

# A GIFT OF GOATS

## ST. PIUS X PARISH IN SOLIDARITY WITH NEIGHBORS ACROSS THE GLOBE

*We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they live. We are one human family, whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Learning to practice the virtue of solidarity means learning that 'loving our neighbor' has global dimensions in an interdependent world.*

Office of Social Development & World Peace  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

St. Pius X joined with The Catholic Community of St. Francis Xavier in Hunt Valley to collect altogether over \$50,000 to be donated to the people of Darfur. At last we have pictures to show that your generosity did make a difference. For a better look at the photos, please visit the St. Pius X Church web site, <http://stpius10.org>.

On the next page, we are re-printing the thank-you letter from last October from Gina Bramucci, describing the use of the donations.





### Central African Republic – October 4, 2007

Just over a year has passed since it all began—the Baltimore outpouring of support and funds for Darfur, the cars and schools decorated with signs to raise awareness, the lemonade stands and the Sunday school letters to children very far away. Fr. Hank-turned-honorary-goat-herder and discussions about what this means for us, a conflict thousands of miles away in a place so seemingly disconnected from the parish hall at St. Pius X. People made donations, I believe, not out of a simple sense of duty, but also out of a sense of humanity. And no one could have anticipated so much momentum, so much energy and compassion directed toward one region of Sudan.

Twelve months have passed since you demonstrated how a mother or father, a son or a daughter, in Baltimore *is* indeed connected to a mother or father, a son or a daughter, in Habillah, in Riyad, in Kerenek, in Mornei, in any of these unfamiliar places. In the course of those 12 months, the truth of the situation for civilians in Darfur remains largely unchanged; or maybe we should consider it worsened, because time passes, conflict continues, and families grow in a place of insecurity. And so, the purpose of those months of waiting, the delivery, finally, of funds from Baltimore to the people of Darfur.

You have been, for so many months, patient and understanding. The process of transferring your donations to programs in Darfur has not been easy, and it is thanks to the perseverance of people like Mary Toler, Fr. Hank, Catholic Relief Services, HelpAge International, and others that the funds have finally arrived. Your contributions are headed now toward the originally intended beneficiaries—families that can be more self-reliant because livestock provides a source of income and food, and sick people who will have access to medical care.

In coming months, the team in West Darfur will send you updates and photos of the people who are benefiting from your generosity. For now, I want to express the thanks of all those involved in this process. The tangible impact you're making—the impact you've already made—is without measure. I also want to express my personal thanks, for the time we shared together in Baltimore last April, and for the hope your community gave me, for the sense that someplace there is always still a light.

Gina Bramucci  
Protection Coordinator  
International Rescue Committee  
République Centrafricaine