

When Donating Clothing – Remember:

1. **You are engaging in a spiritual experience!** You are not just cleaning out your closet and getting rid of all your stuff, but you are giving a gift *to Jesus and in the name of Jesus*. Remember his words: “When I was naked, and you clothed me.” The clothes you are giving will clothe Christ’s beloved humans. Pass them on to others in the name of Christ.
2. **Those who receive your clothes do not have the resources you have.** Not everyone who will receive your clothes has ready access to washing machines, laundry detergent, zippers, buttons, needle and thread, or shoe laces. While the recipients do an outstanding job of keeping themselves and their clothing clean even under the most difficult of situations, please realize the difficulty most have: bring the clothing clean and repaired. Sew on buttons, replace zippers, remove stains, replace missing or broken shoe laces. Please do not donate something that is too old, too worn, too dirty, too torn for you or your family to wear. If it is not good enough for you, it is not good enough for Jesus. “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” Please do not assume that giving them “something” to wear – even if it is ratty – is better than nothing. We need to treat others with respect and dignity. There is no reason to treat the poor poorly.
3. **Fold and pack the clothing neatly as you are presenting it to others in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.** Please place in boxes or bags, presenting the items in such a way the recipients will know they are receiving a gift sent in love. Please label the boxes or bags with a general description of the contents.
4. **Mother Teresa said, “If we give only that which we do not need, we have done nothing.”** In addition to donating your cast-offs, please consider buying some new items also. In addition to outer clothing, undergarments of all sizes are needed, as well as towels and work boots.
5. **Please pray a prayer of gratitude for your own good fortune as you pack the items to give away.** The recipients of your gifts have so little and you have so much. Express your gratefulness to God, and **pray for those who will receive your gifts.** As you are considering what to donate, you might ask yourself this question: “In view of what I have and what they do not have, **how much do I have the right to keep?**”