



## Youth Ministry Stuff the Pantry Project

*“Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty”  
Matthew 25:37*

Calling all youth ministry programs in the diocese to participant in a wonderful and exciting project that not only benefits those in your own community, but also could win parish youth program a dinner with Bishop Guglielmone. (cooked by his personal chef Don Glover)

Here is how it works:

- > ***Your parish youth ministry program collects as much food (canned goods; rice, cereal, etc.) from October 17th-24th.***
- > ***Weigh the total amount collected during the week. Take a picture of the food and the people who helped collect it during the week. Send it in along with the total pounds collected by October 28th. Winner will be notified by the first week of November!***
- > ***Donate the food to your St. Vincent De Paul group or your local food bank.***

(The winner will be by the total amount of food collected divided by the number of youth in the youth program.)

As you know we are experiencing a very tough economic time in our state and country, and many people and families have been affected. A lot of food pantries are experiencing shortfalls as not as many individuals and groups are donating. When these shortfalls happen that means that the families who turn to the church and other local agency's go without! The needs and the stress on these ministries will only get worse as the upcoming holiday will be approaching! This is where your youth ministry program comes in! Your youth can make a difference! Your youth time and creativity can make a difference on whether a family gets the necessary food to feed itself during these hard times or not! So I challenge your youth ministry program to get involved in the “Youth Ministry Stuff the Pantry Project!”

There are many ways to go about to collecting food for “Stuff the Pantry Project.” Here are just a few ways to do it:

- Make announcement that your youth will be collecting food after all the masses. Have the youth set up a table outside of mass and collect the food as you thank those who are donating.
- Hold a car wash (Or some type of fundraiser) to raise money so you can go to Sam’s or Costco to buy specific food that your pantry might need.



- Have your youth put out bags with a note door to door in your parish neighborhood. State what type of items that you are looking for them to donate. Give them a time frame for a specific day and time that your youth will pick up the bags. Make sure to thank those who donate.

These are just suggestions! I am sure with some brainstorming you will be able to come up with some very creative ways to be successful in “Stuff the Pantry Project!”  
(As with all youth events make sure that there is strong supervision.)

After you have collected all the food and donated it to the place of your choice. I recommend you to set aside some time to process what you have done with your youth. The diocesan youth office will offer information for putting together a youth night on processing what your youth have participated in, and what they got out of it. (You will be able to find this on the website on the first week of October.)

I really do believe that your youth can make a difference! I believe that they can be Jesus to the many individuals and families that are currently in great need. I believe that we as a diocese can raise over 7,500 pounds in food! Get excited! Make a difference right now! Stuff the Pantry Project is going to be big! Make sure that your youth group is a part of it!

I know, as a youth leader, this puts more work on your plate but I really believe that a lot of great lessons (and grace) can be gained from this project! Blessings!



**Please let us know by October 1<sup>st</sup> if your youth group will be participating in this project. Please call or e-mail us to let us know.**