

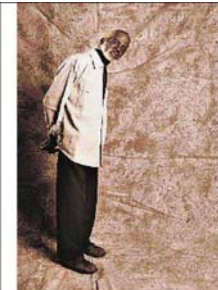
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Published: November 05, 2006 3:00AM

METRO DETROIT

## FIVE THINGS: About a brother

**Brother Vincent Reyes melds his love of ministry with his passion for photography.**

November 5, 2006

**BY EMILIANA SANDOVAL**  
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

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### BRIEF BIO

Reyes, 66, is a native of Gary, Ind. He's been a Capuchin for 46 years. He's also been a retreat director, a campus chaplain and a hospital chaplain.



zoom

Brother Vincent Reyes, a passionate photographer, organized an online photo auction to benefit the soup kitchen he's involved in. (EMILIANA SANDOVAL/Detroit Free Press)

"It's been a heck of a journey -- always interesting," he said.

In 1998, he became the pastor at the Capuchin soup kitchen in Detroit. A year ago he switched to more administrative work, and he takes photographs for the Detroit ministry and the Midwestern Capuchin province.

He's a longtime Tigers fan and loves classical music.

### PHOTO

Reyes became interested in photography has a kid.

He did some freelance shooting for the Free Press in the early 1970s and served as the chaplain for the Michigan Press Photographers Association. "A guy asked, 'What do you do for that?' and I said, 'I mostly bless beer kegs.' It was really just an honorary thing."

One assignment took him to Cobo Hall to photograph Mother Teresa.

"I spent 15 minutes with her and I barely remember anything she said. My

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editor said he could tell from the photos I was afraid of her, but it wasn't fear. I was in awe of her."

### A VISION

In 2001 he and some fellow photographers came up with the idea of an online photo auction to benefit the soup kitchen. This year, 29 pictures are for auction, donated by local and national journalists. They're online at [www.visionsacred.org](http://www.visionsacred.org).

"We've fed more than 22,000 people with the money, one-fourth of them children," Reyes said.

### A PROJECT

Reyes and a few photographers from the Free Press and Detroit News are collaborating on a book called "My Name Is..." to be distributed by Wayne State University in the next couple of months. They photographed 148 people. About 50 will be in the book, with interviews.

"I used to give a lot of talks about how many people we feed, and I could tell people weren't getting it -- the numbers were too abstract. This is a way of humanizing the number. Every number is a person.

"Every story begins the same way, 'My name is...' because a lot of people don't realize the homeless have names."

### WELL-TRAVELED

In the mid-'80s Reyes spent a year in South America, living among poor people and photographing the missions. He got to meet Pope John Paul II in Quito, Ecuador.

He'd love to take a few months off and head out to Texas, Colorado and New Mexico to photograph the Catholic missions.

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