



Breaking Bread Newsletter

Feeding Bodies, Nourishing Spirits, Strengthening Communities

Winter 2022

Capuchin Soup
Kitchen



Nurturing Community, Fostering Hope

Felician Sisters Invite Capuchins To Partner in Deo Gratias Ministries

"I just started at the end of August, so I am still getting to know our guests," Lucy Avery-Walker said. Hired as a social worker by Capuchin Soup Kitchen, Lucy is assigned to Deo Gratias Ministries Detroit or DGM. "DGM is a ministry of the Felician Sisters to meet the needs of one of Detroit's poorer neighborhoods," said Fr. Gary Wegner, Capuchin Soup Kitchen's Executive Director. "We are happy to be able to collaborate with another Franciscan religious community while helping serve people outside of our footprint."

Lucy continued, "I like our Café model. People come in for a break, and the sisters and I get to know them.

We meet them where they are at." Lucy paused and said, "Much of my time, I am helping people find and apply for resources. Many of our guests have literacy challenges, so I help them file applications for services they are qualified for."

"Two ladies recently visited me. One needed help with applying for social security and the other applying for housing." Lucy said, "They both got what they needed. When the lady needing housing got the letter from the Detroit Housing Authority, she returned to hug me in thanks!"

Sister Felicity Marie Madigan, CSSF, co-directs DGM with Sister Shelley Marie Jeffrey,

CSSF. Sr. Felicity said, "As Franciscans, we've found that collaborating with the Capuchins is relatively easy. We have the same values and relatability. There's good synergy between us." Sister Shelley added, "This collaboration has helped the Capuchins increase their impact in the city and supported our ministry. I've seen how our credibility is affirmed with major donors and foundations when they

learn we are working together."

"I want to acknowledge the kindness of the Caps in hiring Lucy and placing her here. We couldn't have done that on our own at this stage of the ministry's growth.

She does a great job with our guests," Sr. Felicity said. Sr. Shelley added, "The

Capuchins have been generous with their time and expertise. When planning for our food pantry, we toured their Services Center. They shared resources and policies we could use to make our pantry a real benefit for the surrounding community."

Lucy ended our visit by detailing all the types of help DGM offers their guests. "We offer support with utility assistance, tax assistance, vet services, pro bono legal clinics, and much more. I'm just here to offer a hand up in hope." To which the residents of Regent Park can say, "Deo Gratias - Thanks be to God!"



▲ Sr. Felicity & Sr. Shelley pose outside St. Jude Parish in Detroit. The parish provides space rent-free to the ministry.



▲ Guests of DGM Detroit select food in the pantry.

WORKS OF MERCY

VOLUNTEERING RETURNS!

We are happy to welcome volunteers back to partner in ministry with us. There are some safety requirements and you can read them when you sign up. You can sign up for any of the opportunities below here:



<https://ofmcap.cc/CSK-Vol>

Capuchin Soup Kitchen – Meldrum location:

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

Capuchin Soup Kitchen – Conner location:

- 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



A Lesson From Spiderman

by Br. Gary Wegner, OFM Capuchin
Executive Director



Tyler Chatman is a part of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen's Earthworks Urban Farm Program, first as a youth participant and now as Earthworks' Farm Manager. Tyler is also a fan of comic books. In my younger years I was an avid reader and collector of Marvel and DC comics. Tyler and I from time to time chat about the superheroes we like best.

In his spare time, Tyler also enjoys cosplaying as Spider-Man. For those not familiar with the term, cosplayers create costumes to as accurately as possible portray a character. Many of these characters are from the worlds of anime, comic books, science fiction and fantasy. Cosplayers are a colorful part of any comic book or science fiction convention, such as Detroit's Motor City Comic Con.

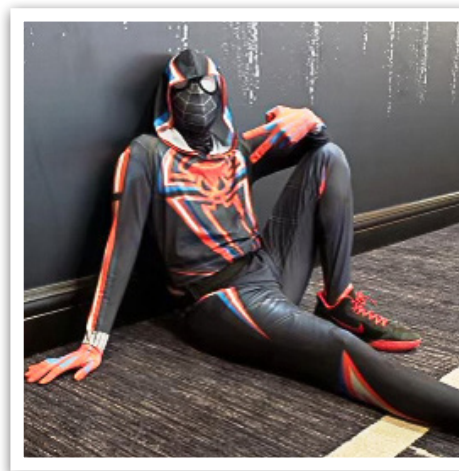
For those familiar with the webslinger, you know that Peter Parker's Uncle Ben tells him "With great power comes great responsibility." Peter Parker is Spider-Man. Unfortunately, his unwillingness to stop a robber with a gun inadvertently leads to Uncle Ben's murder. Spider-Man remembers his uncle's words and tries to live by them thereafter.

Tyler, you and I could certainly do worse than to live by the words "With great power

comes great responsibility." As Director of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, I am approached from time to time by individuals who tell me what good work the Capuchins and the Soup Kitchen do for people in Detroit. Sometimes, they tell me stories of how a relative was helped. Each time someone shares with me their admiration I feel a need to paraphrase Uncle Ben's words: "With a great reputation, comes great responsibility."

For nearly a century, my Capuchin brothers, our staff and volunteers have responded to the needs of those on Detroit's eastside who are struggling materially, socially or psychologically. Their efforts have built for us a reputation for compassionate service that effectively reaches out to those on the margins. When people write a check to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen they do so with an inherent belief that it is money well spent; money that will directly benefit those in need. So yes, the weight of their trust and that of those who seek our services must inform every decision we make and every dollar we spend.

Like Peter Parker, I have learned my lesson "With a great reputation, comes great responsibility".



Br. Bob Malloy Retires

Two Decades of Ministry Serving Detroit End



▲ Br. Gary thanks Br. Bob for his decades of ministry.



▲ Br. Bob says goodbye to the guests.

It's a change of seasons at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen as Br. Bob Malloy, OFM Cap. retires as pastoral director at our Meldrum site after two decades of service there. And, we welcome Br. Robert Wotypka, OFM Cap. as our new Director of Pastoral Care. Br. Bob's gentle presence will be missed by the many guests, volunteers, friars, and staff that he has interacted with through the years.

"I liked to think of myself as being a brother to all the people who come in," Br. Bob said in an interview with the Detroit Catholic. "Many people who come to this site have a mental illness or an addiction or both. As I get to know them, I gain their trust, and the relationship that forms enables me to be a pastor to them."

Br. Bob announced his retirement earlier this summer after two decades of serving at the soup kitchen and is looking forward to a well-deserved break as he moves to Capuchin Retreat this fall in Washington, Michigan.

Our new Director of Pastoral Care, Br. Robert is based at our Conner site. He comes to us from our sister ministry, Capuchin Community Services in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where he was the Ministry Director.

Guests, staff, and friars alike took photos with Br. Bob and some even pre-recorded video messages for him which were played during the celebrations.

City Council awards "Spirit of Detroit" to the Capuchin Soup Kitchen



▲ Pictured is Mayor Mike Duggan, City Council Member Coleman Young II and Br. Gary Wegner, OFM Cap.

On Monday, October 10, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan and members of the Detroit City Council announced from our Meldrum soup kitchen a new initiative aimed at providing opportunity for long-term unemployed Detroiters.

Following the announcement, Detroit City Council Member Coleman A. Young II presented the Capuchin Soup Kitchen with a "Spirit of Detroit" award on behalf of the City Council and people of Detroit.

A Time for Every Season

by Br. Tien Dinh OFM Capuchin
Assistant Executive Director



The season of fall is about change. The changing of the temperature from high to low, the changing of the color of the leaves from green to yellow and red, and the changing of the wind from warm to cool. At the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, we are also experiencing changes.

We changed the decorations at our meal sites' entrance to fall decorations. Our mindset has changed to one of preparation for the many holiday celebrations that will soon be upon us. It is an exciting time for our guests and us and volunteers as we welcome the changing of the weather, the color of the leaves, and the spirit of the holiday season.

Though we are in a season of change, there is one thing

that will never change at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. This is our commitment to helping guests who are in need.



As we enjoy the changing of the season and anticipate the approaching holidays, we hold on to our mission inspired by the life and spirit of St. Francis of Assisi. We:

- tend to our guests' basic needs, especially the need for food
- strive to inspire minds and nourish spirits
- work toward lasting and meaningful change

We seek to partner with others who share this vision in all we do.



Warm Holidays Drive

Our goal for Christmas is to help our guests stay warm all winter. We are holding a blanket and winter clothing drive now through Friday, December 16, 2022.

We are seeking new blankets, scarves, mittens, hats and coats. If you would like to help, you can find the online gift registries on our webpage for the



Warm Holidays Drive. Scan the QR code below or visit:

www.cskdetroit.org/warm_holidays_drive



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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