

FRATERNITE NOTRE DAME ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2018 – UNITED STATES



NEWYORKCITY/ EAST HARLEM

In the United States, Fraternite Notre Dame started in 1990 and is established in East Harlem, New York City, where its well-known services are recognized and very much appreciated. We are known as the main Community Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry in East Harlem.

Fraternite Notre Dame is a religious and charitable organization founded by His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie. Fraternite Notre Dame conducts its operations in various places across the United States and around the world.

Fraternite Notre Dame's Mission is to help anyone in need, with no distinction of race, class, gender or religious creed; to be attentive to the cries of the poor, be attentive to those who suffer in their heart or in their body. Its religious people do not receive any salary.

On a weekly basis, this translates into an average of: 300-350 persons served daily at the soup kitchen; 450 families and seniors helped through the Food Pantry; 150-200 homeless persons fed in the streets. Our Food Pantry serves an amazing number of families and senior citizens on a weekly basis; 40 children at the After-school program; 15 HIV/AIDS home-bound patients served.

We have grown beyond a mere feeding center, as social services, including after school programs and referrals are also provided.

Thousands of homeless people, destitute families, children and senior citizens have been served over the years, along with homebound AIDS patients.

In 2018, Fraternite Notre Dame continued to offer services for the poor on a daily basis, and also organized special events for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Namely, its well-known Annual Christmas Party for more than 2,000 destitute children. These children would otherwise have no toy for Christmas and His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie takes to heart to welcome and please them!

This year again, the DPI / NGO Resource Center greatly supported our Christmas Party by officially announcing to other NGOs our Toy Collection Drive. This was greatly appreciated! Thank you so much!



FRATERNITE NOTRE DAME IN CHICAGO

Fraternite Notre Dame's Headquarters are based in Chicago, where the organization takes care of poor people through many social services and Feeding Programs, namely the largest Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry in the Austin area, an After-School Program, Pastoral Care Services, etc. The Mission was opened by His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie in 1998, thanks to his care and love for the poor.

The Mission is settled in the Austin area, on the West side of Chicago, in a very destitute place and now is a very important center with its Church and its charitable activities.

More information on Chicago:

About 200/250 people served every day at the Soup Kitchen; around 400 families at the Food Pantry; 250 homeless persons at the Mobile Soup Kitchen; 300 meals at the After-School Program; 165 senior citizens at the Parkside Senior Center. Huge Christmas Party for more than 2,000 destitute children.

COMMUNITY DINNER PROGRAM – SOUP KITCHEN

A whole meal was served to hundreds of people four days a week, with soup



or salad, meat, 2 vegetables, pasta or rice, dessert, juice and coffee. Among the homeless we served, some were mentally ill. Some were deaf and mute.

FOOD PANTRY FRESCH MARKET

Helping hundreds of families every week. Each household received a large box of fresh produce, meat, dairy products, milk and eggs, pasta/rice, canned goods, baked goods and more. This could sustain families for several days. The program was a huge endeavor for us, because it represented very large amounts of pounds distributed per week.

MEALS ON WHEELS

100 % homeless people. We went at night at places where long lines of homeless were waiting for our van. All of them received hot meals, drinks and sandwiches each night. Regularly, we gave blankets and other supplies.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

On a regular basis, we delivered bags of nutritious food to a local senior facility. Residents included home-bound and handicapped elderly.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM

100% of children coming from dysfunctional families, mainly single-mothers headed or raised by their grand-parents, suffering tragedies with addicted mothers, etc... A meal was offered with bags filled with groceries to help the family. These families live in basements, have no food, furniture or even sometimes no heat for their living-quarters. We helped them the best we could with food assistance, but also on many occasions, we provided them with furniture and heater.

SPECIAL EVENTS

For Thanksgiving, Fraternite Notre Dame organized delicious Dinners. We



offered a dinner in our regular Soup Kitchen but also, in the streets at night for the homeless, also at the seniors' residence and at the After-School program.

In addition, we did our best to offer one turkey per family at the Food Pantry with the whole meal ingredients. Each year, many people donate turkeys to us because they know the work we accomplish. In 2018, received over 500 turkeys.

Moreover, His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie organized the famous Annual Christmas Party of Fraternite Notre Dame in the Austin neighborhood of Chicago! We received toys from all over and gave beautiful presents to nearly 2,000 children! For the most part, it was their only gift for Christmas.

We also offered presents to elderly people and a special Christmas Dinner to the homeless in the street with presents give-away (blankets, sleeping bags, gloves, hats, etc...).

FRATERNITE NOTRE DAME IN SAN FRANCISCO

Fraternite Notre Dame has settled in Tenderloin, San Francisco and operates

a Soup Kitchen, Mobile Soup Kitchen, and Meals-on-Wheels for the AIDS patients. Hundreds of persons are served 3 times a week at the Soup Kitchen. The Mobile Soup Kitchen is operated twice a week serving hundreds of homeless and low-income persons. We have been offering our services for nearly 15 years and strive to provide the best, with consistency, commitment and compassion. We take care of so many people who entrust their problems to us.



More information on San Francisco:

About 300 persons per day are served three times a week at the Soup Kitchen and we operate a Mobile Soup Kitchen. We call this service "Mobile Soup Kitchen" because the goal is to feed people outside, the same way we would feed them inside.

The Mobile Soup Kitchen serves approximately 400 to 450 persons per night every week at UN PLAZA, and we also go to another neighborhood of San Francisco, reaching at least 100 to 120 homeless persons per night.



These homeless individuals and homeless families live there permanently, under highway bridges, in their cars, behind rail-road tracks or near whole-sale produce buildings, far from the other soup-kitchens. They manage to survive, washing cars, cleaning buildings, recycling cans, getting day jobs. They really count on us to provide them with hot meals and fresh food to take

with them and live for a few days. Although we know perfectly well that this is not a permanent solution, having homeless people living in a city or people who cannot afford a lunch at home, however, when they come up to us, we have to serve and love them and we put all our heart into it.

In addition, at Christmas, there is a gifts distribution.

OTHER LOCATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES

NOTRE DAME MONASTERY IN MARENGO / ILLINOIS

A Shrine dedicated to the Ecce Homo (suffering Christ) was built by our Religious people a few years ago, featuring a majestic baroque style altar. The 15 stained glass windows were handcrafted by our Artist Religious using techniques dating back to the 12th century. The building is a wonder that was entirely built by our Religious Nuns, Friars and Priests, with beautiful details in the stone, brick and marble works.

There, the members of Fraternite Notre Dame lead a life of prayer and work, with the Monastery's farm. In Marengo also takes place the Spiritual formation of our Nuns, Friars and Priests, and we also operate a school.

On a weekly basis, a Food Pantry service takes place to assist families in need. An average of 50 persons is served every week at our Food Pantry Program: poor families, senior citizens, children threatened by poverty. Christmas gifts give away.



ST FRANCIS HERMITAGE WISCONSIN

A Shrine dedicated to the Merciful Christ was entirely built by our Religious in 2017. It includes 11 stained glass windows realized by our Artist Religious, using techniques that date back from the 12th century.

There, members of Fraternite Notre Dame welcome visiting pilgrims, while the Hermits lead a prayerful and solitary life, in a remote section of the property, living from the labor of their hands at the Hermitage's farm.

A Food Pantry service is run each week to help families in need and destitute individuals, which includes pastoral care, visits to the sick and to poor families living in the area. About 150-500 persons and their families are served there on a regular basis and on festivals, through this weekly Food Pantry Program, and the soup kitchen. Each week, visits to families are performed, and Pastoral Care in hospitals. The home bound in need are also attended with food assistance. At Christmas, a gift distribution to children takes place.

ST FRANCIS AND ST CLARE MONASTERY IN PEORIA, ILLINOIS.

The Monastery had been abandoned for several years. Fraternite Notre Dame discovered this small Monastery located on 10 acres of land, on the fringe of Peoria's city limits.

Our Religious performed restorations of the Shrine, improved some parts of the premises and fixed the heating system.

Each week, the religious of Fraternite Notre Dame provide food to the poor, and in particular, under bridges and overpasses, or along the river, to about 100 homeless persons.



They also run a Food Pantry Program and help low-income elderly persons. An average of 100 persons are served on a regular basis at our Pantry Program and Mobile Soup Kitchen: homeless, poor families, senior citizens and children threatened by poverty and delinquency.

**THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS
AND MARY, MOTHER
OF MERCY AND MOTHER
OF THE CHURCH IN DETROIT/
MICHIGAN**

In 2018, under the inspiration of Heaven, always concerned with the salvation of souls, His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie has explored towards the purchase of a new church in the United States, and his research directed him to the city of Detroit, Michigan.

After many steps and after having prayed a great deal for this intention, Fraternite Notre Dame, thanks to the support of several benefactors, was able to acquire a new property, in the northern part of the City. The Church

is named the Holy Name of Jesus. The property includes a large Catholic church, convents and a large school.

Bishop Jean Marie has already started a service of Food Pantry for the poor in the neighborhood, because the area is in shocking state of disrepair, partly due to the fact many plants have closed their doors. In the meantime, the friars, nuns and priests are already active, renovating the place.

Fraternite Notre Dame plans to ensure religious services and come to the help of all those who suffer in their heart or in their body, and also to revive the school, which would blow hopeful fresh air into the entire area.

IN CONCLUSION

One of the main goals of Fraternite Notre Dame is to serve those most in need, those who are abandoned. They can count with us because we serve all-year-round. We help mend their family and sometimes, bond it back together.

They find work and apartment anew, they can work again. We have many testimonies of homeless persons, who have now resumed a normal life, thanks to our support. We put all our heart into serving them and we love our poor persons, because we realize the values of these people and that they want to do something good in their lives.

We hear remarks from our poor people such as: *“You help a lot of people! There are devastating needs around here”*.

“It helps tremendously! This provides me with a place. I feel at home here, a sense of comfort and being home!”.
“My money is messed up! I know when I come here, I won’t starve!”



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