



**Franciscan Friars
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MEDIA ADVISORY: Archbishop Dolan To Visit St. Francis Breadline on Ash Wednesday

Midtown New York City Food Ministry Welcomes Catholic Leader on March 9

WHO: New York's Archbishop Timothy Dolan will participate in the distribution of food at St. Francis of Assisi Breadline in Midtown Manhattan on Wednesday morning, March 9.

WHAT: Since assuming his role in April 2009, Archbishop Dolan has been getting to know the parishes of the Archdiocese of New York and the programs having an impact on the city's people.

Founded in September 1930, the breadline at St. Francis of Assisi Church marked its 80th year of operation last fall. In the wake of the 1929 stock market crash, men struggling to make ends meet would visit the West 31st Street church for coffee and a piece of bread. Today, the ministry of the Franciscan friars of Holy Name Province feeds roughly 325 people a day — many homeless — with coffee and a bagged lunch, according to the Rev. Michael Carnevale, OFM, director of the breadline. It is the oldest continuously running breadline in the country.

WHEN: The archbishop will arrive at the breadline at 6:45 a.m. on March 9.

WHERE: The breadline operates outside of St. Francis of Assisi Church, 135 West 31st Street, between Sixth and Seventh avenues.

About the Franciscans: Holy Name Province is the largest of the seven U.S. provinces that belong to the Order of Friars Minor. With ministries in 12 states along the East Coast, its 350 Catholic priests and brothers serve in colleges, parishes, urban ministry centers and a wide variety of social ministries as well as in missions in Africa, Asia and South America.

More than 800 years since its founding by St. Francis of Assisi, the Franciscan Order continues to minister to the poorest of the poor. Today, Francis remains one of the most widely known saints, revered for his affection for nature and passion for peace.

Information about Holy Name Province is available at www.hnp.org.

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