



DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO
2110 Broadway • Sacramento, California 95818 • 916/733-0253 • Fax 916/733-0224

SOCIAL SERVICE MINISTRY

January 31, 2012

Dear Father or Parish Administrator,

Ash Wednesday will mark the beginning of the 35th annual **Diocesan Food Bowl**, an effort to encourage parishes and schools of the diocese to do something during Lent in response to the gospel mandate to serve those in our midst who are hungry.

I am happy to tell you that Food Bowl 2011 generated \$14,750 which was distributed to emergency food programs in community organizations and parish ministries throughout the Diocese. In addition, several parishes elected to retain Food Bowl collections for their own local emergency food needs and several parishes chose to support global food needs through Catholic Relief Services.

Pope Benedict XVI's Lenten message calls on Christians to keep the discipline of fasting and "give to poor persons what has been set aside from their fast." The Holy Father says further, "It is precisely to keep alive this welcoming and attentive attitude towards our brothers and sisters that I encourage the parishes and every other community to intensify in Lent the custom of private and communal fasts, joined to the reading of the Word of God, prayer and almsgiving."

I am including a flyer for your convenience in promoting participation in the Food Bowl in your parish. Feel free to use it as is or to adapt it for your own local needs.

Towards the end of Lent, I will send you a remittance form for your Food Bowl collection and an application to use in requesting funding for a local emergency food ministry.

Feel free to call our office for additional information or assistance or you can contact me directly at mkiernan@diocese-sacramento.org or 916.733.0254. Thank you for your prayers and participation in this important diocesan ministry of solidarity with the plight of increasing numbers of those who are hungry in our communities.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Michael F. Kiernan
Director of Catholic Charities



Diocesan Food Bowl

Lent 2012

An invitation to parishes, schools, religious education programs, individuals and families.....to keep the Lenten disciplines of Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving by supporting the 34th Annual Food Bowl.

- ▼ **Sponsor a Parish or School-wide Food Bowl Event**
- ▼ **Make a family commitment to donate to the Food Bowl**
 - ▼ **Plan a Penny Drive**
 - ▼ **Pledge monthly support of the Food Bowl**
- ▼ **Pray for the success of the Food Bowl and the alleviation of hunger in our world**

The annual Food Bowl Collection funds local parish and community soup kitchens and food closets.



Participate in your local parish Lenten program
or make a donation to:

Diocesan Food Bowl

Office of Social Service Ministry

2110 Broadway, Sacramento, CA 95818

Help Us to Help Others