



Breaking Bread Newsletter

Feeding Bodies, Nourishing Spirits, Strengthening Communities

Spring 2021

Capuchin Soup
Kitchen



RENOVATIONS WILL EXPAND SERVICES OFFERED

- T** *NEW SHOWER PROGRAM COMING TO CONNER*
- T** *MELDRUM SHOWER FACILITY TO BE COMPLETELY REBUILT*
- T** *2ND-FLOOR ADDITION CONSIDERED FOR MELDRUM MEAL SITE*
- T** *EARTHWORKS TO MOVE INTO NEW BUILDING*

We are planning major renovations of our Conner and Meldrum meal program sites in what promises to be our most significant capital investment in many years. These projects will improve existing programs, offer new programming and serve our guests in a more dignified way.

Conner Meal Program Site

We will renovate our Conner meal program site at 4390 Conner Street to optimize the available space. We've had more than 20 years in the building and are ready to make some adjustments to improve the guest experience. The renovations will include building a shower program, a first for the Conner meal program site. We will add private showers and changing rooms to allow guests the opportunity to wash up and get a fresh set of clothes. In addition, we will add a laundry area for the usage of the shower program. We've operated a shower program from our Meldrum site for

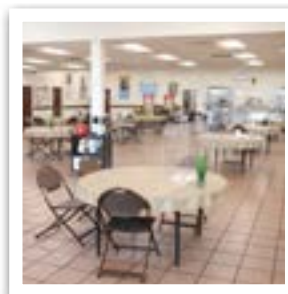


over 20 years. We are excited to bring the shower program to Conner also.

Also, at Conner, we are exploring reconfiguring the parking lot to move the entry/exit to a safer location on Canfield, away from the heavy traffic and bike lanes of the main thoroughfare. We are also exploring adding square footage and potentially relocating one of our programs currently housed at the Conner site to a stand-alone building nearby.

Meldrum Meal Program Site

At Meldrum, we are exploring options that range from a renovation of existing space to the potential construction of a second-story addition that would add approximately 2,000 square feet. In the latter scenario, we'd relocate some of our offices to the second-floor addition, freeing ground-floor space for the shower program. We would build three new shower stalls and changing areas, increasing capacity and allowing greater privacy. In addition, we will add a laundry area for the usage of the shower program.



Earthworks Urban Farm

As part of the Meldrum renovations, Earthworks could potentially be relocated from the Meldrum garage to a stand-alone building near the greenhouse. We would move the shower program into the former Earthworks garage. We are in the process of evaluating different options. We hope to complete these projects by the end of 2022.

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://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

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.



Leading by paying attention

by Br. Gary Wegner, OFM Capuchin
Executive Director

Br. Tien and I are at the six-month point serving as Director and Assistant Director of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Before assuming this position, Br. Jerry Johnson helped prepare me for the job. I remember one of my first days standing at my office door. Ms. Deborah Starr-Hodges, who works as a social worker at our Meldrum Kitchen, noticed the puzzled look on my face. She said to me, “Brother Gary, the door to leave the building is this way.” As I passed by Ms. Starr, I remarked: “And to think in a couple of weeks I’ll be the leader!” That was a reminder that I had a lot to learn about the Soup Kitchen. But, it was essential to do so to set a direction for this vital ministry to go forward with our mission.

Now, after almost half a year, we have a good sense of the direction we want to take to strengthen this ministry with which we have been entrusted. Here are just a few ways we are hoping to more effectively serve our guests and others who could benefit from our services:

1. On the Rise Café – We are moving our On the Rise Café to the Solanus Casey Center. This move helps us connect Blessed Solanus Casey’s spiritual and material aspects.

2. Deo Gratias Ministries – We will partner with the Felician Sisters. The sisters are finalizing the purchase of the old St. Jude Convent near Seven Mile and Kelly

to be the home of Deo Gratias Ministries. We will provide Deo Gratias Ministries with a CSK -employed social worker to help them serve their guests. We will also provide access to our VolunteerHub.

3. Building expansion and renovation – We have plans to renovate or possibly expand

our Meldrum and Conner Kitchens to provide an improved shower service for our guests. These updates will result in significant building and renovation at both sites.

4. Care for our common home – As part of our Capuchin commitment to Pope Francis’ environmental initiatives, we plan to install solar panels at our Meldrum kitchen and then Conner and the Services Center.

Our staff at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen have helped lay the groundwork for these initiatives. Your generosity has given us the confidence to take them on. In these six months, I have found that leading means first paying attention. I believe we have done so. May God be with us as we work together to serve our guests with dignity and Franciscan hospitality.



“Keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock of which the holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, in which you tend the church of God that he acquired with his own blood.”

- Acts 20:28



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

Capuchin Soup Kitchen Says “Goodbye”

Patrick Crouch Leaves & Roy Hoelscher Passes

In Memoriam – Roy Hoelscher

Just about anyone alive who worked at or volunteered for the Capuchin Soup Kitchen before 2017 knew Roy Hoelscher. Roy was an alumnus of St. Lawrence Seminary in Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin, a ministry of the same Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph, of which the Capuchin Soup Kitchen is also a part. Roy had been a Capuchin friar for a time and worked at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit.

After departing from religious life and marrying his wife Chaloni, Roy remained with us as our Volunteer Coordinator. Roy shared his gifts with the



Capuchin Soup Kitchen for nearly 50 years. Roy touched countless lives and shared the Capuchin charm with humility and gentleness.

Roy served thousands of volunteers, community service workers, staff, youth workers, students, neighborhood groups and organizations like Detroit Action. After retiring in 2017, Roy transitioned from Volunteer Coordinator to serving the Soup Kitchen as a volunteer.

May he rest in peace.

A Change of Seasons at Earthworks

By Wendy Casey, Interim Farm Manager, Earthworks Urban Farm

On Friday, January 22, we bid farewell to Patrick Crouch, our long-serving Program Manager for the Earthworks Urban Farm program. Patrick is moving on to an exciting new chapter in his career, and we wish him well.

Patrick started his journey at Earthworks in 2003 under the leadership of Earthworks founder Br. Rick Samyn. Br. Rick's vision of connecting people to one another, to the land and to their food is what led Patrick to Earthworks, as he wanted to be a part of something bigger than himself. Under Br. Rick's leadership and guidance,



Patrick learned the importance of growing food, as well as how it was equally important to grow spiritually and to build community together.

Patrick was an integral part of Earthworks for over 17 years. His innovative ideas helped propel Earthworks' brand of urban agriculture within metro Detroit, as well as nationally and internationally. Patrick leaves a legacy that we pray will last for many more years to come.

We will miss Patrick dearly and wish him much success in his next chapter in life.

Local Chevy Dealers “Truckloads of Hope” campaign rolls into 2022

For the seventh straight year, the Metro Detroit Chevy Dealers are collecting new household items at all 38 participating Chevy Dealers across southeast Michigan to benefit the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Throughout March, you can purchase and drop off wish list items at any Chevy Dealer's showroom. In April, the dealers will caravan down to our Capuchin Services Center to deliver the donated goods.

These goods will go to individuals and families at the Capuchin Services



Center.

We are grateful for the generosity of the Metro Detroit Chevy Dealers and the many donors who participate in the annual Truckloads of Hope drive.

View our 2022 Wish List by scanning the QR code or by visiting: <https://ofmcap.cc/truckloads-hope>.



Blessed are they who are generous

by Br. Tien Dinh OFM Capuchin
Assistant Executive Director

We are very grateful at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen for the many generous people who helped us stay open for over 90 years. This year, like the last few years, we've seen our share of challenges like dealing with COVID-19. Still, those setbacks have been more than offset by the generosity shown by people who believe in our mission and have shared their time, gifts and talents. Through the kindness and willingness of supporters like you, we have remained open, serving our guests even during challenging times.

This past December was my first Christmas at the Capuchin

Soup Kitchen. I was overwhelmed by the number of people who willingly sacrifice their time to support and volunteer to bring



some cheerful spirit to our guests during the holiday season.

As Br. Gary mentioned earlier

the Capuchin Soup Kitchen has several new initiatives to serve our guests with greater dignity. These new initiatives are made possible by so many generous and wonderful people. If there is another beatitude, it might begin with, "Blessed are they who are generous..." As we continue to move forward in this year of 2022, may God continue to bless all of us.



New Partnership to Serve

Capuchin Soup Kitchen partnership with Felician Sisters' "Deo Gratias Ministries" serves NE side

The Capuchin Soup Kitchen and the Felician Sisters will partner on their new Deo Gratias Ministries. Deo Gratias Ministries is in the process of purchasing the former convent at St. Jude Parish near 7 Mile Road and Kelly on the northeast side of Detroit. From there, the Felician Sisters will provide hospitality, basic needs and other forms of support for people experiencing challenging situations. Deo Gratias Ministries includes an art program, community garden and the Deo Gratias Café.



The Capuchin Soup Kitchen will provide an on-site licensed social worker to help address root causes and help people find sustainable pathways out of challenging circumstances. In partnering with the Felician Sisters, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen will offer services in a neighborhood outside of our current footprint. St. Jude Parish is roughly 6.5 miles northeast of the Meldrum soup kitchen.

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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