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St. Anthony Dining Room Gets Served! Local Mosque Serving St. Anthony Staff a Christmas Dinner

SAN FRANCISCO, CA December 6, 2007, St. Anthony Foundation's staff of 175 people will receive an early Christmas present they are not likely to forget- a delicious 5 course meal, prepared and served by their neighbors at Alsabeel Masjid Noor Al-Islam Mosque.

"Peace does not have to start somewhere else at a peace talk, it starts here, with each other. We have great respect for the service that St. Anthony offers to the poor and hungry.", noted chef Tom Saber, who each year prepares food at St. Anthony's kitchen for more than 150 people that break their Ramadan fast at Alsabeel Masjid Noor Al-Islam during Ramadan. Ramadan is a month long Muslim holiday during which participants fast during the day in order to be reminded of the experience of hunger that many of the poor experience every day. "We had to insist on doing something special for them. It is a great honor for us to prepare and serve a holiday meal to the people that serve so many, every single day".

"We are so humbled to receive this gift of a special meal from our Muslim brothers and sisters, especially during a time when our staff is working extra hard to make the holidays a little brighter for the poor. It is truly a reminder that we are all one, and that values such as generosity, compassion, and gratitude are universal." noted Executive Director, Fr. John Hardin, OFM.

The menu will include steak, chicken, fish, vegetarian dishes, basmati rice, and *basbousa*, a special Egyptian holiday desert, and will be entirely prepared and served by members of the Alsabeel Masjid Noor Al-Islam community.

Alsabeel Masjid Noor Al-Islam Mosque is a faith based organization dedicated to peace, justice, and compassion. Its masjid (mosque), school, and community center provide religious and social services to a large and diverse Muslim constituency throughout San Francisco and the greater Bay Area.

St. Anthony Foundation was established in 1950 to care for San Francisco's poor. St. Anthony's continues to offer a number of programs to improve the lives of poor and homeless San Franciscans, including its well known Dining Room, a Free Medical Clinic, and the Employment Program Learning Center. St. Anthony's does not accept any federal, state, or local government money, and is entirely funded by private donations.
