

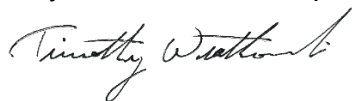
Immigration: Ways to help those affected

During the period of increased federal immigration enforcement in Minnesota, charitable organizations and Catholic parishes have noted an increased demand for charitable assistance and pastoral presence. People have asked me: “Where and how can I help?”

In response to the need and suffering around us, we first pray. Jesus says in the Gospel of John: “Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.” Prayer is our practice of abiding with Jesus. In prayer, we share our desires, sorrows, and hopes. In response, Jesus is present to us and shapes these desires, sorrows, and hopes into a holy response, full of His life-giving Spirit. Prayer leads, then, to charity. “The love of Christ impels us,” St. Paul says in 2 Corinthians. The prayer of faith leads to love, not only in “what” we do but also the “way” we do it. Here are several ways we can respond with charity:

1. **Catholic Community Foundation of Minnesota**, in partnership with Archbishop Bernard Hebda, has reactivated a relief fund to help Catholic parishes and schools in the Archdiocese to respond to increased needs within their communities. Many are providing basic charitable assistance, pastoral presence, and short-term emergency support to individuals and families they serve. Gifts can be made online here: <https://tinyurl.com/3btba4v8>
2. **West Side Community Organization** and **Neighborhood House** come through a connection of Deacon Dennis in West St. Paul. West Side Community Organization is distributing food and providing housing aid for families in need. <https://www.wsco.org/>. Neighborhood House is providing emergency food delivery while also supporting a local Latino-owned business, as well as providing basic needs items. <https://neighborhoodhousemn.org/community-crisis-response/>
3. **Food donations to Holy Name of Jesus**: We accept non-perishable food donations at Mass during the offertory and during parish hours. All donations are brought to the IOCP food shelf.
4. **Direct financial donations to IOCP** for rent assistance for families who cannot leave their homes to go to work right now. <https://iocp.org/donations/give-financial-support/>
5. **Volunteer for shifts at Second Harvest Heartland**. They are looking for people to fill 2-3 hour shifts. <https://www.2harvest.org/food-is-expensive>
6. **Ascension Emergency Relief Fund**. This fund supports parishioners, scholars in the school, and families of scholars in need of food, housing, and transportation, as well as employment challenges. <https://ascensionmpls.org/> or <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YRDA/home>

May the Lord bless our prayer and our holy response!



Fr. Timothy Wratkowski