

Spring 2024



FRATERNITE NOTRE DAME

Dear friends,

The Acts of the Apostles tell us that: *“They who believe in Him, obtain through Him the forgiveness of their sins.”*

Indeed, we are all sinners, and we all need Our Lord’s mercy. The Resurrection of Jesus is the foundation of our faith; it is the cause of our salvation; didn’t He say: *“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.”*

As sinners, we do need the Life that Jesus Christ gives us, for there are no other names under the heavens in which we could be saved.

All the infidels who come to the faith; all the children who are being born to the life of grace; all the sinners who come back up to the light, and all the souls who, one way or another, awakened to supernatural Life owe it to Christ, Victorious over death, because the tomb was not able to keep Him, for He is God.

The world is troubled and upset, ever ready to pervert humankind. Its decadence is deep, and in this world shaken in its very foundations, for us as Christians, what a peace to know that one rests on the Risen Christ, the firm Stone, the Cornerstone for every life, individual or social!

Dear friends, may the Mother of the Risen Christ, help you be at all times and everywhere, the true apostles of Christ, the true witnesses of the Risen Christ who is still living among us in the Most Holy Eucharist!

With a broad benediction over each and every one of you +

*Most Reverend Bishop Jean Marie +smd
Founder of Fraternite Notre Dame*



- Wisconsin: assisting those in need -



- In Peoria, IL: the food pantry box distribution -



- San Francisco, CA: helping homeless people -



- Chicago, IL: meals for the poor -

Dear friends,

Allow me to share with you some anecdotes from Fraternite Notre Dame's Missions.

These Missions are churches, in ruins, completely renovated by His Excellency Bishop Jean Marie with his religious Nuns, Friars and Priests; they are humble rooms turned into kitchens and refectories in the poorest and most disreputable neighborhoods of large cities; There in fact where no one wants to live, and they have cars, vans or trucks that crisscross the streets of our big cities which conceal, at the base of their skyscrapers, so many poor and destitute people who barely survive in the cold and pain, awaiting a compassionate hand that will bring them a little bit of love and comfort.

The said missions... are these orphanages, schools and health centers in which so many children and parents' hope are being restored. The said missions... for which His Excellency, Bishop Jean Marie offers his whole life, are beams of love emanating from Jesus' Heart... and warming the entire humankind; missions that were willed by God and entrusted to His Most Holy Mother, the Virgin Mary.

Through these few lines, we, the Servants & Handmaids of Our Lady, would like to make you comprehend, in just a few words, the gross immensity of the pain that we discover on a daily basis, in the bosom of our missions. Very often, these are hidden sufferings; sufferings presenting themselves in varied forms... but sufferings so deep that no word can successfully describe them. It is through these testimonies of recognition, collected from the lips of the people whom we help, that you will easily understand how important the works of Fraternite Notre Dame are; and how vital is your support, so that we may be able to continue living and developing all these missions out.

In Chicago, there are so many people at the food pantry box distribution, that the waiting line takes our whole church block completely, and this for 2 to 3 hours! A very old lady comes each and every week, despite her age, despite the cold or the heat. She feels good here! Because it is not only the quality and quantity of the food that is being distributed, but also the human love and heartfelt compassion... the love of God that radiates from the Blessed Sacrament, and which warms and consoles hearts.

One particular evening, while going to visit the poor and bring them a good hot meal, one of them exclaimed: "*Mother Mary, I knew that You would not have let me sleep with an empty stomach!*" When asked, he explained that he had requested the Blessed Virgin to send him food. He hadn't eaten anything yet that entire day!

Very often, in the streets when we distribute food, we hear such words of thanks, coming from the bottom of people's hearts: "*Thank you for coming all the way out here to give us food; we are not employed any more, and the children go hungry!*"

In Peoria, IL, a couple comes faithfully each week, to our food pantry box distribution. The woman is very ill, suffering from cancer which is now spreading through her body. As we went and paid them



- In Detroit, MI: distributing food for the poorest of the poor from the surroundings -

a visit, they explained to us that they had come pretty close to losing their little house and finding themselves on the street, no longer being able to repay their loan. Thanks to our large, balanced food package which they receive on a weekly basis, they were able to save some money, and thus honor the monthly payments. Many other families explain the same thing to us; the food packages allow them to eat better, and they also enable them to put a little money aside so as to cover their other expenses, whether for the rent or some medical care... both in fact, essential to their very survival.

In New York City, the line to have a seat at our soup kitchen is becoming ever longer. At night, when we serve hot meals in the street, under bridges and overpasses, the poor tell each other: *"I told you; it's real, well-cooked food!"*

In the winter, in freezing temperatures, they rush to our car, even advising us not to go out, because it is really too cold! Obviously, we do go out anyway to serve them, and to the meals we add some nice and hot drinks, as an attempt to warm them up for a moment. But don't forget... they live and sleep outside in this awful weather!

In San Francisco, CA, the poor people living under the bridges or highway interchanges eagerly wait for us every Monday, and this is actually their only hot meal for the entire week! A poor man who comes to eat with us each day, explained to the Nun, one day, how vital this was for him: life is so expensive that he has to choose between eating or paying his rent!

In Detroit, MI, while we were distributing beautiful warm, brand-new blankets on a very cold day, the poor said to us: *"At least you, the Nuns, are thinking of us. It warms our hearts up!"*

In Wisconsin, a lady called us, one particular Tuesday. Because she and her husband had been sick for several days, they had not been able to go to work, and had absolutely nothing left to eat at home. They wanted to make sure that we were going to come to their neighborhood and bring their food packages, for otherwise they would not have been able to eat that one evening, nor the following days.

Madam M..., an elderly, disabled lady who has just lost her husband, is very touched by the attentions we show towards her, in order for her to obtain what she needs to survive; for actually it was her husband who would always take her to us on Tuesday, to benefit from the food pantry. *"You the Nuns... You love us for real!"* - she told us one day, her voice choked up with emotion!

But God loves them infinitely more than we do... How many miracles have we witnessed in all our missions! Every day's miracle when, running out of food or meat, we unexpectedly receive 5 or 6 entire pallets of vegetables, when we usually received only one. Or an unexpected donation, which allows us to provide for the needs of all our dear families.

Mrs. L... from Peoria, IL, came to do an hour of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at our church, during which she asked God to be able to reconcile with her mother, with whom she has been angry for years. That very same evening, the latter called her up, to reconcile with her!

In Detroit, MI, a gentleman came to see Bishop Jean Marie and requested him to pray for his 16-year-old son who was losing his sight, due to a brain tumor. With every scan session that he would perform, the surgeons explained that the tumor was in the wrong place, and that they didn't know how to remove it without causing serious damage to his brain. Our Bishop blessed him,

