11th Annual Mayor's Interfaith Prayer Breakfast
Feeding the Hungry: Honoring Congregations and the San Francisco Food Bank

Tuesday, November 25, 2008
7:00 - 9:00 AM
Cathedral Hill Hotel
San Francisco

Sponsored by:
The San Francisco Interfaith Council
Celebrating our diverse faith and spiritual traditions, the San Francisco Interfaith Council brings people together to build understanding and serve our community.
Program

7:00-7:30 a.m. Breakfast/Registration

Buddhist Ceremonial In Kin Bell
Rev. Jordan Thorn, San Francisco Zen Center

Welcome
Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, Congregation Sherith Israel
Joan M. Rinde, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

President Abraham Lincoln's Thanksgiving Day Proclamation
Rev. Carmen Rosales, Mission Presbyterian Church

Call to Prayer
Muhammad Abu Noor, Islamic Society of San Francisco

Opening Prayer
The Most Rev. George H. Niederauer, Archbishop
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of San Francisco

Prayer of Thanks for the Meal
Rabbi Marvin Goodman, Executive Director
Northern California Board of Rabbis

Global to Local: United Nations Millennium Development Goals
The Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of California

The Religious Pulse in San Francisco
Rev. James DeLange, Chair

“Open My Eyes” & “Let Us Break Bread Together”
St. Mary's Chinese Day School
Ms. Satoko Fujiwara, Director

Program

Role and Work of the San Francisco Interfaith Council
Michael Pappas, M. Div., Executive Director

The Impact on our Community by Faith Based Organizations
Rita R. Semel, Executive Vice Chair

St. Anthony Foundation - 1950
Catholic Charities CYO - 1907
Episcopal Community Services - 1894
Glide Foundation - 1929
Jewish Family and Children's Services - 1850
Lutheran Social Services - 1884
St. Vincent de Paul Society - 1860
San Francisco Food Bank - 1987
Salvation Army - 1883

Congregations and Coalitions of Congregations

Special Recognition of the San Francisco Food Bank
Response from Paul Ash, Executive Director

Keynote Address
Mayor Gavin Newsom

“Blessings Upon Blessings”
Sr. Elizabeth Padilla & Bro. Mario Reyes
Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center

Closing Prayer
Rev. Aurelius Walker, True Hope Church Of God In Christ
Our Sponsors

Sustaining Sponsor - $500
Archdiocese of San Francisco
Calvary Presbyterian
Catholic Charities CYO
Congregation Sherith Israel
Episcopal Community Services
Jewish Community Relations Council
Lutheran Social Services
Providence Baptist Church

Sustaining Sponsor - $250
International Association of Sufism
Jewish Community Federation
Nancy Sheftel-Gomes
Old St. Mary's Cathedral
Rev. & Mrs. James DeLange
Rita R. Semel
Sharon Low / Jerry Wong, Zion Ministries
Sisters of the Presentation
Society for Community Work
The Salvation Army
United Muslims of America Interfaith Alliance

Steering Committee

Nancy Sheftel-Gomes, Co-Chair
Joan M. Rinde, Co-Chair
Rita R. Semel
Rev. James De Lange
Betsy Dodd
Mary J. Zamboukos
Michael Pappas
Sr. Elizabeth Padilla

Special Thanks
Flowers
Alma Angeles & Rossana Herrera
Decorations
Accent On Flowers
Music
Bro. Mario Reyes
Coffee
Ben Corey Moran
Thanksgiving Coffee Company
Supporters of the
San Francisco Interfaith Council
2007 - 2008

Congregations
Calvary Presbyterian Church
Christ Church Lutheran
Congregation Emanu-El
Congregation Sherith Israel
First Unitarian Universalist Church
First United Lutheran Church
Grace Cathedral
Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church
Old First Presbyterian Church
Old St. Mary’s Cathedral
Paulist Fathers
Pine United Methodist Church
SF Friends Meeting - Quakers
St. Brendan Catholic Church
St. Dominic’s Catholic Church
St. Francis Lutheran Church
St. Gabriel Catholic Church
St. Ignatius Catholic Church
St. Mark’s Lutheran Church
St. Mary’s Cathedral
St. Paulus Lutheran Church
St. Thomas More Catholic Church
The Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi
Star of the Sea Catholic Church
Swedenborgian Church

Judicatories
Archdiocese of San Francisco
Episcopal Diocese of California
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of SF
United Muslims of America Interfaith Alliance

Agencies
Catholic Charities CYO
Episcopal Community Services
Jewish Community Relations Council
Pacifica Institute
University of San Francisco

Individuals
Betti Caramucci
Rev. James DeLange
Rev. Margaret Henderson
Friends of Frances Johns
George & Judy Marcus
Nancy Nielsen
George & Kay Pappas
Friends of Marilyn Saner
Rita R. Semel
Rev. Frances Tornquist
Cynthia S. Zamboukos

Foundation Grants
Bob A. Ross Foundation
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San Francisco Foundation

Our Special Thanks to those who have
provided financial support to the San
Francisco Interfaith Council.
Mayor’s Interfaith Prayer Breakfast
San Francisco, California

Dear Friends,

It is an honor to support the 11th Annual Mayor’s Interfaith Prayer breakfast. I want to thank Mayor Gavin Newsom for recognizing the critical role of the faith community in our city and for convening this breakfast. I also want to extend my thanks to the San Francisco Interfaith Council for sponsoring the event this morning.

Our diverse community of faith here in San Francisco is a critical part of the foundation of our city. The countless hours and financial resources that our faith community have invested have made our city a richer place. We are grateful to Mayor Newsom for recognizing the critical role of our congregations and organizations. This morning we will recognize publicly the unsung heroes, the congregations and organizations that serve the "least of these" in our city.

I am proud to call San Francisco my home. The patron saint of our city, Saint Francis of Assisi, prayed, "Lord, make me a channel of thy peace; where there is darkness may we bring light, where there is hatred may we bring love, and where there is despair, may we bring hope." The many congregations and organizations gathered here this morning are fulfilling this prayer daily. Thank you for your commitment, service and dedication.

Best Regards,

Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

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President Abraham Lincoln’s
Thanksgiving Proclamation

It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God; to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations are blessed whose God is the LORD.

We know that by His divine law, nations, like individuals, are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world. May we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people?

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven; we have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity; we have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown.

But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us, and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us.

It has seemed to me fit and proper that God should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged, as with one heart and one voice, by the whole American people. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens.
Meal Blessing*

offered by
Most Reverend George H. Niederauer
Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Francisco

Let us never stop thanking God,
with constant words of praise.
Join me in praising the Lord,
together let us tell of God’s name.

All: Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Ruler of the Universe,

Creator of many kinds of food.
Blessed are You, Eternal our God, Ruler of the Universe,
who raises up those bowed down.
Blessed are You, Lord, Ruler of the Universe,
Who bestows good beyond our deserving
and has granted every goodness to us.

God’s angel defends the faithful,
guards them on every side.

Drink in the richness of God,

enjoy the strength of the Lord.
Live in awe of God, you saints:
you will want for nothing.
Even if lions go hungry
those seeking God are fed. Amen.

*Based on traditional Jewish blessings and Psalm 34:2-4, 8-11
from the International Committee on English in the Liturgy,
The Psalter, 1994, adapted.

Islamic Messages for Feeding the Hungry
And Caring for the Needy

Quotation from the Quran

2:177
It is not righteousness that you turn your faces towards the
East or towards the West. But it is righteousness:
To believe in God, And the Day of Judgment, And the Angels
And the Book, And the Messengers, To spend out of your earnings
Out of Love for God, For your relatives, For the orphans
For the Needy, For the traveler, For those who ask
And for the ransom of slaves. And practice regular charity.

2:184
If you feed the indigent and take care of needy
God will give you more out of his own Free Will

90: 10 to 17
And what is the path that is steep (difficult)
It is to free the bondman
To give food in day of famine
To adopt orphans (treating them as relatives)
And to help the indigent in street.

107: 1 to 7
You will see one who denies the Judgment to come
Repulses the orphan with harshness and
He does not encourages feeding the hungry
So – Shame on those worshippers, who neglect
Their prayers and who just want to be seen as
Prayerful – these are the ones who refuse to supply
The neighborly needs (of feeding and caring for poor)

Prepared by:
Imam Abu Qadir Al Amin
Muslim Community Association, S.F.
A Midrash on Feeding the Hungry

In the world to come, man will be asked, ‘What was your occupation?’

If he replies, ‘I fed the hungry,’ then he will be told,
‘This is the gate of the Lord; he who feeds the hungry, let him enter.’

So with giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, with those that look after orphans, and with those, generally, who do deeds of loving kindness.

All these are gates of the Lord, and those who do such deeds shall enter within them.

- Midrash on Psalm 118 from the Jewish Tradition

Blessing After Eating~Birkat HaMazon

Praised be our God, of whose abundance we have eaten, and by whose goodness we live.

Praised be the Eternal God.

Sovereign God of the universe, we praise You:
Your goodness sustains the world.
You are the God of grace, love and compassion, the Source of bread for all who Live; for Your love is everlasting.
In your great goodness we need never lack for food;
You provide food enough for all.
We praise You, O God, Source of food for all who live.

As it is written:
When you have eaten and are satisfied,
Give praise to your God who has given you this good earth.
We praise you, O god, for the earth and for its sustenance.

Nourishment for the Soul

May peace be filled within me and give me strength to come face to face with the things that are tearing our human family apart

Greed, anger, ego, attachment and lust have destroyed our peace and brought sorrow in the world

May God’s company be constant and nourish me with the power of peace. May God’s love end the poverty of human values.

I know it is not a question of going off to remote places of quiet or turning away from the world to find peace.

I know it is a question of learning Humility and emerging humanity’s Mercy.

Surrendering myself to God is the beginning. Together, we can then create a World of Peace.

- Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual Organization
Prayers of the People

"Hear the cries of the world's hungry and suffering. Give us, who consume most of the earth's resources, the will to reorder our lives, that all may have their rightful share of the food, medical care, and shelter, and so have the necessities of a life of dignity.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer."

Prayers of the People, Book of Common Worship, for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church

A Prayer for President-elect Obama

Almighty God, our Father who has granted favor to your servant, Barack Hussein Obama, and has ordained him to be the President of our great nation, for such a time as this; we beseech You to send down upon him the spirit of wisdom, compassion, and justice. We pray that You will secure him, and his family, in the palms of Your hands that they will find safety and protection, enabling him to successfully carry out his assignment that our nation will prosper and be in peace.

Let the nations rejoice with us and be thankful for what You have done, for it is Your doing and it is marvelous in our eyes. Unto You be the glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Bishop Ernest L. Jackson
Grace Tabernacle Community Church
A Thanksgiving Prayer from the Iroquois People

Gwa! Gwa! Gwa!
Now the time has come!
Hear us, Lord of the Sky!
We are your children, Lord of the Sky.

You said that food should be placed beside us.
And it should be ours in exchange for our labor.
You thought that ours should be a world
where green grass of many kinds should grow.
You said that some should be medicines
And that one should be Ona'ó
the sacred food, our sister corn.
You gave to her two clinging sisters
beautiful Oa'geta, our sister beans
and bountiful Nyo'sowane, our sister squash.
The three sacred sisters; they who sustain us.

This is what you thought, Lord of the Sky.
Thus did you think to provide for us.
And you ordered that when the warm season comes,
That we should see the return of life.
And remember you, and be thankful,
and gather here by the sacred fire.

So now again the smoke arises.
We the people offer our prayers.
We speak to you through the rising smoke.
We are thankful, Lord of the Sky.

Bahai’ Prayer for Kindness

Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity.
Be fair in thy judgment, and guarded in thy speech.
Be a lamp unto those who walk in darkness, and a home
to the stranger. Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding
light unto the feet of the erring. Be a breath of life to
the body of humankind, a dew to the soil of the
human heart, and a fruit upon the tree of humility.

Bahá’u’lláh

Buddhist Mealtime Prayers

This food is the gift of the whole universe,
Each morsel is a sacrifice of life,
May I be worthy to receive it.
May the energy in this food,
Give me the strength,
To transform my unwholesome qualities
into wholesome ones.

I am grateful for this food,
May I realize the Path of Awakening,
For the sake of all beings.

Earth, Water, Fire, Air and Space combine to make this food.
Numberless beings gave their lives
and labors that we may eat.
May we be nourished
that we may nourish life.