

# MANNA *in the wilderness*

March 2009

The Newsletter of the Las Vegas Catholic Worker

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## KNIGHTS SERVE MONTHLY PANCAKE FEAST

by Gary Cavalier

On the second Saturday of each month around four in the morning, Knights of Columbus members start arriving at our two Houses of Hospitality. They quickly set up their efficient system of griddles, a labyrinth of thick electrical cords go to different outlets to keep the circuit breakers from popping. The Knights cook around 600 pancakes for our morning soup line. Soon the home is filled with the smell of pancakes, and the pleasant aroma lingers throughout the weekend.

Both our Hospitality Houses are strained to capacity as the ovens in both homes are loaded with sausage, our two stoves are boiling bags of scrambled eggs in four ten-gallon pots, and three other ten-gallon pots are full of boiling cut potatoes. When the eggs are done, the hot water is used to make two pots of coffee and one of hot tea.

Our pancake breakfast is the idea of our volunteer Anthony Smith, who saw the Knights cook up huge numbers of pancake breakfasts for members of the St. Joseph, Husband of Mary parish.

At first we were skeptical that the logistics of preparing such an enormous breakfast would be feasible, but it has worked out well and is very popular with the folks in our soup line and our volunteers.

To do the pancake breakfast properly requires over 30 volunteers. Since we have enough volunteers to have three lines, our guests do not have to wait in line as long. It takes 12 volunteers, four at each table, to serve the pancakes, eggs, sausage and potatoes with gravy. It takes another 18 volunteers to serve butter, warm syrup, salsa, coffee, hot tea, cold tea and to distribute all the great food we get from Whole Foods, including orange juice, milk, pastries, and hard boiled eggs.

The Knights have been generous in donating the pancakes, eggs and sausage. The Catholic Worker has been supplying the potatoes with gravy, compartment plates, salsa,



From left to right: Spatulas in hand, Edgar Castro, Dave Ryan, Theo Kurvers and Patrick Christopher along with other members of the Knights of Columbus cook up around 600 pancakes each month for the morning soup line.



PHOTOS BY GARY CAVALIER

We serve around 200 poor and homeless people at 6:30 a.m., Wed. - Sat. We have enough volunteers to have 3 serving lines, plus separate lines for bread and hot and cold tea. With Whole Foods donations we are usually able to distribute pastries, milk, coffee, hard boiled eggs and orange juice.

syrup, margarine and the drinks.

There were a few months last year when the Knights did not have enough funds to do the breakfast. At the Catholic Worker, we also have seen a drop in donations during these tough economic times and have had to cut costs.

Through the generosity of the Knights of Columbus and donors to the Catholic Worker, we hope to keep serving this feast each month, being able to treat each guest as if they are Jesus himself.

Many mornings after our soup line, our guest Edilberto says, "Thanks for the banquet." To prepare with care a feast for the poor is a simple, yet powerful way to give expression to the goodness that will heal a suffering world.



Our special breakfast includes 2 pancakes, eggs, potatoes with gravy and 2 sausage patties. We also have warm syrup, margarine and salsa available.

**Please help us advertise the Empty Bowl Benefit**  
**This is our big fundraiser for the year! (Ad on back)**  
Additional posters at our website: [www.lvcw.org](http://www.lvcw.org)  
Click on the Empty Bowl

## Monthly Liturgy

We will be gathering the fourth Wednesday of each month for prayer at 6:00 p.m. at the Catholic Worker. A potluck meal will follow.

Dates: March 25,  
April 22, May 27

We need more  
volunteers to help at  
our morning soupline  
on Wednesdays,  
Thursdays and Fridays  
Call (702) 647-0728 for more  
information

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

## Pope Benedict:

### “Self-Interest Will Ruin the World”

Pope Benedict XVI contradicted the reigning philosophies of self-interest, warning listeners gathered to hear his Angelus reflection on the Feast of Christ the King: “If each one thinks only of his or her own interests, the world can only go to ruin.”

Contrasting the message of Jesus with the idea of basing our lives and economics on self-interest and rugged individualism, the Holy Father reflected on our favorite Scripture passage, “the stupendous parable of the Last Judgment,” chapter 25:31ff of Matthew’s Gospel. “The images are simple, the language is popular,” he said, “but the message is extremely important: It is the truth about our ultimate destiny and about the criterion by which we will be evaluated: ‘I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. . .’ (Mt 25:35)”

This passage from Matthew 25 is at

# Empty Bowl Benefit Luncheon and Auction

### Helping to Feed the Hungry in Las Vegas

Saturday, March 21, 2009, 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Green Valley High School Cafeteria, 460 Arroyo  
Grande Blvd. (just North of Warm Springs Rd.)  
Henderson, Nevada

Adults: \$12, Children 12 & under: \$10

A lunch of soup and bread will be served in hand-made bowls. Each attendee will select their own unique ceramic bowl made by members and friends of the Nevada Clay Guild and keep it as a lasting reminder of world hunger.

All proceeds from the luncheon will benefit the Las Vegas Catholic Worker and their soupline serving the poor and homeless. There will be a live auction of original ceramic art and art from the Fiber Guild from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. A silent auction will also take place. Tickets will be sold at the door. For advance tickets or info contact Julia at 647-0728, or [julia@lvcw.org](mailto:julia@lvcw.org), or Donna at 799-0950 x114034. Thanks to Green Valley High School, Aardvark Clay, and all the artists who participated in making the bowls. This event is sponsored by the Nevada Clay Guild, Green Valley High School, Aardvark Clay, and the Fiber Guild.



**PRAY FOR  
PEACE  
IN OUR  
WORLD!**

(FOR  
TAB)

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

the heart of the Catholic Worker movement. We rejoiced to see Pope Benedict put our whole lives in the world in this perspective, showing the disastrous results which will occur if everything is based on looking out for oneself:

“Who does not know this passage?” the Pope asked. “It is part of our civilization. It has marked the history of the peoples of Christian culture: the hierarchy of values, the institutions, the

multiple charitable and social organizations. In fact, the Kingdom of Christ is not of this world, but it brings to fulfillment all the good that, thank God, exists in man and in history. If we put love for our neighbor into practice in accordance with the Gospel message, we make room for God’s dominion and his Kingdom is actualized among us.” (Excerpted from an article in the *Houston Catholic Worker* by Mark and Louise Zwick)

#### PLEASE JOIN US:

**Wednesday-Saturday, 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.

**Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. - noon:**

Hospitality Day, we invite 20 homeless men home for showers, to wash clothes, and to have a great 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.

**Last Saturday of month, 8:00 a.m.:**

Deliver food boxes to homes in need.

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