



## Media Advisory

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### What Would Francis Do?

*D.C. Charities Get Creative to Serve the Poor Through Tight Papal Security*

Hunger doesn't take a break, not even for the Pope. Even though the Capital Area Food Bank's DC headquarters is located blocks away from where Pope Francis will be celebrating Mass, the so-called "Francis effect" has taken hold: the largest hunger non-profit in the area has found a way to keep food flow uninterrupted during the events at Catholic University.

With much of the city being subjected to strict road closures effecting many parts of the District, including the CAFB's immediate neighborhood, CAFB CEO Nancy Roman and Senior Operations Director Mark Jaquez have had to think outside the box. Food delivery trucks will be staged Wednesday at one of the food bank's 444 community food assistance partners, Shabach! Resource and Empowerment Center in Brightseat, MD. From there, food will be able to reach the people who need it. This diverting of food bank vehicles away from Brookland will prevent any unnecessary bottleneaking around the food bank.

This pontiff's unwavering message of compassion has inspired many who work in the hunger-relief movement, so temporarily suspending operations was not an option for CAFB President and CEO Nancy Roman. "How can we keep our hunger safety net strong in spite of road closures associated with the papal visit?" said Roman. "Pope Francis wouldn't want us to close down because of his visit, and we aren't" said Roman, adding that "with nearly 700,000 people in our region struggling to get enough food to eat, we have to remain open."

This week's visit to the United States by Pope Francis will include an address to a joint session of Congress, which many speculate will have a strong social justice theme. The 78-year-old leader of the Roman Catholic Church has spoken openly and frankly about caring for those in need. For the food bank, this means taking a few extra steps to ensure that operations do not cease during his visit – something that the pope himself would certainly applaud.

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*The Capital Area Food Bank is the largest organization in the Washington metro area working to solve hunger and its companion problems: chronic undernutrition, heart disease and obesity. By partnering with nearly 450 community organizations in DC, Maryland and Virginia, as well as delivering food directly into hard to reach areas, the CAFB is helping 540,000 people each year get access to good, healthy food. That's 12 percent of our region's mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, sisters, brothers, and grandparents. To learn more, visit: [capitalareafoodbank.org](http://capitalareafoodbank.org), or find the Capital Area Food Bank on Facebook at [facebook.com/ CapitalAreaFoodBank](https://www.facebook.com/CapitalAreaFoodBank), and Twitter at [@foodbankmetrodc](https://twitter.com/foodbankmetrodc).*