

Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order

Transforming the World Through Reverence

Our Mission

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.

Sandal Prints

A Newsletter of the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph
1820 Mt Elliott Street • Detroit, MI 48207 • 313-579-2100

Fall 2016

www.TheCapuchins.org

Capuchin Retreat

“I call you my friends.” (John 15:15)

Fr. Tom Zelinski, director of Capuchin Retreat, Washington, MI, reminds us that in John’s Gospel, Jesus calls us his friends, as individuals and as community.



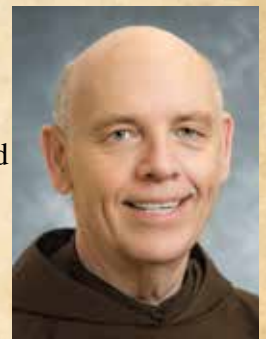
“We felt this would be an apt theme for our 2016-17 retreat season. We will explore the unconditional love of God for us, no matter what happens in our life: our joys, our sorrows, our sins, our doubts.”

The weekend retreat includes confessions, a Healing Service, availability of preaching staff to meet one-on-one, Eucharistic celebrations, and more. Accommodations include private room and bath, all meals, and the invitation to explore Capuchin Retreat’s 90 park-like acres.

To learn more, visit CapRetreat.org or call 248-651-4826

The Capuchin Charism Alive & Vibrant

Our Capuchin Province of St. Joseph is blessed a thousand-fold. We have our Br. Robert making his perpetual vows. We have brothers making first vows. We have the infinite wisdom of our jubilarians marking their 70th, 65th, 60th and 50 year anniversaries as Capuchins. We celebrate the life of missionary legend Fr. Evarist as we look to the future with the October dedication of St. Lawrence Seminary High School’s new St. Joseph Hall. And we gratefully commission our Cap Corps volunteers as they begin their year of service at their ministry sites. God is good! Our Capuchin charism is alive and vibrant, from Detroit to Milwaukee to Chicago to Montana. I thank you for all you do to make our work possible,



Michael Sullivan, OFM Cap.

Fr. Michael Sullivan, OFM Cap.
Provincial Minister

Remembering Capuchin Friar Evarist Bertram

Capuchin Friar Brian Braun writes...“ Evarist Bertram spent all of his ministerial life in Nicaragua as a missionary. He was a modern day true follower of Francis of Assisi. He kept for his usage a bare minimum of things. He was a gentle, but radically free human being, one that young people of latter adolescence could identify. He connected with their idealism.



“After being ousted from Nicaragua (for being too critical of the government) and only having the clothes on his back and a prayer card of Fr. Solanus, Fr. Evarist arrived at Mt Calvary, Wisconsin where 180 Capuchin friars were assembled for a large meeting. All of us formed a giant circle, and this thin, gaunt man, with long stringy hair in need of a shower and a change of clothes went around that circle and shook hands with all 180 of us with exhausted graciousness.

He was a paradigm of Franciscan life. I will never forget!”

Capuchin Friar Alfredo Gundrum writes...“Evarist was a great brother. He walked all over the mountains and hills attending to the communities, giving three day retreats with lay people and youth, often times to 100 or more people at a time. He and the youth spoke out against injustices so sometimes they were persecuted and spied upon. Finally, in reprisal for the Capuchin letter that denounced the death (or disappearances) of some 300 farmers by the army, he was not permitted back in the country. When he did return, he was captured and taken to Honduras where with some false accusations, he was ousted from Honduras. None of this dampened his spirit to keep working for the good of the kingdom. He is the person closest to a saint I have seen because of his love of Christ, the people and the mission.”

Capuchin Friar Evarist was called to heaven on July 23, just one week after marking his 60th jubilee anniversary.

From Ashes to Blessings

The Capuchins’ St. Lawrence Seminary High School’s skyline profile is now complete! “The 2014 St. Joseph Hall fire was an opportunity to re-imagine,” Rector Fr. John Holly explains. “The fire was devastating and we are so, so fortunate that no one was injured. But from ashes has emerged a state-of-the-art building that houses classrooms, labs, offices, and our video conference room... with up-to-date technology.”

“Losing a part of our history was difficult, but it was an opportunity for abundant blessings and for that we will always be grateful.”

The original building’s column and the statue of St. Joseph is the centerpiece of the new building. “When the firefighters realized that the fire was claiming the building, they made a decision then-and-there to put



their efforts into saving the column and statue. That decision saved an important part of our history. We will always be grateful.”

The dedication of the new St. Joseph Hall took place Sunday, Oct. 2. www.StLawrence.edu

Meet the 2016-17 Cap Corps Midwest Volunteers

“It takes a remarkable individual to dedicate a year of his/her life to serving others,” Danielle Daguio, Cap Corps Midwest director, explains. “Cap Corps is an intentional community of full-time volunteers who live simply, practice Franciscan spirituality and examine issues of social justice through reflection and action. We serve in Milwaukee, Detroit, and Ashland, Montana with Northern Cheyenne and Crow tribes. It’s a call for folks to walk gently, in service, and in solidarity with others.”

A favorite quote of Danielle’s is from Catherine McAuley: “We should be shining lamps, giving light to all around us.”

“This is what Cap Corps aims to be. Our volunteers are ‘shining lamps’ in the ministries they serve. They give light to darkness in people’s lives. They bring forth their gifts to work together with others.”

Volunteer Susie Thompson who is serving in Montana



L-R: Viviana Pruhsmeier, Cassie Schulz, Susie Thompson, Romanne Griffith

agrees. “I am looking forward to the chance to deepen my relationship with God by caring for His people and His earth. I appreciate the emphasis on living simply and I am looking forward to cutting out some of the distractions I have built into my life. I welcome the motivation and support that such a community will bring.”

Do you know someone who would volunteer? Visit www.CapCorps.org

Taking an Urban Plunge



Br. David Hirt, a friar at Milwaukee’s Capuchin Community Services, leads groups of high school or college age students on urban plunges.

“It is aptly named,” Br. David explains. “There’s no wading into the pool. The students are immersed. It’s a social justice experience. Many of our students have not experienced being poor or having to rely on a soup

kitchen for a hot, hardy meal. Capuchin Community Services’ urban plunges provide opportunities for reflection and discussion.”

The Plunge is a 24 hour experiences; the next day involves visits to other social service ministries in the city, whether that be the Catholic Worker House, Voces de la Frontera (a worker and immigrant rights ministry), an urban farm, or a homeless shelter. The students also get a chance to tour downtown from the point of view of the homeless of the city, walking some of the major corridors of downtown our guests use.

Br. David also tries to open them to the ideas of sympathy and empathy. “Typically the Friday night starts with the students saying ‘us’ and ‘them’ (being the homeless). At the end of the experience, they are identifying as a ‘we.’ The students quickly see that we are all brothers and sisters. It’s my favorite part of the urban plunge.”

Urban plunges can be arranged for groups of 5-15. Go to CapuchinCommunityServices.org to learn more. Or email brodavid@thecapuchins.org

Then & Now



Michael Bertram OFM Cap



Milwaukee's St. Francis of Assisi Parish and Monastery are steeped in a rich history. The original chapel took shape in July, 1869. Today, the original chapel still exists and has been repurposed as a meeting and hospitality area. You can still see the friar choir seating lining the walls. Now called the Druml Room (named after devout benefactor and parish member Theresa Druml), it is the oldest existing Capuchin structure in North America. In 1870, St. Francis became the eighth parish in the city. The monastery built adjacent to the parish housed the Capuchins' theological seminary for nearly fifty years.

Perhaps the most famous monastery resident is Venerable Father Solanus Casey. He studied at the St. Francis Monastery beginning in 1898. He made his solemn profession of vows at St. Francis in 1901 and was ordained a priest in St. Francis of Assisi Church in 1904.

Today, the parish continues to be vibrant. Led by Capuchin Friar Michael Bertram, the parish has three services every Sunday: a Gospel service, Hispanic, and young adult. The monastery was refurbished in 2006 and now provides offices for many non-profit organizations including Capuchin Province of St. Joseph offices.

"St. Francis of Assisi has and continues to play an important part in the life of the Milwaukee Catholic community and the city of Milwaukee itself," Fr. Mike Bertram explains. "Next summer, the parish will lead a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the 1967 civil rights demonstrations, as it was on the grounds of the parish that the demonstrations began, moving the city of Milwaukee to provide open housing for African Americans. St. Francis of Assisi Parish and the Capuchin friars continue to provide meaningful prayer for central city Catholics and basic human services to the poor of Milwaukee."

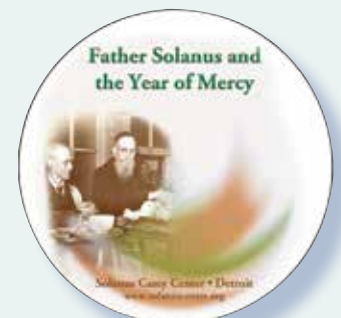
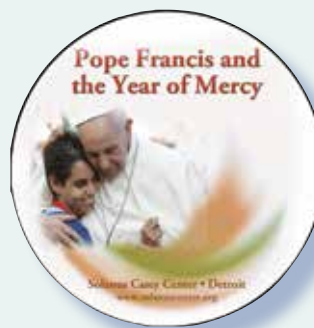
Solanus Casey Center Creates FREE Year of Mercy Materials

In honor of Pope Francis' declaration of a Year of Mercy, the Solanus Casey Center, a Capuchin ministry in Detroit, has created FREE video presentations and an accompanying study guide, examining the role of mercy in the lives of Pope Francis and Venerable Father Solanus Casey.

The video presentations include two topics, **Pope Francis & Mercy** and **Fr. Solanus & Mercy**. Each topic has two 45 minute video segments. Individuals can view the four video presentations online and download the study guide.

www.SolanusCenter.org/Mercy

"Pope Francis wants us to all experience God's mercy during this Year of Mercy," Capuchin Friar Gerry Pehler, director of the Solanus Casey Center, explains. "Our presenter, Fr. Dan Crosby who facilitates worldwide, examines real and concrete ways of how all of us can be ambassadors of mercy."



Capuchin Friar Dan Crosby explains, "Nothing is more important to Pope Francis than understanding mercy. Pope Francis does not want us to waste time talking about mercy. He wants us to make alive the experience of mercy."

We truly believe these presentations will help people 'make alive the experience of mercy.'

The presentations are powerful and the accompanying study guide provides reflection questions and prayers. Would you like to use these materials for small groups or classrooms? Email Mercy@thecapuchins.org for a DVD set.

Thank You GM Design Center Artists

In our last Sandal Prints newsletter, it was announced that Alicia Boler Davis, Executive Vice President of Global Manufacturing for General Motors, will chair the 2016 SOCK dinner (Support Our Capuchin Kitchen). The SOCK event is the Capuchin Soup Kitchen's largest annual fundraiser and will take place Friday, October 21, at Cobo Center's Grand Riverview Ballroom, Detroit.

Thanks to Ms. Boler Davis, GM Design Center artists are creating one-of-a-kind pieces of artwork, representing many genres, to be auctioned the evening of the event. Thanks to new auction software, the general public can bid on these one-of-a-kind artworks. Preview the artwork as of October 1st. Bidding opens October 14.

Go to www.sock2016.gesture.com



This is a wonderful opportunity to support the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and to own a unique piece of art! (And for those in the Detroit area, it's not too late to purchase your ticket to SOCK.)

CSKDetroit.org/sock

Detroit: A Tale of Two Cities

By David Preuss, OFM Cap.



All of us are affected by our changing social environment. As I move back to Detroit after eight years in Milwaukee, I am astounded not so much by the changes as by the rate of change that is occurring in Detroit. My first few weeks' back I have visited many parishes and spoken with numerous people on the street. Much has changed. In the midst of the complex realities that exist here, there is A Tale of Two Cities. There has been an astonishing \$3.5 B invested into downtown. The main street, Woodward, is ripped up to install a modern streetcar system. This is part of the new urbanism we see around the country. This "new" transportation is essential to a new lifestyle: Upscale residents using electric powered transit to get from their condo, to their work, to the sport's stadiums, to the new restaurants, to the various entertainment venues. All these things tightly packed into walkable downtown where cars are more of a bother than a help. Revival begins with jobs, and one employer alone has brought 15,000 new jobs into

downtown Detroit. Housing is in such demand that demand has outstripped supply. There is tremendous vitality now in the urban core; and it is beginning to improve surrounding neighborhoods.

Then there is the other city; one in which once stable older neighborhoods have become depopulated to the point that they no longer can support their schools, churches and businesses. You know your neighborhood has hit bottom when it cannot even support a liquor store. Since the 1950s, Detroit has lost over 1.2 million residents. As the jobs moved to the suburbs, or to Mexico, or to China, the economic engine of this manufacturing city disappeared and the surrounding neighborhoods collapsed.

This seismic shift in the city affects all the people in the metro area and our institutions. Many Catholic churches have closed and others are struggling. Our Capuchin ministries have needed to expand as the city grew poorer. The effects of the new growth have just begun to show themselves with young educated people beginning to move in; and low income people are beginning to be displaced. Detroiters, Capuchin ministries, and the churches will all have to adjust to the changing realities. It is ours to see to it that the positive changes that are occurring help to improve the lives of low income people; and that the urban problems are not moved to the suburbs without addressing the underlying causes of poverty. We need to work together to create a society that lives in peace through justice and respect.

Friar Makes Perpetual Vows



Robert Wotypka, OFM Cap., has made his perpetual profession of vows as a Capuchin friar on July 23 at St. Bonaventure Monastery Chapel, Detroit.

Br. Robert recently graduated from Chicago's Catholic Theological Union where he earned a Master of Divinity (M.Div.).

"I was called to this life," Br. Robert explains. "The values of the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph and the mission of the church spoke to me. I wanted to help my brothers and sisters and saw that I could do that best by being a Capuchin friar. My years of discernment through the Gospel values have been gratifying. I'm happy to return to Detroit and to work with a variety of parishes."

Friars Make First Vows

Capuchin Friars Nicholas Blattner (R) and Clint Evrard (L) professed first vows as Capuchin friars, on July 15. The two friars will be



joining 10 other friars at the Chicago formation house for continued ministry formation and formal undergraduate academic studies. This is in preparation for graduate studies at Catholic Theological Union. Typically, a friar will make final vows 3-5 years after first vows.

"It certainly has been a long journey to First Vows for me," Br. Nick explains. "I know that the prayerful support of the entire Catholic community played a major role in my discernment during the novitiate year."

"It's such a great grace of Christ that I am going to join the Capuchins in our common journey," Br. Clint explains.

Thank You Brothers!



Our Capuchin jubilarians gathered July 15 at St. Lawrence Seminary High School, Mount Calvary, WI, the founding site of the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph. Celebrating this year:

70 Years - Pius Cotter, Carmel Flora

65 Years - Niles Kauffman, Myron Kowalsky, Werner Wolf

60 Years - James Andres, Evarist Bertrand, William Frigo, Bede Louzon, Phillip Naessens, Ronald Rieder, Bernard Wagner, Joseph Wolf, Paul Yaroch

50 Years - William Cieslak, David Schwab, Michael Zuelke, David Zywiec

First row seated (L-R): Joe Wolf, Michael Zuelke

Second row standing: Phillip Naessens, William Cieslak, Pius Cotter, Myron Kowalsky, Carmel Flora, Bernard Wagner, Paul Yaroch

Third row: James Andres, David Schwab, David Zywiec

Last row: Werner Wolf, Provincial Minister Michael Sullivan, Niles Kauffman

Present but not pictured: William Frigo, Bede Louzon

Not present: Evarist Bertrand, Ronald Rieder