

News from Ozanam Inn - Serving the homeless since 1955

Dear Friends of Ozanam Inn,

In the Gospel reading at last Sunday's Mass St. John describes what Jesus said and did at the Last Supper. Unlike the other three Gospels, John describes Jesus washing the feet of his disciples and then telling them "I have given you an example. What I have done for you, you must do for one another." Then, just before leaving the Last Supper to suffer his Passion and Crucified, he says, "As I have loved you, so you should love one another."

Ozanam Inn attempts to live that instruction from Jesus on behalf of all Catholics and people of all faiths in the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

One of the goal of the variety of services provided by Ozanam Inn is to move men from life on the street to a life of independent living in with a job paying a living wage and their own place to live. One of the steps in that process is the Volunteer Corp Assistance (VCA) that provides men with a permanent bed, three daily meals, clothing, laundry their clothes and assistance in acquiring other necessary items, in exchange for their work at the Inn. VCA's assist the staff with cooking, house keeping, office work and other miscellaneous duties.



Above Assistant Administrator Clarence Adams and Gail Radleff, and employee of Traveler's Aid who has an office at the Inn, meet with a client who has been in the VCA program at the Inn and is now living in housing he was able to secure with the assistance of Ms. Radleff.

Mr. Adams and Mrs. Radleff are helping the client with the details about a job opportunity he is qualified for and the transportation from his new home to his new job.

It is impossible to resist the temptation to recall the wisdom attributed to Confucius: "Give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. Teach him to fish and you feed him for a lifetime" Confucius did not mention anything about providing housing, but Ozanam Inn understands how important that is to help our clients make the final step from life on the street to independent living as a contributing member of our community.

Another program at the Inn is the Occupational Transitional Assistance (OTA). Clients who hold full time jobs outside the Inn are given a permanent bed, three meals a day, have their clothes laundered and assistance with other needs if necessary. The men must also assist around the Inn when available. The program requires that they turn over 80% of their net pay to the Inn for safekeeping and saving (the Inn does not keep any of this money), for which they are given a receipt. This is done to aid them in reaching their goal of independent living, at which time all of their money is returned to them.

I urge you to pass this email on to all of your family and friends in your email distribution list. I also invite you to visit our web page at www.OzanamInn.org for more information about the Inn .

I pray that God richly bless you for your continuing generosity to the work and ministry of Ozanam Inn.

Deacon Biaggio "G" Digiovanni