

Summer 2012

Dear Friends,

Sometimes it takes months to write a simple letter. This one began on May Day inspired by the 79th anniversary of the founding of the Catholic Worker: a newspaper, a soup kitchen, and a movement, which has inspired Martins from the very beginning. Almost eighty years of cooking, hospitality, ideas about peacemaking and loving our neighbors, of agitating and simmering, organizing, and bearing witness. How wonderful it is to open our eyes, to take a moment and to honor the labor that surrounds us and sustains us.

We honor those who come to work at Martins. People walk through the gate at different times in their lives, for different reasons. Some people stay for a day; others stay for years. Martins is particularly grateful to Robert Anthony and Russ. They started working at the "old" Martins, the small storefront on 23rd street. They have faithfully shepherded the crew from Old St. Mary's and are "retiring" after forty years of making "Venetian surprise", fruit salad and pouring tea. It is so easy to imagine them then, as now, with aprons and a warm welcome. Where did the time go? They, along with so many others, will remain embedded in the Heart of Martins forever.

As a community we look around and find ourselves aging. Sometimes we work more slowly. We need to be more mindful of our bodies, the steps we take. We need more help lifting sacks of beans or grains, moving heavy pots. And just when we think it's impossible to do the next thing that needs to be done a younger, stronger pair of hands arrives, attached to a body and soul who has walked through the gate for the first time. And then a group from a local high school decides to commit to a weekday breakfast as their service-learning project. Ah, youthful energy! Enthusiasm. Dorothy Day's vision touches a new generation.

The dishes will get done today. We adapt. We make lists. The beans and grains get moved to the pantry, the pot comes off the stove. We forget names. We don't forget you. It takes months, or sometimes a year to let you know that we don't forget you, ever. The Martin's Community is grateful to those who generously share the fruits of their labor so that others may have soup and bread and roses.

With Love,
The Martin's Community

PS. The building is aging too. It seems that the "new" Martins isn't so new anymore. We are hoping to undertake and complete major plumbing work during the summer break.