



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

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The 2018 MLF Ministry Report

On January 7, 2007, Father Jim Henke joined Alan Graham and several hundred **St. Francis of Assisi** parishioners to found a new chapter of the **Mobile Loaves & Fishes** program. Since that day, we have celebrated many milestones including:

- Recruiting over 600 volunteers from **SFA** and other churches and organizations;
- Reaching out to 26 locations throughout the San Antonio area; and
- Serving our 500,000th meal on July 17, 2017.

Those achievements have been underscored by the recruitment of 30 new volunteers in 2018 bringing our total membership to 645 individuals. The **MLF** volunteers now staff 46 separate meal preparation teams and 46 meal delivery teams. These impressive

numbers indicate that we have a very loyal volunteer base. Many people have been involved since the beginning. Most only leave if they move out of town or go to their heavenly reward. That fact speaks volumes about the dedication and loyalty of our St. Francis of Assisi parish family.

Although we have not formed any new teams in 2018, we do have some new groups helping us. We have had numerous volunteers from the Young Men's Service League (YMSL) and Student Athletes Serving Others (SASO) helping in the past year. We also have had service days from the **SFA** Boy Scout troop, Antonian High School students, and **SFA** Confirmation candidates. They have sorted clothing, washed the truck, cleaned the kitchen and supported prep and delivery teams. The added help from these groups have enabled us to complete many meals that would not have happened otherwise.

We started delivering to a few new locations in 2018. We moved a team from the Avenir on Perrin Beitel apartments to Madison on Dietrich apartments. We found out that many of our refugee families had moved to Madison to be closer to their work at Tyson Foods. In addition to meals served, our MLF community donated household goods and basic home furnishings to help these families furnish their apartments. Several families were "secondary" refugees meaning they entered the U.S. in other cities and then moved to San Antonio. We have returned to delivering meals to Immaculate Conception Catholic church, and continue to provide meals to St. Timothy's Catholic Church. These churches are both our sister parishes. We also increased our support to Guadalupe Community Center and the bus stop meals through the Interfaith Welcome Coalition by supplying 200 meals per week to each organization.

What does all this mean? Simply put, the St. Francis of Assisi parish community and its **MLF** ministry are faithfully answering Pope Francis' 2013 call to action: ***"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."*** (Apostolic Exhortation, [*Evangeliij Gaudium – The Joy of the Gospel*](#)).

In 2018, the **SFA Mobile Loaves & Fishes** ministry remains as vibrant as ever!

Julie Mellin □

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2018 Year-end Statistical Highlights

- Meals served in 2018: 76,196
- Total number of meals served (January 2007 – December 2018): 611,059
- Average cost per meal (2018): \$1.15
- Typical meal includes: peanut butter & jelly sandwiches and / or turkey & cheese sandwiches, boiled egg, carrots, fruit, chips, dessert, and condiments

The **MLF Core** expresses its appreciation to these various support teams:

Bread pick-up team – 6 members; Clothing team – 3 coordinators and varied members; Commissary & **S.A. Food Bank** pick-up team – 10 members; Condiment team – 27 members; Egg boilers – 27 members; and Truck & kitchen maintenance – 3 members.

Without the work of these groups, our **MLF** ministry could not function as smoothly as it has. Thanks!

Recycling in the MLF Kitchen

“**Our Common Home**” is a new ministry at St. Francis inspired by our patron, St Francis of Assisi and informed by Pope Francis’ encyclical, [Laudato Si](#), in which he refers to the earth as “our common home.” One of our first efforts was to review our parish waste disposal contract to clarify what is accepted for recycling:

Cardboard - Flatten corrugated cardboard boxes and place them in the recycling dumpster. Packaging cartons for desserts, crackers, etc. may also be flattened, stacked in one box and recycled. **MLF** teams already have this right most of the time.

Bread bags can be recycled but must be clean and dry. That would mean turn them inside out to empty the crumbs and place as many bags as will fit into one single bag. Shopping bags may also be treated the same way, stuffed and tied to roughly soccer-ball size. Loose plastic bags should not be recycled since they clog the sorting machines at the recycling plant.

Foam egg cartons may be stacked together and recycled.

Peanut butter jars and jelly jars/bottles may be recycled but only if they are clean. This takes time and uses a lot of water, so it may not be practical for most meal preparation teams.

Plastic water bottles, aluminum or “tin” cans may be recycled, but must not have any liquid in them and should be rinsed clean if needed. Do not recycle bottles that are stuffed with paper wrappers or other debris. Caps may be left on empty water bottles.

The complete list is posted in the **MLF** kitchen.

Gerry Caron □

**HELP
WANTED**

Openings – February 1, 2019

Our **MLF** ministry needs help for these crucial roles:

- 1) **Core Team** members for the **Core Team Director**, **Site Coordinator**, and **Day Volunteer Coordinator** positions (see [Job Descriptions](#)); and
- 2) **Meal prep and delivery volunteers** are needed for various meal shifts. For the complete listing, click this [Immediate Team Openings](#) link.

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

Contact Us

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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 **before canceling a meal run**.
- Call the Commissary person on duty when you encounter food supply shortages. The duty person is listed on a calendar on the bulletin board above the white board.
- Prepare **only** the amount of meals shown on the **Meals Calendar** posted on the refrigerator
- Wear gloves and a baseball cap / hairnet when prepping meals or bagging cookies.
- Do not pack turkey & cheese and peanut butter & jelly sandwiches in the same zip lock bags (peanut food allergies).
- Always use a zip lock bag when re-bagging chips or cookies. It may be several days before those packages are used and the fold over bags allows the contents to get stale.
- Sweep the floor and empty trash / recycling (into commercial bins) after each meal prep.
- Empty the dirty water from the clean-up pail after washing kitchen floors
- 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. □