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## From the Clergy Associate

### *The blessings of being part of something larger than ourselves*

On October 6, St. Elizabeth's Outreach Committee had the great honor and privilege of attending the Children's Aid and Family Services (CAFS) Evening for the "Building Futures" Awards. It was quite inspiring and humbling to hear the wonderful stories of the different ways that individuals, government officials, non-profit organizations, and corporations support the life-giving work of CAFS. The St. Elizabeth's Outreach Committee has provided financial support to this organization for a number of years now, but I was pleasantly surprised that evening to see so many familiar faces from St. Elizabeth's at this special gathering. I had never realized just how many of our parishioners have been involved with and committed to this agency's holy work of serving the social, educational, and emotional needs of vulnerable children and families. And quite a number of them have been involved with CAFS for many, many years.

As we approach this season of Thanksgiving, I give thanks for the many blessings found in recognizing that we are all part of something larger than ourselves: the blessing that St. Elizabeth's is able to support and partner with such organizations as CAFS which provide valuable services to our neighbors, both far and near, who are in need; the blessing of those relationships with our neighbors which call us beyond ourselves; the blessing of having parishioners who are engaged in the work for the greater good of the larger community as well as of the parish; the blessing that as we are called to love God with all our hearts, minds, and souls, and to love our neighbors as ourselves, we do so supported, challenged, and inspired by friends, companions, colleagues, and sometimes even strangers; and the blessing of being reminded that we are never alone.

In great gratitude,  
The Rev. Joan F. Conley  
*Clergy Associate*