

# MATER DOLOROSA PASSIONIST RETREAT CENTER



## Our Response to COVID-19



Food preparation at Mater Dolorosa.

### Assisting Those in Need


We are currently assisting the following communities with their food needs:

- ◆ Working with the town manager of Sierra Madre, CA, Gabe Engeland, we are preparing and packaging meals for seniors in the city of Sierra Madre
- ◆ An elderly community who live in Duarte.
- ◆ A homeless community in the Lario Park riverbed area of Azusa served by Foothill's Kitchen, Monrovia.
- ◆ The St. Francis Center in Los Angeles.

### Corporate Challenge Match

*"We are enormously grateful to **Cacique**, the proud makers of Hispanic cheeses, chorizos, salsas, dips, and cremas, whose generous response has been crucial to the delivery of thousands of meals already. Cacique continues to pledge matching funds for new corporate donors. Please help us double the support for this very worthwhile program."*

**Michael Cunningham, Mater Dolorosa Retreat Center Director**

 **DONATE** We ask you to please consider a donation, share this information with a friend or family member, and if you have a corporate contact, please let us know.

- ◆ Visit our website at [www.materdolorosa.org](http://www.materdolorosa.org) and click on COVID-19-Mater Dolorosa Response
- ◆ Mail a check to Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center at: 700 N Sunnyside Avenue, Sierra Madre, CA 91024
- ◆ Questions? Call/email Michael Cunningham at 626-355-7188 ext. 106, [mcunningham@materdolorosa.org](mailto:mcunningham@materdolorosa.org) or Jeanne Warlick at 626-798-7390 [jwarlick@materdolorosa.org](mailto:jwarlick@materdolorosa.org)

## Food Ministry Program

While the primary mission at Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center is spiritual in nature, the COVID-19 pandemic has inspired us to reach out in other ways. Our Food Ministry Program exemplifies our Passionist traditions of hospitality and compassion and allows us to feed the human spirit in a very practical way.

In our desire to actively engage in helping those in need, our commercial kitchen was repurposed from serving our retreatants and guests to use by our kitchen staff in preparing, cooking, freezing and packaging nutritious meals for vulnerable homebound seniors and homeless individuals. Our Food Ministry Program helps to meet the needs of those whose meal services which were cancelled in response to the California Coronavirus social distancing requirements.



Preparing to serve the homeless at Lario Park.

The demand for prepared meals has grown since we implemented our Food Ministry Program in March and we currently have demand for and prepare 7,000 nutritious meals each month to be distributed to communities in the San Gabriel Valley and in Los Angeles. Each meal costs \$6.53 to produce. The Food Ministry outreach is a blessing for us and fills important gaps in the food supply during this pandemic.

This program would not be possible without the support of our retreatants, friends and corporate sponsors. We are grateful to each of you. Until COVID-19 ends, and even for a time afterwards, seniors, homeless, and families will still be adjusting to unemployment and lack of food services. Let us all make a difference in the life of someone who desperately needs our help.

## In Appreciation

*"Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center in Sierra Madre has come to our rescue!! The Retreat Center is **making 150 meals EVERY DAY** for us, and then freezing them until we pick them up. They are cooking enough food for us to serve 6 days a week!"*  
**Carol Daley, Foothills Kitchen**

*"Thank you for everything you are doing in the community! We are so appreciative of what you are doing to help community members secure food."* **Rebecca Dohren, Sempra Energy Foundation-Corporate Sponsor**

*"Thank you Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center for donating 200 frozen meals for our guests in need! Mater Dolorosa has transitioned from a retreat center to now using their kitchen to prepare individually packaged frozen meals during the pandemic."*  
**St. Francis Center, #servicehopefrom6feetaway**