



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

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## A Message from the Core Director

The MLF Core Team is excited to welcome two new leaders. Barbara Tate will take over Volunteer Coordinating. She will be responsible for contacting and placing new volunteers on teams. She will be the primary contact person for volunteer needs. Her dedication to MLF and organization skills will go a long way in helping us to manage our ministry. She will work closely with the fairly new staff of Day Volunteer Coordinators (VC). Our goal is to have a Day VC oversee prep and delivery teams on one day of the week throughout the month. This helps by having a VC keep track of 8-10 teams rather than 70+ teams! We still have 3 days that need VC coverage if that is an area you could help.

We have added a Special Projects volunteer and Cedar Joiner is filling this position. She will be responsible for our 2<sup>nd</sup> collection weekends, Social Sunday and renewal of the San Antonio Food Bank application. Since these projects are spread out over the course of the year, you may hear from Cedar regarding an opportunity to help.

Thank you all for your kind words and prayers as we work on transitioning the leadership of our beloved MLF Core Team.

Julie Mellin □

## How Many People Does it Take to Make a PBJ Sandwich?



Our St. Francis of Assisi Small Church Community (SCC) group began a journey with Mobile Loaves & Fishes some 6 months ago. The SCC group consists of seven families with 18 children among us ranging in age from one year to early twenties. We had been talking and praying about becoming involved in a new ministry that connected us more with the church. Our decision - become involved in the MLF program. We weren't really sure what all this would entail, but we all felt like God was calling us to join this ministry. After talking about the ministry and its various components with Julie Mellin, we decided to volunteer as a team for the meal prep and delivery. She reviewed the MLF serving schedule and rearranged it to include our SCC team. We were assigned to take on the third Saturday dinner prep and delivery to St. Francis Cabrini Church and Cielo Hills Apartments. The wonderful group who had been serving in this time slot for many years graciously stepped away from that day in order to allow us to serve.

At the beginning, we decided to have everybody present for the first couple of Saturdays that we served. Later, we would assign Saturdays to a couple of families at a time so that we would not have to be there every month. Our precious children jumped right in and joyfully do their part alongside the adults every single month.

It has been such a tremendous blessing for our group to be able to serve God and our community through this ministry. We have all grown so much through this ministry and it has been such a blessing to watch our children grow on their faith journeys. We are so grateful for the opportunity to serve and look forward to where God is leading us.

Erica Eavenson □

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## A Walk Down Memory Lane...

The [Mobile Loaves & Fishes, Inc.](#) (MLF) program began in 1998 as an outreach ministry at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Austin, Texas. It was founded on the guiding principle of "providing permanent, sustainable solutions for the chronically homeless, with compassion, love, and dignity." From its humble beginnings with six St. John Neumann parishioners who delivered 75 sack lunches per day, Mobile Loaves & Fishes has grown into a nation-wide movement that includes 16 meal trucks and 17,208 volunteers in Massachusetts, Minnesota, Rhode Island, and Texas. To date, the Austin-based MLF program and its affiliates have served over 4.4 million meals.

In 2006, the St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church Mobile Loaves & Fishes core team approached St. Francis of Assisi parishioners with a proposal for establishing a new MLF ministry. The promise of seed money and organizational support was bolstered by the Austin-based MLF program's donation of a catering truck. Recognizing the plight and ever-growing problem of [hunger](#) in the San Antonio area, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church excitedly joined the MLF ministry in January 2007. The initial St. Francis of Assisi call for volunteers brought over 500 parishioners into the ministry.

In the intervening years, the MLF ministry has involved over 450 parishioners and other volunteers from area businesses, churches, and civic groups including: Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Newcomers of San Antonio, NuStar Energy L. P., and the San Pedro Presbyterian Church. From an initial goal of serving only supper seven days a week, the MLF program expanded to include lunch and supper every day of the week. The program provides various services in 25 San Antonio [area locations](#), including Christian Assistance Ministry, Guadalupe Community Center, Haven for Hope, House of Neighborly Service, refugee communities near the Medical Center, and several parishes on the East, South, and West sides. The dedication, hard work, and tireless efforts of the St. Francis of Assisi MLF volunteers have enabled the ministry to serve **385,496** meals from 2007 through December 2015. □

## Did You Get Your Coffee & Donuts?

On Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, the **St. Francis of Assisi MLF** ministry hosted Social Sunday after the morning masses. The Core Team expresses its sincere appreciation to Jennifer Smith of **Daylight Donuts** (located at 9517 Fredericksburg Road) for allowing us to purchase twenty-five dozen donuts at a substantial discount for the event. This is the second consecutive year that Jennifer has assisted our efforts. Some 150 parishioners enjoyed morning treats and fellowship while visiting with various **MLF** volunteers.

Ralph Mendez □

## A Quick Reminder...

- Sanitize tables before each meal prep
- Wear a baseball cap or hairnet and plastic gloves when prepping sandwiches or bagging cookies
- Sweep the floor and empty trash/recycling after each meal prep
- Transport turkey & cheese sandwich trays on beds of ice
- Wear plastic gloves when serving drinks at meal delivery locations
- Notify Butch Rendon, the Site Coordinator, at [butchrendon@outlook.com](mailto:butchrendon@outlook.com) if the delivered meal tally needs to be changed
- Report truck issues to Mike Villanueva at [mike1949v@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mike1949v@sbcglobal.net)
- Say a quick prayer before your delivery runs

## Contact Us

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**Mobile Loaves & Fishes**  
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MLF Now: [mlfnow@sfasat.org](mailto:mlfnow@sfasat.org)

MLF website: [www.sfasat.org/MLF/index.htm](http://www.sfasat.org/MLF/index.htm)

## Upcoming Events

May 7                      Men's Club Casino Night  
July 16-17                Second collection for MLF ministry

## Providing Input for ***MLF News***

News items, team profiles, photographs, and comments can be emailed to John Deosdade, the ***MLF News*** Editor, @ [deosdade@gmail.com](mailto:deosdade@gmail.com). Looking for an older article? The newsletter back files can be found at: [www.sfasat.org/MLF/mlfnews.htm](http://www.sfasat.org/MLF/mlfnews.htm). □