



Mercy Prayer Center



65 Highland Avenue
Rochester, NY 14620

Phone: (585) 473-6893
Fax: (585) 473-6414

Info@mercyprayercenter.org
www.mercyprayercenter.org

Come to our Kickoff
April 30, 7:00 PM
St. Ann's Parish Hall
1600 Mt. Hope Ave, Rochester

The Story Behind the Parable of the Talents Challenge

Jesus said, "And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, to another, one talent, each according to his ability and told them go forth and do good!"

their money, but chastises the one who is so afraid to take a risk that he buries his share.

Taking it one step further, and like the

Today, the Mercy Prayer Center is challenging all those who care about this special ministry to help ensure it will be here for generations to come. To do so, its staff and leadership have created the 'Parable of the Talents Challenge'.

It is an idea borrowed from a sermon and remarkable challenge by The Rev. Hamilton Throckmorton to his church in Chagrin Falls, Ohio. One Sunday, he reminded his parishioners of Jesus' parable of the talents ...a story which tells of the master who entrusts three servants with a sum of money (talents) and instructs them to go forth and do good. The master lavishes praise on the two servants who double



MATTHEW
25:14-30

Sponsored by
Dalzells Hearing Centers

master in this story, the pastor told his flock that he would entrust each one with fifty dollars or 'talents' (given in advance by generous donors). He asked each of them in the next seven weeks to find ways to use their 'talents' to double their money for the church missions. "Live the parable of the talents!", Throckmorton exhorted, as assistants handed out hundreds of red envelopes stuffed with crisp \$50 bills.

We would like to duplicate Rev. Throckmorton's great idea here in Rochester, NY with our *First Annual Parable of the Talents Challenge* beginning with a **Kickoff at 7 PM on April 30, 2009** and concluding with a **Celebration of Stories at 7 PM on June 18, 2009**.

Our Goal is to Recruit 150 'Talent Volunteers'

Our goal is to recruit at least 150 'Talent Volunteers' who will agree to create a personal project to raise funds to support Mercy Prayer Center and to raise awareness for our ministry.

These projects should also help "build community", that is, to enhance the community we live in, get people out and involved, have fun, make friends, make someone else's day a little easier, share

love, celebrate life.

At our kickoff on April 30, we will present each 'Talent Volunteer' with a red envelope with a crisp new \$50 bill (Talent Grant) to help fund their project. They will be given seven weeks to multiply their talents and return with their stories and their proceeds.

We invite you to join us in this great challenge!

What's Inside:

What Could I Do with my \$50	2
Where would I sell?	2
Water For Sudan also benefits	2
What are others doing; More ideas	3
About Mercy Prayer Center	3
Frequently Asked Questions	4
Registration Form	4

MERCY PRAYER CENTER

The Parable of the Talents Challenge

What Could I Possibly Do With My \$50 Talent Grant?

You're probably saying, "*I don't have any talents; what could I ever do or make with my \$50*".

Well, you're not alone, on two fronts. First, you are probably like most people - you don't think you can do anything special; and second, you might surprise yourself if you just sit down and think (and pray) about it. God gave you more talents and skills than you could ever want—you just have to recognize them.

Your first hurdle is probably thinking too big. Remember the **KISMIF Rule** - Keep it simple, make it fun.

You should also consider

your resources and amount of time you have to devote to this project.

Here are some questions that might help:

- What do I do for fun?
- What are my hobbies?
- What resources do I have?
- Who do I know that can help me?
- Do you know a group or club that can help?
- What would I like to do but never had the opportunity?
- What can I do that will build my community?

You are free to use your \$50 Talent Grant any way you choose. You might need supplies or to buy postage and cards for invitations, or make posters for promotion.

There is only one expectation, and that is that you raise at least \$50 to cover your original talent grant.

If you are combining efforts with another person, each of you can get a \$50 talent grant. That way, you can do twice as much.

If you have a larger group such as a club, a school, classroom or company team, we will consider a larger amount.

"While we place our confidence in God, we must act as if all depended on ourselves."
— Catherine McAuley

Where Would I Sell?

The first thing to keep in mind is that this is also a wonderful opportunity to **promote Mercy Prayer Center** and increase awareness of our ministry. So anyone you ask is going to learn more about the prayer center in the process.

If you are planning on

making something and then selling it, you're probably wondering "Where would I sell my goods?"

Use your resources. You have family, friends and co-workers who are good prospects. Also, you probably belong to a group or an association or two. And then

there's **Craig's List**, a great way to treasures.

And don't forget your home parish or school. There may be events already scheduled where you can ask for a table or put up posters to promote your project. The key is to **ask for help**.

Water for Sudan Will Also Benefit

We will **Tithe** 10% of our proceeds to a Third World charity every year. This year's recipient is **Water for Sudan**.

Water for Sudan, Inc. is a Rochester, NY-based charitable organization currently operating in Sudan, Africa. Their mission is to drill

fresh-water wells for the people in the southern areas of Sudan, providing the foundation for stable, healthy communities.

The goal for the next several years is up to forty wells per year to service tens of thousands of villagers. Loca-



We are Tithing 10% of our proceeds to Water For Sudan

What Are Others Doing?

Here are some of the projects from 'Talent Volunteers' already registered. You can copy or expand on one of these, or create an entirely new project. **Get creative.**

- Design & sell Easter Greeting Cards
- Jody Kearney RSM
- Host a 'Lasagna Supper'
- Cathy and Andy Zona, Goldie Rogers
- Provide Personal Fitness Training Session
- Diane Ferrucci, Certified Personal Trainer
- Give haircuts - Fran Wegman RSM
- Make & sell Gourmet Chocolate Sauce
- Jackie Reichart RSM
- Make & sell 'Annie's Hot Mustard'
- Ann Cullen RSM

- Host a Tea Party
- Therese Richardson RSM & Giovina Caroscio
- Provide a Tutoring Session in Homiletics
- Barbara Moore RSM
- Make & sell Fudge & Spiced Pecans
- Christine McGraw
- Make & sell 'Jerry's Home-made Soup' - Jerry Lupien



Sister Jody Kearney with her hand-made Easter Cards - 4 for \$2.00



Sister Therese Richardson & Giovina Caroscio get ready for their "Tea Party with 'T' and 'G'"

- Make & sell 'Peace Tea Lights'
- Anne Maloney & Young Sapling Pottery
- Make & sell Handmade Pillows
- Diane Marie Erskine RSM
- Organize a garage sale or craft sale - Jane Stave
- Tutor Math Sessions
- Pam Keyes
- Organize a car wash

**"Our name is Mercy; our spirit is compassion."
— Catherine McAuley**

Here Are Some More Ideas To Consider

- Put in an extra hour of overtime at work or work someone else's shift
- Give airplane rides (only if you're a pilot)
- Host a card party or 'game night'
- Write & record a song and sell the CD's
- Make and sell craft or art pieces
- Get your club or group to hold a raffle or other fundraiser
- Babysit, mow lawns, do house cleaning or spring clean-ups
- Sell something you own on **Craig's List or Ebay**
- Give motorcycle rides
- Design a website
- Rent a popcorn machine and sell popcorn in the school cafeteria
- Photograph a wedding
- Give a computer lesson
- Give a music lesson
- Host a dinner party
- Provide an hour of professional services

About Mercy Prayer Center

Mercy Prayer Center is a Rochester, NY based retreat and spiritual enrichment center sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy. We are centered in an awareness of God's compassionate love and the hospitality of Catherine McAuley, foundress of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. We encourage people of all faiths to come and discern, claim, and respond to God's ongoing call.

Staff - We have seven full-time and two part-time professional staff members including five with advanced theology / ministry degrees. Dozens of volunteer adjunct program staff and facilitators assist with selected programs.

Spiritual Direction - Spiritual direction is the practice of

being with people as they attempt to deepen their relationship with the divine, or to learn and grow in their own personal spirituality. We have 3 full-time spiritual directors on staff, supplemented by 8 part-time volunteer directors.

Retreats and Programs - We offer a full schedule of week-long and weekend private, directed and guided retreats and a wide spectrum of spiritual enrichment programs.

Overnight Guest Rooms - Mercy Prayer Center has 12 private sleeping rooms that are used for retreats, programs and for individual private stays. Private groups are welcome to use the facility for their own enrichment programs. Our staff is also available for group facilitation.

Mail registration form to:

Mercy Prayer

65 Highland Avenue
Rochester, NY 14620

Phone: (585) 473-6893
Fax: (585) 473-6414
Info@mercyprayercenter.org
www.mercyprayercenter.org



Registration Form - Parable of the Talents Challenge

Name _____

Address _____

City / State / Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Name of my group or names of other individuals if participating:

My Project is: (describe below) I haven't decided yet but will let you know

I agree to do my best to multiply my talents and will raise at least \$50 to cover my "\$50 Talent Grant".

Signature: _____

✂ Cut Here ✂

A quiet place of prayer, education, healing, hope, and gratitude.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I participate?

Every "Talent Volunteer" participating is asked to do two things:

Use your gifts to provide a service or *Make and Sell Something* that will help Build Community and raise much needed funds to help support Mercy Prayer Center. And - *Come to the Kickoff and Closing Celebrations.*

How do I get my \$50 'Talent Grant'?

It's easy. Just register and then come to the kickoff on April 30; get 'all charged up' and then pick up your Talents Challenge Envelope with your \$50 Talents Grant.

What do I do with my \$50?

You can use your \$50 'Talent Grant' to purchase supplies or to help promote your project.

Where can I get ideas on what to do?

There are lots of ideas on pages 2 & 3 of this booklet. You can ask family and friends for ideas. You can even call the prayer Center at (585) 473-6893 and we will help you pick your brain.

When can I start my project?

You can start any time. You don't have to wait for the kickoff. But you should complete your project by June 18.

Can my spouse or friend come too ?

If you would like to "join forces" with another person you can get another \$50 for that person. Just sign up as a team.

What about groups?

Groups can participate too. Youth groups, school groups, company teams and even bridge clubs can participate. Call us to arrange for an amount that will cover your group's expenses.

When and where do I go?

Our Kickoff is **Thursday, April 30 at 7:00 PM** and our Closing Celebration of Stories is on **Thursday, June 18 at 7:00 PM**. Both events are held at **St. Anne's Parish Hall**, 1600 Mount Hope Ave, Roch-

ester.

Are my donations tax-deductible?

Outright cash donations are deductible. However, if a product or service is purchased, the fair-market value is not tax-deductible.

Where do I get more information?

See pages 2 & 3 of this brochure or call us at 585-473-6893

How do I Sign up?

Just fill in the attached registration form and send it into Mercy Prayer Center, then pick your project and **GO FOR IT!**

