



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

313-579-2100

Winter 2017

www.CSKDetroit.org

Keeping in Touch Br. Jerry Johnson

Having spent a lot of time over the last six months with the dedicated staff of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and with outgoing director Br. Jerry Smith, I've learned from them some of the heartbreak they experience.



This heartbreak comes in two forms. One is the heartbreak of encountering people who are in seemingly impossible situations and knowing that there is only so much we can do in the moment. The other form of heartbreak is the pain of knowing we cannot say thank you enough for the loving generosity of people whether rich or poor. The heartbreak of the first type moves us to apply our spiritual, intellectual, and social resources to engage internal and external factors that help people find healing, dignity, and empowerment. The heartbreak of the second type helps us to learn how to receive and to humbly know that our very life is a gift from God and one another.

A mixture of both types of heartbreak came from a conversation with two guests at our Conner kitchen site. One person, a gentleman confined to a wheelchair, still manages to care for two elderly people who live near him and are shut-in. The other is a grandmother whose circumstances require her to care for her grandchildren. She is growing frail and having trouble keeping up physically and emotionally. Encountering the circumstances, love, and commitment of such people is heartbreaking in both senses of the word. God give us all a big enough heart to handle both the tragic elements of life and the truly beautiful.

Br. Jerry Johnson O.F.M. Capuchin

Volunteering With Heart



Bryan and Sandy are a team. They come from different walks of life, different parts of town, but arrive at the Soup Kitchen every Wednesday by 7:30 am. They know Soup Kitchen volunteer coordinator, Rita Johnson, depends on them to make sandwiches for an area shelter. They know the shelter's guests across town are depending on a nutritious lunch. But Sandy and Bryan also come for the fellowship of the other Wednesday volunteers.

"We're like family," Sandy explains. She has been volunteering since 2005 when she retired from nursing. "You always wish you could do more for the guests. But you can only do what you can. And this is what I can do."

Life-long Detroit resident, Bryan, agrees. "My Wednesdays are a bright spot. Everyone has a positive outlook. This has been very good for me. Giving back to my community is very important to me."

When asked if they would recommend to others volunteering at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, Sandy & Bryan break into easy grins. Sandy says, "Do it!" Bryan adds, "The Soup Kitchen can always use good people to help out....and you will be busy!"

To volunteer, please go to www.CSKDetroit.org/volunteer
You will be appreciated!

Soup Kitchen Heroes



Our Capuchin Services Center Emergency Assistant Workers

Some heroes of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen staff that often don't get recognized are the Emergency Assistant Workers (or EAW). These are the reception staff and social workers who are accessible to our guests who come for help. The Conner and Meldrum sites each have one EAW on staff. Guests can sign up for an appointment with the EAW staff member. The Capuchin Services Center has seven EAW on staff.

In our world today, where we are almost always met with automated messaging on answering machines and computers, it is nearly impossible to meet with a real live person. Yet at the Capuchin Services Center, every single guest schedules an appointment and meets privately with an EAW before going on to the clothing and food areas.

EAW, many of whom are social workers, offer a professional listening ear and have experience in how to support people in their efforts to reach their short and long-term goals.

The suggestions and connections the EAW staff provide are extremely valuable, but we cannot underestimate the value of being heard and being listened to by a caring professional.

The EAW staff embodies the values of the Mission Statement of the Capuchin Friars: Hospitality, Empowerment, Justice for all Creation, Partnering, Joyful Service, and Compassion. Thank you EAW staff for all you do for our guests.

The Capuchin Soup Kitchen has needs all year round. Visit our website for more ways you can help those in need.

www.CSKDetroit.org

Living a Spiritual Life Drug/Alcohol Free



There are multiple 12-step and AA program meetings at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Some of the programs are led by Soup Kitchen staff and some of them are outside AA programs that use the Soup Kitchen facility. These programs create a welcoming therapeutic community that help people thrive and avoid isolation.

In addition to her main duty as a social worker for Capuchin Soup Kitchen guests, Deborah Starr-Hodges is a certified AA leader and chairs meetings on Mondays and Thursdays. She says, "God and AA are my life. AA is a way of life... a way to help people to not feel alone."

She is also a certified drug and addiction counsellor. The long list of people she meets with every day for all sorts of needs is reminiscent of the ministry of Fr. Solanus Casey, who carefully listened to so many, offering solace.

As one of three Capuchin Soup Kitchen chaplains, Br. Ed Conlin hosts a group called "12-Step." This group meets twice per week at the Conner site and twice per week at the Meldrum site. The reason this group is called "12-Step" rather than "AA" is because this group is not anonymous; they often times meet in common areas of the soup kitchen.

The spiritual element is critical to the programs led by Ms. Starr and Br. Ed. The participants in these programs help one another lead spiritual lives without the use of drugs and alcohol. The Promises of AA state that the spiritual life is not a theory; we have to live it!

Jefferson House: Truly a Blessing

Amy Kinner has been a part of the Jefferson House family for years. Since 2011, she has served as a consultant at Jefferson House, a member of its treatment team, and case manager. When the Jefferson House director position came available after Capuchin Friar Br. Joe transitioned to St.

Conrad's Friary in Milwaukee to train new friars, Amy was a natural fit for the position.

Amy explains that the Capuchin Soup Kitchen's Jefferson House residential treatment is a unique opportunity for the twelve men accepted into the six to nine month program. "When the guys come in, they have been in treatment for 21-28 days from another facility. These facilities refer those men who seem serious; who seem motivated. Someone at the referral facility saw a possibility for success in the individual. When men walk into Jefferson House, we are often their last hope. The good news is that we have a very high success rate."



*Amy Kinner, LMSW,
CAADC,
Jefferson House Director*

When asked what attributes to that high success rate, Amy explains that there are many factors beside the unusual six to nine month residential treatment plan.

"This is a family-like environment. The guys work at the Soup Kitchen's program sites and they work one-on-one with the guests. They see themselves in the guests. They see the hardships and challenges of our guests. The guys watch the friars and witness their patience. The men begin to trust their circumstances; that we all only want them to succeed. We truly try to heal the issues underlying addictions."

The Capuchin Soup Kitchen's Jefferson House truly is a blessing. Amy explains, "Jefferson House allows all the men's basic needs to be met. They have food, lodging, and fellowship. The men can stay focused on learning how to live a sober life. They learn to work together; they learn to share in a meaningful way; they learn to express feelings with others. It's a lot to work through for individuals who have burned many bridges; who have not had meaningful employment; who have neglected their health....all because of their addictions. It's not easy...but it is possible. We do treatment that works....all because of the generosity of our Capuchin Soup Kitchen donors."

Jefferson House is CARF accredited.

Buddy's Pizza 'Slice for Life' April 24

Mark your calendar for lunch or dinner (or both!) at one of Buddy's eleven locations Monday, April 24, 2017, 11:00 AM - 10:00 PM!

Robert Jacobs, President/Founder of Buddy's Pizza, has hosted Buddy's Pizza for 41 years.

"The Capuchin Soup Kitchen's mission is near and dear to our hearts," said Robert

Jacobs, Buddy's Pizza president and CEO. "Feeding hungry people is the foundation of our business and partnering with an organization that shares that commitment is important to us. We're humbled to



support the Capuchin Soup Kitchen through our annual Slice for Life fundraiser and weekly pizza donations. By working together, we can lend a hand to community members in need and make strides against local hunger."



Br. Jerry Johnson explains that 'Slice for Life' is a favorite event for the Soup Kitchen. "Everyone loves Buddy's Pizza."

See you at Buddy's Pizza, Monday, April 24, 2017, 11:00 AM - 10:00 PM. Tickets are \$15 for adults (\$7 for children) for an all-you-can-eat two topping pizza and salad. To learn more, go to www.CSKDetroit.org

Will I Whine, Scream and Holler or Plant Some Seeds

By Sr. Nancyann Turner, OP
Children's Program Manager

*"May humanity be our race.
May Love be our religion."*
Common Book of Blessings

I have found myself discouraged and sad. It feels like hearts are hardened all across the globe, in every nation and town. Discourse seems to ride the waves of division. Fear and anger are causing great tears in the fabric of our country.

Building community and honoring the common good seem to be values long discarded in today's world. It is easy to feel grief and frustration—even blame for the presence of disrespect and fear mongering.

Yet the new year will be futile and unproductive if all we do is blame. But what I must do more than anything this year is to plant new gardens and weave



new cloth. I must do all I can to honor diversity and to confront racism. I must remind myself, my family and friends that we were brought up to love one another, that we honor diversity and claim our unity--and that we plant new gardens of vision, hope and unity.

Even now, we are seeing neighborhood gardens as a wonderful environment for integrating diversity. Community gardens are reanimating the neighborhoods in the Fitzgerald and Brightmoor areas of Detroit. For years, the Soup Kitchen's Earthworks Urban Farm has shared city and suburb workers for the common good of people working together—as well as for organic and wholesome food.

This year, our children's garden will concentrate on gardens of diversity and gardens of unity...seeing the beauty in both. It seems to me that all of us need to plant some new seeds and create great gardens of love, unity and diversity. Our wounded world will benefit so much from gardens of love, respect and friendship. Hopefully, each of our readers will soon imagine gardens they will want to plant. Each and every one of us can plant a seed...a flower. What is it that each of us can do to create a better place for all of us?

Calendar of Events

Metro Detroit Chevy Dealers Partnership!

The Metro-Detroit Chevy Dealers association will be collecting much needed items for the Capuchin Services Center. Their goal is to fill up at least one full-sized Chevy Silverado truckbed at each of their 38 local dealerships for their Truckloads of Hope donation drive. Donation items include: full and twin size sheets, blankets, laundry detergent (42oz or 64oz), paper towel, toilet tissue, hand and bath towels, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste. Stop by your local Chevy dealership between February 13th and March 3rd to fill up an entire truckbed and help those in need!

Detroit Remembers

Saturday, March 4, 2017 Noon-2:00p
Solanus Casey Center, 1780 Mount Elliott Street, Detroit
We will look at the significance of Detroit in Solanus' life and ministry and hear about what Father Solanus means to the history and people of this area, including his love for the Tigers. Will begin at Noon with a simple lunch and conclude by 2:00 PM.

We need to remember Solanus' Love of Christ

Saturday, April 1, 2017 Noon-2:00p
Solanus Casey Center, 1780 Mount Elliott Street, Detroit
Capuchin Fr. Michael Crosby, theologian for Solanus' cause, will help us appreciate this primary love of Father Solanus. Will begin at Noon with a simple lunch and conclude by 2:00 PM.

41st Annual "Slice for Life"

Monday, April 24, 2017 11:00 am - 10:00 pm
Any Buddy's Pizza location in Metro Detroit
Please join us on Monday, April 24, 2017 to help us celebrate our 41st Annual Buddy's Pizza "Slice for Life" benefit for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in partnership with Buddy's Restaurants.

Ahee Souper Summer Celebration

Save the date: June 10
Comerica Park

45th Annual SOCK Dinner (Support Our Capuchin Kitchen)

Save the date: Oct. 27
Cobo Center

What a Difference a Year Makes

By Reggie Huff, Capuchin Services Center Manager

It was November 30th, 2015 when I officially became a part of the Capuchin family. Prior to that, I was invited by the Services building operation manager, George Gaerig, to participate in the Thanksgiving program. As I stood in the garage watching a seemingly unending line of cars come through, I thought to myself, “What did I get myself into? How am I going to manage this next year? How am I going to get this done?”



As I began my career with the Capuchins, I have been blessed to work with some great people, who



were more than eager to help me to be successful. This year as I stood in line watching the seemingly unending line of cars, I was no longer nervous, worried or anxious.

Thanks to everyone at the Soup Kitchen, I could stand with confidence knowing that I was not doing this alone, but with a team of people who are professional, talented, and compassionate. Thanks to all for helping my first year to be a great one. What a difference a year makes!

St. Brigid's Day—A Special Day for Gardeners

By Patrick Crouch, Earthworks Urban Farm Manager

Every year we go on a rather long journey even if we never leave the house. Over the course of a year, we cover over 584 million miles in our journey around the sun. In the process we find the orientation of our axis changing, increasing and lessening the amount of sun we receive. As we progress into winter, our days get short as does the intensity of light. When we head into spring, the days get longer and the intensity of light increases. Many of us are familiar with the solstices and equinoxes (those days of extreme and evenness), but less so with the quarter crosses – the midway points between the solstices and equinoxes. They go by many names in many cultures, but right now we are most concerned with the quarter cross between the winter solstice and the vernal



equinox – often referred to as Imbolc or Saint Brigid's day which takes place on Feb. 1st this year.

This day is so significant to gardeners because it represents the time at which we have enough light intensity and duration that we can begin to plant seeds (that is if it weren't for the fact that there is still snow on the ground, and frigid outside). Fortunately we have a hoop house which keeps us sheltered from the extreme cold and allows us to start planting as soon as we can. For those seeking refuge from the snow we will be planting soon. We welcome you to join us.



Bonanza Barrel Raffle 2017

To benefit the Capuchin Soup Kitchen



\$24,075 IN CASH PRIZES

120 Winners

Only 10,000 tickets sold

Proceeds of the Bonanza Barrel Raffle help serve the many people who participate each day in the numerous programs and services offered by the Soup Kitchen.



In fact, raffle winners and ALL who participate win the satisfaction of knowing that they have contributed to a great cause.

Purchase a \$30 ticket today and YOU could be one of the lucky winners!

REMEMBER: Every \$30 ticket you purchase will be entered into ALL 120 drawings!

28 weekly drawings for prizes of \$200, \$150, \$125 and \$125
May - 1, 8, 15, 22, June - 5, 12, 19, 26, July - 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, August - 14, 21, 28
September - 11, 18, 25, October - 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, November - 6, 13, 20, 27

One bonus drawing for prizes of \$500, \$250, \$150 and \$125 - August 7

One grand prize drawing for prizes of \$5,000, \$500, \$500 and \$250 - December 4

Only 10,000 tickets will be sold. Drawings to be held on designated dates at 9:00AM in the St. Joseph Center at 1820 Mt. Elliott St.; Detroit, MI 48207. Need not be present to win. All winning tickets will be returned to the barrel for further chances to be drawn in subsequent drawings.

To purchase tickets, complete the attached form and return it along with payment to the address indicated below, or call the Capuchin Events Department at (313) 579-2100 Ext. 153.

2017 Bonanza Barrel Raffle

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Please send me _____ Bonanza Barrel Raffle ticket(s) @ \$30 each \$ _____

Please accept my donation to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen \$ _____

Payment Type: _____ Check (Made payable to Capuchin Soup Kitchen)

Circle one: Visa MasterCard Discover AMEX (Your credit card statement will read Province of St. Joseph)

Name on Card: _____ Card Number: _____ / _____ Exp. Date: _____ / _____

Thank you for supporting the Capuchin Soup Kitchen!
1820 Mt. Elliott St.; Detroit, MI 48207-3485 • (313) 579-2100 Ext. 153 • www.cskdetroit.org