



Msgr J.J. Kearns Assembly, Waco TX

Brother Sir Knights:

I am sending this special letter at this time because of an appeal from our Faithful Friar at the meeting on Tuesday, November 13. As you know Father Joe Geleney is the Pastor of St. Mary's parish in downtown Waco.

From long before Father Joe's watch, St. Mary's has had a Free Lunch Program for those coming to the parish asking for a meal. In the present and worsening economy requests for free meals have been growing enormously. The program is entirely donation supported and has expanded beyond the funding of the regular donors.

Are all of the people asking for food truly needy? Are there other programs available? {see Mt 25:31-45}

Are people sleeping under bushes around the church and begging for food? Yes.

The volunteers at St. Mary's assemble sack lunches 5 days a week. All foods are factory packaged or fruit in the natural skin because St. Mary's has no kitchen to prepare food in such quantities or to stand Health Department inspection.

At Tuesday's meeting, we took a look at our finances and the funding Father Joe projected and realized that the Assembly cannot fund this program entirely or even significantly from our cash reserves. However, we undertook a two-fold approach to support this good work.

A collection box will be present at every meeting (at least throughout my tenure) for material donations to this program.

The lunch usually consists of:

Vienna Sausage, (a 5 oz. can labeled as 2.5 servings retails for about \$ 0.38 per can)

Peanut Butter or Cheese Crackers (8 packs of 6 crackers each retails for \$2.15 or about \$0.27 per lunch)

Bottle of Water (retails for about \$0.15 per bottle in 32-36 packs)

Little Debbie Dessert (usually donated by baker as "day old" product)

Piece of Fresh Fruit (donations accepted)

Spork [those spoon/fork combinations you get at the fast food places] (donations accepted)

Paper Lunch Bag (retail for about \$0.02 per bag)

Please pick up something from this list on every trip to the store and bring it to the Assembly meeting or take it to St. Mary's parish office.

Can these be purchased even cheaper if you give cash and a volunteer goes to Sam's Club?

Yes.

A collection jar will be present at every meeting (at least throughout my tenure) for cash donations to this program.

Vivat Jesu,

Brian McCann, FN