

Look How Far We've Come!

Both Sites Offer Improved Facilities to Serve Guests

BEFORE

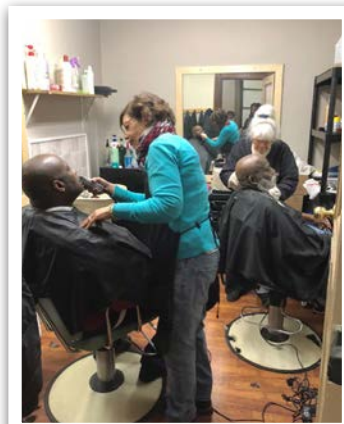


AFTER



◀ Before the remodeling at St. Ben's Community Meal, guests would wait for hours outside in the freezing cold or summer heat. Now guests wait in our new Gathering Space. They sit in a temperature controlled space with handicapped accessible bathrooms available.

BEFORE



AFTER



► Before the remodel our volunteer barbers cut hair in a former broom closet. They had to share one sink. The new barber shop was custom built with space, sinks and adequate lighting for two volunteer barbers.

BEFORE



AFTER



▲ Guests at the House of Peace's Capuchin Clothes Closet used to select clothing from the shed garages outside. Now guests can select clothing in a shop-like environment. All clothing is still distributed free-of-charge.

St. Ben's Community Meal

House of Peace

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 - ACCEPTED BY APPOINTMENT

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 accepted by appointment from 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday. To deliver, please ring the doorbell then return to your vehicle. Staff will assist with unloading and provide a receipt.

For appointments and all other services at the House of Peace, please call (414) 933-1300 weekdays from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Saint Ben's Meal: Donations accepted by appointment between the hours of 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.

For appointments and all other services at Saint Ben's, please call (414) 271-0135 weekdays from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Call and Response

by Br. Robert Wotypka, OFM Capuchin
Ministry Director

► Br. Robert poses with MillerCoors employees after their food & clothing drive.



"A Distant Mirror"

Anyone have a gently used copy of this book? It's a history of "the calamitous 14th century," to quote its subtitle, written by Barbara Tuchman. By now I should have read it. It was published in 1978 and won awards. I wonder if the Franciscans are mentioned. We certainly had a calamitous 14th century. And 15th. And 16th. Don't even let me start about the French Revolution. As for this century, well – who knows besides God?

As we did with our 2021 calendar, in this newsletter we're searching our history to help us discern where we next need to go. Thanks to your kind and timely support we're able to make some

upgrades to the House of Peace and Saint Ben's to make them more welcoming and functional. Stayed tuned, too, as other plans are being discerned, and please share your ideas about what changes you feel are needed, and what ministries you'd like to see CCS embrace. All this we do in order to better serve needs known and unknown, and to help individuals and families in emergencies and crises who come to our sites.

These challenges are here and/or loom ahead, according to experts and statistics: food insecurity in the US is increasing, and more people and households have to turn to food pantries to make it through the month. And homelessness is rising nationally, even as Milwaukee city and county continue to make strides to reduce and end it. This is thanks to our

community embracing the values of the Housing First movement, of which CCS was an early and continuing partner, again thanks to your help and support.

Doing the works of mercy is, especially in these days, much like how E.L. Doctorow

described his vocation: "Writing is like driving at night in the fog. You can only see as far as your headlights, but you can make the whole trip that way." Thanks to all our donors and supporters and God bless and save our staff and volunteers who have kept us going in this deepest and thickest of fogs which the pandemic has brought on. We go forward in hope.



▲ Br. Robert was interviewed by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel for an Easter article on clergy, cooking & food. Read it here: <http://bit.ly/ClergyFood>

► Marquette University students spent a recent Saturday morning delivering new furniture for the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic at the House of Peace



Look Where We Are Going - At The House of Peace!

Great News! The City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works and Department of Transportation to upgrade Walnut Street.



The City is planning to replace West Walnut Street from North 20th Street to North 12th Street including the portion that runs in front of the House of Peace. The long overdue improvements will help us to be accessible to our guests, volunteers and staff.

Proposed Improvements

Complete roadway reconstruction

- Reconstruct as a 2-lane divided roadway west of Fond Du Lac Avenue. 4-lane divided east of Fond du Lac.
- Replace of pedestrian curb ramps and perform spot sidewalk improvements.
- Mid-block Median Closures.
- New signing, pavement marking and street lighting.
- Replace traffic signals at 20th, 17th and 12th Street.
- Replace storm sewer inlets and lateral pipes.
- Incorporation of storm water management facilities and traffic calming measures within project limits.



ADA ramps at curbs, road upgrades and improved bike lanes are planned. We will also have curb bumpouts at the corners of Walnut and 17th Street and Walnut and 18th Street. This will make curbside pickup much safer. It will also make donation dropoffs easier to complete.

These changes will make our House of Peace site safer and more attractive. God is good!

Food Pantry Coordinator Selected Br. Brenton Ertel to minister in new role



"I used to attend St. Benedict the Moor Parish," Br. Brenton Ertel said. "I met the Capuchins there and was drawn to their life. Capuchin Franciscans seek to balance their ministry to people struggling with poverty with a life of prayer and community."

Br. Brenton was recently named Food Pantry Coordinator. "I've been helping in the pantry for much of the last year. I'm learning how to order food, enter statistics in our database, run reports and work with the pantry staff."

Br. Brenton shared, "I've had some wonderful interactions with our guests. After holding a door for one guest she began to share about family members who had died. Another couple told me about losing hours at work but the husband said that they were hanging in there. I'm so happy to be able to minister at the House of Peace."

Garden of Peace Puts Down Roots Empty lot on 18th & Walnut repurposed



The House of Peace sits on several lots that front on Walnut Street and stretch from 17th Street to 18th Street and back to the alley. The final lot on the corner of 18th and Walnut Streets became ours through a tax sale a few years ago.

This summer the Garden of Peace will be planted there. Neighbors and guests will be offered the opportunity to garden in a raised bed. According to Linda Barnes, Site Manager and Social Worker, "The goal isn't just to help feed people. Gardening provides opportunities for people in a community to safely visit with each other. Our hope is that our community will strengthen their connections after a year of enforced distance." If you have any spare gardening equipment in good condition you'd like to donate, please email Nicole Fair, Volunteer Coordinator at: nfair@thecapuchins.org.

Capuchin Walk for the Hungry Returns

Sign up today. Dozens of teams already available to join.

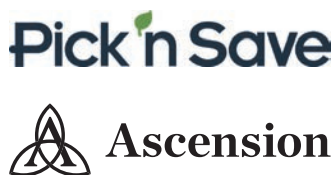
Visit www.capuchinwalk.org to register now. Join a team, start your own team or register as an individual. We are mailing shirts one month in advance to anyone registered by May 7, 2021. Due to the pandemic, mail delays may continue so shirts may arrive after the walk. No matter when you get your shirt, your gift will immediately help Capuchin Community Services feed our neighbors who are hungry.



When you do get the shirt, post a photo using the hashtag: #capuchinhungerwalk. We'll upload them to our Flickr page and you can share them after the walk. Next year we hope to gather at the Lakefront again!



Welcome Sponsors!



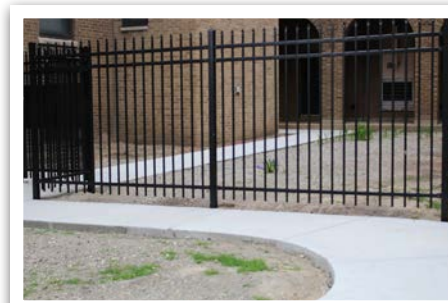
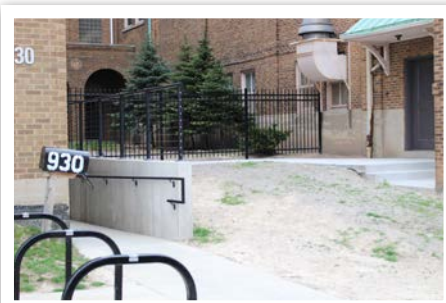
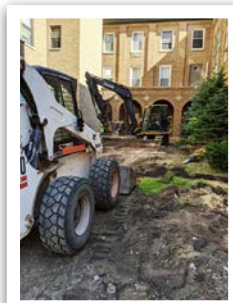
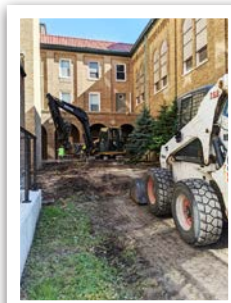
Ascension



This is a list of sponsors complete at the time of printing. See shirt for updates.

Look Where We Are Going - At Saint Ben's!

Courtyard landscaping begins



The body of Servant of God Stephen Eckert, Capuchin, was transferred from Saint Ben's courtyard to St. Lawrence Seminary in Mt. Calvary during the Saint Anthony Apartments renovation. This area has been graded, with a new walkway and secure fencing installed. Coming soon: the courtyard will become a garden for residents, guests, and parishioners to enjoy.

Our Ministry Council

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



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