



ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER PARISH

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10 June 2014

Dear Ministry Leaders,

Re: **Feeding the Multitude**
2nd Multi-Faith Richmond Food Bank Drive
Sunday, July 13, 2014 - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Safeway Store (No. 2 and Blundell)

Last year, St. Joseph the Worker Parish and three other Richmond-based congregations (Beth Tikvah Synagogue, Our Saviour Lutheran Church and St. Anne's Anglican Church) successfully launched a multi-faith food drive for the benefit of the Richmond Food Bank. Of the 2,100 lbs. and \$6,206 in food and monetary donations, our parish contributed 500 lbs. and \$3,840. In addition, parishioners volunteered by collecting donations at the parish and the Safeway store and our youth provided musical entertainment to Safeway patrons.

I am very proud of our parishioners. Whenever there is a call to assist the needy or to donate to a worthy cause, they do not hesitate to give generously of their time, effort or money. There is much temptation to call upon our parishioners to contribute once again to this year's multi-faith food drive and I do not doubt that, if asked, they will individually do so once again.

I stress the word "individually" because the multi-faith food drive is a joint initiative of the 4 congregations. This multi-faith initiative is about community members of different faiths and backgrounds working together to address an issue of common concern (food security). In the same vein, I would encourage the parish to work together as a community in contributing to this effort in the manner that I will describe below.

One issue of common concern that surfaced in our listening campaigns conducted with some of our parishioners is the issue of income security which encompasses food security. This means that asking our parishioners to make food and monetary donations is in effect asking those among us who need most to give from what little they already have so they can feed themselves.

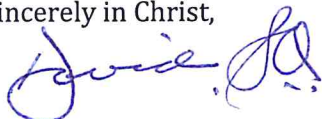
Last year, two of our young and enterprising parishioners took the initiative of organizing a collection pool with their soccer team. They managed to collect 3 large boxes of food which in mathematical terms can be expressed as a ratio of "2 parishioners: 3 boxes of donations". This is,

simply put, a modern day example of Jesus multiplying 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish in order to feed 5,000 people.

We can follow the examples of Jesus and these two boys by organizing collection pools in our own Richmond communities outside the parish such as schools and workplaces and bringing these donations to the Safeway event on July 13, 2014. We can also publicize this event among our own friends and acquaintances through an e-mail campaign and social media such as Facebook which have proven to be very effective in a number of successful food bank drives held in the past. I would encourage you as Ministry Leaders to organize your own Ministries to join in this campaign and suggest that each Ministry assign a "turnout captain" who will coordinate the efforts of the Ministry. You will be receiving e-mails on further details regarding this effort in the coming weeks leading up to the July 13, 2014 event.

It is my fervent hope that our parish, working through the Ministries, can take this opportunity to work as one community pursuing a common purpose for the benefit of both our parishioners and the larger Richmond community.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David J. Poirier, S.A.", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Fr. David J. Poirier, S.A.