

# THE LORD'S DINER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WICHITA

## News

Spring 2019

**“The Lord’s Diner should not be built on sand.”**

*-Bishop Gerber*



*Michael comes early each day, he says God has called him to watch over The Lord's Diner. He stays all day, comes in for dinner and continues his watch from his corner table each night.*

As we visit with people throughout the community we hear some of the same comments and questions. We as a staff want to share our answers and clear up some misconceptions.

- “The Lord’s Diner doesn’t need my money.”
- “I thought you only had one location.”
- “The Lord’s Diner has plenty of volunteers.”
- “Do I have to be Catholic to volunteer?”
- “Do I need a food handler’s card or training to volunteer?”
- “Why don’t those people just get jobs?”

### **“The Lord’s Diner doesn’t need my money.”**

On February 13 we celebrated 17 years in operation. This year as we reviewed the history of how it all began one particular statement made by Bishop Gerber stood out: “The Lord’s Diner should not be built on sand.” With that in mind, those supporting Bishop Gerber in making his dream a reality were very conscious of building a strong financial foundation, and they did just that.

The very first proposed operating budget for the Diner

was \$400,000, which would enable us to feed the projected 200 to 300 guests each day. This year, our cash operating expenses are \$1,825,000 and we are feeding 2,500 to 3,500 guests each day.

In 2002 our fundraiser, Fantasy Feast, brought in more than the \$400,000 needed to meet our operating expenses and a surplus was created. The last couple of years, we had to use some of those surplus funds to support the current needs. We can’t do that forever. We must keep our foundation strong to insure we are here for those in need for years to come.

# Volunteer News

## “The Lord’s Diner has plenty of volunteers. Do I have to be Catholic to volunteer?”

Reviewing our history was a fun trip down memory lane. We loved seeing the names of so many volunteers who signed on in 2002 and how many hours they’ve shared with us. Some of these amazing volunteers are still with us, some have retired, some have moved away, some are sharing their talents with others, some are now priests, and some are enjoying their heavenly rewards. With all of these changes and our expanded mission our need for volunteers has grown. We need **70+ volunteers** each day to make the work of The Lord’s Diner possible. Just as those we serve are from all faiths, we are blessed with volunteers from all faiths. Volunteers are needed especially for our prep shifts 11:00 am to 2:00 pm and on our food trucks 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.



Steve Curtis, Marc Mourning, Craig Hull.

**OUR VOLUNTEERS GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION OF THEIR TIME PROVIDES A FINANCIAL VALUE OF \$840,000 PER YEAR TO THE LORD’S DINER.**

### “Do I need a food handler’s card or training to volunteer?”

A new ruling by the Sedgwick County Environmental Health Department has done away with food handler’s card renewals. Once you have a card you never need to take the class again! **New volunteers must obtain the card through an online class.** The class is much more user friendly and only takes a few minutes to complete. No food handler’s card is necessary for Pittsburg.

A Virtus class is also required for all adult volunteers. This class is to make volunteers aware of how to insure a safe environment for children at The Lord’s Diner and even in every day life.

For information on these classes and to volunteer:

Call or email Sarah, at 316-266-4966 | [volunteer@thelordsdiner.org](mailto:volunteer@thelordsdiner.org)

In Pittsburg contact Lisa at 620-240-4134 | [lisa@thelordsdiner.org](mailto:lisa@thelordsdiner.org)



## Our Mobile Program

### “I thought The Lord’s Diner only had one location” / “The Lord’s Diner has food trucks?”

Because of our desire to be good stewards of the gifts we have received, we were able to expand our ministry. Seeing more and more working poor we knew we needed to reach out to them. With the aid of The Kansas Food Bank, we designated the areas in our community where many struggling families live.

In 2011 we opened our second fixed-site location on South Hillside in Wichita. In 2013 we began **our mobile feeding program, which now includes three trucks located in various food deserts** within Wichita. All of this allows us to go out into the community and provided meals. It is our hope that providing a nightly meal removes at least one stress point of a low income individual or family. Our latest addition was in Crawford County, Kansas when the Pittsburg community reached out to us for help in establishing a **Lord’s Diner in Pittsburg.**



# Guest Stories

## “Why don’t those people just get jobs?”

We think this is best answered by the guests themselves. Here are some of our guests’ stories. After reading them, we hope it brings a greater understanding of why they need all of us. Please know many of our guests do have jobs, often times low paying, which make it difficult to make ends meet. Some guests have invisible wounds from early abuse that make a normal life hard to achieve, and some face addictions that began as coping mechanisms and ended up as their life. Many are trying to raise families with limited resources.

“Both Brian and I grew up in Wichita. We met when we both worked for Sears Automotive. We fell in love and to this day we would do anything for each other. We started going to the Lord’s Diner in Wichita and then volunteering with some friends. I loved helping and we got to enjoy the good meals. In 2000, our family expanded to include our son, Jovan, and Devon was born 4 years later. In 2013, we made the move to Pittsburg upon the request of my dad. He passed away in 2015, and I took over care of my brother, Phillip, who is handicapped. Our household today, consist of our sons, Phillip and my twin sister, Anisa. We are excited that the Diner has opened here and we come almost every night. It helps us financially, and offers a way for Phillip and me to get out of the house and meet a lot of different kind of people. My motto is “treat people how you want to be treated” and I feel like the Diner does just that.” *Angela*



“I love angels. I have hundreds and hundreds. My son has said its time to start getting rid of them. I have been collecting them for many, many years. Most have each been blessed by a Priest. I love angels. They are a blessing to me just like this truck. I come to the Evergreen truck everyday with my son or a neighbor. We get meals for me and my neighbor. She is in really bad shape and can’t even walk. I keep an eye on her. She rarely leaves the house anymore and really depends on the meals I bring her. I used to drive us to the truck but now I just can’t find my way. My son has taken the keys away from me and most days he drives me but sometimes he can’t, I think I could do it but he always finds someone else to drive me. I love angels. I used to be able to remember the story behind each of my angels; but now I cannot. I am losing my memory; but I still enjoy how special each angel is. I love angels.” *Antonia*

“Hey, Marine!” Some buddies of mine call me that because I joined the Marine Corps when I was young. Pretty original, right? But I don’t mind it. It reminds me of my service for my country. When I was 20 years old we went to Okinawa, Japan. We escorted confinees to Ft. Leavenworth (The Big House). After 6 years of service (3 active and 3 un-active) I moved to Wichita to work in the aircraft industry. Later on, I joined the security team at Wesley, but due to a shoulder injury sustained during my years in the Marine Corps I was unable to continue working. Apart from that shoulder injury I got during the war, I also suffer from PTSD. I go to counseling once a week and it helps, but I saw a lot and I can’t unsee any of it. I’ve been coming to the diner for the last 7 years. I come in first with people in wheelchairs and using walkers. Although I don’t use a walking device, I find it difficult to carry a tray because of that shoulder injury. So I rely on the goodness of the volunteers to get me a tray. It’s been helpful and something that others might take for granted. Eating at The Lord’s Diner allows me to save money each week. That money goes to my car payments and gas.” *Leo (a.k.a. Marine)*





## THE LORD'S DINER

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF WICHITA

520 North Broadway  
Wichita Kansas  
67214.3504

NONPROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 152  
WICHITA, KS

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# 5,226,927

**TOTAL NUMBER OF GUESTS SERVED SINCE OPENING**

*(numbers compiled on March 31, 2019)*

### Lord's Diner Supply Wishlist

- Hand sanitizer
- White vinegar
- Paper towels
- Refillable salt & pepper shaker
- Rubber gloves for dishwashers
- Bar towels 16"x19" (Sam's Club)
- Copy paper
- Refillable sugar shakers
- H E laundry soap
- Bleach

### Lord's Diner Food Wishlist

- Sugar
- Dried pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Canned fruit (large cans)
- Canned vegetables (#10 cans)
- Bottled water
- Jars of baby food
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Sugar substitute (PINK)
- Ranch dressing (gallon)

### Operating expenses:

- **35% of our yearly budget goes to purchase food**
  - 70% of our food is purchased.
  - 15% is purchased at a reduced rate from the KS food bank
  - 10% is purchased at a reduced rate through government commodities
  - 5% donated from individual donations
- **6% Utilities**
- **2% Truck operational costs**
- **33% Payroll and benefits**
- **24% Other expenses (security, maintenance)**

Responding to Christ's call to feed the hungry, The Lord's Diner, a ministry of the Catholic Diocese of Wichita, provides a meal seven days a week, 365 days a year. The mission is achieved in a spirit of compassion and respect through cooperative efforts with people of all faiths, businesses and organizations in the community by gifts of time, talent and treasure.

**THELORDSDINER.org | 316-266-4966**