



CCS ADOPTS NEW MODES OF MINISTRY

SOCIAL DISTANCING IMPLEMENTED TO ADDRESS COVID-19 HEALTH CRISIS



◀ Led by Kenny Howard, Site Manager, (Center), staff at St. Ben's Community Meal assemble a meal for delivery to a neighboring homeless shelter.



▲ Armando (L) staffs the reception desk while Josh (R) is in the kitchen.



▲ Josh (L) & Kenny (R) deliver dinners to residents of St. Anthony Apartments.

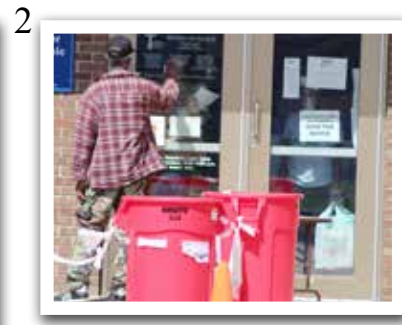
▶ Br. Robert delivers dinners to local homeless shelter.



▶ Guests waiting to be served are asked to respect social distancing.



◀ Linda Barnes (Far Left) & Br. Robert thank Mike Graf (black jacket) & Jim Wozniak (Far Right), board members, Fr. Gene's Help Center for Easter hams donated by Badger Hams.



1 After the schools shut down, MPS sent teachers to pick up food for students' families.

2 A guest puts his ID against the lobby door glass to qualify for a food pantry box.

3 Another guest holds a box of food on his shoulder while carrying a gallon of milk.

SAVE THE DATE!
THE CAPUCHIN VIRTUAL WALK FOR THE HUNGRY
JULY 17-18, 2020
(See page 3 for details)

WORKS OF MERCY

VOLUNTEERING PAUSED

House of Peace

&

**St. Ben's
Community Meal**

To protect the health of our volunteers, CCS has paused all volunteer assignments until the COVID-19 health crisis has passed. For updates please connect with our Volunteer Coordinator, Nicole Fair. She can be reached at her office number: **414-933-1300, x1123** or email: **ccsvol@thecapuchins.org**.

IN-KIND DONATIONS PAUSED

House of Peace

&

**St. Ben's
Community Meal**

To protect the health of our staff & guests, CCS has paused receiving most in-kind donations until the COVID-19 health crisis has passed. Specifically clothing can not be accepted at either the House of Peace or St. Ben's Community Meal.

St. Ben's Community Meal has been required to buy and prepare all food served through our delivery ministry. If you would like to support this ministry, please donate online:

www.CapuchinCommunityServices.org/Donate



▲Fr. Robert thanked donors on 'Undy Sunday.' May those days quickly return!

Call and Response

by Br. Robert Wotypka, OFM Capuchin
Ministry Director

"Here Comes Everybody"

► Br. Robert delivers meals to a homeless shelter.



If you stick around in Scripture classes long enough you will be sure to encounter the above quote. It comes from James Joyce, and it was his summary of what it means to be church. By the time you read this, I hope you'll be back in your place of worship, your place of work, your favorite pizza place (I might

the power to save and transform our world and our ministry. Saint Francis of Assisi saw this at work in faith lives of the people around him: those who struggled and suffered and were cast out had no recourse except to absolutely trust in the providence of God. And he became God's instrument, and he inspired others, thousands in his lifetime, to go and do likewise.

► Kenny and Josh load the van for delivery of the St. Ben's Community Meal.



These cries have never stopped, but they're more readily heard these days. And it's likely

◀ Br. Robert helped unload Easter Hams for the House of Peace Food Pantry.



be projecting a bit with that one), and I hope you'll be able to visit your loved ones. As I write this in late April, none of this is possible, even as it is still possible, indeed necessary, to do the works of mercy.

that they will grow louder and more urgent, as incomes vanish, rent is out of reach, and health insurance is cut off. "Here comes everybody" might be how it feels at Ben's and the House of Peace in days to come. Meanwhile, we have to ask volunteers to be safer at home, and our sites have limited operations in order to sustain our ability to provide food and meals. What - or who - will the future bring? I don't know, but I trust in God, and I depend on God to show us what we have to do. And I am grateful that you are with us.



Our newsletters have a long lead time. This is not to fault anyone; indeed, our printer is generous and flexible and always helps us. But if the next 30 days are anything like the past 30 days, there's simply no way to expect what "normal life" will look like by the time you read this.

Where we find ourselves at present - the uncertainty, the need to seek help, the sense of empathy for people we have never met who are dying from something no one knows how to heal - this time has within it

In Memory

Rick West, who was featured in our last newsletter, died in early March. Brother Robert prayed bedside with him at the hospital, and the friars at Saint Ben's celebrated a Mass for him.

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord
And let perpetual light shine upon him.
May his soul and all the souls of the
faithful departed
through the mercy of God
rest in peace.*

HOUSE OF PEACE FOCUSES ON FOOD PANTRY

CAPUCHIN CLOTHES CLOSET, SOCIAL SERVICES CLOSED BABY SANCTUARY SERVICES CONTINUE

“Most days it’s me, Dominique, Choua and rotating staff members serving people who need food,” Linda Barnes, Site Manager at the House of Peace said. She continued, “Each day we have help from some of the friars to staff the reception desk, handle phone calls and bag groceries.”

Linda paused, overcome by emotion then continued, “We had to let the volunteers know we couldn’t keep them safe and they should obey the Governor’s Safer-At-Home order. We do not let any of the guests into the House of Peace but serve them at the outside lobby door. It’s not the hospitality that I want to offer but it’s for everyone’s safety.”

Br. Robert added, “At first we were open all day, but that could not be sustained. We could not restock quickly enough, and we missed the contribution of our volunteers.

When the state greatly expanded FoodShare benefits, many of our guests qualified. Limited hours allow the House of Peace to operate safely for our staff and for our guests.”

Br. Robert continued, “Miss Linda has divided the staff into teams – for assisting guests at the curbside, for running the reception desk, for accepting and breaking down deliveries, and for

building food boxes and bags. Our dedicated staff have shifted into new or expanded roles. Dominique, who runs the food pantry, and Choua, who ministers at the Clothing Closet, now spend their time insuring that guests in need of emergency food are served quickly and safely. Nicole, our Volunteer Coordinator, is also helping in this effort. Brother Jerry Smith, our social worker, helps at the desk, and Brother Brenton and our postulants – these are men in active

discernment of Capuchin life – look after the “back of the house” operations like boxing and bagging, to enable the curbside operation to keep going.”

Linda said, “I don’t know if many people know that we are in the county-wide Strong Babies and Sanctuary of Love network. We continue to provide diapers, formula and wipes to any mother who needs them. If they have other needs we can refer them to other charities offering safe haven for over-stressed mothers.”



▲ Linda Barnes, House of Peace Site Manager selects milk and apples to add to pantry boxes. She’s standing next to the outside lobby so the completed boxes can be given to waiting guests.

▲ Top photo: Br. Brenton and CJ pack hams donated by Badger Hams. Bottom photo: Br. Jerry Smith (R) and Chris help verify eligibility for the Emergency Food Pantry. Both Chris and CJ are postulants discerning the call to become friars.

haven for over-stressed mothers.”

Br. Robert concluded saying, “The situation is very fluid. Capuchins were serving people during the plague over 500 years ago and we won’t abandon our neighbors in need now. So far we’ve remained responsive to the changing situation and I’m sure with God’s grace we’ll continue until this is over.”

CAPUCHIN WALK FOR THE HUNGRY GOES

VIRTUAL

Due to the COVID-19 health emergency, Polish Fest has been cancelled. The Capuchin Walk for the Hungry has been moved back one month and become a ‘virtual-actual’ walk. Participants

To receive postcards to share with friends email address(es) to:

jvanhoven@thecapuchins.org

will receive their shirts by mail and are invited to walk in their own neighborhoods while practicing social distancing. Funds raised help feed people who are hungry.

CAPUCHIN COMMUNITY SERVICES
Milwaukee
House of Peace
St. Ben's Community Meal

CAPUCHIN WALK
FOR THE HUNGRY

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!

POLISH FEST SPONSOR

JULY 17-18, 2020*

* Due to the COVID-19 health emergency let's practice social distancing and walk in our own neighborhoods.

capuchinwalk.org

ST. BEN'S COMMUNITY MEAL GOES TO DELIVERY

Barber Shop, Laundry, Eyeglasses Close Prescription Co-Pays & Mail Pick Up Continue

In the first week of March, all the traditions and many of the services offered at the Saint Ben's site were upended. The biggest and most difficult change was Ben's could no longer serve donated food. And, as happened at the House of Peace, we had to ask volunteers to be "safer at home."

"We work in teams now. Groups come in in the afternoon and assemble the Meal for delivery," said Kenny Howard, site manager for Saint Ben's Community Meal. "Don Rytman, the Kitchen Manager and our chef, comes in each morning to prepare the food purchased from local purveyors or supplied from the food bank. Some nights over 100 meals are made – different sites ask for help on different days. Then it's packed and loaded for delivery."

Brother Robert recounted, "We tried everything we could to keep going. We reduced the number of chairs at each table in the Meal Hall, we packed take-away meals for several weeks, but this took a lot of staff and time, which meant long lines outside. After the city began to house people who were homeless,



▲ **Top photo:** Guests wait to be called to get take-out meals. Service model changed to delivery due to problems with line. **Bottom photo:** Staff member Andre packs donuts into individual meals to be delivered. Donuts donated by Grebe's Bakery.

and once public benefits were increased, we identified places where help was needed. A shelter had lost their volunteer-prepared meals, but lacked a kitchen, so we connected with them. With the apartments, many of their residents were coming to Ben's, and we saw that it would be safer to go there than for the guests to come here."

"Our meal sponsors have stayed connected, and we are thankful for the money congregations and companies have sent. And we've received donations from local companies including Grebe's Bakery and Usinger's Sausage, who partner with us every year for the Walk for the Hungry."

"The only services operating at St. Ben's Open Door ministry are mail, ID pick-up and prescription co-pays. We now email with our pharmacy

partners to insure people can receive vouchers for their prescriptions. Armondo and Kenny take care of this every weekday at our 930 West State Street door," Brother Robert explained. "Even if in a limited way for now, St. Ben's Community Meal is still a place for connection."



◀ Br. Carl Schaefer (L) loads loaves of bread donated by Grebe's Bakery.

▶ Fr. Muthu Savariappan (L) packs take-away bags while Kenny (R) waits to fill a cart for placement outside. The take-away service was later replaced with delivery to shelters & supportive apartments.



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

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 YouTube.com/CapuchinCommunityServicesOrg

Capuchin Community Services

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