

Alexian Brothers assist ministry that serves Chicago's homeless

On a cold Sunday morning in January, Brother Tom Klein, C.F.A., Brother Paul Magner, C.F.A., and Alexian Brothers Associate Jerry Black load hats, scarves, socks and gloves into cars for a special delivery to Chicago's homeless.

Donated by the parishioners of St. Julian Eymard Catholic Church in Elk Grove Village, Ill., the clothing is destined for Timothy's Ministry, which operates a drop-in center in Chicago and offers Sunday family-style luncheons in Arlington Heights, Ill., for the homeless.

"It's all about partnership," says Brother Tom, who has been involved with Timothy's Ministry for nearly two years. "We are so thankful for the parishioners of St. Julian for their generosity and for working together with the Alexian Brothers and Timothy's Ministry to provide for those in need."

Brother Tom and Brother Paul lend a helping hand to Timothy's Ministry at its drop-in center on Fridays and during its Sunday luncheons. Brother Andrew Dinegar, C.F.A., who is based in St. Louis, also assists the outreach ministry when he visits the Chicago area.

The work performed by the Alexian Brothers "is basically sitting with individuals, being present for them and praying with them in their time of need," Brother Tom says.

Marian Alvarado founded Timothy's Ministry in 2004 and named it in memory of her late teenage son, Tim, who reached out to the homeless while he was in high school. The Alexian Brothers "humbly sit with us" and offer encouragement during conversations with the homeless, she says. "Those heart-to-heart talks mean so much to a person who typically doesn't even experience anyone making eye contact with them," she says. "The best gift that (the Alexian Brothers) have brought to our ministry is their love and compassion, which I know come from Christ."

The Alexian Brothers' support for Timothy's



Brother Tom Klein, C.F.A., (left), Brother Paul Magner, C.F.A., (right), and Diane and Jerry Black of St. Julian Eymard Catholic Church in Elk Grove Village, Ill., display clothing donated by the parish to Timothy's Ministry, which Marian Alvarado (second from left) founded to help Chicago's homeless.

Ministry is an extension of their Loaves and Fishes Ministry, an initiative that they launched in St. Louis in 2011 to distribute bread and other foods to food pantries, soup kitchens and individual homeless people. The Loaves and Fishes Ministry and the Alexian Brothers' work with Timothy's Ministry recall the efforts of the earliest Alexian Brothers, who focused on serving the poor and those on the margins of society, including victims of the Black Death in Europe during the Middle Ages.

"Partnership with others for the common goal of love and care for those in need is what the Alexian Brothers are all about," Brother Tom says. "The Brothers have always thought outside the box and addressed the needs of society. I truly believe this is one of the reasons God has allowed us to continue his work for over 800 years."

Timothy's Ministry has provided support for about 3,000 homeless individuals during the last 10 years. The ministry provides assistance with food, clothing, housing, transportation and medical needs. It also helps people spiritually, offering Bible studies and prayer opportunities. "The lives of volunteers are also impacted and changed as a result of God's love in our midst," Alvarado says.

Timothy's Ministry relies entirely on volunteers and donations for support. To learn more about Timothy's Ministry, please visit timothysministry.org.



Timothy's Ministry has provided support for about 3,000 homeless individuals during the last 10 years. The photo above shows people served by the ministry enjoying a meal at the ministry's drop-in center in Chicago.