2018 End of Year Newsletter "Family", by Anthony



During the holidays there's nothing like being with family. While this brings to mind joyful times of celebrating, it also causes us to stress over all the gifts expenses, travel, and preparations of all kinds to make everything as perfectly Christmas as possible. Sometimes the holidays are especially sad because of the loss of family. Sometimes, circumstances keep us from making it home. Sometimes maybe things have happened so that we don't feel welcome. Instead of a celebration of the birth of hope, it can be very depressing for some. I'm sure all of us have these feelings. How we respond to these feelings might be more important than we comprehend. First...who is our family? This may change considerably during our lives. Marriage, children, grandkids, elders pass on, and tradition evolves. We may develop lifelong friends, coworkers, or others we consider family. If you live in community, that's a family too. Your church can be family. In fact, we start to see that we are all family. Seven billion so I'm told. We all need the same things to survive. We really do live in the same interconnected space. We all want just a little love. What happens to one of us, should matter to all of us. They're one of our relatives. Jesus was born poor and naked. I'm told he died the same way. But the things he gave us while he was here are living on....kindness, healing, compassion, and a welcoming to a celebration like no other. And the best part? It's free. That's the family I want! Merry Christmas!!! And THANK for all of your support during 2018!



Naomi and her Girl Scout troop giving out goodie bags to 124 guests at the **OLPH** Fish Fry in April. Thank you so much to all of the **OLPH team** (parents and children!) for their ongoing monthly

Saturday feasts. And for the huge supply of blankets, coats, gloves, scarves, socks and underwear yearly!



Family ... at Catholic Worker House! Robert's birthday - a year of surgeries and ICU admissions!



Memorial Service for those who have died while being homeless in 2018. Friday Dec 21, the Longest Night of Year. Milam Park at 7-8 PM 8 CWH guests will be remembered.



Come join us for our Christmas *Eve* Mass and Brunch on Monday at 9 <u>AM</u>

Then, 8:00 PM on Christmas (Tuesday night), please join Chef Joan, Dennis, and



the Chow Train as they serve their last supper at Maverick Park before retirement.



HFCC Progress: It has been an interesting year!!! We are still searching for land. Meanwhile, we have been learning a lot about housing, the community, and funding availability. Let us know if you hear of available real estate! And we need your prayers. Dorothy is listening.