

re:Cap



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## *“Hospitality: Creating Safe and Welcoming Environments Where the Gifts of All are Cherished”*

*Provincial Mission/Values Statement*

*The following (excerpted) interview was originally published in the Winter 1997 edition of “Imaging,” a collaborative publication between the provinces of St. Mary, St. Joseph and Mother of the Good Shepherd. At that time, Kent Bauer was chaplain for the St. Benedict Community Meal in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.*



*Kent Bauer*

*Q: Generally, what is your understanding of “Capuchin hospitality” in regard to your ministry?*

*Kent:* Hospitality generally means welcoming our guests into other people’s space...not only the building itself, but also into other people’s lives...being able to resonate with their needs and interests. Part of this is a giving and taking process, and the context of this shouldn’t make any difference — whether it’s the meal program or the friary. We need to constantly be about making people feel welcome.

*Q: When is it most difficult to express hospitality?*

*Kent:* There are individuals that are simply not comfortable to be around. In the meal program, for example, there are guests who don’t bathe on any regular basis, and it’s very difficult to maintain any type of physical presence to these individuals. The first reaction is to walk away and avoid the unpleasant situation. It’s easy to do, and when we react that way, we miss the “person” who is in need. That kind of human contact is a real challenge to those of us who profess to be “ministers” to the marginalized. When I’m honest in my personal reflections, I often realize that there are times when I could have spent time listening to someone who was obviously in need. I might very well have been in a position to “touch” someone in a way that could help them feel some sense of dignity and respect. It’s not easy!

*Q: Obviously, there are individuals you get to know quite well in your ministry. There are the “regulars” in the food line. How do you deal with individuals who provoke very negative reactions?*

*Kent:* I need to constantly come to grips with the reactions I have toward some individuals. It’s important to constantly create a space for myself to reflect on the dynamics at play, and how I must learn to forgive and accept. Unless I do that, I’m not going to be a very hospitable image at the meal. There are individuals who will offend me in any number of ways. Sometimes this is because of misunderstandings; sometimes it’s simply anger being expressed at the first person who happens to come along; sometimes it’s simply because we have to deal with people who simply *aren’t very nice...people who are sometimes even more dysfunctional than ourselves* (he replied, chuckling).

It's important to come to terms with the various realities of our guests' lives, too. Many of these folks are living in a very different world...on the streets, using any number of drugs, and they probably don't see things quite the same way that I do. Hospitality is about constantly reminding oneself of that fact and responding with empathy. Again, that's not an easy task.

With a number of our guests, it becomes really important to constantly be "re-approachable" and to "re-approach." That type of acceptance is very much a part of how I see Capuchin hospitality at work in the ministry we are about at St. Ben's Community Meal.

*Q: How does all of this impact on your community life with the friars?*

*Kent:* There's certainly a carryover to our community life. There's a definite effect on the dynamic of our communal life together. I need to be open to the challenges, as well as to the affirmations, of the brother with whom I live. Although it's very important for me to have the support and the advocacy of the friars in the house, it's also very crucial that I'm open to the dialogue in prayer and reflection which may confront the way I am reacting to a particular situation or experience of ministry.

One of the ways in which we all could probably foster a sense of Capuchin hospitality in our communities would be to curb the amount of time we spend alone in our rooms, or on the phone or in front of the TV...situations which really make any type of interaction more difficult. It's much easier to not be accessible to each other. When that happens, Capuchin hospitality is the casualty. We need to be present to one another. I need to find in my own community that sense of hospitality that we try to offer the guests who come to the meal. We should be able to expect this from each other. That's really what Capuchin community should be about.

There are so many little ways in which we can minister to one another in our friaries. It's really nice when someone at the table makes the simple gesture of getting up and offering coffee to everyone else. Something as mundane as that really does cultivate a sense of fraternity. That's Capuchin hospitality, pure and simple. It's a way of acknowledging each other's dignity.

*Q: How do you see Capuchin hospitality as a witness to others outside the fraternity?*

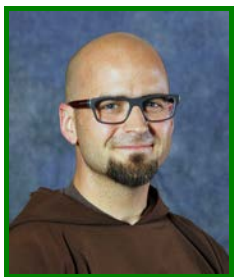
*Kent:* Unless we embrace hospitality as a value within the fraternity, I don't think we have much of a future. Candidates for the order are not going to be attracted to us unless that is an obvious component of our community life. Any possibility for the renewal of religious life, I think, hinges on that aspect of hospitality.

I think that the sharing of resources is an important component of hospitality. To the extent that we share personal — as well as communal — resources, there is a witness for others that will make our hospitality genuine. There's a very real justice element to hospitality, and it stands in contradiction to the values so at play in our culture. That's a real ministry to our society.

***“One of the ways in which we all could probably foster a sense of Capuchin hospitality in our communities would be to curb the amount of time we spend alone in our rooms, or on the phone or in front of the TV: situations which really make any type of interaction more difficult. It's much easier to not be accessible to each other.”***

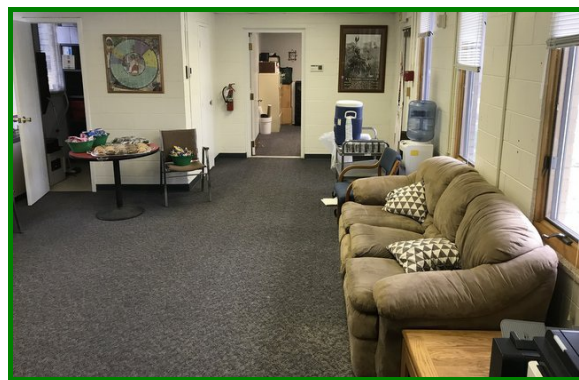
## Grace & Beauty in Montana

by M.J. Groark



M.J. Groark

I recently accepted a position as campus minister at St. Labre in Ashland MT. Over the last several years, maybe longer, this position has been filled in by other teachers and staff here at the school. So when I was interviewing for the job, there wasn't a real clear play book short of a general job description; kind of a blank slate for me to play with. The school offered me a rather large office space as well as the old chapel that was once used by religious sisters many years ago. Both of these spaces have been in disuse, and largely forgotten about. My office was essentially a catch all for storage and garbage. After a week of cleaning, and several trips to the dumps, we were able to turn this into a clean and safe space for our students. My first agenda item: snacks. Every Wednesday we bring in food for our high school students, and Thursdays for our middle school students. We invite them in during their lunch hour to have some food, build community, and most importantly, to pray for people in need of prayers. Over the last few weeks, I have been getting about 150-200 students passing through here every week. We have a daily prayer intention board which the students fill up in no time. As the winter cold moves in, we are providing hot chocolate and morning prayer before they head to class, and soon I will be incorporating evening prayer and sponsored activities in the evening for the students who live in the dorms on campus. Additionally, we organize the "works of mercy" projects which every student is required to do as part of their academic program. Thankfully, Larry Webber has a lot of opportunities for our students to show care for creation around the church property. As the year marches on, I will be involved with the student retreats throughout all three of our campuses, covering all grade levels. We are keeping very busy out here, and it is a wonderful place to be. There is a lot of grace and beauty here, and I am grateful that I was given this ministerial gift.



Above: M.J.'s office  
Below: M.J.'s office!

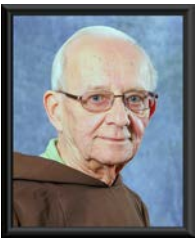


The [OFM] general minister and the General Council released a document titled "Listen to the Cry of the Amazon" for this year's feast of St. Francis of Assisi. In it, they wrote, "We Franciscans are called to accompany the Amazon Synod with great attention – [and] which asks us to hear the cry that goes forth from the

Amazon." The document continued, "We know that the Catholic Church has been present in some parts of the Amazon since the arrival of the European colonizers. The Church is still a prophetic voice in the Amazon. We want to send a special thanks to the brothers of our order who currently live and work in the Amazon region of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela." The correspondence went on to say, "At the same time, we ask all the brothers of the order to be sensitive to the cry of the Amazon, defending the life, dignity and rights of the Amazon peoples. We also ask them to be an ever more present church, and with the Amazonian missionary face, a prophetic church that faces the challenges of today."



- Jim Magnan was recently diagnosed with stomach cancer.
  - Richard Toenjes, brother of affiliate Mary Ghesquiere, died recently.
- Jim Hast underwent surgery recently for removal of lumps on his shoulder.
  - Florence Dymale, sister of Bernard Wagner, died recently.
- Lucile Heidenreich, SSND died recently. She was the sister of deceased friar Francis Heidenreich.
- Werner Wolf was recently transferred to a memory care facility.
  - Alfredo Gundrum recently underwent heart catheterization.



Our brother, Kenan Siegel, died on 11 October at the age of 89, following a long illness.

Kenan was born in 1930, the son of George and Erma Siegel in Sheboygan WI. He was invested in 1948, perpetually professed in 1952, and ordained a priest in 1956. Kenan served as provincial treasurer and provincial secretary, as well as provincial director of finances. He was also a staff member and development director at St. Lawrence Seminary. He ministered in parish work in St. Paul MN, and did many helpouts in Saudi Arabia.

Kenan is survived by two brothers (Richard and Norbert), and one sister (Marianne SSND), as well as his many Capuchin brothers with whom he lived, prayed and ministered for over 70 years.

### *The Great Focaccia Bake-Off*



St. Clare Community in Chicago recently hosted a focaccia baking contest. Nathan Linton and Amy Peterson (pictured at left) both used the same recipe from a Milwaukee restaurant. Although

both contestants performed well, Nathan's bread was declared closest to the Milwaukee chef's!



22-25	NAPCC, Scottsdale AZ
23	Joseph Monachino (B)
25	Kathy Andrew (B)
30	William Hugo (B)
31	All Hallows Eve
1	All Saints (F) Perry McDonald (B)
2	All Souls (F) Randall Knauf (B)
4-5	Prov Council, Detroit
6	Ralph Fellenz (B)



*re:Cap* is grateful for a recent donation from Robert M. Bertram.

### *A Poem for All Souls Day*



I tremble with gratitude for my children and their children who take pleasure in one another. At our dinners together, the dead enter and pass among us in living love and in memory. And so the young are taught.

~Wendell Berry

