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October 25, 2007

TO: My Dear, Magnanimous, Wonderful Friends

FROM: Barbara B. Comerford

Re: St. Rocco's Church
Toy Drive/Holiday Party
December 9, 2005 at noon

As you all know, I sponsor a Toy Drive and Holiday Party at St. Rocco's Church in Newark each year around Christmas. St. Rocco's is located in Central Ward Newark in an economically depressed neighborhood, across from the housing projects. Once again, I am asking for your kind support and assistance to make the Toy Drive and Holiday party a success. As always, new recruits are welcome!

If you decide to help (and I REALLY hope you do), this is what we need: unwrapped new toys for about 200 boys and girls, in every age group. For those with corporate offices or law firms that cannot accommodate the collection of toys, please contact my legal assistant, Anne Lazzaro, and she will make arrangements to collect them. If you have the space to receive the toys, but lack the means to deliver them, please call Anne and we will arrange delivery.

The holiday party is a little earlier this year due to conflicts and has been scheduled for 12 noon on the 1st of December in the basement of the church. Your generous contributions in the past allowed the church to build a ramp to the basement, replacing the badly battered cement steps and upgrade the bathrooms as well. As you may or may not know, the basement serves as a food shelter for the homeless in the region, some of whom are handicapped. The food we purchase for the holiday party also serves to feed the homeless families who attend. Your kind support makes an enormous difference to them, as well.

For those of you who wish to make a monetary contribution to St. Rocco's in lieu of toy donations, please make your checks payable to St. Rocco's Church and mail them to my office so that we can deliver them directly to the Monsignor on the day of the party. Should you wish to deliver the toys directly to St. Rocco's, please call a church employee, Sharon, at 973-824-1652, and please notify Anne that you have done so.

Anne will act as liaison, once again, with your offices to make this toy drive/holiday party the biggest success ever. She is as helpful and caring as each of you, and looks forward to working with you and/or your staff. You really do make a difference in these children's lives.

As I have said before time and time again, words truly cannot express my gratitude to each and every one of you for making this program a success each year. St. Rocco's provides toys and food to the surrounding community regardless of the religious affiliation of those who seek their help. The parish consists mostly of recent immigrants from third world countries and impoverished families who have lived in the central ward for generations. This year St. Rocco's has merged with St. Ana's as the new "Catholic Parish of the Transfiguration"; however, Sharon has assured me that St. Rocco's still services the surrounding community regardless of religious affiliation.

Thank you again my dear, sweet friends. I pray that this holiday season brings you as much joy as each of you brings to the children and the homeless in the St. Rocco's Community. God Bless you all!

With warmest personal regards, your friend,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Barbara', written in black ink.

Barbara