



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

Volume 2, Issue 11



A Christmas Message from the Core Team

As we begin a new Christmas season, the St. Francis of Assisi **MLF** program is launching its second decade of service *“providing food, clothing, and dignity to our brothers and sisters in need.”*

In 2017, we maintained our mission by:

- welcoming a new Core Team Director, Cedar Joiner;
- launching our [Facebook](#) page;
- receiving an [Appreciative Inquiry](#) into our work;
- serving our **landmark 500,000th meal**; and
- sending meals and clothing to Hurricane Harvey victims in Corpus Christi.

These and the many other accomplishments of our ministry would not have been possible without the continuing good will, hard work, financial backing, sacrifice, and prayers of our many volunteers and supporters. The **Core Team** would like to express its sincere thanks and wish all of you a blessed and happy Christmas. May God bless you and your families for your service and support of our **MLF** ministry. □



All Kinds of Service - Join the MLF Core

There are so many ways to serve in the **MLF** ministry, as over 500 of us have found. When our schedule changes, or "life happens" we can also switch to a different service that may be a better fit at that time. My husband and I have been blessed to serve for many years on a delivery team and now we are boiling eggs. I also served as secretary of the **MLF** Core Team - the leadership branch of the ministry. It is a wonderful opportunity to see the ministry in the bigger scope - to plan and make decisions for the people we serve. I learned about food purchase, the Food Bank, Health Department, service groups and other churches helping us, financials, truck maintenance, stories of goodness and love surrounding this ministry, and so much more. The group meets once a month for about 2 hours. Each person has a responsibility as you can see listed in the Core Team [job descriptions](#). We always need new folks to step up to this service. We make a 2 year commitment to serve. After finishing my service last month, I now have a host of new friends in the parish who have graced me with their generosity and love.

If you love this ministry, try some different aspects - such as volunteering for the Core Team. Use your expertise, but most of all your desire to give in a different way to this phenomenal ministry. It is quite interesting and enlightening. For additional information, contact Cedar Joiner @ mlfnw@sfasat.org.

Karen Braeuler □

Partners Help Our Mission

The **SFA Mobile Loaves & Fishes** program is very fortunate to have many partners assisting our mission “to provide food, clothing, and dignity to our brothers and sisters in need.”

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Help Wanted! Openings posted November 30, 2017

Our ministry needs help in filling three important roles:

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

If you can assist with these jobs, please contact
Julie Mellin @ volunteermjf@gmail.com. □

Contact Us

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Mobile Loaves & Fishes
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 San Antonio, TX 78249 Phone: (210) 249-1570



Email: mlfnw@sfasat.org



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

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

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 meals 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.
- Ensure that doors to clothing bay and ice machine room are locked after prep shifts.
- 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 . □

Prime Sources of MLF Information

MLF News and the **MLF Facebook** page are prime sources for sharing information on our **MLF** ministry. Articles, news items, announcements, photographs, and other suggestions for the newsletter can be sent directly to John Deosdade, **MLF News** editor via email @ deosdade@gmail.com.

Remember that joining the **MLF Facebook** group is easy and simply requires you to sign-up for a free **Facebook** account. Once you join our **Facebook** page, you can begin posting items and photos to it.

Click this  link to begin accessing our **MLF** group.

One such partner is the St. Francis of Assisi Knights of Columbus Council # 15240. Throughout the year, the Knights have various fundraisers that benefit its charitable activities in the **SFA** parish community. In mid-November, our Knights of Columbus purchased 100 new windbreakers suitable for school aged children.

The **SFA** parish **MLF** ministry and the St. Vincent de Paul Society each received 50 of these winter coats for distribution to their clientele's children.

The St. Vincent de Paul society supports the needs of our local parish community, while **MLF** serves a city-wide community of [28 locations](#). The Knights of Columbus are blessed to have a supportive parish community and ministries that help them in their efforts to provide warm clothing for those in need.

Juan Cruz □

Editor's note:

As mentioned above, there are other active partners who assist the **MLF** ministry with food preparation / delivery, clothing sorting, etc. These include:

Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Newcomers of San Antonio, NuStar Energy, San Pedro Presbyterian Church, Serve San Antonio, and the Young Men's Service League.

We appreciate all the assistance these organizations provide in furthering our overall mission. If your church, school, service organization, or work place would like to partner with **MLF**, please contact us at mlfnw@sfasat.org to investigate a potential project.

A New Way to Help for the Holidays

I have been working with **MLF** for over 10 years. I am often surprised by new information. It seems I never stop hearing about ways to help in our community.

This past week, a new term I learned was "secondary migrants". As explained by Anne Corcoran, Editor of [Refugee Resettlement Watch](#): "Secondary migrants are refugees who were settled first by the U.S. State Department and a contractor in one state, but choose to move usually because they want to be with their own kind of people, or they find employment and/or social services more desirable elsewhere."

Unfortunately, once a family has been in the U.S. for a few years, they are not able to qualify for assistance through our local Catholic Charities.

As an opportunity to support our community during the holiday season, we are organizing a collection for two Catholic refugee families considered "secondary migrants" in San Antonio. One of them includes a single mother with four children, while the other is a family with seven members. These families arrived here with nothing for their homes. **MLF** can support them with clothing but they also need household items. If you have items to donate like bedding, towels, kitchen basics, furniture or monetary contributions to purchase these items, we will gladly accept them until December 17th. Contact Julie Mellin @ volunteermjf@gmail.com if you would like to participate in this project.

Julie Mellin □