



Shepherd's Call



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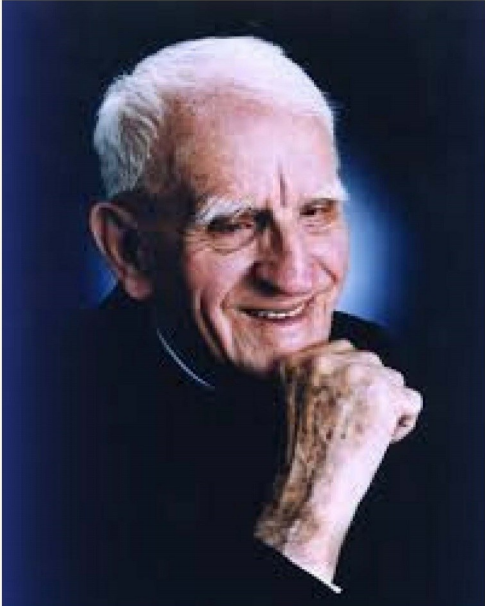
A Message from Good Shepherd Center, Inc.
of the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God
March 2024

SPECIAL EDITION!

73rd Annual Brother Mathias

*St. Patrick's Day Dinner
Celebration of Faith and Service*

Honoring St. Patrick and our Founder, Brother Mathias



Join us at St. Pius X High School
March 17, 2024

from 1:30pm to 6:30pm

Purchase tickets at the door

See more information at gscnm.org

A mission of the Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God
For more information call 505-249-6416

A Welcome to All

We will soon be celebrating our 73rd Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. This annual event is our primary fund raiser and the good people of Albuquerque have never let us down. I ask for your continued support as many factors have increased the operational costs of the Good Shepherd Center. Under the leadership of Deacon Steve Rangel and our Board of Directors, we hope to have a very festive and enjoyable St Patrick's Day celebration. As always, my sincere thanks for all you do for us. If at any time you would like to tour our facility, feel free to contact me. 505-243-2527 ext. 102. Happy St. Patrick's Day to everyone!

In Jesus, the Good Shepherd,

—*Brother Nicholas Foran, OH*

Thank you to all of our Board Members for their tremendous effort in putting this event together!

Deacon Steve Rangel	Bro Gerard Sullivan, OH
Valentin Varela	Ron Andazola
Becky Gomez	Damon Martinez
Rod Sanchez, PhD	Lyn Kirkwood
Deacon Michael Illerbrun	Vanessa Carpenter
Patricia Stelzner	



Thank you for your continued support of the Good Shepherd Center. It is through your generosity that we are able to celebrate our 73rd Annual Brother Mathias Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. I'm sure the spirit of Brother Mathias will be at the event this year. Have a blessed and happy St Patrick's Day."

—*Brother David Lynch, OH, Provincial*

Thank You for Your Support!

The quality of life for the people served at Good Shepherd Center would be greatly diminished without the support of generous friends within the local community:

To Baca's Trees for their continued support.

To Costco who provides us produce, baked goods, and other items.

To all Catholic parishes of the Archdiocese that prepare casseroles for Good Shepherd Center's community meals.

To The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints who donated a truck-load of food for our guests.

To all who provide food and goods to support and fulfill our ministry.

To our individual and corporate sponsors who join us in providing services to those most in need.

To Catholic Relief Services and the Archdiocese of Santa Fe for their generous Rice Bowl grant.

To church parishioners who collected Christmas gifts for those in need in our community.

Remembering an Angel

By Damon Martinez

Board Member

My earliest memory of attending a Good Shepherd St. Patrick's Day Dinner was approximately 55 years ago at Knights of Columbus Hall. I was very young, and the event left me with one distinct memory which has taken me a lifetime to understand and appreciate. In the middle of the crowded room, where a lot of commotion was occurring, stood a man who seemed to have rockstar status as people were flocking to him. When my dad spoke to this man, I remember that he was wearing a white robe, which was different from what my dad was wearing, a suit and tie. As we walked away from this man, Dad told me that this person was a living angel. This man was Brother Mathias.

Being young, I did not appreciate what Dad meant with the "angel" comment. However, I still remember it after these past five decades. I most

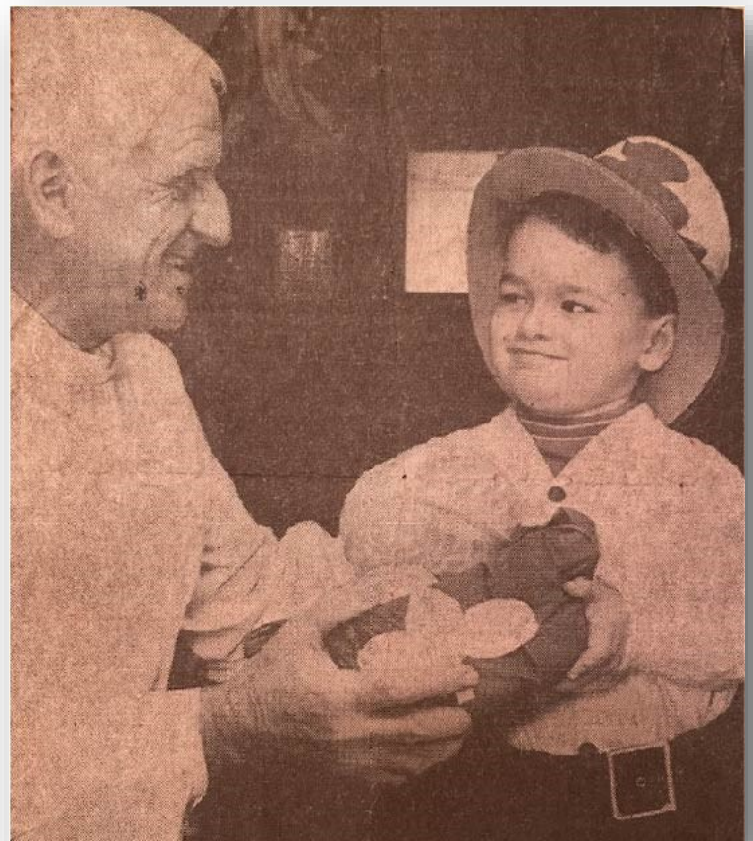
likely did not understand what an angel was at the time. I also probably thought that angels attend all social events. In other words, appreciating Dad's comment has taken me a lifetime of experiences.

I grew up being taught that each of us is responsible for making our community a better place. In this context, I now know that Dad meant to teach me that Brother Mathias is an example of a person dedicated to helping others. I was also taught to focus on a person's actions rather than on what a person says. With this understanding, I believe that Dad wanted to show me further that one person can bring the community together for an important cause. Although Dad and Brother Mathias have passed, I look forward to attending the upcoming St. Patrick's Day dinner because it allows me to continue a very special tradition.



Brother Mathias Barrett

1900—1990



Brother Mathias and Damon Martinez

circa 1969

Want to go to Dinner?

By Matt Chavez

Long-Time Volunteer and Ex-Board Member

On the surface, it seems like a rather benign question. However, there was a time as a newly minted college graduate, I was asked a similar question. Except the question was, “Do you want to help prepare a dinner?” Again, seems relatively harmless. Little did I know this question would lead to a 37-year commitment that surpasses even my marriage to my wonderful wife! (More on that later).

Upon graduating and beginning a new career, many people are looking to give back, participate, or to volunteer for something. That is what led to the question. A very dear friend of mine, God rest his soul, invited me to “participate” in the preparation of a meal for St. Patrick’s Day for the benefit of the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd Homeless Shelter in Albuquerque, NM. I was introduced at the time to another group of committed individuals who, at the time, I didn’t realize would become lifelong friends. I attended a meeting hosted by Robert “Bob” Johnson, was in charge of food preparation for the corned beef and cabbage dinner to be served on St. Patrick’s Day—which at that time, had been served every St. Patrick’s Day for the prior 38 years!

To be clear, the “preparation of the food” for the dinner takes on quite a number of tasks. Normally, at these dinners, around 1,000 meals are served. It used to involve picking up the food that was to be prepared (hundreds of pounds of corned beef, cabbage, carrots, and potatoes). Part of the food preparation involved peeling the potatoes which, when I first began, was all done by hand and was done on the patio of the GSC. Picture that patio filled with 40 or so volunteers, potato peelers in hand, attacking 500 pounds of potatoes for the dinner! To many of you, all of the above sounds like work. Ugh! But I can assure you, that to any of you who had volunteered and participated, you established friendships and gained a tremendous appreciation for serving your brothers and sisters

in need! Now, for a variety of reasons, there is no need to have volunteers prepare the food as we have the meal catered. It’s more cost effective to do it that way.

Dinner preparation is one thing. Location of the dinner is another. In the early days of the dinner, it was held on the State Fair Grounds. Some of the cooking was done there and, as I understand it, was not an ideal venue. When my involvement began, the dinner was held at the Convention Center. We held the dinner there for over 30 years, with the exception of one year when a national bowling tournament superseded our dinner. That year the dinner was moved to Hoffmantown Church and went off without a problem. The following year, it was back to the Convention Center. That relationship continued until we could no longer afford it, which seemed to be the end of the dinner. We then reached an agreement with St. Pius High School for the use of their facilities and where the dinner is currently held on or around St. Patrick’s Day.

Many things about the dinner have changed over the years. From the locations of prepping the food, to the need for soliciting volunteers to assist in the various aspects, to the ability to have green beer at the Convention Center when the dinner was served, to the location of the dinner itself. The one thing that hasn’t changed, however, is the ability to count on every St. Patrick’s Day that there will be corned beef and cabbage dinner put on by volunteers to benefit the GSC. Comradery and family atmosphere will never change and the fun that is had and the memories made will last a lifetime. Just ask my wife. Here luck would have it that her birthday falls on March 16 and many of those March 16ths were spent with us doing something to prepare for that year’s dinner. Not once did she complain and she too established lifelong friendships from what began as a simple question...“Want to go to dinner?”

Book of Life

We pray for our community every day, especially for:

Rest in Peace:

Robert Mendoza	Ursula Strausbaugh
Bernard Rosales	Mary de Saulniers
Pat Hunter	Steve Billmaier
Gary Harter	Brother Raphael Mieszala
Adam Paul Martinez	Shirley Villa

Margaret Fanella
Jean McIntyre
Bernard Rosales
Mary Menicucci
Pam Welch
Peter Roybal

For prayer requests:

gsc@gscnm.org

Or submit a request online at:

www.gscnm.org/contact-us

For Health:

Lucy Rojas Morgan
Barbara and Alton Bertschinger

Special Intentions:

Bryan, Chip, and TJ McOlash
Richard Baca and Family
Mary Lutz and Family
The Fisher Family
Cathy Row

Legacy across the World

*By Heather Mattax
Donations Manager*

Brother Mathias Barrett, Good Shepherd Center's founder, was born in 1900 in Ireland and became a Brother of the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God in 1916. The Order is known for its medical ministry to the poor and destitute around the world.

In 1950, during the time that the Order's focus expanded to caring for the homeless and destitute, Brother Mathias was tasked with continuing to expand the ministry to the United States. There he founded the congregation of The Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd. One year later he opened the Good Shepherd Refuge, what is today known as Good Shepherd Center.

While he would go on to found many other ministries and facilities in Ireland, the United Kingdom, and Canada, as well as more in the United States, much of his work was right here in

Albuquerque serving the homeless and hungry. He strove to promote human dignity for those most in need.

Less than a year after opening its doors, Good Shepherd Center hosted its first Annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner to celebrate both the founding of the Center and congregation, as well as to say "Happy Birthday" to Brother Mathias himself. Every year since then we have held the Dinner to remember our roots.

Today we provide not only meals and overnight shelter to those on the street, but also substance abuse treatment, respite, and assistance with housing for the homeless and unsteadily housed. In these ministries we carry on Brother Mathias' legacy. With your help we are able to provide these services to those in need. YOU are helping to continue his legacy. Thank you!

Want to Help?

All physical donations may be dropped off at our location at 218 Iron Ave. SW

We're in need of the following items:

Clothing:

Belts
Shoes
Jeans
Jackets
T-Shirts
Underwear (new)

Toiletries:

Deodorant
Body Lotion
Toothpaste
Toothbrushes
Shampoo and Soap
Shaving Cream and Razors

Foods Most In Need:

Water

Canned Tuna
Canned and Dried Beans
Canned Tomatoes and Vegetables

Rice

Spaghetti Sauce
Powdered Milk
Coffee (ground or instant)

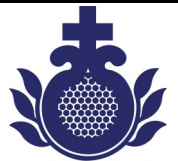
Housewares Most In Need: PLEASE NO FURNITURE

Towels
Bedding
Toilet Paper
Pots and Pans
Small Lamps (new and in box)

Cups and Plates
Cleaning Supplies
New Shower Curtains
Cutlery and Cooking Utensils
New In-Box Small Appliances (to reduce fire risk)




Founded in 1951 by Brother Mathias Barrett, Good Shepherd Center is a 501 (c)3 nonprofit mission of the Hospitaller Order of St. John of God, Province of the Good Shepherd in North America. All donations are tax deductible.



We at Good Shepherd Center respect the privacy of our friends and benefactors. Our database and mailing lists remain private and confidential. We do not sell, trade, or share these lists outside the Good Shepherd Center organization.

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 gscnm.org or scan QR code

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