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 fork-lift, 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.

Ω

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.

Ω

With many hands working together, we can do great things! Ω
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 Brotherennos. 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!!!

Ω

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.”

Ω
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.

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...”

continued on page 4...

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
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!

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.

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_________________________________ Donation $______________
Address______________________________ Number of copies__________
City, State, Zip Code_______________________

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.

follow brother benno’s online:
facebook.com/brotherbennos
Memorials

Ron Alexander
Dixie & Lou Bales
Frank Barnet
Brother Benno
Edith Blaiser
Andrea Boersma
Roland Bond
Bill Boster
Agnus & Joan Boyd
Bill Buckner
Deacon Art & Mary Carr
Anna Correia
Don & Dorothea Daybell
Phyllis H. Dierlam
Frank S. Dolley
Anita H. Donahue
Dorothy M. Donahue
Fr. Luke Dougherty
Roseanne Dreibelbis
Fr. Abbot Claude
Ehringer, OSB
Myron Eichen
Richard Farquhar
William & Venita
Flanagan
Louise Foussat
Joe & Ida Friend
Mary Gerrity
Bob Gleason
Chance Hales
Tom & Louise
Hayward
Elizabeth Holms
Alice Jordan

Ben Kouns
Richard Kurtz
Carole Kurtler
Harold & Kay Kutler
Bill & Louise Lakoff
Ben E. Lewis
Helen Lucas
Bill & Joan Maloney
Helene McGill
Michael & Monty
Nares
Zeferino & Dancy
Nares
Mary Nordstrom
Nysewander Family
Bud & Blanche Ogle
Ben Osgrove
Kathryn D. Pent
Mary Peterson
Jane Pfau
Ruth Hazel Pierson
Alan Port
Mary Pullman
Catherine L. Quinlan
Dora Ramirez
Dick & Terry Riley
Margaret Rossini
Ann Sauer
Nick Sauer
Mary Shankle
Naomi Shelton
Bernice, Samuel &
Milton Silver
Will Skinner
Ann Grier Smith
Alva & Frances
Snider
Squirrel Family
Mike Stendahl
Margaret Stephan
Virginia Sylwestrzak
Harold Thompson
Carol & Herb
Thornberg
Rosemary Tucker
Walter Ulloa
June Williams
Fred Williamson
Barbara Pierson
Douglas Kapso
Gilbert & Donna
Brown
Robyn McMullan
Barbara LaMothe
Dorothy Barnell
Erwin Beckman
Robert Buchach
Palmina Sanseverino
Bill & Mary
McCarthy
Elizabeth Parrish
Bill Daley
Terry Howe
Agatha Johnson
Alva & Frances
Snider
Joseph Schubert
Molly Wilbur
Harry Opatkiewiez
Toni Keane
Frank Beeson
Joe Carver
Andrew & Jane
Yandura
Daniel Herrera
Dorothy Barnet
Timothy Dien
Jeanne St. Amant
Rose Horner
Carol & Becky
McGlocklin
Peggy Miville
Mary Baka
Bernie Weiler
Hugo Carlos
Rosalie Najera
Robert & Joshua Woods
Frank Rutherford
Maximino & Felicidad
Pagaduan
Andrew Krantz
Anthony McClain
George Ring
Marie Atkinson
Richard Rossmaester

IN HONOR OF
John Jarvie

Needs

Small bags of Chips, variety packs
Fruit cups
Protein bars
Crackers
Small juices
Gatorade
Bottled water
Face masks (for the homeless)
Plastic hangers

Adult diapers
Baby wipes
Commercial Grade:
Washing machines (2)
Dryers (2)
Lawn mower
Weed eater
Plumbing snake, 100 ft.
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).
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 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

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

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Brother Benno’s Services:

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<th>Service</th>
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<th>Our 36th Year</th>
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<td>Nights of lodging</td>
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<td>317,982</td>
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<tr>
<td>Articles of clothing</td>
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<tr>
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P.O. Box 308, Oceanside, CA 92049

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