

Hello contributors to Immaculate Heart SVDP food pantry,

It's been quite awhile since I sent out a report to you about how we are doing. These last two summer months have seen big increases in the number of clients we're serving. In a normal month we serve an average of 120 families, just over 400 people. But in July we served 160 families, 507 people, and in August it was 169 families 464 people. Since we give out over 100 lbs per family, these two month increases alone show an increase of around 9,000 extra lbs of food we gave out.

Luckily we've had some extra donations during these times that really helped out. I just can't emphasize enough what any donation means to us, no matter how small. We are blessed that so many of you help us over the years with food and money. Plus we are blessed too by individuals who give from their heart whatever they can.

Our normal large volume suppliers, Oregon Food bank and St Vincent dePaul food bank, just cannot keep up with the demand of so many people in need during these very tough economic times. They are doing their best, but the demand is greater than the donations they receive. Therefore all pantries like ours have been getting less food than we need.

Most people know that I'm a scrounger for food and money and so we've been able to maintain our generosity so far because of the extra gifts and donors we've picked up. But my fear is that we too may have to cut back on what we are able to give out per family. And I certainly don't want to do that. These people we serve, our clients, need what we give them. Perhaps you read lately of food stamp cutbacks that took effect already this year. So those affected by that need more from us now than before.

Many of our clients are on fixed incomes, disabled and receiving social security disability payments, which, if you don't know, is poverty. They don't have cars, they could never afford a car. They use buses when they have to get around. We have seven buildings in our area that have some low income housing in them. But not all our clients get low income housing, many pay regular rents which eat up their monthly checks.

Last year we had a nice full basement of extra food to draw from. Those racks in that basement are almost empty now, the backup food has mostly disappeared. We are way more day to day now, get the

food in the same day as we give it out. It's not the best way to operate, it's just how things have developed this year.

But we are still hanging on, and we'll continue hanging on as long as we can. And I know that God has blessed us in the past so many times, with you and many others who have helped us. And I trust He will continue to bless us in our work of showing our clients that we love them by doing our best to help them.

Thanks again for all you've done for us in the past and if you've got any extra food or money laying around you can do without, we can use it.

May God continue to bless you too.

Bill Schwindt
Pantry manager