



Breaking Bread Newsletter

Feeding Bodies, Nourishing Spirits, Strengthening Communities

Fall 2021

Capuchin Soup Kitchen



ON THE RISE CAFE MOVING

A.A. VAN ELSLANDER FOUNDATION FUNDS MOVE TO SOLANUS CASEY CENTER

On the Rise Café, a social enterprise of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, will depart its current home at 8900 Gratiot Avenue and move to a new space inside the Solanus Casey Center. This will afford visitors to the Solanus Casey Center and neighbors living and working in Detroit's Islandview neighborhood a new option for sandwiches, soups, coffee, bread and baked goods. The move is expected to take place in the first quarter of 2022.



is part of an expansion of the Solanus Casey Center that is funded by a gift from the late Art Van Elslander and the A.A. Van Elslander Foundation. The Solanus Casey Center is a Franciscan spirituality center and pilgrimage site dedicated to Blessed Solanus Casey, a Capuchin friar who ministered at nearby St. Bonaventure Friary from 1924-1945 and was instrumental in the founding of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in 1929.



The café will include outdoor seating and will be adjacent to the Solanus Casey Center gift shop. The On the Rise bakehouse will remain in its present location near Gratiot Avenue and the Ford Freeway. More

The café will be located inside a new building addition attached to the existing Solanus Casey Center at 1780 Mt. Elliott Street. The addition

information to come on café hours of operation and contact information.

CAPUCHIN SOUP KITCHEN NAMED *HOUR DETROIT* "BEST IN DETROIT"



Thank you for your vote of confidence!



The Capuchin Soup Kitchen is humbled to have been voted #1 by *Hour Detroit* magazine readers in the annual Best in Detroit 2021 polls in the charitable organization category. Everybody involved in the ministry of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen – guests,

benefactors, volunteers, staff – shares in our efforts, and is deserving of this recognition. We are grateful for all that you do in support of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen mission. *You* are truly Best in Detroit!

WORKS OF MERCY

VOLUNTEERING RETURNS!

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

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

Earthworks Urban Farm

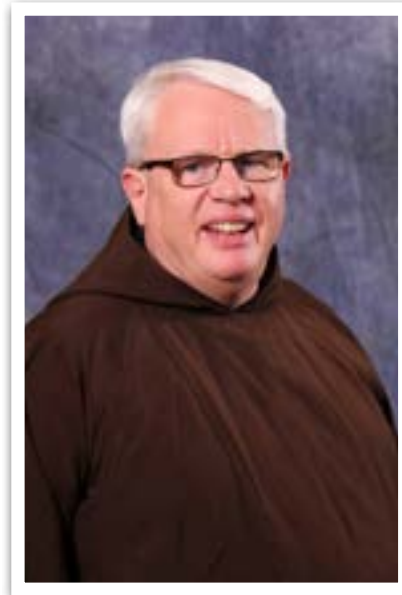
- Mixing soil/making soil blocks or germination trays
- Planting/seeding or thinning out seedlings
- Pricking out seedling/transplants
- Harvesting/processing produce
- Cultivating/weeding beds & Flipping compost
- General cleanup and other tasks generally related to gardening or farming.



Looking back... and looking forward

*by Br. Gary Wegner, OFM Capuchin
Incoming Executive Director*

Thirty-nine years ago, I arrived in Detroit from Wisconsin as a newly professed Capuchin friar. My ministry was to serve those held at the Wayne County Youth Home. During an initial tour of the facility, the administrator introduced me to the Youth Home School secretary. Recognizing that I was a Capuchin, she reached under her desk, pulled out her purse, and wrote a check. She handed it to me saying "This is for Fr. Solanus." Returning home to our St. Mary Friary, I asked an older friar, "Who is Fr. Solanus? And I think I need to learn more about him!" I have done so.



▲ *Br. Gary Wegner is the new Executive Director for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.*

Today, Blessed Solanus is well-known far beyond Detroit as a spiritual guide who with his Capuchin brothers was one of the founders of the Soup Kitchen. Having ministered for the past nine years as pastor of three rural

parishes and before that for twenty years at our St. Lawrence Seminary, it is a privilege to be back in Detroit. There is also much for me to learn. I am grateful to work with our

staff, volunteers and donors serving our guests at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. My Capuchin brother and predecessor, Br. Jerry Johnson, could not have been more helpful during our transition. Thank you Br. Jerry.

Going forward, I hope that we will be able to evaluate our programs and consider how to build upon their good work to be even more effective in reaching

the needs of our guests. I am thrilled to be a part of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.



"Our work is a miracle"

*by Br. Jerry Johnson OFM Capuchin
Outgoing Executive Director*

As I move on to my next assignment for the Capuchins, I want to express my gratitude to everyone. I've been deeply moved and humbled by everyone's passion to relieve unnecessary suffering in our communities and, as best we can, to show the joy, respect, and attentiveness that has the potential



to bring everyone together as sisters and brothers.

Along with staff, those who come to us for help, volunteers,

friars, and donors, our efforts individually are insufficient, but together with one another and with God's steadfast love... our work is a miracle.

Rosa Parks Summer Programs Inspire Our Youth

Leadership & Peace Camps Enrich Children's Vacation Time

Sharing the experience of summers growing up in Philadelphia on his nostalgic track "Summertime," Will Smith sang of summer in the city as "a little bit of a break from the norm."

The Rosa Parks Children's and Youth Program, a program of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, aims to be just that – a little break from the norm – for area youth through its two summer programs: Peace Camp and Leadership Camp. Peace Camp took place July 12 to July 30 at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen Conner meal program site. Leadership Camp took

place from August 9 through 13. Keeping minds stimulated and bodies in motion when school is out is an important part of the mission of the Rosa Parks Children's and Youth Program.

logo designs. "It's about learning and having fun while learning," said Davon Mann, program supervisor of the Rosa Parks Children's and Youth Program. For 2021, every Friday at Peace Camp was "carnival day," complete with midway games like skee ball and balloon pop, a cotton candy machine and prizes.

Leadership Camp aims to build new skills for teens in areas such as creative arts, communications, conflict resolution and other areas. Field trips make Leadership Camp an immersive experience for students. This year, students made a campus visit to



▲ Peace Camp participants enjoyed an end of summer carnival.



▲ Leadership Camp participants learned new skills while climbing the Ropes Course.

place August 9 through 13. Keeping minds stimulated and bodies in motion when school is out is an important part of the mission of the Rosa Parks Children's and Youth Program.

Structured like a summer camp experience, Peace Camp features five unique classes covering art therapy, art skills development, drumming, fitness and create, where students flex their design abilities to create distinctive product and

Wayne County Community College District. For a fun way to enjoy the outdoors and get some exercise, teens made a field trip to TreeRunners in Bloomfield Hills to do zip lining and run obstacle courses.

Leadership Course content included workshops on distinguishing between healthy and unhealthy relationships and friendships, Internet and social media safety, jobs and careers, college readiness, stress management and goal-setting. Br. Fred Cabras led a workshop on "Where is God in all this?"

God Works in Mysterious Ways

by Br. Tien Dinh OFM Capuchin
Assistant Executive Director

God works in mysterious ways! As I reflect on my life so far, it is indeed true that God works in mysterious ways. Even though life is sometimes baffling, it is also joyful and wonderful because of the many people that I have met who have made a great impact on my life. From ministering to the Native American Crow people at parishes in Montana to now serving the people in Detroit at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, I have always felt God's presence in the people that I meet.

I remember the wise words by Blessed Solanus Casey: "Thank God ahead of time!" in which he encouraged people to thank God in the present moment for the blessings God would bring them in the future.

As I begin my ministry in my new role as Assistant Executive Director at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, I "thank God ahead of time." The Capuchin Soup Kitchen

has been known for "feeding bodies, nourishing spirits and strengthening communities." I am excited and grateful to be ministering alongside my Capuchin brothers as well as with the many wonderful guests, staff, volunteers,



and donors of the Soup Kitchen so that together we may continue this great mission. I am blessed to be a part of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen community and look forward to welcoming all who come here.

Yes, God works in mysterious ways and so let's "thank God ahead of time!"

Jefferson House Picnic

Alumni Pay It Forward - Sharing Successes to Encourage Residents

The men of Jefferson House, our accredited, residential substance use disorder treatment center, got a chance to see that future version of themselves at the first-ever alumni picnic on Belle Isle. Former residents attended, along with the men currently in the program. They were joined by friars and staff. The men shared fellowship and barbecue.



▲ Br. Joe Monachino greets two Jefferson House alumni.

"It gives the guys in the program an opportunity to see that the program really works," said Kevin Pringle, who went through the Jefferson House program 20 years ago. "It's encouraging to see guys who went through the program and went on to land good jobs, a place to stay and have become responsible members of society."

CAPUCHIN SOUP KITCHEN

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

CSK Meldrum Meal Program 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's Program:
4390 Conner
Detroit, MI 48215
313-579-2100 ext. 4224

On The Rise Bakery Cafe Program:
8900 Gratiot
Detroit, MI 48213
Phone: 313.922.8510

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

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

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