

Deacon Galvin, Outreach Ministry of St. James the Greater Among Those Honored by Gassaway's Father Thien

By Joyce Bibey

GASSAWAY — Father Thien Duc Nguyen, SVD, pastor of Risen Lord Mission and St. Thomas Parish in Braxton and Clay counties recently honored his team of more than 40 local volunteers that keep his food pantries open and stocked to feed hundreds of families in need.

Also in attendance by invitation was Charles Town's Deacon Dave Galvin of St. James the Greater Parish, who Father Thien surprised and presented with his "Matthew 25 Award" — an award that exemplifies "it is better to give than to receive."

Matthew chapter 25 focuses on the importance of performing good deeds. God created each one of us with skills and abilities. Therefore, it is critical to without hesitation use those to help one another when we see an opportunity. The Gospel of Matthew reminds us we will be held accountable.

According to Father Thien, Deacon Dave and the Outreach Ministry of St. James the Greater, although 300 miles away from his food pantries,

have "given countless hours and many ways in which they live the Gospel by bringing comfort, food, and care to our brothers and sisters in need in West Virginia, particularly in Clay and Braxton counties for the past eight years.

"Many times, during the year, they bring clothes, diapers, furniture, and food."

Each year the St. James Outreach Ministry has delivered between 3,000 to 6,000 pounds of vegetables between June-December to help feed the 250-300 families that depend on the food pantries run by Thien's faithful.

Deacon Dave's group also installed a fence around the food pantries' gardens and on the day of the recognition dinner they brought 20 living chickens for people to raise. In all 50 chickens have been brought to those families.

Father Thien said taking time to honor those who choose to do good on earth to bring a bit of joy to others is an important moment, "an opportunity (to thank them for letting



Courtesy photo

Father Thien Duc Nguyen, SVD, pastor of Risen Lord Mission and St. Thomas Parish in Braxton and Clay counties (second from right), and Deacon Dave Galvin of St. James the Greater Parish in Charles Town (second from left), and volunteers stand by some of the 20 living chickens St. James donated for people in need.

their) 'light shine before others, that glorify your Father in heaven' (Mt they may see your good deeds and 5:16)."