

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

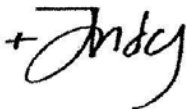
May 8th, 2016 (Mother's Day): Episcopal Charities Sunday
Collection to support feeding programs in the Diocese of New York

Just over a million people residing within the footprint of the Diocese live in poverty. **For many, hunger may not be a constant, but it is always a threat.** One unexpected medical bill or car repair can strain the family budget to the point where hunger becomes a very harsh reality.

Many of those seeking sorely-needed food will find it at 48 parish-affiliated feeding programs supported by Episcopal Charities. **Last year, these community kitchens, food pantries and brown-bag lunch programs provided hungry New Yorkers with 6.7 million meals!** This amazing outpouring of help...and love... is a tribute to the feeding programs themselves and all those who choose to help the hungry through their support of Episcopal Charities.

This year, Episcopal Charities Sunday is scheduled for Mother's Day, May 8th. As we celebrate the love and sacrifices of our own mothers, please also remember those mothers who agonize as their families confront hunger. **This Mother's Day, I urge you to give generously to Episcopal Charities so that struggling mothers, and all those who turn to us for help, can find the sustenance and hope they so desperately need.**

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "+ Andy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Right Reverend Andrew M L Dietsche
Bishop of New York

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Episcopal Charities Sunday
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On Episcopal Charities Sunday in your parish, please remember our fellow New Yorkers who live with hunger. **I urge you to give generously to Episcopal Charities so that all those who turn to us can find the sustenance and hope they so desperately need.** Thank you, very much, for doing all that you can to help.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+Andy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Right Reverend Andrew M L Dietsche
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Episcopal Charities
A Commitment to Caring

Episcopal Charities Fact Sheet - 2016

- Founded in 1996, Episcopal Charities provides **funding and operational support** to parish-sponsored outreach programs serving the diverse communities of the Episcopal Diocese of New York.
- **Our network extends** to every county of the diocese: Manhattan, the Bronx and Staten Island, and Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, Sullivan, Orange and Ulster.
- Our programs are diverse and open to all: More than **850,000 children and adults** receive help through our grassroots, non-sectarian, parish-sponsored programs.
- The 48 feeding programs supported by Episcopal Charities serve more than **6.7 million meals** annually to hungry New Yorkers.
- Episcopal Charities has made, to date, **more than \$14 million in grants** to parish programs reaching out to their local communities.
- **We're not just funders, we're partners:** Episcopal Charities provides strategic training, operational support, and networking opportunities to parish programs through workshops and one-on-one consultations.

Learn more about Episcopal Charities at: ec-ny.org/ecsunday



Episcopal Charities
A Commitment to Caring

Episcopal Charities Sunday 2016
Primer

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Episcopal Charities Sunday 2016 Hunger Statistics

Diocese of New York

- 786,470 people (14%) struggle with food insecurity in the ten counties that make up the Diocese of New York. Of those, more than 270,000 are children; 21% of children in our Diocese face food insecurity.
- Food insecurity primarily affects women, children, seniors, the working poor and people with disabilities.
- The average cost of a meal in the Diocese of New York is \$3.20* - more than twice the \$1.50 per meal allowed in the typical budget of a family receiving food assistance.

* The average meal cost ranges from \$2.51 in Sullivan County to \$4.37 in Manhattan.

Source: [Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2013](#)

New York City

- Throughout the five boroughs, approximately 1.4 million people rely on soup kitchens and food pantries. Among the working poor, more than 1 in 4 households (27%) experienced difficulty affording food in the past year, *despite having jobs*.

- 1 in 5 children in New York City relies on emergency food.

Source: [Food Bank of New York City](#)

- Even with the robust support of nonprofits across the city, New Yorkers are missing more than 241 million meals each year.
- The November 2013 cuts to SNAP benefits (food stamps) has resulted in the monthly loss of an estimated 5.3 million meals for NYC residents, more than the largest food banks distribute.

Source: [Hunger Cliff, NYC: Bridging a City's 5.3 Million Meal Loss](#)

Westchester County

- Approximately 200,000 people in Westchester County – 20% of the population – are hungry or at risk of being hungry. About one-half of those hungry people are elderly. Approximately one-third of them are children under the age of 18.
- Approximately 68% of pantries, 42% of community kitchens, and 15% of emergency shelters in Westchester County rely solely on volunteers and have no paid staff. More than half of Westchester’s front-line hunger relief programs are faith-based agencies.

Source: [Food Bank for Westchester](#)

- About 14,800 different people in Westchester County receive emergency food assistance in any given week.

Source: [Food Bank for Westchester](#)

- Hunger exists in the suburbs. Between 2000 and 2010, the number of suburban households below the poverty line increased by 53% - compared with a 23% increase in poor households in urban areas.

Source: [Food Bank for Westchester](#)

Rockland, Putnam, Orange, Dutchess, Ulster and Sullivan Counties

- Roughly 1 in 10 residents – and nearly 19% of children - in these counties are facing food insecurity.
 - 6.1% of Putnam County residents (14.2% of children)
 - 10.2% of Dutchess County residents (16.6% of children)
 - 11.4% of Ulster County residents (19.6% of children)
 - 13.2% of Sullivan County residents (22.9% of children)
 - 9.8% of Rockland County residents (19.2% of children)
 - 10.4% of Orange County residents (19.3% of children)

- Almost 60% of residents of these counties are eligible for SNAP benefits (food stamps), with an income below 200% of the poverty line.

Source: [Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2012](#)

- 39% of households receiving emergency food assistance in these counties have at least one adult working – and still can’t make ends meet.

Source: [Food Bank of the Hudson Valley](#)

Learn more about Episcopal Charities at: ec-ny.org/ecsunday



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Episcopal Charities Sunday 2016 Feeding Programs supported by Episcopal Charities

New York City

- Church of the Ascension, Manhattan: Ascension Outreach (Michael D. Fender Food Pantry)
- Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine, Manhattan: Cathedral Community Cares
- Christ & St. Stephen's Church, Manhattan: Brown Bag Lunch Program
- Christ & St. Stephen's Church, Manhattan: West Side Campaign Against Hunger
- Christ Church, Staten Island: Community Feeding Programs
- Church of the Epiphany, Manhattan: Wednesday Night Homeless Feeding Program
- Grace, West Farms, Bronx: Our Lord's Soup Kitchen
- Church of the Heavenly Rest, Manhattan: New York Common Pantry
- Church of the Holy Apostles, Manhattan: Holy Apostles Soup Kitchen
- Church of the Holy Trinity, Manhattan: Neighborhood Center
- Holyrood Church, Manhattan: Friday Food Fest
- St. Ann's Church of Morrisania, Bronx: Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen
- St. Bartholomew's Church, Manhattan: Crossroads Community Services
- St. Edmund's Church, Bronx: Food Pantry
- St. Ignatius of Antioch Church, Manhattan: Soup Kitchen
- The Church of St. Luke in the Fields, Manhattan: The PLWA Project, Food, Friends and Fellowship for People Living with HIV/AIDS
- St. Margaret's Church, Longwood, Bronx: Feeding Ministry
- St. Mary's Church, Staten Island: Community Meal and Food Pantry
- St. Mary's Church, West Harlem: Food Pantry and Soup Kitchen
- Church of St. Matthew and St. Timothy, Manhattan: Sunday Meals Program

- St. Michael's Church, Manhattan: Saturday Kitchen and Pilgrim Resource Center
- St. Peter's Church, Chelsea: Food Pantry
- St. Peter's Church, Bronx: Love Kitchen and Love Pantry

Westchester County

- Church of the Good Shepherd, Granite Springs: Food Pantry at the Community Center of Northern Westchester
- Grace Church, White Plains: Community Center Soup Kitchen
- Iglesia Memorial de San Andres, Yonkers: Food Pantry
- Sts. John, Paul & Clement Church, Mt. Vernon: Food Pantry
- St. John's Church, Pleasantville: Pleasantville Community Garden
- St. Mark's Church, Mt. Kisco: Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry
- St. Mary's Church, Mohegan Lake: Community Food Pantry
- St. Peter's Church, Port Chester: Neighborhood Dinner & Mobile Food Pantry
- St. Thomas Church, Mamaroneck: Brown Bag Lunch and Food Pantry
- Trinity St. Paul's Church, New Rochelle: Brown Bag Lunch

Rockland, Putnam, Orange, Dutchess, Ulster and Sullivan Counties

- Christ Church of Ramapo, Suffern: Feeding Ministries
- Christ the King, Warwick: Roundout Valley Food Pantry
- Church of the Good Shepherd, Newburgh: Shepherd's Kitchen
- Grace Church, Middletown: Guild of St. Margaret Soup Kitchen
- Grace Church, Port Jervis: Fed By Grace Food Pantry
- Church of the Messiah, Rhinebeck: Food Pantry
- St. Andrew's, Brewster and St. James', North Salem: Brewster Community Food Pantry
- St. Andrew's Church and St. Luke's Church, Beacon: Food Pantry
- St. George's Church, Newburgh: Food Pantry
- St. John's Church, Kingston: Angel Food East
- St. John's Church, Monticello: Caring Hands Food Pantry
- St. Mary's Church, Tuxedo Park: Sloatsburg Food Pantry
- St. Paul's, Poughkeepsie: Food Pantry
- St. Thomas Church, Amenia Union: Food of Life/ Comida de Vida Pantry
- Zion Church, Wappingers Falls: Food Pantry

Learn more about our feeding programs at: ec-ny.org/ecsunday



Episcopal Charities
A Commitment to Caring

Episcopal Charities Sunday 2016 Litany – Remembering God’s Provision for Us

A: O God, our Provider, you created us and fed us. (Gen 1:26-31)

B: You called us out of slavery into a land of milk and honey,

A: And fed us in the desert on the long journey into that abundance. (Ex. 16:1-36)

B: You established your covenant with us that we might receive the bounty of your blessings as we dwell in harmony and justice.

A: “Obey all the Lord’s laws and commands and you will have all you want to eat and will live in safety.” (Lev. 25:18-19)

B: In your wisdom, you arranged periodic corrections of our tendency toward accumulation and injustice.

A: “Every third year, set aside a tithe of food for the Levites, who have no inheritance, the aliens, orphans, and widows, that they may eat within your towns and be filled.” (Deut. 14:28-29 and Deut. 26:12-13)

B: “Every seventh year, cancel the debts of those who owe you money.” (Deut. 15:1-6)

A: “The fiftieth year shall be a Year of Restoration, a Year of Jubilee, when slaves will be returned to their families, debts forgiven, property restored to original owners, and freedom proclaimed to all inhabitants of the land.” (Lev. 25:8-10)

B: In your special caring for the marginal ones, you established a safety net to provide for those falling through the cracks.

A: “When you harvest, leave some for aliens, orphans, widows.” (Deut. 24:19-22 and Lev. 19:9-10)

B: “When a countryman becomes poor, be generous to him. The poor will be with you always, so be generous to them.” (Deut. 15:7-11)

A: When we lost sight of your justice, thereby rendering our worship empty, your prophets spoke out to correct us.

B: “Is not this the fast I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the thongs of the yoke,

A: “to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?”

B: “Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,

A: “and bring the homeless poor into your house?” (Isaiah 58:6-7)

B: Your son began his public ministry proclaiming the Year of Jubilee, the freeing of the oppressed and good news to the poor. (Luke 4:18-19)

A: He cared for the hungry in feeding the multitudes. (Matt. 14:13-21, Mark 6:30-44, Luke 9:10-17 and John 6:1-14)

B: And was willing even to violate the law so that his disciples would have food to eat. (Matt. 12:1-8)

***All join:* Make us aware, O God, of our responsibility to carry out your will in provision for those in need. Amen.**

(From “Moving Beyond Band-Aids” by the California Council of Churches)

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Episcopal Charities
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Episcopal Charities Sunday 2016 Educational Tips for All Ages

The Youngest Members

In the weeks leading up to Episcopal Charities Sunday, ask children to bring in canned food for your local food pantry. On the appointed Sunday the food may be brought to the altar by the children for the offertory.

Youth Group Members

Organize a youth trip to a local feeding program in the weeks leading up to Episcopal Charities Sunday (visit ec-ny.org/volunteer for ideas). During announcements the youth might speak briefly about that experience.

Encourage youth and their families to take the SNAP challenge! Pledge to spend just \$4.50 per person, per day on food – an amount comparable to the food budget of the average SNAP (food stamps) recipient – for 3, 5 or 7 days.

Visit frac.org/pdf/frac_101_snap_challenge_toolkit.pdf for more details.

Adult Members

Have a discussion about the call in scripture to feed hungry people ([Luke 9:10-17](#), [Matthew 25:34-40](#), [1 John 3:17-18](#), [Proverbs 22:9](#))

Encourage your entire congregation to volunteer at a local feeding program or a nearby Episcopal Church-related program. Visit ec-ny.org/volunteer for ideas.

Highlight your congregation's support for the hungry and consider what additional efforts might be undertaken with additional funds and volunteers.

Learn more about Episcopal Charities at: ec-ny.org/ecsunday