

The Cluny Circle of Love

Update: The Whitesville Food Pantry

Sister Anne Marie Liston

Although we are not as numerous in this province as we were in the past, as Clunys we try to leave lasting footprints through the various works and missions in which we were involved. Financially, as a Province, through our Circle of Love, we try our best to support some of the works which have been taken over by lay people, or other religious groups, and do all we can to encourage others to aid them.



Stan Pauley with clients outside the Food Pantry

One of the works in our Circle of Love is the Food Pantry in Whitesville, West Virginia. Whitesville was once a prosperous mining town back in the '50s but today struggles to survive. In 1986, when Sister Marie Cooper and Sister Pius Moore were part of the mission team for St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in Whitesville, together with the leadership of the Church of God of Prophecy of Sylvester and the Clear Creek Presbyterian Church, they were able to help local people establish Helping Hands, a small storefront center on the main street which gave residents a place to obtain "gently used" items of clothing, appliances and other necessities, and assist with food and emergency assistance. One of the volunteers at that time, was Sue Pauley, a resident of Whitesville, and a woman of great determination and compassion for her neighbors. When "Helping Hands" closed a few years later, the Cluny Sisters hired Sue to run a food pantry which would distribute food monthly to families in the area. With

Sue, thankfully, came an extra gift, "Stan", her husband, a former mine worker, who despite his medical disability lost no time figuring out ways to make the project work. Aided by United Way, Mountain Food Bank, the Clunys and many generous souls across the country the food pantry began in the basement of St. Joseph's Church. When we left Whitesville, Catholic Community Services took over sponsorship, but we continue to contribute financially each year. A few years ago, the food pantry offices expanded to an unused school in nearby Raleigh County to help more people. It still continues providing food and many other things to help the people of this area.

As you can see by the pictures, Sue and Stan are still hard at work with their neighbors and clients as they live out the words, "I was hungry, you gave me to eat".

Thank you, Sue and Stan, for the pictures, but most of all for the inspiration you give all of us. We are so proud of you!



Sue Pauley and a volunteer with a delivery of fresh fruit - Yum!

Photos: Sue Pauley