

June 17, 2015

Dear Brothers in Holy Orders,

Pope Francis's much-awaited visit to the United States in September will be a moment of great joy, inspiration, and excitement for the Church in the United States. So I invite the entire Archdiocese to welcome and celebrate the Holy Father's visit by offering him a "spiritual bouquet in action".

We have all been inspired by the Holy Father's call to put Christ first, particularly in our families and in our love for the poor. He has challenged us to end hunger by 2025. Food for All: Be Multiplied, inspired by the Gospel story of the feeding of the 5,000, will be our Archdiocesan response. Jesus called on his disciples to bring him what they already had, and from that small gift fed an impossible number of people. This miracle shows Jesus' compassion for his people, but also that he works through our gifts and talents.

As part of our spiritual bouquet in action, our goal is to collect 1 million food items. That is enough to feed 250,000 people for one day. It is my hope that each parish will raise 5,000 food items simply by holding your regularly scheduled food drive(s) in 2015-16 and pledging that food to the Food for All campaign as a way to welcome Pope Francis. The Apostolic Nuncio will be notified about this effort by letter.

The official launch date of the Food for All campaign is July 1, 2015. Each parish will receive an e-mail from me on June 22, 2015 with an easy way to commit and pledge food for the campaign. Your commitment is needed by June 26. The Office of the New Evangelization will then send each parish that participates promotional materials and will include each parish and school in a social media promotional campaign beginning July 1, 2015. If you have any questions, please contact Sean Ater in the Office of the New Evangelization or the contacts in the enclosed flyer.

The Food for All: Be Multiplied campaign also features other ways to fight poverty:

- Volunteer to help build "The Pope Francis House" with Habitat for Humanity;
- Join the DEFEAT HUNGER family-friendly Obstacle Run and Food Drive;
- Take part in our letter-writing campaign to protect nutrition programs;
- Offer parish educational sessions and inspiring speakers.

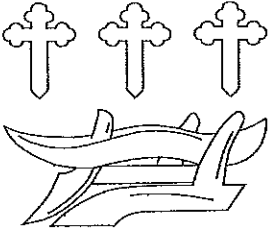
Our local Church already responds to the poor in amazing and effective ways on a daily basis. For that I am very grateful. Food for All: Be Multiplied is a witness to our cities and neighborhoods that the Catholic Church is a family of believers who love and care for each other and for their neighbors. I invite every parish, school, and ministry to prayerfully consider how to promote and participate in this effort.

Please see the attached flyers for more details and visit www.catholiccincinnati.org/foodforall. ("No One Should Be Hungry" is a flyer for your parishioners.)

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr
Archbishop of Cincinnati

June 16, 2015



**Office of
The Archbishop**

100 East Eighth Street
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
513-421-3131

Greetings,

The Catholic Church has been honored to work day in and day out in our cities and neighborhoods in concrete ways to love our neighbor. We work side by side with other people of goodwill to have a real and lasting impact in our local community especially in places where the need is the greatest. For us, this is how we respond to the command of Jesus to "love your neighbor as yourself."

Solving local hunger issues is one of those areas of great need. Ohio ranks among the worst states for food insecurity. Nearly 1 in 6 people in Ohio struggle with hunger. Cincinnati ranks third in child poverty rates in the nation. Many of these children are in families that struggle with food insecurity.

Hunger is a world-wide problem, which is why Pope Francis has issued a challenge to end hunger by 2025.

Food for All: Be Multiplied is the way the Archdiocese of Cincinnati will respond to this challenge from Pope Francis. The effort will include many ways for people of good will to respond to this challenge. We want to make a real and lasting impact in our local neighborhoods so all proceeds will benefit the local food pantries that parishes already run or support.

Food for All: Be Multiplied is inspired by the Gospel story of the feeding of the 5000. This miracle shows Jesus' great love and compassion for his people. Jesus calls his disciples to bring him what they already have, nothing more, and he multiplies that small gift of food to feed an impossible number of people.

We are soliciting parishes, schools, and organization to pledge food as way to welcome Pope Francis when he visits the United States in September of 2015. As of now we have received pledges of over 200,000 pound of food and we expect much more.

A significant event in our *Food for All* Campaign will be the **Defeat Hunger Family Obstacle Run**. This event will be a community-wide food drive that will add a significant number of pounds of food to our pledge drive. Proceeds from the race will also be used to support local hunger fighting causes. The Defeat Hunger Family Obstacle Run will be a fun family event that will have a real impact on our local community and will help raise awareness of the very real hunger issues we are working to overcome.

We are looking for partners in our community who would be willing to sponsor this unique event. I ask you to prayerfully consider standing with us in this challenge to defeat hunger by 2025, to be seen as a leader in our community in helping to overcome this incredible need. Included you will find specific opportunities to sponsor this event and participate in the overall *Food for All: Be Multiplied* Campaign. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr
Archbishop of Cincinnati