



WEEK *Nov. 9-15, 2026* OF SERVICE

Love in Action - Service in Community

DIOCESAN SERVICE WEEK PROJECT PROPOSAL

Table of Content

Clothing Drive Proposal	Page 1
Food Collection Proposal	Page 3
Homebound Visits Proposal	Page 5
Prison Ministry Proposal	Page 8
Pro-Life Proposal	Page 10
Tree Planting Proposal	Page 12

DIOCESAN SERVICE WEEK PROJECT PROPOSAL

SERVICE NAME	Clothing Drive		
PROPOSAL POINT OF CONTACT	Grace Carroll Nativity Catholic Church gcarroll@nativityburke.org	OBSERVANCES	
SPIRITUAL CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY	Clothe the Naked	DATE LAST UPDATED	June 5, 2026

SERVICE SUMMARY

The clothing drive aims to engage parishes in the Diocesan Service Week by gathering new and gently used clothing items from community members to support local shelters and organizations that assist individuals in need. This initiative fosters a spirit of generosity and engagement by uniting parishioners to both local charitable organizations and the poor living among them.

SERVICE OBJECTIVES

- Make contact with local organization that collects clothing donations (see list below for suggestions by deanery). Work with a representative from the organization to establish a process that aligns with the organization's needs.
- Identify needed items (consider age, sex, season of year, etc. to determine items most in demand) and set timeline of collection and drop off to organization
- Identify collection process (when, where, and how parish will collect the items) – i.e. will there be a collection bin to collect over a few days, or will there be one set drop off time where the parish has volunteers to help package the items all at once?
- Make a list of needed items, set collection dates, and collection details to the parish – advertise in bulletin, website, and verbal announcements at Mass
- Consider contacting parish leaders to engage various ministry groups in the project, especially youth groupings
- Consider recruiting volunteers as needed to help sort, package, and deliver donations to local organization. Consider contacting youth groupings (youth ministry, scouts, Confirmation students, etc.) to organize opportunities for youth to gain service hours

Consider collaborating with parishes in your deanery

RECOMMENDED RELATIONAL APPROACH (This is Christ in front of me.)

In partnering with local organizations that collect clothing, inquire about opportunities to directly distribute the items. For example, Nativity Catholic Church has a ministry called “No Hands But Yours” which not only collects needed clothing items for those experiencing homelessness, but also sends a team of parishioners each Sunday to distribute those items. In allowing parishioners to sign up each week to distribute the items, parishioners are able to engage in meaningful service that is relational, encountering those they are serving and seeing Christ before them. This approach establishes a relationship and is recommended for all parish groups who participate in this project.

POTENTIAL CHARITIES / ORGANIZATIONS

Deanery 1: [OLQP Matthew 25 Bazaar Thrift Store](#)
 Deanery 2: [Christ House Clothing Closet](#), [ECHO](#), and [No Hands But Yours](#) Ministry
 Deanery 3: [The Closet](#)
 Deanery 4: [St. John Bosco Catholic Outreach](#)
 Deanery 5: [Sacred Heart Food and Clothing Pantry](#) and [House of Mercy](#)
 Deanery 6: [House of Mercy](#) and [The Lamb Center](#)
 Deanery 7: [St. Vincent de Paul](#)

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES (People to Contact)

- N/A – Contact organizations above or other local organizations near your parish. This project will be most successful if you work with a liaison from the partner organization.

BUDGET

- Consider supplying a budget for items in high demand during winter months for people experiencing homelessness, i.e. tents, sleeping bags, blankets, etc.
- Determine if the selected process will require the purchase of any collection bins or materials to pack the donations (boxes, bins, tape, etc.)

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Success Stories/Stats)

- Items successfully collected
- Items delivered/picked up on time
- Percentage of parish participating
- Engagement of parish groupings
- Relational element involved – found opportunity to hand deliver items

RISKS

- Ensure proper child protection procedures are followed correctly if minors are involved – contact [OPCYP](#)
- Delivering items directly to those in need could require the use of personal vehicles – contact Risk Management for questions

NEXT STEPS

- Next steps – identify a leader in your parish to begin planning the project and consider collaboration with other parishes in your deanery

**Catholic Charities St. Lucy Food Project
Food Distribution Locations**

County	Food Distribution Name	Address	City	Zip Code	Phone	Operational Hours
Alexandria City	Alexandrians Involved Ecumenically Food Warehouse (ALIVE)	801 S. Payne St.	Alexandria	22314	703-837-9300	Check Website for Times
Alexandria City	Catholic Charities Christ House	131 S. West St.	Alexandria	22314	703-549-8644	
Arlington	Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC)	2708 S. Nelson St.	Arlington	22206	703-245-8486	M-F 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Arlington	Our Lady Queen of Peace Food Pantry	2700 19th Street South	Arlington	22204	703-979-5580	
Arlington	St. Charles Borromeo Food Pantry	3304 N. Washington Blvd.	Arlington	22201	703-527-5500 ext. 123	Tues 10 - 12 p.m.
Clarke	FISH of Clarke County	36 East Main Street	Berryville	22611	540-955-1686	W/Sat 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Culpeper	Culpeper Food Closet	115 N. East St. (Commerce Street behind St. Stephen's Church)	Culpeper	22701	540-825-1177	M-F 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Culpeper	St. Joseph's Table Ministry	114 East Edmondson St.	Culpeper	22701	540-827-4400	W 4 - 6 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Fairfax	Annandale Christian Community for Action (ACCA)	7200 Columbia Pike	Annandale	22003	703-256-0100	M-F 1 - 5 p.m.; Sat 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Fairfax	Lorton Community Action Center	9518 Richmond Hwy.	Lorton	22199	703-339-5161	
Fairfax	Poor Sisters of St. Joseph Food Pantry	4319 Sano St.	Alexandria	22312	703-354-8711	
Fairfax	St. Anthony of Padua Food Pantry	3305 Glen Carlyn Rd.	Falls Church	22041	703-820-7111	M/W 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Fairfax	St. Philip Food Pantry	7500 St. Philip Ct.	Falls Church	22042	703-573-3808	1st & 3rd Sat 8:30 - 10 a.m.
Fairfax	St. Timothy Food Pantry	13807 Poplar Tree Rd.	Chantilly	20151	703-378-9408	3rd Sat 9 - 11 a.m.
Fairfax	Sydenstricker United Methodist Pantry	8508 Hooes Rd.	Springfield	22153	703-451-8223	M-Th 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., F 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Sun 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. (Tuesday's Drive Thru)
Fairfax	Western Fairfax Christian Ministries	4511 Daly Dr. Suite J	Chantilly	20151	703-988-9656	Appointment only M-F 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.; M,T,Th 4:30 - 6:45 p.m., Sat by appointment only
Fairfax City	St. Leo the Great Food Pantry	3700 Old Lee Hwy.	Fairfax	22030	703-273-5369	Hours vary, call for appointment
Fauquier	Fauquier Community Food Bank	249 East Shirley Ave.	Warrenton	20186	540-359-6054	M-F 12 - 4 p.m.; Fauquier residents only
Fauquier	St. John the Evangelist Food Pantry	271 Winchester St.	Warrenton	20186	540-347-2922	Th 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Frederick	Emmanuel United Methodist Church	2732 Martinsburg Pike	Stephenson	22656	540-662-1269	M 4 - 6 p.m. upon request
Frederick	The Love Church Food Pantry	199 Agape Way	Stephens City	22655	703-330-0881	Clients: M 6 - 7 p.m.; Admin: M 5 - 6 p.m., W 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Donations/Deliveries: Sat 1 - 3 p.m.
Frederick	Trinity Lutheran Church Food Pantry	810 Fairfax St.	Stephens City	22655	540-869-4019	On call and open based on the need
King George	Bountiful Blessings	8095 Kings Hwy.	King George	22485	540-775-2690	Sat 1 p.m.
King George	Love Thy Neighbor - King George Food Pantry	10250 Kings Hwy.	King George	22485	540-709-1130	Sun 1 - 5 p.m.; Th 5:30 - 8 p.m.
King George	St. Anthony Mission	10299 Millbank Rd.	King George	22485	804-224-7221	T/F 9 - 10 a.m.
Lancaster	Holy Tabernacle of God Food Bank	2341 Merry Point Rd.	Lancaster	22503	804-972-4320	Admin: M,T,Th 8:30 - 10 a.m.; Clients: 3rd Tue a month
Lancaster	Upper Lancaster Community Food Pantry	8484 Mary Ball Rd.	Lancaster	22503	804-462-5908	2nd Th 1 - 4 p.m.
Loudoun	Catholic Charities Loudoun Regional Office (LRO) Sterling Pantry	113 Executive Dr., Suite 110	Sterling	20166	703-443-6693	
Loudoun	Dulles South Food Pantry (DSFP)	24757 Arcola Mills Dr.	Sterling	20166	703-507-2795	M/W 10 - 11:30 a.m.
Loudoun	Loudoun Hunger Relief	750 Miller Dr. Ste. A-1	Leesburg	20175	703-777-5911	W/F/Sat 9 - 11:45 a.m.; T 8:30 - 11:30 a.m., 3:30 - 5 p.m.; Th 5 - 7 p.m.
Loudoun	Seven Loaves Services Food Pantry	15 W. Washington St.	Middleburg	20117	540-687-3489	
Madison	Madison Emergency Services Association (MESA)	927 Orange Rd.	Pratts	22731	540-948-4427	Tu/Th 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.; W 12 - 1 p.m.; F 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Manassas City	Bethany Food Pantry (All Saints)	9300 Stonewall Rd.	City of Manassas	20110	571-516-3166	Tu 5 - 8 p.m.; Fri 9 - 11:30 a.m.
Manassas City	Manassas Northern Virginia Family Services (NVFS SERVE)	10056 Dean Dr.	City of Manassas	20110	571-748-2680	Appointment only. Tu/Th 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., 1 - 3 p.m.; every other W 5 - 7:30 p.m.; every other F 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Manassas City	Yeshua Bread of Life Food Pantry	8671 Phoenix Dr.	City of Manassas	20110	571-723-6927	
Manassas Park City	Love for the Nations Ministries, Inc.	9314 E. Carondelet Dr.	Manassas Park	20111	703-598-1333	
Northumberland	Gleamers and Blenders Community Service Center, Inc.	16097 Northumberland Hwy.	Burgess	22432		2nd, 3rd, 4th Th 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Northumberland	Wicomico United Methodist Church Food Pantry	5060 Jesse Ball DuPont Hwy.	Heathsville	22473	804-580-9723	3rd W 3 - 5 p.m.
Orange	Feed My Sheep	513 N. Main St.	Gordonsville	22942	757-887-0711	
Orange	Love Outreach Food Pantry	252 Blue Ridge Dr.	Orange	22960	540-223-6674	W 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.; 3rd M 4 - 5:30 p.m.
Orange	Wilderness Food Pantry	Rts 20 & 611 Locust Grove	Locust Grove	22508	540-972-1872	1st/3rd F 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.; 2nd W 4 - 6 p.m.; last Sat 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Page	Page One Food Pantry	35 N. Bank St.	Luray	22835	540-743-4863	M/T/Th 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.
Prince William	Haymarket Food Pantry	7669 Limestone Dr. #105	Gainesville	20155	703-754-5990	M/T/W/Th 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. & 5:30 - 8 p.m.; F 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Catholic Charities St. Lucy Food Project
Food Distribution Locations

County	Food Distribution Name	Address	City	Zip Code	Phone	Operational Hours
Prince William	Holy Family Food Pantry	14160 Ferndale Rd.	Dale City	22193	703-670-8161	M/W 4 - 6 p.m.
Prince William	House of Mercy Food Pantry	8154/8158 Flannery Ct.	Manassas	20109	703-659-1636	M/T/Th/F 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and W 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Prince William	Our Lady of Angels (OLA) Conference SvDP Food Pantry	13744 Marys Way	Woodbridge	22191	571-377-8371	2nd and 4th Sat 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Prince William	Sacred Heart Food Pantry	12975 Purcell Rd.	Manassas	20112	703-590-0030	
Rappahannock	Rappahannock Food Pantry	11763 Lee Hwy.	Sperryville	22740	540-987-5090	T/Th 9 - 11:30 a.m.; Sat 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Richmond	Healthy Harvest Food Bank	55 Commerce Parkway	Warsaw	22572	804-250-2277	M-F 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Shenandoah	Catholic Outreach St. John Bosco	207 N. Main St.	Woodstock	22664	540-331-7178	
Spotsylvania	Christ Church Food Pantry	8951 Courthouse Rd.	Spotsylvania	22553	540-582-5033	2nd and 4th Tues 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Spotsylvania	St. Matthew Food Pantry and Baby Closet	8206 Robert E. Lee Dr. (USE 8200 for GPS)	Spotsylvania	22551	540-834-5555	W 2 - 6 p.m.; F 9 - 11 a.m.; 1st Sat 9 - 11 a.m.
Stafford	Agape House Inc.	51 Woodleigh Ln.	Stafford	22556	540-288-8402	T 10 - 11 a.m., Th/Sat 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Stafford	St. William of York Food Pantry	3130 Jefferson Davis Hwy.	Stafford	22554	540-720-6652	W 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. (Drive Thru)
Stafford	Stafford Emergency Relief through Volunteer Efforts (S.E.R.V.E.)	15 Upton Ln.	Stafford	22554	540-288-9603	M - Th 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.; 2nd & 4th Sat 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Warren	Catholic Charities Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry	613 N. Royal Ave.	Front Royal	22630	540-252-4320	Th/F 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Westmoreland	St. Paul's Catholic Mission Outreach Food Pantry	7808 Cople Hwy.	Hague	22469	804-472-3090	M-F 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Westmoreland	Westmoreland County Social Services Food Pantry	18849 Kings Hwy.	Montross	22520	804-493-9305	M-F 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Winchester City	Congregational Community Action Project (CCAP)	112 S. Kent St.	Winchester	22601	540-662-4318	M/W/Th 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.; F 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.; 2nd Sat 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

DIOCESAN SERVICE WEEK PROJECT PROPOSAL

SERVICE NAME	Homebound, elderly, or veteran visits		
PROPOSAL POINTS OF CONTACT	Patricia Pagoada, Nativity ppagoada@nativityburke.org Pam Rypkema, Diocesan Risk Management Director pamela.rypkema@arlingtondiocese.org	OBSERVANCES	Veterans Day (11/11/2025) World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly (July 26th, 2026) Theme: "I will never forget you" (Isaiah 49:15)
SPIRITUAL CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY	Comforting the sorrowful Praying for the living and the dead Visit the sick	DATE LAST UPDATED	6/8/2026

SERVICE SUMMARY

Identify a group of parishioners who are homebound, elderly, or veterans and coordinate a visit to the parishioner's home. The purpose of these visits is to offer spiritual support (pray with them) and emotional support (spend time talking with them), with the option to also offer physical support (complete predetermined projects around their house).

SERVICE OBJECTIVES

1. Select a team of parish leaders ("Service Team") who will develop two lists. This team could include people involved in the Knights, Legion of Mary, those who bring the Eucharist to the homebound or residential facilities, parish pastoral ministers, etc. One list will be of homebound, elderly, or veteran parishioners who might enjoy a visit ("Homebound Parishioner"). Another is a list of parishioners who might like to make those visits ("Volunteer Visitor"). Determine the number of families the parish can offer a visit to and set a limit of visits at that threshold.
2. The Service Team will contact potential Volunteer Visitors to ask if they would like to make a visit (minimum of two people per visit) during the Diocesan Week of Service. All volunteers must have a background check and Virtus training within three (3) years of the visit. Additional screening will be required of volunteers who will complete a project for the resident of the home.
3. The level of interest will determine the maximum number of home visits. Once known, the Service Team will contact the appropriate number of Homebound Parishioners and ask if they would like to receive a visit from a small group of parishioners (minimum of two). If so, also ask the elderly, homebound, or veteran parishioners if they have any small projects around their home that could be completed during the visit. Ex.: weeding, raking leaves, etc. The Service Team will see if there are volunteers willing to complete the project.
4. Schedule these visits during the Diocesan Week of Service and set parameters for the visits. Expectations and boundaries need to be communicated to both Homebound Parishioners and Volunteer Visitors, both in writing and verbal conversations. These expectations and boundaries include the timing of the visit, where in the home the visit will take place, people who may be in the home at the time of the visit, and emergency protocols if a medical or other urgent situation arises during the visit. If the Homebound Parishioner has asked for a small project to be completed, each Volunteer Visitor selected for the project will be screened and, if appropriate, trained to ensure physical ability and knowledge of the tasks and equipment involved in the project. Where appropriate, the Volunteer Visitor should be given instructions on where to park any vehicles or store any equipment or supplies beforehand.
5. Be mindful of the safety of participants. Provide emergency protocols to Volunteer Visitors a month prior to the visit and ask them to create their own emergency plan to supplement these protocols. If a project will be completed at the home, both the resident of the home and the volunteer will need to sign an appropriate waiver. Anyone can connect with the Office of Risk Management in the Diocese with any questions about the waiver, safety rules or concerns, and injuries and/or incidents that occur during the home visit.

RECOMMENDED RELATIONAL APPROACH (This is Christ in front of me.)

Spend time sitting and visiting with the elderly, homebound, or veteran parishioner.

1. Listen to their stories and offer your presence as a reminder of God's love for them.
2. Introduce yourself and remind them that you're there from the parish to offer a visit.
3. End the visit by offering to pray with them.

Before the visit, the Service Team should connect Volunteer Visitors with an appropriate contact at the parish who can offer guidance for how to make a successful visit. This may be someone who regularly brings communion to the homebound or visits local residential facilities. They can offer suggestions on the types of questions to ask to begin the conversation, how long to stay, how to ask if they'd like to pray together, etc.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES (People to Contact)

Each parish should work within their own network to contact the parishioners that best fit each category.

BUDGET

No budget is necessary to make the visits, , but there must be a sufficient budget to complete any projects within the home. The better course is to provide some financial resources to this valuable ministry.

Additional Option 1: Provide a minimal budget to bring along flowers or a small gift for each parishioner who receives a visit.

Additional Option 2: Provide a minimal budget to assist with completing the small service projects. Ex.: buying trash bags for raking leaves and asking parishioners to bring their own rakes and gardening gloves.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Success Stories/Stats)

1. Number of parishioners who received visits
2. Number of parishioners who made the visits
3. Number of service projects completed (optional)
4. Feedback or positive stories from those who received and made visits
5. Keep track of any parishioners that say they would like to do this again in the future

RISKS

- Make sure that each Homebound Parishioner is cognitively able to understand all expectations, boundaries and emergency protocols,
- Make sure each Volunteer Visitor is appropriately screened and prepared for the visit, especially if a project will be completed at the home,
- Ensure that no visits are promised to any homebound, elderly, or veterans until the parish has enough volunteers willing to make the visits in teams of at least two (2) people.
- Ensure that both Homebound Parishioners and Volunteer Visitors receive a written description of the expectations and boundaries of the program and have an opportunity to ask questions.
- Identify Homebound Parishioners and Volunteer Visitors who will need communication in a language other than English.

Establish a process to inform the Office of Risk Management of any incidents or concerns that arise during the Service week, connected to a standard visit or the completion of a small service project.

NEXT STEPS

Share this opportunity with the parish and explain the purpose of coordinating these visits. Begin assembling the team of parish leaders to start putting together the two lists.

DIOCESAN SERVICE WEEK PROJECT PROPOSAL

SERVICE NAME	Assemble Welcome Back Packs		
PROPOSAL POINT OF CONTACT	Rev. Thomas Ferguson t.ferguson@arlingtondiocese.org	OBSERVANCES	Jubilee of Prisoners – December 14, 2025
SPIRITUAL CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY	Visit those who are in prison	DATE LAST UPDATED	June 5, 2026

SERVICE SUMMARY

Assemble backpacks for men and women full of supplies that will help them transition into life outside of prison. The bags contain toiletries and other needed survival items as well as hand-written welcome notes, religious materials, and a gift card for the recipient.

SERVICE OBJECTIVES

To provide material assistance and spiritual support for those returning to their communities after a period of incarceration.

RECOMMENDED RELATIONAL APPROACH (This is Christ in front of me.)

Matthew 25:36 – I was in prison and you visited me.

POTENTIAL CHARITIES /ORGANIZATIONS

Collaborate with w/ CCDA, OAR (Offender Aid and Restoration) NOVA

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

CCDA Prison Ministry – Bill Hall

BUDGET

Donations provided at parish level

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (Success Stories)

Number of backpacks distributed; number of persons reentering community assisted.

NEXT STEPS

Provide info to parishes along with communication of other Diocesan Service Week projects.

DIOCESAN SERVICE WEEK PROJECT PROPOSAL

SERVICE NAME	Pro-Life		
PROPOSAL POINT OF CONTACT	Tatiana Beltran tbeltran@stmaryfred.org	OBSERVANCES	March for Life Virginia Pro Life Day
SPIRITUAL CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY	Offer compassionate support to women and families	DATE LAST UPDATED	June 5, 2026

SERVICE SUMMARY

Support the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the women and families at mother's homes or pro-life centers and single parents within your parish.

SERVICE OBJECTIVES – The parish selects at least one of the following options.

1. To host drives that will provide items that are needed in the home (Christmas boutique, hair and nail spa day, Postpartum welcome bags, uber gift cards, some centers have a wish list, home cooked meals).
2. To provide services that will repair the Shelter homes.
3. To feed physically and spirituality the residents within the Shelter during a series of (monthly) Monday meetings that focus on the feminine genius, and a camp for the children after school.
4. To host a dinner for single parents within the parish and their children that provides spiritual encouragement.
5. Provide them with a gift that shares our faith (Miraculous medal, invitation to Masses, rosary, and a Bible).

Implement Project Gabriel in your parish.

RECOMMENDED RELATIONAL APPROACH (This is Christ in front of me.)

Create opportunities where there is interaction between the women and the children that's during dinner or providing catechesis for the children/camps.

POTENTIAL CHARITIES /ORGANIZATIONS:

Mary's Shelter: Fredericksburg - Kathleen Wilson 540.623.5778 - info@marysshelterva.org

Choices Women's Center: Fredericksburg – Alana Singley - alana.imgnlife.org - 540-402-4646 ext. 1008

Loisann's Hope House: Fredericksburg – 540-371-0831

Paul Stefan Home: Locust Grove - Evelyn James - 540.854.2300

Mary's Comfort: Springfield - Bart Bailey - 703.455.4500- maryscomfortva.@gmail.com

Mosaic: Landsown - Vicki Mattson or Virgina Max - 703.729.1124

St. Margaret of Cortona: Woodbridge - Kristen Coleman - 703.910.4845

New Eve Maternity Home: Winchester - Cabell Angle - info@newevematernityhome.org
571.225.0894

Agape: Loundon: Christina Skaggs christina.skaggs@agapeofloundon.org

Hope of Northern Virginia: Falls Church - 703-536-2020 hope@hopeinnova.org

Abba Care: Winchester – Tricia Lawrence - 540-665-9660 tricia@abbacare.org <https://www.abbacare.org/>

The Mari H Center: Alexandria - Beth Gilles-Whitehead 703-370-4774 <https://marih.org/donate/> (amazon Wishlist: <https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/marih-center-march-2026-springfield/1LSDMIATKCNUK>)

BUDGET

Minimal expenses for food and expenses for the children’s camp. For drives and the “Christmas Market” activities the items will be donated by parishioners.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

of individuals helped
Items donated
Cash donated \$ amount
Highlights success stories
Feedback from Monday Night sessions.

RISKS

Take care to stay in alignment with the guidelines of the charitable organizations served.

NEXT STEPS

DIOCESAN SERVICE WEEK PROJECT PROPOSAL

SERVICE NAME	Tree Planting		
PROPOSAL POINT OF CONTACT	Rev. Monsignor Robert C. Cilinski rcilinski@nativityburke.org	OBSERVANCES	World Day of Prayer for the Care for Creation September 1, 2026
SPIRITUAL CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY	Care for Creation	DATE LAST UPDATED	June 5, 2026

SERVICE SUMMARY

Protecting biodiversity doesn't just benefit plants and animals, Laudato Si' highlights the interconnectedness humanity has with other created species and with God as creator. When we plant native we can rebuild the ecosystems that support all life, and restore the vital connections between plants and animals for a healthier, thriving planet.

SERVICE OBJECTIVES – The parish selects at least one of the following options.

Planting of Trees - Each family could plant a tree in their yard. Low tree canopy coverage and lack of greenery contribute to a cascade of challenges, including poorer health outcomes, higher utility bills, and reduced quality of life. Planting efforts help cool urban heat, purify the air, absorb carbon dioxide, and offer residents the health and environmental benefits trees provide. The suggested native trees list is available, and the mid-Nov time is a good one for planting. A visit to the elderly could involve planting a tree in their yard. This would also overlap with strategic goal #23 to implement sustainability projects at the diocesan, parish, and schools to demonstrate stewardship of God's creation.

RECOMMENDED RELATIONAL APPROACH (This is Christ in front of me.)

Plant trees as a family - pray while you are planting the trees.

A prayer to celebrate planting a tree. <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/tree-planting-prayer-in-honor-of-laudato-si/>
A prayer service to celebrate tree planting. <https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/resources/tree-planting-service-and-prayer/>

POTENTIAL CHARITIES /ORGANIZATIONS:

On Parish Properties
Local Parish Schools Parishioners
Homes Homebound Parishioners

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Plant NOVA Natives is a valuable resource for people living in Northern Virginia. Here is information about how native plants are beneficial to our environment.

[Why Native Plants? | Virginia, USA](#)

Homegrown National Park is full of information about the ecological benefits of planting native.

[Get Started Planting Native - Homegrown National Park](#)

An article describing the benefits of planting a tree in the fall.

[After a Long Hot Summer, It's Time to Plant Trees!](#)

Father John Grace illustrates the importance of trees and the cooling shade they provide.

<https://catholicclimatecovenant.org/blogs/5-minutes-with-father-john-the-importance-of-trees/>

[Fr John's video](#)

Here is a quick guide full of pictures to help pick out the perfect tree.

[Native tree choices for Northern Virginia](#)

Plants and trees grow best when they are planted in a site with favorable moisture and light conditions. Use this site to search for native plants by sun/shade, moisture, or height. Information is available about a wide variety of species native to our area.

[Northern Virginia Native Plant Finder App](#)

Planting a tree alone is great but planting some companion plants at the same time is better. To achieve a layered habitat, here is some inspiration to help choose plants to surround your tree. [Easy Tree/Shrub Combos | Northern Virginia | Plant NOVA Trees](#)

Mary Gardens are traditionally filled with plants that have legends and symbols associated with them that represent Mary, or some aspect of scripture. Here are some suggestions for a Mary Garden filled with plants native to the east coast of the USA.

[Mary Gardens - Saint Kateri Conservation Center](#)

Saint Kateri is the patron saint of ecology. Creating a habitat in her name means creating a space for people, plants and wildlife.

[Saint Kateri Habitats](#)

This link provides resources about where to buy native plants locally.

[Where to buy | Plant NOVA Trees | Virginia](#)

Earth Sangha is a local non-profit public charity that specializes in conservation. They also sell plants and trees that are “local-ecotype,” meaning they have been propagated from local, wild populations.

[Earth Sangha](#)

When it comes time to plant a tree, Plant NOVA Trees has great information about how to successfully get your tree in the ground.

[Tree planting tips | Plant NOVA Trees | Virginia](#)

Fairfax County provides a booklet with all the information you need to plant a tree.

[Fairfax County Tree Basics Booklet | Public Works and Environmental Services](#)

BUDGET

Costs associated with the purchase of saplings

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

of Trees Planted
How many parish families participated
Places where trees were planted

RISKS



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARLINGTON