



For Immediate Release

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Christ the King students prepare for Appalachia Mission Trip

(Mashpee, October 13, 2015) Seventeen local high school students with adventurous spirits and a desire to serve the poor will spend their April school vacation week together on a special mission trip to one of the poorest parts of the country.

The students, all Youth Ministry members from the Parish of Christ the King in Mashpee, will spend the week of April 17-23, 2016 in Wheeling, West Virginia, a region of Appalachia characterized by extreme poverty. They will take part in a number of activities and projects, ranging from light construction, painting, cooking and gardening to serving meals and operating a thrift shop. They'll be joined on the trip by several adult chaperones, led by mission coordinators David and Cheryl Ryan of Cotuit.

“Our group is following the call of Pope Francis in service to the poor,” said Cheryl Ryan. “We are blessed to have this wonderful opportunity to help some of the poorest people in our nation.”

The group will begin the 12-hour car trip to Appalachia early on the morning of Sunday, April 17, driving in two large vans. A special pasta dinner fundraiser to help offset the costs of the trip has been set for Saturday evening, Nov. 14 at 5:00 pm at the Christ the King Parish Hall. Tickets to the dinner cost \$10 for an individual ticket or \$25 for a family. The evening will include raffle and auction prizes. Please call 508-477-7700 to reserve your tickets to the pasta dinner and help support the mission. You can also purchase tickets after all masses at Christ the King on the weekend of November 7-8, or you can reserve them online by visiting www.ctkmissionappalachia.weebly.com.

The students are all members of Christ the King Parish, but they represent several area high schools including Mashpee High School, Barnstable High School, Saint John Paul II School, Upper Cape Tech, Cape Cod Community College Dual Enrollment, Sturgis West and Sturgis East.

“The mission is a tremendous experience,” said Nathan Ryan, a Barnstable High School senior who went on the last mission trip two years ago. “We see first-hand how difficult day-to-day living is for many people in our own country. It is a privilege and a blessing to help them.”

For more information or if you are interested in attending the pasta dinner, donating a raffle or auction item, or supporting the mission in other ways, please contact David and Cheryl Ryan at dr4297@comcast.net or 508-420-4297.