**American Martyrs Parish Project for 2019 – 2020**

Give drink to the thirsty

*“The Corporal Works of Mercy are found in the*[***teachings of Jesus***](http://www.usccb.org/bible/matthew/25:31)*and give us a model for how we should treat all others, as if they were Christ in disguise.  They "are charitable actions by which we help our neighbors in their bodily needs" . They respond to the basic needs of humanity as we journey together through this life”*. (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website)

With the assistance of the parishioners of American Martyrs, we hope to help our very own Reverend Father Dominic Baffour-Akowuah. Father Dominic has been traveling from Ghana, West Africa each summer for many years, to help at our parish during the summer months. He is hoping for our help, as a nearby school and his residence in Ghana, which includes a small farm, lacks running water.

Wellspring Water Inc., <http://wellspringwaterinc.org/index.html> is a nonprofit organization that has been drilling water wells and creating small water systems for the people of Africa since 2012. They have completed six wells to date. Costs are covered by the funds generated through the recycling of cans and bottles. It takes approximately 84,000 cans/bottles ($4200) to drill a well and establish a simple but life changing water system.

Know that Wellspring Water, Inc. (EIN: 45-4410997) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Receipts for donations will be issued (via email).

We are asking that you recycle your cans and bottles and **donate the money to this project, by writing checks** to Wellspring Water Inc.

**PLEASE DO NOT BRING CANS AND BOTTLES TO AMERICAN MARTYRS.**  **WE CANNOT ACCEPT THEM.** **WE NEED YOU TO DO THE RECYCLING.**

Checks should be made payable to Wellspring Water Inc. and should include the note “Father Dominic project”. Checks can be given to religious education teachers during Sunday school. Also, checks can be left at the rectory 24/7, by using the mail slot in the rectory door.

Please also consider asking extended family and friends to participate as well. We hope to have this project run for the duration of this school year, starting September 2019 through May 2020. Any excess donations (positive thinking) will be given to Wellspring for their next water well project.

Eighth grade teacher and Knights of Columbus member Joe Timpa will be coordinating the effort here at American Martyrs. Father Dominic, Gillian Costanza, the Co -founder (with her daughter) of Wellspring Water Inc. and Joe, met in mid - August to discuss the possibility of making this happen.

The Knights of Columbus here at American Martyrs have been involved in a small way with Wellspring for a number of years, but we are hoping, we are asking, we are praying, for your involvement, to take the fundraising to another level.

Joe will collect all checks and forward them to Gillian. Gillian and Father Dominic will coordinate planning, drilling and establishing the physical water system. Joe will keep you updated via the religious education website at [www.AMReligionClass.weebly.com](http://www.AMReligionClass.weebly.com),. Info will be available as well through our church bulletin.

PLEASE participate. The anticipated success of this effort will serve as a great lesson for our children (and for us adults) and will be a blessing for Father Dominic and some school children in Ghana.

The Works of Mercy rely upon our hands, as our hands are the ones that Jesus uses to help others.

Thank you. Father Frank Schwarz , Theresa Asche , Joe and Silvia Timpa