

MANNA *in the wilderness*

December 2006

The Newsletter of the Las Vegas Catholic Worker

Volume 21, Number 2

HEARING THE CRY OF THE POOR

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**



THE LIGHT BY FRITZ EICHENBERG (1951)

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

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, parishoners 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.

EMPTY BOWL BENEFIT

Mark your calendar! The Sixth annual Empty Bowl Benefit will take place on Saturday, March 17, 2007

HOLIDAY BREAKFAST

Our annual Holiday Breakfast will be served December 23. We need boneless cooked hams by Thursday, Dec. 21. Please call 647-0728 to arrange delivery.

Pacific Life Community Retreat

Cultivating Community, Strengthening Resistance, Finding Hope
March 2-4, 2007, Longstreet Hotel, Amargosa, NV and Nevada Test Site entrance, info, call 702-647-0728

WEBSITES:

www.lvcw.org
www.catholicworker.org

Maria Carrabis and **Christ the King** are donating her famous egg casserole 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 with hundreds of leaflets letting neighbors know students would be by 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.

Lewis 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)

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

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 discredited,
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:

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 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.

PRINTING DONATED BY AccuPRINT

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Las Vegas, NV 89106-3039

500 W. Van Buren Avenue

(702) 647-0728

Las Vegas Catholic Worker

PERMIT NO. 1979

LAS VEGAS NV

PAID

U.S. POSTAGE

NONPROFIT ORG.