



POVERELLO HOUSE

A welcoming place

Tucson, Arizona

Vol. 5. Issue 1 Spring, 2013



*Serving others in the
Franciscan Tradition,
Poverello House*

*provides daytime hospital-
ity for the homeless that
includes opportunity for
breakfast, lunch, laundry
and showers as well as
clothing.*

SPRINGTIME AT POVERELLO HOUSE

This morning I assisted at the morning shift from 8 AM to 12 noon at Poverello House. It is St. Patrick's Day, so Marty cooked up some corned beef and cabbage and we all ate green St. Patrick's Day cupcakes. Our neighbor, James, celebrated his 94th birthday today and three generations of his loving family surrounded him. They were all wearing green.

We had a full house today. We were able to accommodate three new guests, but we had to turn away a fourth new guest. We have an agreement with the Northwest Neighborhood Association, to not average over 10 guests a day, to lessen the impact on our neighborhood. Every 4 months or so, we host the meeting for the NW Neighborhood and last month we met a neighbor who manages a nearby facility for the Severely Mentally

Ill (SMI). Two of our neighbors and Poverello House are discussing the possibility of sharing the cost of putting in a street light in our alley. It is part of our "good neighbor policy." Later this month, we'll participate in an annual neighborhood clean up with students from the University of AZ.

Mike, our neighbor to the west, was recently up on his roof making some repairs, so we invited him over for lunch. Across the street recently, our neighbor's car wouldn't start, so we neighbors gathered together to get her jump started.

I shop weekly for our needs and I can tell it is spring because Eric adds onto the shopping list items for our yard. Today, it was potting soil with Miracle Grow in it. Now I know one of his secrets, for keeping so many plants so green in the middle of the desert.

It was inspiring to see our new Pope Francis, from Argentina, as he began his new ministry to the church throughout the world. He said he took the name Francis, to remember the poor. Our name, "Poverello," comes from that name given to St. Francis by the Italian speakers of his day—the little poor man. We are grateful, for your ongoing support to our ministry among the Poverello's of Tucson.

David Buer, ofm



A GOOD PLACE TO BE

*On a sunny Tucson day –
(not on the street!)*

*Michael is reading in his
favorite corner out back.*

*Ernesto is stretched out,
dozing in the back TV
Room. It's darker there. He
doesn't rest well in the
park.*

*Two volunteers are putting
labels on the return enve-
lopes that came with this
newsletter!!*

*Three of the men are enjoy-
ing their lunch (beef stro-
ganoff) while they watch a
weekend TV show.*

*Marty tidied up the kitchen
and Eric started with new
spring plantings outside-
flowers.*

*And our next door
neighbor,
James, smiles and wel-
comes any visitors.*

*Poverello House—
a good place to be.*

Reflection by
Ed Reissner, volunteer

POVERELLO HOUSE — A SPECIAL PLACE — WITH SPECIAL PEOPLE



A DEPENDABLE VOLUNTEER

If you happen to stop by Poverello House on Wednesday or Friday morning, you will have an opportunity to meet John Nelson, a regular volunteer. You might find him filling the small plastic containers with laundry detergent that are given to the guests to do a load of wash or he might be watering the flowers. But, the thing that John enjoys doing most at Poverello House is simply hanging out with the men. As the men have gotten to know him, he feels there have been lots of quality one-on-one conversations that he feels the men appreciate. John has been volunteering at Poverello House for two and a half years. He is a secular Franciscan who was introduced to Poverello by Brother David. John also volunteers at the men's shelter run by Br. David in the winter and the Cooling Center that he runs in the hottest months of the summer. John considers the men at Poverello to have taught him valuable lessons about humility, the importance of treating all people with respect, and the fact that in the eyes of God we are all on equal footing regardless of our life circumstances.



A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Now that the weather in Tucson is warming up, Poverello House's next door neighbor, James, who celebrated his 94th birthday on March 17, will often be sitting on his front porch with a ready smile to greet anyone who stops by to chat. James has lived in his house on Lee Street ever since he built it in 1955. He raised his family there—a son who died last year and a daughter. He has three grand children and three great grands. Each Sunday, there are a few cars parked on his side of the driveway between the houses. He said "his kids" go to church on Sunday and then faithfully come to visit him. James has been supportive of Poverello House since its establishment. If Poverello House were to give a good neighbor award, it would no doubt go to James!



A GENTLE, FRIENDLY PRESENCE

It is just over six months since Marty Bothee joined the staff at Poverello House. His presence is much appreciated by the guests, by Eric, his fellow staff person, by board members and by the volunteers. Marty says that these first six months have been "good" and that he feels settled in now. Prior to coming to Tucson, Marty spent five years working at the Poverello House in Las Vegas. When asked if Tucson held any surprises for him, Marty said he finds the guests to be friendlier and gentler. While he probably would not admit it, perhaps it is Marty's own friendliness and gentle way that rubs off to help create the friendly, gentle environment at Poverello House.

*Praise and bless the Lord and give thanks to Him
and serve Him with great humility!*

St. Francis of Assisi

FOOD FAVORITES

Pork chops and mashed potatoes are Jay’s favorite meal. He is a regular guest one day a week at Poverello House and really enjoys all of the meals but did not hesitate to name his favorite.



Guy likes biscuits and gravy for breakfast and wished they had them more often.

Joe’s favorite is any breakfast that includes fried eggs.



Other favorites named by guests included pizza (not served very often but much liked when it is), mac & cheese, and, on special occasions, hamburgers cooked on the out-door grill.

Eric’s baked chicken that happened to be in the oven on the day the men were asked to name their favorites also ranked highly among meals the guests look forward to. Given the wonderful aroma that permeated the house that day, that was not surprising.



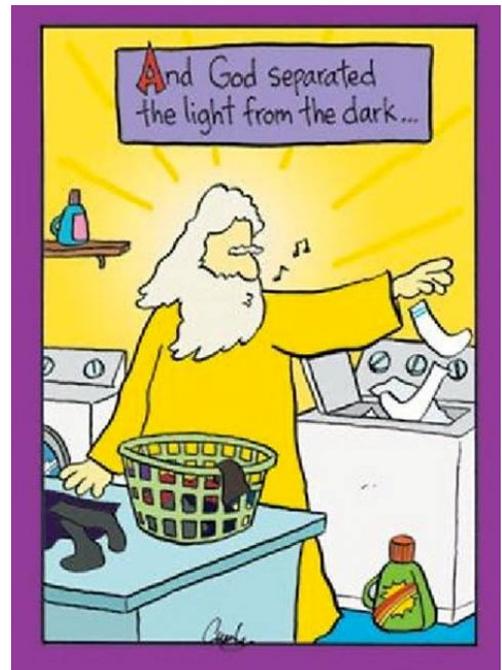
ERIC’S OVEN FRIED CHICKEN

- Pat dry 26 pieces of chicken
- Dip in beaten egg and seasoned bread crumbs (Cajon seasoning is the favorite)
- Place on large baking sheets and cover with foil
- Bake at 375 degrees for about an hour (or more)
- Remove foil and let crumbs crisp up

FEEDS ABOUT 12 HUNGRY MEN

NO MORE PUDDLES

Rain or no rain, there was a puddle problem around the outdoor washing machine. Now, thanks to the problem solving of Paul Anderson, a handyman and master carpenter from Chicago, the problem has been solved. Paul came along with four other friends of Brother David to spend a week assisting in ministry both at the men’s shelter and at Poverello House. Tom, Carol, Marty and Gloria concentrated on the cooking, providing lunches that included homemade Chili, Spaghetti, and a Shrimp Casserole. Paul took on the job of helping to fix the problem of the leaking washing machine out back. Thanks also go to board member, Carl Zawatski, who knew the history of the drain pipes and was eager to join Paul in figuring out what needed to be done. It took some extensive digging and necessitated calling in Roto Rooter. The total cost—\$740. The end result—no more muddy puddles in the yard!



Something to smile at !



A HANDS-ON BOARD

While formal board meetings only take place every other month, board members are not strangers to Poverello House between meetings. Each person on the board contributes time and energy in support of the mission of Poverello House. As seen in his reflection for this newsletter, Br. David is frequently on the scene or behind the scene scheduling volunteers, doing errands, or just being present at the house. Chuck pays attention to funds raising (he has successfully obtained multi-year grants from the Knights of Malta). Karen frequently meets with staff, launders the towels, and helps track donations. Anne keeps the data base, edits the newsletter, and she and her husband make lunch once each month. Colin and his family also provide lunch monthly. In addition, Colin also serves as the board secretary. Carl is the “on-call” handy man as well as the fill-in errand runner when Br. David is away. Lots of dedicated people including the board members make Poverello House happen.

FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

When the guests leave Poverello House at the end of their daylong stay, they do not leave empty-handed. Along with their clean clothes and other belongings, they carry away “a brown bag” containing two sandwiches and other goodies. Brown bag lunches are well known by the homeless in Tucson. The bag lunches are provided by the Caridad Community Kitchen, a program of the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona. This non-denominational program to feed those in need was established in 2000 by the late Reverend Joseph Baker, a Catholic priest who spent many years providing food for the hungry. Caridad is a Spanish word meaning charity. Two years ago as funds for the support of the work of Caridad dwindled, the Community Foodbank acquired the program and has continued its important work. According to an article written by Ernesto Portillo in the Arizona Daily Star in February, 2013, approximately 14,000 meals and gallons of soup are prepared and distributed to churches and to homeless shelters by Caridad each month. Poverello House is pleased to be able to participate in this very worthwhile program.



The Poverello House newsletter is printed with the generous support of the Most Holy Trinity Catholic Community in Tucson. Special thanks to Fr. Bill, Sara Lisa, and the rest of the MHT staff.

AND WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Want to help? Call Br. David at 314-803-6735.

Occasionally provide lunch for Poverello guests. The house is open from Wednesday to Sunday.

Volunteer your time to be present at Poverello House. A couple of hours a week or once a month can make a difference.

Donate used or new clothing. The items most frequently requested are SOCKS. T-shirts, jeans, and comfortable underwear are also welcome.

Financially support the mission of Poverello House. Arizona residents can claim a tax credit for donations.

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. . 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 (520-624-0589)