

Safe Harbor Sermon at St. Luke's Church, Scranton, PA

May 7, 2006

Preacher: Anna Beth Fish, Youth of Epiphany-Clarks Summit

"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you may say you have faith, but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has not works, is dead." (James 2:14-17.

Every day nearly thirteen million children go to bed hungry, cold and in want. Oh wait, that thirteen million only counts those in our country. Thirteen million. To give you an idea of just how many that is, think of this: a man gave his wife one million dollars and told her to spend one thousand dollars a day and to come back when she was out of money. She came back three years later. Now multiply that by thirteen. That's one thousand dollars a day...for thirty-nine years. That is a lot of money. And a lot of children. The worst part is, that's in the United States alone.

Now, envision another problem: government budget cuts. Not just cuts anywhere, but in the programs that help these children. Children are just that; children. Helpless mammals that rely on others to help them survive. What will happen to those children if no one is willing to help them? What will become of our children, our future? Who will help our children, our brothers, our sisters?

Join me in singing *Here I Am Lord* by David Schulte
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright,
Who will bear my light to them?
Who shall I send?

Here I am Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

In this song by Daniel L. Schulte, God speaks to Jacob, asking him to go forth and save the people. "And God spoke unto Israel in the visions of

the night and said, 'Jacob, Jacob.' And he replied, 'Here I am Lord.' Genesis 46:2.

Cruising to Equity has been a unique chance for us to answer a call from God. It has made giving back to our community easier. Instead of us having to ask ourselves, "Well, what can I do?" we have known all along what we need to do: fill the boat with everyday items like toothbrushes, gloves and night lights. Everyday items that are easy to procure. And the feeling of "Hey I did something to help a child in need" that came with each donation made our efforts worthwhile.

Cruising to Equity is done for now. The boats have been filled and children have been made happy and maybe even safer and healthier. But this celebration doesn't have to be just a closing. This is our opportunity for a new beginning. It is our turn to get out and do more good, make more differences not only in our communities, our nation, but the whole world. This is our chance.

"And God spoke unto Israel in the visions of the night and said, 'Jacob, Jacob.' And he replied, 'Here I am Lord.' Genesis 46:2. The children of our communities, our country, our world, will always need a Jacob. Won't you be a Jacob?"