

# MANNA *in the wilderness*

December 2005

The Newsletter of the Las Vegas Catholic Worker

Volume 20, Number 2

## Twenty Years of Serving the Sacred

by Julia Occhiogrosso

William\* stands behind us as we pass out bread on the morning soup line. He is painting the sky with his colorful vocabulary. I turn to my ten year old son and stumble to explain the angry words. "I think he is talking to the voices in his head," I whisper. Nick nods as if he understands. It is the first time he has heard his friend William speak like this. Usually he greets Nick with a friendly high five; "What's up cool Nick?" and offers him a trinket from the collection decorating his bicycle.

This morning William sounds like a different person. He moves back and forth between angry outbursts to some imaginary form and friendly conversation with the soup line servers. There are many people both on the streets and not on the streets who's pain and suffering shows itself in acts of anger. The mask of aggression is worn to hide the sorrow and pain. For us at the Catholic Worker, the challenge and commitment is to cultivate relationships that unmask and call forth the goodness and sacredness of even the most

troubled.

As we begin our twentieth year in Las Vegas, we are grateful to so many of our supporters and volunteers who have enabled us to meet this challenge. Your faithful commitment to our efforts of feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless and comforting the afflicted, has born much fruit. In addition to the thousands of lives that have received some form of material comfort, we have witnessed the promise of love, mercy and forgiveness. We have seen the wonder and goodness in those that society has cast off and rejected. Indeed, we have been gifted with the opportunity to experience healing by what they

have awakened in us.

William sits next to me at the table in the dining room of the Catholic Worker House. He smiles with his child-like grin as he enjoys the home-style cooking of our hospitality day lunch meal. I treasure the moment and am filled with deep joy as the truth of his sacredness shines like the light of the world.

As we celebrate our twentieth anniversary, we request your continued generosity. With your support we will continue to be faithful to the principles of Gospel love in action. Understanding and empathy will replace fear and violence. Indeed, Christ will be born again in our midst.

*Blessings,*

### THE LAS VEGAS CATHOLIC WORKER COMMUNITY

*Julia Occhiogrosso*  
Julia Occhiogrosso

*Ryan*  
Ryan Hall

*Dary*  
Gary Cavalier

*Eug.*  
D. Eugene Bahn

### WEDNESDAY MORNING SOUPLINE VOLUNTEERS:

Colleen Brown, Jim Dufault, Mary Evans  
Modesto Fernandez, Ed Fox, Jason Kinder  
John Hazard, Fr. John McShane, Greg Ramirez  
Immer Liza Ravallo, Gloria Taylor, Greg Walker

### THURSDAY MORNING SOUPLINE VOLUNTEERS:

George and Peg Bean, Paul Colbert,  
Dale and Peggy Devitt, Roy Evans, George Evans  
Tim, Donna, Brenna, Meghan and Sean  
O'Callaghan

### FRIDAY MORNING SOUPLINE VOLUNTEERS:

Dr. Sean Ahn, Sally McDaniel, Midgene Spatz,  
Sr. Megan Rice, Patrick "Q" Quilao, Anne Welsh

### SATURDAY MORNING SOUPLINE VOLUNTEERS:

Lori Bossy, Sonja Brouwers, Marcus Brouwers,  
Nick Cavalier, Peter Ediger, Jim & Marilyn France,  
Brock Fraser, Erandhi Seneviratne, Mike Sanchez,  
Katie Barmettler, St. Thomas More youth group

### MONTHLY FOOD BASKET DISTRIBUTION VOLUNTEERS:

JoAnn Bingham, Lori Bossy, Sonja Brouwers,  
Dale and Peggy Devitt, Mario Intino,  
Dave and Carol Welch, Anne Welsh



ARTWORK BY DAVID KLEIN

\* name changed



## Bishop Pepe Volunteers at Catholic Worker Morning Soupline

On October 13, Bishop Joseph Pepe volunteered at the Las Vegas Catholic Worker morning soupline. Bishop Pepe also participated at a house blessing on January 15, 2005 for the Bartlett Avenue property, donated by the Franciscan Friars to the Catholic Worker in 2004. Volunteers with the Bishop in front of the Catholic Worker House of Hospitality (left to right): Sr. Megan Rice, Ryan Hall, Henry Freeman, Bishop Joseph Pepe, Jason Kinder and Modesto Fernandez.

## EMPTY BOWL BENEFIT

Mark your calendar! The Fifth annual Empty Bowl Benefit will take place on Saturday, April 29, 2006

## CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST

Our annual Ham and Egg Breakfast will be served Christmas Morning. We need boneless cooked hams by Tuesday, Dec. 20. Please call 647-0728 to arrange delivery.

### WEBSITES:

[www.lvcw.org](http://www.lvcw.org)  
[www.catholicworker.org](http://www.catholicworker.org)

## POPE OPPOSES WAR IN IRAQ

"There were not sufficient reasons to unleash a war in Iraq. To say nothing of the fact that, given the new weapons that make possible destructions that go beyond the combatant groups, today we should be asking ourselves if it is still licit to admit the very existence of a 'just war'".

-Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, May 2, 2003.

PRAY  
FOR  
PEACE  
IN OUR  
WORLD!

(FOR  
TAB)

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

## Mass at Catholic Worker

on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2006

Please join Fr. Albert Felice-Pace, O.P. and students from the UNLV Catholic Newman Community for a mass at the Catholic Worker House at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be provided after Mass.

**We need volunteers for Friday mornings.  
Please call 647-0728 for information.**

### 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.

**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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