

# 2013 Spring Newsletter

## St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room

### Celebrating 39 Years of Service



\* A Non-Profit, Tax Exempt Charity \*

Fr. Fabio Medina, Pastor Rectory (650) 366-4692

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

**Greetings** The joy of Easter makes us aware of the continued mission of Jesus Christ to the least of our brothers and sisters. In order to continue this mission, we must maintain our Dining Room Outreach Program that serves so



many people in need. We count on our well-organized staff, that is wonderfully funded by so many caring people like yourselves, and supported by responsible workers, our great volunteers. With the love of God in our hearts for all, we are God's healing instrument that brings healing, support and hope to those that come to dine in our house.

Over this last year, we have seen many changes in our world. Some of them beneficial, some not. Yet God continues to send his rain upon all of us alike. We continue in our journey and our mission together at St. Anthony's. May God send forth his blessings upon you, your family, your work and your ministries. And may the Risen Christ fill your heart with Easter Joy!!

Rev. Fabio E. Medina

### Remember St. Anthony's in Your Will

Many people want to use part of their estate to help charities they believe in—leaving a legacy of helping out the less fortunate. There are numerous ways to leave money for charity while still getting significant tax breaks, and in some cases generating income for you or your family while you are alive. One of the simplest ways to make sure your charitable legacy lives on after you are gone is a "bequest," a gift to charity made through your will.

One particularly tax-efficient way to make a bequest is to donate part or all of your regular individual retirement account to charity by designating a charity as a beneficiary. It's best for donors to discuss plans with the charity in advance, so it can make plans for how best to use it. It also is smart to talk with family members if you plan to make a bequest.

### Christmas Toy Giveaway!



Planning for our Toy Giveaway begins before Thanksgiving when we get our Toy Trailer ready for the gifts from the Menlo Park, San Carlos, and San Mateo Fire Departments. We are one of the recipients of their "Toys for Tots" Program and couldn't have the program here at St. Anthony's without their contributions over the last 20 years! Other very generous donors are Intero Realty in San Carlos, who have donated over 60 brand new bikes and helmets yearly, plus truckloads of beautiful gifts. Dr Paul Piccione has come with two truckloads of wonderful gifts from his patients at the Wellness Center on Woodside Road here in Redwood City for over 20 years, and Sharon Heights Country Club in Menlo Park, and the Italian American Women's Guild in San Mateo can be counted upon year after year. St. Bartholomew Church in Burlingame and many generous individuals fill our need each year by dropping off car-loads of gifts at the church.

On the day of the giveaway, December 24<sup>th</sup>, the Firemen are here, bright and early, rain or shine, in full uniforms with their fire trucks and Santa and Mrs. Santa also come with the rising of the sun! We serve over 2000 children Christmas Eve and also after the Christmas Dinner in the Dining Room on Christmas Day. We've had over 50 wonderful volunteers who have been faithful all these years and we couldn't carry on this program without them. Our reward is the smiles on the children's faces. God bless them, the Firemen, our donors and our dedicated volunteers.

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## Clothing Distribution Center

St. Anthony's clothing ministry began in 1974 as the Friendship Room and evolved into the *New to You Thrift Shop*. Its purpose at that time was to serve the parish with low cost clothing, used furniture, and household items and was a fundraiser for the parish. It was in 1993 that the Clothing Distribution Center (CDC) became our center as we know it today. It is a unique "store" that provides free clothing, shoes, blankets, sleeping bags, books and toys to men, women, children and infants who are in need. Unlike a traditional thrift store, the Clothing Distribution Center does not sell any donated materials. We currently serve about 450-500 patrons each month.

As with the Dining Room, our volunteers are the backbone of our sorting of the clothes that come in from community donations. We have a dedicated core of 15 to 20 volunteers who come once or twice a week to help with hanging the clothing that will be available for our clients. These wonderful ladies, and sometimes a gentleman or two, bless us with the gift of their time that is priceless and keeps us going.

During this past year we have received many large donations of clothing, blankets, socks (something we are always in need of), sleeping bags, and warm jackets from local schools.

St. Pius School delivered 35 bags of clothing to us just before the holidays. We were humbled by their generosity! Also, many students have come to help us and to learn how they can make a difference in their community. The support from these schools is a wonderful gift!

The Center is open on Wednesday from 10:00 to 11:00 for women with children and on Thursday from 10:00 to 11:00 for men, but clothing is available anytime on an emergency basis. We are always in need of clothing and shoes for adults, children, and infants. In addition, we are also in need of toys and children's books, linens, blankets, layette items, disposable diapers, and toiletry items (tooth paste, deodorant

shampoo and lotion).

Donations of any of the above mentioned items can be dropped off at 3500 Middlefield Rd. Menlo Park, in back of St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:00pm. Due to limited space, both in our sorting area and in the distribution center, we cannot accept baby furniture, strollers, electronics, or other household items.

All of us who work in the Clothing Distribution Center feel blessed to have the community's ongoing support to help us keep our clothing racks full!

## Thank You Volunteers of St. Anthony's Dining Room

Volunteers keep the Dining Room operating! There are almost 200 people who work at St. Anthony's on a regular basis. These are our Core team and the strength of our volunteer groups. Their continuing service provides a resource for both doing the many daily tasks



needed to prepare and serve over 500 hot meals each day, and through the instruction and guidance for others who come to help.

In addition to the Core team, volunteers come to the Dining Room as groups on a frequent schedule or for a special occasion. We are fortunate to have a wide array of groups who volunteer their time to help us accomplish our mission. Below are some of the many groups who have sent volunteers to St. Anthony's in 2012.

Schools: Bellarmine Prep, Everest, Gunn, Kehillah Jewish High, Mercy, Mid-Peninsula, Notre Dame, Palo Alto, Presentation, Sacred Heart Prep, School for Independent Learners, St. Frances, Guoia, Serra, Summit Prep, and Woodside High. Students, alumni, and staff from local universities that have helped at the Dining Room including representatives from Cornell University Alumni, Notre Dame De Namur University, San Francisco State University Nursing School, San Jose State University, Stanford University, and University of San Francisco Alumni.

Sports teams that have contributed their time and abundant Team Spirit include Stanford University's Women's Basketball, Women's Field Hockey, and Women's Volleyball.

Employees From Local Companies included Acclarent, BayNetWork, Greylock Partners, Hewlett Packard, Life

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Technologies, Recology San Mateo, Redwood City Kaiser Hospital Staff, Silver Spring Networks, Stanford Park Nannies, Stanford University Athletic Department, TURN, and VMWare.

Church groups who arrange for their members to give back to the community by working at the Dining Room are a very ecumenical collection, and include members from the Catholic Community at Stanford, Oshman Family Jewish Community Center, St. Denis Parish, St. Joseph of Cupertino Parish, St. Pius Parish, Valley Presbyterian Church of Portola Valley, and Young Neighbors in Action (a Catholic youth organization).

Service Groups who brought their members to work at St. Anthony's include HandsOn Bay Area, JobTrain, Junior League of Palo Alto, Kiwanis Club of Menlo Park, Peninsula Works, and the Board and staff of the Sequoia Healthcare District.

We thank all these volunteers and the many other individuals, both Core and occasional, who make St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room what it is.

## Our Needs List for the Holiday Seasons and Throughout the Year

Food items: We prepare about 600 meals a day, our needs are large quantities of single items; Institutional Packaging is preferred.

Meats	Canned/Pack Foods	Dry Goods	Other
Turkeys (whole frozen)	Canned Fruits	Pinto Beans (25 lb sacks)	Cooking Oils
Ham (whole or canned)	Pasta sauce (#10 cans)	White Rice (25 lb sacks)	Butter (unsalted)
Tuna (canned, 7 oz or 4 lb size)	Tomato sauce (#10 cans)	Pasta	Mayonnaise
Chicken (canned breast meat, 12 oz size)	Juices	Egg Noodles	Salad Dressing
	Olives	Corn Starch	
		Instant Potatoes (10 lb size)	Sugar
		Flour	Coffee (ground)

### CASH DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS APPRECIATED!

Fresh Fruits and Vegetables: Case/bulk amounts of Onions, Carrots, Celery, Potatoes, Lettuce, Broccoli, Cauliflower, Zucchini, Summer Squash, Apples, Lemons, and Oranges. This may best be accomplished by making a Cash Donation to our Vegetable Account at Sigona's Market, 2345 Middlefield Rd, Redwood City, 650.368.6992.

### ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TOY GIVEAWAY

Unwrapped New Toys for children aged 2-14 years; Christmas Candies.

**CLOTHING CENTER** Winter: New Athletic socks, Sweatshirts, Warm Coats & Sweaters, New Sleeping Bags.

All Year: New/Gently used clothing and shoes for men, women, and children. Toiletries, Baby Diapers, Blankets, Plastic kitchen garbage bags, Ball Caps, and Work Gloves.

**HOLIDAY VOLUNTEERING** For Thanksgiving Day and the preparation days before: the list opens at 9:00 a.m. on November 1. Call 650.365.9664 to sign up.

For Christmas Day and the preparation days before: the list opens at 9:00 a.m. on December 1. Call 650.365.9664 to sign up.

The list fills up very fast so call early. Sorry no walk-ins on the Day. Must be 16 years of age or older.

**REGULAR DAY VOLUNTEERING** For regular days, Monday-Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., please call 650.365.9664 for information or to sign up.

Regular day Volunteers must be 16 years of age or older, in good health, and willing to be assigned where needed. No experience is required, training will be provided.

The types of assignments include, but are not limited to:

Sorting, preparing, and serving food. Cleanup of the kitchen, dining room, and yard areas. Office assistance, answering the telephone, filing, computer entry, and special assignments.

**AT HOME VOLUNTEERING** Check our website for an overview video explaining the daily tasks of our volunteers. [www.paduadiningroom.com](http://www.paduadiningroom.com)

## Dining Room Operations Support

We have just completed the installation of new walk-in freezer and cold storage rooms. The new boxes, which replace 30-year-old smaller ones, are more energy efficient, have more capacity, and can be entered with our powered fork-lift and pallet jack.



This major remodeling project was paid for by 4 major donors—two foundations and two private families—who contributed an average of \$40,000 each. We look forward to many years of service from this new installation, and thank the donors from the bottom of our hearts.

For 2013 we are seeking major donations for the money to replace our old truck

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## Development Committee Activities

We thank the following organizations who responded to our applications and requests with money to support the operation of St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room:

The Almanac Holiday Fund  
Live Oak Lions Club  
Menlo Park Kiwanis Club Foundation  
Menlo Park Rotary Club  
Philanthropic Ventures Foundation  
Redwood City Rotary Club  
Sequoia Healthcare District - Caring Community Grants Program  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
The Carl Gellert and Celia Berta Gellert Foundation  
United Way Emergency Food and Shelter Program

## St. Anthony's Advisory Council



Above from left: Father Fabio Medina, President, Sue Merrill, MaryAnn Arceo, Richard Keller, Pat Ferrando, Vice-Chairman, Peter Kasenchak, Chairman, Betty Steidel, Secretary, Lupe Garcia, Gary Glover. Not present Mariano Dagang, Treasurer, Mimi Melvin, Max Torres, Ex-Officio.

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## The Rotary Club Car Raffle

St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room is grateful to the Redwood City Rotary Club car raffle, chaired by Bill Nicolet,



for the opportunity to participate in their tenth annual car raffle, a 2013 Honda Civic LX four-door or \$18,000.00. Tickets are available for \$5.00 each in the Dining Room at any time and they are also on sale two weekends in June after each Mass. If you wish to purchase tickets, please send a check (payable to Rotary Club) and we'll be happy to send the tickets to you. All monies received come back to the Dining Room for food and expenses to continue our services. The raffle drawing will take place in downtown Redwood City on July 4th at 4:00pm. Please join us in this fund-raiser with all proceeds for the poor. **Mail your check**

**payable to:** Rotary Club

c/o St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room  
3500 Middlefield Road  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Note: Your ticket stubs will be mailed to you! The winning ticket can be exchanged for \$18,000 in lieu of receiving the Honda Civic!!! Raffle Ticket Requests must be received no later than June 30<sup>th</sup> for the July 4<sup>th</sup> drawing!!!**

## E-mail Updates from St. Anthony's

Please allow us the option to keep you posted about our community activities through e-mail. Kindly send us your name and e-mail address to St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room, 3500 Middlefield Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025-3025 or send an e-mail to Max Torres - [maxtorres@covad.net](mailto:maxtorres@covad.net).

## Visit Our New Re-designed Web Site!

The new St. Anthony's Padua Dining Room Web Site is up and running at [www.paduadiningroom.com](http://www.paduadiningroom.com). A special thanks to John Finster, our volunteer web developer, for donating his time and expertise in this effort to improve our communication with the communities and individuals we serve throughout the year.

## For more information please contact:

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