

# THE OPEN DOOR



FROM THE CORE COMMUNITY OF ANDRE HOUSE SPRING EDITION 2017

## A letter from our Executive Director Fr. Tom Doyle, CSC

When I arrived at the corner of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Jackson this warm February morning, something was amiss. The 60 or so people who sleep on our sidewalk were up earlier, cleaning up their areas, but there was an eerie businesslike silence. As I probed, eventually one homeless man told me the medical examiner had just left. A Native American man had died in his sleep.

Although no one could quite recall his name, our guests described him in detail and recalled him by stories and encounters they had shared. The fragmented community that sleeps on the street around Jackson and 11<sup>th</sup> were mourning one of their own. In one another's presence, there was more kindness and patience for each other and less complaining about their difficult station in life. One guest confided, "I'm afraid that's going to be me. Dead on the street and no one knowing my name."

An hour later we celebrated Mass in our parking lot, as we always do on Wednesdays, and the congregation was noticeably larger. About one hundred feet from the place the man passed, we asked God to lift this man's soul to the heavenly mansion.

Generally, in the neighborhood, fifty percent of the people who are homeless resolve their own issue of homelessness within one month. They use the shelter and services available to them and get back on their feet quickly. But those sleeping on our street are a different profile. Mental illness and addiction rob them of their ability to think and act in their own best interest. During a recent rainstorm, I came down in the middle of the night to pass out Mylar blankets to people on the street. One man ran from me because of his fear that Mylar blankets attract radio signals and "they" will track him.

Dying alone on the street is a scandal. Corralling "sick" people into a two-block neighborhood is a kind of nameless social quarantine without walls. Because of your support of prayer, service and finances, Andre House attempts to provide life inside this zone. Together we are praying, advocating and working to bring other's light into this broken and sacred little community.

Peace,  
Fr. Tom



Watching the sunshine  
ID's are taken at nine

Pulling out of our driveway  
Phone says there might be a  
delay

Waiting to dine  
Waves of pain shooting down my  
spine

The package says gourmet  
About to be at the register to  
pay

Acting like everything is fine  
And killing the time

Just another week day  
Heading towards the freeway

We're all just standing in lines

I am not a poet by any means, but when asked to write something for the newsletter all I could think about was conveying one message. I thought I could possibly make a thought provoking poem about how we are all one in the same. A message that we all struggle with, we are all human. Some of us are struggling with rent, or with how we're going to pay for college for another child, or some are just struggling to find a safe place to rest. We all have different paths and have different issues we deal with daily. But yet, we are all still human and we all still wait in lines.



**LINES**  
by  
Elena Lusk





**STORIES**  
by  
Lindsey Myers

“Where do you see Christ in you?” my spiritual director asked me recently. My initial response was silence, and a thought process that started with an overwhelming sense of “Well, nowhere.” Yet, upon some reflection, I came to recognize that if I am to point to where God is, it is that somehow, in some way, that the wounds from my past have brought me to where I am, to Andre House. Suffering, has brought me to those who suffer. And if I am to really pause for a moment, it is at once baffling and wonderful.

Why does this matter? We all have stories, we all have our wounds, our fears that conspire to consume us, places where we feel insecure, vulnerable. Andre House is a place where our stories not only matter, they are shared. Guests, volunteers, staff, we all somehow come together in our whole, yet broken selves and are able to be fully and truly present to each other. How wonderful it is that we can have a volunteer tell a guest experiencing shame, that he, like him, had to at some point let his shame go, and trust really that God had forgiven him. How wonderful it is that I could be with a guest at the hospital and listen, just for a bit about her story. How wonderful it is that one of our chefs remembers to save me beans for my midday snack every Thursday. How wonderful it is that Xavier students would think to ask about the Human Services Campus and how it is helpful to those experiencing homelessness. How wonderful it is that a guest gave a staff member a book regarding the staff member’s future hopes to be a doctor. How wonderful it is that a guest can express gratitude that another guest who was having a difficult time received help. How wonderful is it that a guest who has recently received housing wants to invite us staff for a pizza party.

At Andre House, the labels of staff, volunteers, and guests, somehow fade and we remember that we are first and foremost, human. Our stories, and our experiences may be outlandishly different and yet, here we are, in our broken selves, coming together. It is precisely in our gathering that we come to see that God is here: in the mingling of our wounded, fearful selves, opening us to one another in such a way that we remember that we are one.





**WHERE IS GOD IN A  
CRUEL WORLD?**  
By Fr. Chris Letikirich, CSC

Recently at our lunch time reflection Fr. Tom shared with us a very wonderful story about his nephew who was grounded by his mother. Later, he was heard crying out loud, “God! Where are you? Where are you God?” When he was asked what is the matter? He said, “there is no

way of getting out of this without God’s help.”

The reaction of Fr. Tom’s nephew begs us to reflect on the question, where is God in Cruel World? To answer this question let’s try a theological thought process. Let’s imagine a world in which God prevents all evil. In this imagined world God steps in and stops every evil act before it happens. In this world we human beings would be utterly incapable of cruelty. We could not choose to do evil. We could only choose to do good. Would this be a better world? It would seem so and yet it is not so. What is it that makes us uniquely human if not our ability to choose between right and wrong? Animals are driven by instinct. We alone are given the moral self-consciousness to freely decide what we will do. This is not just an accidental or regrettable human ability. This is the best way to live. If God decided everything, we would lose our ability to strive to make the world better. We would just passively sit around and let God take control of our lives and our world. We would be an audience to our life’s drama, not its essential actors.

There is a scriptural wisdom here. Life for Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden was very much like the world we want God to create for us. Every good thing was given except for the knowledge of good and evil. The fruit of that tree of moral knowledge was forbidden to them and yet they still ate from it.

Their act is widely read as an act of disobedience to God or the story of original sin or the story of the fall of man. I read it another way.

God foresaw that Adam and Eve will become moral agents; even though the garden did not offer moral challenge or moral growth that alone would enable them to become fully human, hence their subsequent fall. There is no doubt that they were God’s people. So I think they ate of the fruit of the tree willingly, even eagerly, in order to claim the moral free will that is the only important human gift from God.

The ultimate reason that a life of moral freedom, even though it must include moral failure, is superior to all other forms of life is love. Love requires freedom to choose. We are commanded to love God by God (Deut. 6.5), and this commandment is impossible if God is controlling all our choices. Loving God means choosing not to love greed and cruelty. Loving God means choosing life and not death. Loving God means supporting those who suffer and seeking justice for the oppressed. Loving God means clinging to hope that our broken world could be healed by our efforts and by our sacrifice and by the strength of our collective ability to choose the good. Freedom is the moral and theological prerequisite for love.

You ask if God is just watching all of this and I say yes. God is watching to see what we will freely choose to do. I believe that God is watching us, but I also think that God is seeing how we fail each other and hurt each other, and I think that God is crying.

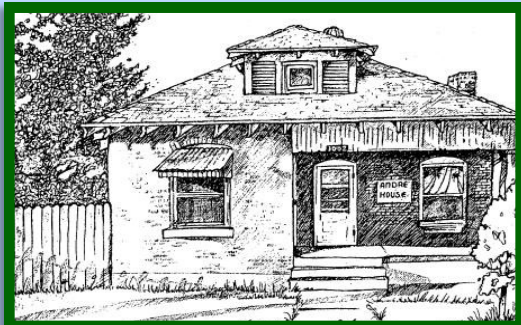


## A HOUSE IS NOT A HOME

By  
Cooper Nagaki



As I return to my table at a local Mexican restaurant, the waitress is pouring water for my friends and I. “Hey! How are you doing?” She asks me with an air of familiarity. I’m slow to respond, “I’m doing well. How are you?” She senses that I am searching for where I know her from. “You helped me get clothes on Saturday.” At once, I recognize her from the Andre House Clothing Closet. Many of our guests are currently housed, and some have work. As Phoenix and Maricopa County move more and more funds to house people, it is imperative to note that a place to live, while incredibly important, is not the answer alone. Many of our guests get housed and find themselves still confronted by troubles that plagued them during their time on the street and in shelters. Guests - like my friend at the restaurant - are burdened with issues like finances, food, transportation. Many guests live outside of but within an arms reach to homelessness. Often housed guests need to receive services from Andre House and other organizations to keep their heads above water.



But some challenges aren’t so simply resolved with a food box or a pair of shoes. I remember one day recently when I asked a friend about his new apartment, and he responded, “It’s incredibly boring. I have nothing to do.” Another former guest offers to volunteer in the hopes of spending a day outside of her lonely apartment. How difficult it must be to overcome homelessness only to be met by boredom, loneliness and a lack of personal meaning. I have been unappreciative of the gifts of friendly social contact and a meaningful schedule. With contemplation, it can be seen that these issues are not singular to those who are currently or have formerly experienced homelessness. These run underneath the current of daily life around our city. How many of us long for meaning and connection?



How many of us spend each day next to someone who has faced these challenges: on the highway, in the workplace, at a restaurant? If we recognize and in some way relate to these sentiments, then we are called to be a friendly face in our world, extending ourselves towards our neighbor, both known and unknown. As we see the yearning of those in pain, we are called to reach out to meet them, and in doing so, we can see our own yearning.



**CONGRATULATIONS** to our very own Ted Dunne who was formally presented with the 2016 Spirit of Holy Cross Award. Family, friends and Andre House Core and Staff were present at an event hosted by local members of the Congregation of Holy Cross at Casa Santa Cruz. Mass was celebrated by Holy Cross Local Superior, Fr. John Pearson. Dinner and the award presentation followed.

Ted Dunne is one of ten recipients from across the United States to receive this proclamation of gratitude signed by Provincial Superior Fr. Tom O'Hara on behalf of the entire U.S. Province. Ted truly fulfills Blessed Basil Moreau's vision and mission to "make God known, loved and served." Ted's devotion and hard work allow Andre House to care for those who are homeless and vulnerable.

## 2016 Spirit of Holy Cross Award Recipients

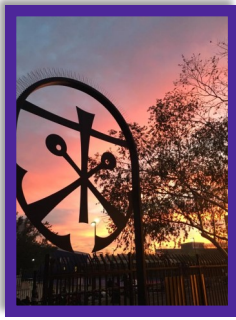
### Mr. Ted Dunne

Ted Dunne was nominated for the Holy Cross Spirit Award by Fr. Thomas Doyle, C.S.C. Ted is the Director of Facilities at Andre House, a ministry outreach to the poor and homeless in the Phoenix, Arizona area. Andre House becomes "home" for thousands of guests. Ted takes care of Andre House facilities as if they were his own home. He has worked with the apostolate for 17 years. He is very well suited for his role – he retired from his work as a contractor in 1999. Like St. Andre Bessette, Mr. Dunne has a special relationship with St. Joseph. "In my work as a contractor, if I was having trouble solving a problem, I'd pray to St. Joseph before I went to sleep. Often I would wake up in the middle of the night with the answer." Ted has been married to his wife, Joy, for 58 years. They have four children, two of whom have gone to the Lord and two surviving daughters, Karen and Michelle. They also have five grandchildren. When asked about working with Holy Cross, Ted replied, "I've been through four or five Directors and they've all been great. I can't leave one out – I have special memories from all of them."



Fr. Tom Doyle, Ted and Joy Dunne

# HOLY WEEK and EASTER at ANDRE HOUSE



**HOLY THURSDAY APRIL 13, 2017**

**CELEBRATION of the LORD'S SUPPER**

**Andre House Parking Lot 9:30AM**

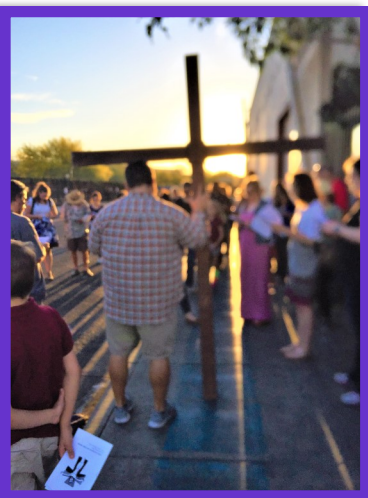
*We will begin the day with the Mass of the Lord's Supper. This will be the only Mass celebrated on Holy Thursday.*

**WASHING of the FEET**

**Andre House 4:30pm - 6:30 PM**

*In remembrance of the humble act of Jesus and his call to humble servitude, each Holy Thursday the Andre House community gathers and washes the feet of our guests. Before and during the nightly dinner service we invite our guests to have their feet washed. Those who chose to participate will sit down and remove their shoes and socks. We will wash their feet in a basin of warm soapy water, dry them, apply lotion and /or foot powder and provide a clean pair of socks. This is an intimate moment where we have a unique opportunity to serve our guests by taking care of their tired feet.*

**THOSE WISHING TO VOLUNTEER CAN SIGN UP AT  
[WWW.ANDREHOUSE.VOLUNTEERHUB.COM](http://WWW.ANDREHOUSE.VOLUNTEERHUB.COM)**



**GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 14th, 2017**

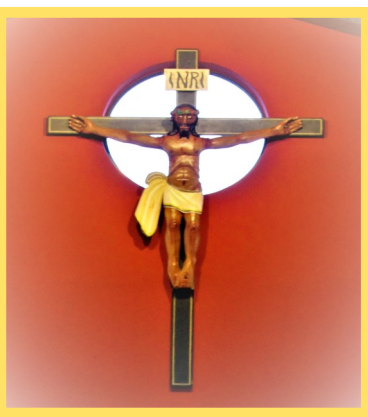
**STATIONS of the CROSS Downtown**

**State Capital Parking Lot 5:30 PM**

*Please meet at the State Capital Parking Lot at 5:30 PM*

*Beginning at the Arizona State Capital, the cross is carried through downtown Phoenix, in an area commonly known as, "The Zone," – a present day Calvary for some. Along the way, we stop at the many places that provide services to people experiencing poverty and homelessness, including the CASS (the county shelter,) Health Care for the Homeless, the Lodestar Day Resource Center, St Vincent de Paul, the site of the new Human Services Campus, and of course, André House. At each station, we reflect on Jesus' road to crucifixion. We pray for justice and peace in our world with the local community and with the many generous individuals who make our ministry at André House possible.*

*A simple dinner at Brother Richard House, 1203 W Polk, will follow the Stations of the Cross.*



**EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 16th, 2017**

**MASS 11 AM Brother Richard House 1203 W. Polk**

**Potluck Brunch Noon**



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www.andrehouse.org

*Core Staff 2016-2017*

Jessica Lubbering  
Elena Lusk  
Megan McCormick  
Tyler McGehee  
Lindsey Myers  
Cooper Nagaki  
Debbie Shane

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Fr. Tom Doyle, CSC

*Associate Director*  
Fr. Chris Letikirich, CSC

*Treasurer*  
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*Director of Finance  
And Administration*  
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*Director of Volunteer Services  
And Communications*  
Elizabeth Wunsch

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Fr. Tom Doyle, CSC  
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YOU CAN STILL DONATE AND APPLY TO YOUR 2016 ARIZONA STATE TAX REFUND!

**\$400**

Provides **320** homeless and low-income individuals an evening meal.

**\$800**

Provides **640** homeless and low-income individuals an evening meal.

For those who live in Arizona, **André House is a qualifying charity for the AZ Charitable Tax Credit.** The benefit of AZ Charitable Tax Credit is that the charity gets the money and the donor gets a dollar for dollar reduction of Arizona State tax.

Take \$400 in full tax credit if you file individually, or \$800 if you file jointly.

To donate visit us online at: [www.andrehouse.org](http://www.andrehouse.org) or mail a check to:  
Andre House PO Box 2014 Phoenix, AZ 85001-2014