

Operation “Adopt a Street”



Roman Catholic
Diocese of Winona-Rochester

Many people have been asking how they can be church, be disciples of the Lord in this hour.

- 1) We worship.
- 2) We pray.
- 3) We serve and share the Lord’s love.

Many are rededicating themselves to more and deeper prayer, and that is excellent. Praying and participating in the Mass online: very good. But how do we serve our neighbor when we have significant social distancing rules in effect, no meetings of 10 or more, and a shelter in place order?



If you are able, you can employ Operation Adopt a Street.

How does this work? Take the street block (or 5-6 houses nearby) where you live and send them a sheet starting who you are, where you live, and what you would be willing/able to do for them if needed during this difficult time period.

If you know your neighbors, you can email them or call them. If you are active on the website www.Nextdoor.com, you can do that too.

It’s really very simple. Most people are deeply uncomfortable asking for help. You take away that discomfort by offering it. They can take you up on it or not. But they will remember that you cared. And if it comes up that you are Christian, they may know the source of your generosity as well.

See the following sample mailing and adapt it to what you can offer. Obviously if you are high-risk or living with someone who is, you can’t offer going out. But there are other things you can offer, if you are comfortable with that! And note the “sidewalk chalk” option for people with kids.

Go adopt your street. Make sure someone adopts the street your parish sits on. Include a roll of toilet paper (preferably wrapped). And God bless!

Template for sharing with neighbors on printouts, or via neighborhood facebook groups, or www.Nextdoor.com.

Hello, neighbors! My name is _____, and I live at _____ with my family, _____. With this shelter in place order in effect, and I wanted to make sure people knew we are in a low-risk category (and staying home) but able to go out for groceries/medications. If you need me to pick up something in town, I am open to doing that. I would wash my hands before going, use hand sanitizer there, and drop off the goods at your door. I would need for you all to pay for the goods ahead of time somehow, or make other arrangements with me.

I'm also open to being called if you are going stir-crazy—we are too! Open to talk about anything. Our number is _____.

We're also open to going for sanity walk around the neighborhood—six feet apart, of course.

Please accept this roll of toilet paper as a good will gesture. 😊 It is our privilege to support you, and helps keep us sane too.

Hang in there, everyone. We'll get through this!

- *Name*
- *Phone #*
- *email*

Mark 12:30-31 😊

Adaptation for people with kids, sidewalks, and chalk

Hello, neighbors! My name is _____, I live at _____: my children are at home now, and they would like to write messages of encouragement (such as “keep smiling” “Hang in there” or a drawing of the sun) around our street for walkers during this Shelter in Place order. Would you mind if they did this daily on your sidewalk? If you would be fine with that, please call me at _____ with your address and permission, or email _____. Otherwise, we will avoid your sidewalk. Thank you!

Additionally, if you need a grocery pickup, etc. during this time, I am low-risk and could pick up good for you. You would need to order them online, I think, or give me cash, but I am willing! I would wash my hands before going, use hand sanitizer there, and drop off on your doorstep.

Hang in there, everyone! We'll get through this.

Name

Mark 12:30-31 😊

Ps. Kids should be monitored by an adult in this exercise.