

Parishioners donate record amount of food

NORWALK — The Rev. David Blanchfield of St. Jerome Roman Catholic Church was worried that his church was going to the well too often.

The church holds food drives each month, so he was unsure what to expect when his church planned a big food drive for Sunday. After seeing bags and bags of food being brought to the church, he knew something special was happening.

“It was spectacular,” Blanchfield said. “It was like the multiplication of loaves.”

As a result of the parishioners’ generosity, Christian Community Action of Norwalk received more than a ton of food to help the area’s hungry. It was a record amount of food collected by the church.

The hallway where the food was stored was so packed you could hardly get past,” he said.

Blanchfield said the church encouraged parishioners to give a little more for this food drive. To promote the event, the church set up a display that showed the amount of food that it would take to feed a hungry person for an entire week.

“We asked people to match or go beyond that. That was our goal. It amounts to about \$20 worth of food,” he said. “Maybe people

were so generous because it was Lent. It’s a time of sacrifice, not only for yourselves, but also for the benefit of others.”

Parishioners brought bags of food to donate before the church’s services on Sunday. By 2 p.m., parishioners had the food sorted and loaded for delivery to CCA of Norwalk.

An insert in the church’s weekly bulletin also encouraged parishioners to participate in the drive. The bulletin included a list of the non-perishable items needed, including ravioli, soup, and rice.

According to CCA Chairman John DiDomizio, the bulletin added that 1,000 local people visit CCA each week needing food. DiDomizio said that about half of the people who visit CCA are children.

“There was quite an exceptional response,” said DiDomizio, who is also a parishioner at St. Jerome. “It was overwhelming.”

He said that more than 200 families participated in the drive. The Lenten food drive, which was sponsored by the church’s Social Concerns Committee, was the brainchild of Rebecca Sweeney.

The Christian Community Action of Norwalk office is located at 98 South Main St. at the South Norwalk Community Center and NEON headquarters.