As Burlington, Lyons and their surrounding communities still struggle with the grips of a recent flood, some people in our Tri-Parish community stand out. It seems Christ is alive in their hearts and minds.

On Friday, July 14, 2017 at noon, a meeting was convened by the Very Rev. Jim Volkert of our Tri-Parish Catholic community, concerning an urgent commitment to take care of the needs of our area under siege. The meeting was attended by people from our Tri-Parish community. One of our Waterford neighbors had approached St. Charles School to coordinate serving food donations. No time was wasted, a plan and location was put in place. Communications were coordinated with our Tri-Parish community and a call list was generated. Due to the electricity issues, this was a challenge at best. The group did a remarkable job in contacting several people as did the Knights of Columbus as they continued to direct needed phone messages. Various individuals were communicating to contact volunteers to get them down to St. Charles Church at 4:00 PM or sooner, to help serve the meals. People dropped whatever they were doing and responded immediately. We are thankful to all people who helped coordinate and plan the logistics of donations and food which came in freely from our surrounding communities.

Volunteers starting showing up at the Church without a spoken word and began the process of distributing the prepared food. Initially, not too many families showed up but what people didn’t realize was that the response had been so quick relative to the dissemination of information; it hadn’t caught up yet to public knowledge. So volunteers started putting food into their cars and vans and headed downtown to give pizza and water to the National Guard and rescue workers. Food was also given to the Fire House Command Center Station and to anyone in need on the streets of Burlington.

The word went out, and as the days passed more and more families trudged in, some weeping, children in tow, exhausted from heat and work to clean their properties. To finally find a place of calm and quiet. Where they could re-charge their cell phones, and finally eat a meal, not thinking about the struggles at hand.

This is not only a story about uncompromising people who in a time of need came together but one of faith and commitment to that faith, for the good of mankind. On behalf of our Tri-Parish Pastoral Council, I would like to sincerely thank each and every one of you who participated in this event of need. Even if you weren’t involved directly, I am sure you can see the benefit which occurred and can appreciate it.

As for me, I washed pots and pans for three days gladly, with a 9 year old boy at my side.

God Bless our Tri Parish Community and God Bless all volunteers! And yes, I believe there are Saints among us! Thank you!

Brian Daniel  •  Tri Parish Pastoral Council Chairperson

May we follow in the footsteps of our lord and master!