



Dear Parishioners,

First of all, please accept our sincere gratitude for your wonderful response to our current food drive that benefits the Solanus Casey food pantry in New Bedford's south end. This pantry is an adjunct of Catholic Social Services with which the society has had a relationship for many years.

We would be remiss if we didn't also thank you for your ongoing support throughout the years with your monetary and food donations.

During this unprecedented period, we recognize that there may be some parishioners who are experiencing some hardship for the very first time or in some cases increased hardship because of the Covid 19 pandemic. In some cases, people in this situation may be reluctant, for various reasons, to ask for any assistance or they may feel their situation is not serious enough to ask for help. It is critically important that all of us are sensitive to these situations and to the concerns of those involved.

If you are a parishioner in this situation or know of one, the society is undertaking a program by which some modest help can be provided to ease the burden while maintaining as much confidentiality as possible. One of the key ways that St. Vincent de Paul assists those we serve is with food. The concept is simple enough. If we provide a family with either food or a supermarket gift card or both, that will free up funds to address other obligations.

An e-mail address is set up for this purpose. ([SVdP@saintjulies.org](mailto:SVdP@saintjulies.org)) The e-mail should contain the name (first name only or initials if preferred ), phone number and brief description of the problem. Only one person from the society will respond to the request, and will respect and maintain the privacy of that individual or family.

It is possible for another party to advocate for someone else but it is critically important that you receive permission from that party, before requesting assistance regardless of how well you may know them. The amount and form of the assistance will be dependent upon the situation, but in any event, the full identity of the party being assisted will be known only by the SVdP member who contacts them.

Please stay safe and may God Bless You All

Society of St Vincent de Paul