



Week ending 14 April 2017



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## Gratitude from a Cap Corps alumnus

by Doug Scott, Cap Corps 1998-2000

*Ed note: After more than 23 years of our volunteer program, Cap Corps is scheduled to end as a provincial ministry on 30 June 2017. A total of 252 lay men and women participated in this ministry, many working side by side with friars, and often participating in our community life of prayer and hospitality. The Capuchin-Franciscan charism thrives in many places because of the ministries of those who chose to serve in this program. Of those, 193 (77%) served in the United States, 59 (23%) served in Latin America and two (<1%) served both domestically and internationally. The following reflection is from a former Cap Corps volunteer who later served, for many years, as one of the formators for the Cap Corps program.*



Doug Scott

When I received the letter from Capuchin Communications that Cap Corps will come to a close at the end of the year, I felt both sadness and gratitude. Cap Corps came at a perfect time in my life. Although I didn't know it then, I had been turning the knob of the exit door of my "old room" of my life for some time by that point. With Cap Corps, I was about enter into liminal space, the threshold between the old and new rooms. Liminal space is usually characterized by feelings of being thrust into unknown psychological and spiritual territories where former ways of thinking and believing no longer make sense or satisfy. Because it is a place of much growth, and growth often comes at the price of feeling uncomfortable, it often takes a plunge to close the door of the old room and begin walking down in the "darkness" of liminal space. That's what happened to me when I first met Brian Braun. Within the first hour of our meeting each other, he was ranting on about how we needed a socialist party in American politics to "balance the whole damn American political scene out!" Ironically, the night before while I was finishing packing up things for my stint in Nicaragua, my dad warned me about some crazy ideas that "some of those religious people have" which bordered on communism. One can say that in less than 24 hours, the stark change in my environment was the equivalent of jumping from night to day! The rest of orientation offered some other points of liminal spacing plunging including a wonderful talk by Michael Crosby who discussed the dangers of any power structures that deny that they use power to oppress. Some of his examples were a direct hit on my own very conservative political and Catholic belief systems. The liminal space was dark and I was crawling, yet I felt intrigued to continue.

As my memories of Nicaragua have begun to faze and fade to the recesses of my life now, I still say that my 18 months there remain one of the most emotionally intense as well as paradigm shifting experiences I've ever had. One of the things that I appreciate even more now after almost twenty years is that I was able to meet true heroes; men and women of exemplary spirit and fortitude, in the Capuchins and in the nuns that were life-long missionaries down there. The Capuchin heroes include Wilber Lanser, Camillus Doerfler, Joe Wolf, Ted Neihaus, Evarist Bertrand, Paul Schmitz, Dave Zywiec, Isidore Herriges, Glenn Gessner, August Seubert, and many others. Not only was I touched by their presence, but I was as much impressed by the Capuchins

before them who established the whole missionary track in Central America. The perseverance, faith, and structure that it takes to do that seems larger than life to me; something that just doesn't commonly exist in the everyday world.

The intensity of the Cap Corps liminal space in my life reformed my way of thinking and perceiving the world. I can say with confidence that my true missionary experience, however, did not begin when I joined Cap Corps, but after I formally left it. Being back home with "my people," I have had to learn how to be true to my growth and broader perspectives on life while living with and loving people who remain in the same kinds of "old rooms" that I had left years before. One example of this is that now I work as a spiritual director, mental health counselor, and adjunct professor at (the *very* conservative Catholic) University of Dallas in Irving TX. I love it there because I am meeting "me" of twenty years ago in the students who are fired up about their faith but don't yet realize that Catholic apologetics isn't the whole of Catholicism; that CatholicAnswers.com isn't God's personal website for truth. I don't think that I would have been called there by God had I not gone through my own journey which *began* with Cap Corps.

Other gifts of my experience of Cap Corps include being bilingual (which has allowed my wife and me to raise our three children in a bilingual home, a love for simplicity and a deepening of Franciscan spirituality (I still wear daily a Tau given to me at the 100 year celebration of beginning of the Central American province when living in Bluefields), and most importantly, the friendships that I continue to enjoy with various Capuchins and lay people associated with the St. Joseph Province.

I conclude this reflection by saying just how grateful I am for the Cap Corps experience which gave me the life-changing opportunity to walk into liminal space at a perfect time in my life. I know that I'm not alone in stating that as many of us Cap Corps alumni can say the same. I thank all of the Cap Corps directors over the years who have continued the mission and I thank the province itself for having invested time and resources to make it possible. I'm sad that Cap Corps is coming to a close; but such is the flow of the Paschal Mystery. Things die and things rise in different configurations and perhaps the best response to this flow is living the life of thanksgiving, this eucharistic life.



## Where they served...



Location	Period	Volunteers
Bolivia	1996-2000	3
Chicago	1994-2015	56
Detroit	1995-2016	51
Nicaragua	2010-2015	5
Marathon	1998-1999	1
Milwaukee	1995-2016	72
Montana	2003-2017	7
Mt. Calvary	1997-1998	2
Panama	1996-2009	10
Peru	2009-2016	15



## Keith Clark on the road



Over 100 supporters attended the Capuchin Community Services' morning of reflection in Milwaukee on Saturday, April 1. The topic of "servant leadership" was presented by Keith Clark. Due to the overwhelming response, the event was moved from the House of Peace to the St. Francis Capuchin Center.



## Michael Crosby on the road

The Solanus Center in Detroit recently hosted Michael Crosby for a presentation on "Remembering Solanus' love of Christ and the Eucharist." The event drew more than 160 individuals, was live-streamed, and will be posted to [SolanusCenter.org/videos](http://SolanusCenter.org/videos) in the near future.



## Cap Corps director accepts new position



Danielle Daguio

Danielle Daguio, current director of Cap Corps, has accepted a position with Mercy Volunteer Corps as a community coordinator for the Detroit and Pittsburgh area, beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>. Danielle's final day with the St. Joseph Province will be at the spring retreat on Easter Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup> in Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin.

"It's been a true blessing to have such a personal deep connection to the Capuchin Franciscans," Danielle said in a letter to the administration. "Each of you have taught me many lessons I will carry with me."

The provincial administration has calendared July 22<sup>nd</sup> as "Cap Corps Day," — a celebration of Cap Corps and a closing commemoration with a liturgy scheduled for 4:30 pm in Mt. Calvary. All former Cap Corps volunteers will be invited to the event.





David Graves (father of Jason Graves) was hospitalized recently for clostridium difficile.

Otha Howard (father-in-law of Gerri Sheets-Howard) died recently.

Conrad Sump, who worked with the province for many years, died recently.

Thomas Ricard, who represented the interests of the province for many years, died recently.

Christine Silisavage (aunt of Chris Pelak) died recently.



*Editor's note: The prayer "A Future Not Our Own," which was published in Issue 1094, was written by +Ken Untener for John Deardon, the late archbishop of Detroit.*

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**April is Child Abuse Prevention Month**

- 12 ..... **Public Relations Zoom/Video Conf**
- 14 ..... **Daniel Crosby (B)**
- 15 ..... **Mel Hermanns (B)**
- 16 ..... **Easter Sunday**
- 18 ..... **JPIC Zoom/Video Conf**  
**Passover ends at sundown**
- 19 ..... **Finance Comm Video Conf**  
**JPIC Video/Zoom Conf**  
**Timon Costello (N)**  
**James Antoine (B)**
- 21 ..... **Liturgical Comm Zoom/Video Conf**



Passover began on 10 April, and ends on 18 April.

Passover is celebrated as a reminder of what the Jewish ancestors went through to obtain freedom. The night before the Passover is observed there is a ceremony for the children. During the Passover, people may only eat unleavened bread, to remind them that the Jews in ancient times had to flee from Egypt in such haste that there was not time to allow the bread to rise. In some households, families engage in a "Search for Leaven." In a darkened house, everyone searches for bread and bread crumbs using flashlights or candles. They use a feather to sweep up the crumbs, a wooden spoon to catch

the crumbs, and a paper bag to hold them. The next morning they search again to assure that there is no bread in the house. Upon accomplishing this, the feather, spoon, and paper bag are burned. The tradition of Passover and the story of liberation from bondage have also served as inspiration for social justice in modern times, and the story of Passover was also told and retold in many American Negro spirituals.

**Easter Blessings**

