



A Call to Compassionate Community Aid at St. Agnes

Dear St. Agnes Community,

As you may know, Archbishop Gomez made a heartfelt public request this past Wednesday, July 23rd, calling upon all parishes to extend vital assistance to our immigrant sisters and brothers who have been affected by recent ICE raids across our city. We are responding to this call with our own initiative: "Compassionate Community Aid for those affected by Immigration Raids."

Our Ongoing Support and How You Can Help

At St. Agnes, we are already deeply committed to supporting our community. Every Tuesday, from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM, we provide food assistance to seniors, vulnerable families, and everyone who is food insecure through our Brother Andre food distribution program. Beyond this, we have been actively working to support our immigrant community by offering "Know Your Rights" workshops to empower individuals with essential information. Most recently, we've held special sessions for notarized letters for parents who need to transfer temporary custody of their children in the event of a sudden separation.

To help with these vital efforts, we are now asking all parishioners, who are able, to make donations directly to our parish for this specific purpose. These funds and resources will be dedicated to supporting our new "Compassionate Community Aid" program. This fund will specifically assist families who are so afraid of being separated from their children due to immigration enforcement that they are no longer working or able to meet their basic needs.

You can make your donations at our parish office or by using the QR code. We also gratefully accept gift cards for supermarkets, Target, or Amazon, as these provide immediate and practical help to families. Your generosity will make a tangible difference in the lives of those in immediate need.

If You or Someone You Know Needs Assistance

I want to ensure that those affected know where to turn. If you or a family you know has been impacted by immigration raids and needs support, please contact your local Catholic church. Every parish is being called to assist, so people don't have to travel far for help.

To receive assistance through our program at St. Agnes, individuals and families must primarily live within our parish boundaries (Washington, Hoover, Exposition & Western; see map). An exception will be made for registered parishioners.

Our "Compassionate Community Aid" program will be administered by The Brother Andre Outreach Center on Thursdays, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. We will post a monthly calendar of these operational dates. Next month the Brother Andre Outreach Center is open on the following Thursdays to assist:

- **July 31st, August 14th, August 21st, August 28th**

Finally, I know that immigration is a politically divisive and very complex topic, with all kinds of ideologies. I also know that we each have our own opinion on the matter. I am not a politician, I am a priest and a pastor to a community of people. My worldview is not only informed by the news, my worldview foundation is the Word of God. And when I search the Word of God for guidance on this topic, I keep coming across the great commandment of Loving God and Loving Neighbor. Sometimes I ask, like the scholar of the law, "Who is my neighbor?" and Jesus makes this very clear:

"Which of these three, in your opinion, was a neighbor to the robbers' victim?" He answered, "The one who treated him with compassion." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The call is one of recognition of our shared humanity, of honoring our human dignity and a reminder that we are in this world together as the family of God, brothers and sisters all in need of grace and salvation. Thank you for your help and support.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Luis Espinoza

Pastor,