January 2020

Dear FaithFULL Food Drive Point Person,

Thank you for your support of the faithFULL Food Drive 2020, which is being conducted across the Diocese of Camden on Sunday, March 22. Please note the new locations and time of the drive, which you will find in this packet.

In a Lenten message, Pope Francis reflected on the parable of Lazarus and the rich man. “Lazarus teaches us that other persons are a gift,” he writes. “A right relationship with people consists in gratefully recognizing their value. Even the poor person at the door of the rich is not a nuisance, but a summons to conversion and to change.” The FaithFULL Food Drive is a fantastic opportunity to put our faith into action during the Lenten season by recognizing the value of those people in our region who go hungry throughout the year.

After the holidays, many food pantries find themselves with empty shelves while the requests for food are still great. Together let us refill those empty shelves to meet the challenge of hunger right here in South Jersey. It is our hope that our parishes and schools will work together to collect more food than any single faith community could raise on its own.

This packet has resources to help you coordinate the food drive at your parish or school, including:

1. faithFULL posters advertising the event (in the back of the packet). Please hang in visible locations at your parish or school. To download and print more, visit: camdendiocese.org/faithfull.
2. Frequently Asked Questions: how will we pull this off?
3. Point Person Checklist: a list of the jobs required to make this happen.
5. Ministry Ideas: ways to get the whole parish involved, especially youth.

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Matthew Davis, Director of Life & Justice Ministries:
(e) Matthew.Davis@camdendiocese.org  (p) 856-583-2910
Also, be sure to visit our website at camdendiocese.org/faithfull.

Blessings,
FaithFULL Organizing Committee
FaithFULL Food Drive 2020
Frequently Asked Questions

When and where is the food drive?
The food drive is a one-day event: Sunday, March 22. However, you are welcome to collect and store food at your parish or school the days/weeks before the drive. Parishes and schools across the diocese will be asked to collect the food on-site and then bring it on **Sunday, March 22** to whichever location is most convenient. **Please note the new times and locations where food will be collected this year.**

**FOOD DROP LOCATIONS:**

### ATLANTIC COUNTY:

1) *Catholic Charities, Diocese of Camden Atlantic City Office* (11:00 AM - 2:00 PM)
   9 North Georgia Ave., Atlantic City, NJ 08401
   **Contact for 3/22/20:** Cristina Chillem; 856-281-0025

### CAMDEN COUNTY:

2) *Catholic Charities, Diocese of Camden Headquarters* (10:00 AM - 1:00 PM)
   1845 Haddon Avenue, Camden, NJ 08103 (parking lot is on White Horse Pike)
   **Contact for 3/22/20:** Cristina Chillem; 856-281-0025

3) *Our Lady of Hope Parish, St. Agnes Worship Site* (10:00 AM - 2:30 PM)
   *(a Catholic Charities, Diocese of Camden truck will be parked here)*
   701 Little Gloucester Road, Blackwood, NJ 08012
   **Contact for 3/22/20:** Matthew Davis; 856-200-6498

### CUMBERLAND COUNTY:

4) *Catholic Charities, Diocese of Camden Vineland Office* (11:00 AM - 1:00 PM)
   810 Montrose Street, Vineland, NJ 08360
   **Contact for 3/22/20:** Cynthia Lebron; 856-383-1762

**What is the role of the FaithFULL parish/school point person?**
It’s the point person’s job to work with parish/school staff and volunteers to encourage full participation! See the “FaithFULL Point Person Checklist” in this folder for a clear list of things that need to be taken care of.

*(over)*
How can we get the whole parish/school involved?
See the “Top 10 Ministry Ideas” page in this packet and get creative! Also, see the flyer with previous ideas from Incarnation Parish (Mantua) and Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish (Cape May) to see two examples of how parishes have successfully coordinated FaithFULL in the past.

What types of food should we collect?
See the posters in this packet for a list of appropriate food items. Please ask members of your faith community to stick to the list and ensure that the food they collect is not expired. You might want to pass out 8.5 x 11 versions of the poster at Masses/school so people know what to buy. You can download and print extra 8.5 x 11 copies at www.camdendiocese.org/faithfull.

How do we get the food from the parish/school to one of the food drop locations? Volunteers with vans or trucks could caravan from the parish to the food drop location after the final Sunday morning Mass, or you could rent a UHAUL if you expect a large amount of food. Ministries like the Knights of Columbus or St. Vincent de Paul could be helpful.

Can parishioners contribute money to the drive?
Yes. Checks can be made out to Diocese of Camden, with “FaithFULL Food Drive” on the memo line. Send checks to Diocese of Camden, Office of Development, ATTN: FaithFULL, 631 Market Street, Camden, NJ 08102.

Are volunteers needed for the FaithFULL Food Drive?
Yes! Volunteers are welcome to assist in a variety of ways on the day of the FaithFULL Food Drive (e.g. sorting, boxing, weighing, other activities) at the food drop locations. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Samantha Astley, Catholic Charities’ Volunteer Coordinator: Samantha.Astley@CamdenDiocese.org

Who will this food drive support?
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Camden is the main community agency that helps facilitate FaithFULL and will receive and distribute food to those they serve. If your faith community runs its own pantry or connects with another local initiative and would like to keep your collected food in-house, that is fine, but please make arrangements with Matthew Davis (contact info below).

Why is the diocese sponsoring this project?
In the months after Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year, food bank shelves are thinly stocked, while the need remains high. In South Jersey, 1 in 6 people are food insecure. Counting just children, that number jumps to 1 in 5. While so many ministries are collecting food year-round, think of the impact we can have when we all work together!

Where can I go if I have other questions?
Contact Matthew Davis, Director of Life & Justice Ministries, at Matthew.Davis@CamdenDiocese.org or 856-583-2910. Also, be sure to visit the FaithFULL website: www.camdendiocese.org/faithfull.
FaithFULL Food Drive 2020
Point Person Checklist

✓ Familiarize yourself with this packet and brief pastor/pastoral leaders on the food drive

✓ Invite liturgy/school announcement planners to include announcements (samples in this packet) about the drive during the weeks beforehand

✓ Publish food drive information in bulletin and post in parish/school so participants know the details

✓ Contact ministry/club leaders and invite them to participate. Use the “Top 10 Ministry Ideas” sheet in this packet for some inspiration

✓ Decide in consultation with parish/school leaders if you would like to collect food before the day of the drive, and if so, how you’d like to store it

✓ Solicit volunteers to help drive the food to the most convenient drop location on Sunday, March 22 during the time(s) listed for each location. Easiest way is a caravan after the final morning Mass!

✓ Print up directions from your parish/school to the food drop location you’ll be sending your food to (see the FAQ sheet for information on the food drop location nearest you)

✓ On March 22, coordinate drop-off and drivers. (Tip: have drivers’ cars parked in front of church with trunks open, signaling to parishioners where drop-off points are. This helps ease packing time/stress.)

✓ Weigh the food! Each year our goal is to collect more food than the previous year. Our food drop locations will have scales to weigh the food. If you keep food for your own pantry, we ask that you use a regular scale to weigh a small portion of food and then multiple that by the number of portions to give you an estimate of the weight (your best estimate is fine!). Please send that estimate to Matthew Davis.

Questions? Contact Matthew Davis, Director of Life & Justice Ministries:
(e) Matthew.Davis@camdendiocese.org  (p) 856-583-2910
If possible, please publish list of acceptable food items in the bulletin. This list can be found on the posters in this packet, or at camdendiocese.org/faithfull.

Bulletin/Pulpit Announcement for March 1, March 8, and March 15

Here in South Jersey, 1 in 6 people, and 1 in 5 children, suffer from food insecurity, which means they might not know where their next meal is coming from. In response, the Diocese of Camden is organizing the seventh annual FaithFULL Food Drive. On Sunday, March 22, every parish and school in the diocese will collect food for local pantries. Please bring food donations to Mass with you on March 22. Our goal this year is to collect as much food as possible for those who go hungry here in South Jersey.

Announcement for March 15

Next week (March 22), we will be participating in the FaithFULL Food Drive with parishes and schools across the Diocese of Camden. Please see the bulletin for a list of acceptable food items, and bring your donations to Mass next week. Thank you for your generosity.

Announcement for March 22

This Sunday is the Diocese of Camden’s FaithFULL Food Drive. Thank you for your generous support of our sisters and brothers who are hungry here in South Jersey. 1 in 6 South Jerseyans, and 1 in 5 children, suffer from food insecurity. Our FaithFULL response is just one small way we are called to build the Kingdom of God here on Earth.
FaithFULL Food Drive 2020
Top 10 Ministry Ideas

How can we get our parish or school involved in the food drive?
Here are just a few ideas to get you thinking.

1. Brown Bag Project: reach out to local supermarkets to get their brown bags. Attach an 8.5 x 11 copy of the poster with food items to buy (available at camdendiocese.org/faithfull). Hand bags to Mass goers and at any ministry gatherings (CCD, etc.).
2. Invite parishioners/students to count how many individual fruits and vegetables they have at home. Invite them to donate one can per item in their home.
3. Gather with adults to watch the hunger documentary “A Place at the Table.” Discuss it afterward. It can be rented online for a few dollars. To view the trailer, visit: www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4LuipQzXqA
5. Invite Knights of Columbus or other group to ask for donations at supermarkets. Hand a copy of the poster to shoppers on the way in and collect cans on the way out. (Permission from supermarket required.)
6. School can give “dress-down day”: students get uniform-free day in exchange for a food donation.
7. Schools can charge can of food as admission for a sporting event.
8. Invite different grades of faith formation classes to collect food. Grade with the most food collected wins a simple prize. Connect the project to the “feed the hungry” corporal work of mercy.
9. Invite ministry leaders (RCIA, CCD, pastoral council, etc.) to select one food item for their participants to bring to the next gathering.
10. Include a hunger fact in the announcements in the weeks leading up to the drive. Find hunger facts at www.foodbanksj.org/about-hunger-in-south-jersey
8 Simple Steps:
Engaging Youth in the faithFULL Food Drive

At Incarnation Parish in Mantua, the youth ministry coordinated the 2014 drive. Here are 8 simple steps they used to engage the whole parish. Information provided by Dave Zarzycki, youth minister.

1. Contacted the local Shop Rite and Acme and received donations of brown and plastic shopping bags. A thank-you note from the youth group was sent after the event for their donation.

2. Teens then stapled the flyer advertising the drive and what food items to donate to each of the bags.

3. A flyer was also sent home with all of our religious education families.

4. Teens made posters and signs encouraging parishioners to donate.

5. We contacted our Knights of Columbus and asked for their assistance. They generously donated a U-Haul rental truck for the day of the collection.

6. Weekend prior to collection: Some teens dressed as food items (costumes purchased at a shop in Philly) and others held the posters. Donation bags with the stapled flyers were given to parishioners after each Mass that weekend. (See photo below!)

7. Weekend of collection: We had teens assigned to specific Masses. After each Mass, the teens began to load the U-Haul.

8. After the completion of the final Mass, youth leader drove the truck to food bank in Pennsauken. Another leader drove some teens to the food bank, where they helped to unload the truck.
Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in Cape May: 

**Easy as 1, 2, 3**

By Deacon Michael Kolakowski

1. **Prep the bags.**
   - We got a large supply of brown bags and plastic bags from Acme.
   - Religious education children and students from Cape Trinity helped to “double bag”: Put paper into plastic for ease of handling when filled.
   - Copied the FaithFULL Flyer about preferred food items to include in bag. Children stapled flyers to bags.

2. **Get the word out.**
   - *One month before the drive:* We used the pulpit and bulletin announcements and posted signs around the parish campus.
   - *Two weeks before the drive:* Church ushers distributed bags to parishioners after each Mass.

3. **Collect the food.**
   - *One week before the drive:* Knights of Columbus set up Acme shopping carts at the entrances to the church at each Mass. Filled carts were wheeled to parish hall where food is stored. Carts emptied and returned to church entrances.
   - Local business donated truck to drive food to Food Bank.
   - After last Mass on delivery date, Knights of Columbus, children, parents, other parishioners form a “bucket brigade” to load truck with bags.
Do you know what all the most successful faithFULL Food Drive parishes and schools have in common?

They distribute empty paper grocery bags the week before the drive.

Set a record for food collected. Hand out grocery bags.