POVERELLO HOUSE

A welcoming place

Tucson, Arizona Vol. 2. Issue 1 Thanksgiving, 2010

Serving others in the Franciscan Tradition, Poverello House

provides daytime hospitality for the homeless that includes opportunity for breakfast, lunch, laundry and showers as well as clothing .

THE LOGIC OF GIFT

As we approach Thanksgiving of 2010, I'd like to share with you, our faithful supporters, a paragraph about St. Francis of Assisi (1181-1226) from the Order of Friars Minor gathered in Chapter in Assisi, Italy. St. Francis began the tradition of the Franciscan friars regularly gathering in Chapter together from around the world, to encourage and discuss with each other, their ministries and communities in the Gospel life. Currently, the Chapter gathers every six years. This paragraph is part of the document entitled "Bearers of the Gift of the Gospel," from the 2009 Chapter.

The evangelical creativity that Francis and his brothers use in proclaiming the Gospel of peace is evident: consider the way he succeeds in making peace between the bishop and mayor of Assisi, in conflict with each other. Francis acts in a simple and intelligent way: he does not get involved in questions of economics and power that had divided them; he does not pretend to find a "political" solution to the conflict: he simply invites them to listen to the Canticle, a song whose lyrics and music he had composed. His creativity suggests the way to help them resolve their differences, based on his own gift. What is more effective than music and song to move feelings and speak to the heart? The "logic of gift" clearly appears as an alternative to the logic of price, of profit, of utility and power, which dominated then as it does in our world today.

Thanksgiving Day is that rare combination in the United States of a uniquely secular holiday dedicated to giving God thanks. We give thanks for your gifts to our ministry which allows us to give the gift of hospitality to our homeless brothers and we give thanks to God for the gift of our lives, talents and this beautiful creation.

Yours in Christ and Francis,
David Buer, ofm

Fr Camillus celebrating Mass at Poverello House

A CELEBRATION OF THANKSGIVING

On Sunday, November 14, friends and supporters of Poverello House gathered in thanksgiving to celebrate the third year of service at Poverello. Fr. Camillus celebrated Mass and then dinner was enjoyed by the 55 folks who attended the get-together. Poverello House opened its door to guests in late October, 2008. Since then, five days a week, between 10 and 12 homeless men have come to enjoy its positive environment. They have an opportunity to shower, shave, wash their clothes and enjoy a hearty breakfast and lunch. Perhaps the most significant by-product of Poverello House is the camaraderie that develops among the guests. Because the men are assigned a particular day of the week, generally the same group gathers on a given day. The numbers of volunteers supporting Poverello House with the donation of their time, their financial resources, with used clothing and food continues to grow. In its third year and hopefully, well into the future, the pumpkin colored house on Lee Street continues to be a vibrant oasis for those who face life on the streets of Tucson and an opportunity for the Tucson community to provide Franciscan hospitality.

Peppers from Carl's fall garden spice up life at Poverello House!

MEET THE POVERELLO BOARD

Br. David

Anne

Karen

Chuck

Colin

BROTHER DAVID BUER, OFM, the founder and director of Poverello House., is a Franciscan Brother who has been working with homeless men and women for almost 30 years. In Tucson, Brother David has worked the nightly "Soup Patrol", a winter outreach ministry to the homeless coordinated by Most Holy Trinity Parish. From noon to 4:30 PM on six days a week during the hottest time of year, Br. David runs Cooling Centers where folks receive brown bag lunches, cold drinks and spend time resting in air conditioning. In winter, he runs an Emergency Winter Shelter which offers a homeless shelter each night from mid December to mid February.

ANNE REISSNER a retired educational administrator, has many years experience in ministering to the needs of others including those in prison. She is currently involved in outreach to the homeless with " The Soup Patrol" , mentioned above and helps to staff cooling centers for the homeless in the summer months. In addition, she serves on the Board of Directors for BorderLinks and participates in ministry to the homebound at Most Holy Trinity Parish.

KAREN HASSETT is a retired nurse, who has worked in the health care profession for 35 years. In that capacity she has managed medical and oncology units for a major medical organization. Karen is a member of Most Holy Trinity parish and serves in various ministries within the parish. She has been working with Brother David for the past three years in working with the homeless in Tucson.

CHARLES R. DUNN is an Associate Vice President in the Private Client Group of RBC Wealth Management, a division of RBC Capital Markets Corporation. Mr. Dunn is an active board member for various charitable organizations including the Diocese of Tucson Catholic Community Services and the St. Cyril Educational Foundation. As a member of the Board of Poverello House he is active in the recruitment of volunteers and donors of food and supplies.

COLIN COTTER is a young man who is making an effort to become more involved in the Tucson community and in helping those less fortunate. He has served on the Poverello House Advisory Board starting in 2010 and has coordinated many lunches and the donation of useful items to the Poverello House. He serves on the Corpus Christi Parish Outreach Ministry team and will act as the liaison to get Corpus Christi more involved with the Poverello House.

THANKS DUE

Thanks and well wishes are due to Gary Province who has moved on after serving at Poverello House as Kitchen Manager for 21 months . His legacy of wall photos and the memory of his Southern hospitality assure that he will not be forgotten.

NEW RESPONSIBILITIES

With the arrival in Tucson of his daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren, House Manager, Carl Zawatski, has taken on new responsibilities as father and grandfather. He is, however, still very dedicated and committed to his many duties at Poverello. Thanks to Carl and welcome to Amanda, Jeff, Kassidy and Cameron.

NEW FACES AT POVERELLO

Assistant House Manager
Eric Nicholson

Originally from Phoenix, Eric has been in Tucson for the past two years and at Poverello House for the past two months. He likes the positive environment, enjoys working outdoors and finds satisfaction in adding to the appearance of the house.

Kitchen Manager
Tom Favory

POV-

Tom grew up in Fort Wayne, Indiana and has been in Tucson off and on since 1978. Having experienced homelessness himself, he finds satisfaction in giving back by helping others.

A Sunday Regular

Jessie

Stop by Poverello House any Sunday and you will probably meet Jessie. He is a tall imposing looking guy but has a certain gentleness and a ready smile. Jessie has been on and off the street for several years. Born in a small town near Fresno. California, he graduated from high school and went to work in a door factory. He married and had a child. After nine years the marriage ended in divorce and Jessie found himself at loose ends; bored with his job, and alone.

A buddy of his who had rode freight trains for a number of years, told Jessie he should try it. At first Jessie wasn't interested, but his friend said it was a great way to see the country and meet interesting people. He remembered that his grandfather had rode the rails and had plenty of stories about it. Jessie decided to give it a try, and he enjoyed it for a while. He told me how he would sit on top of a box car and watch the scenery go by and marvel at the beauty of this country. He would stop at big cities and get some work. Then, when he had enough money, he would return to riding the rails.

When he felt it was time to stop, he ended up in Yuma where his dad had been raised. There he met up with some friends and lived at a river camp. He said he enjoyed being outside, and it was quite pleasant living on the river. He got jobs digging ditches and laying pipe and had pretty regular work. He found the heat in Yuma oppressive so together with some friends, he moved on to Tucson.

Initially he would go to the Plasma Center to make money, but after a few months, he got a good construction job. He married again and had twin boys. The marriage broke up after six years.

Jessie states that he really went downhill after that. He would visit the labor halls for day work and might get work 2-3 times a week. He again got a job in construction. He had section 8 housing and was very comfortable in his apartment, and then he got laid off and lost his housing because he couldn't meet the rent payments. Since then he has been living on the streets off and on for a couple of years.

Jessie has connected with a family here in Tucson. He has been working for them doing yard work, walking the dog, and cleaning the house. He has even house sat for them and is grateful to them for the trust they have in him and the opportunity to be a part of their family.

Jessie will get some temporary work at an event coming to Tucson. With what he earns, he hopes to visit his mother and sister up in the Fresno area. He is really looking forward to that as it has been a long while since he has seen them.

Jessie heard about Poverello House from a friend and came by the house to sign up. He has been a very faithful Sunday visitor. He enjoys coming to Poverello house and being a part of that household once a week. At Poverello House he feels that he is valued as a human being because of the respect and care of the staff and volunteers. To him, Povorello House is a safe haven from the difficulties of living on the streets. He also enjoys the home cooked meals!

Submitted by Edna Greene, Poverello House Volunteer

MEET JULIA'S BROTHERS

Julia Ramos has, since Poverello House opened, served as a volunteer on Thursdays and considers the guests who come on that day her brothers. Meet a few of Julia's Thursday brothers:

Tony Sanchez

According to Tony, Poverello House is a great place. It helps people get resources they can not get elsewhere. He knows that most who come there want to work. Poverello helps them to clean up, have clean clothes and improve their chances of getting a job.

Jorge Becerra

Jorge enthusiastically points out that Poverello House is a beautiful place. It is "a stepping stone for folks to get out of the homeless thing." His admiration and praise for Br. David were evident. He claims that when ever he meets David good things happen!

James Fairweather

James experiences Poverello House as a sanctuary. He feels that it is great that people can get off of the streets for a day to relax and and feel better about themselves.

If we are worth anything, it is not because we have more money or more talent, or more human qualities. Insofar as we are worth anything, it is because we are grafted on to Christ's life, his cross and resurrection. That is a person's measure. --*Archbishop Oscar Romero*

The Canticle of the Sun

Most High, all powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, the honor,
and all blessing.

To You alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no one is worthy to mention Your name.

Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures,
especially through my lord Brother Sun,
who brings the day; and you give light through him.
And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendor!

Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.
Praise be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon
and the stars, in heaven you formed them
clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,
and through the air, cloudy and serene,
and every kind of weather through which
You give sustenance to Your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,
which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,
through whom you light the night and he is beautiful
and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains us and governs us and who produces
varied fruits with colored flowers and herbs.

Praised be You, my Lord,
through those who give pardon for Your love,

and bear infirmity and tribulation.
Blessed are those who endure in peace
for by You, Most High, they shall be crowned.

Praised be You, my Lord,
through our Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no living man can escape.
Woe to those who die in mortal sin.

Blessed are those whom death will
find in Your most holy will,
for the second death shall do them no harm.

Praise and bless my Lord,
and give Him thanks
and serve Him with great humility.

St. Francis of Assisi

A Blossoming Partnership

Corpus Christi Parishioners have been getting involved with many of the great ministry opportunities available at the Poverello House. The Corpus Christi Outreach Ministry group included the Poverello House in their annual giving tree drive and the parish donated many useful items for the house, including shampoo, toothpaste, laundry detergent, dish soap, and many toiletry items. Outreach Ministry is also starting to coordinate a schedule for parishioners to contribute prepared lunches for the guests at the Poverello House to enjoy. The Corpus Christi Shawl Ministry group donated numerous beautiful hand knitted and crocheted blankets, scarves and hats for the Poverello guests to utilize last winter and they are planning to contribute more useful items for the guests to utilize around Christmas time. Corpus Christi Parishioners have also taken the time to visit the Poverello House and spend time with the guests. The Poverello House greatly appreciates all of the compassion and support that Corpus Christi Parish has provided and will continue to provide.

Characteristics of Homeless Persons in Tucson

(Taken from a report entitled *Characteristics of People Assessing Homelessness Services* in Pima County from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010)

- 65% were single adults; 35% were adults and children in families.
- 22% were children under age 18 and 78% were adults
- 64% were male; 35% were female and 1% were transgender or unknown.
- 5% were veterans
- 32% of adults had a disability of long duration
- 11% of adults were living with a mental illness

Potential Grants ?

If you are aware of potential grantors or would like to spend time researching and writing grant proposals for the support of Poverello, please let Br. David know. He can be reached at 314-803-6735 .

Poverello House costs about $3000 a month to operate. Any donation that you can contribute will be put right to use to help pay for our rent, utilities, supplies and food. We also could use volunteers to be present during the days we are open. [Wed. thru Sun. from 8 AM to 4 PM] or to bring in lunch. ***As you determine your end of year giving, we hope you will remember Poverello House!*** *Please use the enclosed envelope to make a tax-exempt donation or let us know how you'd like to help.*

Checks may be made payable to Poverello House Thank you.

Poverello House, P. O. Box 50782, Tucson, AZ 85703.