



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

Volume 2, Issue 5

June 2017



SAFB Sees MLF as a Perfect Solution

When working meal prep in the **MLF** kitchen lately, you may have noticed an abundance of milk, juice, applesauce, oranges, and chips in the supply areas. Thankfully, the [San Antonio Food Bank \(SAFB\)](#) has provided **MLF** these items ... **FREE OF CHARGE!**

The **MLF Core Team** has made a concerted effort to expand our use of the **SAFB** in order to become better stewards of our donated funds. During our continuing conversations with **Food Bank** staff on how to best utilize their resources, it was discovered that the **SAFB** was looking for partners in the community to disperse excess food items they have collected. The milk, juice, applesauce, and oranges come from schools in the San Antonio area. In the past, these items had to be discarded. Recent changes in food service rules have permitted the **SAFB** to collect unopened food staples from the schools and re-distribute them to local pantry partners. Given our ministry's outreach to area homeless, refugee, and working poor locations, it became apparent that **MLF** was a perfect solution.

So, please know that we are helping our brothers and sisters in need by enabling the **San Antonio Food Bank** to move these products into the food chain and keep food from being wasted. We appreciate both the **Food Bank's** services and cooperation.

Julie Mellin □

Moms Teach a Valuable Lesson



Colleen Olson and Cara Argumedo (shown L - R in the photo above) are two busy moms who have made the **MLF** ministry a family affair. They have both chosen to instill our mission statement "**to provide food, clothing, and dignity to our brothers and sisters in need**" into their young children. Colleen and Cara's children have been joining their mothers on supper delivery trips to serve Wurzbach Manor. Cara's son has witnessed firsthand the joys of giving as he distributed his own used clothing to youngsters at the complex. As Cara simply states "a five year old does not get it (when you explain other children in need), but when he sees how they react to a simple gift of a sweater... it makes a lasting impression." Colleen adds "this **MLF** ministry allows children to experience something outside their own world. They see other volunteers modeling how to be 'Christ's hands and feet.'" Here are some other observations:

- It is a fun way to learn service and helps make it more natural for the children.
- Seeing that other children do not have shoes or jackets shows them not to take (their own) things for granted.
- The **MLF** ministry can easily be a "family affair" that teaches children the need for service to those less fortunate.

Using the **MLF** ministry as a teaching experience for their children, Cara and Colleen are actively practicing this March 12, 2016 Pope Francis statement:

"Love and charity, are service, helping others, serving others. There are many people who spend their lives in this way, in the service of others. ... When you forget yourself and think of others, this is love!" [Jubilee Audience: Mercy and Service](#)

If you want to discover the full range of our ministry's volunteer activities, please contact Julie Mellin, **MLF Volunteer Coordinator** at volunteermf@gmail.com

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MLF Facebook Stays Up-to-Date

The MLF Facebook page always provides the latest ministry news and information. Group members can post photos and share updates. You can easily join the MLF Facebook group. All it requires is a sign-up for a free Facebook account. Click this Facebook link to begin accessing our MLF group. □

Clothing Donations Needed

The MLF ministry is in urgent need of children's clothing and shoes (both boys and girls in all sizes). In addition, men's clothing and shoes are also in short supply. We have women's clothing, but will gladly accept more.

We are looking for clean, outgrown and lightly worn clothing suitable for daily wear, school, etc. These items are distributed to various refugee centers, homeless and working poor locations throughout San Antonio. Our brothers and sisters and their families are often lacking basic clothing items.

This clothing may be placed in the large bin in the church hallway by the rest rooms, or may be dropped off at the MLF kitchen whenever you see the meal teams preparing for a delivery. This is usually around 10 am OR 4 pm on most days. The MLF Clothing Team greatly appreciates your donations in helping us serve those in need."

Gerry Caron □

Contact Us

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Email: mlfnow@sfasat.org



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

Upcoming Events

July 16 MLF Ministry second collection

A Quick Reminder...

- Captains, notify mlfnow@sfasat.org or call 210-249-1570 before canceling a meal run.
- Donate new and used large white socks for men and all colors / sizes for women and children.
- Since condensation weakens the bottom of paper bags causing contents to spill out, we are now using only plastic lunch bags.
- Sweep the floor and empty trash / recycling (into commercial bins) after each meal prep.
- Transport turkey and cheese sandwich trays on beds of ice.
- 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 .

There's an Easy Way to Donate to MLF

The St. Francis of Assisi Mobile Loaves & Fishes ministry receives special second collections three times per year. Did you know that there is an easy, no worries method to assure that your financial support reaches MLF? You can donate through the SFA's Online Giving electronic platform. This giving method allows you to make a quick one-time contribution OR to schedule various regular donations.

Be aware that St. Francis is in the process of switching online giving platforms. **The current green "Make a Donation" button that redirects the user to the myowngiving.com site will become obsolete in February 2018.** To continue to the old (current) online giving site, please click this green link:

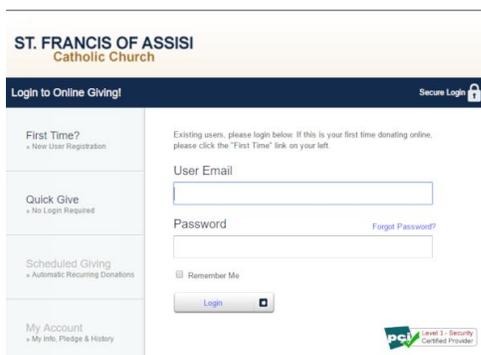


All online donors who have not switched over to the new SFA platform by February 2018 will notice that their recurring gifts have stopped.

In addition, please note that current users should opt out of the old myowngiving.com program (shown below) when they switch to the ConnectNow online giving to avoid unintentionally giving twice.



The new online giving platform is hosted by ConnectNow. We encourage users to select the "Use Check" option when making a donation on this new platform; the parish saves money when that option is selected. **Here is the new sign-in screen:**



To create a profile for the new ConnectNow online giving site, please click the button below.

