



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



October 29, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

On this past October 4, 2025, the Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi, Pope Leo XIV issued *Dilexi Te*, his Apostolic Exhortation on love for the poor. Our Holy Father writes, "Love for the Lord, then, is one with love for the poor. The same Jesus who tells us, 'The poor you will always have with you' also promises the disciples, 'I am with you always.' In the poor Jesus continues to speak to us."

The current government shutdown has prompted us to pay attention ever more carefully to the voice of the Lord speaking again to us in the poor. The inability or unwillingness of our elected leaders to agree increasingly jeopardizes people who stand to lose employment or government assistance. The USDA has recently posted a notice on its website announcing that federal food aid to those in financial distress will not be distributed beginning this weekend. This deprives about one in eleven Texans, the majority who are working, the necessary supplemental assistance to buy groceries for their children and families. The USDA notice reads, "Bottom line, the well has run dry."

Yet, we as Catholics know that the charity that the Lord has poured into our hearts sacramentally never runs dry. Our responsibility as Catholics to love Jesus in the poor is heightened because of their dire situation being reduced to a tactic amidst partisan rancor. Others might lower the poor among our social priorities, but we who are faithful Catholics must know that the poor and hungry come first because they are Christ among us.

Thus, I am asking that a second collection be taken this weekend at every Mass in each parish of our diocese to assist those who are in ever more critical need to feed their children and their elderly parents. Half of this collection will go to Catholic Charities Fort Worth to assist their clients and the other half will go to those parish food pantries that offer assistance in groceries and sundries given to those who are Christ among us. If you prefer, you might help these apostolates directly.

Finally, it is necessary for us to pray for our government leaders and to encourage them, through our behavior, to find common purpose towards the flourishing of our blessed nation. With every good wish and prayers for you, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Michael F. Olson

The Most Reverend Michael F. Olson, STD, MA
Bishop of Fort Worth

THE CATHOLIC CENTER

800 West Loop 820 South • Fort Worth, TX 76108 • (817) 560-3300 • Fax (817) 244-8839 • fwdioc.org
officeofthebishop@fwdioc.org

The following locations and parishes of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth offer food pantry assistance. Please consider donating directly to these parishes or entities supporting our neighbors in need.

- Catholic Charities Fort Worth
<https://catholiccharitiesfortworth.org/>

To find parish contact information please visit the Diocesan Parish Finder web page.
<https://fwdioc.org/parish-finder/>

- All Saints Parish, Fort Worth (*Location for Tarrant Area Food Bank)
- Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Decatur
- Christ the King Parish, Fort Worth (*Location for Tarrant Area Food Bank)
- Holy Cross Parish, The Colony
- Immaculate Conception Parish, Denton (*Donates to Denton Community Food Center)
- Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Mineral Wells
- Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Breckenridge
- Sacred Heart Parish, Muenster
- Sacred Heart Parish, Wichita Falls
- St. Bartholomew Parish, Fort Worth
- St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Carrollton
- St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Grapevine
- St. John the Apostle Parish, North Richland Hills
- St. John the Baptizer Parish, Bridgeport
- St. Joseph Parish, Arlington
- St. Jude Parish, Mansfield
- St. Maria Goretti Parish, Arlington
- St. Mary Parish, Jacksboro
- St. Mary Parish, Windthorst
- St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Fort Worth
- St. Peter the Apostle Parish, Fort Worth
- St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, Pilot Point
- St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Arlington