



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

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A Message from the Core Team

Thank you all very much for supporting **MLF** during our October second collection. We now have 3 collections per year and each one is vital to our ministry. The monies collected enable us to provide over 6,000 meals per month at an annual cost of nearly \$100,000. We try to be good stewards of your donations by purchasing as many items as possible from the San Antonio Food Bank. However, we still need to order most of the food supplies and kitchen items from our commercial wholesaler.

In case you were curious, although we will now be a ministry totally under the St. Francis of Assisi umbrella, **our funding will continue to come exclusively from:** designated donations from our parishioners, other church's contributions, corporate charities, and various charitable foundations. **We will operate within our own budgetary restrictions without asking the parish for any additional financial support.** Conversely, any funds donated to **MLF** will be used solely for our ministry. We thought we should share this budgetary information as we embark on this new partnership.

In other news, **Mike Kurz**, the **MLF** Commissary manager, was recently honored by **Catholic Charities** as **Volunteer of the Year**. Mike, a member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church, has also recruited Holy Trinity volunteers to participate in an **MLF** 3rd Friday lunch shift. We are so proud of Mike and feel blessed to have his service to our **MLF** ministry. □

Connection between MLF and Catholic Charities Grows

Catholic Charities has collaborated with **Mobile Loaves and Fishes** since its inception. By visiting locations where large populations of refugees are settling (e.g., Apartments on Gardendale, Wurzbach Manor, Ingram Ranch, Fairways & others) and to which **MLF** now provides nearly 1200 sack lunches per month.

Approximately two years ago, a new 2nd, 4th, and 5th Monday lunch team and existing 1st & 3rd Monday lunch teams took on a new prep and delivery to **Guadalupe Community Center (GCC)**, a multi-purpose facility run by Catholic Charities. At that time, the **GCC** pantry was providing 2-3 sacks of food daily to 20 families in need of emergency food supplies, and lunch to homeless people who would stop by. Mike Kurz, Commissary manager for **MLF**, was also doing volunteer work at the emergency food pantry at **GCC**. He spoke to the then Director of **GCC**, Gladys Gonzalez (a parishioner at **SFA**), about providing sack lunches to the transient homeless people who stopped by. She welcomed the offer and **MLF** started out small delivering 25 sack lunches each Monday morning. The number of sack lunches has continued to increase and now involves 150 sack lunches/week (600/750 per month). In addition to the **GCC** arrangement, **Catholic Charities** connected **MLF** to provide sack lunches for a temporary refugee housing unit run by Casa de Raices beginning this past summer. So together with the refugee locations, **MLF** delivers over 2000 sack lunches/month to Catholic Charities-related entities.

On Oct. 23rd, **Catholic Charities** held its annual volunteer luncheon, and presented its "Agency Volunteer of the Year" award to Mike Kurz. Without a doubt this award was given in very large part for the increasingly important contribution that **MLF** has made to Catholic Charities with the **GCC** & Casa de Raices lunches. Especially critical to this award were Julie Mellin, Core Director Emeritus, who successfully twisted my arm while serving at St. Vinny's Bistro (Haven for Hope) to join the **MLF** program 3 years ago, and Butch Rendon, Site Coordinator, Commissary team and overall troubleshooter, convinced me that taking over Commissary Duties would be a "piece of

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cake.”

Additional members of the Monday lunch teams that help to prep the sack lunches deserve to be co-recipients of this award. David & Pat Brown and Evelyn & Ray Slapkunas, who not only help prep each Monday but fill in on delivering to **GCC** during my summer absence, and David Cantu, who helps every Monday. Also, the loyal efforts of the 2nd, 4th & 5th team members (Joe Alonzo, Ann Toscano, Jeanie Racoma, and others), as well as the large 1st Monday team headed by Helen Rendon, and 3rd Monday team headed by Evelyn deserve a lot of credit. These last two teams prep an incredible 380 sack lunches (530 sandwiches) since they do H4H prep & delivery in addition to **GCC**. I would be remiss if I didn't also credit my wife, Kathy, who has strongly supported my volunteer activities and helped when needed in meal preps. Truly this was the result of a “team effort.”

Mike Kurz □

Wherever and Whenever There is a Need

Our **MLF** ministry now serves 27 locations in the San Antonio area, including homeless assistance agencies, neighborhood & community centers, refugee communities near the Medical Center, and several Catholic parishes on the East, South, and West sides.

We prepare and serve lunch and supper meals 7 days a week. If you would like to volunteer to serve on a meal preparation or delivery team, please consult the [Volunteer Now!](#) tab on our website.

These **Friday** teams serve the **Apartments on Gardendale, Haven for Hope, Mt. Zion First Baptist Church, Madonna Neighborhood Center, St. Gerard's and St. Timothy's Catholic Churches:**



For the addresses and a map showing the **MLF** meal delivery locations, click [Service Locations](#). Our daily meal delivery runs can be found at: [Calendar](#). □

Contact Us

**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
Mobile Loaves & Fishes
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San Antonio, TX 78249 Phone: (210) 249-1570**



MLF Now: mlfnow@sfasat.org

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

A Quick Reminder...

- Ensure that doors to clothing bay and ice machine room are locked after prep shifts
- Prepare **only** the amount of meals shown on the **Meals Calendar** posted on the refrigerator.
- Wash out the kitchen sink of debris after prep.
- Sweep the floor and empty trash / recycling (into commercial bins) after each meal prep.
- Transport turkey and cheese sandwich trays on beds of ice.
- 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 the **Traveling Core Director** at **210-249-1570** OR by emailing: mlfnow@sfasat.org

Hopefully, NOT Lost in Translation

MLF News can only be as good (or bad) as you want. **Translation:** Your help is needed to keep this newsletter current and relevant to our ministry. Send any articles, photographs, suggestions or other newsletter-related information to John Deosdade, at this email: deosdade@gmail.com □