

Simi Valley Invited To Participate In Toy Drive

The Knights of Columbus, Simi Valley Council #5803 and St. Rose of Lima Christian Service Program are asking the community to join in the Knights of Columbus Annual Toy Drive to help make sure every child in Simi Valley has at least one toy for Christmas. Previous years efforts have yielded enough donations to touch the lives of over 500 children and their families. In addition to the drive almost 150 families will receive boxes of food that include either a complete ham or turkey dinner with all the trimmings for their holiday. Our 2017 goal is 1200 toys for the children (ages infant to 16) in this, our major holiday project. In December, the presents collected will be given to the parents of the children, giving them an opportunity to provide their children with something for Christmas. At the same time, children will be treated to a Christmas party complete with a visit from Santa, plus games and refreshments, courtesy of the Knights of Columbus, Council #5803, who have been serving Simi Valley for over 52 years.

The Christian Service program at St. Rose of Lima began in the early 1970's at a time when Simi Valley was experiencing a building boom. As new houses and businesses appeared, so too did the urban poor whose income could not keep up with the growing economy. The parish responded by providing food and clothing where needed and throughout the years has expanded to include regular dinners for the poor and homeless, a bereavement program, services to the homebound, shelter, transportation, counseling and referrals. The community outreach program is supported by the parishioners of St. Rose of Lima Church, the Knights of Columbus, The Simi Valley Dream Cuisine, Serving Those In Need, Inc., Saint Rose of Lima Bingo, as well as through private donations. The St. Rose of Lima Christian Service Program is a non-denominational organization that provides weekly food bags, clothing and assistance to hundreds of Simi Valley residents.

The Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic family fraternal service organization with 1.9 million members. The Knights charitable activities encompass an almost infinite variety of local, national and international projects. From international charitable partnerships with Special Olympics, the Global Wheelchair Mission and Habitat for Humanity to our own Food for Families and Coats for Kids projects and other local charities, the Knights and their families is virtually endless. In 2016, the Knights of Columbus set a new all-time record for the 18th consecutive year. Our charitable donations increased from \$175 million in 2015 to a new total of \$177,500,673 in 2016. In addition, we achieved our highest level of charitable service in 2016, volunteering more than 75 million hours of service.

Anyone interested in participating can drop off an unwrapped toy at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church rectory at 1305 Royal Ave in Simi Valley. You also can make a monetary donation by sending it to:

Knights of Columbus Toy Drive, Attn Cliff

c/o St. Rose of Lima

1305 Royal Ave.

Simi Valley, CA 93065





As you pick up gifts for loved ones for Christmas, the Knights of Columbus in Simi Valley ask you to think about those who may not have a gift under the tree. The group's annual Toy Drive is underway. Drop Off location is St. Rose of Lima Church rectory at 1305 Royal Ave. in Simi Valley. Office hours at M-F 9:00AM to 8:00PM and weekends from 9:00AM to 4:00PM. Toys can also be dropped off at St. Rose of Lima Saturday and Monday Night Bingo any time after 4:30 PM. Gifts are needed from infants to age 16. For many of these children, the gifts they receive from the Toy Drive will be the only gifts they receive this year.