



Father Charlie Fermeglia founder, TABLE of PLENTY

In 2012, a brief conversation with Clyde Beffa, a long-time parishioner, resident of Half Moon Bay, and well-known wine merchant led to the founding of the TABLE of PLENTY in Half Moon Bay. It is a weekly supper for the hungry. At the time, I was serving as the parochial vicar at Our Lady of the Pillar Catholic Church. Within a few weeks, with the help of Debbe Kennedy, we engaged people across cultures and generations to help us in raising “the seed money” to bring the idea to life. As our first suppers were launched under the leadership of Sr. Jeanette Braun, who gratefully accepted the role of TOP’s Director, I could see that Jesus was a *clever guy*. He knew that food gathers people. It creates a place for people to build community together. I admit that I never fully understood the power of His example until I experienced what happened.

The TABLE of PLENTY gave us another opportunity to ground people in making our religion concrete by putting our faith into action for the common good. Today, Today, TOP has served well over 25,000 meals to struggling families, seniors, and the homeless, 52 weeks a year on Thursday evenings. As founder, I’ve remained actively involved as an advisor and in 2015, I was honored to be named to the TABLE of PLENTY’s Board of Directors.

I am a native of New York City and the son of Italian immigrants from the Veneto. I speak Italian fluently. I’m lover of the arts and a musician. These gifts, for which I’m deeply grateful, have helped me more fully appreciate the beauty of our Catholic liturgies and traditions, which have been central to my work as a priest in helping people, discover Jesus in their lives. My initial inspiration for TABLE of PLENTY came from Jesus’ example and working with people in need as a priest for over 25 years.

Also in 2015, the TABLE of PLENTY was honored to receive an invitation to write our “founding story” for publication in *Leader to Leader*, winner of the prestigious Apex Award for publishing excellence for the last eight consecutive years for publishing excellence: Read our story in “**VIEW from the TOP: Universal Principles for Building Community and Achieving Results**” (Spring 2015 – Jossey-Bass/ Wiley) <http://bit.ly/1NWbaR5>

