



St. Pius Calling...

Special Edition Help Stop Local Hunger



Helena Williams, parishioner, classically trained chef, former restaurant owner and community projects coordinator is bringing her skills and fun loving spirit to Help

Stop Local Hunger in our area. Her particular experience has been to connect places with extra food: like restaurants, grocery stores, farmers, etc. with those who feed hungry people: like food kitchens, shelters, food programs, etc. You can see her on line from previous TV appearances at

<http://www.wndu.com/home/headlines/Group-uses-company-leftovers-to-feed-the-hungry-216565001.html> or on the Gordy Young show (at the 6:05 minute spot) <http://video.wnit.org/video/2365047864/>

We know there are families in our community who struggle to have enough food for their family. The SACC Christmas baskets served about 150 families this past year. The Selinsgrove *Meals for Seals* provides about 130 meals per week for students to take home for the weekend.



Approximately 40% of Selinsgrove area students qualify for free or reduced price school meals.

Dr. John Pagana, a supporter of this outreach said, "It's hard to believe, but some children in our community see the school bus as signal of 'Good, now I can get food after the weekend!' There are people in our community who don't eat enough or appropriately."

We plan to begin a network that helps our community by sharing excess food that would go to waste with local citizens who struggle with hunger. It is important to us

Message

From: Fr. Dan
Re: Help Stop Local Hunger



Hunger is a pressing issue in our community. We want to explore innovative ways to address this need. We would love to have you bring your experiences and your ideas to help us find ways to Help Stop Local Hunger.

that everyone has basic, healthy food to help them bring their gifts and talents to the community. *It is hard to be your best self when you are hungry.*

The other part of Helena's special Chef Skills, is that she makes the food tasty and healthy. A few of us were treated to lunch to verify this first hand, ☺



Now we are inviting all of our parishioners to "Come and See" some culinary magic with food pantry items and contribute to shaping how this Help Stop Local Hunger project will be able to use the gifts of the area to meet the needs of the area. Listen to a short presentation about project possibilities and most importantly, share your suggestions, expertise, and your energy as we begin to tackle this important social justice concern. **Join us Sunday January 31 at 11:45 am** on the Lower area in the Kitchen and in the St. Michael's room. Light healthy refreshments provided.

If you have questions contact these parishioners. *Carol Parowski* at 703-606-1202, *Dolores Cook* at 717-444-3858, *Sarah and Mike Tirpak* at tirpakms@ptd.net *Dr. John Pagana* at jbpagana@ptd.net or *Helena Williams* at gastrogatherings@gmail.com.

Please reply to any of the above by January 25 if you can attend.



Pope Francis says “Wasting Food is like stealing from the poor.”

Pope Francis has attacked a “culture of waste” and stressed that discarding food was like stealing from the world’s poor. When dedicating his weekly message to the United Nations World Environment Day, he said “This culture of waste has made us insensitive even to the waste and disposal of food, which is even more despicable when all over the world, unfortunately, many individuals and families are suffering from hunger and malnutrition. Once our grandparents were very careful not to throw away any leftover

food. Consumerism has led us to become used to an excess and daily waste of food, to which, at times we are no longer able to give a just value. Throwing away food is like stealing from the table of the poor and the hungry.” Since taking office Pope Francis has called for the world’s 1.2 billion Catholics to do more to defend the poor and to practice greater austerity itself. He has also made several calls for global financial reform.

About 1.3 billion tons of food, or one third of what is produced for human consumption, gets lost or wasted every year, according to the United Nations’ food agency. In his speech, Pope Francis denounced the fact that a 10-point drop in stock markets was widely considered “a tragedy” while homeless people dying on our streets was no longer news. “Human ecology and environmental ecology walk hand in hand.” <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/the-pope/10101375/Pope-Francis-says-wasting-food-is-like-stealing-from-the-poor.html>

Please Don't Throw Your Good Food Away!

The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act was signed and put into effect on October 1, 1996. It was specifically designed and created to encourage food donations to non-profits and provide broad protection from liability to individual and corporations that wish to support their local community. This law:

- ◆ Protects you from liability when donating food to a non-for-profit organization, including a church.
- ◆ Protects you from civil and criminal liability should the product, donated in good faith, later cause harm to a needy recipient.
- ◆ Standardizes donor liability exposure across 50 states.
- ◆ Recognizes that providing food close to (after) the date of recommended retail sale is, in and of itself, not grounds for finding gross negligence.

The demand for FOOD is increasing. It is more important than ever before, that all available resources are utilized. Through community projects that address food waste and hunger, local food donations go directly to families who may not otherwise be able to eat.



Help Stop Local Hunger

“It’s hard to think there are hungry people who live right here and there are people around the corner throwing food away. My goal is to match them together.” Helena Williams.

Matching food with tummies and matching supplies with users goes hand-in-hand in this kind of project. As a part of the fight against waste as it existed in Indiana, by creating specific wish lists, and letting the needs be known, the local food pantry received an immediate donation of a commercial oven, a six burner gas stove and much needed commercial grade pots so they could expand the meals they provided to 150 people three times a week.



But every place is different and every solution is unique, which is why we need YOU! If you like to cook, Great! We need you. If you don’t like the hands on cooking, there are other jobs that will need to be done as we explore our options. If you can make phone calls or help disseminate food, or information; if you have creative or technical computer or graphic skills; if you enjoy talking with people who need support; if you can help us set up, or clean up ... consider sharing your time and talents.

If this social justice ministry calls to you-- come to the meeting and learn more.

You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. That’s how prayer works.

Pope Francis