



The Episcopal Diocese Of Western New York

A CHALLENGE FROM YOUR DEACONS

Imagine not having the ability or means to hop on a bus and go to the suburbs to buy a coat or boots that will keep you warm. Now imagine, while trying to sleep under a bridge or in a window well, there was a torrential downpour and everything you sat on and wore, got soaked. You have no way to dry your clothes out since there are no laundry facilities in your area. Maybe you can find shelter in a public building for a few minutes, hoping you will dry up a bit while wearing your wet clothes. Of course you can't stay anywhere too long before being asked to leave and go back into the cold. How do you survive on the streets in inclement weather?

St. Paul's Cathedral is trying to address the needs of the unhoused population that lives on the streets around the church. The deacons of this diocese are moved by the enormous pain, suffering, and needs of these folks and are asking for help. We understand how much you as individuals are giving at this time of the year, but the need is great.

WE HAVE A CHALLENGE FOR YOU!!!

We challenge every person in the diocese to donate one article of clothing they no longer wear or need; **JUST ONE!**

Find a gently used, unstained sweatshirt or heavy sweater, a pair of sweatpants, boots, or heavy gloves, or a winter coat, and be willing to share from your abundance with those who live with scarcity. And if you by chance feel like donating monetarily, we can order sleeping bags that are waterproof and support heat below freezing that are \$16 a piece if we order 10 in bulk. (A few people can go together to make \$16). Checks can be payable to *St Paul's Cathedral* with *Sleeping Bags* in the memo line.

Old Testament Scholar, Walter Brueggemann wrote:

"Jesus in his solidarity with the marginal ones is moved to compassion. Compassion constitutes a radical form of criticism, for it announces that the hurt is to be taken seriously, that the hurt is not to be accepted as normal and natural but is an abnormal and unacceptable condition for humanness."

Living on the streets because there is a lack of affordable housing is serious and unacceptable for our fellow brothers and sisters. We are praying that you are moved to compassion and take up the challenge as a parish.

Challenge each other to make this a parish effort. There are more men than women on the streets and they come in every size and shape so don't be concerned. All donations are welcome and when you have collected the articles of men's and women's clothing, they can be dropped off at a church that is open during the week to make it easy for you. The items will be picked up, sorted, and taken to the Cathedral for distribution at the Garden of Love lunch and clothing giveaway on Tuesdays by the Deacons. **We would like to receive all donations by Friday, November 21st.**

Drop off Locations:

Diocesan Ministry Center:

M-TH: 9am-4pm

St. Paul's, Harris Hill:

M-TH: 9am-3pm or in drop box by office door

Church of the Advent, Kenmore:

W: 10am-2pm or call (716)-553-1688 to arrange drop-off

St. James, Batavia:

M-TH: 9am-3pm

St. Matthias, East Aurora:

M, T, & TH: 9am-12:30pm, W: 9am-8pm

St. Andrew's, Burt:

Wed: call (212) 222-8109 to arrange drop-off

St. Mark's, Orchard Park:

M-F: 9am-4pm

St. Peter's, Westfield:

Call (716) 912-8862 to arrange drop-off

Thank you for assisting us to do the work we have been called to do; taking care of our neighbors.

In Jesus' Name

Your Deacons

Questions? email Arch Deacon Diana: dllart@aol.com