



Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Seattle, Washington

September 23, 2018

Queen Anne Food Bank-A Ministry of Sacred Heart of Jesus

Since 1921 there has been an outreach to the poor, the homeless or those in need of food at Sacred Heart Parish. In 1987 St. Vincent de Paul began serving noon meals to the homeless. In 2012 Sacred Heart Parish assumed responsibility for the food bank as a ministry of the parish. It is an important expression of our care and concern for those who lack the necessities of life, and it is a direct response by our parish to the words of Jesus, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink." (Matthew 25:35). The Food Bank will continue to serve everyone who comes to its door. We don't serve food to hungry patrons because they are Catholic; we serve them because **WE** are Catholic and they are **hungry**.

Following the recent departure of three food bank employees, including the former director, Stephanie Monrone, the parish council, the Archdiocese of Seattle and I have been working to replace them. We thank Stephanie and Emily Meade, the former Operations Manager, for their years of service and wish them the very best. Emily Meade has just started the program at Seattle Culinary Academy at Seattle Central College.

The parish council decided that the first step to maintain current level of service was to fill the position of Operations Manager. I'm happy to report that we have filled that position with Robert Bach. Robert began leading and coordinating all food programs, managing the work of volunteers and overseeing daily operations on Monday, September 17, 2018. We are very fortunate to have found someone with Robert's education, experience and passion. He holds a degree from the Culinary Institute of America and has more than 20 years of management experience in the food services industry. He and his wife are Catholics who just moved to the Sacred Heart area. Robert is looking forward to leading the food bank as a way of giving back to the community. Please welcome him as he continues this important ministry in our parish.

I will be working with the Pastoral Council, Finance Committee and the Archdiocese to provide oversight for all Food Bank operations and to implement best practices and accountability measures for all operations. We will review food bank finances to ensure all funds are being directed to the purposes for which they were intended.

The Food Bank helps us share in the Redemptorist charism of working with 'the poor and the most abandoned'. It is an important way we respond to the Gospel as a community of faith. We are very proud of the Queen Anne Food Bank - A Ministry of Sacred Heart of Jesus, and are committed to sustaining its operations for those in our community who are poor, homeless and hungry. As we take steps to strengthen this ministry, we are grateful to all those who have supported and sustained the food bank in the past and hope to honor their contributions by continuing it as an outreach ministry of the parish for many years to come.

I ask for your prayers and support during this process and will continue to keep you advised of our progress.

Fr. Rich Luberti, CSSR
Pastor, Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish