

21ST ANNUAL LONG-SLEEVE RELIEF DRIVE

ASH WEDNESDAY
TO
HOLY THURSDAY

FEBRUARY 18 -
APRIL 2
2026



LONG-SLEEVE RELIEF DRIVE

HOW A STORY ABOUT A PEPPER TEACHES A LESSON ABOUT PESTICIDES

Picture yourself as a farmworker.

You are out in the fields picking vegetables. You get thirsty, and while there is water available there are no cups available.

Bringing your own cup is not an option; it's too difficult to work at a breakneck pace picking vegetables and worry about where you might find a cup. So you improvise. You pick a pepper, cut it in half and use a half as a cup. Was that a good idea?

This is not a made-up scenario. Farmworkers faced with not enough resources to keep hydrated in the fields did just that. But what happened when they did that is they were drinking pesticides within the pepper along with water. This created a lot of health problems for them, and jumpstarted farmworkers and advocates to make sure there was water and drinking cups available throughout the day — especially at peak times when the Florida sun is brutal. So what did we learn from that pepper? That education equals action. But you can take that education even further.



And yes, thanks to the knowledge from that pepper, every day Catholics can help the men and women who put food on their tables. Florida Catholic Media spearheads the popular drive that officially begins Ash Wednesday (Mar. 5) and runs through Holy Thursday (Apr. 17). The focus of the drive is to donate clean, used or new men's and women's cotton long-sleeve shirts that can be used in the fields. Rough working conditions, exposure to weather, many washings, etc., create an ever-present need for long-sleeve shirts, which protect workers from bites and stings from various insects, and from contamination from sprays that help protect crops.

The ideal of “think globally and act locally” is something many people have heard. This annual drive embodies that philosophy as Florida residents open their eyes to poverty in their midst. It creates awareness of the conditions farmworkers face and the vital role they play in the economy. During Lent, parishes, schools, organizations and individuals are invited to conduct local drives and deliver the items collected to one of the many drop-off points around the state for distribution to farmworkers and others in need.

Education helped Florida Catholic Media staff develop the Long-Sleeve Relief Drive 20 years ago as staffers mentally put themselves in the shoes of a farmworker. Working outside in the heat for 10 hours in clothes that are worn the next day and the next day, each day getting more and more saturated with chemicals from pesticides and sun exposure.

That's why Florida Catholic Media began its Long-Sleeve Relief Drive. Since 2005 over a million long sleeve shirts have been donated. That's a lot of shirts — more than 100 tons — but they are necessary. By now, many of those shirts — donated from the back of people's closets — have been used to the “point of no return” and thrown away only because there is another shirt to take its place.

For information on the drive, visit <https://www.thefloridacatholic.org/news/advocacy/long-sleeve-relief/>. Collection and distribution sites are listed on the next pages of this brochure.

For more information, contact us by email at LSR@thefloridacatholic.org, call 407-373-0076 or toll free 1-888-275-9953, extension 202.

To make a monetary donation, make your check payable to Florida Catholic Media and mail to: Long Sleeve Relief, P.O. Box 4993, Orlando, FL 32802-4993 or donate securely online at <https://donorbox.org/long-sleeve-relief-drive-2026>. ■



COLLECTION SITES

DIOCESE OF ORLANDO

<p>All Souls Parish <i>St. Vincent de Paul - Outside Blue Bin</i> 3280 W. 1st Street Sanford, FL 32771</p>	<p>Annunciation Parish <i>St. Vincent de Paul Truck</i> <i>3rd Thursday every month</i> <i>Feb. 19 & Mar. 19</i> <i>10 a.m. – 1 p.m.</i> 1020 Montgomery Road Altamonte Springs, FL 32714</p>
<p>Ascension Parish <i>Parish Drive & Drop Off Site</i> 2950 N. Harbor City Boulevard Melbourne, FL 32935</p>	<p>Blessed Trinity Parish <i>Parish Only Drive</i> 720 12th Street Clermont, FL 34711</p>
<p>Corpus Christi Parish <i>St. Vincent de Paul Truck</i> <i>1st Tuesday of every month</i> <i>Apr. 1</i> <i>9 a.m. to Noon</i> 1050 Celebration Avenue Celebration, FL 34747</p>	<p>Divine Mercy Parish <i>St. Vincent de Paul Conference Drive</i> 1940 N Courtenay Parkway Merritt Island, FL 32953</p>
<p>Farmworker Association of Florida <i>Drop Off Site</i> <i>Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.</i> 1264 Apopka Boulevard Apopka, FL 32703</p>	<p>Farmworker Association of Florida <i>Drop Off Site</i> <i>Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.</i> 111 Fountain Drive Pierson, FL 32180</p>
<p>Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish <i>Parish Only Drive</i> 4000 S. Atlantic Avenue New Smyrna Beach, FL 32169</p>	<p>Resurrection Parish <i>St. Teresa of Calcutta Conference Drive</i> 333 Terrace Way Lakeland, FL 33813</p>
<p>St. Ann Parish <i>St. Vincent de Paul - Outside Blue Bin</i> 1311 Robinson Drive Haines City, FL 33844</p>	<p>St. Anthony Parish <i>St. Vincent de Paul Conference Drive</i> 820 Marcum Road Lakeland, FL 33809</p>
<p>St. Anthony Parish <i>St. Vincent de Paul Conference Drive</i> 820 Marcum Road Lakeland, FL 33809</p>	<p>St. John Vianney Parish <i>St. Vincent de Paul Conference Drive</i> 6200 S. Orange Blossom Trail Orlando, FL 32809</p>

COLLECTION SITES

DIOCESE OF ORLANDO (CONTINUED)

<p>St. Joseph/St. Matthew Parish <i>Parish Only Drive</i> 535 Avenue M NW Winter Haven, FL 33881</p>	<p>St. Mark the Evangelist Parish <i>St. Vincent de Paul Truck</i> <i>Mar. 10</i> <i>8 - 11 a.m.</i> 7081 S.E. Highway 42 Summerfield, FL 34491</p>
<p>St. Patrick Parish <i>St. Vincent de Paul Truck</i> <i>Wednesday, Mar. 4 &</i> <i>Wednesday, Apr. 1</i> <i>10 a.m. - Noon</i> 6803 Old Highway 441 Mount Dora, FL 32757</p>	<p>Sts. Peter and Paul Parish <i>Parish Only Drive</i> 5300 Old Howell Branch Road Winter Park, FL 32792</p>
<p>St. Thomas Aquinas Parish <i>Parish Only Drive</i> 2180 S. Kissingen Avenue Bartow, FL 33830</p>	<p>St. Thomas Aquinas Parish <i>St. Vincent de Paul Truck</i> <i>Feb. 6-8</i> <i>After all weekend masses</i> 700 Brown Chapel Road St. Cloud, FL 34769</p>
<p>St. Timothy Parish <i>St. Vincent de Paul Truck</i> <i>Mar. 26</i> <i>7 - 11 a.m.</i> 1351 Paige Place Lady Lake, FL 32159</p>	<p>St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store <i>Drop Off Site</i> <i>Monday - Saturday, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.</i> 601 E. Highway 50 Clermont, FL 34711</p>



COLLECTION SITES

DIOCESE OF PALM BEACH

<p>Catholic Charities of Palm Beach <i>Drop Off Site</i> Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. 31 W. 20th Street Riviera Beach, FL 33404 (561) 360-3327</p>	<p>Farmworker Association of Florida <i>Drop Off Site</i> Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. 29 S. Maple Street, Unit A Fellsmere, FL 32948</p>
<p>St. Joseph School <i>Kindergarten's Social Justice Project</i> Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. 1200 E. 10th Street Stuart, FL 34996</p>	<p>St. Rita Parish <i>Parish Youth Group Drive</i> 13645 Paddock Drive Wellington, FL 33414</p>



St. Joseph's School - Stuart, Florida
Kindergarten's Social Justice Project
2023

COLLECTION SITES

DIOCESE OF VENICE

<p>Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School <i>Benjamin Kramer Drive</i> 4171 Fruitville Road Sarasota, FL 34232 (941) 300-0183</p>	<p>Catholic Charities - Arcadia <i>Drop Off Site</i> Monday - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 1210 E. Oak Street Arcadia, FL 34266</p>
<p>Catholic Charities - Naples <i>Drop Off Site</i> Monday - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 2210 Santa Barbara Boulevard Naples, FL 34116</p>	<p>Catholic Charities - Sarasota <i>Drop Off Site</i> Monday - Friday, 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. 5050 N. Tamiami Trail Sarasota, FL 34234</p>
<p>Farmworker Association of Florida <i>Drop Off Site</i> Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. 415 Rose Avenue Immokalee, FL 34142</p>	<p>St. Agnes Parish <i>Justice and Peace Committee Drive</i> Mar. 29th & 30th 7775 Vanderbilt Beach Road Naples, FL 34120</p>
<p>St. Finbarr Parish <i>Parish Action Committee & Knights of Columbus Drive</i> 13520 Tamiami Trail E. Naples, FL 34114</p>	<p>St. Francis Xavier Cabrini Parish <i>Benjamin Kramer Drive</i> 12001 69th Street E Parrish, FL 34219</p>
<p>St. John XXIII Parish <i>Outreach Ministry Drive</i> 13060 Palomino Lane Fort Myers, FL 33912</p>	<p>St. William Parish <i>Parish Only Drive</i> 750 Seagate Drive Naples, FL 34103</p>

SPECIAL REQUESTS



In addition to long-sleeve cotton button-down shirts, the Farmworker Association of Florida is also requesting the following supplies:



- Diapers for adults (all sizes)
- Laundry products
- Personal hygiene items (toilet paper, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, body wipes, brush, comb, soap)
- Cooling bandanas
- Socks
- Baby formula (Similac, Enfamil, etc.)
- Baby wipes

For cold weather

- Gloves
- Winter caps
- Jackets
- Sweaters
- Backpacks
- Blankets