
MANNA *in the wilderness*

December 2008

The Newsletter of the Las Vegas Catholic Worker

Volume 23, Number 2

OUR ANNUAL APPEAL: THE NEED GROWS

by Julia Occhiogrosso

A few months ago while delivering food boxes to our families, we were approached by a young boy, "Excuse me, my mom was wondering if you could bring her food too?" His worn clothes hung loosely about his frame. Pointing to a stout woman, he explained, "There she is, you can talk to her." With the help of this eleven-year-old translator we were able to understand that Blanca and her husband were trying to support their family of six by traveling around town in a pickup truck collecting recyclables. Blanca and her family are now on our food box list.

To look around this impoverished neighborhood with its blocks of dilapidated housing, it is easy to imagine the countless needs hidden behind each torn window shade, each bolted door. During a return visit to this neighborhood, we were introduced to another mom with five little ones whose husband had just lost his job in construction. Our food box recipient list grew again.

While we may not be able to respond to all the needs at hand, at the Catholic Worker we take very seriously the call to steward what is given to us so that what we receive is shared straightaway with those we serve. In this time of economic strife, we ask for your financial support so that we can continue meeting the needs of others through our soup-line: furnishing 200-meals, four-mornings a week; our hospitality day: offering weekly showers, laundry services, and a sit down meal for 20-men; our hospitality house: providing shelter for homeless men; and our food box project: delivering provisions to numerous families and persons in need.

In our twenty-third year of serving the hungry and homeless in Las Vegas, we are filled with gratitude for your faithful generosity which re-sanctifies the miracle of loaves and fishes over and over again.

Blessings,

**THE LAS VEGAS
CATHOLIC WORKER
COMMUNITY**

*Julia Occhiogrosso &
Gary Cavalier*

THE MORNING KITCHEN CREW

William Reid, Warren Steffen,
Tim Underwood, Eric Velasquez,
Gary Williams



ARTWORK BY DAVID KLEIN

Thank You to our loyal volunteers:

WEDNESDAY MORNING SOUPLINE VOLUNTEERS:

Colleen Brown, Jim Dufault, Modesto Fernandez, Jim Haber,
John Hazard, Chunhwa Jeong, Andrew Kohl, Greg Ramirez,
Immer Liza Ravalo, Gloria Taylor

THURSDAY MORNING SOUPLINE VOLUNTEERS:

George and Peg Bean, Jon Dennis,
Dale and Peggy and Andrew Devitt, Mark Kelso,
Fr. Jerry Zawada

FRIDAY MORNING SOUPLINE VOLUNTEERS:

Tony Crispino, Peter Daher, Jeff Hoose, 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 and Marcus and Shana and Kay Brouwers,
Denbe Cruz, Peter Ediger, Brock Fraser, Dr. Jerry & Julie Jones,
Justin Norman, Laurie Rivera, John Seli, Ryan Taylor

MONTHLY FOOD BASKET DISTRIBUTION VOLUNTEERS:

JoAnn Bingham, Lori Bossy, Dale and Peggy Devitt,
Dave and Carol Welch, Anne Welsh

LOVE IS THE REASON

by Dorothy Day

One thing children certainly accomplish, and that is that they love and wonder at the people and the universe around them. They live in the midst of squalor and confusion and see it not. They see

people at the moment and love them and admire them. They forgive and they go on loving. They may look on the most vicious person, and if he is at that moment good and kind and doing something

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which they can be interested in or admire, there they are, pouring out their hearts to him. Oh yes, I can write with authority. I have my own little grandchildren with me right now, and they see only the beauty and the joy of the Catholic Worker and its activities. There is no criticism in their minds and hearts of others around them.

My daughter, too, was raised among the poor and most abandoned of human beings. She was only seven when the Catholic Worker started, and now she has a daughter of seven and four others besides.

It is good to be able to write with authority about the family, about poverty in

our day—the involuntary poverty which all families must endure—about insecurity and unemployment. A few years ago, visiting my daughter, I was lying awake at 2 a.m., worrying because David had just lost his job and Tamar was about to have her fifth child. The former boss, who also owned the house they lived in, had come bearing oranges for the children and to tell them to move at once. What a strange juxtaposition of gestures! And I was torn between wrath and the necessity to train oneself in loving one's enemies, hating the sin but loving the sinner.

But then I thought, "Thank God I have this suffering of joblessness and insecurity and homelessness together with others. This day, for the sake of the family, there are so many compromises. But we must learn to accept this hardest of all sufferings, the suffering of those nearest

and dearest to us. Thank God for this training in suffering." Accepting this made it easier at the time to go back to sleep. Since then there has been more of the same. Thank God for everything.

The fundamental means of the Catholic Worker are voluntary poverty and manual labor, a spirit of detachment from all things, a sense of the primacy of the spiritual, which makes the rest easy. "God's praise should be ever on our mouth."

The reason for our existence is to praise God, to love God and serve God, and we can do this only by loving our brothers and sisters. "All people are brothers and sisters." This is the great truth that makes us realize God. Great crimes, it is true, have been committed in the name of human brotherhood; that may serve to obscure the truth, but we must keep on saying it. We must keep on saying it because Love is the reason for our existence. It is what we all live for, whether we are the hanger-on in Times Square or the most pious member of a community.

Dorothy Day co-founded the Catholic Worker movement in 1933 with Peter Maurin in New York City. This excerpt from an article was written in 1953.

**23rd Annual
Christmas Breakfast
for the homeless
Thursday, December 25th**

**Mark your calendars!
The Ninth Annual
Empty Bowl Benefit
will take place on
Saturday, March 21, 2009
Last year's benefit raised over
\$22,000 for the Catholic Worker**

Monthly Liturgy
We will be gathering the fourth
Wednesday of each month for
prayer at 6:00 p.m. at the
Catholic Worker in the "upper
room" in the new building. A
potluck meal will follow.
Dates: January 28,
February 25, March 25

**WEBSITES:
www.lvcw.org
www.catholicworker.org**

**PRAY FOR
PEACE
IN OUR
WORLD!** (FOR
TAB)

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

ECONOMY, Pope Pius XI, 1931

Some have become so deaf to the voice of conscience that they have grown to believe that they have the right to make money no matter how, using fair means or foul to protect their hard-won gains from the accidents of fortune. Easy returns, such as anyone may win in a market subject to no control, allure great numbers to the business of sale and exchange with no other aim than the making of clear profits with the least trouble to themselves; speculating without restraint,

they raise and lower the price of goods at their own greedy whim—the makers of them, however careful, being quite thrown out of their reckoning in the matter.

Again, the legal provisions in favor of limited liability companies have been the occasion of scandalous abuses. When responsibility is so weakened down, it has little hold upon the conscience; so much is obvious. Then, too, we may all see how the impersonal name of some firm is made a safe cloak for the worst injustice and frauds, and how unscrupulous boards of directors

betray the trust of clients whose savings they undertook to administer. Lastly, there are the clever and conscienceless men who rouse an appetite for their wares without asking themselves if they serve a decent purpose; pandering to that appetite, they thrive on the wants they have created.

These monstrous evils might have been checked—they might even have been averted—if the moral law in all its strictness had been vigorously enforced by civil authority; but too often such action was miserably lacking.

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 streets to the poor and homeless.
Last Saturday of month, 8:00 a.m.:
Deliver food to homes in need.
Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. - noon:
Hospitality Day, we invite 20 homeless men & women home for showers, to wash clothes, & lunch.
Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.:
Vigil for Peace in front of Federal Courthouse, 333 Las Vegas Blvd. S.
Thursday, 11:30 a.m.:
50 Bag lunches delivered to homeless.
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