

Can You Spare A Dollar?

Today there are more than 70 million Catholics in the United States. Sadly, many do not go to Mass on Sunday. Tragically, even more do not give to help the Poor, the Homeless and the Forgotten. While Mass attendance is down, Mass collections are down even more. True, many of us are experiencing tough times, *but couldn't you spare just ONE extra dollar this week?* That's just a cup of coffee, or can of soda, or several cigarettes. *Have one less soda so someone can eat.*

If every Catholic put just one extra dollar in the collection this Sunday, there would be an extra \$70,000,000 to feed clothe and shelter the Poor and Homeless. We could feed a Million People for the coming week with that money. Think of the difference that would make to the Hungry and Homeless. According to some sources, over 1 million are homeless, while 13 million Children and over 5 million Seniors face hunger. *Children and Seniors are two of our most vulnerable groups.*

If for some reason you cannot attend Mass at your Parish, for example perhaps you are ill or infirm and Homebound, many Parishes today have a way to make online donations. And even if your Parish doesn't offer online giving, give a friend your gift when they come to visit and have them donate it for you when they go to Church. Do your small part to help. *Can you spare a dollar?*

There are ways of giving in addition to donating money. We all know how you can lift someone's spirits and "make their day" with a simple Random Act of Kindness. How many people could benefit from a *Random Acts of Christianity*. Below are some thoughts, I'm sure you have more.

- ❖ **Donate To Your Food Pantry.** So many need so much. Just a few extra cans of food or packed goods will go such a long way to help those in hunger. When was the last time you stopped by your Parish's Food Pantry and donated a bag of food for the hungry?
- ❖ **Give A Cross As A Gift.** Buy some small Crosses and ask your Priest or Minister to Bless them. Then give them out to people who need Jesus' help in their lives. The same holds true for medals, rosaries and other items you can find in your local Christian Bookstore. Don't have one, *why not ask your Pastor if you can set up a table after Sunday Service and sell them*, any monies earned after costs would be donated to your Parish or Congregation.
- ❖ **Give A Mass.** Most Parishes will let you dedicate a Mass or Service for a small donation. If you know someone, or a family. in great need, dedicate a Mass or Service for them.
- ❖ **Give A Prayer Card.** Many of the ideas above do take money, and for some of us money is very short. When I go to my Catholic bookstore, named the *Carpenter's Shop* in honor of St. Joseph, if I have some extra change I pick up a couple of the small laminated Prayer Cards for 99 cents. I keep a few in my pocket and give them to those that need prayers. *(Note: this website has free downloadable prayer cards that you are free to print and use)*

I'm sure with a little thought you can come up with more *Random Acts of Christianity*. God Bless!

Please do me a favor and forward the URL of this site to friends in need: www.JesusCanHelp.us