



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

Volume 2, Issue 9

October 2017



What are Casa de Raices and the Interfaith Welcome Coalition?

For the past year, our **MLF** ministry has been actively supporting the **Interfaith Welcome Coalition** (working in conjunction with **RAICES**) to provide meals to a local refugee shelter called **Casa de Raices**.

What exactly is **Casa de Raices** and how do our **MLF** meal prep teams help?

Casa de Raices is one of the programs sponsored by **RAICES**. As noted on their website, "**RAICES** is a 501©(3) nonprofit agency that promotes justice by providing free and low-cost legal services to underserved immigrant children, families, and refugees in Central and South Texas." It offers these services: assistance with residency / citizenship applications, referrals and representation of unaccompanied children, legal services for asylum seekers, and assistance to immigrant victims of crime.

The San Antonio-based **Interfaith Welcome Coalition (IWC)** was initially organized to help address the needs of unaccompanied refugee minors. **IWC** has expanded

its services to include advocacy for immigrant families. With some 200 volunteers from Catholic, Methodist, Jewish, Presbyterian, Unitarian, and Lutheran faiths, the program ministers to migrants inside the Dilley and Karnes City [detention centers](#) and provides continued support services upon their release from detention.

For many refugees, San Antonio is the first stop before continuing on their travels to other locations in the United States. The **IWC** volunteers assist refugees with explanations about travel arrangements, offer them a **MLF** lunch for their travels, and help in alleviating their anxiety. Since the actual "casa" or refugee home is undergoing renovations, the **MLF** meals are currently being distributed by **IWC** volunteers to women and children as they board buses at the downtown depot. These meals are noted on our calendar as "Bus stop".

Interested in doing more? You can contact:

RAICES at <https://www.raicestexas.org/> OR
IWC at <http://interfaithwelcomecoalition.org/>

Julie Mellin and John Deosdade □



Why Should I Volunteer?

With increasing self-centeredness in American culture, maybe it is right to answer the question "Why should I volunteer?" Well of course, there are many examples in Scripture where Jesus implores us to help the poor and disenfranchised. Catholic social teaching deeply underscores these commands. And there are examples of a call to volunteer in secular life. I remember when I was a Boy Scout our motto was "Do a good turn daily." I am afraid that some have ignored this to the point where they do not know that the words 'good turn' also mean good deed. But by examining my own inclination to volunteer, I guess I am a little self-centered myself. At the beginning of each day I volunteer, I like the feeling of knowing that "Today I will do some good."
Glenn Darilek □

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YMSL Works Hard on Labor Day Weekend

Five Antonian HS students and their moms joined with **MLF** clothing, prep and delivery teams on Saturday morning, September 2nd as part of their **Young Men's Service League** hours.

While the moms sorted and packed up clothing for Catholic Charities to pass on to those displaced by Hurricane Harvey, the boys accomplished the following:

- washed the food serving areas of the truck
- washed bins and bread freezers in the kitchen
- moved a pile of cardboard to the recycle dumpster
- bagged two cases of bulk cookies into individual servings
- joined the prep team in making sandwiches and counting out other meal items
- loaded the truck with ice, lunch items, school supplies and donated clothing
- helped with loading cases of fresh fruit into the cooler

The students provided 10 hours of service while the moms added 12 more in the clothing area. The **Young Men's Service League** continues to be our most faithful service partners, and we really enjoy working with this great group of high schoolers and their moms.

Kathy and Gerry Caron □



What Happened to the Green Table?

Looking for the "green" table? Now it's a gray table! Thank you, Glenn Darilek for your handy remodeling work. You have been a blessing to **MLF** and we appreciate all the "fixin" you and John Tondre have done for us! Look up to see the super new shelves, the raised pallets in the walk-in cooler, and many more improvement projects.

Julie Mellin □

Help Wanted!



Our ministry needs help in filling two important roles:

- 1) **Day Volunteer Coordinator** for Saturdays; and
- 2) **MLF** truck drivers for various dates and locations.

If you can assist with either job, please contact Julie Mellin @ volunteermf@gmail.com □



St. Mark's Traveling Loaves & Fishes

Our friends at St. Mark's Catholic Church have changed the name of their food ministry to **Traveling Loaves & Fishes (TLF)**. They are the group that assisted us in starting our chapter of **MLF**. They are continuing to assist those in need at the Catholic Worker house and other locations in San Antonio. **TLF** is opening a pumpkin patch as a fundraiser for their ministry. There will be a great assortment of pumpkins along with family friendly activities beginning October 14. If you are getting ready for fall with some décor, consider supporting this ministry.

For a listing of times and activities for all ages, visit <http://www.tlfsa.org/pumpkin-patch-calendar>

Julie Mellin □

Contact Us

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Mobile Loaves & Fishes

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

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

Upcoming Events

October 8 SFA Fall Parish Festival

October 14 – 15 MLF Second Collection

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 sandwiches or bagging cookies.
- **Do not keep** used bread bags. Trash them please. We now use clear plastic 8X4X18 bags for donated unsliced bread.
- 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.
- 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 . □