

Sister Lael Amory, MS

I moved to Amory after having spent 16 years as a missionary in Nicaragua. I serve St. Helen's Parish which has 85 families. For the past 20 years St. Helen's has not had a priest assigned on a regular basis. The priest comes twice a month to say Mass on Sunday; he also oversees five other parishes for the diocese. My role is similar to being a pastor and working with the parish council. I make preparations for all funeral, wedding and baptism celebrations, and distribute communion. I write homilies and lead the Sunday prayer service.

This is truly the church of the laity. I am the only paid person. The parishioners are involved, everyone knows each other and together they have kept their parish thriving. They volunteer to visit the sick, teach religious education, serve on the parish council, contribute to a variety of charitable efforts and participate in "Renew" groups. I am truly blessed to be a part of the community.

