



# St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Mobile Loaves and Fishes News

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## MOBILE LOAVES AND FISHES YEAR IN REVIEW

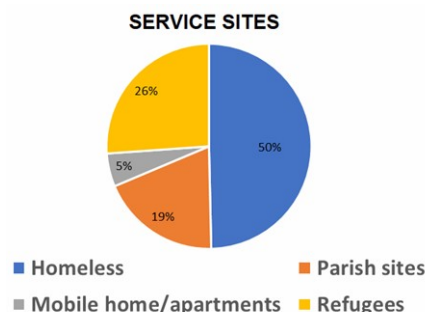
Thank you all so much for your continued faithful service to our MLF ministry. Here are some notable things that occurred in 2023.

### Volunteer teams are close knit!

Most of our weekly teams have been together for many years. We have such consistent attendance that subs are rarely needed. I love the sharing of stories, life and family in these groups! I am inspired by the "church family" that has formed and gratified that our community is built by gathering each week.

### Service locations.

We continue to support many places in San Antonio where the food insecure and homeless individuals gather such as St. Vinny's Bistro, Guadalupe Community Center, and St. Stephen's Care Center. The need at all of the service sites continues to grow and we have attempted to answer their call for assistance.

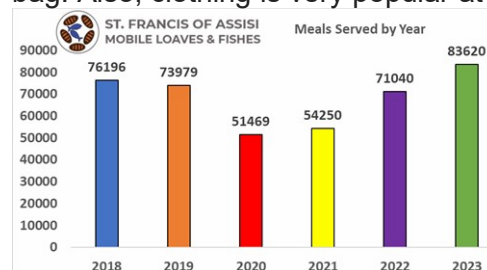


On Saturday's lunch runs we started a regular service to the Worker's Kabin, a men's dormitory at IH10 and Fredericksburg Road formerly known as The Bunkhaus. This continues weekly and offers our teams a chance to be face to face with our brothers in need.

San Martin de Porres location is a spot that is serving several parishes on the near Westside of SA. Our partner, Lupe Regino and the parish staff, distribute up to 300 meals weekly. This location serves many seniors who are grateful to have our meal which stretches their food budget.

The Thursday team continues lunch service at House of Prayer for the English as a Second Language students attending there. We expanded to also send snack bags for Monday and Tuesday classes. The House of Prayer location provides many services to the refugee community living in the Medical Center area.

Our Friday night teams are following a moving target as we assist the refugee families, again in the Medical Center area. We have a committed group of volunteers who often deal with "energetic" kids at many apartment complexes along Wurzbach Rd. We are experimenting with several locations and although our sandwich meal is a bit foreign for the families, they are grateful for everything else in the bag! Also, clothing is very popular at these sites.



Last Sunday's readings were about how we would be judged by how we fed the hungry

and clothed the naked. Thanks to our ministry, we are working on that. The graphs highlight some of our accomplishments. We set a monthly record in October 2023 by serving 8,045 meals! Also a new yearly record will be set with an estimated 83,620 meals served in 2023! It is incredible that we made more than 160,000 sandwiches and boiled more than 80,000 eggs! Well done, good and faithful servants!

-Julie Mellin

## CHRISTMAS POTLUCK

Join your fellow volunteers for a Christmas potluck on December 7 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm at the MLF Kitchen! All volunteers are welcome and feel free to bring a snack or sweet to share. Beverages will be provided. Bring lawn chairs and RSVP to [volunteermf@gmail.com](mailto:volunteermf@gmail.com). Also, come ready to sing... a fun game is brewing. Our anonymous volunteer has already decorated the kitchen with lights and a Christmas tree for the occasion.

- Julie Mellin



## TEMPERATURE RISING?

The health code requires us to record the temperatures of the refrigerators, freezers, and walk-in cooler every two days. The refrigerators and cooler must be maintained between 33 degrees and 41 degrees F. The freezers should be below zero. We have been cited by the health inspector for freezer temperatures even though we just store bread in them. In addition to health requirements, if there is a malfunction, actions can be quickly taken to try to save the food from spoiling.

It is each team's responsibility to have someone log the temperatures if they had not been logged during the previous day. Recent volunteers logging the temperatures include Loraine O'Neil, Michael Herzik, Peggy Carney, Diane Snarr, Richard O'Neil, and M.B. Osgood. Thank you for being conscientious.

## TURN THE TABLES

Two tables we used in the clothes sorting room have been replaced by heavy-duty wooden-topped tables. Thank you to Freetail Brewing for donating the tables.



## NEVER AN IDLE MOMENT

We have volunteers who bag cookies, chips, and raisins. But there are times when more rebagging is needed. So if your food preparation team uses up most or all of the rebagged items, please try to replenish the supply.

In addition, you can help other teams by doing any or all of the following:

- \* Move bread to the freezer in the kitchen
- \* Restock peanut butter, jelly, and Ziploc bags into cabinet
- \* Move oldest boiled eggs from secondary to primary refrigerator
- \* Wash, dry, and fold towels
- \* Sort clothes

## HELP WANTED

Our **MLF** ministry needs help for these crucial roles:

### MLF Facebook Administrator

### Day Volunteer Coordinator

If you can assist with any of these jobs, please contact **Julie Mellin** at [volunteermjf@gmail.com](mailto:volunteermjf@gmail.com)

### MLF News Content Always Wanted

Send any relevant news to Glenn Darilek, Editor, [gtdarilek@gmail.com](mailto:gtdarilek@gmail.com)

Thank you to Julie who provided most of the content for this issue.

### Quick Reminders...

- \* Team Captains should notify [mlfnow@sfasat.org](mailto:mlfnow@sfasat.org) before canceling a meal run.
- \* Call the Commissary person (listed on the bulletin board) on duty when you encounter food supply shortages.
- \* Fill out the MLF Truck Run Log after deliveries and use the bottom section to report any unusual events / problems that occur. **This applies whether you use the truck for delivery or not.**
- \* Please report any kitchen maintenance issues as soon as possible to Glenn Darilek at [gtdarilek@gmail.com](mailto:gtdarilek@gmail.com) or text 210-400-4073. It is particularly important to promptly report if the ice machine is not producing, or if a refrigerator is not cooling.

### Contact Us

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