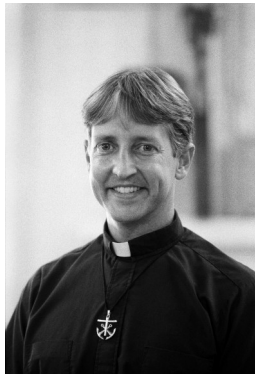


From the Director



Fr. Eric Schimmel, C.S.C.

Greetings from André House.

Change and constancy stand as two major themes for me as I write this to you.

This past August saw an important change as five members of our Core Staff moved on to the next place God called them to go, and five new Core Staff arrived. In this article you will hear from some of them. In the midst of that change, I appreciate the constancy of God's grace as I see Ali, Charles, Katie, Katty, and Michelle doing a fine job here at André House.

One thing constantly staying in the back of my mind now is our upcoming Silver Anniversary celebration. Many things have changed since the founding of André House 25 years ago. From one small house on Polk St, our organization has grown to include the Hospitality Center with multiple services, two relatively new transitional houses and a staff house. Even with the many changes, our approach to ministry remains the same. We constantly want to uphold the dignity of every person, helping them to feel their inner worth as a daughter or son of God. Details about the 25th Anniversary celebration can be found on our website, www.andrehouse.org.

Faces change at André House quite a bit, especially this time of year. Snowbirds are returning – whether they be volunteers or guests. We also have had a few people join us as special volunteers and help us with services other than the soupline – in the clothes closet, laundry, showers, office etc. This helps us tremendously! We like getting to know you all and sharing your stories. Of course that reminds me of a great constant here. André House is more than just services. What remain most important are the people – guests & volunteers, staff & benefactors. We all bring something valuable.

I guess another constant about André House is the Director's ability to dream about future changes. Perhaps there is a hidden charism of the Director to have a wish list. One wish that I have for us is the ability to go green. We have been studying and investigating installing solar panels, going slowly so that we can make the best long-term decision. Using solar energy would not only help the environment by using a renewable energy source, but it can also have the benefit of reducing some of our bills. This seems to be a great time to go solar – the technology is advancing and the government is assisting with incentives. Regrettably, those government incentives typically come in the form of tax breaks which do not help non-profits like us. Still, we have a dream. I *know* we can find a use for our large, flat roof and the abundant sunshine God provides in this Valley of the Sun! If you would like to help with this project—advising or investing—please contact me at 602-255-0580 x301.

As always, thank you for your prayers and for your support. Know that we are praying for you.

God bless,
Fr. Eric

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Screws Fall Out All the Time; the World is an Imperfect Place - by Katie Burton



This week has been good. I really feel like I am getting my feet under me. I feel less like the new kid on the block and more like the capable Core member I was brought on staff to be.

Being a Core member, part of the experience I signed on for was living in community. It is a large and necessary part of being at André House. In honor of that, I want to talk today about my roommates, the four people with whom I have the pleasure of sharing this absurd experience. We come from a variety of different backgrounds, locations and interests. If, instead of being at André House, we all met at say, some party, I don't think we would gravitate to each other, start a conversation and become instant friends, as we have here. But because we share this unique experience of André House, the forces of God have brought us together and we are each other's new (if only temporary) family.

We all have different schedules, days off and overnight shifts, so it is only on Wednesday nights that we are all home and able to come together as a community. It is the only time of the week where we can share all the ups and downs we have experienced that week as a whole group. We either gather around our tiny kitchen table, dragging in extra chairs, or drape ourselves over the living room furniture. Usually with a good box of \$8 wine and a leftover cookie pie, we start in.

During these exchanges I usually think about *The Breakfast Club*, you know

that 1985ish movie with the Brat Pack of Emilio Estevez and Molly Ringwald? It places five kids with different positions in the high school social ladder in Saturday morning detention together and hilarity and touching moments ensue. Well, living at Mom's House (the affectionate term for the Core members' quarters while on staff), we were also haphazardly thrown together. Though there is less of a disparity in terms of our social positions, we all possess different positions in life...we have the doctor (Charles), the theologian (Michelle), the environmentalist (Katty), the singer (Ali), and the social worker (me). Though life is less predictable here than it is in a John Hughes movie, there is no less hilarity or touching moments.

Sitting in the kitchen at Mom's House, we laugh...we laugh a lot. Given what we do all day laughing is a necessary part of the experience. We talk about the colorful names we have been called, the guests that brighten our day, the people who went out of their way for us, the volunteers we couldn't live without, the family we miss, and the moments that we remember why we are here.

Though we have only been here a couple of months, I think as long as there is more laughter than tears, and more smiles than frowns, and we continue to come together as a group at least once a week and share our frustrations and joy, we will be able to accept the world for its imperfections and continue trying to put back all its fallen screws.



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The Duty of Delight

- by Katty Paulino

Every seven weeks, André House staff is in charge of burial services at White Tanks Cemetery in Glendale, AZ. It is a cemetery for indigent people or those who had no one claim them after they died. I thought running the services would be surreal, but when I recently got the chance to do it, it felt very normal.

It is not my intent to belittle the pain of death, especially for those who are not prepared for it or who die scared and alone; nor is it my intent to belittle those who have no one to mourn their death. However, reciting the burial prayers in front of these strangers' graves reminded me of being at the André House building...another service to fill another need. With the exception that this time, instead of giving our guests a towel, a bottle of water, or a meal ticket, we give their souls to God. We prayed that they would see His face and know the fullness of His love. What a privilege! What a joy!



To be honest, though, I felt neither privileged nor joyful while I was out there. Though my greatest desire was to make the services special, I found it difficult to feel anything other than sleepy. How terrible! In a sense, I felt like I was failing them: unable to feel true sorrow at their death and unable to feel true joy in the hope of their salvation.

But, as Christians, our duty is not to feel, but to love. When that love is accompanied by wonderful feelings, it is a gift, a consolation. God tells us, "Hey, check that out!" and we can't contain the excitement. The rest of the time we love each other through the small, unglamorous (and sometimes sleepy or tired or hectic) moments in life. That choice—to love even if it doesn't feel good—helps open and purify our hearts to receive the true joy that comes from Heaven.

If Dorothy Day read this, I think she would agree. Any servant knows that service is primarily about the persons whom we serve and not the way it makes us feel. At the same time, I believe she would remind me of the "duty of delight." Mother Teresa, her contemporary, expressed the same belief when she reminded her sisters to smile. God always gives us reasons to smile, and it is our duty to find them and share them with others.

When I think about it, there were many delightful things about my experience at White Tanks. For one, we actually made it there on time. Also, many of the graves around us had flowers; we got to sing parts of Amazing grace and On Eagle's Wings; and I hadn't been to a burial in over ten years, so I enjoyed saying things like "let perpetual light shine upon him." Lastly, the ingredients for a White Tanks burial are a hole in the ground, casket, cement cap, dirt, and prayers, and I found this simplicity very beautiful. I guess it made it easier to focus on God and the promise of eternal life.

I am sure that as this year unfolds, there will be many more things to delight in. I hope that, with the help of Dorothy Day and Mother Teresa's prayers, I can see them and smile.



The Pride of Service

-by Charles Armstrong



Pride is a spiritual poison. It not only negates the act of doing good but can destroy the good that is done within the soul as well. At André House there are many ways to become captured by the pride of doing good works. However, when volunteering is done in the right spirit and for the right reasons, like helping another person, it is noble and holy. Volunteering because one is helping another who is less fortunate is admirable. Volunteering because of the positive attention or praise which is received from others is not only unholy but damaging to the soul.

As the new André House staff, we are entering into a year of selfless service to the poor and to each other. My hope and prayer is that our service truly is selfless. We have completed our first full month together and what a month it has been! We have already heard countless inspirational stories and met many truly unforgettable people. Slowly however, I have noticed that the fulfilled feeling I get from knowing that I am living in the love of the Lord has begun to diminish. I ask myself, what is happening? Is the routine of life at André House already beginning to set in? Is it possible that I am getting used to constantly serving the poor? Could it be that I am considering life at André House to be just another job? Yes it is true that all of these must be guarded against, but ultimately the cause of my concern is illuminated by the self-honesty of admitting that I have begun to have pride in the work that I am doing here.

As André House volunteers, benefactors or staff, we are especially susceptible to pride. Pride can surface when telling coworkers about helping on the soupline last night, donating money to the cause of homelessness or telling our friends about how we decided to do a year of service after graduating from college. Special care must be taken when we tell people about the good works that we do. There are two purposes for telling people about good works: the first is for pride, because it gives us a chance to brag about ourselves. The second purpose is because it can be a powerful testimonial of God's love at work in our lives and a reflection of that love in how we choose to spend our time. When discussing good works, we are especially prone to the dark force of pride, but as regular volunteers, benefactors or staff here at André House we have no choice but to discuss it. Our families and friends constantly ask us about how we are doing, how we like it, and sometimes even lavish praise upon us. The praise itself is not unfortunate, but when such praise leads to undue pride, it is unfortunate.

We are public representatives of André House and must be very careful to not be walking contradictions to the Gospel that we read every Ash Wednesday. Jesus said, "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you." (Mt 6:2-4)

The only way to defeat pride is through vigilant prayer. Pride will go away when we

cont'd on page 6

Arizona Tax Credit for Contributions to a Qualifying Charity

A WIN/WIN DEAL!

The benefit of our Arizona Credit for Charities that Help the Working Poor is that the charity gets the money and the donor gets a dollar for dollar reduction of Arizona State tax. How can you lose?

The maximum amount is \$200 for a single taxpayer or \$400 for a married couple filing jointly.

You must itemize in order to use this credit. **And** you must have itemized at least once in the past to establish a baseline year and amount. The credit is then figured on the amount over and above the baseline amount.

If you itemized in 1996 **and** deducted charitable contributions, that is the baseline year by law. The baseline amount is the total dollar amount of charitable contributions deducted on Schedule A. If a taxpayer did not itemize deductions and deduct charitable contributions in 1996, then the baseline year by law is the first taxable year after 1996 that the taxpayer itemizes deductions **and** deducts charitable contributions.

After determining your baseline year and amount, the credit is figured on the amounts above the baseline dollar amount. For instance, if a taxpayer has a baseline amount of \$500, then to receive a \$200 credit, the taxpayer must give \$700 in total contributions that includes \$200 to a qualifying charity. Likewise, a taxpayer could give \$600 in total contributions, including \$200 to a qualifying charity, and get a \$100 tax credit.

For the purpose of this credit, André House is a qualifying charity. For a list of all qualifying charities go to the Arizona Department of Revenue website www.azdor.gov



Thanksgiving Eve Memorial Service



November is a month of remembrance in the Catholic Church. Because of this, on Wednesday, November 25th, Thanksgiving Eve, the André House community of staff, volunteers, and benefactors gather at White Tanks Cemetery in Litchfield Park to remember all of the homeless men and women who have died. This powerful memorial service is a reminder to all of us of the brevity of our life on earth and prepares us to truly give thanks on Thanksgiving Day for the many blessings in our lives.

Every Thursday, deceased homeless and indigent persons for whom no relatives can be found to assume burial responsibilities are laid to rest in the bleak White Tanks Cemetery. Present to honor them are only the members of a chain gang from local prison, who provide the labor, and a rotating minister or priest to offer burial prayers. The André House staff presides over these services several times a year. More info: call Charles at 602-255-0580 x 307

FUNDRAISER for AndréHouse!



Exciting 7 night Mexican Riviera Cruise!

Join Fr Bill Wack, CSC and others!

Leave Los Angeles aboard Royal Caribbean's Mariner of the Seas on Oct 10, 2010. You'll be sailing to Puerto Vallarta, Mazatlan & Cabo San Lucas. All rooms are Deluxe Ocean View Cabins with a balcony. Cost includes round trip air from Phoenix, the cruise (including all port charges & taxes), and transfers in Los Angeles. Total cost is \$1200 per person. A \$275 deposit is due by Jan 1, 2010; final payment is due Jul 15, 2010. To be a part of this EXCITING trip! Contact Marilyn Johnson from Your Travel Center at 602-595-7477 or via email: mjohnson@ytc.com.

The Pride of Service (cont'd from pg 4)

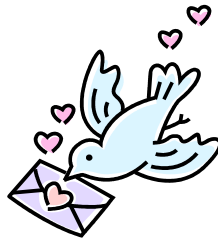
ask God to take it away from us. When our pride is gone the old feeling that we used to get when we volunteered at André House, of knowing that we are exactly where God wants us to be, will return, and no one has to know except for you and God. Then the humble joy that you bring will be the reflected face of God on earth. It is the humble heart that reflects the face of God to others, and it is because of the happiness gained by serving the poor without pride.

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Mailing List



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



Does your name or address need to be corrected?



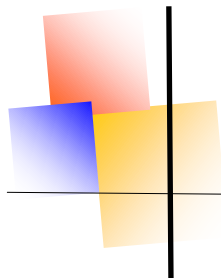
Are you reading a friend's copy of The Open Door & wanted to be added to our mailing list?



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 x302. If you leave the information on the voicemail, please leave a phone number in case there are questions. Thank you!

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



SAVE THE DATE!

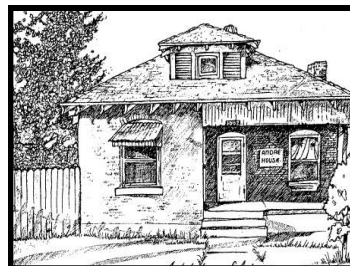
André House's 25th Anniversary

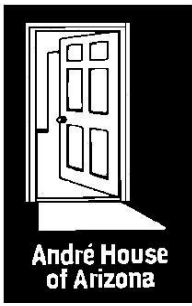
*Mark your calendars to celebrate with us:
Mass, meals, stories, service opportunities, and fun!*

More details coming soon!

Keep checking our website:
www.andrehouse.org

JANUARY 8-10, 2010





André House

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

The Open Door



**Join us every First
Friday for Mass and
a Potluck Supper at
1203 W Polk at
6:30 pm**



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André House Needs List: Fall Focus Items....



- Ground Coffee
- Frozen Whole Turkeys
- White tube socks
- Blankets
- Shampoo (large bottles & travel sizes)
- Jackets & Sweatshirts
- Men's Jeans (sizes 28-38)
- Men's Underwear (sizes 28-38)
- Men's Tennis Shoes (sizes 8-12)
- Sleeping Bags

Thank you & God bless!

