



Diocese of Springfield

Office of the Bishop

November 6, 2025

TO: Pastors and School principals

FROM: Bishop Byrne

RE: Food Collections

Greetings!

Like so many, I am concerned that the ongoing federal government shut-down is setting the stage for what could be a drastic increase in food insecurity in our diocese and our nation.

This week the Administration committed to releasing some “Contingency Funds” which is a good first step. However, just the looming threat of the loss of SNAP benefits has resulted in large crowds at area food pantries exhausting the inventory of non-perishable goods.

I know that most parishes and schools have long served as drop-off locations for donating food items- and I thank you for that. But in light of the current situation, with the shelves at many food pantries empty, I would like to respectfully suggest that all parishes and schools begin or increase the collection of non-perishable items that can be brought to local food pantries in the hopes that their shelves will be restocked.

This is not a mandate, rather a pastoral suggestion on how we might, at this difficult time, help our brothers and sisters in need. I understand and know that parishes and schools are very busy, so all I ask is that you consider your participation.

If you have an existing relationship with a local food pantry or have a parish pantry, then of course you'll direct food donations to that facility. If you don't and/or need help picking up your food donations, please contact Catholic Charities via email CatholicCharities@diospringfield.org. and they will arrange a pick-up and distribution using their Mobile Food Pantry van.

Finally, food insecurity is not just a city or homeless problem, rather it is a crisis effecting many elderly as well as persons with low paying jobs, along with countless families, those living in rural and urban communities. If you would like to discuss other ways in which your parish or school can help-please contact Catholic Charities at the email address above.

Please join in in praying for resolution to this shutdown.

Thank you and God Bless!

Your friend in Christ,

Most Reverend William D. Byrne
Bishop of Springfield