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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CAPUCHIN SOUP KITCHEN COMMEMORATES 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
WITH MASS AND OPEN HOUSES**

Cardinal Maida to preside over November 29 mass at St. Bonaventure Chapel in Detroit

**Detroit, MI (November 18, 2004)** – In commemoration of The Capuchin Soup Kitchen's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Cardinal Adam Maida will hold a mass on November 29 at 11 a.m., at the soup kitchen's St. Bonaventure Chapel, located at 1740 Mt. Elliott Street in Detroit. Immediately following the mass, from 1-4 p.m., the first of two open houses will be held at the soup kitchen's 1264 Meldrum location and the Solanus Casey Center at 1780 Mt. Elliott. On December 5 from 1-4 p.m., a second open house is scheduled at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen located at 4390 Conner Street.

To attend the November 29 mass with Cardinal Maida, please RSVP at (313) 579.2100, ext. 185. Seating is limited to 300 guests.

Everyone is welcomed to attend the November 29 and December 5 open houses. Each will feature the Capuchin's history in Detroit and its many services. Friars will be available to discuss the important work being done by the Capuchins to benefit the needy of Detroit, as well as provide tours of the facilities. Complimentary refreshments will be served.

"The Capuchins of Detroit wish to celebrate this milestone anniversary with our dear friends of Detroit," Father Dave Preuss, Executive Director of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, explained. "It's a great honor to have Cardinal Maida preside over the mass; his presence truly makes this a very special event for us and the city of Detroit."

"We chose the Sunday, December 5 date purposefully to reach out to those families who have many blessings. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring children to the soup kitchen so they can sense the importance of helping others. It's never too early to instill the value of serving others," Father Preuss added. "We will have many displays showcasing the important community work that is done to serve those who are less fortunate."

The soup kitchen strives to provide encouragement, direction, and material assistance, not only to the working poor but those in temporary crisis. It serves over 2,400 hot meals per day plus offers a shower service to 30 homeless men per day; a children's library and art therapy which serves over 100 children per month; and a substance abuse treatment program servicing up to 12 indigent men. The Capuchin Soup Kitchen's Service Center distributes over 33,000 pieces of clothing, approximately 350 pieces of furniture, and 300,000 pounds of food packages each month.

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The Capuchin Soup Kitchen began during the Great Depression and grew through the assistance of Father Solanus Casey. Individuals would come to St. Bonaventure Monastery for a bowl of soup and a sandwich. In response to the area's overwhelming social needs, Capuchin Friar Fr. Herman Buss turned to the men and women of the Secular Franciscans and together they collected food from farms and served meals in the hall next to the monastery. From these beginnings grew the Capuchin Soup Kitchen of today. There are two Capuchin Soup Kitchen locations: 1264 Meldrum and 4390 Conner.

The Capuchin Soup Kitchen is a Capuchin ministry and is part of the Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order, which is headquartered in Detroit and serves Capuchin ministries worldwide. Its philosophy is a simple one: promote growth and wholesome independence, all with respect and dignity for the individuals who come to the soup kitchen.

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