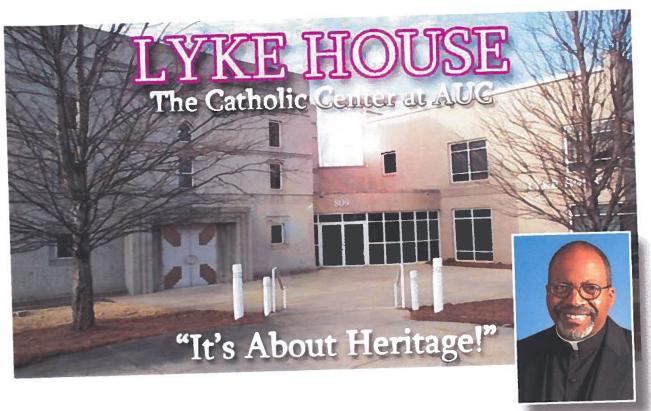


ould you live on only \$50 a month?
Most of us could not, but this is a reality
for many elderly residents of the former
Soviet region of Georgia, who awoke one
morning to find their pensions and life savings gone.
Former doctors, lawyers, and musicians now find
themselves living on a stipend that doesn't even cover
the cost of one loaf of bread per day, leaving nothing
to pay for transportation, clothing, or medicine. The
Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern
Europe not only provides support for basic pastoral
programs, scholarships for student leaders in local
churches, and other important initiatives, but also
helps fund medical dispensaries and shelters to care for
the people in the region.

In the neighboring Republic of Azerbaijan, Mother Teresa of Calcutta's Sisters of Charity run a homeless shelter with aid from the Collection. In addition to providing bread, medical care, and transitional housing, the sisters visit the poor and elderly who are bedridden or too sick to travel to the shelter, helping to bring the light of Christ to those living in the darkness of poverty, illness, and loneliness. The sisters combat the destruction brought on by 70 years of state atheism, which undermined Christian ideals and contributed to increased alcoholism, domestic abuse, and deterioration of the family.

Through your donations, the Church is able to provide support for the Sisters of Charity and other Catholic organizations that help use the light of Christ to illuminate the region with faith. Please be generous in your parish Collection and continue this important work for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.





You Are Invited

Be our special Guest on Friday, October 19, 2012 for an Open House and Dinner to commemorate the 13th Annual Lyke House Dedication Celebration from 6 o'clock to 8 o'clock pm at the Lyke House, 809 Beckwith Street for an evening of fellowship and spiritual enlightenment.

Join us to learn how you can assist us in fulfilling the mission of the Lyke House.



Our Lady of Lourdes Life Issues Committee

Life Notes

October

October 2012



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is RESPECT LIFE MONTH



As Catholics, we believe in respecting human life from conception until natural death and at every point in between. In October, our bishops challenge us not only to speak up for the weak and vulnerable but also to demonstrate our commitment by serving those among us who are most at risk. At Lourdes, our Life Issues team tries to do that year-round. We work on issues from helping with crisis pregnancies to ending the death penalty. But our major project has been our Street GRACE partnership with a center for homeless teens in downtown Atlanta called StandUp for Kids.

"PARISHIONERS HELP TEENS, RUNAWAYS AVOID EXPLOITATION"

That was the title of one of the Catholic News Service articles highlighting our work at StandUp for Kids that appeared this summer in the Georgia Bulletin. CNS noted that Lourdes prepares meals for the center, and our members serve as counselors and instructors to at-risk teens. Over the past year, many parishioners have generously joined in these efforts, but we could really use more financial help and volunteers.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

The 2nd Monday of each month, we need volunteers to provide food, cook and/or serve at StandUp for Kids. Cooks willing to prepare simple meals (recipes provided) are especially needed. We also need volunteers to prepare Food/Survival Packs for kids on the streets and visitors leaving the center. A list of ingredients is provided.

In addition, the center needs Center and Street Outreach Volunteers. Center volunteers work as mentors and counselors to the kids 4.5 hours once a week. Street outreach volunteers walk around downtown looking for new kids and meeting with kids who are too old to come to the center but still need assistance. Both center and outreach volunteers work from 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday OR Wednesday.

Also needed are GED Volunteers to tutor kids one-to-one as they work through GED practice tests (6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Monday OR Wednesday) and Life Skill Teachers to help small groups learn skills like applying for jobs and managing money (45-minute sessions Monday OR Wednesday). Finally, Clothes Closet Volunteers are needed to help inventory and organize donated clothing (a few daytime hours each week).

Center and outreach volunteers must attend two training sessions on Sunday afternoons. GED volunteers need only one session. All the rest get plenty of OJT!

If you can help with the meals that Lourdes provides, please contact Susan Taquechel at taquechels@bellsouth.net or 404-321-6752. If you can assist with other ongoing needs at the center, contact Carole Lacour at Lared111@aol.com or 404-629-0878.