Casa Maria Mission Statement

Casa Maria is an intentional community, dedicated to living out the Gospel values of loving our enemies, doing good to those who do all manner of evil against us, and attempting to take responsibility for the needy sisters and brothers in our society. We follow the tradition of the Catholic Worker Movement started by Dorothy Day and Peter Maurin in 1933 in New York. We believe in nonviolence as a way of life, gentle personalism, the works of mercy, and experiments in sustainable living with the earth and our fellow human beings. We choose to live a life of voluntary poverty, to live simply so that others may simply live.

In addition to housing, we provide food, clothing, used furniture (when possible) etc. which are donated to us by the public, to help our guests and others in need of such items. We also try to root out the causes of poverty and violence by non-violently protesting and refusing to cooperate with the military and the U.S. government. We refuse to pay for the making of weapons and war and choose to use our money to help those lacking the basics of life. We protest injustice, oppression and discrimination in the world, and work for nonviolence to be taught and lived in our homes, schools, churches, and institutions. We have also dedicated parts of our property for urban gardening, chickens, and other practices that aid us and serve as an example of being more self-sustaining and less dependent on many of our society’s wasteful practices.

Our community members do not receive compensation for working at our houses, and many of them have jobs on the outside to provide for their own personal needs and the needs of the houses. Anyone who wishes to live a life of voluntary poverty, dedicate their life to those in need and oppressed, live a life of nonviolence, gentle personalism, and care for the earth, and is willing to live in community is invited to join the Casa Maria Community. We accept volunteers of any race, religion, nationality or sexual orientation.

We depend on the donations of our volunteers and others to maintain the houses. All donations received are used solely to help the homeless and needy who lack the basics of life. We do not receive any government, Archdiocesan, or corporate funds. This goes along with our personalist philosophy and not wanting to create partnerships that may compromise our personalism. As such, we have never applied for tax-exempt status. We have no desire to receive government support for our work and do want to risk becoming a social agency. This is our home. We also pick up used furniture and appliances (when possible) and accept household items, food, clothing, etc. at our front door. We charge nothing for these items or for our services which we give to those in need. We attempt to create a society in which it is easier for people to be good and trust in Divine Providence to provide the means for us to continue our work towards a more functional and caring society.