



Dear friends,

Catholic Charities food pantries are seeing record demand due to the economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis. Our northwest suburban food pantry in Des Plaines is serving three times the normal number of families, many of them first-time clients who have suddenly found themselves out of work.

At the same time, we are finding it harder and harder to get common food items from the Greater Chicago Food Depository, which supplies pantries throughout Cook County, and demand is exceeding supply. As a result, we can't give families as much food as we would like, or what they need.

So we're asking for your help. Here's what you can do:

- Conduct a drive to collect items for our pantry, or donate items from your own home. Donations can be delivered to our office at 1717 Rand Rd. in Des Plaines. If you call ahead at (847) 376-2118, we can instruct you on how to drop off a donation without face-to-face contact.
- Order items from a delivery service such as Instacart and have them delivered to our office.
- Make a monetary donation that we can use to purchase food. You can call me directly at (847) 376-2118 to make a donation, donate online at www.catholiccharities.net, or mail a check to my attention, payable to Catholic Charities, to 1717 Rand Road, Des Plaines, IL 60016. If you donate online, please be sure to designate your donation for the Northwest Region.

If you conduct a food drive, or order through a delivery service, here are some items we need the most:

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| • Quarts of milk | • Peanut butter & jelly | • Canned tuna |
| • Eggs | • Pasta & pasta sauce | • Canned vegetables |
| • Dry cereal | • Rice | • Canned soup |
| • Oatmeal | • Macaroni and cheese | • Canned fruit and fruit juice |

These are extraordinary times that call for an extraordinary response. We are humbled by the outpouring of generosity we have already seen, and ask for your help as we struggle to feed our neighbors in the northwest suburbs.

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rose Marie Lesniak-Mendez".

Rose Marie Lesniak-Mendez
Northwest Regional Director

Catholic Charities

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