

Weekly re:Cap



Published for the Friars of the Capuchin
Franciscan Province of St. Joseph
Contact: TL Michael Auman, Editor
1927 N. Fourth St., Milwaukee WI 53212
414.803.4449; Email: TLAuman@thecapuchins.org
On the web at: <http://sjpcommunications.org>

25 October 2017

Outreach

Issue Number 1113

Collective Ministry

The friars of St. Clare/St. Agnes, and San José communities have been engaged in collective ministry for the last year. On the third and fourth Friday's of every month, our Chicago friars gather in their respective communities to make sandwiches for the people of Chicago's south side. Each community produces around 200-300 lunches that will go out to the people who need that the same day. This is done in partnership with Port Ministries. The Port has a bread truck that goes out to feed people six days a week, and many of our friars in formation have worked with the Port Ministries over the last several years. A number of the brothers go out with the bread truck to help distribute the food. The friars at San José friary have invited the parishioners to help with this endeavor. Additionally, local supermarkets have graciously donated the food used at San José friary, making this truly a community effort.

To learn more about Port Ministries visit: <http://www.theportministries.org/>



Port Ministries

Inspired by St. Francis of Assisi and the Franciscan charism, our mission is to provide the fundamental needs of mind, body and spirit. We do this by offering free services and resources to south side Chicago residents so they can better themselves, their families, and strengthen our community.





LEAVEN
Turning Hardship Into Hope

30 years of service in the Fox Valley

Around 250 people gathered at the Radisson Paper Valley Hotel in Appleton on September 14, 2017 to celebrate LEAVEN's 30 years of service

to people coming for emergency assistance (mostly of a financial nature). LEAVEN stands for: Limited Emergency Assistance Valley Ecumenical Network. It was founded by Bob Udulutsch after he was assigned in 1984 to St. Joseph Parish as associate pastor. The pastor asked him to take charge of the parish social concerns committee. St. Joseph Food Pantry had started about eight months before Bob arrived, so people applying for the food that was being offered out of the basement of St. Joe's school building also found it convenient to stop at the rectory to ask for things like gas vouchers, bus tickets, etc. As requests grew, both at the Food Pantry and at the rectory, so did the realization that poverty in the tri-counties of Northeastern Wisconsin, i.e., Outagamie, Calumet and Winnebago, was widespread, and could be addressed only by harnessing the efforts of churches and other helping agencies. This was undertaken, and the history of such collaboration is what was celebrated that day at the Paper Valley Hotel, the same venue, incidentally, where LEAVEN got started when leaders of the community met 30 years earlier and committed to starting such a helping agency and resource center.

Over the past 30 years, infrastructure was gradually and thoughtfully put in place and gradually developed, thanks to three very foresighted executive directors, and very talented and dedicated volunteers, today numbering about 230. Over the past 30 years these volunteers have worked 340,382 hours which saves LEAVEN over \$350,000 in salary expense each year. Over the past 30 years the amount of direct client assistance has amounted to \$12, 841,694.00 distributed according to need to 123,775 households. LEAVEN serves about 7000 households each year.

If it's All Soul's Day, it's Día de los Muertos



Día De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is one of the world's most misunderstood holidays. Because it's celebrated within range of Halloween, and features an assortment of macabre imagery and costumes, some people assume it's just "Mexican Halloween," while attempts to co-opt the holiday have been repeated through history.

Originally a harvest celebration for the Aztecs, what would become the Day of the Dead in Mexico was originally celebrated around the end of summer, structured as it was around the farming season. This is much like Halloween, which is derived from pagan holidays that also celebrated the change of the seasons. Spanish conquistadors bringing Catholic influence to Latin America combined the holiday with the Catholic traditions of All Saints' and All Souls' Days.

All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day are related, but they are two separate celebrations. On All Saints' Day there's a call to live as saints, to remind us how we're supposed to live. On All Souls' Day, we're talking about our deceased, and asking God's mercy for them.

Day of the Dead follows a similar two-day structure. On the first day, families remember children who have died, and on the second, the adults. The central belief is that the spirits of loved ones are allowed to join the living on those days and commune with them, and the celebration is geared towards that idea: People leave toys and calaveras (the iconic skull — made from sugar) for children, and for adults they leave food, favorite possessions and alcohol at elaborate homemade altars called ofrendas.

One of the holiday's most iconic symbols is actually a political cartoon: In the early 20th century, famous Mexican artist José Guadalupe Posada sketched out a female skeleton dressed in an elaborate hat. Posada's intent was to skewer Mexican natives he felt were rushing to adopt European modes and customs at the expense of their own culture, but she became a larger symbol of the holiday thanks to Diego Rivera, who christened the character La Calaveras Catrina in his 1948 work *Sueño de una tarde dominical en la Alameda Central* (Dream of a Sunday afternoon along Central Alameda), pictured at right. To this day, she — and her attendant male counterparts — have become an essential representation of the holiday. Catrina also has her ties in the Aztec death goddess Mictecacihuatl, or the Lady of the Dead, who was keeper of the bones in the underworld and officiant of the Aztec harvest celebrations that would evolve into Día de los Muertos.



Lastly, it's important to remember that, despite all the morbid imagery, Día de los Muertos is about celebrating life, *not* mourning death. It's a joyous holiday, one that winks at death instead of crying over it.

Detroit Institute of Arts welcomes the dead with ofrenda displays



Ofrenda altar on display at the DIA

Tamales, sugar skulls, and spirits— these are the ofrendas, or offerings, you can find on handmade alters built this time of year in order to welcome home those who've passed on.

In honor of Día de los Muertos, the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) in collaboration with the Mexican Consulate of Detroit, has invited local artists and community members to create traditional ofrenda alters for display in the museum Oct. 13 to Nov. 12.

Ofrenda alters are made as a passage to welcome home spirits who have passed on. They can also be created as a way to pay homage to not only people, but places, moments in time, ideas, and events that people feel are worth commemorating.

The altars are decorated with objects important to lost loved ones such as flowers, favorite foods, mementos, sugar skulls, candles, and pictures.

According to the DIA's website, the goal of the display is "to build a sense of community by facilitating the making of personal connections with the reasons and ways people honor the deceased, and to encourage artists and visitors to participate in the act of remembering."



A New Serenity Prayer

by James Martin, SJ



God, grant me the serenity
to accept the people I cannot change,
which is pretty much everyone,
since I'm clearly not you, God.
At least not the last time I checked.

And while you're at it, God,
please give me the courage
to change what I need to change about myself,
which is frankly a lot, since, once again,
I'm not you, which means I'm not perfect.
It's better for me to focus on changing myself
than to worry about changing other people,
who, as you'll no doubt remember me saying,
I can't change anyway.

Finally, give me the wisdom to just shut up
whenever I think that I'm clearly smarter
than everyone else in the room,
that no one knows what they're talking about except me,
or that I alone have all the answers.

Basically, God,
grant me the wisdom
to remember that I'm
not you.

Amen!



- 25-28..... NAPCC, Scottsdale AZ
- 25 **Kathy Andrew (B)**
- 29 **Michael Drobnicki (B)**
- 30 **William Hugo (B)**
- 31 **All Hallows Eve**

† VOCATION PRAYER †

LORD OF THE HARVEST,

BLESS young people with the gift of courage
to respond to your call. Open their hearts
to great ideals, to great things.

INSPIRE all of your disciples to mutual love
and giving — for vocations blossom in the good
soil of faithful people.

INSTILL those in religious life, parish
ministries, and families with the confidence
and grace to invite others to embrace the bold
and noble path of a consecrated life.

UNITE us to Jesus through prayer and
sacrament, so that we may cooperate
with you in building your reign of mercy
and truth, of justice and peace. Amen.

~ Pope Francis

