Welcome Fr. Zoy!

How a life of ministry grows to include Milwaukee

▲ *In 2006, now Capuchin Fr. Zoy Garibay completed his postulancy after serving in Chicago for a year.*

▲ *Named the new ministry director in June of this year, Fr. Zoy is familiarizing himself with the ministry and its services.*

▲ *Fr. Zoy has begun meeting our guests, staff, volunteers, and donors.*

"First, I am a pastor," said Fr. Zoy Garibay, OFM Cap. "And I recognize that everybody, our guests, staff, volunteers, and donors, are made in the image and likeness of God. So, I will start by establishing a relationship with each person and, hopefully, build trust."

"My goal as the new Capuchin Community Services (CCS) Ministry Director is to accompany everybody by listening and being an instrument of the Lord's peace to them. We're all called to share our God-given gifts with our brothers and sisters. As St. Francis said, preach always, use words if necessary."

Fr. Zoy comes with many gifts and life experiences to share as our new ministry director. He has a BS in Nursing, a Certificate in Non-profit Management from the Kellogg School of Business at Northwestern University, and a Master of Science in Nonprofit Management and Leadership from UW-Milwaukee.

Before joining the Capuchins, Fr. Zoy was a nurse in Detroit. He began his life as a Capuchin Friar in 2004-05, serving his postulancy in Chicago. He visited the House of Peace during that time. After ordination, he was an associate pastor in a Spanish-speaking parish in Chicago, served as a campus minister at St. Lawrence Seminary High School, and then became the Rector, leading the school for 9 years. Now his Capuchin life has brought him to Milwaukee to serve the people of our community.

"We Capuchins strive to make things better for our brothers and sisters," Fr. Zoy said. "That is also a reflection of our good stewardship, and we want to be good stewards of ... the gifts, the resources, the ministry and the mission itself."

Contents

Page 1 -	*Welcome Fr. Zoy*	*Page 3 -*	*UWM's Vanessa Baldwin Retires*
Page 2 -	*Volunteer Opportunities*		*Fr. Zoy's Spiritual Journey*
	ABA Award for MU Vol Legal Clinics	*Page 4 -*	*Capuchin Clothing Center*
	Harvest Food Drive		*Br. Jose's Column*

WORKS OF MERCY

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

House of Peace & St. Ben's Community Meal

Saint Ben's Community Meal needs volunteers from Sunday to Thursday. The House of Peace seeks morning food pantry and afternoon clothing volunteers. Find these and other opportunities online:

House of Peace -

ofmcap.cc/HouseOfPeaceVolunteers

St. Ben's Community Meal -

ofmcap.cc/StBensVolunteer

Questions? Contact:

Corday Sterling,
Volunteer Coordinator

Phone: 414-509-8463

Email: csterling@thecapuchins.org

IN-KIND DONATIONS

House of Peace & St. Ben's Community Meal

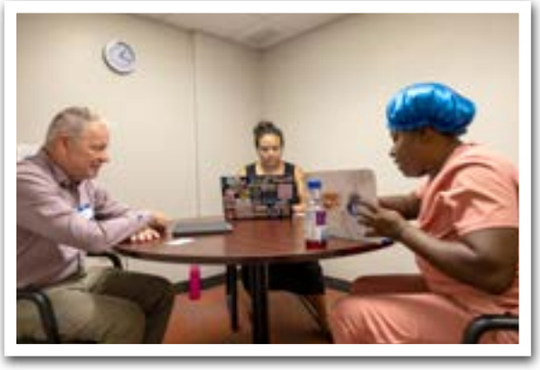
The House of Peace: Donations are accepted from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, Monday through Friday. To deliver, please ring the doorbell then return to your vehicle. Staff will assist with unloading and provide a receipt.

Saint Ben's Meal: Donations are accepted from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, 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.

American Bar Assn Award for MU Law School

Capuchins Providing Support for Decades

"I learned about the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic from another agency," said Doris (not her real name). "I met Larry here at the House of Peace, and he was very helpful," she added. Larry is a volunteer attorney with the clinic, and today he was assisted by Leurah, an incoming senior considering attending law school after graduation.



▲ *Larry, far left, and Laura, center, consult with Doris, far right, about an impending legal issue.*

Doris had come to get free or pro bono legal assistance with a housing problem. "Larry listened to me, helped me file paperwork, and will now help me to seek a court date. He can't represent me, but at least he can help me get in front of a judge. I need my money back!" Larry said, "I'm retired, and I come to help people like Doris. People are really grateful, and I find most want to do the right thing."

Katie Mertz is the Law School's Director of Public Service. She said, "Our clients come here to receive advice on how to handle a legal problem, and an important part of that is that they feel heard. I often tell attorneys that if they can help someone determine what steps to take, both legal and in life, to resolve conflicts, then they've done a real service to the community."

Katie continued, "I'm glad to share that Marquette Law School will receive the American Bar Association's (ABA) Pro Bono Award this year, with particular recognition of the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinics. We are so grateful for the sustained support we have received from the Capuchins. Our clinic here includes private meeting rooms and secured waiting areas. It is important to us that clients are shown the same dignity and professionalism they would get with a paid attorney."

Share the Harvest Drive Begins

As the summer comes to an end, the House of Peace's Food Pantry can always use fresh fruits and vegetables. If you had a garden this year and can share some produce, we would be happy to share it with our neighbors. We're open Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Bring donations of fresh food to our loading dock door off the alley, behind the House of Peace. Enter from 18th Street and you'll see the loading dock door.

▲ *From this to that* ▼

UWM's Vanessa Baldwin to retire

"I grew up 2 blocks away from the House of Peace," Vanessa Baldwin said. Vanessa leads the UWM Community Health and Wellness Center at the House of Peace. The Center provides health screenings, education, and monitoring for chronic conditions.

▲ *Vanessa Baldwin teaches 4th-year nursing students about population health at the House of Peace.*

The education for guests includes wellness classes which are offered in conjunction with the House of Peace staff. Topics have included nutrition, exercise, and high blood pressure. Vanessa and Linda Barnes, now retired, frequently designed the classes together.

"Linda and I share a birthday, she's a social worker, and I am a nurse, so we hit it off right away. Now I'm preparing to follow her out the door as I will retire after 25 years at the end of August," Vanessa said.

Kim Litwack is the Dean of the UWM College of Health Professions and Sciences. She said, "While programs, students, and leaders came and went, Vanessa remained a steady and compassionate presence. She helped individuals facing significant health challenges believe in their ability to move forward, and she became a beacon of hope for women recovering from breast cancer and mastectomy. Through her work with nursing students, she instilled lessons that cannot be learned from a textbook—the importance of community, the power of population health, and the value of showing up consistently over time."

When Vanessa heard Kim's words, she said,"I have used humor and education to help our students to relax and understand that we share a common biology and have similar health care needs. I teach student nurses in the semester before they graduate, and by the 3rd or 4th week, they have changed their perspectives."

Kim added, "UWM will continue to maintain a strong presence at the House of Peace, building on our longstanding partnership dedicated to improving community health."

A Pope's witness reveals God's call to become a Capuchin Franciscan

"I always wanted to become a priest," Fr. Zoy said. "I first realized my calling when I was 6 years old. Pope John Paul II visited the Philippines in 1981, and my dad took me to see him. After the Pope had passed, my father took me off his shoulders, and I said, "I want to become a pope!" Fr. Zoy laughed and continued, "My dad said, 'Why don't you become a priest first?" So, from that day on, I was single-minded about becoming a priest."

▲ *Fr. Zoy comes to the position of ministry director at Capuchin Community Services after serving for 9 years as rector of St. Lawrence High School Seminary in Mt. Calvary.*

Years of schooling and preparation continued. While Fr. Zoy was in high school seminary, his mother immigrated to Michigan to work as a nurse. Fr. Zoy wanted to visit the United States and join his mom, so he planned to move there as well. "My mom advised me to get an education in nursing before I left the Philippines, as that would help me secure a job in the U.S. While in college, my interest in becoming a priest was much less central to my life."

Fr. Zoy worked in nursing in Detroit for a while but realized he wasn't truly happy. "I began to attend daily mass, and I discerned that I did still have the call to become a priest. I realized that God had allowed me to live in the U.S. and that I still had my original call to the priesthood. He really was responding positively to each of my desires."

"Then I was looking for an early-morning Mass I could attend after working the night shift. That led me to the Capuchins, and I began attending Mass with the brothers at the Capuchin monastery."

After applying to become a postulant, Fr. Zoy was assigned to Chicago where he continued his studies. "In 2013, I was ordained a priest in the same chapel where I first attended mass as I discerned God's call. So, it was a full circle in my Capuchin vocation."

Clothes Closet Serves Over 10,000 Times in 2025

Cindy Burnside started four years ago as a shared employee of the House of Peace and St. Ben's Community Meal. Today, she is the Clothes Center Coordinator for the House of Peace. "I used to help people get clean clothes at St. Bens after they had a shower, and now I help guests from both sites get good quality clothing for free," Cindy said.

She continued, "We serve 20-30 people each afternoon, and they can take all the clothing they can carry." Cindy also explained, "We are open to the public each weekday afternoon and have a dedicated group of volunteers here each morning."

Because the Clothing Center is blessed with a steady stream of clothing from donors, it takes Cindy, Br. Carl Schaeffer and a team of volunteers all morning, 5 days per week, to sort and hang up the previous day's donations.

▲*Cindy Burnside, Clothing Center Coordinator, lays out infant items for new moms.*

When asked about the Clothing Center's needs, Cindy said, "We need two types of help. First, people can continue to drop off clothing Monday to Friday, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. We are in special need of men's clothing. Second, we need volunteers on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to help sort and hang clothing."

In addition to visitors to the Clothing Center, CCS gives away clothing through its holiday distributions and the Annual All-Day Giveaway. Last year, people accessed the Clothing Center over 10,000 times to get help clothing themselves and their families.

At the Heart of Our Mission

by Br. Jose Maria Vera, OFM Capuchin
Guest Columnist

← Scan here to learn more.

Capuchin spirituality is more than a tradition we preserve; it is a way of life that shapes everything we do. Rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and inspired by the example of St. Francis of Assisi, we strive to live with simplicity, fraternity, compassion, and a deep trust in God's loving presence in all His creation. These values are reflected throughout our province's ministries, including Capuchin Community Services and our newest ministry in Milwaukee, the Capuchin Spiritual Center (CSC).

Whether through retreats, days of reflection, spiritual direction, workshops, or faith formation programs, the Capuchin Spiritual Center offers opportunities to deepen faith and hope and to experience the richness of the Franciscan spiritual tradition.

As our world continues to move fast, the Franciscan-Capuchin tradition calls us to live with simplicity, humility, and compassion, recognizing the dignity of every person and finding God in the ordinary moments of life. Explore the programs and retreats offered by the Capuchin Spiritual Center. Come experience the richness of Capuchin spirituality and discover how it can inspire your own faith journey. Find us here: ***https://ofmcap.cc/CapuchinSpiritualCenter.***

Capuchin Community Services Social Media & Ministry Sites

Connect with us!
Facebook.com/CapuchinCommunityServices
YouTube.com/CapuchinCommunityServicesOrg
instagram.com/capuchincommunityservices
linkedin.com/capuchincommunityservices

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