

MANNA *in the wilderness*

September 2022

The Newsletter of the Las Vegas Catholic Worker

Volume 37, Number 1

“When You Give A Feast,



do not invite your friends, your brothers or sisters, your relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But, when you give a banquet, invite the poor, and you will be blessed.” - Luke 14:12



For over 16 years, volunteers from the Knights of Columbus have been coming the second Saturday of each month to prepare a banquet for the homeless. 780 pancakes, 636 sausage, 90 pounds of eggs, 100 pounds of potatoes and 6 gallons of cheese sauce later, the feast is assembled into over 300 meals with butter and syrup, napkin and fork added. Above from upper left: Jerry Carroll (left) and Edgar Castro cook pancakes. Henry Freeman mixes potatoes and cheese sauce. Left: Julia Occhiogrosso checks sausage while 18, 5-pound bags of scrambled eggs are boiling. Below: Two rows of volunteers assemble the meals outdoors.





Blessed Franz Jägerstätter, O.F.S. Martyr of the Church

May 20, 1907 - August 9, 1943

by Gary Cavalier

In June 2007, Pope Benedict XVI declared Austrian conscientious objector Franz Jägerstätter a martyr of the Church and he was beatified on October 26, 2007 for his refusal to fight for Nazi Germany.

In his younger years, Franz was the first person in his village to own a motorcycle. He spent a few days in jail for getting into a fight with members of the Heimwehr, the “Home Defense Force,” an Austrian nationalist paramilitary group. In August of 1933, he had a daughter with a local farm maidservant. He voluntarily paid money for her support and saw her often. Because of this incident, Franz was “exiled” to work in an iron mine in Eisenerz.

After coming back from the iron mine, Franz made a deep conversion to his Catholic faith that some neighbors described as “almost as if he had been possessed by a higher power.” On April 9, 1936, Franz married Franziska Scwaninger (1913 - 2013) a very religious Catholic woman. After their wedding, they made a pilgrimage to Rome, where they received a blessing from Pope Pius XI.

When German troops moved into Austria in March 1938, Jägerstätter was the only one in the village to vote against the Anschluss (the re-unification of Austria and Germany). The local authorities hid his dissenting vote and announced that the vote was unanimous.

Franz was very distraught to see so many Catholics in his town joining the Nazis, writing, “I believe there could scarcely be a sadder hour for the true Christian faith in our country.”

His Austrian Catholic friends argued with him that the war was justified because they hoped it would lead to the end of the atheist,

communist Soviet Union and preserve “European Christianity.” They rationalized that since thousands of Catholics, including many priests, were serving in the military, he should not try to be “more Catholic than the Church.”

He wrote, “I cannot and may not take an oath in favor of a government that is fighting an unjust war . . . I cannot turn the responsibility of my actions over to the Führer . . . Does anyone really think that this massive blood-letting can save European Christianity or bring it to a new flowering? . . . Is it not more Christian to offer oneself as a victim right away rather than first have to murder others who certainly have a right to live and want to live — just to prolong one’s own life a little while?”

He was drafted for the first time in June 1940 at age 33. He underwent military training, but refused to take the Hitler oath. As a farmer he was exempted from service and returned home in 1941. Having joined the Third Order Saint Francis and working as a sacristan in his parish church, he was granted deferment for military service four times.

After his experience in military training, and the suppression of the church under the Nazi regime, as well as hearing news of the Nazi T4 “euthanasia” program, Franz began to seriously examine the morality of the war.

He went to Linz to discuss this with his bishop, but was saddened by the fact that his bishop was afraid to confront the issue. The Bishop wrote, the true heroes remain “those exemplary young Catholic men, seminarians, priests and heads of families who died in heroic fulfillment of duty and in the firm conviction that they were fulfilling the will of God at their post . . .”

Jägerstätter was finally called to active duty in February 1943. At this time he had three daughters, the oldest being five years old.

On March 1, 1943 he declared his conscientious objection to fighting for the Nazis. He was immediately arrested and first imprisoned in Linz, then Berlin.

A Catholic priest from his village visited him in jail and tried to talk Franz into serving in the Nazi military, but he did not succeed.

Accused of undermining military morale, Jägerstätter was sentenced to death in a military trial in Berlin on July 6, 1943. On August 9, he was executed by guillotine, he was 36 years old. Right before he was executed, he was given the choice to sign papers and save his life, but he declined. His last words were, “I am completely bound in inner union with the Lord.”

Sources: *Faith and Violence: Christian Teaching and Christian Practice*, Thomas Merton, 1968. *Franz Jägerstätter*, Wikipedia, ed. 17 Aug 2022.



We need underwear, socks and t-shirts for our Friday shower program, please contact Julia: julia@lvcw.org or (702) 647-0728

We will be Closed
Nov. 24-26, 2022

Donations:

Checks: Please make checks payable to

“Las Vegas Catholic Worker” and send to:

Las Vegas Catholic Worker
500 W. Van Buren Ave.

Las Vegas, NV 89106-3039

PayPal Giving Fund:

<http://lvcw.org/giving>

Credit Card Donations:

<http://lvcw.org/donate>

PLEASE JOIN US

Volunteer Scheduling:

(702) 647-0728

or mail@lvcw.org

Thurs.-Sat., 6:00 a.m.

Morning prayer at Catholic Worker

Thurs.-Sat., 6:15 a.m.

Over 300 “To-go” Meals served to poor & homeless people (6:15 a.m.: meal assembly, 7:00 - 7:30 a.m.: distribution of the meals)

Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.:

50 lunches taken to the homeless

Friday, 8 a.m. - Noon:

Clean the World Foundation shower trailer in our empty lot., up to 40 showers given

Second Sat. of the month:

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast (please call to volunteer)

Third Sat. of the month:

Deliver food boxes to homes in need

We are a Participating

Member of: Nevadans for the Common Good

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