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Fish fries aim to help those in need

By EMILY GEDDE Staff Writer

Community members sitting down for the Knights of Columbus Council 1540 Lenten fish fries, have an opportunity to help those in need.

The organization is asking for donations for the Falls Hunger Coalition, and will in return lower the price of the Friday fish fries. “It’s not for the Knights,” said Gary Loop, Minnesota Knights of Columbus District Deputy, of the donations. “We’re trying to get food to feed hungry people.”

The project is a joint effort with Border State Bank, which doubles the items – both canned goods and money – collected. Loop said this is the fourth year the two organizations have teamed up. “It’s incredible to double what we collect,” he said. This year, however, donations are down significantly, and there are only two Fridays of fish fries left. “People are coming to the dinner, but they’re just not bringing in the canned goods,” Loop told The Journal. “Last week, we didn’t even fill a small box.” Last year, 750 pounds of food was collected and given to the local food shelf, and so far this year, there is only 260 pounds. Loop and others are concerned efforts will fall short of meeting the local need. “It’s tough to do something six weeks in a row and make them successful,” he said of the Friday dinners. “But we know this is for a good cause and urge people to help as much as they can.”

The dinners are offered beginning at 5 p.m. Friday evenings through April 7 at the St. Thomas Aquinas Hall. The cost for a single fillet is \$11 and \$15 for two fillets. Children under the age of 14 eat at half price. A dollar is taken off the meal if a non-perishable canned item is donated. Loop said take-out meals are also available. “This is a chance to help this community out,” he said. “We hope to continue this both with the Knights and Border State Bank... their involvement is much appreciated.”



Staff Photo by EMILY GEDDE

Pictured above from left to right, Kayla Reller, Border State Bank employee, Mark Wild, Council Grand Knight, Rick DeBenedet, and Gary Loop, Council Event Co-Chairmen.

Voyageurs Assembly 3426 also participated in the Border State Bank collection for the local food shelf by providing a donation of \$611.00 dollars, which the bank will match for the Falls Hunger Coalition.

Pictured from left to right are Inner Sentinel Rick DeBenedet, Outer Sentinel Gary Loop, bank employee Kayla Reller and Faithful Navigator James Cowlshaw.



This is the second year that the Assembly has partnered with Border State Bank.