

# St. Paul Parish - Kensington CT

## *A New Initiative for us...*

You all know that I don't send out many letters. I usually prefer to use the pulpit or the bulletin to share important news. The topic of this letter, however, is very important for our parish and community, so I decided to write to you about it.



You see, there are poor people and poor families in our neighborhood. There are people who don't have enough to eat. Many of them are senior citizens and families with one parent. It is so easy to drive around town and think to yourself, the poor are not among us, but they are. Because this need is so very real, with the support of the Social Action Committee and Pastoral Council, **we have decided to establish the St. Clare Food Pantry here at St. Paul Parish.** St. Clare was a companion of St. Francis. She and her religious sisters were dedicated to the service of the poor and are in fact, still called Poor Clares.

During the last weekend of January, volunteers will be handing out blue shopping bags to every family who attends Mass. We simply ask that you place them with your other shopping bags, and when you go to the supermarket, take the bag with you so you remember to buy an item or two for the poor. You can often find great deals on the shelves at the end of the aisles. One thing is for sure, you guys are great shoppers and no one can spot a deal like you. When you come to Mass that week, bring what you bought for the poor to church so it can be distributed to those in need.

### **We can make a real difference.**

Sometimes, when we give money to a cause, a significant portion does not reach those in need and is taken up by administrative costs. Our food pantry will have no administrative costs, none. Every item you purchase, every dollar you spend for the poor, will go directly from your carriage to a person or family in need and make a real difference in their lives.

### **Giving to and thinking of the poor is good for you and good for your family.**

Shopping for the poor is good for all of us. It reminds us that God has blessed us and that God needs us to share our blessings with those less fortunate. Shopping for the poor is a reminder for all of us that there are indeed people right in our own town, our neighbors, who go without. Buying something for the poor every week will help you educate your children and grandchildren as to how important it is to share with those in need. Maybe you can even let the kids pick something out.

I know this is a big step for our parish. However, if we are to be an authentic witness to Christ in our town, it is a step we need to take. I know that we will succeed. I am always amazed and so very grateful for the generosity of the people of our parish.

Thanks in advance for your support.