

Weekly re:Cap



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Happy Feast Day!

Open Door Café celebrates 15 years

The Open Door Café is the heart of the Milwaukee cathedral's commitment to outreach, providing a free hot lunch to approximately 180 people a day, six days a week. In addition, the Open Door Café provides transportation assistance, hygiene kits, and medical, veteran and housing-related outreach to its meal guests. This past Sunday, the St. John Cathedral celebrated 15 years of the ministry with the unveiling of a statue of the "homeless Christ," followed by a breakfast reception for parishioners, volunteers and the guests who are served at the café. The Capuchins have a history with the ministry, as several postulants have chosen to serve there. Currently, Martin Ngo (our postulant brother from Canada) ministers at the Open Door. Shelly Roder, a Capuchin partner-in-ministry, is director of outreach ministries at the cathedral.



Shelly Roder



"The homeless Christ"



Martin Ngo (left) ministers at the Open Door

Weekly re:Cap salutes the Open Door Café for its ministry to the "Christs" among us, hoping our postulants can continue to serve with you for many years!

A poem for the feast of Francis



Would I might wake St. Francis in you all,
Brother of birds and trees, God's Troubadour,
Blinded with weeping for the sad and poor;
Our wealth undone, all Franciscan women and men,
Come, let us chant the canticle again
Of mother earth and the enduring sun.
God, make each soul the lonely leper's slave;
God, make us saints, and brave.

~ Vachel Lindsay



Int'l Day of Peace celebrated in Detroit

By Marcia Lee, Justice and Peace Coordinator



Solanus Casey gave us the great model in his words and deeds to "Thank God ahead of time." On the International Day of Peace, September 21st, the hundreds of people gathered at the Solanus Casey Center, gave us an occasion to give thanks to God ahead of time for what a future of peace could look and feel like.

The International Day of Peace is inaugurated by the United Nations Peace Bell. The Peace Bell is cast with coins donated by children from all continents except Africa. It was given by Japan as "a reminder of the human cost of war." The inscription reads: "Long live absolute world peace."

We had a glimpse of this peaceful world through the soulful singing of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen Choir and the beautiful dancing of St. Charles' Church Praise Dancers. We had the great pleasure of having Naim Edwards share with us about peace with the earth through the example of the Anishinaabe people, the first nations people of Detroit. He also shared of the struggles that people in Detroit face on a daily basis and the power that we have to create the world in which we want to live.

Rochelle Riley, from the *Detroit Free Press* shared the stories of Lois from 2 Timothy in the Bible. She shared of how her grandmother helped her to become who she is now, and how all of our grandmothers, mothers, and girls have the capacity to bring greatness into our world. She encouraged us to place the needs of children first and to follow the examples of our grandmothers. She talked about her grandmother who taught her peace and kindness.



Others then shared their own commitment to peace by placing a bean seed in a pot. The seeds will be planted in each of the Capuchin locations in Detroit to remind us of the seeds that we have planted and to continue to take care and to grow our own commitments to peace. People were given seed paper with symbols of peace in Detroit for them to take home and grow their own wild flowers of peace.



We are in deep gratitude to the host committee for their work and prayers, and to On the Rise Bakery for the cookies. If we are peaceful, if we are happy, we can smile and blossom like a flower, and everyone in our family, our entire society, will benefit from our peace." (Thich Nhat Hanh, "Being Peace")



Golf outing another financial success!



Jason Graves (center) with the golf outing committee

On September 20th, St. Francis Parish in Milwaukee held its 5th annual golf outing. Proceeds will be directed to property repair [handicap accessibility within the church] and the parish's scholarship fund for post-high school students.

The outing was a great time and a great success. Proceeds came to over \$65,000, with the highest number of golfers yet in five years. A new attendee approached Mike Bertram at the end of the outing, expressing his great admiration for the parish's support of education for young people. The following day, he donated an additional \$30,000 for the parish's scholarship fund!

Friar praised in Tucson newspaper

Our brother, Nick Widhammer, recently suffered a serious stroke, and died on 3 Oct. in Tucson, Arizona, where he has ministered for the past many years. As we continued to pray for him, a journalist for the Green Valley News near Tucson, Kelly Galvin, wrote an Op Ed piece about Nick. We wanted to share some of what he had to say about our brother.

"I write today you about a saint who lives among us. When I think of this saint, I'm reminded of the quote by Jesus Christ, who said 'Greater love has no one than this: that he lay down his life for his friends.' Quite literally this means that a person has died in order to save the life of his friends much like Christ did so that we might be saved.



Nick Widhammer

"Today I want to tell you about my friend and present-day saint, Nicholas Widhammer, also known as 'Father Nick,' a Capuchin Franciscan from Wisconsin who has laid down his life for over 50 years so that other might live a better life. Unfortunately, Nick, at 81 years, is not well and is moving to hospice care after a short stint in the hospital.

"Those parishioners who attend mass at Our Lady of the Valley Church know Nick quit well. He's been celebrating that particular mass since about 2005. He will be remembered for his short, touching homilies which often incorporated a "Peanut's cartoon" with a moral viewpoint that dovetailed with his sermon or the high-fives he would give to children too young to receive communion. He also walked throughout the entire nave of the church seeking out parishioners with mobility problems, canes, or the wheelchair-bound to insure each received communion.

"Milwaukee is home of Nick's Capuchin Franciscans, who mirror that of St. Francis of Assisi, who believed in prayer, contemplation preaching and care of the needy. Capuchins preach, teach, cook and counsel. They minister in hospitals, schools, soup kitchens parishes and in the mission fields while living a chaste, communal and simple lifestyle. For example, Nick helped to found one of the first Capuchin soup kitchens in Milwaukee.

Seems to me that Nick has exhibited that same "greatest love of all" by laying down his life for others...qualifying him for sainthood in my book."





The father of Joe Halaiko died recently. Joe is the spouse of Shelly Roder, a Capuchin partner.

Mary Ahnen (sister of Myron Kowalsky) died recently.

Linda Koenig (sister-in-law of Paul Koenig) is undergoing chemotherapy.



- 4 Francis of Assisi (F)
Franklin Eichhorst (N)
Francis Dombrowski (N)
- 5 + Phil Berrigan (B)
- 7 **August Seubert (N)**
- 9 **Brenda Boatman (B)**
Indigenous Peoples' Day
- 10 World Homeless Day
World Day against the Death Penalty
- 11 **Opening of Vatican II, 1962**



World Homeless Day was born out of discussions between aid workers around the world, all of whom were helping the homeless in their own countries. The aim and slogan of the day is 'locals act locally on a global day.' The emphasis is on giving hands-on aid that is sensitive to local needs, while being aware of the global problem of homelessness and feeling solidarity with other charity workers around the world.

On this day, you can celebrate by helping to raise awareness for the homeless in your own community. Grassroots campaigns and fund-raisers work at the local level, while taking advantage of the increased publicity and solidarity a global platform provides.

Use this day as an opportunity to educate people about the homeless in your area, the infrastructure that already exists to help them and how it can be improved. World Homeless Day fund-raisers and celebrations can be converted into gains which will help the homeless long after the day is over.

“Transforming the world through reverence.”