



1835 S. Hope Street Los Angeles, CA 90015
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Thanksgiving 2009

We have much to be thankful for as we approach the Celebration of Thanksgiving. Being privileged to serve the poor and homeless in downtown Los Angeles makes it easy to enumerate the many ways we have shared in the goodness of God's Blessings throughout this long and difficult year of recession. We have seen hardship and hunger, but we have also experienced the care and compassion of so many donors and clients who support the Center and often not from their abundance but as a sacrifice and a sharing with those who have even less. A quote attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi and by extension to the Franciscans states,



"Live life simply so others can simply live."

We have seen and experienced so many donors living by the example of Saint Francis. It humbles us and thrills us to be a part of this response to the recession and instills hope for our society in future years to come.

We have already served **12,406 families** in our food pantry this year. We have been able to raise both the quality and quantity of our food, providing each family with meat, fresh fruits and vegetables. It has been a challenging year and yet an inspiring year! We braced ourselves for a year of cutbacks and made programmatic changes to reduce our expenses, while experiencing record-breaking numbers of those we serve.

We hope and pray we can continue to keep our momentum of meeting our community's needs while maintaining quality and serving each guest with dignity and grace. Those we serve practice living simply because they already survive with limited resources and still they come into the Center to volunteer their time to serve others who are equally in need. These simple gestures make our work a little easier and a little more rewarding. Thank you for your support and may you and your family have a joyous Thanksgiving celebration!

P.S. If you have a chance to pick up the November 20th issue of *The Tidings*, look for our featured article and pass it along to your friends!

Peace and Blessings,

Gerard A. Gumbleton
Executive Director