



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

Office of the Archbishop

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"Charity is the cement that binds Communities to God and persons to one another."

St. Vincent de Paul

Dear Father,

The Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS) has advised the public that **effective Nov. 1, SNAP benefits will not be issued due to the continuing federal government shutdown.**

Without these benefits, **over 292,000 people in the City of St. Louis and 10 surrounding counties of our archdiocese will lose access to vital food benefits that overwhelmingly support our children, our elderly and disabled neighbors, and our low-income workers.**

In the absence of this support, these neighbors will turn to our food pantries, churches and nonprofits, which have always been "the safety net to the safety net." Donations are needed now more than ever to provide for this increased need.

The Gospel of James says:

¹⁵ Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶ If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?

¹⁷ In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.

¹⁸ But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds. ¹⁹ You believe that there is one God. Good!

We are called to be people of faith and action. And so, I ask the good people of our archdiocese to come together to help our neighbors who are in danger of going without their “daily food.”

On the weekend of Nov. 1-2 or the weekend of Nov. 8-9, I request that every parish host a food donation drive. Logistics details and customizable promotion materials will be emailed to you on Mon., Oct. 27.

Inspired by our archdiocesan patron saints – St. Louis of France, St. Vincent de Paul, and St. Rose Philippine Duchesne – please respond with love and generosity to this urgent need.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Mitchell T. Rozanski". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'M' and a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski
Archbishop of St. Louis