

Outreach Conference 2020

LOCAL HUNGER: Fr Joseph Huneycutt

Synopsis: St Joseph/Houston, founded in 1993, is comprised of approximately 100 families. For many years, with the encouragement of the Archdiocese's *Food for Hungry People* (FFHP) program, the parish collected food to donate to Houston area food banks. In February of 2020, Marlon Amell took on the ministry of our food collection in partial fulfillment of his certificate of study in the St Stephen's Course/Antiochian House of Studies. The plan was to address the congregation via e-blasts, posters in the Hall, and announcements at the end of Liturgy – encouraging all to live according to our Lord's Commandment to *love thy neighbor as thyself*. The local Kroger provided, free of charge, a stack of paper bags – which were made available to parishioners with a list of needed items inside. We began handing these out in March.

Keep it Local

1. As an Orthodox parish on the westside of Houston, we are surrounded by a community that is non-Orthodox. By gathering and donating locally, we are literally helping our neighbor.
2. The initial participation of the laity to serve the basic needs of the hungry in in the midst of the COVID pandemic was *very generous*, resulting in eight (8) large bins of food that were delivered with the assistance of the men's group.
3. Due to the success of the initial collection, the parish has continued the ministry under the leadership of the Young Adult Ministry, with a monthly rotation of ministry groups (Antiochian Women, Brotherhood of St James, Choir, Church School, and Teen SOYO). It is not really a competition, but regular announcements are made and successes celebrated. Each month since March we have collected more than we normally would *annually*.

Feeding Our Neighbor

1. The parish's previous FFHP collections were slight and perfunctory.
2. An organized push and a worldwide pandemic opened our eyes to the plight of our neighbor.
3. Now that we see what we can do, *when we have mind to*, this ministry will continue to prosper.

Additional Resources

1. Food for Hungry People (FFHP) resources - <https://www.antiochian.org/dashboard?name=Food%20For%20Hungry%20People>
2. Helping Our Neighbors in Need: Canned Food Drive Begins in October - <https://antiochianprodsa.blob.core.windows.net/websiteattachments/Canned%20Food%20Drive%202020.pdf>
3. Donate to FFHP online - <https://antiochian.networkforgood.com/projects/71856-food-for-hungry-people>
4. "Food For Hungry People" - c/o Robin Lynn Nicholas
4237 Dundee Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90027
robinFFHP@aol.com

Bio: Fr Joseph is the Vice-Chairman of the Antiochian Department of Missions and Evangelism; Dean of the East Texas Deanery in the Diocese of Wichita and Mid-America; and is the pastor of St Joseph Church in Houston, Texas. He is also an author, speaker, and podcaster. frhuneycutt@antiochian.org