



High School Students Serve & Learn

Many Area High Schools Send Students to Fullfill Service Hours

Volunteers of all ages are a vital part of Capuchin Soup Kitchen. We often host students from local high schools. They volunteer regularly and join the soup kitchen's staff and other volunteers in small groups to serve the community. As part of a class curriculum at University of Detroit Jesuit High School & Academy, students are assigned various outreach and service opportunities in the community, and the Capuchin Soup Kitchen is one of them.



▲ ► Students from U of D Jesuit High School & Academy prepare meals for our guests.

Br. Brenton said of student groups who volunteer, "It always helps with team building because if you're working on something together, you have to communicate and learn how to divide up the work or come to a common goal."

The students learn how to serve guests in different ways based on their placement in the soup kitchen or the services center, which completes their class assignment, but also provides them with meaningful impact on a social level. Students volunteering and interacting with guests have been able to broaden their view of social challenges as a student said, "It really opens your eyes to what else is in the world."

It also provides the students with a chance to build stronger relationships among their peers, as a student said, "It's a good opportunity to, you know, just be here with a couple of my brothers from U of D, and just hang out, get to know each other a little bit more outside the classroom."



While there aren't many opportunities for conversations with guests for some student volunteers who might be in the back stock room sorting items for the food pantry, when those interactions happen, they can lead to moments the students take with them. One student said, "There was one time I was working in the clothing section,

I was talking to somebody who wasn't super well in [speaking] English, but we were talking about where I came from and where I live; it was a good conversation."

As these students are preparing to graduate from high school this year, some have spoken about returning to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen to continue volunteering, as one student said who will be attending college in the south, "maybe during the summer."

WORKS OF MERCY

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Capuchin Soup Kitchen depends on others in the community who share our concern and commitment to people in need. You can view and sign up for the volunteer opportunities below here: **SCAN ME**
<https://ofmcap.cc/CSK-Vol>



Capuchin Soup Kitchen – Meldrum & Conner locations:

- Preparing food & trays for guests
- Wiping and sanitizing dining room tables and chairs
- Special events & projects

Capuchin Services Center:

- Sorting and organizing clothes
- Stocking and organizing food items
- Special events & projects

Rosa Parks Children & Youth Program:

- After school tutoring assistance
- Art therapy program assistance (no art skills required)
- Special Events & Seasonal Activities
- Volunteers are asked for a weekly commitment per academic semester

Earthworks Urban Farm:

- Mixing soil/making soil blocks or germination trays
- Planting/seeding/thinning seedlings
- Cultivating/weeding beds & flipping compost
- Other tasks related to gardening or farming



Serving the Next Generation by an Invitation to Serve

by Br. Gary Wegner, OFM Capuchin
Executive Director



Both Br. Tien and I are alumni of our St. Lawrence Seminary High School. During my senior year, Capuchin Fr. Brian Braun, social studies teacher and senior prefect, sponsored "urban plunges" to Chicago. The weekend ended in Milwaukee with each group of



was then in a pastoral ministry role at the meal program, respond: "Do you see any sign that says only poor people are welcome?" Of course not. At St.

Ben's Community Meal as well as the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, we believe that all are welcome. We also reflected on how for



▲ Fr. Gary ministers to student volunteers through a ministry of presence and by offering the sacraments. Many students use this experience to consider their vocation

ten to twelve seniors standing in line at the St. Benedict Meal Program (now a part of Capuchin Community Services). We were spaced two-by-two. While there was a certain awkwardness to the experience, the totality of the weekend was the moment when I began to seriously consider a vocation as a Capuchin-Franciscan.

Years later, as a member of the faculty at St. Lawrence, I was pleased to accompany the members of the senior class on a similar weekend in Milwaukee. The difference being that the weekend now began with a visit to St. Ben's. One time, during a follow-up reflection, a senior questioned whether they were taking food from the poor. I remember Br. Kent Bauer, who

various reasons it may be easier to serve the guests rather than be a guest.

We do not question why someone is there, although they may share some of the reasons. It may be that a guest is struggling economically or with other significant issues. Some, especially older guests, may simply be lonely and enjoy a meal in the company of others. Still others, like the SLS seniors past and present, are learning about the realities of the city and the circumstances of those who struggle.

As you read through this edition of "Breaking Bread" you will find articles about the various high school and college groups that volunteer at CSK. We

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St. Lawrence Seminary Visits Detroit

Students from St. Lawrence Seminary High School, located outside of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, recently visited Capuchin Retreat Center in Washington County, Michigan. This was the first time the retreat was held at the Capuchin Retreat Center in Michigan, and the Center provided students with a beautiful landscape and sound spiritual guidance as well as a service opportunity.

During their time at the Center, the students served at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the Service Center locations in Detroit. They also visited the Solanus Casey Center and prayed with the friars.

While attending the retreat, students participated in traditional retreat activities, which included morning and evening prayer, three input mass sessions, and some alone time.



▲ St. Lawrence Seminary High School students dine together at the Capuchin Retreat Center.



▲ Students serve in the Capuchin Services Center



▲ SLS students help prepare a meal for guests



▲ SLS students pray at the tomb of Blessed Solanus Casey



▲ SLS students pray with the friars as Provincial Fr. Mark Joseph Costello leads the service

In addition to these retreat activities, they volunteered and served in various ways at the three Detroit Capuchin locations.

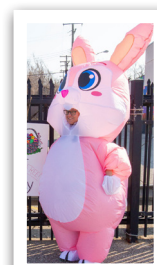
When students served at the Soup Kitchen or Service Center or during prayer and input mass sessions, they were able to bring questions and thoughts to the friars for guidance.

Br. Igor De Bliquy said, "Throughout the day they come with questions, and it can be anything simple from why you became a friar to I'm struggling with a situation. Being able to accompany them at that point in whatever questions they have, I think that's always a sacred moment as we open up our hearts to them and find Christ working in them."

Easter Basket Drive Begins

Can you help us provide Easter Baskets to needy families? This year, donations can be made using the QR code, which will take donors directly to the Amazon Wishlist where different types of baskets are listed. Donors can then

purchase one or more baskets or donate toward a basket. The baskets will then be shipped to us for giving to the children.



Scan me

To Be Transformed by Serving

by Br. Tien Dinh OFM Capuchin
Assistant Executive Director



At the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, we are pleased to welcome our volunteers who come and share in our mission of helping and serving guests who are in need.

One of the values in our Mission Statement is Joyful Service. Joyful Service means, "Respectfully addressing people's needs, transforming us all."

As you read through this edition of *"Breaking Bread"* we hope you will be inspired by the many high school and college students who come to the Soup

Kitchen and serve our guests. The goal is not simply to invite young people to harvest crops, ladle soup, or stock our pantry shelves, but that by doing these simple tasks that they may be transformed.

By encountering our guests, we hope it will challenge them to continue to grow, inspire them to continue

to love, and motivate them to continue to serve. May we all have the spirit of *"Joyful Service"* in our hearts.



▲ Br. Tien leads by example, here he helps serve the meal to our guests

Serving through Service

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are also highlighting the St. Lawrence Seminary senior class who came to Capuchin Retreat for their senior retreat and took a day to come down to the Soup Kitchen and volunteer at our Meldrum and Conner Kitchens and the Services Center.



▲ SLS HS students help prepare a meal at CSK

My prayer is that the young people who volunteer at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen have their hearts opened to those who

struggle in life and their spirits moved to continue serving those in need no matter where they live. It is the young people, by donating and volunteering, who will ensure that ministries such as the Capuchin Soup Kitchen continue to serve those who come to our doors for as long as there are people in need. God willing, some may even be inspired to become Capuchin Friars Minor.



CAPUCHIN SOUP KITCHEN

CSK Conner Meal Site:
4390 Conner
Detroit, MI 48215
313-579-2100 ext. 4216

CSK Meldrum Meal Site:
1264 Meldrum
Detroit, MI 48207
313-579-2100 ext. 2205

Spiritual Care:
Offered at both CSK Conner & Meldrum Meal Program Sites
313-579-2100 ext. 2209

Capuchin Services Center:
6333 Medbury St
Detroit, MI 48211
313-925-1370

Rosa Parks Children and Youth Program:
4390 Conner
Detroit, MI 48215
313-579-2100 ext. 4224

On The Rise Bakery & Cafe:
1780 Mt Elliott St
Detroit, MI 48207
Phone: 313.922.8510

Earthworks Urban Farm:
1264 Meldrum St.
Detroit, MI 48207
313-579-2100 Ext. 2204

Jefferson House:
8311 E. Jefferson
Detroit, MI
313-331-8900

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