

WHATSOEVER YOU DO TO THE LEAST OF MY BROTHERS

Thank you to all the Good Shepherd and Assumption children, families and parishioners for supporting the frozen dinner collection for our brothers and sisters served by the Father English Community Center. We were able to provide 143 dinners with beautiful messages of love, support and encouragement for the families served by the Father English Center.

So many parishioners expressed their gratitude to the Good Shepherd Level III Children for facilitating the collection of frozen dinners and prayers for our brother and sisters in Paterson. One parishioner, Nancy, arrived with a thank you letter for the Good Shepherd Level III Children:

"Dear Good Shepherd Level III Children-

I just want to thank you for organizing this meal collection for the Father English Center Food Pantry. Not only have you given generously of yourselves, you have provided the opportunity for others to be cheerful givers, too. For that, I am grateful to you. With appreciation, Nancy ()"

Another parishioner told me that she composed her prayer in response to the "Good Counsel Children's Letter":
"My Prayer - Thank you Lord for the opportunity to prepare and share a family favorite meal with neighbors. Hopefully, the joy I felt in preparing this food will be shared by the family who receives it. Our Assumption family is blessed to have young people who practice the true meaning of kindness through good works... 'Whatever we do for each other in need, we do unto thee.'"

Pete, Linda and I drove the 143 frozen dinners and prayers to the Father English Community Center with great joy last Saturday. We were also blessed to bring several First Communion Dresses which were donated by the Morgan Family and several other Assumption Families.

Carlos Roldan directed us to place the dinners in stacks along the edge of the basement window so he could place them in the freezer. I noticed he was taking a little longer to return from the freezer and he explained: "I'm sorry - I was noticing some of the beautiful prayers".

He told us the frozen dinner program developed in part because a woman, who was a patron of the center without a home, wanted to take a home-cooked meal in a pan rather than donations of canned food. Carlos commented that she would often warm donations of food over an open fire near the abandoned house in which she lived. This particular woman told Carlos that it meant a great deal to her to know that someone somewhere prepared a meal for her and was thinking and praying for her. Carlos commented: "What you and the children have done is provide food for the body and food for the soul. This is compassion and dignity in action. Thank you."

Tara Speer

