



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

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Mobile Loaves & Fishes Recognizes World Day of the Poor – November 19th

Pope Francis calls Christians and people of all beliefs to celebrate the **World Day of the Poor**, which he called for after the Jubilee of Mercy. He asks us not only to help in word but in concrete deeds. On November 19th, the Pope will host 500 poor people to have lunch at the Vatican.

In his [message](#) announcing the **World Day of the Poor**, Pope Francis stated:

“We may think of the poor simply as the beneficiaries of our occasional volunteer work, or of impromptu acts of generosity that appease our conscience. However good and useful such acts may be for making us sensitive to people’s needs and the injustices that are often their cause, they ought to lead to a true *encounter* with the poor and a *sharing* that becomes a way of life. Our prayer and our journey of discipleship and conversion find the confirmation of their evangelic authenticity

in precisely such charity and sharing. This way of life gives rise to joy and peace of soul, because we touch with our own hands the *flesh of Christ*. If we truly wish to encounter Christ, we have to touch his body in the suffering bodies of the poor, as a response to the sacramental communion bestowed in the Eucharist. The Body of Christ, broken in the sacred liturgy, can be seen, through charity and sharing, in the faces and persons of the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters.”

The **St. Francis of Assisi Mobile Loaves & Fishes** mission statement is: ***to provide food, clothing, and dignity to our brothers and sisters in need.***

In honor of the **World Day of the Poor**, our ministry will host an “open house” after morning mass on Sunday, November 19th. Come to the **MLF** kitchen (at the back of the sports fields) and hear about our ministry. We will give tours and information from 9:30 – 11 a.m. and 12:30-1:15 p.m. to interested volunteers. If you have any questions or can’t make it then, send an email to Julie Mellin @ volunteermf@gmail.com.

Julie Mellin □

The Need Remains the Same

Earlier this year, our **MLF** ministry reached a landmark of ***half a million meals served***. As noted in these highlights from U.S. Conference of Mayors surveys, hunger and homelessness remains a serious problem.

- Among those requesting emergency food assistance, 63% were persons in families, 51% were employed, 18% were elderly, and 8% were homeless.
- Low wages lead the list of causes of hunger cited by survey cities; followed by high housing costs and poverty.
- In 47% of survey cities, the emergency kitchens and food pantries had to reduce the quantity of food persons could receive at each food pantry visit or the amount of food offered per meal at emergency kitchens.
- On a single night in January 2016, 544,084 people experienced homelessness in the United States.

We appreciate your continuing efforts in helping **MLF** to serve our brothers and sisters in need. □

Source: [U.S. Conference of Mayors 2016 Status Report on Hunger & Homelessness](#)

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Learning About Giving at an Early Age

Serving the needs of others is a family affair for two students from **San Antonio Christian School**.

They may be only 6 and 8 years old, but they, along with their mom and grandmother, spent an hour sorting 12 bags of clothing to support the **MLF** clothing ministry. In addition, they prepared numerous jackets for our delivery teams to take out for children in need of a warm coat.

We surely appreciated their help and look forward to their next visit.

Kathy and Gerry Caron ☐



YMSL Continues Its Monthly Service

On Saturday, October 14th, four moms and their sons from the **Young Men's Service League** worked non-stop for a little over two hours in support of our **MLF** ministry.

The group separated nine cases of cookies into individual serving bags. The moms sorted almost all of the accumulated donated clothing.

The students washed down the storage bin covers, brought down seven bins of cold weather clothing and hung some jackets to help us prepare for delivery on those first cool days, when they are needed. In addition, they assisted with a sweeping and decluttering the work areas. The young men consolidated case lots of food and arranged them on the shelving. As a final job, they emptied all the trash and recycling items.

The group was from Clark High School along with one home schooled student, and provided some 15 service hours to our ministry.

YMSL has another date on our calendar for November and we look forward to their help once again.

Kathy and Gerry Caron ☐

HELP WANTED

Help Wanted!

Openings posted November 1, 2017

Our ministry needs help in filling three important roles:

- 1) **Friday supper** delivery teams;
- 2) **Saturday lunch** delivery teams; and
- 3) **Commissary Team** members.

If you can assist with these jobs, please contact **Julie Mellin** @ volunteermf@gmail.com. ☐

Contact Us

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Mobile Loaves & Fishes

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Email: mlfnw@sfsat.org



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

MLF News files: www.sfsat.org/MLF/mlfnews.htm

Upcoming Events

November 19 MLF Ministry Open House

A Quick Reminder...

- Captains, notify mlfnw@sfsat.org or call 210-249-1570 **before canceling a meal run**.
- Wear gloves and a baseball cap / hairnet when prepping sandwiches or bagging cookies.
- 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. ☐

Share Your Experience

MLF News is as a method for communicating and disseminating information on our **MLF** ministry. Since you are all such a vital part of our program, this can also include sharing your own personal story. As an example, you can submit articles such as:

- 1) talking about what **MLF** means to you or how you first became involved; OR
- 2) profiling your prep, delivery, or other team.

Please send articles, news items, announcements, photographs, and suggestions to John Deosdade, **MLF News** editor via email @ deosdade@gmail.com.