

Homily of His Holiness Pope Francis
Saint Peter's Square, 4 September 2016

"Who can learn the counsel of God?" (Wis 9:13). This question from the Book of Wisdom that we have just heard in the first reading suggests that our life is a mystery and that we do not possess the key to understanding it. There are always two protagonists in history: God and man. Our task is to perceive the call of God and then to do his will. But in order to do his will, we must ask ourselves, "What is God's will in my life?"

We find the answer in the same passage of the Book of Wisdom: "People were taught what pleases you" (Wis 9:18). In order to ascertain the call of God, we must ask ourselves and understand what pleases God. On many occasions the prophets proclaimed what was pleasing to God. Their message found a wonderful synthesis in the words "I want mercy, not sacrifice" (Hos 6:6; Mt 9:13). God is pleased by every act of mercy, because in the brother or sister that we assist, we recognize the face of God which no one can see (cf. Jn 1:18). Each time we bend down to the needs of our brothers and sisters, we give Jesus something to eat and drink; we clothe, we help, and we visit the Son of God (cf. Mt 25:40).

We are thus called to translate into concrete acts that which we invoke in prayer and profess in faith. There is no alternative to charity: those who put themselves at the service of others, even when they don't know it, are those who love God (cf. 1 Jn 3:16-18; Jas 2:14-18). The Christian life, however, is not merely extending a hand in times of need. If it is just this, it can be, certainly, a lovely expression of human solidarity which offers immediate benefits, but it is sterile because it lacks roots. The task which the Lord gives us, on the contrary, is the *vocation to charity* in which each of Christ's disciples puts his or her entire life at his service, so to grow each day in love.

We heard in the Gospel, "Large crowds were travelling with Jesus" (Lk 14:25). Today, this "large crowd" is seen in the great number of volunteers who have come together for the Jubilee of Mercy. You are that crowd who follows the Master and who makes visible his concrete love for each person. I repeat to you the words of the Apostle Paul: "I have indeed received much joy and comfort from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you" (Philem 1:7). How many hearts have been comforted by volunteers! How many hands they have held; how many tears they have wiped away; how much love has been poured out in hidden, humble and selfless service! This praiseworthy service gives voice to the faith and expresses the mercy of the Father, who draws near to those in need.

Following Jesus is a serious task, and, at the same time, one filled with joy; it takes a certain daring and courage to recognize the divine Master in the poorest of the poor and to give oneself in their service. In order to do so, volunteers, who out of love of Jesus serve the poor and the needy, do not expect any thanks or recompense; rather they renounce all this because they have discovered true love. Just as the Lord has come to meet me and has stooped down to my level in my hour of need, so too do I go to meet him, bending low before those who have lost faith or who live as though God did not exist, before young people without values or ideals, before families in crisis, before the ill and the imprisoned, before refugees and immigrants, before the weak and defenseless in body and spirit, before abandoned children, before the elderly who are on their own. Wherever someone is reaching out, asking for a helping hand in order to get up, this is where our presence - and the presence of the Church which sustains and offers hope - must be.

Mother Teresa, in all aspects of her life, was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defense of human life, those unborn and those abandoned and discarded. She was committed to defending life, ceaselessly proclaiming that "the unborn are the weakest, the smallest, the most vulnerable". She bowed down before those who were spent, left to die on the side of the road, seeing in them their God-given dignity; she made her voice heard before the powers of this world, so that they might recognize their guilt for the crime of poverty they created. For Mother Teresa, mercy was the "salt" which gave flavor to her work, it was the "light" which shone in the darkness of the many who no longer had tears to shed for their poverty and suffering.

Her mission to the urban and existential peripheries remains for us today an eloquent witness to God's closeness to the poorest of the poor. Today, I pass on this emblematic figure of womanhood and of consecrated life to the whole world of volunteers: may she be your model of holiness! May this tireless worker of mercy help us to increasingly understand that our only criterion for action is gratuitous love, free from every ideology and all obligations, offered freely to everyone without distinction of language, culture, race or religion. Mother Teresa loved to say, "Perhaps I don't speak their language, but I can smile". Let us carry her smile in our hearts and give it to those whom we meet along our journey, especially those who suffer. In this way, we will open up opportunities of joy and hope for our many brothers and sisters who are discouraged and who stand in need of understanding and tenderness.

Mother Teresa Social Ministry Holy Ghost Church

I THIRST



Dedication Ceremony

Volunteer Appreciation
& Opportunities

What we do - What's NEW

Donations & Drives

Pray for us

Fall 2023



PICTURE PERFECT



A MILLION “THANK YOUS” TO ALL THAT ATTENDED OUR DEDICATION CEREMONY AND CELEBRATED OUR VOLUNTEERS! WHAT A MOMENTOUS EVENT AND A GREAT SUCCESS!!!

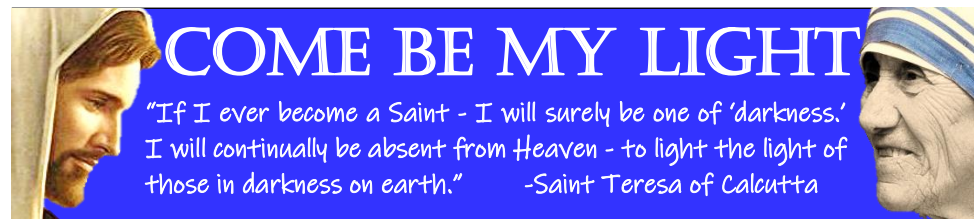
Mother Teresa Social Ministry at Holy Ghost Church expresses gratitude to everyone for attending our **Dedication Ceremony on September 21st, 2023**, in the heart of downtown at our beautiful parish on *1900 California Street*. Seeing each person there having so much fun giving support made the event successful and memorable.

Thanks and appreciation to our celebrant, **Father Rafael Solorio**. A big thank you to **Crystal Manzanares**, social ministry assistant, for all her hard work and support. We also would like to thank our other guests who shared this terrific time with us, especially our volunteers.

Thank you everyone for sharing life's virtues of faith, hope and love!

Thanks be to God for Mother Teresa and for such a beautiful gift to be part of this ministry here at Holy Ghost Catholic Church!!!

We hope you enjoyed your visit as much as we enjoyed having you.



NUNC COEPI – BEGIN AGAIN



God's amazing grace blesses us all with childlike faith and great courage to go forward anew responding to the call within a call; that most beautiful, sacred proposal that Jesus Christ whispers deep in our hearts.



Bob Kellogg, Troy Maes, & Patricia Andreu cut through the ribbon commemorating this new beginning.

Congratulations, Reyna!!!



Thank you for your support in the raffle!
Enjoy your beautiful Mother Teresa statue and God bless you!

Felicitades y bendiciones!!!

Pray for us



October brings a most beautiful devotion,
THE MOST HOLY ROSARY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Please pray for our new ministry. Each time we repeat that sweet angelic salutation 'Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee,' that amazing moment, The Incarnation, when The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, we offer beautiful roses to Our Blessed Mother and Our Lord Jesus Christ. Angels carry them to heaven



Please adopt Mother Teresa's Prayer to Mary
Mary, Mother of Jesus, give me your Heart, so beautiful, so pure, so Immaculate, so full of love and humility, that I may be able to receive Jesus in the Bread of Life, love Him as you loved Him and serve Him as you served Him, in the disguise of the poorest of the poor. Amen.



Donations and Drives

Calling all people...It's that beautiful time of year with crisp air, crispy leaves of all colors and of course cold weather. Time for cozying indoors, hot cocoa, warm pajamas, sweaters and fuzzy socks. This year, more than ever before, let's make it be the time to share. Mother Teresa Social Ministry at Holy Ghost Church invites you to donate to those that come to the church asking for help during times of need. Donated items can be dropped off at the parish **Monday through Friday from 9am-5pm** and on **Sundays after Mass**. THANK YOU and GOD BLESS YOU!

- SOCKS
- T-SHIRTS
- HOODIES
- COATS
- PANTS
- HATS, GLOVES & SCARVES
- CHILDREN'S CLOTHING
- BABY ITEMS, TOYS & DIAPERS
- BLANKETS & SLEEPING BAGS



- BACKPACKS
- SHOES
- SOAP
- RAZORS
- DEODARANT
- LOTION
- SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER
- TOOTHBRUSHES & TOOTHPASTE
- MEN'S & WOMEN'S UNDERWEAR



TEN FOR TERESA

OUR GOAL: \$7,000



Let's hit goal in October. It only takes \$10. If **700 people** donate **\$10 this month**, then we will hit goal. This helps sustain our ministry, provide food, vouchers for those in need of birth certificates and IDs which help with housing and emergency funds. Please use sandwich line envelopes or donate online and label your donation **'TEN FOR TERESA.'** Track our progress online. Thanks for all the love and all the support! May we give with cheerful hearts.



"CHARITY ISN'T ABOUT PITY ; IT IS ABOUT LOVE"

Volunteer Appreciation

"Our Father, Chris" "Years ago, while attending Homeless U, Holy Ghost Church was never far from view. In those sandwich lines I did stand. Accepting food given by gracious and loving hands." Time passed and Father Chris asked. To the sandwich line I was tasked." -Bob Kellogg



Sir Bologna Bob, Slicer of Beasts, The Haminator was knighted by Father Rafael. For the many years of volunteer work and slicing ham (said beast) for our sandwich line, we thank you, Bob!

Thanks to all our volunteers!

With your hard work, our ministry succeeds!

We love and appreciate you!

God bless you!!!



and Opportunities...

Want to help? At times we become busy with all the wonderful gifts God gives us along the way to holiness. We are given the desire deep in our hearts to give of ourselves humbly to serve God. We long for Him. We recognize our suffering Savior in serving those in need. We need your help with making and serving sandwiches, cleaning and organizing, picking up donations, resources, networking, prayer and much more. God has given us all many gifts; our gift to Him is what we do with them. We welcome any additional ideas or resources that could be of assistance to our ministry. Please share what is in your heart. There are so many possibilities...Reach out by phone, email or in person. Office hours: M-F, 9am-4pm.

Troy Maes, Director of Social Ministry 303-297-3441 social@holyghostchurch.org

WORKS OF Mercy

- Feed the Hungry
- Clothe the Naked
- Give Drink to the Thirsty
- Shelter the Homeless
- Visit the Imprisoned
- Visit the Sick
- Bury the Dead with Dignity

What we do – What's NEW

BUILDING ON A BEAUTIFUL FOUNDATION



For around 49 years Holy Ghost Catholic Church has been serving sandwiches to our community in the heart of downtown. We humbly thank those that laid the foundation, and we continue our ministry with a NEW PATRON SAINT, MOTHER TERESA OF CALCUTTA, serving both meat and cheese and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, water, Gatorade, chips, cookies and other treats and snacks Monday through Saturday at 10am. We help people with birth certificate and ID vouchers, both walk-ins and those incarcerated. We help with hygiene packs, clothing, storage units, money for work tools and emergency situations dependent upon available donated funds. Along with corporal needs, we help with spiritual needs such as prayer. We provide sacramentals such as rosaries, scapulars, prayer cards, medals and holy water.



Saint Mother Teresa said, "If we recognize Jesus under the appearance of bread, we will have no difficulty recognizing him in the disguise of the suffering poor. I have an opportunity to be with Jesus 24 hours a day." The King will say, 'I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me. Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did it for me.'



A BRAND-NEW MINISTRY...Thanks be to God for blessing Holy Ghost Church with a new radiant addition of Consecrated Groups. They bring such beautiful light and love, and of course delicious food! They dedicate so much putting all their hearts in, providing everything they serve, demonstrating faith in action with true Mother Teresa fashion. We would love for more groups to follow their example. This could be a one-time thing or ongoing like once a week, once a month, every other month, even annually. Get your group together and let us know when you want to share what's in your heart and serve a special meal to the people in our community that are hungry and come asking at our doorstep.



Intention of the Holy Father

Each year, the Holy Father asks for our prayers for a specific intention each month. You are invited to answer the Holy Father's request and to join with many people worldwide in praying for this intention each month.



Most High, Glorious God, enlighten the darkness of our minds. Give us a right faith, a firm hope and a perfect charity, so that we may always and in all things act according to Your Holy Will. Amen. — Saint Francis of Assisi

OCTOBER



We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

Holy Ghost Church is home to many throughout Denver and the surrounding areas. This month let us, united in One Body and One Spirit, continue to welcome those that may be considered marginal in our society.

In particular, those entering here from places south of this country. May the light of Christ warm the hearts of all our brothers and sisters that come to Holy Ghost Church and the Church be a place they can also call home.