



## Frequently Asked Questions

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### **What do you do with leftovers?**

On Saturday we have nonprofit organizations come and take what they can use. In the past Quota club took shoes; Friends of Waterloo library took books; Salvation Army took coats and children's clothing; St. Eds took household and clothing items for their mission parish in Mississippi, and St. Vincent de Paul took clothing. What is left is donated to Goodwill.

### **How long does it take to get it all organized?**

Planning by the committee begins one week after the last sale. Most of the sorting and display happens a week before the sale. There are about 80 parishioners that participate in the setup and sales. Some people give us their 1 hour lunch break and others work 50 hours. There were over 1200 volunteer hours for the Fall 2021 sale.

### **Where do you get all this stuff?**

Generous parishioners donate. We never have a shortage. We begin collecting large items about a month before the sale and the rest comes in two weeks before the sale.

### **How long have you been conducting the sale?**

We had the first sale in 2016. The success of the rummage sale portion of the Fall Festival in previous years motivated us. We no longer have the Fall Festival.

### **How much do you usually make?**

The first year (2016) we made about \$6,000. In 2021 we made over \$30,000 in two sales. In the past six years we have made over \$115,000. This sale not only raises money for the church but gives parishioners an outlet for things they want to get rid of, provides a resource for those that need items at a very reasonable price, is a community builder and is a means of evangelizing.

### **Where does the money go?**

The money goes into Blessed Sacrament's general fund. That pays for maintenance, salaries, local and outreach ministries and community building events.

### **How do you determine the non-profit organizations that get things for free?**

October 2021

We have a list of 27 non-profits that we invite. This fall 6 non-profits came to take what they need. If you know of one, please let us know who to contact.

## **What do you do with dirty or stained clothes and linens or broken items?**

We sort out dirty and stained clothes and linens as we organize. Soiled or stained bedding is taken to the Humane Society and the rest is donated by the pound to Goodwill for recycling. Metal items that are not received by Goodwill are recycled. We do dispose of some items that we feel are not reusable because they are broken or dirty.

## **Who plans this?**

We have a committee of about 20 who are dedicated to this event. They plan the two garage sales and also hold a few estate sales throughout the year.

## **Do you sell everything this cheap? What if I donate something that has a better value?**

We pull some items that we feel that we can sell for more than a rummage sale price and sell them online or to collectors that are willing to pay a better price. If you want to suggest a price for your donated items we will listen but cannot guarantee that it will be sold at that price. Online items are listed under Ryan England on Facebook Waterloo for Sale group. Look for things being sold for Blessed Sacrament.

## **What is the job of the volunteer staff?**

- Assist customers. They may ask questions, look for certain sizes, need a shopping bag or box, want to check if something works, and sometimes they just want to talk. Do not hesitate taking time to visit with the customers.
- Keep the merchandise organized. That means a lot of folding of clothes and linens that are on the tables (ask someone what the order of sizes and types is), filling in empty spots on the tables (there are items under the tables that will sell better once there is room on the tables to display them), putting things back where they belong, and carrying larger items (not furniture) to checkout (put their name on those items if they want them held as they do more shopping).
- Know the prices. We try to keep it simple and have price sheets displayed.
- Some volunteer staff are assigned the jobs of tallying merchandise or working as a cashier. They receive separate directions.
- Have fun! Make this an enjoyable experience for everyone. People work hard but you will also hear a lot of laughter.