

MANNNA *in the wilderness*

December 2012

The Newsletter of the Las Vegas Catholic Worker

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Dorothy Day: Mid-Winter Reflection

This is an essay from the January 1935 issue of The Catholic Worker newspaper written by Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement in New York in 1933.

by Dorothy Day

It is a cold night and we are writing in the kitchen where there are no draughts. Barbara, our co-operative apartment baby, sits on her mother's lap by the table and she, too, is writing an editorial though she is only five months old. In her zeal she tries first to eat the pencil her fond mother has given her, and then the paper. On the wall there are three pictures which attract her attention. She calls out to them, trying to crow. There is a Polish Madonna, a Negro Madonna and a picture of a Madonna and a worker by Ade Bethune. She likes that best of all. Teresa is drawing pictures, too, and when she shows them to the baby, Barbara laughs and makes bubbles. The black cat lies in restful abandon in front of the stove. It is one of those rare evenings when there are no visitors, when the work of the day seems to be over, though it is only seven-thirty. It is a good time to sit and write editorials. An editorial, for instance, on charity. St. Saviour's High School and Cathedral High School sent down so many baskets of food, including hams and canned goods, potatoes and all the trimmings for Christmas dinners, that the office was piled high for at least three hours until they were all distributed. It is true it did not take long to distribute them, there is such need around here. There were toys, too, dolls for the girls, and other toys for the boys, all beautifully wrapped and be-ribboned. Bundles of clothes came in, including many overcoats, and they went out as fast as they came in. They came in response to the story of the man who had to accept a woman's woolen sweater in lieu of underwear or overcoat. I hope they keep coming in.

I'd like to have everyone see the poor worn feet, clad in shoes that are falling apart, which find their way to THE CATHOLIC WORKER office. A man came in this rainy morning and when he took off one dilapidated rag of footwear,

his sock had huge holes in the heel and was soaking wet at that. We made him put on a dry sock before trying on the pair of shoes we found for him, and he changed diffidently, there under the eye of the Blessed Virgin on the bookcase, looking down from her shrine of Christmas greens. But his poor, red feet were clean. Most of the men and women who come in from the lodging houses and from the streets manage cleanliness, what with the public baths. I heard of one man who washed his underwear in the public

baths, and sat there as long as he could in that steam-laden, enervating atmosphere until it was not quite too wet to put on. For the rest, it could dry on his skin. Not a pleasant thought in bitter weather.

Our prayer for the new year is that "the members might be mutually careful one for another. And if one member suffers anything, all the members suffer with it; or if one member glory, all the members rejoice with it."

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“...love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing compared with love in dreams.”

*-From The Brothers Karamazov (1881) by Fyodor Dostoyevsky
This was one of Catholic Worker co-founder Dorothy Day's favorite quotes. (Drawing of Dorothy Day by Fritz Eichenberg)*

(continued from front page)

It would seem, however, that the glory comes only through suffering this present day when we look upon the Mystical Body reviled and assaulted in Mexico, Spain, Russia, not to speak of the physical suffering of the poor all over the world.

WE REPEAT—

The only immediate remedy is the practice of the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. When asked what is the program of THE CATHOLIC WORKER by those who are interested in political action, legislation, lobbying, class war, we reply—It is the program set forth by Christ in the Gospels. The Catholic Manifesto is The Sermon on the Mount. And when we bring THE CATHOLIC WORKER into the streets and public squares, and when we picket the Mexican consulate, it is to practice the spiritual works of mercy—to instruct the ignorant and to comfort the afflicted.

Unless the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it. There is no use looking for a revival in business, a return of prosperity, until the hearts and minds of men be changed. If we wish for a program, let us look into our own hearts. The beginning is there.

Thank you for your loyal support, which gives us the privilege and opportunity to provide a place for the lost and forsaken. We need your help to sustain the Catholic Worker witness in Las Vegas.

We need Soup Line Volunteers on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 6 a.m. - 7 a.m. call 647-0728 or e-mail: mail@lvcw.org

Passing the Buck

by Peter Maurin, who along with Dorothy Day, founded the Catholic Worker movement in New York in 1933.

1. In the first centuries of Christianity the poor were fed, clothed, and sheltered at a personal sacrifice and the Pagans said about the Christians: "See how they love each other."
2. Today the poor are fed, clothed, and sheltered by the politicians at the expense of the taxpayers.
3. And because the poor are no longer fed, clothed, and sheltered at a personal sacrifice but at the expense of taxpayers Pagans say about Christians: "See how they pass the buck."

(The Las Vegas Catholic Worker receives no government funds.)

**Websites: www.lvcw.org
www.catholicworker.org**

**PRAY FOR
PEACE
IN OUR
WORLD!**

(FOR
TAB)

**Thank You to our donors who
make this ministry possible.
2013: Our 27th year!**

Estimated Statistics for 2012:

- Soupline:**
Bowls of Soup served: 103,627
Cups of Hot & Cold Tea: 103,000
Loaves of Bread used: 2,500
- Hospitality Day:**
Lunches served: 1,310
Showers given: 920
- Monthly Food Box distribution:**
Food Boxes given out: 405
- Hospitality House guests:**
Room for 4-6 guests, average: 5

Our 27th Annual Christmas Breakfast for the poor and homeless

**will take place on
Saturday, Dec. 22, 2012
starting at 6:30 a.m.**

This year, Knights of Columbus members will cook about 1,920 pancakes, 720 eggs and 480 sausages. We will also cook 90 pounds of potatoes with 18 pounds of gravy, 20 gallons of coffee, 5 gallons of tang, along with butter, salsa, syrup, creamer and sugar. Church groups will be giving out wrapped socks as gifts. To volunteer, please call 647-0728 or e-mail: mail@lvcw.org

Mark your calendars! The Thirteenth Annual Empty Bowl Benefit

**will take place on
Saturday, March 16, 2013**

**Last year's benefit raised over
\$30,000 for the Catholic Worker
(1/3 of our total income for year)**

Morning Soupline Statistics:

- Soup:** Wednesday: Rice
Thursday: Mac & Cheese
Friday: Spaghetti
Saturday: Rice
- Each morning** we cook 40 - 60 gallons of soup. Also provided each morning: Hot & Iced Tea, Bread, Juice and Water. **Monthly:** Christ the King Stew (1st Thurs.) **Quarterly:** Knights of Columbus Pancake, Egg, Sausage and Potato Breakfast.

PLEASE JOIN US:

- Wednesday-Saturday*, 6:00 a.m.:**
Morning prayer at Catholic Worker.
- Wednesday-Saturday*, 6:30 a.m.:**
Breakfast served to the poor & homeless.
*closed on fourth Saturday of month
- Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.:**
Hospitality Day, we invite 20 homeless men home for showers, to wash clothes, and to have a great lunch.
- Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.:**
Vigil for Peace in front of Federal Courthouse, 333 Las Vegas Blvd. S.
- Thursday, 10:30 a.m.:**
50 Bag lunches delivered to homeless.
- Third Saturday of month, 8:00 a.m.:**
Deliver food boxes to homes in need.
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Las Vegas Catholic Worker
(702) 647-0728
500 W. Van Buren Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89106-3039
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