



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Mobile Loaves & Fishes News

Volume 2, Issue 12

January 2018



What is all this Christmas Stuff about Anyway?

It is incongruous that Christians celebrate the birthday of our Savior by giving presents to everyone except to Jesus. Well, how can we give gifts to Jesus anyway? A few weeks ago (November 26th), we had the Sunday Gospel reading from Matthew 25. In Matthew 25:40, Jesus says "whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me."

Every Advent for many years now, Carlos and Elvira Ortiz host a breakfast at their home to recognize the parishioners who lead the 6:30 a.m. communion service. Presently these are Deacon Mike Portele, Ann Jones, Charles Serafini, and John Halloran. In their honor, donations are collected on a rotating basis for either **Mobile Loaves and Fishes** or St. Vincent de Paul.

This year was no different; the Ortizes hosted a wonderful breakfast on December 12th. Glenn Darilek gave a brief presentation on how Mobile Loaves and Fishes feeds the homeless and working poor. Afterwards, the checks and cash were collected and recorded. Tom Bibb, the Treasurer of **Mobile Loaves and Fishes**, instructed us to put the donations in a drawer in the MLF kitchen. Expecting perhaps a couple hundred dollars, Tom was astounded when he opened the envelope and found \$4,559.21 in donations. An additional \$550.00 was donated later

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in the week. Well, I think the dozen or so people who attend the daily 6:30 a.m. communion service took Jesus' words to heart. That is what all this Christmas stuff is really about.

You can also celebrate the real meaning of Christmas by leaving your gift to Jesus through Mobile Loaves and Fishes in the parish office.

Glenn Darilek □

Egg Boilers Update

Here are some quick notes for the **Egg Boiling** team members:

- We are trying a new procedure for clean towels. A new laundry basket labeled "Clean Towels" has been placed under the counter (where we have been keeping the clean towels).
- This basket will have clean UNFOLDED smaller towels. We will continue to fold the larger towels and place them on the shelf above the basket.
- The dirty towels should be placed in the "dirty laundry basket" under the sink, and we will still be using the drying rack in the clothing area.
- Diane and I are still "responsible" for washing towels and will continue to check them frequently.
- While we are boiling eggs, we can toss a load of dirty towels into the new washer/dryer.
- Then before leaving, we will put the newly washed/dried towels into the "clean towels" basket.
- If this system does not work, we will try something else.
- New boiling pots – Vera Taboada donated a new set of pots for our Egg Boiling team.
- These pots are sturdier and have flat bottoms for better contact with the stove burners.
- These new pots will come to a boil quicker, saving time!!!
- Each pot has a "lock and drain" insert (lock by rotating the insert after aligning tabs with indentations). You can use the pots with or without these inserts.



We appreciate all your hard work in keeping our meal prep teams supplied with boiled eggs to distribute to our ministry's clients.

Diane and Dick Gomez □

YMSL Catch-up Day

Courtesy of the **Young Men's Service League**, six students and four moms representing Clark and Antonian High Schools provided a much needed "catch up" day for **MLF** on Saturday, December 2nd.

In addition to pitching in with the lunch preparation team, they restocked the kitchen bread freezer and helped with kitchen clean up and trash disposal. The "catch up" part consisted in their breaking down eight cases of **Oreo** cookies into individual servings ready for delivery-- 4,608 cookies in all! One of the boys was heard to say that he did not expect to enjoy eating an **Oreo** for quite some time.

In the clothing area, the moms worked through a huge back-log of donated clothing to get us caught up and ready to receive donations through the Christmas season. Additionally, the last of the stored up coats and jackets were placed on hangers and hats and scarves replenished in anticipation of colder weather predicted for December. An area near the garage door and pallet was set aside to receive donations of household items to support two families identified through the Refugee Resettlement Program as in need of assistance.

The service time on December 2nd totaled 25 hours. This brings the overall 2017 **YMSL** service hours tally to 209. **Young Men's Service League** continues to be a crucial partner of the **MLF** ministry. We look forward to their ongoing support in the coming year.

Kathy and Gerry Caron □



BHS Gifted & Talented Club Supports MLF

The **Brandeis High School Leadership G&T Club** have been collecting clothing and toiletries to support the **MLF** ministry. On Saturday, December 23rd, Gavin and Grady, students who coordinated the effort, delivered several large bags of items. Having previously served on a team that assisted with meal preparation and sorting donated clothing, they wanted to help out even more during the holiday season. We greatly appreciate their generosity and look forward to their continuing involvement with our **MLF** ministry.

Kathy and Gerry Caron □



Shavano Park Women's Club Donation

At their annual Christmas party, the **Shavano Park Women's Club** (SPWC) selects a specific local charity and asks members for contributions. This year the group chose us to pick the charity and we selected the **MLF** ministry. The **SPWC** members were asked for woolen hats and/or for a cash contribution.

In response, we collected a total of 39 new woolen caps, four hat and glove sets, three hat and scarf sets, two pairs of baby mittens and an adult pair of gloves. These donated items were brought to the **MLF** clothing area. In addition, checks were collected totaling an amount of \$585.

Perhaps, best of all, this brought additional publicity and recognition for the excellent work done by **MLF**.

Diane and Dick Gomez □

Contact Us

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MLF website: www.sfasat.org/MLF/index.htm

MLF News files: www.sfasat.org/MLF/mlfnews.htm

A Quick Reminder...

- Captains, notify mlfnw@sfasat.org or call 210-249-1570 before canceling a meal run.
- Wear gloves and a baseball cap / hairnet when prepping meals or bagging cookies.
- Prepare only the amount of meals shown on the **Meals Calendar** posted on the refrigerator.
- Transport turkey and cheese sandwich trays on beds of ice.
- Sweep the floor and empty trash / recycling (into commercial bins) after each meal prep.
- Ensure that doors to clothing bay and ice machine room are locked after prep shifts.
- Fill-out the **MLF Truck Run Log** after deliveries and use the bottom section of **MLF Truck Run Log** to report any unusual events / problems that occur during deliveries.
- Report truck maintenance issues to David Aguilar @ tgeagle2@att.net . □