

July, 2023

Dear Friends,

As simple as it may be, I've learned the importance of saying "Thank you." While many of us were raised with manners that insisted on this expression, we are sometimes in short supply of hearing those words of gratitude.

I hope you never fail to hear them from me.

Thank you to all who participated in the *Capuchin Walk for the Hungry* on June 9 at the festival grounds. It was a rousing success once again, thanks to the participation and support of all of you. It's more than just supporting Capuchin Community Services; it's about increasing our service to the poor and needy. God bless you for that!

Grass doesn't grow under our feet at Capuchin Community Services! We're on to our next big venture: *The Back-to-School Drive*. As much as we care about the physical needs of people, we must promote the intellectual growth of our children, too. Summer always moves fast, and the House of Peace has already targeted the August distribution of school items for children whose families cannot afford school supplies.

Please be generous in providing those items that will allow our children to learn with pride and grow in self-esteem through their achievements. God gave us all a mind and an intellect. It's up to us to foster the growth and development of both. You do that in your support of the Back-to-School Drive. God will never be outdone in generosity. So, give generously and wait to see how good God is to those who care for others!

Peace and all good,



Fr. Mike Bertram, OFM Capuchin
Ministry Director



P.S. Please turn page over to meet our new Provincial Council.

Ministry sites

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

Thank You for supporting Capuchin Community Services!

Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph Elects New Leadership

The friars of the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph, the parent organization of our ministry, met in Chicago June 5-9 for their Provincial Chapter meeting at St. Xavier University. The friars meet every three years for a Provincial Chapter to elect new leadership and discuss, debate and vote on matters of importance to the future of the Province.

At this meeting, the friars elected their Provincial Minister, who will be the leader for the next three years, as well as a Provincial Council to advise the Provincial Minister. Friar Mark Joseph Costello, OFM Cap. was elected to serve as Provincial Minister for another three years. Friars William Hugo, OFM Cap.; Tien Dinh, OFM Cap.; Biju Parakkalayil, OFM Cap. and Nick Blattner, OFM Cap. were elected to the Provincial Council. Friar William Hugo, OFM Cap. will serve as Provincial Vicar.

► *The 2023-2026 Provincial Council of the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph. Pictured L-R are Capuchin friars Nicholas Blattner, OFM Cap.; Tien Dinh, OFM Cap.; Mark Joseph Costello, OFM Cap.; Biju Parakkalayil, OFM Cap. and William Hugo, OFM Cap.*

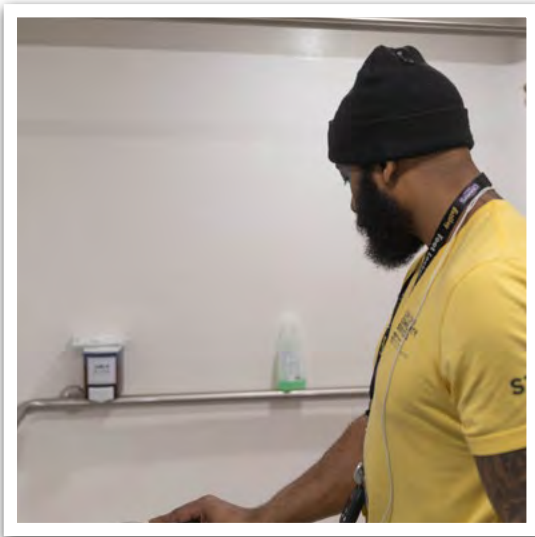


Inspired by the gospel of Jesus and the example of Francis of Assisi, the Capuchin friars of the Province of Saint Joseph, together with our partners in ministry, prayerfully build sister-brotherhood in the world. We attend simply and directly to the spiritual and other basic human needs, especially those of the poor and disenfranchised, promoting justice for all.



From Prison To Placement To Employment

CCS Employee Walks In Guests' Shoes



▲ Renaldo cleans the showers after a guest has finished their shower to prepare it for the next person.



▲ Andre, (R) gives a guest a towel, clean underwear and hygiene supplies as she prepares to go into the Womens Shower. Over 7,000 free showers were provided in 2022.

"I was inside for 20 years," Renaldo said. "The only thing I knew was that I could eat three meals daily. Other than that, no hugs, no family time, and no laughs with my friends." As Renaldo finished serving his sentence in prison, he was moved to a transitional facility in Milwaukee. It is still a jail, but the State of Wisconsin places about to-be-released prisoners there so they can reconnect with their families and search for work. They also do community service. Renaldo was frequently assigned to the crew that helped Fr. Mike Bertram at St. Francis of Assisi Parish with the grounds work.

"If Fr. Mike can help me, he can help lots of people," Renaldo said with a smile. "He knew I was a hard worker and didn't mess around. Fr. Mike hired me to work here at St. Ben's Community Meal. I give clothes to the homeless, help with the shower and meal programs, and whatever else needs to be done around here." Just then, someone left the showers, and Renaldo went in with his cleaning kit. After cleaning the showers, another employee, Andre,

hands out new clean underwear and towels as the next person enters.

Renaldo continued, "I have six children and am so grateful for this job. I couldn't support them on minimum wage, so this is wonderful." Renaldo relates with respect and compassion to the other guests. "I've been in their shoes. I struggled with homelessness, and all the bad stuff I saw made me sad. I understand that many guys here need someone to talk with."

"I am glad to help clean the showers because I've met a few people who got jobs after cleaning up at St. Ben's Meal." Renaldo refers people to the House of Peace if he finds out they need some service offered over there. People with places to cook can visit the House of Peace Food Pantry to get food for their families. "I especially send people to the House of Peace who need clothing. We have underwear and other items here. If someone needs clothes for a funeral or job interview, I send them there," Renaldo said.

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 as our college volunteers are gone for the summer. The House of Peace needs volunteers to distribute school supplies in August. These & other opportunities are posted online:

House of Peace -

ofmcap.cc/HouseOfPeaceVolunteers



St. Ben's Community Meal -

ofmcap.cc/StBensVolunteer



Questions? Contact:

Nicole Fair, Volunteer Coordinator

Phone: 414-933-1300, x1123

Email: ccsvol@thecapuchins.org

IN-KIND DONATIONS

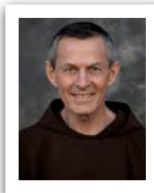
House of Peace & St. Ben's Community Meal

The House of Peace: Donations are accepted from 1:00 pm to 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 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 with unloading and provide a receipt.

Called & Sent Forth

by Fr. Michael Bertram, OFM Capuchin
Ministry Director



Coming into July, I know we have entered a new budget year. With that comes my equally profound thanks to you for the way in which so many of you readers have supported Capuchin Community Services in generous ways. As much as I say "Thank you," I believe and pray that God will bless you far more richly than I can.

A line in St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians [chapter 9, verse 6] says "**Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.**" That is what I see in the letters I write and sign – generous givers who make a real personal sacrifice for the least among us, like so many of the people at the House of Peace and St. Ben's Ministries.

We just finished our annual fundraiser, the Capuchin Walk, last month. It gives me the opportunity to continue my thanks to you and the one thousand-plus others who turned out for that all-important event. It is moving and inspiring to see so many people walk . . . just walk! That simple act benefits the poor so that they might be fed, the sick so that they might be attended to, and the homeless so that they might receive shelter.



► Fr. Mike welcomes 1,091 people to the Capuchin Walk for the Hungry.

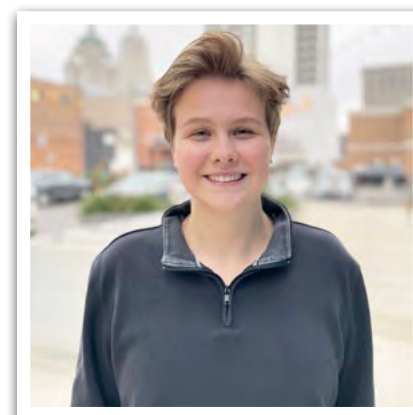
In this wonderful summer season in Wisconsin, may you enjoy the warmth and beauty of this time of year! May it remind you of the warmth of God's love and presence in your lives as a reward for the generosity and support you have shown Capuchin Community Services.



Welcome New Staff

Elizabeth Vorndran has joined the Public Relations Office for the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph and is working out of the Milwaukee offices at the House of Peace. Elizabeth works for several ministries, including CCS.

Elizabeth was formerly Newscast Director for a Fort Wayne, Indiana, TV station. Her skills include social media, photography, and Adobe Creative Suite. She has a BA in Communications & Media Studies from Purdue University.



▲ Elizabeth Vorndran, Digital Communication Specialist.

Capuchin Walk for the Hungry Marks 18 Years

Over 1,000 People Walk to Fight Hunger



1

1 The Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi both sponsored the Walk and walked together.

2 Capuchin Fr. Henryk Cisowski shared the opening prayer in Polish and English.

3 The South Shore Catholics Holy Soles Team was one of 59 teams to walk.



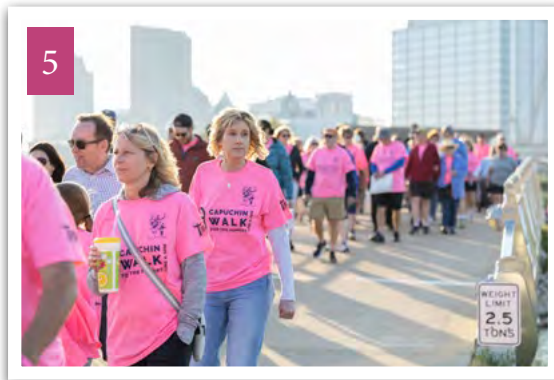
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3



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5

4 Capuchin Fr. Mike Bertram (L) and Linda Barnes (Center) wave as they walk to defeat hunger.

5 Over 1,000 people from the Greater Milwaukee Area walked to help the Capuchins feed our neighbors.

6 Capuchin Br. David Hirt led the walkers onto Lakeshore Festival Park Island to lap the course.



6

[Click here to see more Capuchin Walk photos](#)

Garden of Peace Blooms Amidst Construction Challenges



▲ Walnut Street in front of the House of Peace has been torn up & a new roadway is being poured. Guests & visitors must park on side streets. People picking up food or clothing have to carry those items out.

The City of Milwaukee is replacing Walnut Street from N 12th Street to N 20th Street. This is right in front of the House of Peace. The City's goal is to calm traffic, make the sidewalks ADA compliant and add bike lanes.

This will make the House of Peace more accessible but for now access is challenging.



▲ A statue of St. Francis of Assisi looks over some of the planting beds in the Garden of Peace. Guests walk by the Garden to access the House of Peace. Those needing a rest can sit on benches placed on the edge of the gardens.

Back to School Drive Begins

Parents Sign Up Hundreds of Children to Receive School Supplies

Linda Barnes, Site Manager and Social Worker at the House of Peace has an invitation for you! "I want to invite our supporters to help children in our neighborhoods start the school year ready for success. The House of Peace has held School Supplies Drives since the days of Br. Booker." Fr. Mike Bertram, OFM Capuchin added, "I enjoyed meeting neighborhood families last year as I started as Ministry Director. Please consider purchasing school supplies or making a gift so we can fill school backpacks for our neighbors. Here's how you can help!"



2022:

◀ Fr. Mike Bertram welcomed a student and his mom as they filled a backpack with new school supplies.

▶ Children beaming with pride as they prepared for the new school year.



Scan to see our wish list



Visit <https://ofmcap.cc/CCS-SchoolSupplies> or scan the QR code.

Barber Shop at St. Ben's Meal Reopens

Final Services Closed During Pandemic Return

Saint Ben's Community Meal welcomed back barber services for our guests last month. Greenfield-based barber Nicole Hirsch, from *@the hair necessities/yes, I can fade*, said she's been donating her barber services for a long time, and recently, the opportunity to help out at St. Ben's came up. She said a fresh haircut can make anyone feel better and more confident.

The line swelled with guests eager to get in the barber's chair! Nicole had new tools, a real barber's chair, and a hair-washing sink. The first client, Tyrone, got his hair cut and washed. He said afterward that he was feeling great.

Nicole will be returning monthly to offer her services to guests. She will be at St. Ben's the first Wednesday of every month from 1-4 PM.



Capuchin Community Services Ministry Council, Social Media & Ministry Sites

Diane Knight • Julie Darnieder • Anthony Myers • Chuck Cmeyla • Felice Green

Br. Tien Dinh, OFM Cap., • Br. Roymond Peter Chinnappan, OFM Cap.,

Fr. Michael Bertram, OFM Capuchin, Ministry Director • Fr. John Celichowski, OFM Cap., Director of Provincial Ministries



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



[instagram.com/capuchincommunityservices/](https://www.instagram.com/capuchincommunityservices/)

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



[YouTube.com/CapuchinCommunityServicesOrg](https://www.youtube.com/CapuchinCommunityServicesOrg)

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