

## St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish 209 Third Street, Jersey City, NJ 07302 Phone: (201) 434-8500 Fax: (201) 333-1816

Website: www.stmarysparishjc.com

Blessings from St Mary's Jersey City.

I just want to express gratitude and our indebtedness to you and the good people of St Catharine's Church, Glen Rock, for your continued aid to us in our ministry to the poor here in Downtown Jersey City. Over the years, St. Catharine has consistently and generously supplied food to our Food Pantry for the poor and the marginalized of our community who come to our doors often.

During major holidays, such as, Thanksgiving and Christmas, Parishioners of St Catharine's have also generously made available hundreds/thousands in Gifts Cards to put smiles on faces of those who ordinarily would have had no means to supply Turkey or other forms of food for their families in those great American festivities.

I would like to specially mention that during the months of the Covid Pandemic, when food was scarce and the number of families needing food doubled, your generous donations and food contributions made it possible for us to serve those in need without interruption.

Over the years, because of contributions from St Catharine's Church, we have been able to distribute food to people in need (averaging of 70 to 80 families each distribution weekend) on the first and third Saturdays of every month. Last week alone, we registered ten new clients. Those that come to our Food Pantry are Latinos from South America, who just came into America. Others are African Americans, Middle Easterners, Asians, few Caucasians, and those with no specific address to provide.

We do not discriminate. So, regardless of lack of information about themselves, we have had to give enough food to everyone, thanks to your generosity. The recipients are not particular about what type of food they get but are grateful for anything given, whether food or Gift Cards - just anything that could put food on their tables for that week. We see many signs of great poverty from the people around us, and you have helped us to take care of them.

With your contributions, St Mary's Church has been able to help a second classification of people, namely, those who come for help because of temporary loss of jobs. These are also beneficiaries of the Gift Cards. Lately, we have also seen more homeless people coming for our help. They are more expressive in their needs and are sometimes pushy. Without your help we would not be able to do what we do here. We thank you and your team of Volunteers from St. Catharine's, for your years of faithful support and most specially for trusting us.

On another note, St Mary's Parishioners were saddened at the news of the passing of your beloved pastor, Fr Wisniewski. Please accept our deepest condolences. He too was very generous to us, as he often accompanied the Volunteers to travel long distances to personally drop off food at St Mary's. We pray that the Good Lord may reward him for supplying food and drink to the poor and needy, as He promised in Mtt. 25:35. May his soul rest in peace!

Thanks again for your kindness, may the Lord bless you all. Sincerely in Christ!

Fr Eustace Edomobi, Pastor