



8170 Flannery Court, Manassas VA 20109, 703-659-1636
www.houseofmercyva.org

April 25, 2016

Media Announcement FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MANASSAS, Va. –

Save the Date -- Famous "Grace Before Meals" Presentation in Haymarket to Benefit HOM

Fr. Leo Patalinghug will be presenting his famous "Grace Before Meals" event as a fundraiser in support of House of Mercy (HOM) programs, in particular the Food Pantry and Education. Father Leo will speak about the importance of serving family meals, especially in low-income homes. It has been proven that the simple act of eating together as a family has an effect on the development of children.^{1,2} The event will be held on Tuesday, September 20, 2016 beginning at 10:00am at the Piedmont Country Club, 14675 Piedmont Vista Dr, Haymarket, VA 20169. The cost to attend is \$40 and includes light snacks and drinks.

Fr. Leo is the founder, host, and Director of Grace Before Meals, an international apostolate to help strengthen families and relationships through God's gift of the family meal. Grace Before Meals is Fr. Leo's movement to bring families back to the dinner table- away from work, school, TV, electronic media and games, and the many other things we get caught up in- to share a delicious, nutritious meal together, communicate and love one another and be nourished- body, mind, and soul.

This extraordinary chef has been featured on ABC, CBS, NBC, PBS, EWTN, and even the Food Network, where Fr. Leo defeated a world famous chef in a cooking competition called, "Throw Down! with Bobby Flay." His message combines faithful Catholic theology presented in a way that everyone can understand and appreciate.

Tickets must be pre-purchased at SignUpGenius or at House of Mercy.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f044cada629abfb6-grace>

¹ University of Minnesota, Extension Service
Colleen Gengler, Extension Educator, Family Relations
"Teens and Family Meals", 2011

² "The Protective Role of Family Meals for Youth Obesity: 10-year Longitudinal Associations," by Jerica M. Berge, PhD, MPH, LMFT, CFLE, Melanie Wall, PhD, Tsun-Fang Hsueh, MS, Jayne A. Fulkerson, PhD, Nicole Larson, PhD, MPH, RD, and Dianne Neumark-Sztainer, PhD, RD, MPH, appears in The Journal of Pediatrics (www.jpeds.com), DOI 10.1016/j.jpeds.2014.08.030, published by Elsevier.

About the House of Mercy

The House of Mercy is a Catholic-based humanitarian 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located in Manassas, Virginia. Founded in 2005, the organization is dedicated to serving the poor, marginalized, and forgotten. The House of Mercy provides aid to the poor regardless of background,

race, religious affiliation, physical ability, gender or ethnicity. It offers a variety of free programs to the community, including:

- Food Pantry
- Free and discounted clothing
- Thrift Store
- New Shoe program for kids
- Campaign to End Hunger (service project)
- English as a Second Language (ESL), GED Math, and Beginning Math
- Citizenship Exam preparation
- Cooking and Nutrition
- Spiritual Formation Classes
- Christmas Assistance

For more information about the House of Mercy, or to register as a client, or to donate financially, email help@houseofmercyva.org or call 703-659-1636.

Contact: Ann Cimini, Executive Director

House of Mercy
8170 Flannery Court
Manassas, VA 20109
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help@houseofmercyva.org

CAPTIONS:

Fr. Leo Patalinghug presents his world famous “Grace Before Meals” on Tuesday September 20, 2016 at 10:00am. Proceeds will benefit House of Mercy, especially the Food Pantry and Education programs. Tickets may be purchased at Signup Genius (House of Mercy-Grace) or at House of Mercy.