



The Omaha Catholic Worker

Omaha Catholic Worker
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Dear Friends of the Omaha Catholic Worker,

An Advent/ Christmas reflection that I often return to every Advent are the radical and inspiring words of Thomas Merton OSCO who died Dec 10, 1968, when I was 18 years old.

"Into this world, this demented inn, in which there is absolutely no room for him at all, Christ has come uninvited.

But because he cannot be at home in it, because he is out of place in it, and yet he must be in it, his place is with those others who do not belong, who are rejected by power, because they are regarded as weak, those who are discredited, who are denied the status of persons, tortured, exterminated.

With those for whom there is no room, Christ is present in this world."

Christmas rhetoric and romanticism aside, inn keeping is the most difficult work we do. It is 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, as the problems of our guests become our problems. We are here to serve the Christ among us, who we befriend, and bring into our home. They are the gift of Christmas.

We are inviting you to help us with the inn keeping, day to day, month to month and prayerfully year to year as we look ahead to a New Year in 2009. We are thankful for all who helped us celebrate our 2nd year on October 4, 2008. We cannot guarantee that we will be perfect innkeepers, but we can guarantee that all contributions, small or large are all appreciated equally and go to the service of the poor among us.

Thanks so much,
Jerry Ebner
Br. Jason D. McGuire, OSF



OCW 2008 Guest & House Christmas Wish List

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR OUR GUESTS

Many of our friends and supporters thought this was a great idea last year. We ask that you might be able to purchase, wrap and tag these with names for individuals if possible.

Tyler Smith

1. Beard Trimmer
2. Wallet
3. Watch (Pocket watch preferred)
4. Book: "Roots" by Alex Hailey
5. Any Music CD by Doc Watson
6. Bus Tickets (10 with transfer)
7. Pack of AA Batteries
8. Foot and shoe powder
9. Long underwear size 34
10. Underwear : Briefs size 34
11. Socks; Heavy winter size 10
12. Tube socks white size 10
13. Hats, gloves, medium

Don Vanderwerf

1. Dress Slacks: Dark Blue or Black
Size 40waist 30 length
2. Dress Shirts White or Blue size 17
1/2in neck (34-35 arm length)
3. Heavy winter wool socks Size 10-13
4. Long Johns underwear size 40 tops
size 30 length
5. Blue jeans size 40waist 30 length
6. Hats, gloves, XL, for brick laying work

Jake Path

1. Tube sock white size 9
2. Heavy winter socks size 9-12
3. T shirts White/ any color size XL to
XXL
4. Shirts long sleeve size XL to XXL
5. Tennis shoes white size 8 ½ to 9
6. Book certificates from : Barnes and
Noble, Borders any other bookstore in
Omaha
7. Portable CD player with headphones
and batteries
8. Thermal underwear Tops: XL
Bottoms: size 38
9. Belts: Size 40- 42
10. Pants: Jeans Dockers or Kaki's size
38 waist 32 length
11. Hats, gloves, LG



Steve Smith

1. Winter Boots: Lace up boots with 10-12 eyelets and shoe laces
2. Nebraska Logo size XL sweatpants and hooded Sweatshirt size XL
3. Underwear Boxers: size 32- 34
4. Digital Wrist Watch
5. Hats, gloves, XL, Winter Coat XL

Frank Shanley

(Former guest at Nova Therapeutic Community Center)

1. Gift certificate from Borders or Barnes & Noble for Books to read
2. Books about Baseball and Boston Red Socks.



Matthew Hickey

(Former guest who is a student at Metro College)

1. Cash (no checks) for College Books sent to OCW for him, to be added to other Christmas presents that we already have for him; mark envelopes "For Matthew – Books"

OCW HOUSE NEEDS

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|-------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| ✦ Rent | \$650 | ✦ Car insurance | \$50 |
| ✦ Utilities | \$400 | ✦ Van expenses | \$100 |
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- | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ✦ Cleaning supplies | ✦ Soap bars | ✦ Gift Cards for |
| ✦ Laundry Detergent | ✦ Lawnmower (push type for exercise) | ✦ QuikTrip |
| ✦ Light bulbs | ✦ Weed eater | ✦ BP for gasoline |
| ✦ Gift Membership Cards at Cosco or Sam's Club (not both) | ✦ 2 large plastic garbage cans | ✦ Family Dollar |
| ✦ Canned Goods of all kinds | ✦ 1 case of office copy paper | ✦ No Frills |
| ✦ Pasta's rice | ✦ Printer Cartridges #56 Office Max | ✦ HyVee |
| ✦ Potatoes | ✦ Stamp rolls - 42 Cent | ✦ Baker's |
| ✦ Toilet paper | ✦ Vacuum Cleaner bags: Hoover A's | ✦ Westlake Ace Hardware |
| ✦ Shampoo | | ✦ Any Theater in town |
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- ✦ Volunteer groups of TWO people to cook dinner at night by 6 pm and join the EVP program (Call Jerry for details).
 - ✦ Volunteers: to put plastic up inside house on Windows at the OCW. We have the plastic. We need the volunteers and labor.

✦ Volunteers with tools to help us put up bunk beds in rooms; we have the beds.



TRANSMISSION UPDATE

We are waiting to finalize a better estimate for the work on our transmission for the 1991 Chevy Astro passenger van. In the mean time, it can sit till we find a better deal. So we are thankful for the money to get it fixed. The money donated for the project is being saved.

I am looking at a couple schools that do automotive work by students in the area.

We are indeed thankful for all the donations for Transmission work.

In the meantime, we have been graced with an alternative vehicle of a 1991 Mazda Truck.

Thanks be to God.

May you all have a blessed Advent and Christmas; you have blessed us much.

Jerry Ebner

Br. Jason D. McGuire, OSF