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# 2009 Spring Newsletter

## St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

### Celebrating 35 Years of Service

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\* A Non-Profit, Tax Exempt Charity \*  
Rectory (650) 366-4692

Fr. Fabio Medina, Pastor

3500 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025-3025  
Padua Dining Room (650) 365-9665

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**“Whatever you did to the least of my brothers and sisters, you did to me.” Matthew 25:40**

### **Fr. Medina Returns to St. Anthony's!**

**I**t's great to be back at St. Anthony's! It's been about 16 years since I served with you as your associate pastor. Now I come to St. Anthony's community again, but this time as your pastor, with the special responsibility to oversee this very important charitable foundation.

I am certainly impressed with the vitality and continued growth of the Dining Room over the last fifteen years. It



**Fr. Fabio Medina  
Pastor and President**

is through the tremendous effort of time and energy of our volunteers and the generosity of our many supporters that make St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room's multiplication of the “loaves and fishes” possible for those who are hungry.

Times are tough for us all. Many of those we serve experience tough times all the time, but for others this is something new. In today's economic climate, many of our contributors and volunteers are experiencing tough times as well, yet they are the ones who make it possible for the Dining Room to provide for these increased demands as jobs are lost and work opportunities dry up.

The Dining Room needs more than ever before the generosity of the members of the community who recognize the good work we do, and who are willing to renew their efforts to keep this vital mission to the less fortunate in our midst alive and well. We are grateful for the continued support even as these generous resources face declining income themselves.

We will be there for those who need us the most in our community. With your help and generosity, God will multiply the “loaves and fishes” to feed the multitudes and bless each of us who are the very hands of the apostles doing the work of Christ. Thank you for your good and faithful service in this great mission of Christ.

### **FRIENDS HELPING NEIGHBORS Fundraising Breakfast**

St. Anthony's held its fundraiser “Friends Helping Neighbors Breakfast”, on Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at the Peninsula Golf and Country Club in San Mateo. The event, which was organized by volunteers from the Padua Dining Room and chaired by Sue Merrill, was well attended with over 250 guests who enjoyed a scrumptious meal underwritten by an anonymous local business.

The guests were greeted by student volunteers from Serra High School who also helped with the set-up of the event. Father Fabio of St. Anthony's Church welcomed the guests and Board Member and weekly volunteer Pat Ferrando shared some personal reflections about the Padua Dining Room and some moving stories about its patrons.



**Congresswoman Anna Eshoo and Sue Merrill**

Our wonderful guest speaker, Congresswoman Anna Eshoo, spoke about her personal connection to the Dining Room with great warmth, humor, and affection that touched the hearts of all in attendance. She inspired guests to support the Padua Dining Room with a monetary gift or the gift of their time through volunteering.

Due to the efforts of many, the breakfast was an enormous success. Thank you to those who gathered friends to attend the event and gave so generously to St.

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Anthony's Padua Dining Room. A very special thanks to the Philanthropic Ventures Foundation who challenged those in attendance with a matching donation of \$50,000, which was met by donations of those in attendance. Your gift has ensured that the most vulnerable members of our community are able to enjoy a daily hot meal in a friendly and loving atmosphere.

## Almanac Holiday Fund

The Almanac Newspaper sponsored its annual Holiday Fund for the 16th year in 2008. St. Anthony's was very fortunate again this year to be selected as a recipient along with nine other nonprofit organizations on the Peninsula.

Donations to the fund are matched to the extent possible by generous community corporations, foundations and individuals. We are grateful to the Almanac for sponsoring the Holiday Fund, Silicon Valley Community Foundation for administering it, and especially the donors for supporting it.

## Upcoming Events

### Car Raffle: 2009 Toyota Prius!

The winner can select either the Prius or \$18,000 in cash. The Redwood City Rotary Club sponsors an annual car raffle for several non-profits in the area and we are grateful to be one of them. They are going "green" this year with a Toyota Prius, instead of the Volkswagen Bug, and so we are hoping to make a lot more sales than in previous years. All profits from our ticket sales go directly to the Padua Dining Room. The raffle takes place at the Redwood City 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration, downtown. We are grateful to the Rotary Club for their generosity and for allowing us to participate in this fund raiser.

### Christmas Toy Giveaway!

On Christmas Eve each year we have a toy giveaway for all children in cooperation with the Menlo Park Fire Department. Besides the gifts brought by the Firemen, there are truckloads of gifts from Intero Realty in San Carlos, Dr. Paul Piccione in Redwood City, The Italian Women's Federation in San Mateo, Sharon Heights Country Club, St. Bartholomew Church and many more generous individuals. On the day of the giveaway, the Firemen come in full regalia with their fire trucks, and Santa and Mrs. Santa have been coming for the past 10 years or so. Rain or shine



we serve over 2000 children between Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. No child has ever left empty handed and the smiles on the children's faces warm many a volunteer's heart. Thank you to the firemen and all of our dedicated volunteers.

## New Web Site Up and Running!

The St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room has a new web site ([www.paduadiningroom.com](http://www.paduadiningroom.com)) where you will find helpful information such as contacts, services, announcements, and planned activities. There are also many pictures from the various events that occurred during the 2008 calendar year. If you have suggestions for additional information that should be included on our web site, please give Max Torres a call at (650)365-9664.

## Staying Healthy in Tough Economic Times – Feeding the Needy

Nutritious food, warm clothing, and preventive health care are basic needs. In tough economic times they become harder to obtain for those at the economic margins. St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room provides for these basic needs to anyone, at no cost, and has been doing so—in the southern San Mateo County area—since 1974.

- We serve on the average 520 meals per day, six days per week, all year long. Over 161,000 individual meals were provided in 2008.

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room has been financed by donations of food and money from local individuals, stores, companies, and foundations. In 2008 we have seen about a 5.5% increase in people served over 2007. At the same time prices are increasing and we have suffered decreases in both monetary and in-kind donations. Thus, we are faced with three divergent and devastating trends in these tough economic times:

- Increasing need for our services,
- Higher costs for providing these services, and
- Decreasing donations and income.

Our history suggests that the southern San Mateo County community will continue to enthusiastically support the Dining Room and our operation will remain viable. However, we are concerned with the potential impacts on services during the tough economic times we are facing in 2009 to 2011. Our Advisory Council has developed a priority plan to deal with these problems while keeping the Dining Room viable, both currently

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and in the future. The priority plan includes the following:

- 1) Recognize that our core mission is the hot meal program, and that the other services like transportation and the Clothing Distribution Center are secondary.
- 2) Emphasize grant and donation solicitation via a subcommittee of the Advisory Council.
- 3) Reduce expenses, by such actions as eliminating the bus service to bring patrons to the Dining Room, and converting the Clothing Distribution Center to a volunteer staffed program.
- 4) Further reduce services if necessary.

To assist us in continuing to provide these services to the needy, please consider making a tax deductible donation to St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room and mail to:

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room  
3500 Middlefield Road  
Menlo Park, CA 94025-3025

## Clothing Distribution Center

The Clothing Distribution Center (CDC) was opened in 1993 to distribute new and gently used clothing, at no charge, to those in need. The CDC offers free clothing, shoes, blankets, sleeping bags, and infant and children's wear. Unlike a traditional thrift store, the CDC does not sell any donated materials. We have a dedicated group of volunteers who help with sorting, display and distribution serving approximately 1000 individuals each



month with over 10,000 items of clothing. Jackets, sleeping bags, and blankets are especially needed during the cold and rainy months.

The CDC is open for distribution on Wednesday from 9:30am to 11:00am for women with children and on Thursday from 9:30am to 11:00am for men. Donations of clothing and shoes for adults, children and infants are always needed. In addition, baby layettes, sleeping bags, and survival toiletry packs are distributed. Donations can be dropped off at 3500 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:00pm.

## Health Program

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room, in partnership with the San Mateo County Health Department, is able to offer an on-site mini-health care program. The patrons of St. Anthony's Padua Dining room have the opportunity to see a Public Health Nurse once a week on Friday. Mr. Albert Nuevo, RN, PHN has been coming to the Dining Room for seven years as part of his So. San Mateo County Public Health Case Management Area. On any given day Mr. Nuevo may see 3 to 12 individuals for such things as rashes, cuts, colds, fevers, and flu symptoms. He administers first aid, offers advice, and gives referral information to drug and alcohol programs, the County Mental Health Access Team, North Fair Oaks, Willow, and Samaritan House clinics where patrons can be seen by a physician. Most of our clients have no health insurance or ready access to health care and rely on this extremely valuable service.

## Emergency Generator Project

The Dining Room was designated as a Disaster Relief Center by the American Red Cross in 2007. If we have a major disaster such as a significant earthquake or power grid failure, the Red Cross will mobilize to use our facility to provide food and shelter for nearby victims. Although the Dining Room has significant cold storage capacity for such an emergency, a reliable power source is essential to sustain our operations.

We received a generous gift from the Russell Foundation two years ago to be used towards an Emergency Generator and have been seeking matching donations to fully fund the project. In parallel, we have begun the installation of a 100 kW Standby Generator and hope to have it fully operational in the next few months.

## Padua Dining Room Wish List

- Two stainless steel heavy duty carts
- Heavy gauge 10 gallon pots
- Heavy duty baking pans
- Cutting boards NSF approved
- Food, clothing, blankets, sleeping bags

## On-Going Needs

We can always use donations of institutional size:

- Meats (beef and poultry)
- Staples (rice, pasta and beans)
- Fruits and vegetables
- Cooking oils and salad dressing
- Canned and packaged foods
- Gently used clothing for men, women, and children

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## The Rotary Club Car Raffle

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Tickets at \$5.00 each: \_\_\_\_\_

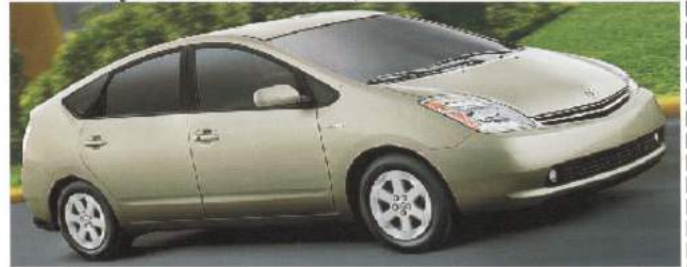
Total Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Your ticket stubs will be mailed to you!**

**Raffle Ticket Requests must be received no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> for the July 4<sup>th</sup> drawing!!!**

## 2009 Toyota Prius or \$18,000 Cash!



**Mail your check payable to:**  
St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room  
3500 Middlefield Road  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

## Other Ways to Contribute

Money alone will not keep St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room running and serving the needs of the homeless, elderly and needy families. We count heavily on the contributions of time that our volunteers give to support our mission. If you are not able to support our mission with money, there are numerous volunteer opportunities that are available to individuals and groups.

- Food preparation
- Sorting, cleaning, and slicing fruits/vegetables
- Working on the Serving Line
- Tearing down cardboard boxes
- Pickup and delivery of food/clothing donations
- Answering phones
- Washing trays, pots, pans and cooking utensils
- Writing grants and other fund raising activities

If interested, please call Max Torres at (650) 365-9665

## St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room Advisory Council



**Pictured (l to r): Betty Steidel (Secretary), Helen Cocco, Ellen Cortopassi, Nancy Tuck, Richard Cortopassi (Treasurer), Jim Bramlett (Chairman), Fr. Fabio Medina (Pastor and President). Not pictured: Peter Barling, Sue Merrill, Mariano Dagan, Pat Ferrando, Alma Sanguinetti**

## Our Services

**Meals/Food:** Lunch served 11:00-1:00, Mon.– Sat.  
Take home groceries are available during lunch.

**Free Clothing:** Wednesday and Thursday 9:30am-11am  
other days on an emergency basis

**Medical:** Mini-health program 1 day/week during  
lunch hours

**Christmas:** Over 10,000 gifts for needy children are  
distributed prior to Christmas



## For more information:

Fr. Fabio Medina, Pastor and President  
(650) 366-4692 [fmedina@catholic.org](mailto:fmedina@catholic.org)

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