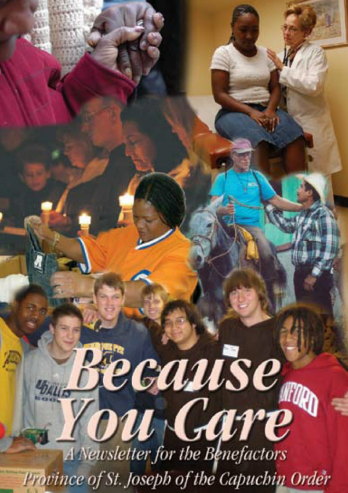


Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order

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.



Six friars professed first vows as Capuchins in August at the founding site of the Capuchin Order in America, St. Lawrence Seminary High School, Mount Calvary, WI. Professing friars include (L-R) Mark Romanowski, Joseph Lindzius, Tom Nguyen, Tien Dinh, Mitchell Frantz, and George Real Bird. Four in the group are alumni of St. Lawrence Seminary.

The friars of the Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order serve in a variety of ministries including social service, schools, chaplaincy, retreat houses and parishes from Michigan to Montana and into Central America. To learn more about the Capuchin ministries: www.thecapuchins.org

Rosa Parks Children-Youth Program



Mission Statement

The mission of our children/youth program is education, creativity and peace-making.

We strive in everything we do to help our children love and care for themselves and the entire Earth community; think clearly; make choices wisely and learn alternatives to violence. Our emphasis on the arts works to stretch imagination, foster creativity and offer safe expression of feelings and values. The foundation of all we do is respect for the child and support for their families.

The program includes regularly scheduled tutoring sessions, art/creativity sessions, library times, computer classes, gardening times, music and dance and an extensive three week summer peace camp.



Capuchin Soup Kitchen's Rosa Parks Children Youth Program: Creating a Safe Zone

Many are familiar with the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. But not everyone is familiar with the Rosa Parks Children/Youth Program, a ministry of the soup kitchen. The children's program staff works hard to create a true safe zone for the children of the soup kitchen. A safe zone is not simply an area where kids are free from threat, intimidation and abuse of any kind. It is a place where they can be themselves and where their personalities, dreams and gifts can be nurtured and realized. It is not necessary to be hardened, callous or somebody else.



In a true safe zone, the arts should be EVERYWHERE. Through creativity classes, small groups, dance, role playing, creative writing and music, we help them tap into the infinity of their imaginations, learn alternative ways to cope with challenging life situations and have fun while actively using their minds. In this setting, they can acknowledge their feelings and express them in the presence of caring adults and peers. In the same way, our kids receive help with many academic struggles and we address them sensitively and humbly. They receive affirmation and are protected from humiliation.

A safe zone is not just a "nice" place to go after school. Every aspect is carefully monitored to ensure that our participants enter an environment where they can grow. It is in this type of setting that the parts of a youth that have been damaged by the harshness of the lived experience can begin to heal. Her true personality can bloom after having to assume a different one for many years in brutal neighborhoods and schools. He uses his mind to read, write, learn and create in a setting where he won't be made fun of for struggling with the words on the page. She looks boldly into her attacker's eye, and says, "You are disrespecting, and I don't like it," rather than simply striking. Young girls and boys can share major hurts and losses with each other confidentially in a setting of respect and security. They can invite their parents and guardians to seek help and comfort after years of struggling or struggling alone.

This is what we mean when we say safe zone. It is a place of action where every corner and moment is given attention so people know it is okay to be yourself. It is a place of healing and blessing.

A Light in the City of Milwaukee for 100 Years: St. Benedict the Moor Community

For 100 years, St Benedict the Moor Parish has affirmed and welcomed a rich variety of persons, especially the disenfranchised of our society.

It began in 1908 with St. Benedict's primary purpose to spiritually serve the growing number of African Americans living in Milwaukee. Inspired by an African American Catholic layman from Chicago, the Capuchin Franciscan community eventually took responsibility for St. Ben's growth.

A boarding elementary and high school, providing education and academic excellence to young African Americans was established. With the collaboration of Dominican and Notre Dame Sisters, the school grew and helped shape the lives of many youth, producing leaders for the Milwaukee community and beyond. St. Anthony hospital was a welcome addition. The hospital welcomed African American doctors and nurses who were unwelcome to practice in other institutions due to segregation. In the 60's, due to social changes and expressway development, the school closed and later the hospital.

In 1970, a community meal began supplying food on a daily basis to Milwaukee's homeless and hungry. From its beginning, the meal was Milwaukee's largest potluck dinner with volunteers from all over the metropolitan area preparing, delivering and serving the home-made food. The volunteers come from diverse



Br. Dave Schwab at the meal program

faiths, cultures and political leanings. Approximately 2,000 meals are served weekly.

In response to the health needs of the meal's guests, a clinic grew out of small closet in the back of the hall. Today it is a fully equipped and staffed clinic sponsored by Colombia/St. Mary's Hospital of Milwaukee. A jail chaplaincy ministry is also part of St. Ben's story. It grew in response to the brothers and sisters incarcerated in the county jail, located across the street from the parish.

The one constant over the years common to the many ministries of St. Ben's has been the affirmation given to all the sisters and brothers who gather. People outside the mainstream of society are welcomed daily to find some rest and a little bit of home. The spirit of St. Francis is at home here.

“Those Golden Years!”

Our senior friars retire late in life, most retiring reluctantly, as they have only known a life of service to others. It's not always easy to embrace our golden years. Even though there is always a need for the work of our Capuchin friars, the senior friars don't always have the energy and flexibility to aid in the work that needs to be done in our service to the poor.

When I served the province as a Fund Developer, my challenge was to encourage help for the less fortunate. Now, as a senior friar, I realize that I, too, am dependent upon other's generosity. This is a part of the “circle of life...” you come into the world dependent and for many of us, depart dependent.

As a senior friar, I have come to appreciate the goodness of Grace within by simply being thankful for the blessings of each day. None of the senior friars want to deflect any of the support that is donated for the poor and less fortunate. We spend much of our time in prayer and personal correspondence, and, one would hope, being an example of gratitude for God's countless blessing of the many years of life. I have come to realize that there is a tremendous amount of inner strength within the core of my being. This doesn't mean that aches and pains disappear, but it makes them a lot less prominent.



*Fr. Lloyd Thiel
Capuchin Friar*

Some Thoughts

Winston Churchill once remarked that, "The pessimist sees difficulty in every opportunity. The optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty." In my twenty years as a friar, I have been privileged to live in places as diverse as Detroit, Chicago, Milwaukee, and Washington, DC. My experiences there have confirmed the verity of Churchill's reflection.



Br. John Celichowski
Provincial Minister

Our cities are beset with difficulties, high and low: high unemployment; high poverty; high crime; low educational achievement; and, too often, low levels of cooperation between city and suburbs. Living in many of our nation's urban centers has been tough for a long time, but perhaps no more so than today.

A lot of people have written off our central cities and their people. A lot of people look at the state of our world today, throw up their hands, and lock their doors.

Not you.

Like Sir Winston's erstwhile optimist, you have found opportunities in difficulties; and like a daring but wise investor, you have chosen to put your stake in hope. Your hope has born fruit:

- In a family nourished in body and soul at one of our service ministries—the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and Services Center (Detroit), St. Ben's Community Meal and the House of Peace (Milwaukee).
- In men and women whose minds and spirits have been renewed at one of our retreat centers.
- In parishes from St. Clare of Montefalco in Chicago to St. Charles in Detroit and St. Martin de Porres in Milwaukee—where the gospel of Jesus is proclaimed in the spirit of St. Francis and people take seriously their call to be ministers and evangelists in our world.
- In young men exploring God's call and, thankfully, saying "yes" to life as a Capuchin at St. Lawrence Seminary and in our initial formation program.

Thank you for your generous investment in hope.

Bro. John

Twenty-Four Hour Retreats Now Available at Capuchin Retreat Washington, Michigan

The inspiration for twenty-four hour retreats came from the expressed needs of retreatants and those people who have not been able to make retreats because of busy schedules, work and/or family commitments, care-giving, finances, etc.



It's our aim to meet the spiritual needs of as many people as possible. The Capuchin Retreat staff is introducing two twenty-four hour retreats: October 10-11 ("Sun-down to Sunset") and November 22-23 ("Lunch to Brunch").

This is not a totally new concept in retreats, but it is new to Capuchin Retreat as we try to better meet the needs of younger men and women who are still raising their children and find it hard to be away for a whole weekend. From our research, we feel there are others who might also have similar needs which this model will help.

We encourage Michigan retreatants to contact us: info@capretreat.org. The Capuchins also have two retreat houses in Wisconsin. To learn more: www.thecapuchins.org

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