

MANN A *in the wilderness*

December 2004

The Newsletter of the Las Vegas Catholic Worker

Volume 19, Number 2

Our Annual Appeal: Gifts Shared and Multiplied



CHRIST OF THE BREADLINES (1953) BY FRITZ EICHENBERG

by Julia Occhiogrosso

The winter mornings are dark. As we drive up to the soupline, I can barely make out the shadowy silhouettes of men and women. I strain for a glimpse of a familiar face. The morning light fills in the details. I see a picture of humanity's fragile courage waiting patiently to be fed with soup and compassion.

When I go out to the soupline I am frequently given an image, a word, a grateful gesture or a conversation that works inside me like a seed, slowly, gradually helping me become someone new. This morning it was Alex, sitting with his blanket wrapped around his shoulder like a king. His stocking cap was hanging to one side and his gray whiskers were poking out of his cheeks. His smile and greetings are always warm and child like. I follow his stare into the distance looking for answers to my own questions of life's uncertainties.

I am continually moved by the gestures of gratitude that are given to us. Presently there is a mystery man from the streets who insists on stuffing a dollar or two into the palm of my hand

after eating his bowl of soup. The last time I saw him, as he was walking away from me after placing a crumpled bill in my

hand, he hollered back proudly "take a look, it's a five dollar bill this time!"

How is it that we are given so much by those who, by the world's standards, have nothing to offer? In our nineteenth year of providing soup and compassion to those on the margins we come to you once again with our annual appeal to help us give back to the poor some of what they have given to us.

We need your financial assistance to fund our soupline, food box project, Hospitality days (weekly showers, laundry services and a homestyle meal served at the Catholic Worker house to seven homeless guests). We also need help with the costs of our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas breakfast feasts. Your faithful support is a true gift to the poor and homeless citizens of Las Vegas.

THE LAS VEGAS CATHOLIC WORKER COMMUNITY

Julia
Julia Occhiogrosso

Ryan
Ryan Hall

Dary
Gary Cavalier

Eug.
D. Eugene Bahn

WEDNESDAY MORNING SOUPLINE VOLUNTEERS:

*Michele Brodoski, Colleen Brown, Jim Dufault,
Modesto Fernandez, Ed Fox,
John Hazard, Fr. John McShane,
Immer Liza Ravallo, Gloria Taylor, Greg Walker*

THURSDAY MORNING SOUPLINE VOLUNTEERS:

*George and Peg Bean, Paul Colbert,
Dale and Peggy Devitt, Norb Drouhard
Tim, Donna, Brenna, Meghan and Sean O'Callaghan*

FRIDAY MORNING SOUPLINE VOLUNTEERS:

*Lara Andrews, Peter Daher, Laurie Rivera,
Rick Kelley, Joan Lum, Patrick "Q" Quilao, Anne Welsh*

SATURDAY MORNING SOUPLINE VOLUNTEERS:

*Lori Bossy, Sonja Brouwers, Marcus Brouwers,
Nick Cavalier, Peter Ediger, Jim France, Brock Fraser,
Kyle Parnell, Erandhi Seneviratne, Mike Sanchez,
St. Thomas More and Our Lady of Las Vegas youth groups*

MONTHLY FOOD BASKET DISTRIBUTION VOLUNTEERS:

*JoAnn Bingham, Lori Bossy, Sonja Brouwers,
Dale and Peggy Devitt, Claudia Trujillo,
Dave and Carol Welch, Anne Welsh*

2004 Statistics:

In 2004, the Las Vegas Catholic Worker will serve over **132,000** servings of soup. We also served over **100,000** cups of iced tea in the summer and hot tea in the winter.

30 food boxes were delivered each month to seniors and low-income families.

CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

Our annual Ham and Egg Breakfast will be served Christmas Morning. We need boneless cooked hams by Tuesday, Dec. 21. Please call 647-0728 to arrange delivery.

EMPTY BOWL BENEFIT

Mark your calendar! The Fourth annual Empty Bowl Benefit will take place on Saturday, April 2, 2005

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS

We need volunteers for our morning soup line, especially Friday mornings, 6:00 - 7:10 a.m. Please call: 647-0728.

Bartlett Street House Blessing

Join Bishop Joseph Pepe at a blessing of the Catholic Worker property at 1420 West Bartlett Ave. on Saturday, Jan. 15, 2005. There will be an Open House from 3 - 5:30 p.m. with the Blessing at 4:30 p.m.

In February 2004, the Franciscan Friars gave this property and three buildings to the Las Vegas Catholic Worker. Three groups started by the Franciscans use the three buildings, they are Poverello House, Nevada Desert Experience and Pace e Bene. Catholic Worker community member Ryan Hall also lives at Bartlett St. and has an office for the Las Vegas Diocese Social Action Ministry there, where he works part-time.

Round Table Discussions

Come join us for Round Table Discussions the second Saturday of each month at the Catholic Worker House. From 8-8:30 a.m. refreshments will be served, from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. will be the presentation. For more info call 647-0728.

Saturday, January 8: Ryan Hall, Catholic Social Teaching.

Saturday, February 12: Sally McDaniel, Non-partisan Federal Elections.

Saturday, March 12: Julia Occhiogrosso, Active Nonviolence, Hope for the Future.

L. V. Catholic Worker Website:
<http://community.link.reviewjournal.com/lvrj/lvcw>
National: www.catholicworker.org

VIGIL FOR PEACE

Every Thursday morning from 8 - 9 a.m. in front of the Federal Court House (vigil takes place at corner of Las Vegas Blvd. & Bridger)

PRAY
FOR
PEACE
IN OUR
WORLD!

(FOR
TAB)

*Thanks to all our
Donors who make this
ministry possible!*

"The ultimate weakness of violence is that it is a descending spiral, begetting the very thing it seeks to destroy... Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."



—Martin Luther King, Jr.

PLEASE JOIN US:

Wed., Fri., Sat., 6:00 a.m.:

Morning prayer at Catholic Worker.

Wednesday-Saturday, 6:30 a.m.:

Breakfast served at G & McWilliams street to the poor and homeless.

Last Saturday of month; 8:30 a.m.:

Deliver food to homes in need, gather for reflection & prayer, call for info.

Wednesday; 8 a.m. - noon:

Hospitality Day, we invite 7 homeless men & women home for showers, to wash clothes, & lunch.

Thursday; 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.:

Vigil for Peace in front of Federal Courthouse, 333 S. Las Vegas Blvd.

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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