



Collars on the Corner is a ministry of presence and prayer that helps us all as a community grow in faith and that reaches out into the world.

Collars on the Corner started when Deacon Jim Banach (The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Milwaukee) and Deacon Kevin Stewart (The Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee) went to the corner of 51<sup>st</sup> and Center Street in Milwaukee on September 3, 2016. They went to that street corner to extend a hand of friendship, to offer a listening ear, and to speak an encouraging word to all they met. They distributed bottles of water and they prayed with some, while others placed prayer requests in a prayer box.

Since then, they continue to be present on street corners and visible at community events. Others from various denominations and another faith tradition have joined them as visible signs and human expressions of God's ever-present presence. Additionally, prayer boxes are placed at a number of laundromats in Milwaukee and other locations throughout the greater Milwaukee area. Prayer requests are regularly collected from the prayer boxes, typed, and electronically distributed to prayer chain members living in numerous states across United States, in Kenya, and in the United Kingdom.

Collars on the Corner perhaps is best understood as expressed by others. Robert submitted a prayer request for *healing for his broken heart*. A child submitted a prayer request, which read: *I want mommy to get well and feel better*. The owner of a laundromat wrote: *There has been a lot of positive talk among the customers about the prayer boxes. Great idea!* A member of the prayer chain wrote: *Collars on the Corner is not only assisting those who are placing prayers, those who are ministered to on the spot, but for those who are called to pray. I now spend much quiet time in the day in prayer.* A community member wrote: *It is a ministry that helps us reach out into the world and I think that is pretty important.*

As Missioner for Community Engagement for the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee, Kevin identifies opportunities for engagement and extends invitations to join in faithful service and meaningful ministries. He spends much of his time developing and nurturing trusting relationships with those in the community, many who may not be worshipping in our churches on Sunday mornings.

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