



# Brother Benno's Newsletter

“Uplifting The Dignity of Those We Serve”

Volunteers Making a Difference

June 2020



## LAS PATRONAS DONATES PASSENGER VAN

by Dennis Martinek

The Brother Benno Foundation received funds from the members of Las Patronas to purchase a badly needed passenger van for our Recovery Program. The van will be used to get the men and women in the Program to the Center for their five work days per week and to meetings that are held at many locations in North County.

Las Patronas is a philanthropic organization with a long history of giving. Since its inception in 1946, they have donated nearly \$20 million to over a thousand charitable institutions in San Diego County. Three years ago, they gave funds to Brother Benno's for a new Toyota forklift, which has greatly increased the efficiency of our food distribution.

Las Patronas is committed to providing financial assistance to non-profits in San Diego County that “provide valuable community services in the areas of health, education, social services, and cultural arts, and to continuing our tradition of service to enhance the quality of life in our community.” Brother Benno's is very pleased to have a partnership with this **OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATION**.

Sincere thanks to all the members of Las Patronas.

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If you or your group want to help make masks with us, contact **Nita Rodriguez** at rodriguez.bbauxiliary@gmail.com. We will provide the shop towels and rubber bands, as well as easy-to-follow instructions.

**With many hands working together, we can do great things!**

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## MAKING MASKS FOR OUR HOMELESS GUESTS

by Nita Rodriguez

Members and friends of the Brother Benno Auxiliary have been donating money and volunteer hours to provide disposable face masks for our homeless Guests. As of mid-May, 1,250 masks have been provided to the Center.

Because our homeless population does not have access to washing facilities, cloth masks—which should be washed daily—would be difficult for them to keep clean. After much research, we determined that masks made from “shop towels” was a good option. In addition, being constructed using rubber bands and staples, no sewing is required.



Darryl at the Center wearing a mask made by the Auxiliary

Thank you to our team of seven who volunteered their time and effort (staple power) to this service project and to those who made monetary donations for the materials.

This Auxiliary service project will continue as long as face masks are required. Donations for the materials are greatly appreciated. Please send checks to: Brother Benno Auxiliary/Masks, P.O. Box 334, San Luis Rey, CA 92068.

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## NEWS FROM BROTHER BENNO THRIFT SHOP

by Michelle Hoppe  
Thrift Shop Manager

Upon receiving the order to close all non-essential businesses, Brother Benno's Thrift Shop closed its doors. The employees were laid off and volunteers not allowed to come to work. This is a first for us in almost 30 years. We have received numerous calls, asking if we are taking donations and if we are open. We are working on a plan to re-open safely when we are given the okay. We've been busy cleaning every surface in anticipation.

When we do re-open, we'll have stocked shelves and full racks! We've been blessed to have a large back-up inventory; so even though we haven't taken donations since mid-March, we'll have lots of "safe" items to put out for sale. While closed, we've been assisting other charities with in-kind donations of clothing, shoes, etc. and are happy to be of service even though we are closed.

**We have also revved up our eBay sales** once again of high-end collectibles. Some of the items that are donated to us are worth more on the collectible market than we could ask for in the Shop. Since donors have entrusted these items to us, it is our responsibility to get the most revenue we can for the Foundation's mission. So please search for us on eBay. Our seller's name is **Brotherbennos**. Check it out!

If you haven't already visited the **Thrift Shop Facebook page**, please do so! It contains the most up-to-date information on opening, donations, items for sale, etc. Look for us: "Bro Benno's Thrift Shop," "like" us, and keep track of what we are up to.

We will soon begin to **sell furniture by appointment only** through our Facebook page. Pictures will be posted of the furniture pieces and the prices. If you are interested, call and make an appointment to see the item, and someone will meet you at the Shop. It will be take-away only; no delivery is available. **Masks and social distancing will be required by all involved.**

Lastly, we would like to thank our many customers, volunteers, and friends who have donated—and continue to donate—food items and money toward the sack lunches that are given out to Guests at the Center. We continue to accept these items at the shop and deliver them to the Center for you. **You are the BEST!!!**

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## HOW WE ARE DEALING WITH COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

Just as is happening around the world, staff members and volunteers at Brother Benno's are coming up with innovative ways to continue helping the poor and homeless we serve. Sack lunches and food boxes are provided by way of delivery in the parking lot, thus obeying the distancing rules. We've added some food items that were not given out before, so please see the list of Needs if you'd like to help. We also welcome financial assistance for this necessary service—checks can be mailed to Brother Benno Foundation, P.O. Box 308. Oceanside, CA 29049.

Board Member **Kathleen Diehlmann** sent the following item about another way we are making use of the "off time" at the Center:

"As the COVID-19 crisis continues, Brother Benno's Center finds opportunities to make the best out of the situation it finds itself in. One example includes work done by **Ron Lamb** who handles maintenance for the Center. The bathrooms have undergone an upgrade thanks to Ron. He has done a fantastic job, and as **Darryl Harris** told us, 'It's been a while since they (the bathrooms) had any love.' Tile has been re-grouted from floor to ceiling in both bathrooms. Updated plumbing fixtures, covers on all the drains, paint, shelving, and updated curtains for the women's showers have all been part of the renovation. Ron has now moved on to remodeling the conference room. We look forward to seeing his handiwork when it is safe to return to the Brother Benno Center."

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## FATHER CHARLES MARKS 50 YEARS AS A PRIEST

Father Charles Wright, O.S.B. celebrated 50 years as a priest on Sunday, May 17. Many in San Diego County know him as the Emeritus Abbot of Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside, and those acquainted with Brother Benno's also know he is the current President of the Brother Benno Foundation.

Father Charles was born and raised in Western New York, then moved to San Diego with his parents and sister Barbara in 1951. He graduated from La Jolla High School, then attended San Diego State University. He interrupted his college education to serve two years in the Army. When he was stationed in Germany, he got to know the chaplain, who encouraged him to attend daily Mass; and that got him thinking about the religious life. When he returned to the United States and resumed his college studies, he overheard someone talking about the Prince of Peace Abbey (then known as St. Charles Priory). A decision to visit the Abbey changed his life.



**Father Charles with Pope Francis**

Although Father Charles did not join the Abbey in order to be ordained a priest, he—under obedience—was sent to the Benedictine mother house, St. Meinrad Abbey in Indiana, for two years of seminary studies, which included an accelerated course in Latin. From there he returned to Prince of Peace as a novice. He then attended Mt. Angel Abbey in Oregon and returned to Prince of Peace Abbey to be

ordained a priest in 1970.

His career included many positions: Novice Master, Prior (assistant to Abbot Claude), Development Officer, Retreat Facilitator, and Parish Assistant, helping local priests with Masses and Confessions.

It was when he first came to Prince of Peace Abbey that he met Brother Benno Garrity, who was in charge of the kitchen. They worked well together as brothers in the community, and Father Charles has many humorous stories that he loves to share. In those early days, the kitchen had a small pizza oven that Brother Benno used to bake his famous bread. Volunteers would show up at 3 a.m. to assist him, and when the loaves were cool enough, he'd get into his dilapidated truck and drive through the poor areas of town to give out bread to everyone he met. At first he was baking about 20 loaves a week; but when a new bakery was built, that number eventually grew to 400!

Father Charles, then Abbot, started serving on the Brother Benno Foundation Board around 1985. Helen Parsons, a fellow Board member, had this to say: "His service within the community, including his steadfast support of Brother Benno's, has been a true gift to us through the years. His kindly demeanor, caring heart, and sense of

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**Your donation enables us to do all the wonderful things we do**

My enclosed tax-deductible gift is: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(make payable to: Brother Benno Foundation)

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
Please send a card to:

(name) \_\_\_\_\_  
(address) \_\_\_\_\_

For a special occasion (birthday, anniversary, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Send a card to: (name) \_\_\_\_\_  
(address) \_\_\_\_\_

**Or, donate online at <http://brotherbenno.org>**

### AUXILIARY NEWS

by Joyce Cerimele

The Auxiliary Board has found a great way to have our meetings and still stay socially distanced—we Zoom! It's actually great fun, and we now feel technically "with it"!

In May, we were planning to tour the Prince of Peace Benedictine Abbey in Oceanside, but we've had to cancel that for now. The Luau Dinner is still scheduled for June 27, but that might change as well.

The good news is that the 2nd Annual Golf Tournament should be able to go ahead as planned on Saturday, October 2. Keep an eye on our website for registration and other information. It was really a fun day last year and should be even better this year.

If you are not already a member of the Brother Benno Auxiliary and are interested in being one, please come to one of our meetings when we resume them. (Watch the newsletter to find out when we will start meeting again.) Meetings are held in the dining room at the Center at 3260 Production Avenue in Oceanside. They start at 1 p.m. for fellowship and 1:30 for the meeting. Hope to see you there!

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humor remain an essential part of our mission. We thank God for his presence and send congratulations to him upon completing 50 years of extraordinary service."



**Helen Parsons and Father Charles Wright, hamming it up with an imitation of Grant Wood's 1930 painting, *American Gothic*. The pitchfork originally belonged to Brother Benno; and after he died, Harold Kutler brought it to the Thrift Shop, saying he thought it could be sold "for a lot of money." It was never put out for sale, and Helen found it recently in the back of the shop.**

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**Brother Benno Foundation**  
**Recovery Program for Men and Women**  
 760 439 1244 ext. 101  
 Changing people's lives through the 12 Steps  
 of Alcoholics Anonymous.

**Information & Online donations:**  
[brotherbenno.org](http://brotherbenno.org)  
**Follow Brother Bennos online:**  
 [Facebook.com/BrotherBennos](https://www.facebook.com/BrotherBennos)

### Soup...Soap...Hugs...Hope:

#### The Story of Brother Benno's Life-Changing Soup Kitchen

This book is offered as a gift to donors who contribute whatever their budget allows...The important thing... is that you have one...

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of copies \_\_\_\_\_

## Memorials

Ron Alexander	Ben Kouns	Ann Grier Smith	Harry Opatkiewicz
Dixie & Lou Bales	Richard Kurtz	Alva & Frances	Toni Keane
Frank Barnet	Carole Kutler	Snider	Frank Beeson
Brother Benno	Harold & Kay Kutler	Squirrel Family	Joe Carver
Edith Blaiser	Bill & Louise Lakoff	Mike Stendahl	Andrew & Jane
Andrea Boersma	Ben E. Lewis	Margaret Stephan	Yandura
Roland Bond	Helen Lucas	Virginia Sylwestrzak	Daniel Herrera
Bill Boster	Bill & Joan Maloney	Harold Thompson	Dorothy Barnet
Agnus & Joan Boyd	Helene McGill	Carol & Herb	Timothy Diem
Bill Buckner	Michael & Monty	Thornberg	Jeanne St. Amant
Deacon Art & Mary Carr	Nares	Rosemary Tucker	Rose Horner
Anna Correia	Zeferino & Dancy	Walter Ulloa	Carol & Becky
Don & Dorothea Daybell	Nares	June Williams	McGlocklin
Phyllis H. Dierlam	Mary Nordstrom	Fred Williamson	Peggy Miville
Frank S. Dolley	Nysewander Family	Barbara Pierson	Mary Baka
Anita H. Donahue	Bud & Blanche Ogle	Douglas Kapsco	Bernie Weiler
Dorothy M. Donahue	Ben Osgrove	Gilbert & Donna	Hugo Carlos
Fr. Luke Dougherty	Kathryn D. Pent	Brown	Rosalie Najera
Roseanne Dreibelbis	Mary Peterson	Robin McMullan	Robert & Joshua Woods
Fr. Abbot Claude	Jane Pfau	Barbara LaMothe	Frank Rutherford
Ehringer, OSB	Ruth Hazel Pierson	Dorothy Barnell	Maximino & Felicidad
Myron Eichen	Alan Port	Erwin Beckman	Pagaduan
Richard Farhquar	Mary Pullman	Robert Buchach	Andrew Krantz
William & Vennita	Catherine L. Quinlan	Palmina Sanseverino	Anthony McClain
Flanagan	Dora Ramirez	Bill & Mary	George Ring
Louise Foussat	Dick & Terry Riley	McCarthy	Marie Atkinson
Joe & Ida Friend	Margaret Rossini	Elizabeth Parrish	Richard Rossmaester
Mary Gerrity	Ann Sauer	Bill Daley	
Bob Gleason	Nick Sauer	Terry Howe	
Chance Hales	Mary Shankle	Agatha Johnson	
Tom & Louise	Naomi Shelton	Alva & Frances	
Hayward	Bernice, Samuel &	Snider	
Elizabeth Holms	Milton Silver	Joseph Schubert	
Alice Jordan	Will Skinner	Molly Wilbur	

**IN HONOR OF  
John Jarvie**

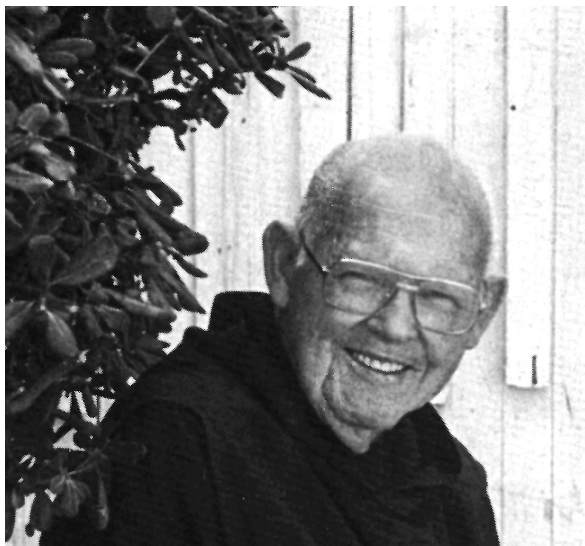
## Needs

Small bags of Chips, variety packs	Adult diapers
Fruit cups	Baby wipes
Protein bars	
Crackers	Commercial Grade:
Small juices	Washing machines (2)
Gatorade	Dryers (2)
Bottled water	Lawn mower
	Weed eater
Face masks (for the homeless)	Plumbing snake, 100 ft.
Plastic hangers	Power washer

Items can be dropped off at the Brother Benno Center on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8-11 a.m., and on Saturday from 9:30 to noon. If you have any questions, please call Darryl Harris (760-231-1607, ext.102) or Jan Roberts (760-231-1613, ext. 104).

**Brother Benno Foundation, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 308, Oceanside, CA 92049**

Non-Profit Organization  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
 Oceanside, California  
**PERMIT NO. 166**



**Brother Benno's Thrift Shop**

(Helping the poor, one sale at a time)

**Clothing, Household Goods, Furniture**

**Store Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10-5; Donation Hours Tuesday-Friday 10-4, Saturdays 10-2**

**We welcome your saleable furniture items. Please call 760-967-7507 for free pick up**

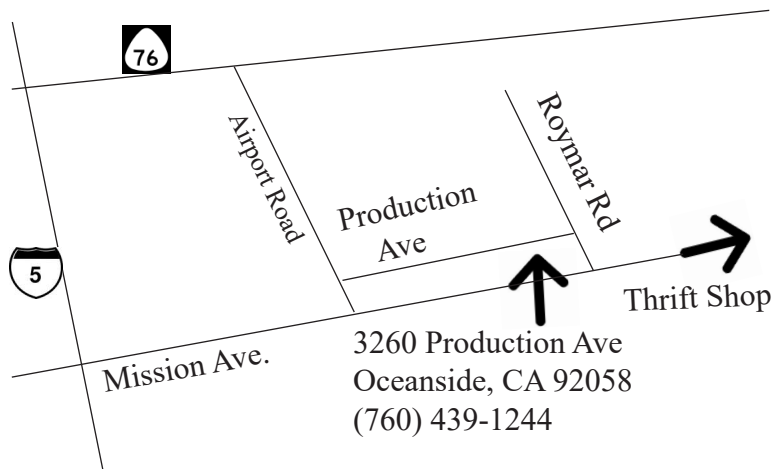
**Stop by to check out our Daily Specials!!**

**3955 Mission Ave. (East of Albertsons) 760-967-7505**

**Please use the enclosed envelope to make your tax-deductible donation to the Brother Benno Foundation. If you are viewing this online you can donate by going to [brotherbenno.org](http://brotherbenno.org) and click on Donations. This will allow you to make a secure donation using PayPal or a Credit Card.**

Your donation is used each month at our main center and eight operational houses to provide: meals, clothing, personal hygiene items, blankets, showers, laundry facilities, bus vouchers, nights of lodging, medical and mental health referrals, prescriptions, ID replacement, mail services, Social Security, and veterans' issues, food packs, men and women's drug and alcohol recovery program, rent and utility assistance when funds are available. We thank you for your continued support. 100% of your contribution goes directly to assist those we serve. Our modest administration costs are paid for by our Thrift Store revenues.

[www.brotherbenno.org](http://www.brotherbenno.org)



**Brother Benno's Services:**

	April 2020	Our 36th Year		April 2020	Our 36th Year
Meals	6,832	4,497,460	Loads of laundry	0	28,628
Nights of lodging	937	317,982	Food packs	1,605	354,406
Articles of clothing	240	1,417,171	Blankets	0	48,373
Showers	0	271,001	Tarps	0	6,007
Haircuts	0	22,827	ID Vouchers	0	9,928
Bus passes	9	85,994	HUGS	0	1,011,244