

8 Simple Steps:

Engaging Youth in the *faithFULL* Food Drive

At Incarnation Parish in Mantua, the youth ministry coordinated the 2014 drive. Here are 8 simple steps they used to engage the whole parish. Information provided by Dave Zarzycki, youth minister.

1. Contacted the local Shop Rite and Acme and received donations of brown and plastic shopping bags. A thank-you note from the youth group was sent after the event for their donation.
2. Teens then stapled the flyer advertising the drive and what food items to donate to each of the bags.
3. A flyer was also sent home with all of our religious education families.
4. Teens made posters and signs encouraging parishioners to donate.
5. We contacted our Knights of Columbus and asked for their assistance. They generously donated a U-Haul rental truck for the day of the collection.
6. Weekend prior to collection: Some teens dressed as food items (costumes purchased at a shop in Philly) and others held the posters. Donation bags with the stapled flyers were given to parishioners after each Mass that weekend. (See photo below!)
7. Weekend of collection: We had teens assigned to specific Masses. After each Mass, the teens began to load the U-Haul.
8. After the completion of the final Mass, youth leader drove the truck to food bank in Pennsauken. Another leader drove some teens to the food bank, where they helped to unload the truck.



Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish in Cape May: Easy as 1, 2, 3

By Deacon Michael Kolakowski

1. Prep the bags.

- We got a large supply of brown bags and plastic bags from Acme.
- Religious education children and students from Cape Trinity helped to “double bag”: Put paper into plastic for ease of handling when filled.
- Copied the FaithFULL Flyer about preferred food items to include in bag. Children stapled flyers to bags.

2. Get the word out.

- *One month before the drive:* We used the pulpit and bulletin announcements and posted signs around the parish campus.
- *Two weeks before the drive:* Church ushers distributed bags to parishioners after each Mass.

3. Collect the food.

- *One week before the drive:* Knights of Columbus set up Acme shopping carts at the entrances to the church at each Mass. Filled carts were wheeled to parish hall where food is stored. Carts emptied and returned to church entrances.
- Local business donated truck to drive food to Food Bank.
- After last Mass on delivery date, Knights of Columbus, children, parents, other parishioners form a “bucket brigade” to load truck with bags.

