

## Avondale needs support

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persistence of crime and violence remains! The city should mandate multifamily landlords that have chronic problems and/or those identified as hot spots be required to provide private security or hire police detail. This has worked on Burnet Avenue with the Model Group, where incidence of crime and violence has diminished greatly since Model acquired private security.

### 3. Request county add a probation substation in Avondale

Avondale leadership has requested a probation substation in the neighborhood for at least a decade. These facilities have proven effective at lessening recidivism. With Avondale being home to a large number of parolees and probationers (including youth probationers), this not only makes geographic sense, but it would represent another innovative effort at positive change!

### 4. Continue to focus on Avondale's redevelopment

Due to the vast comprehensive nature of poverty and its impacts, Avondale has had an inordinate amount of disinvestment that has systematically deteriorated the economic opportunity within the neighborhood! Current efforts to make necessary change are in place and functioning. The city is playing a critical role here, and we close by asking that you highlight the necessity for the city to continue to focus on Avondale and to increase its development efforts to accelerate success!

# A gift for pope on hunger



**DENNIS M. SCHNURR**

@CatholicCincy

The Most Rev. Dennis M. Schnurr is archbishop of Cincinnati.

**W**ith the gift of one, Jesus fed 5,000. The famous Gospel passage about the multiplication of the loaves and fishes was proclaimed recently at services in Catholic and many other Christian churches.

The gift of one individual, which seems so small, had an immense impact. This is an important truth to hold in our hearts when we think of poverty in our own community. We are all called to be that one who gives the gifts that can be multiplied.

The notion of accompanying the poor and vulnerable has been one of the greatest hallmarks of Pope Francis' pontificate. This signature message is ringing even more loudly as we look forward to the pope coming to the United States in late September. His visit will include discussions on the state of families, visits to charities and a correctional facility, and historic addresses to Congress and the United Nations.

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati will welcome the pope to our country with a gesture that we know he will appreciate – a response to his call for greater love, service and social justice for those in need. We are calling this a “spiritual bouquet in action” for the pope – that is, a collection of charitable acts from anyone who wishes to



PROVIDED

Volunteer Sally Crutcher of Anderson Township works in the food pantry at Inter Parish Ministry. The Archdiocese of Cincinnati is launching a food collection campaign as part of a “spiritual bouquet” in advance of Pope Francis' visit to the United States this fall.

welcome him to our country.

Pope Francis has launched a global campaign called “One Human Family, Food for All,” with the ambitious aim of eradicating systemic hunger by 2025. In the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, we want to do our part to end food insecurity in our own backyard in honor of the pope.

As a Catholic community, we tend the wounds of the marginalized every day through Catholic Charities and Catholic Social Services, as well as many other charities, churches, schools and health care facilities. We do this joyfully alongside other faith communities and people of good will. This summer, however, we are making a special effort to tackle hunger under the banner “Food for All: Be Multiplied.”

The goals of “Food for All: Be Multiplied” include 1 million food items pledged to local food pantries, featur-

ing an online social media campaign in which individuals pledge five items of food to their local food pantry and challenge five others to do the same. We also plan to send 5,000 letters to Congress to advocate for life-giving nutritional programs in our federal budget. And we are building a “Pope Francis House” for a local family through Habitat for Humanity. Finally, we are hosting the Defeat Hunger Obstacle Run on Sept. 5 at Summit Park in Blue Ash.

This is an initiative of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, but everyone is welcome to join. Please visit [www.stirintoflame.com/foodforall](http://www.stirintoflame.com/foodforall) to learn how you can participate. Or join the efforts of your own faith community or a food pantry.

The numbers on hunger in our community are grim and compelling.

In Cincinnati, 30 percent of the residents live below the federal poverty level, and nearly half of all children in the city are poor.

In Hamilton, Middletown, Wilmington, Dayton and Springfield, as well as some of our rural communities, about one in every three or four residents is trapped in poverty. Studies on social mobility show that Cincinnati ranks below the national average in our ability for low-income families to improve their financial circumstances.

No short-term gift of charity or federal policy can stop all empty stomachs from growling or bring lasting hope to those in despair.

Our prayer, however, is that this spiritual bouquet for Pope Francis will be a call to action for everyone to engage in our efforts to defeat hunger and its underlying causes.

You matter. Be multiplied.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### UC police, city partnership proved useful

An important factor has been completely ignored in the discussion about University of Cincinnati Police operating off campus (“UC police will not make city traffic stops” Aug. 6).

This partnership, agreed upon by both UC and the city of Cincinnati, was in response to increased armed robberies on city streets around campus. Many times the victims were UC students. The university offered its police resources to assist in addressing these crimes, at no cost to the city.

For several years there was a steady decrease in street robberies. I don't know if there have been reviews of recent data, but the partnership originally produced positive results for both partners.

This should not be ignored amidst the call to pull back the UC police.

**Gene Ferrara**, former UC police chief, Union Township

### Local NAACP needs to be allowed to move on

I am a member of the Cincinnati NAACP. I have also been a member of the national NAACP since 1958, have

known its former president, Julian Bond, since the early 1960s, and had the rare privilege of having heard its founder, Dr. W.E.B. Dubois, speak on several occasions.

In the current dispute between the Cincinnati branch and the national NAACP, it is the national NAACP that has grossly overreached into the affairs of the Cincinnati branch. It canceled the membership of the president of the Cincinnati NAACP the day before the December election was to have taken place, leaving only the choice of the national on the ballot and preventing a fair election.

This the local NAACP could not accept. There has been no election since, because the national NAACP has sought to determine who can be the candidates for officers. Therefore, I, as well as every other member of the Cincinnati branch, have been denied our right to vote.

Just recently, the national NAACP sought to muzzle the voice of the local NAACP by dictating who could be its spokesperson.

Surely the local NAACP has the right to conduct its own election, in accordance with its bylaws, to choose its own candidates and to determine who speaks for the organization. It is a shame that this dispute is taking place when both national and local NAACP need to be united to deal with the challenges we face as a city and a country.

**Judith Shapiro**, North Avondale

### Officials making Tensing a sacrificial lamb

Thanks to Patricia Murray for finding the words to express my shock and frustration at the unprofessional behavior of the prosecuting attorney when he announced the indictment of Ray Tensing (“When was Deters named judge and jury?” Aug. 1).

I watched the video numerous times (also the one from his fellow officer), and the conclusion is not nearly as cut and dried as he declared.

It seems that every official in Cincinnati wants to prove to the rest of the country that we are the “good guys,” and Ray Tensing happens to be the sacrificial lamb.

**Viola Powers**, Anderson Township

### UC cops a lot more responsive than city's

I disagree with Joe Deters' statement that UC police aren't ready to police our neighborhood (“Campus cops: In light of shooting” Aug. 4). A few months ago I saw prowlers attempting to break into our garage. The officers responding were UC police, who discovered one of the men hiding in a nearby yard under a porch. That just impressed the hell out of me, because they actually got out of their cars and made an effort. When reporting prowlers in the past, if I got a response from city police at all, they

didn't leave their cruiser. Instead, they drove slowly past shining a light on our shrubbery while the “perp” hid nearby, waiting for them to leave.

More recently, I have been told there was no one available, especially when Downtown events or riverfront activities were taking place. When drunk young men are throwing beer bottles through my front windows, I want police to come and stop them, not have to report the crime online after the fact.

I don't care what kind of logo is on the uniform. My experience has been that UC police are a lot more responsive.

**Diane Hotz-Blevins**, Clifton Heights

### Joy of buying a new car ruined by taxes

I made the mistake of buying a new car last month. The sales tax for Hamilton County alone was \$1,800. I got license plates and the local tax was \$30, REFL/CO fee was \$0.75 and a deputy fee \$3.50. Where does this money go? Then, I bought gas and paid 28 cents a gallon in Ohio tax and 18.4 cents a gallon in federal tax. My insurance agent said you should be happy as in Kentucky the insurance is taxed.

The obscene taxes we pay every day are crushing our personal wealth. Just remember, taxation is theft under the threat of force.

**Rich Dansereau**, Hyde Park