

From the Director

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Fr. Tom Doyle, C.S.C.
Executive Director

My favorite hymn, for the last seventeen years has been the Servant Song. The simple tune and the chorus make it possible for me, a dreadful singer, to vocalize the joy and mystery it stirs inside me.

*Will you let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you.
Pray that I may have the grace to,
Let you be my servant too.*

The first sentence of the chorus is the easy part of the prayer. A simple plea to God to help us serve others. For a trained and ordained minister, and I suspect for most every one of us, we understand this sentiment and petition. And at Andre House the prayer is answered every day in our staff and our volunteers. The second sentence is much, much more difficult. It is, frankly, very

hard to allow others to be servant and minister to us. Whether it is our fierce independence or pride it can be very hard to accept the charity of others. Sometimes receiving a gift from another, that by definition we cannot repay, repels us from asking for, or outright rejecting, the gift. I think often how awkward and uncomfortable our guests are the first time they come for a shower, clothing or a meal. It requires humility and courage that is not familiar to me.

On Holy Thursday, twenty additional volunteers came to Andre House. For almost two hours the volunteers, washed (thoroughly) the feet of our guests, dried them with fresh towels, rubbed lotion into their broken feet and gave them a new pair of socks. The parking lot where they washed was as quiet and peaceful as any sanctuary. One of our guests, insisted before his feet were washed, that he be permitted to wash the feet of a member of the Core Staff. The Core Staff member resisted, before relinquishing. His feet were washed, dried and lotioned.

Allowing another person to serve and support us, is a gift to the other. It's an acknowledgement that community necessitates both giving and receiving with humility and without counting the cost or the debt incurred. Such is the good news of Easter, a gift has been given which we do not deserve and for which we cannot repay. My prayer for me, and for you, is that we humbly and gracefully allow our Lord and others to serve us as naturally as we offer to serve them.

Peace,
Fr. Tom

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Hope Within the Gifts We Share

- by Kenia Rivera

During a Tuesday morning outside mass, held in the beginning of my second year here at Andre House, I had the blessing of experiencing Christ. I did not attend a mass or church service that many would think is traditional. Instead it was held outside on the bench and parking lot area



among what many would think is the daily chaos of “the zone”. There are many attending mass; however there are also many walking around, some shouting, some playing loud music, and some just waking up and getting used to the morning. On occasion a guest may not realize it is not appropriate to cut in front of the altar while mass is going on. Needless to say there are many distractions of all variations that can be seen as either positive or negative.

On this one particular Tuesday I experienced a distraction that I wish occurred more often. One of our female guests began to sing under the red tent sitting area in our parking lot. She made a point to be away from the mass currently going on as to not distract however her voice flowed through the air, and it was absolutely beautiful. She sang a slow, soulful, gospel song; and immediately there was a peace that came over the parking lot. Most guests stopped what they were doing to listen, and many of us at mass looked over and listened as well. As Fr. Tom continued his service there was this blend of peace and harmony between this woman’s singing and our prayer service. Both events meshed together so well it was as if it was meant to happen this way.

As this beautiful woman continued to sing the group attending service clapped a bit; but the guests surrounding the singer become

completely wrapped up in the moment. It was one of the rare times all chaos, loud music, and side conversations ceased. The clapping, singing, and service seemed to have flowed together; and although two separate events were occurring it felt like everyone

in the parking lot was one.

Within a few short moments the song had ended, the singing had stopped, and clapping was replaced with silence and communion. Shortly after, guests went about and continued their day. Many would expect the daily noise to rise again and carry on and it did, however there was an heir of peace left over and everything seemed a little calmer.

Everyone has a special gift or gifts given to them by God. It is up to us to decide whether we are embracing this gift and sharing it with others, or malnourishing it and hiding it away. Where many would be scared or embarrassed to share what ever gifts they may have to offer this woman was not, in this brief moment she decided to share her gift with those around her. As a result we were given the gift of a beautiful song that brought upon peace and harmony. This guest did not have to prepare or do anything big and fancy to share her gifts, instead she shared her gift in one of the simplest ways possible. This helped me to realize that it does not take a huge feat to spread hope and happiness. There have been many times I have been too afraid or felt unprepared to share my gifts to others. Through this woman’s small and simple gesture it helped me realize the hope we spread by sharing our gifts to one another, instead of hiding them away.

Hope

- by Jay Minich

At the end of *The Shawshank Redemption*, Tim Robbins says “Hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever dies.” Over my past year and a half at André House, I have realized that beneath all of the meals, clothing, blankets, showers, etc. which we provide, there is a steady undercurrent of hope that we bring into the lives of our beloved guests, and that this “best of things” cannot and will not ever die.



further. We therefore started a weekly faith sharing group with our guests on Wednesday mornings. This was truly transformative. We began to truly listen to our guests, and we practiced “meeting them where they are at” on their spiritual journeys. I found that many of their stories, their hopes, dreams, questions, and faith life are incredibly similar to my own, and their

relationships with God were much more intimate, kind and developed than mine or than most people I know.

When I first began at André House after 15 years as an accountant, auditor and manager, my instinct was to calculate how many meals, blankets, homes, etc., and money are needed to “solve” our guests’ poverty and homelessness. I often became discouraged when I saw that our guests’ needs for these most basic resources drastically outweigh the available supply. I had focused on how to connect our guests with every possible resource of which I knew, and gave of my own resources as well. And, like very many generous men and women before me, I learned that trying to tackle our guests’ issues of poverty on this macro level by “matching up the demand with the supply” is simply overwhelming, and not very effective.

After several weeks of our weekly faith sharing group, I finally began to realize that what our guests really yearn for in the deepest parts of themselves is loving acceptance - by God, by their families, by their friends, and by their larger local communities. It is this loving acceptance that brings people hope, and that ultimately can and will cure poverty. It requires only an open mind, a giving spirit, a generous heart, and an unflinching belief that we can love and accept all of our brothers and sisters unconditionally, and welcome them fully into our communities and into our lives. I know a pretty smart man who challenged us to do this very thing many years ago; his name was Jesus of Nazareth.

Around the time I was experiencing this discouragement, one of my good friends and a faithful Tuesday volunteer came to me and said, “What are we doing to help the spiritual needs of our guests?” I told him of how we celebrate Mass and pray for our guests, which is great, but he recommended we go a step

This is my hope, my “best of things”, which I know cannot and will not ever die.

ADMIT ONE - *from the street...*
-submitted by Lorenzo Reeve

Every day we pray with and for those we serve. Following are some prayers that were written and left in the prayer box in our dining room.

Hebrews 2:12—I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters... I will praise you among your assembled people.

Dear Lord thank you for the blessings you have given me amen. Lord I want to thank you for giving me a chance more than ever, for You are the only One God; for schools and families, all God's children, both blessed by the Lord Jesus.

I hope God helps me. Please take care of me-- keep me safe today. I need some spiritual guidance, but do not know how, when, and where to get it – can you help? Pray for me to have structure, discipline, patience, faith (trust in Him), real love, the kind from Lord Jesus. Pray that one day I may honor my parents. Pray that I might be able to fight this addiction. Pray that I do not go back to church because I do not want to embarrass the church any more than has already been done.

Jesus is God. GOD IS NOT DEAD. Pray that all evil will leave this place. Kill all the demons, in the name of Jesus! Bind and rebuke Satan, in Jesus Name! Amen, pray for a hedge of protection over this place, for the Holy Spirit is welcome in this place.

Pray for the homeless. Pray for the unborn baby. Pray for financial security. Pray that you keep my family safe, happy warm. Pray that we may be blessed with all wants, needs, and wealth. Thank you Jesus-- that we may be happy forever.

God, Your Will, Your Way, Your Time.... The Lord is good all the time, you know Lord, thank you, AMEN.



Holy Thursday Washing of the Feet

Join our Core Staff Community for 2015/2016

André House of Hospitality – Core Team
See the impact of your life shared every day.

Andre House of Hospitality lives out, literally and immediately, the question of the just man to Jesus: *“Lord, when did we see you hungry, or thirsty or naked or sick or in prison?”* Mt 25:37

Program Benefits:

- Development as a leader.
- Front-line and focused service to the permanent and transient homeless population of Phoenix, AZ
- One year commitment with option for a second year. (August 1, 2015-July 31, 2016)
- Community living and covenant with 5 other members of the Core Staff
- Daily interaction with priests and brothers of Holy Cross
- Educational Loan deferment, health insurance, transportation, monthly stipend, room and board
- Educational Grant upon Completion of Service (AmeriCorps)

Activities:

- Plan, prepare and serve 600 primary meals per day. (> 250,000 meals served per year)
- Advocacy and case management
- Operate two transitional living homes (guests stay 1-9 months)
- Health and hygiene services. Showers, Clothing, Laundry, First Aid
- Bury the unclaimed remains of deceased homeless.
- Lead 20-30 daily volunteers
- Daily morning and mid-day prayer

Characteristics of successful Andre House Core Team Members:

- Resilience
- Restless faith stirring in their soul – (God what am I going to do with my life?)
- Desire to serve with, and be a part of, a team
- An inkling to try something radical or counter-cultural
- Desire to be/become a servant - leader
- Empathy

What do Andre House “Graduates” do immediately after Andre House?

- Continue Education: Law School, Medical School, Masters in Social Work, Nursing, Public Policy, Theology, Humanities, MBA, Theology
- Leadership and management in other human service agencies
- Full time work: finance, human resources, hotel and hospitality, culinary, international service, lobbying.

If you are interested, or know someone who may be, visit our website : www.andrehouse.org
or email: tdoyle@andrehouse.org

Benefits of Volunteering

Volunteering provides many benefits to both mental and physical health.

- ◇ ***Volunteering increases self-confidence.*** Volunteering can provide a healthy boost to your self-confidence, self-esteem, and life satisfaction. You are doing good for others and the community, which provides a natural sense of accomplishment. Your role as a volunteer can also give you a sense of pride and identity. And the better you feel about yourself, the more likely you are to have a positive view of your life and future goals.
- ◇ ***Volunteering combats depression.*** Reducing the risk of depression is another important benefit of volunteering. A key risk factor for depression is social isolation. Volunteering keeps you in regular contact with others and helps you develop a solid support system, which in turn protects you against stress and depression when you're going through challenging times.
- ◇ ***Volunteering helps you stay physically healthy.*** Volunteering is good for your health at any age, but it's especially beneficial in older adults. Studies have found that those who volunteer have a lower mortality rate than those who do not, even when considering factors like the health of the participants. Volunteering has also been shown to lessen symptoms of chronic pain or heart disease.

Source: Helpguide.org

During the summer months, as vacations and summer travel begins, there is a greater need for nightly Soupline Volunteers. Throughout the year, *all twelve months of the year*, we depend on 30 volunteers every night, to help prepare, serve, and clean-up after the evening meal. Please consider signing up in June, July and August as a Soupline Volunteer. Your help is greatly appreciated! Visit our website at www.andrehouse.org and click on the *Get Involved* tab for more information.

Therese Barnhart, Director of Volunteer Services and Communication
Email: tbarnhart@andrehouse.org
Phone: 602-255-0580 ext 302

Please help resolve one of the Director's top five causes of heartburn:

Andre House is in immediate need of a economy car, sedan, minivan or SUV.

**If you don't think your vehicle is "good enough" consider the following:
The average Andre House vehicle is 15 years old, has 92,000 miles and a lot of
character scratches and dents.**

Any running vehicle below those averages improves our fleet! Thank you!

Please email Fr. Tom at: tdoyle@andrehouse.org or call 602-255-0580 ext. 301



André House Needs List:

Spring and Summer Focus Items....

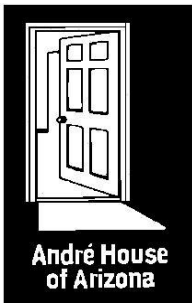
Deodorant
Water Bottles
Sunscreen

Lip Balm

Sun Visors or Hats (caps)

White tube socks

Thank you & God bless!



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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Save the Date!
October 30, 2015

Andre House is celebrating 2 very special events this year:

1. Our 30th Anniversary

and

2. Br. Richards 50th Anniversary!

You are invited to share in the celebration - Mark your calendars