

This information is forwarded by the **Love Thy Neighbor Ministry** at Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Milton FL.  
Source of Information: The Catholic Foundation of Northwest Florida. Due to the many references, some may not be current but have many useful reference sources- starting points. Emails are sent using the Blind Carbon Copy (BCC) method.

This quality of life series focuses primarily on senior citizens plus other supplemental information. You do not have to be a Senior to make use of this information. If you know of a Senior, a parishioner or a neighbor who could use this information you are invited to give them a copy of this email. Fellowship through improved communications is guided by the second greatest commandment. Sometimes an act of kindness can be as simple as a phone call, a visit, or receipt of an email.

Suggestion: Create a separate folder for this information for ease of reference.

For information about our Parish, click on the following link: <http://parishesonline.com/scripts/HostedSites/Org.asp?ID=14423>

**Our parish spirit is rising, is rising.**

Senior Eye Care Programs

[http://www.legacygifts.org/savvy\\_senior.jsp?WebID=GL2004-0129&D=200712](http://www.legacygifts.org/savvy_senior.jsp?WebID=GL2004-0129&D=200712)

Dear Savvy Senior,

I've been wearing glasses for more than 40 years now, but recently my eyes have taken a turn for the worse. Can you recommend any organizations that provide low-cost eye care for seniors on a tight budget?

Nearsighted Sal

Dear Sal,

There are several eye care programs and resources that may be able to help you - depending on your circumstances. Here are some options.

### **Community Resources**

The best way to learn about free or discounted eye care or eyeglass programs in your community is to contact your local Lions Club. Lions Clubs are recognized for their service to the blind and visually impaired and should be able to refer you to programs available in your area. Programs and eligibility requirements will vary by community. Call your local Lions Club chapter or call Lions Clubs International at 800-747-4448 or visit [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) to find out what's available in your neck of the woods.

Another good local resource is the "Give the Gift of Sight" program ([www.givethegiftofsight.org](http://www.givethegiftofsight.org)) that provides free vision screening and new glasses to people who can't afford them. Sponsored by Luxottica Retail, LensCrafters and Lions Clubs International, Gift of Sight also offers an outreach program where trained volunteers visit nursing homes, hospitals and senior centers to adjust eyewear, and provide free vision screenings. For more information, contact your local LensCrafters store. To find a store in your area call 800-541-5367.

### **National Programs**

#### **Have you heard of EyeCare America's Senior EyeCare Program?**

A national program coordinated by the American Academy of Ophthalmology that provides free medical eye care to all U.S. citizens age 65 and older who have not seen an ophthalmologist in three or more years and don't belong to an HMO or the VA. They also offer diabetes, glaucoma and age-related macular degeneration (AMD) eye care programs, too - eligibility requirements vary for each program. EyeCare America has over 7,300 participating ophthalmologists around the country that accept Medicare or other insurance as full payment. Patients without insurance receive care at no cost. For more information or to find if you qualify call 800-222-3937 or visit [www.eyecareamerica.org](http://www.eyecareamerica.org). Some other programs that may help include:

#### **Knights Templar Eye Foundation:**

This is a charitable foundation that provides financial assistance for medical eye care, for those under ages 65 who don't qualify for Medicaid or have private insurance and can't afford to pay for care. For information call 847-490-3838 or visit [www.knightstemplar.org/ktcf](http://www.knightstemplar.org/ktcf). (Note: The Knights Templar Eye Foundation is also a co-sponsor of the EyeCare America's Senior EyeCare Program.)

#### **Mission Cataract USA:**

Coordinated by the Volunteer Eye Surgeons' Association, they provide free cataract surgery to people of all ages who don't have

Medicare, Medicaid or private insurance and have no other means to pay. Surgeries are typically done in May. For more information, visit [www.missioncataractusa.org](http://www.missioncataractusa.org) or call 800-343-7265.

**Vision USA:**

Coordinated by the American Optometric Association (AOA), Vision USA provides free eye health and vision care services to uninsured and low-income workers and their families who have no other means of obtaining care. Visit [www.aoa.org](http://www.aoa.org) and click on "AOA Public Programs" or call 800-766-4466.

**New Eyes for the Needy:**

This is an international eyeglass program that accepts donations of used prescription eyeglasses and distributes them to people with limited incomes. To learn more visit [www.neweyesforthenedy.org](http://www.neweyesforthenedy.org) or call 973-376-4903

**Savvy Note:** Medicare covers 80 percent of the allowed charges for cataract surgery and one pair of eyeglasses after surgery. Medicare also pays for annual glaucoma screenings for people at high risk of the disease and will pay for age-related macular degeneration treatment for some patients. Call your Medicare provider to find out exact coverage details.