



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

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A Message from the Core Director

We are many parts...We are all one body. And the gifts we have...We are given to share. This song has been running through my head lately. I have been praying about who might be called to share their gifts in the next phase for Mobile Loaves & Fishes.

I recently informed our Core team that I would like to hand off the duty of Core Director and Volunteer Coordinator to a willing candidate(s) in May 2016. I have loved serving in this ministry for the past 5 years.

The beautiful thing is that MLF is a well-oiled machine. By working together as "one body, one body in Christ" we continue to feed, clothe and spread God's love to our friends in need. I am confident that our ministry will continue to prosper and several people will be able to guide it in the future.

Please consider how you might help. I will be contacting "prospects" in the next month. We will hold a meeting on March 10 at 6:30pm in the San Damiano building. Feel free to email me @ mlfnw@sfasat.org.

God bless you all, **Julie Mellin** □

Sometimes All You Need Is a Hug



The Mobile Loaves and Fishes ministry serves the homeless and working poor by providing material things, but sometimes there are more important things to give such as listening to a story, praying over someone who might have problems, or just encouraging people by showing that others care about them. These acts of caring can often be most important, for the volunteers as well as the people we serve.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church has been sending a group of MLF volunteers to St. Henry's Catholic Church (just south of downtown San Antonio) every Thursday to serve a sack lunch to people who could use a little help. Some of the people we serve are homeless, and others are needy people who come from the surrounding low-income neighborhood. In addition to the food we provide, we are able to distribute donated new and good used clothes, shoes, and various toiletries to the people.

Our team has gotten to know many of the people on a first name basis, and we try to interact with them as much as possible. Just before Christmas, Marshall Fairbanks, one of our team members, was distributing some clothes. First, he asked the people what they needed. One needed a pair of shoes for her son. Another needed a white shirt. Yet another needed some socks. One graceful but disheveled lady waited patiently to make her request. When Marshall asked her what she needed, she said "Just a hug." He gladly obliged, and afterwards, with a glint in his eye, said "I will give you two hugs," and obliged again. What a wonderful ministry of serving Christ through helping our brothers in need.

Glenn Darilek □

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2016 Casino Night Set for May 7th

The St. Francis of Assisi Men's Club has scheduled its 2016 Casino Night for Saturday, May 7th. Having raised over \$ 120,000, this fun night features card games, roulette, slot machines, and much, much more. All proceeds benefit SFA Mobile Loaves & Fishes, SFA Youth Ministries, and our sister parishes of Immaculate Conception and St. Timothy.

As the Casino Night fundraiser directly supports our ministry, the Core Team is encouraging MLF volunteers to attend this charitable evening. During last year's event, MLF sponsored a "grab bag" auction to raise additional funds. Since this proved to be very popular with the party goers, the Core Team is asking donations of \$25 gift card donations (for local restaurants, specialty / department stores, etc.) to continue the grab bag auction. MLF volunteers can drop their gift cards off at the Parish Office.

Consider joining us on May 7th for an evening of fun and fellowship that promotes so many worthy causes. For additional information on the St. Francis of Assisi Men's Club and its various programs and services, click this [Men's Club](#) link. □

Do You Want Mustard with That?

The new **Condiment Assembly Ministry** is made up of sixteen volunteers, mostly homebound, or those who want to help the MLF effort but are not able to contribute other than from home. The volunteers receive a supply kit which they take home and return with the finished condiment packets. They then pick up a new supply kit and repeat the procedure every two weeks on a rotational basis. The condiment packets include a napkin, salt, pepper, mustard, and mayonnaise. Currently we make approximately 3500 packets each month.

Please note that these packets should be used **ONLY** by those teams that bag and drop-off lunches at these locations: Haven for Hope, Christian Assistance Ministry, Guadalupe Community Center, and Holy Redeemer Catholic church. Teams who serve lunches

directly from the truck (to people at other locations) should continue to give out loose condiments, instead of the pre-packaged ones. This will help insure that we are not short at the end of the month to supply the specified service sites. We would appreciate your cooperation. For information on this new ministry, contact Helen via email at: hcrend@satx.rr.com
Helen Rendon □

Contact Us

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

Mobile Loaves & Fishes

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MLF Now: mlfnow@sfasat.org

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

Upcoming Events

April 9 – 10 Second collection for MLF ministry
April 10 Social Sunday sponsored by MLF
May 7 Men's Club Casino Night

A Ministry That Serves Everyone

The MLF kitchen is now in use EVERYDAY of EVERY month with only 9 open meal slots. We are close to providing 6,000 meals per month! We are now serving the following refugee locations: **Perrin Square** was selected by Catholic Charities in 2015, and it became a new MLF site. For two years, MLF has served **Wurzbach Manor**. Although we had originally left **WM**, we have returned and now provide 100 meals 3 times per month. Twice a month, **Fairways V** receives 50 meals. **Ingram Ranch** (another Catholic Charities location) has been on our schedule for two years. Our 75 meals (twice monthly) serve a population of primarily children. **Apartments on Gardendale** (formerly Auburn Creek) asked that we move our MLF truck, and the Holy Spirit helped us. Since the Alamo Mini Storage owners have an Austin MLF family member, they have allowed us to park at their site during our 3 monthly visits. Ours is a ministry that serves everyone.

Julie Mellin □

Keeping MLF News Relevant

News items, announcements, and photographs can be emailed to John Deosdade, the MLF Webmaster and MLF News Editor, @: deosdade@gmail.com. With your assistance and input, we can assure that it becomes a vital communication channel for our ministry. □