

The Open Door

SUMMER
2008

From the Director



Fr. Bill Wack, C.S.C.

Hello from André House. In the last newsletter I wrote that I may be moving on to another ministry after July 1st of this year. Now it seems clear that God wants me to stay around for another year to continue to grow and serve His people in Phoenix. I am really happy to remain here as the director as these last six years have been the most fulfilling of my life.

There will be some changes in our staffing, however. In August we will welcome a new staff of five recent college graduates and one additional Holy Cross priest. Fr. Eric Schimmel, CSC, comes to us after having served as an Associate Pastor at St. John Vianney Parish in Goodyear (AZ) for the last couple of years. Fr. Eric is a talented, energetic and faithful person with youthful optimism. Fr. Duane Balcerski, CSC, will also be returning, having been away for the last several months recovering from hip surgery. In addition, Bro. Richard Armstrong, CSC, and I will be continuing for another year.

Many people have asked whether the number of persons in need has increased recently, due to the downturn in the economy. While it is too soon to cite major trends we are definitely seeing more people in our soupline and in our parking lot during the day. (One of our guests just stopped me and complained that all the "new people" are taking the spots that we have available for clothing, showers, laundry, etc.) Unfortunately, many people believe that things will continue to get worse before they improve.

The good news is that our benefactors, contributors and co-workers are as charitable as ever - responding to the needs as they arise. I am amazed and humbled at the generosity of so many. Please continue to support us with your prayers. Pray for our guests who endure long, hot days in the sun and very warm nights outside on the streets. Be assured of our prayers for you.

Peace,
Fr. Bill

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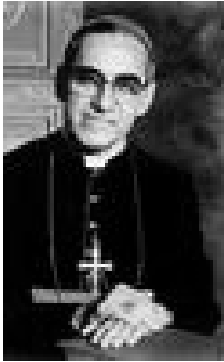
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PEACE!

The Communion of Saints: Present All Around Us

-by Kurt Zampier



"It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view..." - never have the words of the late Archbishop of El Salvador, Oscar Romero, spoken been truer. Praise be to God for the abundance of grace, joy and life that walks through this House of Hospitality. To see and witness to the goodness of the many volunteers that profess not only in word but also in action the will of God knocks

me off my feet. I find it overwhelming the feeling that I receive when I see the face of Christ in so many. I believe the long view Archbishop Romero speaks of is what we, Catholics, profess from the depths of our souls each time we transition in Mass from the Liturgy of the Word to the Eucharist. It is the belief in our common faith, our sharing in the one body of Our Lord who redeems us, sanctifies us, and glorifies us.

One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic.

If you read the rest of what the Archbishop says, he speaks of we who are present as workers, not master builders. We are called to do what we can, to try to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with our God. I must tell you this is not easy, at least for me in this place, at André House. However, who ever said it would be easy, this is a challenge, one that God allows us to freely choose. Only about a month ago, I was tempted with feelings of anger and disbelief when one of our guests came through the line and punched me across my face. Immediately a slew of thoughts filled with disgust arose and challenged my belief, painting most of our guests in a bad light. Now there are those who curse, swear, utter every kind of offense against us that at times can lead us to loose hope and sanity; nevertheless, that same day, God came to me through the intercession of many of our volunteers, my fellow core members, and other guests offering comfort and perspective. Over the course of the next few days, I reflected on this experience

and through prayer, I received grace and understanding. I thought of the Beatitudes. Blessed are you when they insult you, persecute you, and utter every kind of evil against you because of me, rejoice for your reward will be great in heaven. God tells us that if we choose Him, and His commandments, hope and trust in Him, will we receive eternal life, but not will we walk this road without adversity and oppression. There have been many times that I have been cursed at, but only one time where I was hit. Faith may not be easy at times, but when you have saints all around you, it sure helps to step back and see God's glory all around us. This year has pushed me mentally and physically, but the experience I received is truly a gift and one that I will hold dear and cherish the rest of my life. My faith has grown tremendously and that is the greatest present I could ever receive. To make God known, loved, and served is what I have tried to do and will continue to do. And it is in giving that we receive, and what we receive is the gift of eternal life. It is my prayer that God will bless all of you for your continued support of André House.

Almighty God and Father, may you bless all those who share in the life of André House, bring them the best of health and happiness. Through the intercession of Mary, Our Mother, may their faith be nourished by an abundance of grace and blessing. And may Your Spirit, continue to bring to all the faithful the fullness of grace and truth. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen. Alleluia! ☩

- KZ



Lessons From An Unexpected Source

- by Margaret Bouffard

Every Monday I am in charge of soupline, and I am blessed to have many dedicated volunteers who assist me weekly. It has been a joy getting to know them throughout the year, exchanging life stories, and becoming friends. I am impressed by their cheerful willingness to help week after week, and they challenge me to do my job well and with a smile. These folks tend to be older, working part-time or retired. As much as they are an inspiration, I am just as impressed with our younger volunteers - such as the local college and high school students. For many of them it is their first experience with social service and encountering people in need. Because this is often an opportunity for these young people to grow, I debrief with them at the conclusion of soupline, asking them how the dinner hour went and what they thought. One such conversation is forever ingrained in my memory.

Jonathan began volunteering at Andre House because, as a high school student, his mother thought it would be good for him.

Jonathan began volunteering at André House because, as a high school student, his mother thought it would be good for him. His initial performance wasn't impressive, though. He seemed quiet, unsure of what to do with himself, and needed guidance with tasks. As usual, I wanted to have a little reflective conversation on his service after dinner cleanup, but it consisted of me asking questions, and Jonathan giving me one-word answers. He signed up for other nights' souplines so I was able to see him a couple of times a week. The more often Jonathan volunteered, the more comfortable he became. He quickly became a self-initiated worker, recognizing what needed to be done, and completing tasks without being asked. He slowly became more and more talkative as well. Now when I see him scheduled to volunteer on my soupline, I get excited because I know I can assign him to any job and trust that he will complete it well.

One Monday, I assigned Jonathan to work in the Family Dining Room, a separate dining room for folks in wheelchairs or families with children. There, our volunteers carry trays to the tables and serve the guests much like waiters. At the end of the evening, I asked Jonathan how it went. He replied with a simple "good". I said, "There were a lot of kids tonight. That's always tough to see." Jonathan stated matter-of-factly, "Yea, I remember going to St. Vincent de Paul with my mom when I was little, so I can relate to these kids". I was blown away and didn't really know how to respond. "Well, I'm glad you're able to be on the other side of the table now," I said. Jonathan continues to volunteer regularly, multiple times a week and thoroughly enjoys the work. What was intended to be an opportunity for me to teach a high school student about homelessness turned into an unforgettable lesson for myself.

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- MB



Where Are They Now?

-by Amy Caffarello, Executive Director—St Joseph the Worker



Some may remember St. Joseph the Worker (SJW) as the tiny back office at André House that helps people get jobs. The agency, started by the André House in 1988, is standing on its own two feet these days and celebrating its 20th Anniversary! While much growth has occurred at SJW, the agency retains its single purpose mission: helping others to help themselves by gaining and maintaining permanent, sustainable employment. We are just doing it in a larger facility with a few more staff members and volunteers.

In November 2005, SJW moved across the street from the André House to co-locate on the new Human Services Campus, a large collaboration of agencies that serve the homeless. This year especially, as we celebrate our 20th anniversary, SJW reflects upon and recognizes the individuals and philosophical values on which the agency began. We know that many of you, the friends and supporters of the André House, are the same individuals that helped create the SJW Job Service.

This fiscal year SJW will help more than 310 homeless individuals obtain permanent employment at an average wage of \$10.82 per hour (and nearly half receiving benefits through their employer!). While the program growth

reveals a blessing, it unfortunately reveals a continued and increased need as well. To continue to strengthen our clients' odds for long-term success, SJW has created a formal Follow-Up program, through which we provide ongoing support to clients that have secured employment, to help them continue to stabilize and achieve self-sufficiency.

SJW invites you to become reacquainted, or perhaps experience for the first time, the targeted work of this agency. If you were involved or familiar with the early work of SJW, we would like to hear from you with memories, stories or photos. Please visit St. Joseph the Worker's website at www.sjwjobs.org to get a current look at St. Joseph the Worker's activities. Please drop us a line if you would like to receive regular updates from SJW, if you can provide vignettes or information about our past history, or if you would like to visit our new facility.

Please consider celebrating with St. Joseph the Worker at its 20th Anniversary Dinner on October 10, 2008, at the Arizona Historical Society Museum in Tempe. SJW will be honoring Founding Board Member, Matt Feeney, and celebrating the work of all of our early founders including Michael Baxter, John Fitzgerald, Brother Ron Whelan and so many others that began our work in the small store front on Grand Avenue, and later inside the André House building.

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Where Are They Now? - cont'd from previous page



St Joseph the Worker Offices
Clients using the new Client Resource Center of the
SJW facility which opened in Nov 2005

We invite you to the festivities on October 10th to celebrate and to hear the stories of former clients that have overcome great obstacles to achieve a self-sufficient lifestyle.

Our deepest gratitude and respect goes out to the staff and volunteers of the André House who give so much of themselves to help our poor and homeless brothers and sisters. Many thanks to all who worked so hard and contributed so generously to make St. Joseph the Worker what it is today! A very special thank you to Jan Gray, the previous Executive Director of SJW, for her leadership and the integral part she played in the transition of SJW from the Andre House facility to its current home on the Human Service Campus. We are pleased to let you know that she is enjoying her more rural way of life at her home in New Mexico.

Our community is better for everyone's efforts and SJW hopes to hear from you.



[Amy Caffarello joined St. Joseph the Worker as Executive Director in March 2006. Amy has worked in the local non-profit community for more than twelve years and is an Arizona native. Her passion for serving our community, especially our most vulnerable members, is among the assets she brings to St. Joseph the Worker. Amy's non-profit experience includes development, finance, operational and programmatic management. Amy gained her interest and understanding of the issues of homelessness while working for HomeBase Youth Services, a local organization serving homeless youth, as well as through participation in local committees and task forces dedicated to ending homelessness.]



Amy Caffarello
Executive Director—St Joseph the Worker
director@sjwjobs.org
602-417-9854

Catholic Charities Community Services Annual Awards Dinner 2008 **** Jack & Joan Butler Honored ****

Catholic Charities held its Annual Awards Dinner on April 10th at the Phoenix Country Club. The Advisory Board uses the dinner as a chance to recognize the exceptional people who exhibit the same values and qualities that Catholic Charities advocates. Among the individuals to whom tribute was paid at the April 10th dinner were Andre House's own weekly volunteers - **Jack & Joan Butler**. They were honored with the ***The Prophet Amos Award 2008***. Below is how Catholic Charities characterizes the Prophet Amos, the award and the recipients.

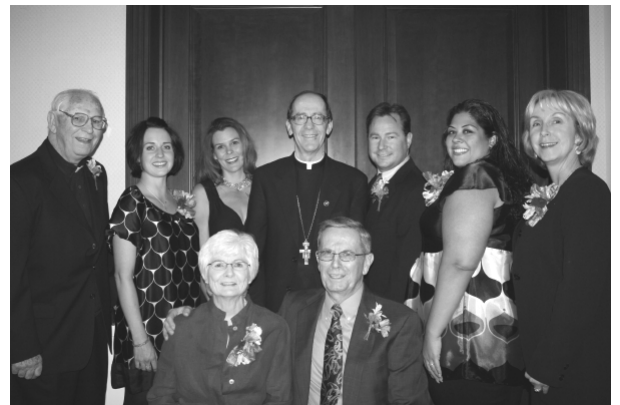
The Prophet Amos Award 2008

From the pages of the Hebrew Scriptures rises a voice of unparalleled integrity, but an integrity that is not only personal, but one that challenges its world to be honest, fair and just. The voice is that of **Prophet Amos** who denounced the injustice of his time, the greed of the wealthy and the miserable condition of the poor. Speaking in God's name, he condemned those who trampled upon the needy and destroyed the poor, while begging the people to hate evil, love good and let justice prevail in all their judgments. The **Prophet Amos Award** goes to someone who shares with Catholic Charities the same passion for the needy and misunderstood as the Prophet Amos, his sense of justice and commitment to those discarded by society.

Jack and Joan Butler have been involved in the community for more than 25 years. They started at Andre House, a ministry to the homeless and poor in Phoenix, 25 years ago chopping vegetables in the back yard. Their service at Andre House includes serving supper, organizing donations, book-keeping, mentoring young volunteers, and serving as board members. Jack and Joan are involved with the St Vincent de Paul Society, Marriage Preparation, and the Ministry of Care at their parish, Most Holy Trinity in Phoenix. Jack volunteers at St Joseph the Worker and served as the finance chairman on the Board of Directors of Rebuilding Together, formerly Christmas in April, for 7 years. They recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary and are the proud parents of 5 children and 9 grandchildren.

(Jack & Joan were nominated for this award by Dennis Flynn, Executive Director, Rebuilding Together.)

The Andre House staff not only wish to congratulate Jack and Joan on their well-deserved receipt of the **Prophet Amos Award**, but also to thank them for their many years of continuous, dedicated service! God bless you both.



Bishop Thomas J Olmsted joins Joan & Jack Butler along with the other honorees at the Catholic Charities Annual Awards Dinner.

Mailing List



Do you want to be removed from the mailing list? (STOP!)



Does your name or address need to be corrected?



Are you reading a friend's copy of *The Open Door* & wanted to be added to our mailing list?



If any of these are true, please use the enclosed envelope and **send the mailing label on this newsletter** with either the changes that need to be made or the word, "Remove," on it. The list will be updated before our next mailing.

If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please call Teresa Hipp, Volunteer Coordinator, at 602-255-0580. If you leave the information on the voicemail, please leave a phone number incase there are questions. Thank you!

****André House's mailing list is not sold or given to any other organization****



Do you need Community Service Hours?



André House will be in great need of volunteers during July & August. As the snow-birds head home, the school groups break for the summer and people head off to vacation,

we will have many service opportunities in the Soupline. Beat the rush to get your service hours in for next Fall by coming in and helping us this summer! Call to schedule your time or if you have questions...

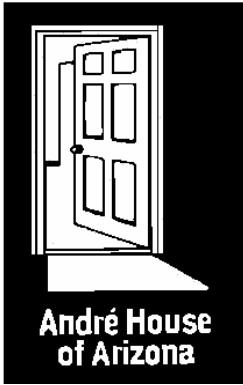
Teresa Hipp, Volunteer Coordinator

Phone: 602-255-0580 ext 1

Email: coordinator@andrehouse.org

(no drop-in's, please)





PO Box 2014
Phoenix, AZ 85001
Phone: 602-252-9023 or 602-255-0580
www.andrehouse.org

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The Open Door



**Join us every First
Friday for Mass and
a Potluck Supper at
Polk at 6:30 pm**



André House Needs: Summer Focus Items!

- * Individual Bottled Water (Cases)
- * White Tube Socks
- * Men's Jeans (especially sizes 30-38)
- * Men's & Women's Underwear (esp. larger sizes)
- * Deodorant
- * Phone cards (for long distance phone calls)

