



St. Herman's House of Hospitality

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Winter 2011

SEASONAL REFLECTION

It is that time of the year again...holiday songs reverberating in the malls...a rainbow of lights and decorations brightening downtown public squares...the presence of Santas in the marketplace...Tis the season to be jolly...and generous...the season of good will and gift giving...In the tradition of Christianity, it will soon be the season of Advent, a time to remember that even as a downtrodden Israel longed for and awaited the coming of Messiah, so in this Anno Domini 2011, perhaps we too, in the midst of the brokenness, the violence, the economic meltdown of our own time wonder if God will act, hope God will act, wait for God to act and bring light that overcomes the darkness.

As I reflect on this I remember a parable shared with me by a Rabbi friend. "A young man was troubled by the delay of the coming of the Messiah. So he goes to his Rabbi and asks, 'Why does the Messiah not come. We have suffered so much, and we have endured. We are ready for the Messiah.' The wise Rabbi responded, whispering in a low voice, 'I will tell you a great secret. It is not we who are waiting for the Messiah. It is the Messiah who is waiting for us. Messiah has been here all the time.'"

Indeed Messiah has promised, "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." So this season, as we remember and celebrate with thanksgiving the gift of God giving self to us and for us in Jesus, we also know that the Holy One waits for us, always waits for us to help heal the brokenness, to comfort the afflicted, to alleviate hunger and homelessness, to build bridges of understanding and peace, to foster justice and right relationships in community. Indeed God waits on us and goes with all of us as we share life, nurture hope and affirm in word and deed that those whom the world deems as nobodies are God's somebodies...not only in this season, but in every season.

TRANSITION PROGRESS UPDATE

The Task Force of the Orthodox Christian Churches in our Northeast Ohio area has taken action to establish a new non-profit corporation to support and oversee the St. Herman's hospitality ministry. They are in the process of forming a Board of Trustees of 11 members with 9 Orthodox representatives and 2 neighborhood representatives. The deadline for the transfer of all assets of the Little Brothers of Divine Compassion Corporation, including the 75 acre farm in Trumbull County, is scheduled to be facilitated no later than the end of December. As this important process continues, addressing some of the complexities of the transfer of responsibility, please keep the Task Force and the Little Brothers Board embraced in your prayers.

IT IS WITH HEARTS FULL OF GRATITUDE THAT WE REMEMBER...

ROBERT STEVENS, a beloved member of our St. Herman's resident community for more than 10 years. He made an invaluable contribution to the ministry of St. Herman's as our main driver for donation pick-ups and transportation of other residents for medical and other appointments.

ALBERT HABER, friend and supporter of St. Herman's, for more than a decade. Each week he gifted us with his generous, gentle presence delivering bread and other donations for our community meals ministry. We commend both Albert and Robert into the loving arms of the ONE who breathed life into them, sustained them on their journey as servants and witnesses of divine grace and compassion. We embrace the loving families of our friends in our hearts and prayers.

The Hospitality Ministry received DONATIONS HONORING ALBERT HABER from the following: Mazie & Michael Adams, Timothy Lasky, Bernard & Heidi Karthan, Karen & Steven Novak, Steven & Katherine Ott, Philip & Cheryl Weaver, William & Polly Stringer, Brian King, Douglas & Karen Cooper, Thomas Young & Gail Cudak, Patricia Lehtinen, James Negrelli, Redline Trucking Inc., Destiny Manufacturing-Parma Plant, Kathrine Moss, Rosemary Donzella, The Cleveland Clinic, OMG, David & Kathy Haber, Peter & Marien Mihu, Robert & Frances Pleska, Walter & Laura Avdey.

THANK YOU to the following for donations in October

BRENNANS CATERING, GIANT EAGLE, ENERGIZER, CLEVELAND CLINIC FAIRVIEW HOSPITAL, PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH, ST. CONSTANTINE & HELEN CHURCH, SANSON'S PRODUCE, PANERA'S, EXECUTIVE CATERERS, ST. BERNADETTE PARISH, LIBERATION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, WHISKEY ISLAND MARINA, CLEVELAND POLICE / 2ND DISTRICT, CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, MIDWEST PRESORT, UNITY CENTER MASJID MASQUE, ST. LADISIAS CHURCH, CLIFTON CLUB, WEST SIDE IRISH AMERICAN CLUB, TUCKER ELLIS & WEST, ST. BASIL CHURCH, D.F.A.S, a generous gift in memory of LEO & CHRISTINE GEORGE. In addition a host of individuals brought in donations and/or volunteered.

Sophomore students from ST. IGNATIUS are volunteering Monday through Thursday, to assist with a variety of tasks. (Pictured 3 St. Ignatius students prepare vegetables for our meal.)



THANK YOU ONE AND ALL. YOU ARE A BLESSING TO THE MINISTRY.

MINISTRY STATS

- 6,000 wholesome meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) were served this past month. Donations make it possible to offer fresh salad, fruit, soup and desserts at each mid-day and evening meal in addition to a main entree.
- 35 family units were assisted with a 3 day supplemental food supply at the end of the month.
- Showers are made available 5 days a week from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm to neighborhood men. Each person availing themselves of this service receives a whole new set of clothes. This service was utilized 97 times in October.
- Any abundance of bread and other donations are shared with area shelters and/or made available to neighborhood residents. There are days when you can see a sign out front of St. Herman's that says FREE BREAD TODAY.

34th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The 34th Anniversary of our House of Hospitality's ministry was observed and celebrated at the community evening meal on Tuesday, September 27. The meal was provided and prepared by a group of St. Herman's alumni. More than 60 from the neighborhood in addition to House residents enjoyed the sumptuous feast lovingly served. Rev. George Hrbek recounted the history of the ministry, remembering its founders and its challenges and struggles along the way. He then led the gathered in a service of thanksgiving and prayers for the continuing presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit in this time of transition and the emerging of new leadership.



Following the observance, many participants expressed appreciation for the opportunity to learn more about the ministry's journey and for the time allotted for prayerful gratitude.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

House residents have donated more than 260 hours to the care and maintenance of the Community Garden located at Franklin and W. 38th Street. In addition, crews go out each day to keep the immediate neighborhood free of litter, and as needed to cut the grass at vacant or unattended buildings.

OUR HOSPITALITY HOUSE HOLIDAY WISH LIST

- chicken, pork, breakfast sausage
- margarine
- cereal
- spices/garlic powder
- beef/chicken boullion
- toilet paper
- Napkins
- sugar

CORRECTION! CORRECTION!

MARY HILLMAN, who we featured in a previous newsletter, collared this Newsletter editor when she arrived at the House for her weekly packaging of bread and sweets to be delivered to residents of a senior high rise. She insisted that I correct erroneous information communicated about her. This is the correction.....Mary Hillman is not 95 years old. She is 98 years old. God bless you, Mary!

WINDOW REPLACEMENT SET IN MOTION

All 34 windows at our Hospitality House will be replaced with customized new windows, but not for aesthetic reasons. The years have deteriorated the present windows and higher energy costs have resulted from their inefficiency. Thanks to volunteer Willie Friedrich, Habitat for Humanity has been engaged to help address this need. Mr. Friedrich coordinated the process of attaining 3 bids and selecting a company which was not only the low bidder but has an impeccable reputation for quality work.

The custom-made windows will cost \$6,600 with Habitat volunteers doing the installation. Donations have been solicited to cover the expenditure. To date we have received \$2,600 from Friends of St. Herman's and a relative of one of our residents. If you would like to help defray this expense, you may send a DONATION to St. Herman's House of Hospitality and designate it for our WINDOW PROJECT. One window costs approximately \$200. It is our goal to have the windows installed before the first blast of winter.

THE END OF YEAR FINANCIAL CHALLENGE FOR OUR HOSPITALITY MINISTRY

Based on a review of our operating costs for the past 6 months, our accountant, Maria Nosse, has projected that our maintenance, utility, insurance, salary, provision of services and other incidental expenses will TOTAL approximately \$36,000 for the FINAL TWO MONTHS OF 2011. We will need to raise that amount if we are to end the fiscal year with a positive balance. Hopefully our December Spaghetti Benefit and generous holiday donations will enable the ministry to meet all its financial obligations. A sub-committee of the Orthodox Task Force is in process of developing a budget for 2012. That information will become available to our supporters as we enter the new year.

ST. NICHOLAS ANNUAL SPAGHETTI DINNER REVIVED

Thanks to the initiative of Daniel Jenks, friend of St. Herman's, the annual House of Hospitality Spaghetti Dinner, for many years a key fund raiser for the ministry, but dormant for a year, is happening again. It will be held on **Sunday, December 4 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at St. Malachi's Parish Hall** where it has been held in the past. Please note the enclosed flyer and use it to promote this nutritious, informative and enjoyable event.. Help make it a grand revival gathering of the multitude that make the Hospitality ministry possible. It will also be an opportunity to hear about the formation of a new incorporated Board by the Orthodox Christian churches to support and oversee the ministry.

RICK HOWARD SHARES HIS MANY TALENTS AT ST. HERMAN'S

Richard "Rick" Howard has been coming to St. Herman's to help out where needed. He initially came to spend two months in the winter, the off season for his work in construction, to run the kitchen. He planned, organized, and cooked more than 150 meals daily.

His experience with Advance Masonry and PMI Construction as a Construction Manager gained him a wide range of experiences in all aspects of building maintenance and repair. As the leadership at the Fathers at the House of Hospitality learned of his many skills, they asked him to coordinate the repairs and upkeep of the House and the grounds. Over the course of the last six years, he has looked forward to giving back by working in the kitchen, maintaining the House, and conducting needed repairs.

When he got involved in the upkeep of the grounds it was like throwing Brer Rabbit in the briar patch. His real love and expertise is landscaping and gardening. Over the last six years, he has looked forward to getting out of the kitchen and working on the side garden. As a result, the garden at St. Herman's is one of the most beautiful gardens on the Near Westside. It turns out that Rick had honed his horticultural skills at his parents farm in Brunswick and had continued to farm until his family sold the farm four years ago after his father passed.



A NOTE FROM BETH ISRAEL YOUTH GROUP OF CLEVELAND

On behalf of everyone in our regional youth group, thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to help out at St. Herman's. You are doing such great work, and it was fantastic to be able to be a part of it. For everyone involved it was a great experience. People are still talking about it. Thank you again. We wish you all the best.

GOD BLESS YOU!!!

Ron Register
Interim Director

George Hrbek
Volunteer and Transition Coordinator

Rick Howard
House Manager

ST. HERMAN'S MONASTERY

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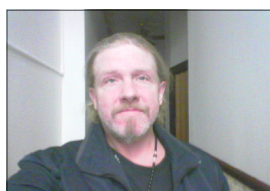


NO TRICKS BUT LOTS OF TREATS AT ST. HERMAN'S

More than 600 children accompanied by parents or older siblings traversed the front steps at our Hospitality House on Halloween to receive baked sweets donated by GIANT EAGLE. Each child was surprised to be given the opportunity to select a full box of cupcakes or cookies. In addition 50 flashlights were given to an adult shepherding a group. The flashlights and batteries were donated by ENERGIZER. It was a spirited evening of much delight and laughter for both the array of costumed children and the House residents who helped make it happen. It was truly a Hallowed evening!



RESIDENTS CORNER



Hi, my name is **Keith Brinkman**; I have been at St. Herman's for 2 years. And I have to tell you it has been a life changing experience. There have been bad times and good times. I have been out to the farm which we call The Field Garden. We harvest hay for the cows that we raise for meat at the House of Hospitality. We recently received some chickens to raise also. We have basic chores to do and it isn't easy. We have been cleaning up the place and it is looking more and more like a farm. St. Herman's is getting to be looking good too. St Herman's has brought in health care from Care Alliance. They feed us very good, and if we need to go to work it is no problem. They also have helped us find housing. Several men have found places already. I have recently been doing on line school work through Kaplan University; but I was let go because we have out dated computers. And I could not meet my academic requirements. But that won't stop me from trying. St. Herman's has been willing to help me all along and will do so still. I would like to thank everyone for their patience. So thank you and God bless everyone and have a good holiday season.