

Fraternite Notre Dame in the United States - Activity Report for 2016 -

Fraternite Notre Dame is a religious and charitable organization founded by His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie Roger Kozik. 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 creed; to be attentive to the cries of the poor and 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, Fraternite Notre Dame succeeded in establishing a major feeding center in East Harlem.



Now, Fraternite Notre Dame is known as the main soup kitchen and food pantry in East Harlem. We have grown beyond a mere feeding center, as social services, including after school programs and



These children would otherwise have no toys for Christmas and His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie takes to heart to welcome and please them!

This year, we had so many gifts and so many children! and we were glad to have among our volunteers some members of the United Nations DPI team to help us, such as Ms. Krystal Fruscella, along with other volunteers.

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 2016, 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.

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 charitable activities.

In 2016, 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:

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, des-

sert, juice and coffee. Among the homeless we served, some were mentally ill. Others 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.





week, we delivered bags of nutritious food to a local senior citizen Facility. Residents included homebound and handicapped elderly.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAM - 100% of children coming from dysfunctional families, mainly run by 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.

MEALS ON WHEELS - 100% of people served are homeless – We went at night to places where long lines of homeless were waiting for our van.

All of them received hot meals, drinks and sandwiches at night. Regularly, we gave blankets and other supplies.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY - Several days a



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. This year again, in 2016, we received over 500 turkeys!

Moreover, His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie organized our 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 streets, with present giveaways (*blankets, sleeping bags, gloves, hats, etc.*)

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 10 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.

In 2016, 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 these people who live outdoors, the same way we would feed them indoors.

The Mobile Soup Kitchen serves approximately 400 to 450 persons per night every week, at the 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, beyond railroad tracks or near wholesale 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 on it for a few days.

In 2016, we happened to serve an amazing number of meals both at the Mobile Soup-Kitchen and regular Soup Kitchen.

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 hearts into it.

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 every-day.

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.

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

In Conclusion...

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

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 hearts 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:

"It helps me coming here. I have seizures and I have to eat to take my medicine. I have no other place. I give my respects to my Nuns. I express gratitude for everything!"

