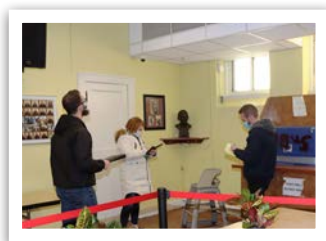




Please visit  
our website  
for the latest  
updates!

[www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org](http://www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org)

## MODERNIZING THE MEAL HALL HVAC Remodeling Project to Improve Ventilation

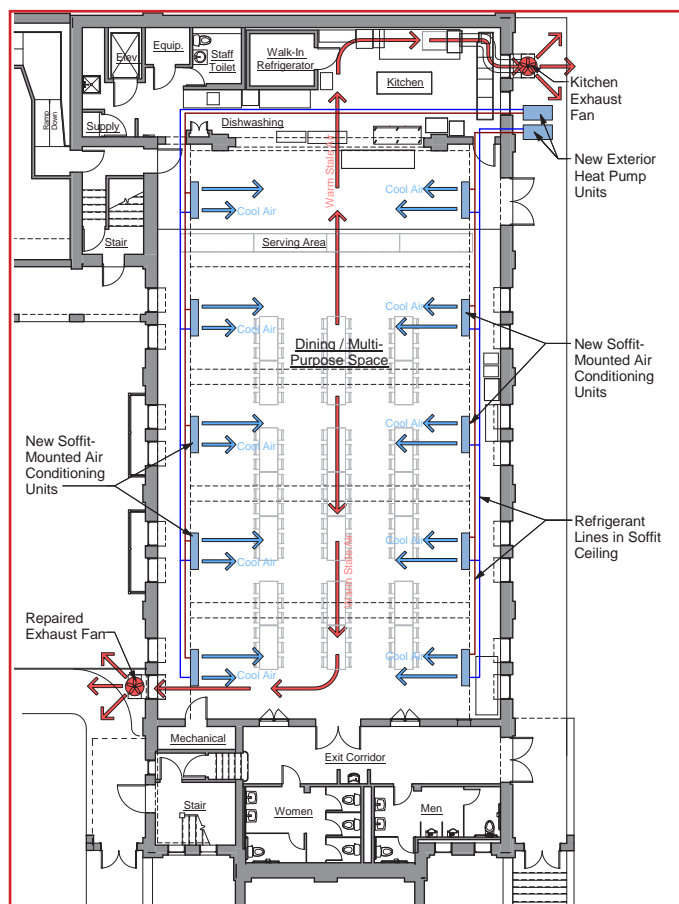


◀ Mike Silvestri, (Kelso-Burnett), Sharon Reitsma, (Pepper Construction Company) and Brandon Wetzel, (JMBrennan) measure the current ventilation for upgrades.

Our Saint Ben's site is on the Milwaukee District Energy line. It's "green energy" because it's recirculated steam created by power generation. It works well ... except ... we have to keep all the windows closed all winter. In the summer the Meal Hall and especially the kitchen area can become overwhelmingly hot.

With the COVID-19 pandemic came an increased awareness of the need for effective interior ventilation. After many reviews and consultations, including an energy audit, CCS is upgrading the Meal Hall. New equipment will provide forced air ventilation year-round, along with cooling in the hot months\*, and will increase the effectiveness of the steam heat used in winter. Watch for more updates, and thank you to all our generous supporters who are making this upgrade possible.

\*we already run a Warming Center; now we can plan for a Cooling Center, too.



## Capuchin Community Services Wins 2021 Equality Award

### City of Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission Recognizes CCS's Ministry

The City of Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission's (ERC) role is to promote racial, social and economic equity for residents. CCS is one of the City's non-profit partners. At their last meeting the ERC recognized three organizations and one city employee for their work towards greater equity. CCS was one of the three organizations honored.

Br. Robert received the award from Mayor Tom Barrett. He acknowledged how CCS partners with the City almost daily. "I thank the staff of the Health Department, Police District 1, the Department of Public Works, Homeless Connect and Impact 211," Br. Robert said. He continued, "They are a compassionate, learned and creative team."

▶ Br. Robert (L) listens as Mayor Barrett (R) presents the Equality Award to CCS. In his remarks, Br. Robert thanked the staff, volunteers, donors & supporters who help CCS continue the Capuchin mission.



## WORKS OF MERCY

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

#### House of Peace

&

#### St. Ben's Community Meal

CCS welcomes back volunteers. Soon Saint Ben's will serve in the Meal Hall Sundays through Thursdays. The House of Peace has resumed limited volunteer opportunities inside. Opportunities are posted online:

##### House of Peace -

[thecapuchins.net/HouseOfPeaceVols](http://thecapuchins.net/HouseOfPeaceVols)

##### St. Ben's Community Meal -

[thecapuchins.net/MealVolunteer](http://thecapuchins.net/MealVolunteer)

Questions or Updates contact:

Nicole Fair, Volunteer Coordinator  
**Phone:** 414-933-1300, x1123

**Email:** [ccsvol@thecapuchins.org](mailto:ccsvol@thecapuchins.org)

### IN-KIND DONATIONS

#### House of Peace

&

#### St. Ben's Community Meal

*CCS is now accepting in-kind donations of clothing and hygiene items at its two locations. We regret that we cannot accept other items at this time.*

**The House of Peace:** Donations are accepted from 1:00 pm and 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday. To deliver, please ring the doorbell then return to your vehicle. Staff will assist with unloading and provide a receipt.

**Saint Ben's Meal:** Donations are accepted from 9:00 am and 11:00 am, Monday through Friday. To deliver, please ring the large doorbell next to the Meal Hall doors, and then return to your vehicle. Staff will assist with unloading and provide a receipt.

## Call and Response

by Br. Robert Wotypka, OFM Capuchin Ministry Director

► Br. Brenton Ertel joins the staff & volunteers in a round of applause on the final day of the Christmas distribution.



## Keeping Our Priorities Straight

It was on a rare evening in the opening days when the Warming Center didn't have any volunteers. Trying to save payroll costs – and, okay, indulging in a bit of martyrdom – I was working alone until my relief arrived at 10pm.

We were far enough into the season that I knew several guests pretty well, and one guest, let's call him 'Bud,' seemed to lack situational awareness. I was running back and forth to the door at the 930 entrance; I was greeting new arrivals and going over the rules and the services; I was watching the coffee maker, I was giving directions. And yet ...

Every single time I passed Bud he stopped me. First it was, "Brother Rob (my mother says it's 'Robert' but whattaya gonna do?) – can I get another mask?" Yes, Bud, as soon as I can. Another pass: "Brother Rob, are we gonna have coffee and hot chocolate?" Yes, Bud – I just need to check in these other guests. Another pass: "Brother Rob, are we doing Bible study?" We are, Bud, at 9 o'clock, like every night (Evening

Prayer is offered to everyone; Bud calls it 'Bible Study'). Another pass: "Brother Rob, is there gonna be hot food tonight?"

I stopped short. I said, "Bud, let me bring you a paper and a pen, and you write down everything you need, and as soon as I'm finished helping these ten other people, I'll help you." First another guest nearby whispered,

"Daaaaaaaamn," then the room grew quiet. I kept trying to catch up, and the next time I passed his cot he asked me, "What's this?" I said that's for you to write down what you need, and handed him paper and a pen.

I did eventually catch up, I did eventually serve hot chocolate and coffee, hot food, I replaced his mask, and that night we had one more person than planned, which took up the chapel, so we didn't have 'Bible Study.' Bud left the note and pen on a table. I picked it up. It read: "Are we going to have Bible Study?"

You have to love someone who has their priorities straight.



▲ Br. Robert (left) reviews the architectural plans for the HVAC remodeling and upgrade of St. Ben's Community Meal Hall



***"But seek first the kingdom [of God] and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides." ~ Matthew 6:33***

# Impact 211 Provides Housing Access at St. Ben's

## Housing Unit Works With People Needing Shelter to Find Housing

Mary Lockwood leads the Housing Unit for Impact 211. "We have our own offices," she said, "but we wanted to meet with our shared clients in the locations where they come for service. We are very grateful that the Capuchins permit us to work out of St. Ben's Community Meal's gathering space each weekday afternoon."

Impact 211 is a nonprofit organization funded by local county governments and area



▲ Mary Lockwood meets with a guest in the gathering space at St. Ben's 930 space.

United Ways plus other funders. It serves as a central access point for people dealing with poverty and/or crises. People are urged to call 211 when they need help.

Mary continued, "If people come to St. Ben's and say they are homeless then we want to help them get housed. There's four of us on this team and we rotate in and out. We find that being able to see people in real time is priceless. It really helps us coordinate their entry into housing."

# CCS Friars To Move Into Renovated Monastery

## St. Francis of Assisi Monastery to House Friars After Remodeling

Since 1869, St. Francis of Assisi Monastery and Parish in Milwaukee has formed friars and ministered to the surrounding community. Last year the Capuchins began to remodel St. Francis Monastery, which is the oldest Capuchin built structure in North America.

The building has housed friars for over 150 years including two on the path to sainthood, Servant of God Stephen Eckert and Blessed Solanus Casey. For many years it was where young friars studied and were formed.



▲ Top step: Br. Henryk, Left and Br. Brenton, Right. Bottom step: Br. Carl, Left and Br. Raymond, Right.

Most recently the space has been used as offices for the Capuchins and local nonprofits. Tenants received a rent amnesty and then renovations began.

Four friars who serve at CCS will be moving into St. Francis. Brother Brenton Ertel serves primarily at the House of Peace, and Brother Carl Schaefer ministers at the Saint Ben's site. Brother Henryk Cisowski and Brother Raymond Mwakibinga are being immersed in all the operations at both sites.

# Friars Serving At CCS Pray for Your Intentions



## Weekly Mass includes prayer for every intention received

◀ Friars who live and serve at St. Ben's and CCS gather weekly to pray over intentions shared by supporters.

▶ Br. Robert presides at Mass for the friar community where every intention received is prayed over.



# Morning in the 930 Warming Center

## *Rested & Warm, Guests Prepare to Face New Day*

*Here's the stories of four guests told after an evening of rest in the Warming Center at St. Ben's Community Meal:*



Lachell is living on the streets of Milwaukee. "If I couldn't get into St. Ben's Warming Center last night, I would have had to sleep outside again," she said. Saint Ben's Warming Center operates on dangerously cold evenings from 7:30pm to 7am. Guests receive hospitality from staff and dedicated volunteers, with lights out at 10pm for a safe, quiet night.

Marshaun was dressed to go outside in his blue coat, grey hat and fur-lined hood. He's a young man who's currently homeless. "I think St. Ben's is awesome," he said with a big smile. "Compared to other shelters this is great. They treat you with respect, it's not too noisy, you get dinner from the Meal and a clean bed to sleep in. I will ask 211 to let me come back to sleep here again."



Howard is a big man who likes to share freely. "I'm just out of prison. They let me out now because so many inmates have caught Covid. I don't have it so I got out a little early." Howard paused and scowled, "My problem is that every time I apply for a job they ask if you have any felonies. How am I to get back on my feet if I'm disqualified from a job before I can complete the interview?"

Anthony had finished dressing to leave St. Ben's Community Meal's Warming Center when he said, "I'm happy today! I feel good. I'm going to see my payee!" He explained, "My payee is going to give me some checks from jobs I've had recently and then I'm going to check myself into a hotel for a few days."

Anthony continued, "I live outside in Merrill Park until it gets really cold. Then I look for a shelter. I'm so glad that I got into this warming center. It's really nice." With that Anthony walked out into a day of sub-zero wind chills hoping for a place to call home for a few more days.



## Our Ministry Council

Diane Knight • Julie Darnieder • Anthony Myers • Chuck Cmeyla • Felice Green • Duncan Shrout • Claire Shanahan  
Br. Tien Dinh, OFM Cap., • Br. Roymond Peter Chinnappan, OFM Cap.,  
Br Robert Wotypka, OFM Cap., Ministry Director • Jeff Parrish, Director of Provincial Ministries



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