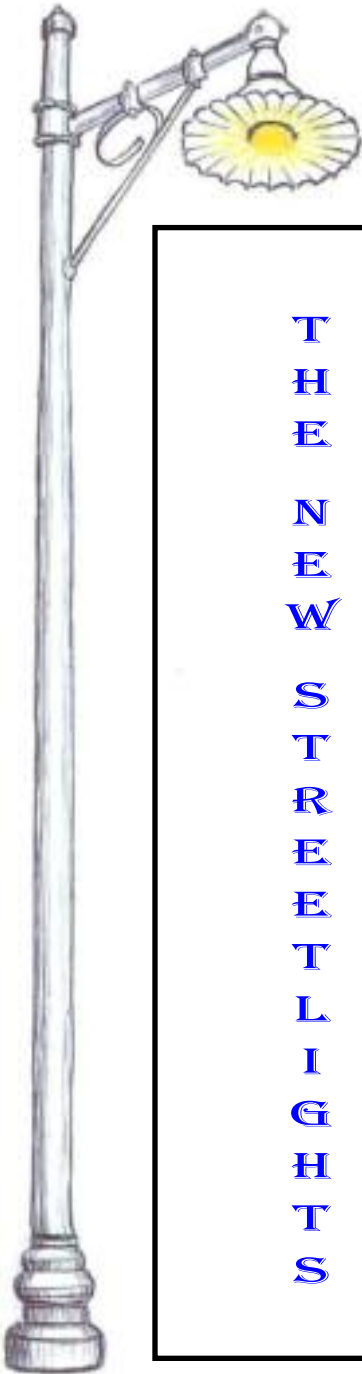


STREETLIGHTS

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**The Urban Missionaries of Our Lady
of Hope**

operates a FOOD PANTRY at
St. Paul's Cathedral

[Click here for more info on times and
dates!](#)

Want to Help Out?

(508) 831-7455

Hello and welcome to the new Streetlights! For over thirty years, Streetlights has been a window into the sometimes wild, always vital work of the Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope. Whether you've been receiving Streetlights for many years, or are just starting to read along with our ministry, welcome and thank you for joining us!

This new edition of Streetlights will be a new format for us, and one we are very excited to bring to you. Our aim is to integrate our web and newsletter experience to offer our donors and readers a deeper and more nuanced view into our work than has previously been possible.

Through the new Streetlights, we will bring you the latest news and developments in our ministry. We will be able to include more interactivity and web connectivity than ever before. We will also be able to appeal directly to our readers and donors for aid in our appeals section at the end of every edition of Streetlights.

Expect to see full-color, real coverage of the work the Urban Missionaries do everyday, as well as new features in the LittleStore to help keep you abreast of all the action!

We hope you will join us in this new digital world, and help make Streetlights a success for years to come. At the end of the day, we rely on our readers and donors to help bring all of our programs and ministry to life, and for that all we can say is "Thank You"

First Night – Our First Night, That is

Possibly the most challenging aspect of the Christmas Giving Program is the sheer logistics that go on behind the scenes. Each Christmas season, every person who applies for gifts has to be entered and logged into our system. Names, number of children, ages, and wished-for gifts are just some of the dizzying array of information that is taken in during sign-ups.



Walter and our volunteers get up bright and early months before Christmas to begin cataloguing and taking in all this information. It is a job for the truly dedicated, and our Christmas crew gets it done every year!

In this article, Walter reflects on Christmas season past and present and wonders about one constant he has seen in all the years of the Christmas Giving Program.

We cherish the families who apply for the Christmas Giving Program and every year we learn something new about them and the community that we serve. Read ahead to hear Walter's thoughts and reflections on this Christmas season! [Click here to read more directly on our website.](#)

What Urban Missionaries Do

What Urban Missionaries do is not always obvious. Sometimes in the course of our ministry we come across situations without any clear and obvious answers. “How will we help this family?” “How will we raise the money to hold this funeral?”



GREGORY AND THE FISH

It is an aspect of our ministry that we treasure, because we find that our very best work often rises from such circumstances. When we need to dig deep, and find the solutions that our community needs, we find we are at our very best.

In this issue of Streetlights, in the famous What Urban Missionaries Do column, Walter explores one such situation we came across not long ago. It is the story of “a boy, a daddy, a family, and a grandfather.” Mostly, it is the story of what we do as Urban Missionaries, and how our community, our donors, and our sustainers enable us to serve.

You may have passed through the LittleStore recently. If you have, you have likely seen our new fish tank pictured above. We hope you will join Walter as he tells you the story of our new fish tank, and that in so doing, you will understand what Urban missionaries do. [Click here to read more directly on our website.](#)

First Christmas



KARLA REUTER, CHRISTMAS MANAGER

One thing more important to the Urban Missionaries than anything else is the support of our community, and most especially, of our volunteers. These hard-working men and women serve year round to ensure that our ministry can continue. There are many different volunteers with the Urban Missionaries, some stay all year, keeping the property and surrounding area beautiful, as well as delivering furniture, and stocking the food pantry. Others lend their hand during the most exciting and difficult part of the year, Christmas.

In a touching article, Karla describes her very first Christmas volunteering with the Urban Missionaries. She tells a story of determination and triumph concerning two other volunteers who joined the Urban Missionaries this year.

Read ahead to see what inspires our volunteers and our ministry to always go one more year, and serve the people of Worcester each Christmas. [Click here to read more directly on our website.](#)

Needed and wanted:

Volunteers with good cheer!

Looking for a service project?

Got a few hours to spare?

We always need people to assist us in carrying out our mission. Please, don't hesitate to call and let us know if you have some time to give, be it for an hour, a day, or for a routine schedule throughout the year. You'll work hard, meet some wonderful people and leave with a warm feeling of self-satisfaction.

Call and ask at (508) 831-7455

or email to:

mailbox@urbanmissionaries.com

This is a Christmas Story of Another Color

Every year Christmas at the Urban Missionaries gets bigger and more hectic. Thankfully, we have always been open to adaptation, as well as sticking to our roots and traditions. We have after all had thirty years to develop and grow our traditions!

In this Christmas article, Walter explains how the Urban Missionaries started a new tradition ten years into our Christmas Giving Program that tackled a major issue we were facing. How to get the vitally important labels on all our gifts bags? Important as they are, those labels are easy to forget, until you need to attach them to a thousand bags!

With every Christmas season, the Urban Missionaries makes new traditions and leans on old favorites to ensure our ministry continues to serve. Read ahead to discover the birth of the Bag Party, and catch a glimpse into the heart of the Christmas Giving Program! [Click here to read more directly on our website.](#)



BAG PARTY IN PROGRESS

Christmas Thank You

GIVING TREE PROGRAM 2018

Thank You to all donors and volunteers!

Your Continued Assistance Enable Us to Carry Out Our Christmas Mission

Mr. Carl Hakansson of **Ashland**; M/M John Buck of **Athol**; St. Joseph's Parish, Rev. Paul Bomba, Pastor and Brad Wass, Coordinator, North American Martyrs Church, Joan Sundstrom, M/M Richard Swank, M/M Robert McMahon, Nicholas Giorgio, Colin Lutz, Aidan Gowaski, Sheila Gowaski, Cameron Bolduc, Colin Fitzgerald, Ryan Murphy, Mr. Richard Burton, M/M Thomas Lawler, Ms. Lorna O'Connor, Knights of Columbus John Cardinal Wright Assembly by Tom Pilibosian of **Auburn**; M/M Peter O'Connor, Jr., M/M Edward Yaglou of **Barre**;

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STREETLIGHTS
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Appeal

Dear Readers,

Your assistance throughout the year enables us to continue our mission. For that, we sincerely thank you all.

As our ministry grows and evolves, we will continue to need your support, and for that reason we include this appeal column.

Every issue we will highlight, a special need that we have, or simply ask you to join our sustainer program to keep our mission thriving and surviving.

[Please click here to join our sustainer program.](#)

Our Deepest Gratitude,

The Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope

for I was hungry & you gave me food;
I was thirsty & you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me; sick and you visited me; in prison & you came to see me
Matthew 25:35-36

TM

[Click here for Memorials](#)

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Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope Mission Statement
The Urban Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope's mission of service, under the auspices of the Bishop of Worcester, is to assist newly-arrived refugees in the Worcester area, immigrants and those in the neighborhoods where we work. We are committed to bringing together the skills and resources of staff and volunteers from local churches and the community to provide services to these individuals, ensuring that any human rights afforded by God are placed at their disposal as needed, including medical or legal access, advocacy, food, clothing, housing, language and work skills, in the fellowship of Christ.