



The Table Foundation

Harvesting the Power of Food to Do Good

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

As we come to the end of the 2023, our team wanted to share with you some updates and highlights of Plating Grace and the Food Truck efforts. We know it's been a busy time for everyone and so we want to share some of our news and best wishes for you and your family. May this Christmas Season be a blessed one for you and I pray that you all remain safe in God's love in the new year of 2024!

Inspiring Others!

Who doesn't like to hear they are an inspiration to others? Much of our work here is about inspiring and helping others to become more and more what God intends them to be. So it was with great pleasure when we received an email with a very heart-warming message.

"I witnessed a moment of grace yesterday. Was coming into Baltimore via MLK Blvd yesterday afternoon. Traffic light turned red at Lombard Street. I was in the left lane. An unhoused gentleman entered traffic to ask for money. Your truck was in the middle lane. One of the staff in the truck beckoned the man to the truck and handed him a meal. The smile on the face of the man who received the meal was priceless!" –Jo Ann



**Father Leo Patalinghug,
The Table Foundation
Founder/CEO and Head
Chef, PGG Food Truck**

Grace Wherever We Go

Father Leo here. First, and always, thank you for your incredible support!

As the preceding story illustrates, the Plating Grace and Grub Food Truck is always more than "just another food truck." By its very name people know or are drawn to consider what *Grace* means (in either its verb or noun form).

And because of the quality of our food, in all humility, let me say that we always make a positive impression on people, and for that we are grateful. The flavorful quality of our menu is absolutely unique in the food truck world as any patron will tell you.

We are about changing lives for the better, but as you have heard from me before, it doesn't come without challenges. Fortunately, though, on the bright side, and for which I am most grateful, the paid employee situation on the Truck remains stable and has greatly improved--thanks to the hard work of Sharron (see below), Antuan and the rest of our staff.

Humility is a Grace

One area of concern that is so common, and I've seen before with some of our veterans or previously incarcerated is a **lack of humility** combined with the inability or unwillingness to work hard, and a lack of dedication to what they have signed up for.

It's a deadly combination that really hinders a person from making progress in life, because it prevents him or her from accepting instruction, learning from others and growing in so many other ways. It seems to be a widespread problem in our society, and one for which I ask you to pray for heavenly solutions. Healthy humility opens us up to others, but more importantly, allows God's grace to work in our lives.

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Try the Best Tasting Sauces Ever!

The Father Leo Show



Father Leo, continued.

Another challenge we have had to face this year, like so many others, is **inflation**. The cost of all of our food and other supplies has gone up considerably, which puts a squeeze on us to provide our menu items at an affordable price, while still paying the bills. There is no easy answer or solution, but naturally, financial health has to be maintained in order to continue operating. That is just one reason why your financial help is so appreciated! Finally, if anyone reading this feels called beyond supporting our work financially or prayerfully, we could use help in forming and training our employees and interns in some of the basics of workmanship, integrity, interpersonal skills, appropriate humility and the like. In short, the life skills and attitudes that lead to success! Please contact us to discuss if you are interested.

When the Cold Winds Blow

We love the spring, summer and fall because they are food truck seasons! As busy as we are on the Food Truck from about April to October, our work doesn't end when winter rolls around.

Most of us don't want to think about the cold and dark just yet, but we know others who are probably dreading winter more than we are: the homeless poor. They know, or will learn, how tough winter is living on the streets when cold winds blow and alms drop off considerably.

A large part of what all of us at The Table Foundation and the Food Truck do during the winter is provide hot, nutritious meals, toiletry kits and other essentials to those living on the streets. Our ability to perform this life-sustaining ministry is only possible through your generosity.

Your donation will:

- Help us purchase food and supplies to feed the hungry & homeless.
- Help us maintain repairs on the Plating Grace & Grub food truck.
- Enable us to pay our employees during a time when there are very few food truck bookings.

1) Join our Online Fundraising Drive [HERE](#).

2) Paypal: contact@thetablefoundation.org

3) Venmo: [@platinggrace](#)

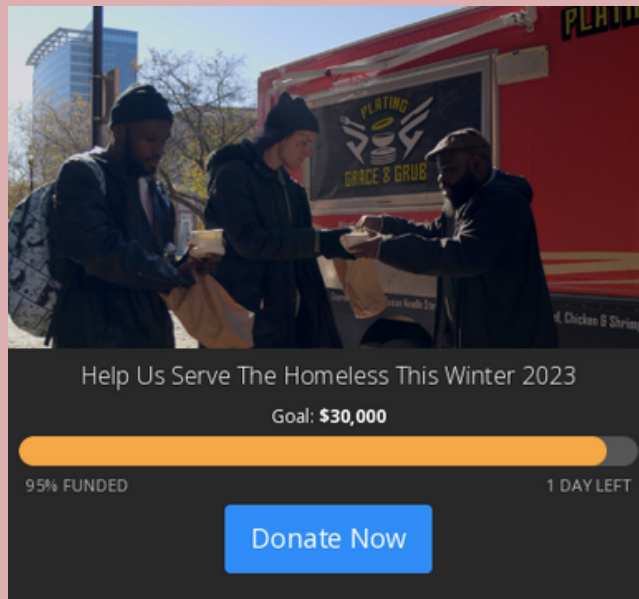
4) Mail a check to:
 The Table Foundation
 900 E. Fayette St. #13086
 Baltimore, MD 21203

5) Hire us during this slow season!

2022 Vs. 2023 (Projected)

Meals Served: 2,000+ | 2,500+

Charitable Hrs: 125+ | 150+



Having What it Takes to Manage a (very busy) Food Truck

One of the greatest blessings is hiring Sharron as one of our full-time employees last year and she has now been promoted to Food Truck Manager. We don't have nearly enough room here to highlight all she has done and is doing for the success of the Food Truck and caring for those we serve! We'll get to know more about one of her co-workers, Antuan, in a future newsletter.

A mother of two successful teenage daughters (think AP high school courses), Sharron is a bright and shining light in the world, whose management of the Food Truck has allowed Father Leo to go about his missionary work and travels without concern or worry—something that wasn't always possible before.

Just try to imagine all the details of running a restaurant, and then taking that on the road. From making sure the Truck is fueled, stocked and in good working order to obtaining all of the menu items, Sharron gets it done! And her hard work doesn't go unnoticed by those outside the organization. A recent food truck inspector noted that the Food Truck was the cleanest he had ever seen. Maybe cleanliness is indeed next to godliness. It certainly is in Sharron's eyes!

Sharron loves our mission of caring for the poor. One of her greatest delights is meeting and seeing the faces of the homeless poor as the Food Truck arrives to distribute meals upon returning from its latest event. She says that without a doubt, it is the best tasting and appreciated food these souls ever receive. And how does she know? Simple. They tell her!



Sharron with guest at an event this Summer



Antuan

We Want to Hear From You

So many surveys! Whether one mails a package at the Post Office, buys a meal at a fast food restaurant or pretty much buys anything online, within days or on the receipt itself, you are asked to complete a survey about the purchase and your experience. Quite honestly, it can become a bit too much!

With such an introduction, you'd probably be surprised that we would be asking you for your feedback—especially if you have personally experienced the Food Truck at an event, or anything else you'd like comment on in the **Plating Grace** world. We don't have any fancy online survey forms, so simply send us an email with any thoughts and suggestions to: info@thetablefoundation.org



Making an Impact Beyond the Food Truck

The Table Foundation is so much more than just the Food Truck. As many of you probably know, though admittedly it can be confusing, the Foundation is the 501(c)(3) organization under which operate the many facets of Father Leo and his growing team's missionary work.

Plating Grace is the team's missionary outreach in the form of the Father Leo Show, social media, retreats, missions, cooking demonstrations, books, public ventures and more.

The Food Truck and its employees and interns are a ministry unto itself: helping disadvantaged populations gain firsthand experience in the culinary arts while providing a tangible and food-centric inroad into peoples' lives, and helping care for the homeless poor.

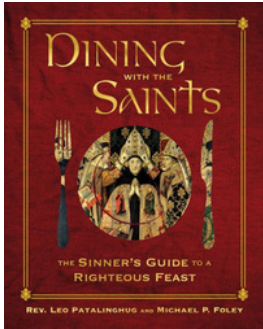
As time and resources allow, the Foundation would like to continue growing in the area of better meeting the practical, human and spiritual needs of all those people who work so hard in the service industry, but are often forgotten by society.

Book Father Leo For Your Group

Is your organization or parish looking for a one-of-a-kind dynamic speaker? Father Leo gives inspiring presentations that have captured the hearts and minds of diverse audiences around the world, ranging from conference keynotes, retreats, parish missions, cooking demonstrations to youth rallies. He also conducts corporate events for Fortune 500 companies.

Visit <https://platinggrace.com/booking> for more information.

Dining with the Saints - Father Leo's New Cookbook



Dining with the Saints brings the Catholic liturgical year to life, pairing over two hundred saints' stories with an irresistible smorgasbord of international recipes.

Join St. Benedict and learn to craft Eggs Benedict with Basil Hollandaise in March. Uncover the life of St. Catherine of Siena and serve up a delicious Pici Pasta with Pumpkin and Spicy Sausage during the month of April. Tempted by sweets? Honor St. Maria Goretti with Goretti Tiramisu.

Dining with the Saints is available online from Amazon, Target, or Barnes and Noble, and can also be purchased through Plating Grace: <https://shop.platinggrace.com>

The Food Truck's Unique Ministry Catches the Attention of LifeSiteNews



In operation for only a little over two years, the Plating Grace and Grub Food Truck is more and more attracting the attention of others in the world of those who make a difference for the good. [LifeSiteNews.com](https://lifesitenews.com), dedicated to issues of life, family, and many related issues, heard of the Truck's incredible work and spent a day filming the Truck and crew in action.

According to LifeSite cinematographer, Michael Hogan, the "60 Minutes"-style piece should be ready for release in mid-October. He and his team were blown away and deeply moved by their experience. Stay tuned to our Social Media accounts to see this inside look at our work!

The Role of Food in Father Leo's Priestly Vocation and Missionary Work

A prominent news outlet noticed that Father Leo was "trending" in popularity and on social media, so they asked him to tell their audience about his unique ministry of plating and spreading grace. You can read his story [HERE](#):

Donations to The Table Foundation are tax-deductible as allowed by law and can be made online [here](https://thetablefoundation.org/donate):

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EIN #47-1384384

The Table Foundation is the 501(c)(3) of which Plating Grace and Grub and Plating Grace are a part.



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