

# FRATERNITE NOTRE DAME

## ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2017 - UNITED STATES

**Fraternite Notre Dame** is a religious and humanitarian 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.

**The Mission of Fraternite Notre Dame** 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.

### NEW YORK CITY / EAST HARLEM

In the United States, Fraternite Notre Dame started its Mission in New York City in 1990 with the desire to serve the poorest of the poor. Its first Soup Kitchen was set up in a very dangerous area and was a true adventure since the organization had so little means.



But thanks to the commitment of the Religious Members, benefactors and other dedicated volunteers, Fraternité Notre Dame succeeded in establishing a major Feeding Center in East Harlem.

**Now, Fraternite Notre Dame** is known as the main soup kitchen, food pantry in East Harlem. 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 seniors citizens have been served over the years, along with homebound AIDS patients.



In 2017, **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**, which benefits over 2,000 destitute children every year. 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, the DPI/NGO Resource Centre** greatly supported our Christmas Party by officially announcing to other NGOs our Toy Collection Drive. We really appreciated!

## **FRATERNITE NOTRE DAME IN CHICAGO**

Fraternite Notre Dame's Mother House is in Chicago. The Mission was opened by His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie in 1998 thanks to his care and love for the poor.

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



**In 2017, Fraternite Notre Dame** (whose religious members do not receive any salary) in Chicago, very much appreciated by all the community and officials since its inception, offered the following services:





## 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

Several days a week, we delivered bags of nutritious food to a local senior Facility. Residents included home-bound and handicapped elderly.

## 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 FRESH 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

## 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 plus bags filled with groceries to help the family.





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. **This year again, in 2017**, we received over 500 turkeys!

These families live in basements, have no food, furniture or even sometimes even 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.

Moreover, His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie organized the famous **Annual Christmas Party** of Fraternite Notre Dame in the Austin neighborhood of Chicago!

### 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



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*).

**In 2017**, we provided food to thousands of people through our Soup Kitchen (*serving an average of 300 persons three times a week in the Tenderloin District*) and an amazing number of homeless individuals and families through our Mobile Soup-Kitchen.

We call this service “Mobile Soup Kitchen” because the goal is to feed people who live 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.

## **FRATERNITE NOTRE DAME IN SAN FRANCISCO**

The Mission of Fraternite Notre Dame in San Francisco is established in the Tenderloin District.

**His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie and the Religious Members of Fraternite Notre Dame** have been offering their services in San Francisco for over 12 years: A soup kitchen, a Mobile Soup Kitchen and other initiatives, since we take care of so many people who entrust their problems to us.

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, as we provide them with hot meals and fresh food to take with them and live for a few days.



They are able to accomplish an amazing amount of work and are serving so many persons in a day, that people are often amazed.

They work with and for the poor all day long, picking-up food and supplies all over the city and suburbs, cleaning and cooking.

**In 2017**, we happened to serve an amazing number of meals both at the Mobile Soup-Kitchen and regular Soup Kitchen.

They are actually very well-known for their energy, at the food banks and by other charitable organizations.

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 Conclusion...**

One of the main goals of Fraternite Notre Dame is to serve those most in need, those who are abandoned.

***All the Missions of Fraternite Notre Dame*** in the United States are operated by Religious Members who - after the example of their Founder, His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie - are dedicated a 100% to their work, are skilled and experienced, do not perceive any salary and give long hours of their time everyday.



You should see how grateful they are! It just touches your heart. They need the food, the services, but they also need a smile, a kind word.

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 an 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 out poor persons, because we realize the value of these people and that they want to do something good in their lives.

We hear remarks from our poor people such as:

*"I enjoy the food and I enjoy socialize with the other people who come here to eat. Good environment! If you were not here, I would probably be begging in the street. We're lucky to have you!"*



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