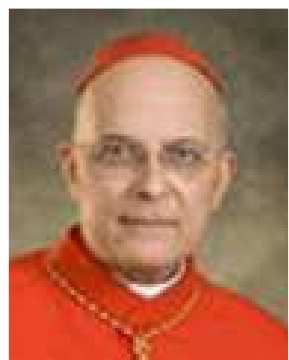


Come & Celebrate Port Ministries 25th Year of Service

Save the Date! Spread the word!
Friday, May 21, 2010



His Eminence
Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I.
~Guest of Honor~

Francis Cardinal George, O.M.I. & Port Ministries
Cordially invite you to our
25th Silver Jubilee Celebration
At the Hilton Hotel, Oak Lawn, Illinois
Invitations and details coming soon via your postal mail or E-mail.

UPCOMING EVENTS:



23RD YEAR...
**GOOD FRIDAY
STREET
STATIONS OF
THE CROSS**

Come walk &
pray with us!...
Friday, April 2nd,
Noon to 3pm
Begins at the Mantle,
5140 S. Ashland Ave.



**EASTER SUNDAY,
APRIL 4TH
CELEBRATE THE
RISEN CHRIST WITH
US... IN SERVICE TO
THE POOR!**

Food Prep. at
Theresa House: 5017
S. Hermitage Ave.,
10am to Noon
Easter Dinner with
our families at
The Mantle
(5140 S. Ashland):
Noon to 2pm
Volunteers Needed!:
Pre-commitments
only; please call ahead
at 773-778-5955



We are happy to announce the arrival of our long awaited **NEW BREAD TRUCK**

As mentioned in our previous newsletter, the "old" Bread Truck, after over 15 years of service, was in real need of retirement and a new truck was soon to come. We are happy to announce that on December 3rd, our **New Bread Truck** arrived! Through a generous grant from the **Order of Malta (American Association)** we were enabled to purchase a suitable pre-owned truck and custom design the equipment necessary to "upfit" the rear "box" for optimum efficiency and safety to best serve our hungry guests.

According to our specifications, the truck was adorned with new graphics and upfitted by 2 suburban shops. They did beautiful work! The temperatures were falling and the staff and volunteers were happy to find this new truck with a rear built-in auxiliary heater, a real blessing for all who serve on those cold winter evenings! It also was equipped with belted rear seats, a work table, custom cabinets and shelving for secure food/beverage storage and distribu-

tion. It also utilizes rear exterior flood lights for brighter and safer nighttime service.

Before our first outing with the truck, Fr. Hugo Leon Londono from St. Joseph's Parish celebrated Mass for our staff and volunteers and afterwards we all processed outside for the blessing and dedication of the truck.

We also welcome Anthony Brown, the new Bread Truck Coordinator, who is always ready to schedule more volunteers. This is a great Lenten service opportunity! Just call for scheduling!

Since it's beginning in 1994, the Bread Truck has not seen any diminishment in the neighborhood's need for its services. The numbers of hungry guests are increasing and we thank The Order of Malta and all our benefactors and volunteers for helping make this visible mission of compassion possible. We pray that as long as the need exists, the Bread Truck Ministry will be ready to meet that need with love... In Jesus' name!

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CURRENT ACTIVE SERVICES:

The Mantle:

•ESL/GED Adult Ed., Computer, Child Care, Arts & Crafts, Music, Tutoring:
Tues. thru Sat.: 10:30am to 12:30pm.
•“Harmony, Hope and Healing”
Music Ministry:
Tues.: 10:30am to 12:30pm.
•After School Tutoring:
Tues. thru Fri.: 2pm to 5pm.

Port Ministries Free Clinic:

Tue. & Thur.: 1pm to 3pm
Sat.: 9:30am to 12pm

The Winter Bread Truck:

Tues. thru Fri.: 6pm to 9pm
Sat.: 10am to 2pm

Home Visiting:

Tues. & Thur.: 9am to 3pm

Tony's Gym:

7 hrs. per week

Theresa House:

Temp. Closed

Volunteering

Opportunities for Ministry for individuals and groups of all ages.

St. Mary of the Angels: Secular Franciscan Fraternity

Thank You to all our Benefactors & Volunteers!

Very Special PORT♥ABLE Volunteers...

We are blessed to have with us 3 very special volunteers; Seminarians who have chosen the Mantle's After School Tutoring Program as their place of mission. Their enduring love is giving our "at risk" neighborhood children some hope...



My name is Galen Osby, I'm 27 years old and am a member of the Franciscan Order (OFM). I am originally from Wisconsin, but I currently live in Hyde Park at our house of studies and am studying at CTU (Catholic Theological Union). I first visited the Mantle while I was discerning my vocation. I decided to minister here because it was started by a member of my

My Name is David Hirt, OFM Cap, and I am 31 years old. Our house of formation is in McKinley Park, Chicago, though the province serves mainly in Detroit and Milwaukee. I am a Poet and an Artist. I came to know of the Port, and later the Mantle, from my postulancy director who used to work on the Bread Truck.

My experience with the kids has been challenging, especially the afternoon group, because I'm not used to dealing with such poverty, such family dysfunction and such a dangerous neighborhood. I believe everyone is a unique manifestation of God's goodness and self disclosure to the world. Seeing that image wounded by harsh surroundings is difficult for me. The hardest thing I've learned this year is that poverty really can do horrible things to people, even make them act less than human, or maybe humane is a better word. It challenges me to change technique from my naturally easy-going self to becoming more authoritative which is very difficult for me but a serious

province, Fr. Gus Milon, OFM, I was somewhat familiar with it, I was really attracted to the ministry opportunities and I knew it would stretch me.

One day I was working with a boy on his homework, and he was getting very angry with me because I was making him do all his work and go back and correct his mistakes. He pouted and put up a struggle during most of the time we spent on his homework, but, about five minutes after we were done, he came back and asked me very excitedly if I would play a game with him. It is experiences like that that really touch me. The children, despite having disagreements with the staff and volunteers, seem to understand that we love and care for them. That love and care isn't just manifested in joking around and playing games but also in challenging the children to do the best they can on their homework, to respect each other and themselves.

I knew volunteering at the Mantle would be a very stretching experience for me. Coming in, I did not think I was particularly good at relating to or working with children. But the ways they have opened up to me and challenged me have been a real blessing in my life. I'm always trying to find new ways to relate to them, to work with them and to challenge them. In turn, I find that they are more and more willing to work with me.



opportunity for growth. I love all the kids I work with and I want to help them as I can. If they've taught me anything it's that some people desperately need love and it's not always easy to give the love they need because sometimes that love is tough love!



My name is Shaun Crumb, M.M., originally from Minnesota. I'm 31 years old and a Maryknoll seminarian. Maryknoll was

founded to do mission work overseas in parts of Africa, Asia, and South/Central America. Our community's center house is located in New York, but we seminarians study in Hyde Park, Chicago at CTU (Catholic Theological Union).

I heard about the Mantle from Sister Sarah, who I met through the inter-community novitiate program. I was interested in volunteering at the Mantle because I wanted to tutor and mentor students who are facing challenges of poverty and violence in their neighborhood. I started volunteering in October 2009 as a tutor in the after school program. Despite the obstacles the students are trying to overcome in their home lives, they have joy, energy, and resilience to learn and grow. Their excitement to improve their reading and writing skills is inspiring for me. I was shocked that some of the children cannot read or write very well, even though they are in fifth grade. I had support systems growing up to help me so I want to share those gifts with these children for their development. I am trying to live out the Gospel by serving others as Christ served the poor and less fortunate. God's presence shines brightly in the smiles and laughter of the students. I am blessed being able to meet the young people and serve with the faith community of the Mantle, who embody the love of Christ and witness the Gospel in a challenging place in the city.

Ministry Updates...

Port Ministries Free Clinic...

A brief look at the numbers: From January 2009 to January 2010 we were able to see a total of 662 clients, mainly adults but also some pediatric and adolescent clients as well. At the moment we are treating a lot of chronic conditions, asthma, diabetes, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, along with less challenging conditions such as colds and flu, upper respiratory infections and routine physicals. Without the aid of our volunteer physicians whose lives and service are a constant source of inspiration for us at the ministry and the generosity of our benefactors we would not be able to do what we are doing.

The focus has been to increase teaching and to work on greater compliance on the part of our regular clients so that the free medicines we are able to administer to them are not serving only as a "band-aid" but are truly part of a comprehensive approach to getting them back on the road to recovery or at least diminishing the harmful effects of the chronic diseases common among the poor and homeless.

Cessation of smoking, changes in diet and a regular routine of exercise are the mantra we repeat with almost every visit. Happily we have seen some dramatic changes as a result of cooperation on the part of the people we are privileged to serve.

A number of our doctors and one of our former nurses have volunteered or will be volunteering their service to the people of Haiti There are countless personal stories of experiences with individual

clients that would fill a book. It is a marvel to this writer how everyday Jesus visits the clinic in His distressing disguise and reaches out to us, the servants and ministers of Port Ministries; so that we are the ones who are blessed and made aware that we have been visited by our God Incarnate in Jesus through His real presence in the poor. Of course our lives centered in and around daily Eucharist and prayer as a community enable us to be sensitive and attentive to this presence in a way we could not be otherwise.

With all of the pain and suffering we are allowed to touch and try to heal we are reminded daily of the fact that there is always a reason to be grateful and to give thanks, it is in that thanks that we live out our reception of the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus in the Eucharist and allow ourselves to become as it were His presence for one another and all of His Body. ~ Michael St. Jaques, RN, Clinic Coordinator

The Home Visiting Ministry...

Our Home Visiting team is committed to seeking out and bringing compassionate care and listening presence to infirm, elderly and lonely people of our neighborhood. At this time, on a weekly basis, 35 to 40 individuals are visited; most of whom receive Holy Communion. We are grateful for all our volunteers and are very blessed to have 4 long time volunteers of religious affiliation... Bro. Alfred Marshall, FSC, Sister Mary Jane Feil, LCM, Deacon Javier Pineda, SFO and Dorothy Balicki, SFO. They truly bring the presence of Jesus as Eucharistic Ministers as well as in their loving presence and attentive care. Come join us and make a difference in someone's life! Just call! (Spanish speaking volunteers are welcome and needed!) ~ Walter Koszut, Coordinator

THE EMPTY BASKET...

Port Ministries relies entirely on donations to meet our daily needs. Some items are desperately needed at this time. These are the current "most needed" items:

For pick-up & delivery info, please call: 773-778-5955

❖ **MONETARY DONATIONS**
❖ **HAMS (BUTT, SHANK OR WHOLE)**
❖ **FILLED EASTER BASKETS**
❖ **GROCERY/FOOD GIFT CARDS OR CERTIFICATES**

❖ Bulk hot COCOA (no marsh.)
❖ Bulk pack chili or stew
❖ Plastic soup spoons
❖ Apples or oranges
❖ 8oz. hot cups
❖ Plastic sandwich bags
❖ Anti-bacterial hand wipes
❖ Anti-bacterial hand lotion
❖ Diapers - sizes 3, 4, 5
❖ Baby wipes
❖ Adult & Children's cold & flu med.
❖ Sanitary pads

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Fax: (773) 778-2451
E-mail:
info@theportministries.org
Website:
www.theportministries.org
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It's completely safe and convenient for you and for us!
Just click and donate!