PREPARING ST. BEN’S MEAL TAKES PEOPLE & TIME

Dozens of volunteers working together as cooks, coordinators and servers help put on the Meal six nights per week

Chuck and other volunteers start making the 7 gallons of gravy at 7am for the 5:15pm Meal.

Volunteers at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church prepare to bake chicken in their parish kitchen.

Bread is buttered for an estimated 350 diners, loaded in boxes and transported from the parish to St. Ben’s Meal.

Above center & to the right, members of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish bring the food to St. Ben’s Meal and layout the serving table. Don Rytman, Kitchen Manager supervises the setup and service by each group.

Br. Robert Wotypka makes an announcement and thanks the sponsor group. Then Mark from the parish leads the grace over the meal.

Guests share their appreciation for the meal with the sponsor group members and other volunteers.
Call and Response
by Br. Robert Wotycka, OFM Capuchin
Ministry Director

When We Show Up

Sometimes it’s important to plan and to commit to and carry out our plans. And sometimes it’s better to just show up. That’s my experience of God and of ministry. What is yours?

Consider the Gospels: Matthew begins with the genealogy of Jesus, naming his ancestors through the generations. Luke begins with the earthly origins of Jesus of Nazareth, then presents the genealogy. But in John, after the cosmic Prologue, Jesus simply “shows up.” Mark takes a middle course: the promises God made through Isaiah are cited, only after which Jesus “shows up.”

How is it at CCS? My eyes were opened when I went to visit Joan and Mel Hynek, who coordinate the Saint Ben’s meal ministry for Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Their story is on the cover. Now that’s commitment. And planning. I wonder how I’ll spend my retirement …

Our Holiday Food Box Drive coordinator Dave Fischer works behind the scenes calling churches, businesses, and schools, and fielding calls, everything you see on page 4. Now that’s commitment. And planning (Dave is also ‘retired’).

And yet. Every day at the HOP, and it’s the same at Ben’s, people show up, those who have and those who need. A man is released from lock-up and has only the clothes on his back and maybe a pair of shoes. After a call to the Clothes Closet at the HOP he has all he needs to make it through the day and more. The nearest food pantry is only open a few days a month, so a family in need calls around and learns that the House of Peace pantry is open every day and late on Tuesdays. When they show up, they are served.

Was it Wayne Gretzky who said, “You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take”? We should have put that in the 2020 calendar: “You miss nothing when you show up. But if it is of God, it will prosper.”

Looking to show up?

Volunteer for one of the Works of Mercy in the column to the left. Or help us clothe people in the winter by participating in our Spread the Warmth Drive. Learn more here: capuchincommunityservices.org/ways-to-help/special-drives/capuchins-warm-winter-drive
How 12,000 People Fill Holiday Food Boxes
The House of Peace benefits as groups fill 4,000 boxes each year

Each year companies, schools, churches and groups hold food box drives. These drives produce 80+ tons.

We Plan
We Meet
We Pack

We Serve - Brothers & Sisters Together!

We Check
We Carry
We Stack

We thank St. Anthony's On the Lake in Pewaukee for being one of the many groups that share their resources with us.

Volunteer Coordinator finds opportunity through prayer

Nicole Fair was recently hired as the new Volunteer Coordinator. “I graduated from Cardinal Stritch University,” Nicole said. She continued, “After graduation, I prayed and felt led to volunteer at St. Ben’s Meal. Then I learned of the job and so I applied.”

Fr. Robert said, “We are so glad to have Nicole join our staff. As a volunteer she demonstrated her compassion and willingness to serve. Coupled with her education and faith life, I know our volunteers will enjoy working with her. Please read the listing on Page 2 and see if you feel called to volunteer with us, then get in touch with Nicole.”

◄ Long time volunteers Barbara (R) and Bernie (L) welcome Nicole Fair, new Volunteer Coordinator, to the Clothes Closet.
Pastoral Direction
by Fr. Muthu Savariappan, OFM Capuchin
Pastoral Director

To Do Good

I strongly believe that “To Do Good” is challenging because we cannot be good to others all the time. Why did Jesus go around doing good? The answer is that Jesus saw that people who were poor, sick, hungry and/or sinners were not recognized and treated as equals in society. In order to affirm their dignity Jesus went about doing good to build the kingdom of God. In Mark 2:17 Jesus says “those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do.”

Upcoming Events:

Sponsor Listening Session: Saturday, November 2
at 9:30am. We meet at St. Ben’s Community Meal.

Volunteer Luncheon: Saturday, November 9
at 11:30am. We meet at Cardinal Stritch University
in the Sr. Camille Kliebhan Conference Center.

Details and invitations available at:
capuchincommunityservices.org.

2020 Calendar Mails Soon:

If you are on our mailing list, you’ll get our 2020 calendar with guest portraits in December. If not, let us know and we can add you to the mailing list.

Our Ministry Council
Diane Knight • Julie Darnieder • Anthony Myers • Chuck Cmeyla • Felice Green • Sara Zirbel • Duncan Shrout •
Br Robert Wotypka, Ministry Director • Jeff Parrish, Director of Provincial Ministries

Capuchin Community Services
St. Ben’s Community Meal
930 W State St
Milwaukee, WI 53233
414 271 0135
House of Peace
1702 W Walnut St
Milwaukee, WI 53205
414 933 1300

Support our ministry: www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org/Donate or by mail to PO Box 5830, Milwaukee WI 53205-0830

I’m still new to the ministry but happy to report that I am finding joy and fulfillment in the service of our brothers and sisters who are in need. I’m very grateful to the sponsors, volunteers and to all those who support us to continue our ministry to do good and to build the kingdom of God here on earth. We can do nothing without you and your gifts of time, talent and treasure are the pillars on which our ministry stands. Every day you are all remembered in our prayers. As I write this on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi I pray that he may intercede for all of us. May God bless us all.