

# A Sacred Gift



It is a great privilege to love and serve our clients.

Having served on the Spiritual Life Team for almost two years, I have come to deeply appreciate my role as a chaplain at the Rescue Mission.

Overtime, I have realized what a joy it is to be present for our clients and to provide sacred spaces for them. But sometimes, they are the ones who make our spaces feel sacred.

Recently, I was in the Rescue Mission chapel, cleaning and straightening up in preparation for one of our programs. Over by the stained-glass window of Jesus stands a communion table. Normally, the table is bare with the exception of a single cross. But on this particular day, something was different. At the base of the cross lay a single, crumpled dollar bill. I instantly knew who it was from—a client. I am in the chapel every day, yet this was the first time I noticed the dollar.

One of our clients had made a great sacrifice for the Rescue Mission. A dollar is of high value on the streets. It can buy a cigarette or two, or even a small snack from a shrewd street vendor. But this client didn't think of their own need—they thought of ours.

In *Luke 21:1-4*, we read that Jesus looked up and saw the rich placing their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow give two mites (two small copper coins)—everything she had. While the rich gave out of their abundance, the widow gave out of her need. She demonstrated faith, humility, and sacrificial giving. Jesus praised her for her generosity, despite the small amount.

In the same way, the gift of that dollar by this client was an act of profound generosity. I reverently brought it to one of our development staff, sharing the story behind this precious, holy gift.

True generosity is not measured by the amount given but by the spirit in which it is offered. Once again, scripture has come to life for me here at the Rescue Mission.

Your financial gift to the Spiritual Life Team makes a far greater impact than you can imagine. Thank you for your kindness and generosity, no matter the size!

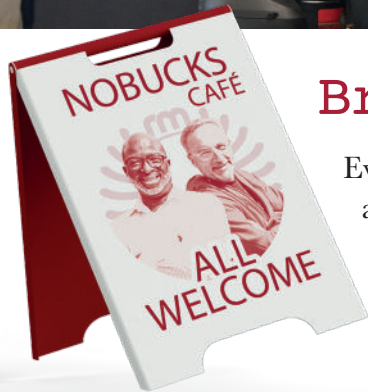
May God bless you,

**Chaplain Tom Zahradnik**  
Associate Chaplain

***“True generosity is not measured by the amount given but by the spirit in which it is offered.”***



*cafe*  
**OPEN**  
EVERY WEDNESDAY



## Brewing at RM: *Coffee & Connection*

Every Wednesday afternoon as the time nears one o'clock, chaplains Yulon and Tom pull aprons overhead, secure them in a knot, and begin a weekly ritual. Carafes of freshly brewed coffee are situated alongside pitchers of milk and sugar packets. Tables and chairs are rearranged to accommodate pockets of conversation throughout the chapel, and the television is set to display a scenic view paired with easy listening music. Come one o'clock, the exterior door opens, and the group waiting on the other side begins to file in.

It's Coffee Hour at the Rescue Mission. A word from Chief Spiritual Life Officer, Yulon Jones, on how this program came to be:

"I have been employed at the Rescue Mission for over 12 years and previous to working here I was a volunteer. As a volunteer, I would often serve coffee on Saturdays to the residents as this was a tradition set before me. Residents often looked forward to coffee hour and I too looked forward to serving them.

When I was appointed to the position of chaplain, I decided to expand on the concept of this event. I wanted to increase engagement among our residents, so I got ahold of some games like Checkers, Connect Four, Uno, and I

started playing background music during coffee hour. I thought about the atmosphere of a typical Starbucks, and I wanted to make it just as comfortable and fun for the residents. The residents loved it, and it became a place to just relax... even if just for a moment.

Not long ago, my associate Chaplain Tom suggested, "Would it be a good idea to create a **NoBucks Café** logo, with the idea being that everything we serve here is free of charge?" I laughed, and he smiled, and ultimately it was a great idea. We love to create a sense of belonging, and these small updates to our coffee hour go a long way in helping us do just that."

*C*haplain Yulon Jones  
Chief Spiritual Life Officer



## SUBMISSIONS: *Prayer Partners*

"Please pray that a mentor comes into my life soon. Pray that they can help guide me in the right direction. Still struggling with debt like most people these days. Also hope to make friends and work after 20 years on disability."  
— Prayer Partner

"Please pray for my husband. He fractured his C1 and C2 vertebrae. Please, pray that he is healed by October of this year."  
— Prayer Partner



Would you like a Rescue Mission Chaplain to visit your church or group?  
Contact Chaplain Yulon Jones: **315-701-3835/Yulon.Jones@rmsyr.org**