Thank You to our loyal volunteers:

WEDNESDAY MORNING SOUPLINE VOLUNTEERS: Colleen Brown, Jim Dufault, Modesto Fernandez, John Hazard, Chunhwa Jeony, Tony Mostajir, Greg Ramirez, Immer Liza Ravalo, Gloria Taylor

THURSDAY MORNING SOUPLINE VOLUNTEERS: George and Peg Bean, Paul Colbert, Dale and Peggy and Andrew Devitt, Angie Fabrizio, Bonnie Johnson, Brenna O'Callaghan, Tim Underwood

FRIDAY MORNING SOUPLINE VOLUNTEERS: Peter Daher, Jim France, Mark Martinez, Sally McDaniel, Sr. Megan Rice, Anthony Smith, Midgene Spatz, Anne Welsh, Fr. Albert and UNLV Catholic Newman Center

SATURDAY MORNING SOUPLINE VOLUNTEERS: Lori Bossy, Sonja Brouwers, Marcus Brouwers, Brian Clutter, Peter Ediger, Brock Fraser, Justin Norman, Mike Sanchez, Brian Schrader, Carin & Chris White

MONTHLY FOOD BASKET DISTRIBUTION VOLUNTEERS: JoAnn Bingham, Lori Bossy, Dale and Peggy Devitt, Mario Intino, Dave and Carol Welch, Anne Welsh

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by Julia Occhiogrosso

This holiday season brings us the bitter-sweet departure of the Family Promise program. Although the city denied them a zone variance to continue their day site operation out of the the new Catholic Worker House, the public decrying of this decision forced the city to provide an alternative. Family Promise will move into a new day site location in the downtown area by the end of November. While we are saddened by this move we are pleased that the Family Promise program will continue to serve homeless families. We are heartened by the hundreds of people who surfaced to challenge the City Council’s decision and give evidence to the power of integrity.

Also this year, the city enacted an ordinance prohibiting the feeding of the hungry in parks. Individuals were arrested for feeding the homeless in a park. The first case was recently dismissed and the ordinance deemed unconstitutional.

It seems that everywhere we turn there is public rejection and abandonment of the most vulnerable in our society. It is in these times that those who hear the cry of the poor should be strong and persistent in their expectation of justice and compassion for the least of these. At the Catholic Worker we strive in small but faithful actions to hear and comfort the cry of the poor. The Catholic Worker for our part will revisit the mission of the house. We are committed to finding ways to use the facility to respond to the needs of the poor and homeless. It is still possible to offer hospitality and give the homeless a place to live in this building. We will also continue to use the upper level of the house for different workshops and experiential retreats as a means of building community and sharing the hope of the Catholic Worker vision.

With Family Promise moving out, the Catholic Worker takes on the cost of utilities and maintenance of the additional building. We need your financial support to continue the work of the existing projects: the soupline, hospitality day, food boxes, Manna newsletter, as well as the new costs of utilities and maintenance of an additional building. Thank You for your support.

THE LAS VEGAS CATHOLIC WORKER COMMUNITY

Julia Occhiogrosso Gary Cavalier
Volunteers and Catholic Communities Bless Those We Serve

Following are some examples of the many gifts to the poor and homeless given this past year:

Every December, Anne Welsh and JoAnn Bingham set up a table each Saturday where street people can write Christmas Cards to family and friends. Anne and JoAnn furnish the cards and mail them.

The first Wednesday of each month, parishioners from Christ the King Catholic Community gather after Mass to chop ingredients for stew which is served at our soupline Thursday morning. In the summer they prepare hot dogs, watermelon, macaroni salad and corn on the cob.

Maria Carrabis and Christ the King are donating her famous egg caserole for our Christmas Breakfast to be served on Saturday, December 23.

In October, the More Youth students at St. Thomas More Catholic Community organized a Trick or Treat for Hunger. A nearby neighborhood was leafleted the Sunday before that Tuesday to collect non-perishable food. Three van loads of food were collected and given to the Catholic Worker. St. Thomas More also collects our "wish list" items through its annual Christmas in the Fall project, and each summer High School students donate a week of labor to our house through their Lite Retreat doing landscaping and clean-up and painting.

St. Bridget's Catholic Church and St. Viator's Catholic Community collect food for our ministry each month and give us a monthly financial donation. Guardian Angel Cathedral and St. Andrew's in Boulder City also are very generous financially. We also want to thank the Association of Italian Catholics of St. Viator for getting gifts for our food box recipients.

Mark Martinez and Anthony Smith of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary have been coming in each Friday morning at 5 a.m., cooking their famous pasta for our morning soupline. St. Joseph's also donates food and Thanksgiving baskets to our monthly food basket families and seniors.

Families of Montessori Visions Academy students have purchased gifts requested by the homeless men who come to our Wednesday Hospitality Day for Christmas.

Mark Kelso has been cooking every Saturday for our morning soupline, except the first Saturday of each month when he goes on his Carmelite retreat.

Lew Emlund of the Key Foundation (a group that helps homeless vets) has been donating hundreds of bowls, utensils, paper towels and trash bags for our soupline ministry.

Bob Blaskey arranges for a choir to come and sing Christmas Carols to our soupline every December.

In addition to these examples, there are many other volunteers and donors who make this ministry possible.

PRAY FOR PEACE IN OUR WORLD! (FOR TAB)

Into this world, this demented inn, in which there is no room for him at all, Christ has come uninvited. But because he cannot be at home in it, because he is out of place in it, . . . His place is with those who do not belong, who are rejected by power because they are regarded as weak, those who are discounted, who are denied the status of persons, tortured and exterminated. With those for whom there is no room, Christ is present in this world. He is mysteriously present in those for whom there seems to be nothing but the world at its worst.

-Thomas Merton

Please join us:

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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 15 homeless men & women home for show- ers, to wash clothes, & lunch.

Thursday; 8 a.m. - 9 a.m.: Vigil for Peace in front of Federal Courthouse, 333 S. Las Vegas Blvd.