

Province of St. Joseph of the Capuchin Order

www.TheCapuchins.org

Transforming the World Through Reverence

Our Mission

Inspired by the gospel of Jesus and the example of Francis of Assisi, the Capuchin friars of the Province of Saint Joseph, together with our partners in ministry, prayerfully build sister-brotherhood in the world. We attend simply and directly to the spiritual and other basic human needs, especially those of the poor and disenfranchised, promoting justice for all.

Sandal Prints

A Newsletter of the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph

Spring 2015

What a wonderful time to be a Catholic Christian!



The Holy Spirit has given us a Pope who understands what compassion is. He is showing us how to live the Gospel joyfully. He is willing to reach out to the

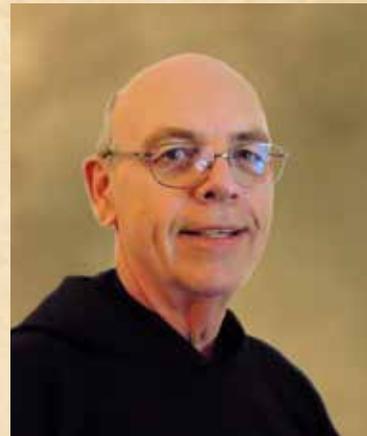
rejected, to the poor and the lonely, to all who suffer. He is leading the way and has been urging all of us to follow and to be missionaries, joyfully living the Gospel of Christ. He is asking each of us to go out of our comfort zones in order to do this. In this Year of Consecrated Life he is asking us Capuchins to do the following:

Prayerfully recall the past with gratitude! Live in the present with passion!

“For me to live is Christ.” (Phil 1.21). Our vows are meant to be a concrete expression of this passionate love. It means we are open to being challenged by

the Gospel. It means the Gospel is the “manual” for our daily living and our daily decisions. “We are ruled by the love of Christ” (2 Cor 5:14, GNT). As a community of brothers we must allow this to happen. This is radical Gospel Living. We joyfully embrace this as our own.

Embrace the future with hope! This means we trust in Christ, and we constantly set out anew. The grace of Christ continually flows and fills us. Willing to take risks, we embrace this adventure joyfully. “Where there are religious, there is joy.” It’s been my experience that when we as Capuchins are at our best, we’re awesome because we allow God to act, and we acknowledge that, as Lesser Brothers, all the glory is His.



Peace and all good!

*Fr. Michael Sullivan, OFM Cap.
Provincial Minister*

Cap Corps Volunteers: Walking with the Poor & Disenfranchised



Emily Rood & Misty Menis-Kyler

It takes a special individual to step out of one's everyday life in order to accompany others in their day-to-day joys and sorrow. But that's exactly what Cap Corps volunteers Misty Menis-Kyler and Emily Rood did. The two joined the Franciscan Capuchin volunteer ministry last

Fall, vowing to emulate the example of St. Francis

of Assisi by walking with people who are poor and disenfranchised on Montana's Northern Cheyenne and Crow reservations.

Cap Corps' co-director Marcia Lee describes the volunteer placement on Montana's Cheyenne and Crow reservations as similar as that of a different country. "The Crow and Cheyenne Native American community's culture is very much intact. In the Crow community, many of the elders continue to speak Crow and continue the Crow traditions. Our volunteers are immersed in a specific culture. It's a great opportunity for our volunteers and the Native American community to learn from one another."

Volunteer Misty explains that she always felt called to minister to the poorest of the poor. "Most think of third world countries in this circumstance. Cap Corps has shown me that we have the poorest of the poor in our own backyards."

Emily agrees. "Life on the reservation is different from being poor in an urban area. When you are in a city there are resources to treat the issues at hand. Here we have the same issues as in a city: extremely high unemployment rate, family struggles, alcohol and drug abuse. But here we are lacking the resources. There's a lot wrong that should be fixed. Misty and I try to find ways to make it better. But it's bigger than us. It's years and years in the past bigger than us."

Misty is working with pre-school students, as well as young people who are unable to live at home due to

parental circumstances. Emily assists with the middle school students and youth & family services. It's rewarding, but often times emotionally wrenching.

"The kindergartners I worked with have already seen tremendous loss," Misty explains. "It's most often loss through death. These little ones have learned at an early age how to deal with loss."

"It's hard," Emily adds. "These children are dealing with raw sorrow. There is a lot of death. It makes me miss my family and my community. I look around and I see that most are working in a survival mode. There is a huge disparity between the 'haves' and the 'have-nots.'"

"I was looking forward to a volunteer opportunity where I could focus on my spirituality, community, and humility," Emily concludes. "I found it here. These children are tough and angry and I love them. They know that. I wake up every morning and know that I can share God's love in everyone and everything."

Volunteers – We Couldn't Serve Others Without You

Maria has worked for the Detroit Capuchins for 27 years. She started as a volunteer; then was invited to serve as the receptionist at the old Soup Kitchen site; she worked with our Soup Kitchen guests as a client advocate and is now in the Development office.



"No one who works here thinks it is just a job," Maria explains. "We are doing really good things here. We are helping others every day. When I tell people where I work, everyone has a story about the Capuchins."

"We couldn't do all that we do without our volunteers. Our volunteers are committed to the Capuchin mission. We have volunteers who have been helping us for over twenty years. They treat their service as if it were a job. It's remarkable....and so appreciated!"

Do you have the time to volunteer for one of our Capuchin ministries? Go to www.TheCapuchins.org to learn more.

On the Rise Bakers Connect with Brooklyn's ReConnect Café

Call it serendipity.

There is a bakery café in Detroit...and there's a bakery café in Brooklyn. Their mission is the same. To take men who have been in jail or in substance abuse treatment and help them gain job skills and relationship-building skills. The end result? New beginnings for the men and a more solid neighborhood.



Our Capuchin Soup Kitchen's On the Rise Bakery learned of this 'brother' café in New York by accident. A new Soup Kitchen supporter was learning of all the good the Soup Kitchen accomplishes when he shared that his brother, a priest in Brooklyn, had helped start a similar bakery café venture.

The New York project is called ReConnect Café, and specializes in selling coffee and baked goods. Currently it employs 20-30 men, many of whom also have "checkered" pasts. Like On the Rise Bakery, ReConnect Café attempts to help its participants gain job skills, and rebuild the neighborhood and its people.

John O'Shea connected Brother Ray Stadmeyer (On the Rise Bakery's program manager) with Fr. Jim O'Shea (the ReConnect Café's founder). And before long, a road trip was planned. As a result, Br. Ray and four of the bakers spent five days in New York City, visiting the sights, comparing experiences with the men of ReConnect, and sampling their fare.

"We learned that the plight of the guys at ReConnect was the same as ours," says Johnny Johnson, one of the On the Rise bakers. "Before becoming involved at the café, they, too, had no future, nobody to believe in them, no hope—just like us. Now they, too, realize that there is another way; their lives, too, are changing. They are being 're-connected' to their neighborhood, their community, their very selves—just like us."

Following their stay in New York the bakers returned to Detroit energized and determined to continue to improve their lives. They are hoping that some of the men from ReConnect will be able to visit them in turn at On the Rise Bakery within the coming year.

Letters to Rome



Our Vice-Postulators, Capuchin Friars Br. Richard Merling and Fr. Larry Webber, recently organized Letters to Rome, an invitation to Father Solanus devotees to share with the Congregation for Causes of Saints in Rome why Father Solanus is worthy of sainthood.

"We encourage everyone to write a letter and explain the impact that Fr. Solanus has had on your life," Br. Richard explains. "It could be a letter explaining why he is your role model. Or why he's important to your family...or how his holiness has impacted you. Father Solanus is an important figure to so many. We thought this was an effective method of conveying the reach of his following to Rome."

The first wave of letters were organized in books. Want your letter included? Write your letter to Solanus Casey Center, Attn: Rome, 1820 Mt. Elliott, Detroit MI 48207

As Father Solanus would say, "Thank God ahead of time." And we thank you ahead of time for your letter!

Capuchins Organize 10th Annual Run /Walk Event to Feed Milwaukee's Hungry

The Milwaukee Capuchin friars and their partners in ministry are running and walking to ease Milwaukee's hunger in the 10th annual Capuchins' Run Walk for the Hungry to German Fest. This year the event is scheduled 7 pm, Friday, July 24.



Br. Rob invites you to share the Gemütlichkeit! Come and enjoy the hospitality of German Fest while walking or running for Milwaukee's hungry!

Visit www.CapuchinsRunWalkForTheHungry.org Registration opens May 1.

Experiencing Capuchin Life from the “Inside”

By Br. Steve Kropp

Reflecting on three years of service in the role of Director of Postulancy, one of the things that brings me joy (and ensures I get out of the house from time to time) is to help local parishes with the celebration of Mass. It gives my introverted self an opportunity to practice being an extrovert each week. As I talk with people on their way in or out of church, one of the things they often want to know is what I do during “the rest of the week.” I tell them, “I am the Director of Postulancy for our Order,” and watch a glazed look shadow their faces as they try to figure out what that might be!



Postulancy is the first stage of formation of a new brother into the life and ministry of the Capuchins. Upon reception into the postulancy formation program, the brother becomes a member of the Capuchins and is known as a postulant (meaning, “petitioner”).

In this stage of formation the postulant asks to live and work with us to better know us and give us the opportunity to know him. This chance to experience our life from the “inside” also prepares the postulant for a deeper reflection and discernment of Capuchin life as a novice. As the postulants are welcomed into this time of discernment, the Provincial Minister says to them, “come and see,” echoing the words of Jesus, who invites us all to come to Him and see the power of His love at work in our hearts and in the hearts of all we serve.



This year we are blessed to have had six postulants at Saint Conrad Friary in Milwaukee.

For Our Capuchin Supporters in Michigan....Please save an important date!



Bettejean Ahee with some Capuchins

The Capuchin Souper Summer Celebration XXXIV is set for July 11. Br. Jerry Smith, executive director of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, and the Ahee Family look forward to welcoming you to Comerica Park! This year’s event will sport a Viva Las Vegas theme in keeping with this year’s date: 7-11. Ahee Jewelers will once again donate exquisite jewelry valued at over thirty thousand dollars...all of which will be raffled to lucky winners! You need not be present to win. Support the Capuchins and try your luck at hitting the jackpot! Watch your mail for more details. Details will also be found on CSKDetroit.org and ahee.com

The event was founded by Edmund Ahee, founder of Ahee Jewelers. “My husband had enormous compassion for the poor,” his widow, Bettejean Ahee, explains. “He was an impassioned supporter of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. The first Souper Summer Celebration was held in 1981. It was a way he was able to ‘give back.’”

Years later, the Ahee family continues to “give back.” The third generation of the Ahee family is now spearheading the event.

“The Capuchin Soup Kitchen is enormously grateful to the Ahees,” states Br. Jerry. “It’s a wonderful event that puts our mission front and center. The Ahees have been a true blessing to all of us at the Soup Kitchen.”

We invite you to stay connected with the Capuchin Friars and their ministries. We have newsletters, e-news, reflections and more. Please go to www.TheCapuchins.org, scroll to the bottom, and click on the Opt-In button.

St. Lawrence Seminary St. Joseph Hall Ready to Rise from the Ashes



It is still hard to believe that St. Joseph Hall, one of the oldest and one of the most beloved buildings on Saint Lawrence's campus, is gone. A year ago last March, a fire broke out that cost our ministry a huge loss. In that fire the school lost history, memories, classrooms, offices, instruments, music, and personal objects of affection. In the 142-year lifespan of the building, St. Joseph Hall had served many purposes. It had been a dormitory, chapel, infirmary, and had most recently served as the space for our music rooms, band/choir room, a classroom, spiritual direction offices, business offices, our student bank, and admissions office.

But the amazing blessings that came out of this disaster were the love and support the Seminary continues to receive. Through its fund raising efforts and generosity of benefactors, St. Joseph Hall is ready to rise from the ashes.

The groundbreaking ceremony took place March 6, directly over the ground where the old St. Joseph Hall stood. Faculty, staff, and students gathered to re-consecrate and bless the beginning of a new project. The construction of St. Joseph Hall is set to begin this spring and be completed by the fall of 2016. The new facility will serve as a welcome center for all those visiting the Hill as well as offices, classrooms, meeting rooms, and a heritage center. We thank all those who blessed us with their generosity, prayers, and support!

Called: The Postulant



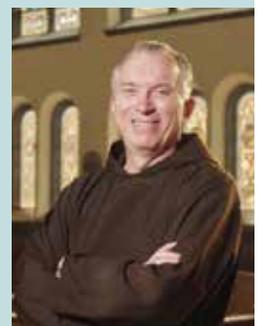
Capuchin Friar Bill Hugo has a big job. As vocation director, the friars look to him to find those who have been called by God for religious life. "As the recruiter for Capuchin life, I am always looking for tools that will help these young men to take that first step," he explains.

"Several years ago, we were approached by a professional film maker. He wanted to create a 30 minute video that we could use as a recruitment tool. Coincidentally, that offer coincided with Brother MJ's entrance to our postulant program. Br. MJ has an amazing story. Christian Peschken, our film maker, created a beautiful piece, delicately sharing Br. MJ's walk through fire to grace. That video has been a blessing for many guys as they contemplate taking that first step. The video has had over 1500 views. I know it has encouraged many men to look at the Capuchins more closely."

Brother MJ is now a solemnly professed friar. He took his final vows last summer. Christian will again be assisting Father Bill and the vocation office. This summer, work will begin on a second video, this one entitled **Called: The Friar**. The video will follow Br. MJ's spiritual journey, his ministry, and his evangelization.

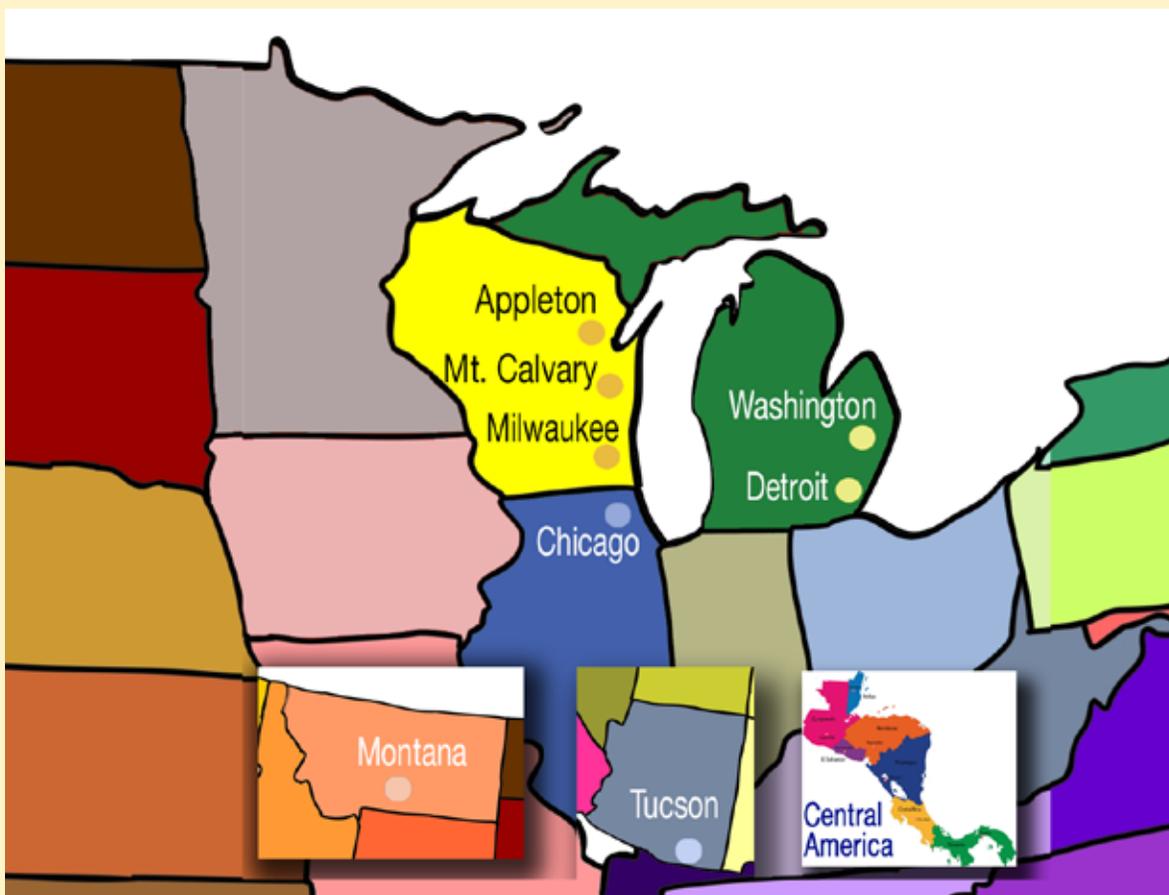
Called: The Postulant can be seen by visiting the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph's website: www.capuchinfranciscans.org

Do you know someone who may be called to religious life? Please share the link with him.



Fr. Bill Hugo, OFM Cap.

The Capuchin Province of St. Joseph Supporting the Friars Who Serve in Our Many Capuchin Ministries



Our Capuchin Province of St. Joseph stretches many miles and encompasses many ministries. Our friars serve from Detroit to Montana and into Central America. The friars preach, teach, cook, and counsel. They minister in hospitals, schools, soup kitchens, parishes, and in the mission fields. They are pastors, artists, missionaries, teachers, and writers.

They go where they are needed....whether it be assisting on the Native American reservations in Montana, serving the chronically poor in Milwaukee, the homeless in Detroit, helping the younger friars in their formation journey in Chicago, teaching at our high school seminary in Wisconsin or feeding the spiritually hungry at our retreat center and many parishes.

Our friars serve where they are needed.

Recently, a donor asked our friar who heads our Detroit development efforts, Father Larry Webber, where a donation could be best used. "Whenever I am asked

that, I always respond that the needs of the poor are always our first concern - and we are happiest when people give to support our programs for the poorest of God's poor. Nonetheless, the Province carries the responsibility of the formation and education of our younger friars while caring for our older friars who have earned a rest after years of serving others," Father Larry explains. "We are grateful for every donation to the Province. Without friars, our ministries will not have Capuchin presence. That is why we steward our donations so carefully. We realize that we have a responsibility to every donor, ensuring that every dollar given will be stretched as far as possible, helping as many as possible. And that really starts with the Province."

To learn more about giving to the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph, we invite you to visit www.TheCapuchins.org and click on Ways to Help. Our friars...young and old...thank you!