



PROPOSAL FOR PARISH PANTRY SUPPORT PROGRAM

Presented to the Foundation



JUNE 1, 2020



ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Archdiocesan Pastoral Center: 5001 Eastern Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20782-3447
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 29260, Washington, DC 20017-0260
301-853-4500

Title

The Archdiocese of Washington's Parish Pantry Support Program – an initiative to support food pantries operated by Washington, DC Metropolitan parishes.

Background

The Archdiocese of Washington is home to over 655,000 Catholics in the Washington, DC area, including the five surrounding Maryland counties of Montgomery, Prince George's, Calvert, Charles, and Saint Mary's. The archdiocese has 139 parishes and missions with mass celebrated in more than 20 languages. Through the 93 Catholic schools in our diocese, we educate over 26,000 children as one of the largest private social service providers in D.C. Metropolitan region, our service agencies are comprised of Catholic Charities, St. Ann's Center for Children, Youth and Families, and Victory Housing. Every year, more than 142,000 people receive counseling, shelter, adoption and foster care assistance, health care, immigration and legal aid, affordable housing, and more through the care of archdiocesan staff and volunteers. New immigrants find support at the many archdiocesan ministries serving our diverse community, including the Spanish Catholic Center.

Statement of Need

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on our region. With the closure of schools, churches, and businesses, our economy, a significant portion of our community members are unemployed or underemployed. According to Washington, DC's Department of Employment Services, there have been more than 104,000 claims for unemployment benefits in the District of Columbia since mid-March. The Maryland Department of Labor is reporting an unemployment rate that has eclipsed 10% in April.

Through such devastation and loss, many turn to the church for support. Households with children, in particular, are more likely to experience food insecurity, according to Feeding America, the country's largest network of food banks. Often, households struggling with food insecurity rely on local food banks and other hunger relief organizations for support. The Archdiocese of Washington has 67 parishes that serve the community directly with their food pantry, health, and financial programs in support of those in need. These pantry programs are in addition to the excellent work of Catholic Charities and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul programs that also serve many communities in the greater Washington metro area.

Before the pandemic, more than 7,500 people turned to these parishes for support. Since April 2020, there have been increases in demand to support those in need by between 50% to more than 1,000%. Some parish pantries were forced to close during April and May due to the lack of volunteers or proper facilities to allow the distancing requirements to operate. These parishes face the daunting task of restocking pantries to meet needs that have been growing in their absence. Several parishes that did not previously have a program opened a pantry and immediately were filling hundreds of bags of groceries per week.

Examples of Programs and Needs throughout the Archdiocese



St. Mark, Hyattsville

*"Our food pantry has been operating for about 30 years. As you can imagine with COVID-19, the demand for food has been overwhelming and heartbreaking. Yesterday, we served 245 families in need before we had to shut down earlier than expected. Families needing help **have tripled** over the past few weeks, and **the demand continues to grow**. We provide food at no cost and without any obligation to the homeless, poor, unemployed, senior citizens, and children in need. Many organizations, companies, churches, and countless individuals have donated tons of food as well as money, but it is still not enough."*

St. Joseph, Largo

"We were serving 10-12 families per month before the pandemic, spending an average of \$75 per person. It is now more than 240 families per month. We are in danger of having to shut down unless we can keep the supply of food flowing."

St. Mary, Charlotte Hall

*"The need for more food here in Charles County continues to grow in multiples. Last year our parish distributed 42 tons of food in Charles County and a portion of St. Mary's County. This year **we have already exceeded that quantity**. We distribute foods to low income, poor, widows and widowers, individual men and women, and families. Some of them live in modest houses, trailers, tents, motels, and in wooded and field areas. Many are totally unemployed now. Some are working poor, often working at minimum wage or a bit above and only working part-time. Any assistance in the provision of additional foods would be a **BIG BOOSTER** to our efforts to feed the least among us here in Charles County and a bit of St Mary County."*

Shrine of St. Jude, Rockville

"We opened a pantry in response to the need in the community from the economic effects of the pandemic. In the first week, we served more than 150 people. The need has been growing by 30% week over week. We are already above 500 people per week. A representative of the Montgomery County Task Force has shared with us that ongoing need for additional food pantries, like our new program, will continue well after the County reopens because so many

companies have gone out of business and employees laid off. Thankfully, so far, with the number of recipients growing, so has the number of donors. I am concerned that contributions may plateau while the needs will grow. We may be able to stay afloat for several weeks with a reserve fund, but without additional injection of financial support this summer, it may be challenging to keep the pace of needs."

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Washington, DC

"Typically, we provide each family (average of four per family) with food for at least 3 days. We provide fresh produce, meat, non-perishables (canned vegetables; cereal; milk; pasta; tuna; soup; fruit; peanut butter/jelly; rice; beans); and, bread/baked goods, if available.

In addition, we encourage high school students to volunteer by packing bags. It is a WIN-WIN situation. They accumulate service hours for school; and, we use it as a form of evangelization and much-needed manpower. With hands-on experience, it shows them the importance of giving their time and talent. They really are amazed at how it makes them personally feel."

Overview/Project Summary

No one should go hungry or suffer during the COVID-19 pandemic, and with school closures, job disruptions, and health risks, millions of Americans have turned to food banks for much-needed support. The Archdiocese of Washington seeks immediate financial assistance of \$100,000 from the Foundation to support our parishes that house food pantries within the archdiocese that have limited resources to support the sudden extraordinary need of community members impacted by the COVID-19. The range of funding for parish pantries will be \$500 to \$5,000, through the summer months, and available upon request.

Cost and Financing

Before Pandemic, the Archdiocese of Washington had 64 Parishes that served more than 7,500 people per week at an estimated monthly cost of at least \$92,000. Since the shutdown of the area, three additional parishes established food pantries. The total number of people served has grown to more than 15,000 and at an estimated monthly cost of at least \$204,000 per month. The Archdiocese of Washington requests \$100,000 to bolster food pantry support at the parish level to help those in need through the summer of 2020. The requested amount would immediately support the needs of each parish to cover costs for operating the food pantry, including replenishing the pantries, providing supplies, and sustaining newly opened and established pantries where there has been a significant demand. The Archdiocese will also launch a pantry fund to complement parish resources and the infusion of support from the Foundation. Together, we will meet the needs of community members suffering due to the impacts from the pandemic. Below is a list of parishes that would receive assistance:

Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, Washington, DC
Christ the King, Silver Spring, MD
Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Washington, DC
Church of the Holy Spirit, Forestville, MD
Church of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus, Washington, DC
Church of the Resurrection, Burtonsville, MD
Holy Family, Hillcrest Heights, MD

Holy Family, Mitchellville, MD
Holy Name of Jesus, Washington, DC
Holy Redeemer, Washington, DC
Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC
Immaculate Heart of Mary, Lexington Park, MD
Mount Calvary, Forestville, MD
Our Lady of Fátima, Riverdale Park
Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Washington, DC
Our Lady of Sorrows, Takoma Park, MD
Our Lady of the Wayside, Chaptico, MD
Our Lady Queen of the Americas, Washington, DC
Sacred Heart, La Plata, MD
Shrine of St. Jude, Rockville, MD
Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Washington, DC
Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Washington, DC
St. Aloysius, Leonardtown, MD
St. Ambrose, Cheverly, MD
St. Anthony of Padua, Washington, DC
St. Benedict the Moor, Washington, DC
St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Riverdale Park, MD
St. Bernardine of Siena, Suitland, MD
St. Camillus, Silver Spring, MD
St. Catherine of Alexandria, Port Tobacco, MD
St. Cecilia, St. Mary's City, MD
St. Columba, Oxon Hill, MD
St. Francis de Sales, Benedict, MD
St. Francis de Sales, Washington, DC
St. Francis of Assisi, Derwood, MD
St. Francis Xavier, Washington, DC
St. George, Valley Lee, MD
St. Hugh, Greenbelt, MD
St. Ignatius Loyola, Hilltop / Port Tobacco, MD
St. Ignatius, Ft. Washington, DC
St. Jerome, Hyattsville, MD
St. John Francis, Hollywood, MD
St. John Neumann, Gaithersburg, MD
St. John the Evangelist, Silver Spring, MD
St. John Vianney, Prince Frederick, MD
St. Joseph, Beltsville, MD
St. Joseph, Largo, MD
St. Joseph, Pomfret, MD

St. Luke, Washington, DC
St. Margaret of Scotland, Seat Pleasant, MD
St. Mark the Evangelist, Hyattsville, MD
St. Martin of Tours, Gaithersburg, MD
St. Martin of Tours, Washington, DC
St. Mary of God, Washington, DC
St. Mary of the Mills, Laurel, MD
St. Mary Star of the Sea, Indian Head, MD
St. Mary, Charlotte Hall, MD
St. Mary, Clinton, MD
St. Matthias the Apostle, Lanham, MD
St. Michael the Archangel, Silver Spring, MD
St. Michael, Brandywine, MD
St. Peter, Olney, MD
St. Peter, Waldorf, MD
St. Philip the Apostle, Camp Springs, MD
St. Pius X, Bowie, MD
St. Thomas More, Washington, DC
St. Vincent de Paul, Washington, DC

As the Washington, DC Metropolitan area returns to pre-COVID operations, the archdiocese plans to monitor the response of helping our brothers and sisters in need throughout the community. Additionally, the archdiocese plans to sustain efforts through the Central Pastoral Administration operating budget and fundraising efforts of the Office of Development.

Evaluation and Reporting

The Archdiocese of Washington will measure effectiveness and impact of the Parish Pantry Support Program through collecting data on the number of people and families served on a monthly basis, parish reporting on changes in demand or need, and testimonials of those on the ground operating the pantries. Ongoing evaluation is a vital component of this project. The Archdiocese will submit a final report to the Foundation in late August that will outline the number of people served, total funds or resources used at the 67 parish pantries (Parish resources, archdiocesan support and Foundation support) and testimonials of impact on the community.



ARCHDIOCESE OF WASHINGTON

Archdiocesan Pastoral Center: 5001 Eastern Avenue, Hyattsville, MD 20782-3447
Mailing Address: Post Office Box 29260, Washington, DC 20017-0260
301-853-4500

Parish Pantry Support Program

Note: The budget is to assist 67 parishes, within the Archdiocese of Washington that has been calculated to serve more than 15,000 and at an estimated monthly cost of at least \$204,000 per month for the summer months of 2020.

	Three Months	Per Month
Food	514,080	171,360
Supplies	61,200	20,400
Utilities	30,600	10,200
Mileage	<u>6,120</u>	<u>2,040</u>
	\$612,000	\$204,000