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## **St. Joseph Hospice New Orleans Hosts 11<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Joseph Altar**

**New Orleans, LA, April 14, 2014** — The New Orleans office of St. Joseph Hospice hosted its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Joseph Altar on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at the Jefferson Senior Citizen's Center on Jefferson Highway in New Orleans.



The St. Joseph Altar began as a custom brought to New Orleans by Sicilian immigrants. The tradition in Italy goes back as far as the Middle Ages in gratitude to St. Joseph for answering prayers for deliverance from famine. Families of farmers and fishermen built

altars in their homes to share their good fortune with others in need.

Friends, along with St. Joseph Hospice staff members and volunteers, prepared an abundance of food and decorated an altar with flowers, candles and cards in thanksgiving to St. Joseph, the Patron Saint of a Peaceful Death, for favors granted. Following a blessing by Father H. L. Brignac, the public was invited to partake in the feast.

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This year's event fed approximately 300 people, with surplus being delivered to help feed the men at Ozanam Inn in New Orleans. All donations collected during the event went to the St. Joseph Hospice Foundation, a non-profit organization, chartered in 2003, which provides educational programs and



assistance to terminally ill patients and their families, regardless of which hospice agency they choose. The Foundation provides over \$50,000 annually to communities served by St. Joseph Hospice throughout Louisiana, Mississippi and South Alabama. In addition to funds provided for direct care for non-funded patients, the Foundation has also helped to provide for living expenses, funeral costs, memorial services and more.

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