parishes in need.

This month, all donations deposited in the Reach Out wooden box at the front of church by the Adoration Chapel will benefit:

**Sts. Teresa and Bridget Church** ... Headed up by Father Gary Meier and located 1 mile north of the Fox Theater on Grand Boulevard. The parish consists of about 300 households in an area of St. Louis that is low income with a crime and gang presence and many vacant, deserted and run-down properties on each block. In spite of all of the hardships that the members of this parish face, there are many good people there that just want a chance to have a good job, live in a nice home and raise their family in a Christian environment. Father Gary works hard with the help of a very lean staff and various volunteers, donations and grant funds to help the members of his parish in three ways:

1. **Solomon Project**- is aimed at providing new and newly renovated homes to low income families. The Solomon Project purchases dilapidated buildings within the parish boundaries and, with the help of volunteers and donations, turns those properties into homes that are rented or sold to low income families that promise to properly maintain them in an effort to improve the safety and aesthetics of the neighborhood. They have successfully built 12 homes and are currently working on their 13th.
2. **North Grand Neighborhood Services**- provides after school enrichment for high school students in the neighborhood. 2-3 St. Louis University and Washington University student volunteers/mentors tutor about 30 neighborhood kids after school in the basement of the church. The basement has a small computer lab, a study area and a lounge. They always serve food and snacks to the kids- which keeps them coming back!
3. **Angel Baked Cookies**- bakes and sells cookies in a bakery that started in the basement of Sts. Teresa and Bridget Church. Angel Baked Cookies employs 13-16 neighborhood teens and sells about 1,000 cookies per month in various locations around St. Louis such as Catholic high school bookstores, gas stations and quick shops. The teen employees not only earn money, get job skills, and make wise use of their idle time, but every shift starts with a group prayer. As the label of every cookie states "Our secret ingredient is prayer."

Your Reach Out donation will change the lives of those at Sts. Teresa and Bridget Church and is greatly appreciated. Volunteers are also needed. Visit [www.solomonproject.org](http://www.solomonproject.org) or contact Father Gary at (314)371-1190 ext. 21 or [gary@fathergary.com](mailto:gary@fathergary.com).