



**PORT**  
MINISTRIES

A NEWSLETTER OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE TO THE POOR

**POURRI**



We THANK  
God and all  
Benefactors &  
Volunteers  
who make our  
services  
possible!

26th YEAR OF SERVICE

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## THE BREAD TRUCK MISSION NETWORK

*The Bread Truck is currently serving an average of 1350 meals per week. In 2010, over 70,000 total meals were served! Port Ministries is grateful and blessed to have extremely dedicated volunteers who serve regularly on the truck here at Port Ministries and deserve our deepest gratitude and highest honor. In our neighborhood, they are a constant and visible message of hope and compassionate service in Jesus' name.*

*However, the purpose of this article is to spotlight a hidden miracle of volunteers and benefactors who are part of the Bread Truck Ministry that few know about. They do not come to Port Ministries to serve on the truck... they serve from their own locations at schools, parishes and businesses working to provide the meals that we serve daily.*



**A GREAT  
SERVICE  
PROJECT  
OPPORTUNITY  
FROM YOUR  
LOCATON...**

*Are you looking for a creative way to serve the poor from your home parish, classroom, organization, club or prayer group? Organize a service project group & join The Bread Truck Mission Network!*

**Call Anthony  
at 773-778-5955**

*The call for help goes out in ripples... and blessings flow back in abundant waves!*

There is a very beautiful, but hidden outgrowth that has formed through the years that we would like to acknowledge with much gratitude! The Holy Spirit is at work in the hearts of people calling them to bring what they have in their baskets and ultimately the multitudes are fed! We want to acknowledge what is now called "**THE BREAD TRUCK MISSION NETWORK**".

It is made up of many generous people who we do not see, who do not work on the truck here at Port Ministries, but, provide what is necessary to feed all who come to the truck for a meal. Our volunteers range in age from 6 to 96. They are groups of volunteers who come together to work from their site at various churches, parishes, school classrooms, businesses and organizations. They gather and organize volunteers for the purchasing of food and supplies and/or acquiring it from donors, a place to create the meals, bagging them, packing them in boxes or bins and delivering them to Port Ministries on their designated day(s) of the month. Their commitments are once a week, bi-weekly or monthly. Some children's groups even decorate the bags with a loving message of hope. They each provide 150 to 400 meals at a time, generally enough for at least a day of service. Since they work to meet the needs of a scheduled day, when all is brought together, we end up having enough meals to serve nearly every day of each week.

This is surely a testimony to God's providential care and abundant blessing! The truth is, we never planned the formation of a large "network". It grew over time as we placed a call for help "out there" and what has returned is more than we imagined. (cont. p.2)



## 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 SUMMER BREAD TRUCK:

Tues. thru Sat.: 10am to 2pm

### HOME VISITING:

Tues. & Thur. 9am to 3pm

### VOLUNTEERING

Opportunities for Ministry for individuals and groups of all ages... 16 yrs. and up.

St. Mary of the Angels: Secular Franciscan Fraternity

(See volunteer opportunities on the next page.)

**Thank You to all our Benefactors & Volunteers**

# BREAD TRUCK MISSION NETWORK

We thank God for each person who is part of the Bread Truck Mission Network groups of planners, providers, workers, delivery drivers, and all who contribute in any way to this miracle of generosity! There are no names of individuals listed below, just the places of service for each mission group. **WE THANK EACH & EVERY ONE OF YOU** for your response to the call... past and present!

St. John of the Cross School, Western Springs, Il.  
St. Cajetan Parish, Chicago, Il.  
St. Julie Billiard Parish, Tinley Park, Il.  
Our Lady of the Woods Parish, Orland Park, Il.  
St. Louis DeMontefort Parish, Oak Lawn, Il.  
St. Jane De Chantal Parish, Chicago, Il.  
St. Zachary Parish, Des Plaines, Il.  
St. Linus Parish, Oak Lawn, Il.  
St. Joan of Arc Parish, Lisle, Il.  
Christ the King Parish, Lombard, Il.  
St. Fabian Parish, Bridgeview, Il.  
St. Alexander Parish, Palos Heights, Il.  
St. Gerald's School, Oak Lawn, Il.  
Queen of Martyrs Parish, Evergreen Park, Il.  
Immaculate Conception Parish, Talcott, Ave, Chic., Il.  
Felician Sisters Convent, Chicago, Il.

SAI Group  
University of Chicago, Il.  
St. Xavier College, Chicago, Il.  
De La Salle Institute, Chicago, Il.  
Woodland Academy, Lake Forest, Il.  
New Deluxe Bakery, Chicago Ridge, Il.  
Scott Peterson, Summit, Il.  
Sara Lee, Downer's Grove, Il.  
Vienna Beef, Chicago, Il.  
John Trotsky and Family  
East Balt Bakery  
Turano Baking Co., Berwyn, Il.  
Marquette Bank, Chicago, Il.

**THIS SPOT RESERVED FOR YOU!**

## THE MANTLE

Recently, I read an article that said; to help the poor we must be willing to “*renounce one's possessions for the sake of giving life to others. It does not mean that we condescend to the poor, hoping to bring them up to our more acceptable level simply by giving them possessions. It means that we bind ourselves to the poor, becoming poor ourselves, in order to discover what it means to live in the way of Love.*” (From “St. Francis and Begging” by Peter Kline)

The staff and volunteers of Port Ministries have a long history of binding ourselves to the poor. This is not an activity for the faint hearted. In binding ourselves to the poor, we recognize our own poverties. Perhaps we don't experience poverty in the same way. Maybe it is not an economic poverty. Maybe it is a loneliness. A need to belong. A need to be heard. A need to be loved. Many people would rather not make that connection. It is easier, more comfortable, for us to be able to distance ourselves... to say, “I have all the stuff I need” or, “I am not like them.” But, after being at Port Ministries for a while, one recognizes that there is no “us” and “them.” There is simply “we.”

We build relationships with those around us and we see that we are all in this life together. There is not a single person in this neighborhood who does not want to feel respected, to be taken seriously, to be heard, to know that they are important, that their hurts and their joys matter, that *they* matter, that they are worth something, that they are loved!

The programs that we have at the Mantle are a perfect example of this need to be loved. We teach

adults English, but the bigger ministry is to lend a listening ear to a mother who is experiencing trials in life. We read stories to toddlers, but we also rejoice with them when they use the toilet for the first time! We sing silly songs with the pre-school aged children, but we also do the “We did it!” dance with them when they learn to write their name without any assistance. We help the school aged children with their math homework, but we also cry with them as they mourn the loss of a dear friend.

No life event, no matter how big or small or happy or sad, goes un-noticed here. In binding ourselves to the people we serve, we become a family. We invite you to consider volunteering with us here at Port Ministries, to build life changing relationships, to become part of our family.

~ Sr. Sarah Martz, O.S.F., Mantle Staff Member



Mantle children enjoying an art project with Sr. Sarah



from Fr. Hugh's Desk...

# ORDINARY TIME...Far From Ordinary

The word *ordinary*, occurs often in our everyday conversations. However, all too often when we use the word *ordinary*, the opposite is usually true.

In church circles, when speaking about the seasons of the church year, we refer to one segment as Ordinary Time. That is because most of the seasons of the church year are organized around the two major feasts that mark sacred time, Christmas and Easter. The Christmas season takes in the time of preparation during Advent and the celebration of the Epiphany. The Easter season includes the time of preparation during Lent and Holy Week, and is linked with Pentecost Sunday 50 days later.



The rest of the year following Epiphany and Pentecost is known as Ordinary Time. In this instance, the word *ordinary* simply means "counted time." Counted time after Pentecost always begins with Trinity Sunday, the first Sunday after Pentecost, and ends with Christ the King Sunday, or the last, or 34th Sunday before the beginning of Advent.

Keeping this in mind, Ordinary Time, is far from common or mundane, because this is the time when Jesus walks among us and transforms our lives, slowly, steadily, week after week. Jesus sets the pace and we follow in his footsteps. It is an important time in our lives as followers of Jesus, strengthening and deepening our relationship of love with him and each other.

The same is often true when the word *ordinary* is said of people. I remember some years ago

when the movie *Ordinary People* came out. It was about a family who was dealing with the death of one son and the attempted suicide of another. As the plot progresses, it becomes quite clear that not one of the four members of that family is ordinary.

I mention all this because the same is true of the wonderful people and organizations we are acknowledging in this edition of our newsletter for their faithful service in the Bread Truck Mission Network. If you were to ask any of them to describe themselves they would probably say that they are just ordinary people. To us, at Port Ministries, they are much more than just ordinary. They are essential to our ministry. The same could be said for *all* of our volunteers and benefactors. Without each and every one of them we wouldn't be able to exist.

So are there actually ordinary people? Not in the eyes of God. Each of us is made in God's image and likeness but in ways that are unique. No *ordinary* people, we. ~Fr. Hugh Zurat, O.F.M.

## FREE CLINIC

We are happy to introduce two new volunteers in our Free Clinic. **William Hynes** is a registered nurse and comes to us from the Chicago Archdiocese Deacon Formation Program and **Ruben Cardoso** is a med. student from the University of Chicago. They minister to our guests not only with their expertise and experience, but even more, with open, loving and generous hearts. They are blessings!

## CURRENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

### BREAD TRUCK

Individual and group help is needed on the Breadtruck Mon. to Sat., 10am to 2pm.

### THE MANTLE

Individual and group help is needed child care and tutoring areas Tue. to Sat. from 10:30am to 1pm and from 2pm to 4:30pm

### FREE CLINIC

Doctors are needed for Saturday mornings from 9:30am to Noon.

### HOME VISITING

Spanish & Polish speaking visitors needed Tues. & Thurs. 10am to 3pm

## CURRENT NEEDS:

- School supplies
- 8 1/2 x 11 copy paper
- 11 X 17 copy paper
- Ziploc Sandwich bags
- Heavy duty shop vac
- 2 new gas grills
- 55gal. trash bags
- Paper towels

Call or e-mail us for pick-up & delivery information

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

## HOME VISITING Remembering Walter Koszut 1934 - 2011



**Walter Koszut**, a volunteer and staff member at Port Ministries for over 25 years passed into glory on Friday, May 20th, 2011. Walter served in various areas of Port Ministries since 1986, serving as a Board of Directors Officer and as the Coordinator of our Home Visiting Ministry since 2001. The effect of his ministry in our neighborhood is immeasurable. His listening presence, compassionate heart, gentle spirit and love for Jesus brought hope, healing and peace to the neglected, lonely and infirm around us. Walter was a man of deep prayer which was evident in how he lived. He was a Father-Brother-Grandpa full of wisdom which he shared with all. He had extremely kind eyes that were disarming and the people he visited would readily share what was on their minds and in their hearts. Walter would simply listen with generous patience. That's where he learned so much about loving; by offering the gift of his "listening". If donations needed to be picked up or delivered, someone needed a

ride or help, he was there... and wore out his van in the process! Visits from Walter and our team of visitors were the highlight of the week for those they visited. Sometimes it was their only real contact with someone who cared. Walter was family to them. He visited people weekly for as long as needed, visiting some for many years. Walter was a faithful friend "to the end" for some as they went home to the Lord. One could say that Walter's ministry could be summed up by the line from a hymn... "Come and go with me to my Father's house". Walter, thank you for being a great light on our journey home. Walter, we and so many in our neighborhood will miss you and will always remember you loving us. ~ The Port Ministries Family

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

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**DONATE ONLINE NOW!**

“For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that for your sake he became poor although he was rich, so that by his poverty you might become rich”. ~ 2 Corinthians 8:9



You are cordially Invited to the Port Ministries  
**Annual Fundraising Banquet:**

**Portiuncula: Crossing the Threshold**

**Save the Date!**  
**Saturday, October 22nd, 2011**

Watch for formal invitation to come in September.

*PORT Ministries takes its name from the small humble “Portiuncula”, meaning “Little Portion” (of land) near Assisi, Italy, also called “Our lady of the Angels Chapel”. Restored by St. Francis of Assisi, it was his favorite place to pray. It was here where the Gospel revealed Francis’ task and the words of Christ became the first Rule of the Order. From the Portiuncula, Francis and his emerging community progressed from material aspirations to spiritual aspirations, self-preoccupation to self-giving; finding perfect joy in the embrace of poverty for the love of Christ.*

**Come with us into the Gospel call from our PORTiuncula as we walk in faith, crossing the threshold into the lives and hearts of children, mothers, fathers, broken neglected ones hungry for care... where Jesus waits in His distressing disguise to be heard, loved, and known.**

**Thank you for your support in our 26th year of service to Chicago’s poor.**