



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

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## MLF Launches Its Second Decade

On January 7, 2007, Monsignor Jim Henke extended his arms to bless our newly delivered food truck and introduced Mobile Loaves & Fishes to the St. Francis of Assisi parish community. In June 2014, Alan Graham, **MLF** program founder, sent us a congratulatory video (click this link [Alangram](#)). Alan stated *“that weekend of planting and blessing of that truck still holds the record of all the trucks we have planted around the U.S. of the most volunteer sign-ups and that speaks volumes about your community...”*

Our ministry has been so much more than serving meals and providing clothing.... Marshall Fairbanks recalls a Christmas 2015 delivery at St. Henry's Catholic Church. While distributing clothing to those who approached the MLF truck, 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.

As we begin our second decade, let us continue to answer the challenge of Pope Francis' [Evangelii Gaudium](#): *“Each individual Christian and every community is called to be an instrument of God for the liberation and promotion of the poor, and for enabling them to be fully a part of society. This demands that we be docile and attentive to the cry of the poor and to come to their aid.”*

John Deosdade □



## St. Vinny's Bistro Thanks MLF Ministry

In 2010, the St. Vincent de Paul Society created St. Vinny's Bistro (SVB) on the Haven for Hope campus. The goal was to provide 3 hot meals daily to residents in the H4H Prospects Courtyard.

Lorris Gibson, the Executive Chef for St. Vinny's Bistro, called the St. Francis of Assisi **MLF** ministry to express his thanks for delivering sack lunches and assured us that SVB staff would be available to receive deliveries. Chef Gibson wanted MLF volunteers to know how important these sack lunches are to those Haven for Hope residents who head out to work each day.

It should be noted that many people who sleep in the Prospect Courtyard leave and go TO WORK. Often, homeless individuals are able to work sporadically or have jobs that don't afford them enough money to maintain a regular residence. Our **MLF** sack lunch might be their lunch and supper if they are not able to make it back to the Courtyard for lunch or supper times.

Additionally, if anyone from our MLF ministry wishes to visit St. Vinny's Bistro to get a better idea of how our sack lunches are utilized, they can contact Chef Gibson at [lorris.gibson@svdpsa.org](mailto:lorris.gibson@svdpsa.org) to arrange a tour.

Richard Bellacosa and Julie Mellin □

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## Boy Scouts Keep MLF Truck on Track

On Saturday, June 30<sup>th</sup>, a group of Boy Scouts from St. Francis of Assisi Troop 498 gathered to perform routine maintenance of the **MLF** truck. Under the direction and supervision of Geoffrey Courtney, the Scouts:

- 1) changed the oil and filter;
- 2) changed the air filter;
- 3) rotated the tires;
- 4) checked the brakes;
- 5) checked all other vehicle fluids;
- 6) replaced spark plugs and spark plug wires; and
- 7) attempted the repair of a leaky headlight.

The entire job was done for the minimal cost of \$386.24 (spark plugs, wires, filters, oil, etc.). Two items of note: transmission fluid was a little low but not significantly low and there was evidence of a mice nest in the air box.

As a result of their labors, 10 Boy Scouts earned their **Automotive Maintenance** merit badge.

Butch Rendon noted that our **MLF** truck reached 150,000 miles this month while serving our 500,000<sup>th</sup> meal. During its 10 years of service delivering meals 7 days a week, the **MLF** truck seldom took a full day off! With proper oversight of maintenance needs and blessed with God's grace, we should be able keep this truck in service for another 150k miles during the next 10 years! Thank you all for your service to **SFA MLF!**

Finally, the **Core Team** expresses its sincere appreciation to Mike Villanueva and Mike Durack for their service to the **MLF** truck. Mike V was the Truck Maintenance Coordinator for the past 2 ½ years and single-handedly had total responsibility for the truck.....now 7 of us are replacing him! Mike D has helped Mike V with weekly fueling. In previous years, Mike D performed oversight of maintenance, weekly fueling, and kept the truck clean. We gratefully recognize Mike V & Mike D's faithful service to our **MLF** ministry!

## Help [MLF Facebook](#) Tell our Story

Did you ever wonder what is happening with our ministry? Would you like to post some photos or share your thoughts about what the **MLF** program means? **The [MLF Facebook](#)** page provides an excellent opportunity to do both! Group members can easily upload photos and publicize information. Click this [Facebook](#) link to sign-up for a free account and help us tell our story. □

## MLF School Supply Drive Sets Goal

The **2017 Mobile Loaves & Fishes School Supply Drive** will be collecting school supplies the weekends of August 5 - 6 and August 12 – 13. Please drop off new school supplies in the donation boxes placed around the gathering space. These supplies will be handed out to the children we serve on our meal delivery stops. A basic "back to school" kit includes: backpack, crayons, colored pencils, erasers, folders, glue sticks, markers, notebooks, pencils, rulers, and scissors. For a full listing, click: [school supplies](#). For additional information, please contact Lynne Cruz via email at: [cruzer512@att.net](mailto:cruzer512@att.net). We hope to collect enough supplies to make 100 school kits for the children we serve. □

## Contact Us

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

**MLF News files:** [www.sfasat.org/MLF/mlfnews.htm](http://www.sfasat.org/MLF/mlfnews.htm)

## Upcoming Events

**August 5 - 6 MLF School Supply Drive**  
& **12 - 13**

## A Quick Reminder...

- Please sweep the floor and empty trash / recycling (into commercial bins) after each prep. Wet mop (as needed) when spills occur.
- Wear a baseball cap or hairnet when prepping sandwiches or bagging cookies.
- Do not keep used bread bags. Trash them please. We now use clear plastic 8X4X18 bags for donated unsliced bread.
- 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](mailto:tgeagle2@att.net).



IN MEMORIAM



The **MLF** ministry mourns the loss of two individuals who supported our ministry and the parish. **Jeffrey Dressen** was a Saturday **MLF** prep team leader for years and assisted the 5:00 p.m. Saturday mass choir. **Almedia Bannantine**, the wife of a long-time **MLF** driver Bud Bannantine, worked with the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Silver Stars. Jeffrey and Almedia will be truly missed. □