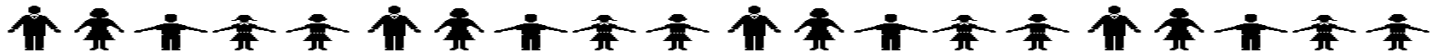


The Good News

The Family Pantry-Damien's Place Newsletter

January 2017



GREETINGS

My Dear Friends,

This is Fr. Tom writing my first pantry letter to you, I will be filling some "big shoes", in assuming Fr. Gabe's communication skill. He loved anything to do with the pantry and writing to you was one of his ways to serve brothers and sisters in need, a true Gospel value of Jesus Christ. Myself and Fr. Gabe started the Damien pantry over 25 years ago. It was an outreach from the retreat house, to the needy around us. God has blessed this ministry through the years. What started off as ministry from the Sacred Hearts community has not taken on an ecumenical spirit with many sisters & brothers from different religions and expressions of Faith, serving the needs of those around us. What I have observed, with Fr. Gabe, is the goodness, concern and love that brothers & sisters have for one another.

My time with you is limited each week, usually Saturday, but we have staff, led by Carol Cordeiro, and the pantry board, made up of men and women who know how to run businesses and where and how to supply the food need of our clients. Everyone of these folks are reasons the Damien pantry is a success, I'm grateful

to Paul our driver and the use of his many talents. He keeps a constant watchful eye on all the developing needs of the pantry. All the running of the Damien pantry is done through our pantry board that meets every month to talk about our further development. I am amazed at the needs of the people. The great Joy is being able to feed so many families and it's all because of your generosity. The words used by most who work at the pantry and those who are the recipients of the food is, "THANK-YOU"!! I'm so grateful that we are serving a basic need of the world around us, when we see so many brother and sisters with very little to eat, no place to live and no livelihood to support their family life. Those conditions are hard to believe exist here in the U.S.A., but here we are! Thank-God we have structures like Damien's pantry, to serve our peoples needs. Your goodness for the care of others make a difference in our world. I hope Thanksgiving was a day you remembered how blessed we are as a nation. Bless you all for your dedication to wisdom in choosing the right path.

"Like clay in the hands of the

potter,
so are we in your hands Lord.
Reveal to us the richness of your
Glory;
We are vases filled with your
mercy".

Blessings, through
Love & Prayer,
Fr. Tom, ss.cc.

WEBSITE COMING

We are in the process of starting a website for the Pantry. We hope that by the next newsletter we will have it up and running. We are excited that we will be able to share news about the Pantry in a timely manner and allow potential clients information they will need to apply for services. We will keep you posted on our progress.

GRANT

We have been notified that we will be receiving a grant from the Ocean Spray Community fund for \$3,000.00 to be used toward the expense of having our power jack repaired, purchase of a new hand jack and also the purchase of a freezer and refrigerator. Thank you Ocean Spray!

Pantry Schedule—Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday—10:00 AM - Noon

Damien's Place is at 3065 Cranberry Highway, East Wareham, MA 02538 Tel. 508-295-3486

Donations of food can be delivered to Damien's Place during normal business hours or by calling: 508-993-1010

Checks may be made out to: **The Family Pantry-Damien's Place, PO Box 111, Fairhaven, MA 02719**



Board of Directors 2017

*St. Damien
of Molokai Servant of Humanity*



*Fr. Thomas McElroy, SS.CC.,
President*

*Carol Cordeiro, Director Stephen
Reale, Treasurer*

Rev. Robert Ripley, Development

Jim Ayars

Rosanne Crowley

Jack Ducey

James Kalife

Paul LeBeau Donna

Mountain Janet

Robichaud Lois

Straffin

Bob Vigeant

*Our board members are
actively involved in the day-to day
operation of the Pantry.
They not only serve on the board but
work on and off site for the Pantry,
serving our clients.*

GRANT

We have received a grant from The Maurice and Anne Makepeace Family Foundation for \$2,000.00 to be used in our work with the food insecure of our local communities. We thank them for their kindness.

Your donations go directly to buy food and pay rent and utilities. We thank you for caring for the poor in our area.

HOLD A FOOD DRIVE

There are many way you can help us in our ministry to the poor. One is to hold a food drive requesting some of the foods we have listed below. These are the foods on our "Wish List". They are the nutri-tious products we always try to have available for distribution to clients. Think about asking your businesses, churches, schools and friends to participate in this worthy cause. Thanks!

Wish List

Hot and Cold Cereals
Pancake Mix and Pancake Syrup
Peanut Butter and Jelly
Dry Pasta and Pasta Sauce
Rice & Brown Rice
Canned Pasta
Macaroni and Cheese
Instant Potatoes
Baked Beans
Soups-Low Sodium
Canned Fruit
Canned Vegetables
Canned Tuna in Water
Canned Chicken
Juices
Shelf Stable Milk
Cheese and Eggs

Also, we can always use toothpaste, toothbrushes, bar soap and shampoo for the many homeless who visit the Pantry.

Baby diapers and baby wipes are also frequently re-quested.

Thank you for your support!



2016 STATISTICS

2016 was a busy year at the Pantry with over 100 volun-teers serving our many clients who come to us from Dartmouth to Buzzards Bay and all the towns in between.

The following are our annual statistics:

We served/fed 22,559 people; 6,049 were children, 13,336 were adults between the ages of 18-64 and 3,174 were seniors. These figures represent 20,588 individuals who returned in 2016 and 1,971 new individu-als. We saw 830 new families.

With the assistance of The Greater Boston Food Bank, local food drives and the many monetary donations/grants re-ceived we distributed 68,614 bags of food, over 900,000 lbs.

The food insecurity rate in Plymouth County is 9.5%. With a population of 500,772 money needed to feed those inse-cure is \$47,430.00. In Bristol County the food insecurity rate is 12.1%. They have a population of 551,065 and \$66,650.00 is needed to feed those who are food insecure.

We at the Pantry are al-ready seeing many new clients in 2017 and anticipate this will con-tinue throughout the year, so we need your help and thank you for all you do for the Pantry.