

Loaves and Fishes

Episcopal Church of St. Stephen and the Incarnation
1525 Newton Street NW ♦ Washington, DC 20010
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December 4, 2019

Dear friend of Loaves and Fishes:

Last month on the Sunday before Veterans Day, the Loaves and Fishes dining room was full of police. The officers weren't there to arrest a suspect lurking among our guests, though. They weren't there to stop and frisk. They were serving a Loaves and Fishes lunch provided our friends of the Oasis Foundation Inc.

Officer José Gonzalez of Washington's Metropolitan Police Force, a supporter of Oasis, recruited many of the servers from among his buddies on the force, as he has done for Loaves and Fishes on two preceding Veterans Day times as well.

Oasis, a mostly Latino organization based in Woodbridge, VA, cycles through a number of Washington metropolitan area free meal programs, bringing in not only volunteers but complete meals well that are prepared by Oasis chefs. Its mission:

“Hacer la diferencia a cada lugar social donde llegemos, demostrando el amor de Jesus” (“To make a difference wherever we go, demonstrating the love of Jesus”). Loaves and Fishes and its guests are fortunate to be one of the stops on the Oasis circuit. Elvira Nevarez, one of the leaders of Oasis, who was at Loaves and Fishes during the November visit, said the group would be back on Martin Luther King Day in January with another Loaves and Fishes meal.

The Oasis Foundation, Nevarez said, takes its name from the biblical passage Isaiah 41:17-18. Those words are the prophet Isaiah at his most sublime. The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible translates the Hebrew this way:

When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue is parched with thirst, I the Lord will answer them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers on the bare heights, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.



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Providing water to the thirsty, food to the hungry, and a place of rest to those who have only the streets or the clamor of shelters as a home is a task for all. It's not only what Oasis is all about. It's what Loaves and Fishes is all about. It also describes the whole network of giving that I'm writing to ask you to be a part of.

As 2019 edges toward its disappearance into past time and we contemplate the year ahead, we are free to locate ourselves in a world of abundance in which we can freely share from our resources or a world of scarcity where we feel obliged to cling to what little we have. How much we have in the bank is irrelevant. It's how we feel. I choose abundance.

I feel blessed and I want to help ensure that Loaves and Fishes steps into 2020 with an infusion of cash that will give it a head start on providing a free weekend or holiday lunch to anyone and everyone who needs one. I hope you will want to join me. You can contribute to Loaves and Fishes online at our website loavesandfishesdc.org or you can mail us a check in the enclosed envelope. Your gift of \$500



will pay for the groceries for an entire meal. Your gift of \$100 will cover all the costs for meals for 30 people. Your gift in any amount will help us make sure that someone, a neighbor of yours, doesn't go hungry on a coming weekend. If you are in the DC area, you can give in another way by showing up any Saturday,

Sunday, or federal holiday at 11:30 a.m. to help serve the meal. However you are able to respond, I wish you all Christmas blessings and New Year full of joy..

Faithfully.

Edward F. Grandi
Chair, Loaves and Fishes Management Board

