

"THE LORD CONTINUES TO COME TO THE
AID OF HIS CHILDREN..."

POPE LEO XIV

2026
BROWN BAG
LENTEN PROJECT



PRINCE OF PEACE
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

PEACE REQUIRES MERCY.

In his Angelus greeting on August 15, 2025, Pope Leo XIV said: "We feel powerless before the spread of violence in the world – a violence increasingly deaf and insensitive to any stirring of humanity. Yet we must not cease to hope: God is greater than the sin of human beings. We must not resign ourselves to the prevalence of the logic of conflict and of arms. With Mary, we believe that the Lord continues to come to the aid of his children, remembering his mercy. Only in this mercy can we return to the way of peace."

Peace comes from the Lord's wounds — and ours.

Pope Leo XIV told the world in his most recent Christmas blessing: "The Lord shows us his wounds and says: 'Peace be with you.' Do not be afraid to show your wounds healed by mercy. Do not be afraid to draw close to those who are trapped in fear or guilt. May the breath of the Spirit make us, too, witnesses of this peace and this love that is stronger than any defeat."

During the first four weeks of Lent, the Mercy Ministry invites you to pray for one of four very important organizations/ministries highlighted in this packet.

We ask you to place your gift(s) in the brown bag the Mercy Ministry provided or one from your home and bring the bag of gifts with you to Mass on Saturday or Sunday of the next week of Lent.

Example of prayers and gift suggestions are listed for each organization in this booklet.

God bless you and thank you for your participation!



Covenant House Texas

Covenant House gives hope to young people facing homelessness and trafficking by offering safe shelter, caring adults, and strong support. Open 24/7, our shelters provide immediate help, meals, and care, along with long-term programs that help kids heal, grow in confidence, and build a brighter future where they feel safe, valued, and supported every step of the way.

CovenantHouseTX.org



*Dear Almighty God,
We thank You for Your endless love, which teaches us how to love others with compassion, patience, and grace. We are grateful for Your mercy and for the good plans You have for each of our lives.*

We lift up every young person who has been abandoned, neglected, or hurt. May they find Your light and be led to safety, care, and belonging. Remind them that they are deeply loved and valued.

As You promise in Jeremiah 29:11, fill them with hope and confidence in a future filled with purpose.

Bless our community with the support families need to thrive. Guide the hearts and hands of all who serve Covenant House Texas, granting courage, generosity, and compassion as they care for others. Amen.

Donation Drop-Off Date: February 28-March 1

COVENANT HOUSE WISH LIST

- New Underwear (new, male or female, any adult size)
- T-shirt (new, any design, male or female, any adult size)
- Shower Shoes
- Body wash
- White Towel/Washcloth
- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Student Bible
- \$10 gift card to a restaurant, store, etc.

WEEK 2



THE RIVERSIDE PROJECT



The Riverside Project supports Houston children and families impacted by foster care by building a strong, city-wide network of care.

Working upstream and downstream, it helps prevent family breakdown, supports children in crisis, and walks alongside youth transitioning to adulthood.

Through partnerships, training, and on-site resources like the Court Closet, Riverside brings hope, dignity, and stability.

RiversideProject.org



Loving God,

We lift up the children, youth, and families served by the Riverside Project. Surround every child with stability, dignity, and care, and strengthen families facing uncertainty.

Bless those who work to prevent harm and those who walk with youth into adulthood. May this network reflect Your compassion and healing love, and transform lives with hope, belonging, and grace. Amen.

Donation Drop-Off Date: March 7-8

RIVERSIDE PROJECT WISH LIST

New Items Needed for the Court Closet.

- Box mattresses (Arrange direct delivery to Court Closet at Hello@RiversideProject.org)
- Clothing appropriate for job interviews (varying sizes)
- Duffle bags and laundry baskets (often collapsible and easily transported)
- Food storage containers, plates, and utensils
- Gift cards (Metro, Uber, grocery, food, etc.)
- Laundry detergent and dryer sheets
- Paper goods (plates, cups, napkins, disposable utensils)
- Phone chargers (always in high demand)
- Pots and Pan box sets
- Shelf-stable foods (mac & cheese, ramen, etc.)
- Socks and underwear (male/female, all sizes)
- Toiletries
- Twin-size sheets, towels, pillows, and blankets



OBRAS SOCIALES
DEL SANTO
HERMANO PEDRO

ORPHANAGE & CHARITY HOSPITAL IN GUATEMALA

Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro brings hope to children, youth, and families facing poverty, illness, and abandonment in Antigua, Guatemala, through its charity hospital, Santo Hermano Pedro, and its orphanage, Virgen del Socorro, along with outreach programs. By providing medical care, safe shelter, education, and compassionate support, it offers immediate help and long-term care that helps people heal, restore dignity, and build a stable future where they are cared for, valued, and supported every step of the way.

HermanoPedroGT.org



Dear Jesus,

We lift up all those served through Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro. You know their needs, struggles, and hopes. Surround them with Your protection, peace, and healing, and restore dignity and strength in their lives. Bless the families, children, and individuals who seek help, and remind them they are never alone. Guide the hearts and hands of all who serve in this ministry with compassion, wisdom, and perseverance. May Your mercy bring hope in hardship and light in moments of uncertainty. Amen.

Donation Drop-Off Date: March 14-15

VIRGEN DEL SOCORRO ORPHANAGE WISH LIST

- New Clothing: Sizes S, M, L
- New Shoes: Various Sizes
- New Socks (all sizes)
- New Underwear (all sizes)
- New Toys
- Medicine (Over the Counter - not to exceed 6 months expiration date)
- School Supplies
- Soap

SANTO HERMANO PEDRO CHARITY HOSPITAL WISH LIST

- Medicine (Over the Counter - not to exceed 6 months expiration date)
- Medical Items (bandages, gloves, thermometers, medical tape, gauze, etc.)
- New Clothing & Shoes (all sizes)
- Personal Hygiene Items for Adults and Children/Teens (pads, soaps, etc.)

WEEK 4



Knights of
Columbus®

UKRAINE SOLIDARITY FUND



kofc.org

The Knights of Columbus Ukraine Solidarity Fund supports humanitarian relief for those affected by the war in Ukraine. Through emergency aid, medical assistance, refugee support, and long-term recovery efforts, the Fund provides direct help to families, parishes, and communities in crisis. Rooted in faith and charity, it offers hope, dignity, and solidarity to those suffering the effects of conflict.



*O Lord God of powers, and God of our salvation,
O God, who alone work wonders: look down with mercy and compassion on Your
humble servants, and out of love for mankind hearken and have mercy on us and on
the land of Ukraine.*

*Visit Your mercies and compassions upon Your humble servants, those who defend
Ukraine and her much-suffering people, and hear us who fall down before Your deep
compassion.*

*For You are the health and victory and salvation of them that put their hope in You,
and unto You do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy
Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.*

Amen.

*Adapted from the Byzantine liturgical tradition
("Prayer Service Sung in Times of War," in Trebnyk, Book of Needs)*

DONATE TO THE UKRAINE SOLIDARITY FUND

POPHouston.org/ukraine



Each week during Lent, our Mercy Ministry invites you to pray for one of four very important organizations/ministries and drop off your donations for the organization on the following Saturday evening or Sunday before or after each Mass:

Week	Ministry	Donation Drop-Off Dates
1	Covenant House	February 28-March 1
2	Riverside Project	March 7-8
3	Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro Orphanage & Hospital	March 14-15
4	Ukraine Solidarity Fund	Donate Online at POPHouston.org/ukraine .

Please remember these organizations and their clients in your prayers throughout the year. Their missions continue and they need your prayerful support. Maybe you would like to volunteer with one of these organizations/ministries – to be Christ to those they serve. Check out their websites or give them a call. You are also invited to help each of these groups with donations from their “wish lists”.

Please return your filled Brown Bags during weekend Masses in the designated donation receiving bins/baskets in front of the church or in front of the Mercy Center. Please be sure to label the Brown Bag with the organization name. Volunteers will be accepting donations before and after all weekend Masses, beginning on February 28th.

Mercy Ministry is looking for volunteers to collect the items each weekend from February 28th through March 15th. Each week we will sort the donations received on the weekends.

If you would like to financially donate, online, to the Brown Bag Lenten Project, go to POPHouston.org/brownbag or scan the QR code.



If you are interested in helping, please contact:
Susan Gallagher at 281.571.4136 or SGallagher@POPHouston.org.
Sign up to volunteer at POPHouston.org/brownbagvolunteer.