



Looking Forward to 2023

Mission Moment -



December was a busy and special time for the Center. On the 20th we celebrated 14 men who graduated from the Academy and the Financial Stability Network (FSN). We also honored men who consistently were engaged and came to classes. We want to extend our appreciation for our partnership with Catholic Charities, specifically our commencement speaker Father John Enzler and Deacon Jim Shanahan who organized and led the FSN program.

The persistence and enthusiasm of the Academy members was inspiring. One of the men who graduated, spoke at the ceremony and expressed his gratitude for the program. In his words, "It showed me what I can do, and I know what's out there...I look forward to 2023 [because] the possibilities are endless."

Updates

Our 5th Annual Lessons and Carols welcomed 250 supporters to St. Aloysius for an evening of inspiring prayer and song. All good things eventually come to an end, as we thank Father Phil Ganir for his incredible talent and dedication. We couldn't have done it without him, and at the same time we want to thank Kim Cox, former director at the Center, for assuming this responsibility for future Lessons & Carols.



The Center was filled with joy and wrapping paper as we distributed our annual Christmas baskets and gifts to families in need. Our immersion group from The Ohio State University was a huge help in distributing 105 Christmas baskets to senior citizens and the Christmas gifts donated by Gonzaga and Holy Redeemer families. 330 people received a chicken or ham and other fixings for a special Christmas dinner and 39 families received gifts. We're grateful for everyone who helped make this wonderful tradition happen again.



Join us in congratulating alum of Gonzaga and The Father McKenna Center, Caleb Williams, for winning the Heisman Trophy. Caleb served as a volunteer when he was a student, and we are thrilled to watch his incredible achievements.

Program Updates

We have reached just over the halfway point for the Hypothermia Transition Program. Each night the men sit down to a warm meal lovingly prepared by the Gonzaga Mother's Club. We want to extend our appreciation to the Mother's Club for preparing, serving, and dining with the men in the program each night.

The need for our services continues to grow. Our Day Program numbers increased as we've seen a 56% rise in daily visits since the summer. In the Food Pantry, there was a huge increase as we served 33 more unique households and 133 more total household members compared to November. We are happy to support our neighbors in need and are grateful to all our supporters and volunteers who help us to continue to carry out Father McKenna's vision.

Message from Dan

Friends,

December of 2022 ended an incredible year! Not only did we have an inspirational and successful Lessons and Carols, but we also shared in the pride the Gonzaga Community has as it honors Caleb Williams, a 2021 grad, who won the Heisman Trophy.

Thanks to all who attended and served at Lessons and Carols. It was truly a wonderful evening; inspiring and uplifting and a great opportunity to experience the transformation of the men we serve. The McKenna Men ensemble was a highlight for me. Cortez is to be commended for his work with them, as well as for his own singing and rendition of "O Holy Night." We are especially grateful to Father Phil Ganir and to Kim Cox for their vision 5 years ago, creating this liturgy and for their attention to detail, which makes it such a wonderful event.

The Hypothermia Transition Program is going well at just past the halfway point. We are grateful to the Gonzaga Athletic Department for providing the men with weekend passes to the DC Basketball Classic in early December. The men were very excited to be able to attend, and we are working to get them to other sporting events on campus. We are also grateful to the Jesuit Community for providing spiritual reflections for the men each Sunday night. This is another opportunity for us to provide meaningful activities and programming for the men to support their broad and diverse needs.

Once again, the Coleman Family and the Dubliner have generously helped to provide warm winter clothing to our Clothing Closet including jeans, hoodies, and warm jackets for the men.

We are also grateful to the Order of Malta for their donation of 100 warm and waterproof winter coats that are specially designed for people experiencing homelessness.

The demand for our Day Program and Food Pantry continues to rise and we work hard each day to make sure the needs of our friends and neighbors are met. On behalf of all the people we serve, thank you all for your continued support, we couldn't have done it without you.

Looking forward to the blessings the New Year will bring!

Thank you,



Dan Kerns
Executive Director
The Father McKenna Center

Assistance Needed

Food

- pancake mix
- pancake syrup
- rice
- jelly/jam
- pastas (no ramen)

Clothing *We are not accepting Summer donations at this time.

- Sweatshirts/Hoodies
 - Size S, M, L, XL, 1XL, and 2XL
- Sweatpants
 - Sizes S, M, L, and XL
- Jeans, Khakis, Cords
 - Sizes 30, 32, 34, and 36

Hygiene Products (travel sizes)

- Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Shampoo, Conditioner, Soap, and Lotion

To donate, please call FMC (202-842-1112) to alert us that you are coming. We will help you bring your contributions into the Center.

[Donate](#)

Calling all interested in organizing a food drive!

- We are asking for those who are interested to coordinate food drives during the "off seasons". While we do appreciate the incredible amount of donations during the holiday season, we still need your help when the holidays are over. Consider prolonging the season of giving to the entire year!

If interested, please contact our Food Pantry and Volunteer Manager, Emily Dold at edold@fathermckennacenter.org

Contact Us | 202-842-1112 | 19 Eye St. NW Washington DC 20001 | fathermckennacenter.org