

Transforming the world through reverence

GOOD NEWS

St. Ben's Community Meal

1015 N 9TH ST. • MILWAUKEE, WI 53233-1411



A MINISTRY OF THE CAPUCHIN PROVINCE OF ST. JOSEPH

June, 2015

St. Ben's Community Meal + House of Peace = HOPE

Capuchins Remain Committed to Serving the Poor, the Hungry, the Homeless

You will notice some changes in our newsletter this month. St Ben's Community Meal and House of Peace are collaborating together to work as one Capuchin Ministry. Both St. Ben's Community Meal and House of Peace will come under the umbrella name of Capuchin Community Services. As we collaborate we will continue to focus on what each ministry does well. We will provide the same services and hopefully some new ones as we continue to assess the needs of our guests.

As Capuchins, we are getting older and fewer in number. We are fortunate now to still have a number of friars available to work each ministry. This will change in the

not so distant future. You will still see the same faces around each ministry. The staff will all keep their same jobs, sharing themselves between the two places as needed.

We very much appreciate all the ways you support us, and hope you will continue to do so. We look forward to continuing to work with each of you and getting to know many of you in both places who we do not yet know.

Peace and all good,

Br. Rob Roemer, OFM, Cap., Ministry Director
Capuchin Community Services

Majerus Family Foundation Members Feed the Hungry

Annual Memorial Dinner Celebrates the Life of Coach Rick Majerus

Coach Rick Majerus's legacy lives on here at St. Ben's Community Meal. Rick passed away on December 1, 2012. For the past couple years his sister Jodi, along with family and friends of Rick's have come together on February 17th to remember Rick. This is the day of his birthday. In honor of Rick they cater and serve a chili dinner with corn bread and lots of fixings.

The chili comes from Real Chili on the Campus of Marquette University. The place Rick took his players after a game. Many



▲ *Even though he had to grab his cane, this guest jumped at the chance to greet Br. Rob at St. Ben's Community Meal.*

of the people coming to help serve are friends of Rick's as well as other coaches and sports enthusiasts who knew Rick personally.

One man who came and talked with me extensively was Marc Marotta. Marc passed away unexpectedly last month at a very young age, as did Rick. We offer our sympathies to the Marotta family and our thanks to the Majerus family and friends. Our guests really enjoyed the special treat.

By Br. Rob Roemer, OFM, Cap.



Roaming St. Ben's

Remembering the Forgotten

by Capuchin Br. Rob Roemer, Co-Director

None of us like to think of death. Each year, St. Ben's Community Meal along with St Ben's Clinic and other agencies organize a memorial service to remember the homeless who passed away in the last year. We held this service on May 7th at St. Ben's. We lost a number of people who we knew at the meal as "regulars". There were 26 deaths of homeless that we knew of, since last May.



It was a moving service. One person mentioned the name. A guest or volunteer who knew the person came forward to light a candle. Some people knew the person well enough to say a word or two about them. Others were unknown. Many people I have talked with have a fear of death. Some others of dying alone, or of not being near loved ones at the time of death. As I talk with some of our guests, I realize this is a reality for them. They have lost all contact

with family and friends. Wounds are so deep that they will not, or cannot, go back to loved ones. Others struggle with mental illnesses and withdraw from the rest of the world, including loved ones.

It was chilling to hear these names being read, to be able to picture the face of those I knew slightly, and then think about how sad it must have been to die alone. A gentle reminder to me to make sure I take an extra moment to listen to those who may be feeling alone or abandoned.

I am grateful we have so many volunteers who do just that. They come to help, but they also sit down with our guests to talk with them. They take time to get to know their names and their stories. I am grateful to them and am trying to do the same.

May each of our deceased guests rest in Peace, and the Love of God.

Developing Resources: Monthly Gifts

We are blessed with many generous donors at St. Ben's Community Meal. Some people send in gifts monthly. Did you know that it is easy to set up an automatic recurring gift? There are three ways to do this:

- 1) Go to: www.stbenscommunitymeal.org/ways-to-help/gifts-donations and set up your gift online. You can choose a one-time gift or a monthly gift. Select monthly and that's it! When you are ready to make changes to the gift contact us and we'll make the changes for you.
- 2) Contact us to set up the monthly gift. Let us know how much you'd like to give monthly and we'll set it up for you. Again, when you want to end the gift or make a change, just let us know and we'll be happy to do that for you.
- 3) Use the automatic bill pay program that many banks and credit unions offer. You can set up your gift to St. Ben's Community Meal to run each month on a certain day and for a certain amount. Your financial institution can help set up, stop or modify any recurring gifts.

-Jim Van Hoven, Development Director jvanhoven@thecapuchins.org

St. Ben's Community Meal Ministry Council

Members:

Chuck Cmeyla
Wendy Hermann
Mike Kelley
Pam Meyer
Duncan Shrout
Sara Zirbel

Director:

Br. Rob Roemer,
O.F.M., Capuchin

St. Ben's Community Meal is a 501(c)(3) ministry of the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph. All donations are tax deductible as allowable by law.

St. Ben's Community Meal Services

- Community Meal
- Justice Orientation & Urban Plunges.
- Capuchin Apartments
- Front Door Ministry

**To make a gift to support
St. Ben's Community Meal go to:**

www.stbenscommunitymeal.org/ways-to-help/gifts-donations

You can also use the enclosed envelope to make your gift via the mail.

Social Networking



Facebook.com/ StBensCommunityMeal



Twitter.com/StBensMeal



YouTube.com/ StBensCommunityMeal

Blog stbenscommunitymeal.org/blog

Focus On Ministry

Focus Groups Meet To Discuss Upcoming Collaboration



The friars of the Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order passed a pastoral plan at their last chapter that called for the collaboration of the House of Peace and St. Ben's Community Meal. This was prompted by the decline in the number of friars of working age. Br. Steve Kropp, OFM, Cap., represented the Provincial Council and met with two focus groups to listen to their concerns. The members

of the focus groups were chosen as representative of various constituencies. People representing volunteers, guests, donors and supporters from both ministries came together for coffee and conversation. The comments were almost universally supportive with many saying, "we should have done this years ago!" The only concerns were allayed when people learned no staff would be laid off or sites closed.



Ministry Musings

How to Shake Up Your World

by Capuchin Br. David Hirt, Activities Coordinator

My favorite part of my job at St. Ben's is running the Orientation program. And it isn't that I love bringing middle-school kids, teens, young adults, and even their parents into the meal hall and shaking up their lives by asking them to sit and eat and talk with our guests. I think that's good for them but it's not the best part of the job.

The best is when I take them upstairs to share what they experienced and I can see that they have been changed by that experience; when I can see that they have

moved from sympathy into empathy. It energizes me. If I could do Orientation's three nights a week I'd be thrilled. Maybe you'd like to try it yourself? Maybe you have a group of teenagers who would benefit from it?

I invite you to consider the possibility; to consider having your world shaken up and your heart changed. I think it's a great start on the road to the Reign of God.



▲ Heather Warner, Director of Religious Education introduces Br. David Hirt to the students from St. Mary's By the Lake, Racine. The students held a Hygiene Bag Drive to benefit St. Ben's Community Meal and the House of Peace for their Lenten Service Project.

To schedule an orientation, please call or email Br. David:

(414) 271-0135, ext. 19
Bro david@thecapuchins.org

THE CAPUCHINS'

FOR THE RUN WALK HUNGRY

5K Run & 2 Mile Walk

Friday, July 24, 2015 • 7 PM

5:00 pm Check-In at South Gate of Summerfest

TEAM INFO: Teams of 10 or more runners, walkers or both are eligible for a \$5 discount per person. Team registration deadline is July 12. **Please register online at:**

www.CapuchinsRunWalkForTheHungry.org

DRAWINGS: All Capuchins' Run/Walk participants are eligible for wonderful prizes. **Must be present to win.**

PARTICIPANT REWARDS: Commemorative T-Shirt • FREE German Fest Admission (open until 11:00 pm) \$5 Food/Drink Coupon • 2 for 1 Coupon to return to German Fest

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Payment must be postmarked or completed online by **July 12, 2015.**

After July 12, shirt sizes cannot be guaranteed and entry fees increase as noted.

Individual registration is available below or through www.CapuchinsRunWalkForTheHungry.org

Have a team of 10 or more? Please register your team at www.CapuchinsRunWalkForTheHungry.org

Or if you prefer to register your team via hard copy, please call 414.374.8841, ext. 26

Photocopies are accepted. Detach along dashed line

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

5K RUN: A certified and chip timed/scored race.

\$25 Adult, \$15 Child [\$30 and \$20 after July 12]

Child must be 12 or younger on race day.

DIVISIONS: [14 & under] [15-19] [20-24] [25-29] [30-34] [35-39] [40-44] [45-49] [50-54] [55-59] [60-64] [65-69] [70 plus]

AWARDS: Immediately following the Run/Walk, awards for 3 overall finishing times for Men and Women. In addition, the top three M/F runners will receive awards in each division.

2 MILE WALK: Non-competitive walk through Lakeshore State Park. Not eligible for scoring or awards.

\$20 Adult, \$10 Child [\$25 and \$15 after July 12]

Child must be 12 or younger on race day.

REGISTRATION FORM: PLEASE PRINT

Total registering on this form: _____

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Check One: RUN WALK Gender: M F Age (day-of-race): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Additional individuals registering, please indicate Run or Walk, Gender & Age (day-of-race).

Name	R/W	M/F	Age
1			
2			
3			

Total Registering: _____ T-Shirt(s) (indicate quantity of each size): _____ S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL

My extra gift to the Capuchins to feed the homeless and hungry: \$ _____ Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Check (Payable to: Capuchins' Run Walk for the Hungry) Credit Card: VISA MasterCard Discover

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Print name as it appears on card: _____ Signature: _____

I hereby waive all claims against The Capuchin Province of St. Joseph, German Fest, Inc., Milwaukee World Festival, Inc., Board of Harbor Commissioners, City of Milwaukee, race personnel and all sponsors for any injuries from which I may suffer while taking part in this event or as a result thereof. I grant permission to all of the aforementioned to use any photographs, motion pictures, videotapes or any other record of this event for any legitimate purpose. Participant Signature (or guardian if under 18).

SIGNATURE: _____