

A THANKSGIVING PROJECT FOR SOUTH SUBURBAN PADS

As I suspect most people know, PADS—*Public Action to Deliver Shelter*—is an interfaith movement working to prevent homelessness, and South Suburban PADS has reached out to us for our help. PADS operates in a number of locations throughout the Southland and many church communities have been assisting them in a variety of ways in the past. In the past year PADS has, among other things, served 34,299 meals, provided emergency shelter for 822 guests and preserved or provided affordable rental homes for 570 residents, including 204 children. But our help is needed for the emergency shelter operated out of St. Lawrence O’Toole in Matteson.

I’ll write more next week about the hands-on assistance we’re being asked to provide on a monthly basis at that shelter, but right now, everyone has an opportunity to help the families who seek emergency assistance during the cold nights of winter and spring. We’ve been asked to provide *Hygiene Bags* for the guests who come to St. Lawrence O’Toole for overnight shelter. Here is a description of the items needed:

Hygiene Bags (standard sized items except the mouth wash)

- Gallon Ziploc bag with label panel
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush
- Comb
- Bar soap
- Disposable razor
- Deodorant
- Pair of adult socks
- Travel size mouth wash

We’re doing this as a Thanksgiving project for our parish and asking that you bring these bags to church next weekend or when you come to Mass on Thanksgiving Day. What better way to give thanks for all **we** have than to share with those who have so little?

Fr. Bob