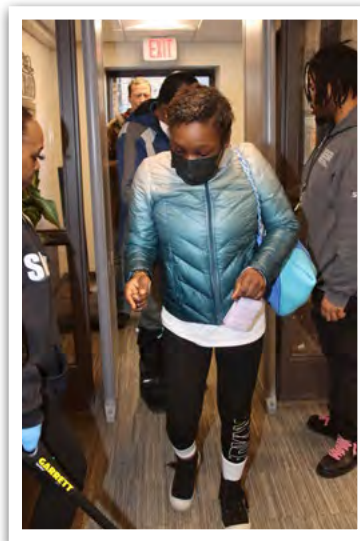




New Security Procedures In Place At St. Ben's *Security Staff, Metal Detectors & ID Scanner Added*



▲ Larhonda waves the wand over Anthony as he enters. The lights on the scanner indicate where he might have something metallic.



▲ Savannah steps through the scanner and waits to be wanded. Every guest interviewed said they felt safer despite any inconvenience.



▲ Julia enjoys her meal without any anxiety that anyone can hurt her. Like many of her fellow guests, Julia has had real world encounters with violence and applauded the Capuchins for increasing security.

It was the first week of the new security protocols at St. Ben's Community Meal. Every guest coming to receive service or eat at the Meal had to submit to walking through a TSA-like security scanner and being "wanded." Then they had to hand in their IDs to be scanned into a secure database. The actual scanning is handled by staff provided by an outside security agency.

A long-time guest at St. Ben's Community Meal, Julia described her reaction when learning she had to go through security. "At first, I was shocked and surprised," Julia said. "I had to put my hands up like a criminal. Then I thought it's only right they want to know who's eating here. This is a holy place where people serve with love, and Jesus Christ provides the food. I feel safe knowing I can eat here and don't have to worry anyone else has a weapon."

Julia's anxiety was founded on experience. She had been eating two weeks ago when she saw another guest get belligerent with the staff when he was asked to leave. "I saw him reach into his

pockets like he had some weapon, and I hid in the women's room." Nothing ever happened, but the guests' fear of being hurt is pervasive.

Savannah shared how she had been coming to St. Ben's Community Meal for a year since surviving a house fire that left her homeless. "St. Ben's has helped me so much. I got my IDs back with their help, showered, did my laundry, and even slept here when the warming center was open. Having to go through security is ok if it means we can be here without worrying someone else has a knife or gun."

Anthony is a taciturn man who says, "This isn't for me, but I don't mind if it means we are safe to eat here." Antonio overheard the conversation and said, "I know I am not in the pictures, but I wanted to say something about the security. I've been out of town for three years, and now that I'm back, I wish every place I go would do this! It makes me feel much safer knowing that I can eat and care for myself without worrying anything bad can happen."

WORKS OF MERCY

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

House of Peace & St. Ben's Community Meal

Saint Ben's Community Meal needs volunteers to serve on the Meal floor. Volunteer openings available Sundays through Thursdays. The House of Peace needs volunteers to serve in the Clothing Closet each afternoon. These & other opportunities are posted online:

House of Peace -



<https://ofmcap.cc/HouseOfPeaceVolunteers>

St. Ben's Community Meal -



<https://ofmcap.cc/StBensVolunteer>

Questions? Contact:

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

Email: ccsvol@thecapuchins.org

IN-KIND DONATIONS

House of Peace & St. Ben's Community Meal

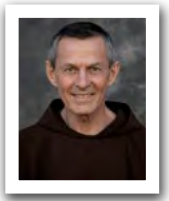
CCS is now accepting in-kind donations of clothing and hygiene items at its two locations, and packaged food for the House of Peace Emergency Food Pantry.

The House of Peace: Donations are accepted from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Please ring the doorbell at the 17th Street doors, and then return to your vehicle. Staff will assist.

Saint Ben's Meal: Donations are accepted from 9:00 am to 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.

Called & Sent Forth

by Fr. Michael Bertram, OFM Capuchin
Ministry Director



Do you ever wonder what Scripture passage is the favorite Scripture of a priest? For me, it comes from St. Paul's letter to the Colossians. Very simply, St. Paul says, "Dedicate yourselves to thankfulness."

[Colossians 3:15c] There is something about our life and faith that should always move us to be thankful. As the saying goes, "It doesn't take much for us to see someone worse off than ourselves." That not only keeps us grateful. It keeps us humble.

With great thanks and genuine humility, I write to say "Thank you" to you once again. One of my duties as Ministry Director of Capuchin Community Services is to sign letters to donors. It amazes me and humbles me to see the incredible generosity you all show Capuchin Community Services.

Again, I ask you for your support as we prepare for our annual Capuchin Community Services fundraiser, the Capuchin Walk for the Hungry, on Friday, June 9th. It benefits

St. Ben's Community Meal and the House of Peace. Please try to join us at the Henry Meier Festival Park with so many other great people who care about the poor and walk in solidarity with others to show it. For more



► Fr. Mike visits with the last two friars who served as ministry directors for Capuchin Community Services. Br. Robert Wotypka, center and Br. Rob Roemer, right. Both now work at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit.

information, visit <https://ofmcap.cc/CapWalk23> or scan the QR code.



God bless you in your lives and your needs. I read every intention slip with your donation, and I assure you of my prayers for your needs. May God bless you richly as you have blessed us at Capuchin Community Services.



First Donor Mass Packs Chapel

Donors, Volunteers & Supporters Invited to Next Mass

Our Donors Intentions Masses are offered quarterly. The next one will be held on **Monday, May 8 at 4:30pm**. You are invited to join us for Mass. Free parking in the St. Ben's Parish parking lot off State Street. Additional parking nearby. The chapel's address is 930 W State Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.



House of Peace Celebrates 54 Years of Service

Capuchin Franciscan Ministry Celebrates with Guests

Recently the House of Peace celebrated its 54th anniversary by hosting a gathering for some long-time guests. "I love this place," Evelyn said. "I've been coming to the House of Peace for 23 years and am happy to be here for its 54th Anniversary." "I am 80 years old and can tell you the House of Peace has been my lifeline."

Evelyn's journey to the House of Peace is marked by trauma; after finishing college and getting a job, she was robbed. "They shot me in the head, and I wasn't expected to live," she said. As a result of the shooting, Evelyn is blind in one eye and has pain in her face. "When I returned to work, five of the ladies I worked with encouraged me to get emotional help at the House of Peace. They offered a Wellness Group, and I did come to a number of the classes."



▲ Evelyn (L) reaches out to Linda Barnes, Social Worker (R) to thank her for her help when she was recovering from being shot.

while Evelyn continued with her story. "I didn't realize it at the time, but Linda was watching me in the classes, and if she saw that I was beginning to lose it, she'd take me outside to talk it out."

Another guest who has relied on the House of Peace for decades is Lula Carter. "I remember when I was pregnant with my first child, I came to the House of Peace for diapers and formula," Lula said. "Over the years, I've come here for food and clothing and received holiday food boxes with toys for my kids." Today she was visiting the food pantry and clothes closet.



▲ Lula, (L) visits with Faye (R) as she remembers how many ways the House of Peace has been of service to her and her family.

"I got clothes for my family, sheets for my 15-year-old's bed, and food." Lula paused, then added, "I especially appreciate the gallon of milk I got."

My three children are in school and live with me. We always need milk," she said and smiled. After getting a cookie to celebrate the 54th Anniversary of the House of Peace, Lula visited with her friends and neighbors before returning home to her children.

Just then, Linda Barnes, Site Manager, and Social Worker, walked by. "Miss Linda," Evelyn called out, "please sit and visit." Linda sat down

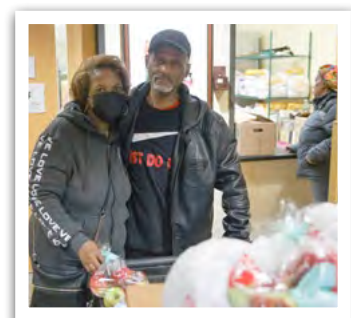
Easter Food and Gift Distribution



▲ Linda Barnes, Site Manager welcomed guests to the Easter Food Basket Distribution. No baskets were distributed but boxes and bags of food.



▲ Fr. Mike Bertram, OFM Capuchin is the Ministry Director. He welcomed the families and shared a blessing over the Easter food.



▲ Couples, grandparents & single parents gathered to receive help feeding their children at Easter.

Capuchin Walk for the Hungry Returns

Friday, June 9, 2023: Walk with the Capuchins at Polish Fest!

Fr. Mike Bertram invites all Capuchin Community Services supporters to walk to fight hunger. Fr. Mike said, "I've personally been walking with my brothers to fight hunger in Milwaukee since the event began. Let's walk together to help our neighbors feed their families."

Early Bird Discount (Use *Three Knots*)

REGISTER by Friday May 19, 2023:

Adult **\$30** & Child **\$20**

After the Early Bird Discount

REGISTER online by Wednesday May 31, 2023:

Adult **\$40** & Child **\$25**

*Or REGISTER at the Main Gate
Friday, June 9, 2023 starting at 5pm
Adult **\$40** & Child **\$25***

**GATHER YOUR FRIENDS & FAMILY NOW
AND CREATE A TEAM**

EASY ONLINE REGISTRATION!

capuchinwalk.org

Scan to
register



Failing Windows to be Replaced

St. Ben's Wins Approval for Renovation

Kenny Howard, Site Manager at St. Ben's Community Meal shared an announcement

about upcoming repairs to the Meal Hall. Kenny said, "The original basement wood windows on the east and west sides of the Dining Hall have deteriorated over the last 100 years and require replacement. The original windows will be removed and replaced with new energy-efficient aluminum-clad wood windows by Marvin. These new window units will match the actual configuration, function, and appearance of the old units."

He added, "The obscured glass of the original windows will be replaced with new clear insulated low-E glass. The existing security grates over the windows will be removed permanently. The Milwaukee Historic Preservation Society has already reviewed and approved this window project.



▲ Architect's rendering of the planned upgrade to the windows at St. Ben's Community Meal.

Kenny concluded, "We feel that this project will be an integral part of St. Ben's mission to continue serving the community for years to come."

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.,
Fr. Michael Bertram, OFM Capuchin, Ministry Director • Jeff Parrish, Director of Provincial Ministries



[Twitter.com/CapuchinComSvc](https://twitter.com/CapuchinComSvc)



[Facebook.com/CapuchinCommunityServices](https://facebook.com/CapuchinCommunityServices)



YouTube.com/CapuchinCommunityServicesOrg



Instagram.com/capuchincommunityservices

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/ways-to-help/donations or by mail to PO Box 5830, Milwaukee WI 53205

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