



A Newsletter of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen
1820 Mt. Elliott Street • Detroit, MI 48207

313-579-2100

Fall 2016
www.CSKDetroit.org

Outgoing Director Br. Jerry Smith

As I write these lines in early October, unmistakable signs remind me that the seasons are changing, that we are passing from summer to fall, that we are indeed in a time of transition. The indicators are everywhere—the changing colors of the leaves, the mounds of pumpkins in the markets, the chill of the hours of early morning.



I sit back and think of the months behind us. I remember the weeks of early summer, the scorched lawns and thirsty vegetable gardens. I recall a couple of 2-day bicycle trips that reminded me most emphatically that I am no longer young. And I smile as I picture again in my mind picnics alongside the river and barbecues in the back yard.

At the Soup Kitchen, too, we are in a time of transition. Guests are asking for sweaters and jackets instead of shorts and T-shirts. Earthworks Urban Farm weekly markets now feature late-season tomatoes and squash rather than spinach and peas.

The leadership is in transition as well. The Capuchin Franciscan Province of St Joseph has named Brother Jerry Johnson as the next director of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, effective early in 2017. As I look back over the eleven years that I have served in this position, my heart is filled with gratitude for the multitude of rich experiences I have lived and the hundreds of people I have met. My life is forever changed.

In the next edition of *Breaking Bread* I will share with you some final thoughts about this marvelous ministry. In the meantime, Happy Thanksgiving, and a blessed Advent and Christmas to you!

Incoming Director Br. Jerry Johnson

It's been a real blessing for me this month to start to get to know many of the good people at the various Capuchin Soup Kitchen ministry sites. I've been spending about two weeks at each location for the purpose of building relationships and learning the creative processes and structures that have developed at the Soup Kitchen over the years.



Empowerment is clearly a strong value that runs across the entire ministry. That word, according to the Mission/Values Statement of our Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph, means “encouraging people to realize and respect their own dignity and potential.” From my perspective so far, the Soup Kitchen community has done a good job, and consciously tries to always do a better job, of empowering people to participate and be creative in what might help realize the unique potential and beautiful dignity that God has given them.

Br. Jerry Smith has many great skills. He is a licensed social worker, a competent grant writer, a good communicator, and an experienced administrator. Even given all of that, when he walks around the Soup Kitchen, what one notices most is his warmth. He has a great smile and seems to be willing to talk with just about everyone.

In fact, there seems to be a culture of warmth at the ministry sites, and this is one of many reasons I'm excited to be a part of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen community. I'm certainly blessed to be a friar, to have such great brothers in the Capuchins. And for sure I'm blessed to be a part of my wider family at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen community.

Coming Soon to Your Detroit TV.... The Capuchin Soup Kitchen: We're more than just about food



Our Breaking Bread readers know that the Soup Kitchen is more than just about food. We tutor; we farm; we assist those who are re-entering society after incarceration or substance abuse; we offer a new start in life to indigent men seeking recovery from addiction; we distribute clothing and appliances.

But those who are not in relationship with us perhaps think we only feed the hungry. While that in itself is a worthy endeavor, you, our supporter, already know that the Capuchin Soup Kitchen is more than just about food.

Our thirty second television commercial encourages viewers to become aware of all that we do...and to send a donation. Watch for our commercial starting the week of November 14.

TO OUR CLOTHING DONORS:

The Capuchin Soup Kitchen is grateful for your donations of new or gently used clothing. To simplify the work of our sorters, however, it would be helpful if items were separated according to age and gender, and the bag or container marked accordingly for example: women's pants women's shoes, sheets and towels. At the current time we are especially in need of children's clothing. Thank you!

Mary Jones-Volunteer Extraordinaire

Mary Jones—also known as “Ms. Mary” or “Elder Jones”— is a very familiar face at the Conner Kitchen; during most weeks she is there on at least three different days. It all started in 2007 when her husband died, throwing her life into disarray.



“I had never heard of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen,” she said, “but then a lady told me about the Capuchin Services Center. I went there and received a big box of food.”

Wanting to express her gratitude, she went to the Conner kitchen to offer to serve food to other people in need. However, that day she ended up sitting at a table with two members of the Detroit Action Commonwealth, an organization of low income individuals that meets at Conner. They persuaded Mary to lend her considerable talents to the group, and she now plays a key role in their weekly workshop to help people obtain birth certificates and state-issued identification cards.

Some days later Ms. Mary was eating dinner when the Capuchin Soup Kitchen Choir began rehearsing. “I let their beautiful music wash over me,” she said. “And then I heard God say to me, ‘You need to join them.’”

And so she did. And now, several years later, she has become “Mother of the Choir,” states Chaplain Cynthia Lockhart.

Mary is also an important presence at the Thursday prayer services where she offers encouragement to those dispirited and beaten down by life. “Having been there myself,” she says, “I am able to assure them that God has not abandoned them, though it may seem that way. God’s promises never fail. I am living proof of that truth.”

Thank you, Mary, for the spirit, optimism and goodness you bring to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

Earthworks...Growing People

By Patrick Crouch, Earthworks Urban Farm Manager

Many people know that Earthworks grows tasty organic produce. What might not be so obvious is that we also grow people. Whenever I host volunteer days at the gardens, I always ask folks to slow down, reflect, contemplate, and talk with someone a little more deeply. I think the gardens lend themselves toward personal growth through reflection, but also by means of deep conversation. How do I know? I know because it happened to me.



One of the great joys of working with volunteers is having them ask truly challenging questions, or grappling with complex ideas. I feel so fortunate to be a part of this growth. Last month I was sharing with volunteers during our opening activity about how shaken up I was feeling after having attended a Black Lives Matter rally the night before. I invited others to talk with me if they were feeling similarly disturbed by the amount of violence being inflicted on our Black brothers and sisters.

Later I was teaching how to prune damaged foliage off a peach tree. A young man asked me in an inquisitive, but skeptical tone, “Why did you decide to get involved with Black Lives Matter?” I hadn’t really thought about being able to put it into concrete terms; I had only felt a responsibility to show solidarity. I reflected for a moment and then replied, “Because I love my Black family members and friends and don’t want to see them killed.”

“I hadn’t really thought about it like that. That makes sense,” he responded. I was thankful for the chance to grow with him that sunny morning while pruning peaches, and I’m thankful for all the growth that you have encouraged in me. Looking forward to a little rest before we grow again together.

Bless the Work of Our Hands

By Sr. Nancyann Turner, OP

I love to watch our children master the computer and work on their I-Pads. I am in awe of all that they know about the Internet and FaceBook--even as I regret the ways they sometimes use the latter. As you can imagine, none of this technology existed during my childhood.



Yet, I cringe at the irony of children growing in computer skills, but lacking in compassion and creativity. I dread that they are savvy about drugs and gangs, but have lost their sense of awe and wonder. As knowledge expands, so too, must imagination and appreciation for the wonder of life.

Our Rosa Parks program celebrates and develops the work of the imagination and hands—as well as encouraging that of our hearts and minds.

I love the coming season where we do so many creative things with our hands and our imagination. As harvest season approaches, the children delight in putting their hands in the garden soil; they are in awe as beans sprout and flowers bloom and they realize that all food doesn’t just come from the gas station. Their hands are amazing as they decorate pumpkins and design Thanksgiving place mats for a nursing home up the street. The hands of our youth will again be creative as Christmas ornaments are designed, and Christmas cookies are baked, decorated---and eaten!!!

Our mothers, also, use their hands to create beautiful Christmas wreaths for their doors, and design personalized Christmas stockings for each of their children. The mothers who gave birth to these precious children now give birth again to their families by creating festive meals and most important, creating an environment of peace and gratitude despite limited resources.

How blessed we are as we create with our hands. How blessed our children will be if we balance their computer skills with creativity, beauty and compassion. How blessed is the work of our hands in creation, celebration and gift-giving. Is there not an urge in each of us to plant something or create something beautiful—the work of our hands!!!

The Holy Spirit & Soup Kitchen Choir

By Br. Jerry Johnson



On the morning of September 26, it absolutely poured. Then on September 29 it rained even more; this time there were flash flood warnings. But when the Capuchin Soup Kitchen Choir sang for the residents at Samaritan Manor Skilled Nursing Home that day, it was the Holy Spirit that was poured out in abundance.

Ms. Cynthia Lockhart, director of the choir, had invited me to accompany them. She told me that residents of the facility--some without legs or feet--would find a way to dance, tap to the beat, or sing along with the music. It was a real blessing to witness how the Holy Spirit, by means of music and kindness, poured through the packed lounge, out into the adjacent hallways and corridors; and into the hearts of all present.

The gift of the choir that day was meant to be for the residents. But God's love tends to resist being bottled up and one-directional. I know that the event moved me spiritually, and I'm sure the nurses, staff, and choir members themselves were moved as well. The residents of the nursing home have known suffering, and many undoubtedly continue to suffer now. But Christ's outpouring of passion and love for them and all involved was abundantly clear.

Please remember the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in your end-of-the-year charity donations.

Visit our website www.CSKDetroit.org

Delicious Turkey Dinners for Your Thanksgiving Celebration

Capuchin Soup Kitchen "scratch chef," Alison Costello, can make your Thanksgiving less stressful. This year purchase your holiday meal from Capuchin Soup Kitchen Catering. Each dinner, serving 8-10 people, includes:



Fresh Roasted Turkey—(*15-20 lbs. free-range turkey package is available for additional costs.)

2 qts. Dressing

1 qt. Real Mashed Potatoes

1 qt. Gravy

1 pint housemade Orange & Cranberry Relish

1 dozen rolls

2 pies (Pumpkin, Apple, or Sweet Potato)

1 pint Real Whipped Cream

All this for \$95.00 with proceeds going to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

*\$145.00 for the Free-Range Turkey package.

Orders must be picked up Wednesday, November 23, between 1 PM – 5 PM, at the Meldrum Kitchen, 1264 Meldrum, Detroit, MI 48207. Deadline to order is Thursday, November 17 at 9 am. To place an order, contact Alison Costello: acostello@cskdetroit.org or 313.579.2100, ext. 205.

Hunger Free in the D



For the third consecutive year, the Celani Family Foundation is teaming up with WJR-AM (760) Radio to launch the "Hunger Free in the D" campaign. Beneficiaries include the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Beginning November 7, the foundation will match

donations of up to \$50,000 to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the other participating organizations. The effort will culminate on November 21 with WJR's popular radio personality, Paul W Smith, hosting a live broadcast 6-9 am from Tom Celani's new Motor City Harley Davidson dealership, 24800 Haggerty Rd, Farmington Hills, 6-9 am. Tune in to WJR that day and know that your contribution to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen will be matched by the Celani Family Foundation! We thank the Celani family—and you!

Time to Call-In Your On The Rise Bakery Holiday Order



Brother Ray reminds all that it's not too soon to call in your baked goods order for Thanksgiving and Christmas! Choose from a selection of delicious pies, artisan breads, rolls, holiday cookies, stollen and more! Your On the Rise Bakery order supports our bakers who are transforming their lives after incarceration or substance abuse treatment. Call 313.922.8510, Tuesday-Saturday, with your order. The bakery's full selection can be viewed at: www.CSKDetroit.org/bakery

New Soup Kitchen Christmas Distribution Announced

Because there appear to be a number of agencies and organizations providing winter clothing for children, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen is discontinuing the Caps, Coats and Kids program. Instead, at Christmas time we will be distributing items every family needs, but cannot purchase with food stamps. Examples include:

- sheets, pillow cases and blankets
- towels and wash cloths
- laundry detergent and dishwashing soap
- disposable diapers
- toilet paper and paper towels

In addition, families will receive heaping baskets of holiday food. If you would like to provide food or any of the above-mentioned items, please deliver them to the Capuchin Services Center, 6333 Medbury, by December 16. We thank you!

Holiday Dinners: A Time to Celebrate Family

Holidays are a time to celebrate family.



And we want our Capuchin Soup Kitchen families to celebrate as well. So we will

be distributing 1,200 Thanksgiving food baskets and 600 Christmas food baskets to pre-selected families to help make sure that the holidays are special for them, too.

Each food basket will be packed with nutritious and tasty holiday fixings! Ten pound bags of potatoes, apples, canned fruits and vegetables, stuffing, cranberries, sweet potatoes, an apple pie and a ten to twelve pound turkey are included in each holiday food basket.

We are always grateful for financial donations to help off-set the costs of the food. We wish you wonderful holiday celebrations!

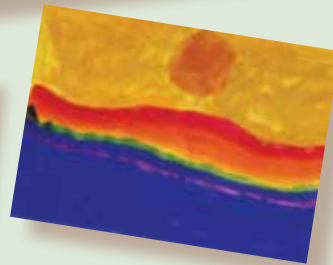
Capuchin Soup Kitchen Christmas Wish List

- Hams and turkeys for our Thanksgiving and Christmas food distributions
- New socks, new underwear, and boots
- Convection oven for On the Rise Bakery Café
- New 18 passenger van for use by the choir, On the Rise bakers and Earthworks Urban Farm interns
- \$6,000 for new carpeting at Jefferson House
- \$19,000 for a new boiler at the Meldrum kitchen



Capuchin Soup Kitchen Christmas Cards Now Available

This holiday season send a Franciscan greeting! Our Christmas cards feature the artwork of Soup Kitchen kids. Colorful yet simple, the cards reflect our charism. Order online! Visit our website to view our designs and greetings. www.CSKDetroit.org



There are things in life worth planning for



Ironically, one of those things worth planning for is the end of our lives. What will become of our families, children? What will become of the charitable work in which we were generously involved? What of our own legacy of charity and service to others?

Answering these questions requires our time and attention, sooner rather than later. Planning today can be an enormous blessing and benefit to those we love and to those causes and charities we cared so deeply about over many years.

Preparing a Will and keeping it updated is one vehicle for planning for a future beyond our lifetimes. Charitable gift annuities are another vehicle through which you can safeguard your own retirement income while making a significant charitable gift that will benefit the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in the future. If you have remembered the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in your Will or Estate plans, I'd ask you to kindly let us know. You will remain ever in our grateful hearts and in our daily prayers. Should you wish to remember us in your Will, the proper verbiage would be: The Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order for the benefit of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

Planning ahead offers great peace of mind and the comfort of knowing your thoughtfulness will be a blessing for so many long into the future.

Calendar of Events

Hunger Free in the D radio broadcast with WJR's Paul W. Smith

Monday, Nov. 21, 6:00-9:00 am The Celani Family Foundation will match donations of up to \$50,000 to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the other participating organizations.

146th Birthday of Fr. Solanus

Sunday, Nov. 27, 9 am & Noon Mass, St. Bonaventure Monastery Chapel, 1780 Mount Elliott, Detroit, 48207

Earthworks Urban Farm's Holiday Open House

December 14-16, 9 am to 5 pm- jams, honey & more 1264 Meldrum, Detroit

5th Annual 'Bocce with the Brothers'

Friday, January 20, 2017, 6 pm
Benefits the Capuchin Ministries, Sponsored by Shelving.com Villa Penna (Hayes Road location), Sterling Heights \$50 per ticket – Advance tickets only, 313.579.2100, ext. 153

Save the Date for Buddy's Pizza Slice of Life event

Monday, April 24, 2017
Benefits the Capuchin Soup Kitchen