



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

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## A Message from the Core Director



On the weekend of April 8<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>, our **Mobile Loaves & Fishes** ministry marked a successful 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. With hundreds of parishioners enjoying camaraderie and refreshments, we served over 1,000 slices of cake and recruited 26 new volunteers. Father Vilano joined in the festivities by blessing our **MLF** truck. Coupled with the recent **WOAI News4** feature story and **YouTube** video, the event enabled us to provide a graphic demonstration of how **MLF** continues our mission **"to provide food, clothing, and dignity to our brothers and sisters in need."**

We thank the many **MLF** volunteers, supporters, and donors who help make our outreach program possible.



## A Video Is Worth a Thousand Words...

Our **Mobile Loaves & Fishes** ministry has been recently spotlighted in two excellent video reports.

On April 7<sup>th</sup>, the **News4 San Antonio Today** morning program aired Darlene Dorsey's follow-up story to her original **2013 reporting**. The 2017 feature, titled **"Mobile Loaves & Fishes Celebrates 10 Years of Service,"** updated television viewers on the most recent accomplishments of **MLF** as we celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Father Vilano was interviewed for the report and cited our response to Pope Francis' call "to serve the needs of others."

**WOAI** news anchors Michael Garofalo and Leslie Bohl, noted that **MLF** is "a very impressive organization... congratulations on that milestone and keep supporting them."



On April 21<sup>st</sup>, Rey Lopez, Cindy Pena, and Jessica Quintero, doctoral students at **Texas State University** completed the final revisions / update to their assigned appreciative inquiry. An appreciative inquiry is an in-depth analysis that identifies those key elements of an organization that make it succeed. **Mobile Loaves & Fishes** was selected as the focus for their study. After interviewing various volunteers, filming teams in action, and reviewing the ministry's photographic files, the students compiled a **YouTube** video entitled **"Appreciative Inquiry for Mobile Loaves & Fishes."**

The **MLF Core Team** would like to extend their thanks and appreciation to the **TSU** student producers for their hard work and excellent analysis of the workings of our ministry. (The students are pictured below (L-R): Cindy Pena, Rey Lopez, and Jessica Quintero.)



For links to other articles and news stories highlighting the work of our **MLF** ministry, click this **Publicity** link. □

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## “Live” VIRTUS Training Slated at SFA



Recently, the **MLF Core Team** learned of some key requirements by the Archdiocese of San Antonio for volunteers in parish ministries. All **MLF** participants will be required to complete a Criminal Background Check (CBC) and acknowledge receipt of the Archdiocese Sexual Misconduct Policy. For review of supplementary materials and forms related to these requirements, click this [Information](#) link.

Those **MLF** volunteers who will be working directly with children must also complete Safe Environment Training through **VIRTUS**. Although the **VIRTUS** training is available online, an "in-person" training session will be offered for those volunteers who prefer this format (in lieu of the online version). A 90 minute session will be held on Monday, May 8th at 11:00 a.m. in the Emmaus Room of the San Damiano Building. For additional information or questions, email Julie Mellin at [volunteermf@gmail.com](mailto:volunteermf@gmail.com).

Julie Mellin □



## Future Dentists Care for More than Teeth

Five [UT Health Science Center School of Dentistry](#) students spent a busy morning on April 1<sup>st</sup> -- **no fooling!** Over a two hour period, the group washed the **MLF** truck inside and out, scoured the insides of the kitchen cabinets (removing and replacing all the contents), and thoroughly cleaned the two bread refrigerators in the kitchen. They also sorted, packed, and labeled bins of winter coats for the next cold weather season. The students assisted the lunch prep team by making sandwiches, packing up other lunch items, and clothing.

We had a hard time keeping up with this self-motivated, hard-working group of young professionals. We surely appreciated the total of 10 overall hours they provided to enable our mission to the homeless and working poor.

Gerry Caron □

## Our [Facebook](#) Page Is Always On



The **St. Francis of Assisi MLF [Facebook](#)** page always includes the latest news and ministry information for **MLF** volunteers and supporters. Remember that joining the **MLF Facebook** group is easy and simply requires a volunteer to sign-up for a **free Facebook** account. Click this [Facebook](#) link to begin accessing our **MLF** group. □

## Donate to Honor Your Mother on May 14<sup>th</sup>

It is heartbreaking to see a mother picking up the kids from school and know that she is unable to provide an after-school snack. More than half of the households the [San Antonio Food Bank](#) serves have an adult working full time who struggles to set the table for their family. Imelda, a single parent who works full-time, cannot pick up her children when the school bell rings. She appreciates the **SAFB Kids Café** program because it narrows the food gap between recess and dinner time.

Your [donation](#) means that the Food Bank will have the resources to support a mother in need. With **Mother's Day** in a few weeks, send an early gift today in honor of your mother. You will be contributing to our ongoing efforts to strengthen families in our community.

Cedar Joiner for Eric Cooper, **SAFB** President / CEO

## Contact Us

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**Mobile Loaves & Fishes**

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

## Upcoming Events

May 8 **VIRTUS** training session

July 16 **MLF** Ministry second collection

## A Quick Reminder...

- Captains, notify [mlfnw@sfasat.org](mailto:mlfnw@sfasat.org) or call 210-249-1570 **before canceling a meal run.**
- Since condensation weakens the bottom of paper bags causing contents to spill out, we will begin using only plastic lunch bags.
- Sweep the floor and empty trash / recycling (into commercial bins) after each meal prep.
- Please donate travel size hand soaps, lotions, shampoos, toothbrushes, and toothpaste.
- 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.



The **MLF** ministry is saddened by the recent loss of David Bailey, a dedicated driver and member of several delivery teams. David had a quick wit and always greeted people with a broad smile. We extend our sympathy to his wife Kathy and the rest of his family. Although he will be missed by other volunteers and the people we serve, we know that David will be safely guiding our **MLF** truck drivers. □