



St. Max Homeless Breakfast Information

Our group combines with parishioners from St. Jude Parish to prepare & serve a breakfast on the second Saturday of each month at Catholic Charities in Ventura, feeding about 200 people.

We leave the Conejo area at about 5:30AM. We usually drive separately, but can arrange carpooling if anyone would like. The travel time is about a half hour each way, returning by about 10AM.

Directions: N on Vent Fwy to *California* offramp; off at *Calif*; turn R; immediately turn L at first street, which is Thompson; go about 4 blocks to Ventura Ave & turn R; go about 7 blocks to Catholic Charities, on L, at 303 N. Ventura Ave. It is a low building, with about 4 arches; there is a black wrought iron fence around the parking lot & building. We all arrive at about 6AM. If you happen to get there before the gate is unlocked, just wait in your car; someone will arrive shortly.

You are welcome to join us as a “regular” or an “every now & then.” ... Even participating *just once* is fine. ... The only hard part is getting up so early on a Saturday morning!

Feel free to contact me.

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St. Max & St. Jude Homeless Breakfast March, 2018

It was not particularly cold, but quite wet, as we left the Conejo. The drive consisted of clear, dark skies, & very little traffic. We passed just one accident on the rain-soaked roads.



On entering the parking lot, we spotted this fellow, asleep, just outside the gate. Since several cars would now be entering, we gently woke him & suggested he move inside, where he would be safe. As he curled up without any covering, I asked if he would like a blanket for some warmth. He gladly accepted, & I placed a newly-donated soft, clean blanket over him. Later, Cyndy & I were outside, & discovered that blanket, deposited in a trash can.

Although we were missing some of our “regular” volunteers, we more than made up for it, as LOTS of people showed up to help. Present were: Donna & Phil, Cyndy & Bob, Andy, Abbey & her boyfriend, Erich, Kay & Gary, Betsy, Linda, Violaine, Cathy & Gerald, Linda, Pam, Lynda, Jan & Dick, & Sally (20). It was the first time for Erich, but he was a “natural” at cooking perfect scrambled eggs. Violaine was also new to this experience. She & her husband are from France, living here for awhile, and adjusting to our lovely, but different, country. She easily & cheerfully performed any task we mentioned. Welcome, Erich & Violaine!



The Food Line



The Egg Chefs



The Beverage Servers



Last month, there was a mammoth cleaning & organizing of the kitchen, scullery, & store room by a combined bunch of volunteers from various groups. We noticed evidence of this upgrade: labeled cleaning containers & an orderly storage of supplies. Well done, fellow helpers!

Several of our “regular” guests came for Breakfast, but ONE, in particular, is noteworthy. Chuck has been here, off & on, for a long time. He has usually complained of excruciating pain, mainly in his back, & the desire to go to sleep & never wake up. Years ago, his sister traveled from the Mid-West, hoping to locate him. When they were re-united in our dining room (on a 2nd Saturday!), it seemed unbelievably magical. Unfortunately, the euphoria was short-lived for Chuck, & he resumed his life of misery. However, this Saturday, we witnessed a very different version of Chuck. Thanks to some surgeries (with more planned in the future), his pain has diminished dramatically. He has kicked a 50-year cigarette habit & appeared happier, relaxed, & more optimistic than I have previously observed — in fact, I don’t think I ever saw him SMILE before!



Thank you all for your joyous presence! Sally Holland