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Capuchin ministry finds ways to better lives



“There’s a chain of events that have to happen to help people in my situation,” Brennan said: “from the donors who support St. Ben’s, to the staff and volunteers who counsel us, to guests who have to decide to make better choices.”

Brennan certainly epitomizes those who are working hard to turn their lives around. Brennan has benefitted from a number of Capuchin Community Services’ programs, mostly at St. Ben’s Community Meal. “The friars are helping me get my life together,” Brennan said. “Carl Schaefer gives me my mail, I eat at St. Ben’s many evenings, they helped me with my ID and they’ve given me bus tickets so I could go to

appointments. Now they are helping me earn my adult high school diploma.”

Carla Dupont, GED coordinator said, “I met Brennan over a year ago. He had grown up in Detroit and left school after the 11th grade. He came to Milwaukee and eventually realized he needed more education.”

Carla explained, “Dave Schwab, the former ministry director and a former high school teacher, started the program with me. St. Ben’s believes that whether guests graduate or not, getting more education always helps people to better their lives.” She paused and then added, “The grace of St. Ben’s Meal is that they look at the whole person.”

Brennan added, “A number of staff have helped me out. Kenny Howard has been a major support and he’s helping me stay committed to making only good choices. Carla and others have given me good counsel, and I can see where by the end of this year I’ll have my high school diploma.”

Carla smiled and said, “We were able to help Brennan apply to Milwaukee Area Technical College’s Adult High School program. We paid the fees, then helped with tuition and books. We only ask that the guests who qualify for school attend regularly and make progress. Brennan is one young man who I believe will complete the program before the year is out and receive his diploma in time for Christmas!”

“With the help of our donors guests like Brennan can shoot for the stars,” Rob Roemer, Capuchin Community Services director, said. “It is always wonderful to be able to play even a small part in another person’s return to health and wholeness!”



(L-R) Carla DuPont (GED coordinator), Brennan Braggs, Kenny Howard (assistant director at the St. Ben’s Community Meal), and Carl Schaefer

50th Anniversary of Catholic Peace Movement's Signature Protest



Today in global Catholicism there are notable differences in understanding the morality of war and the relationship between the church and the military. The Catholic culture of peace in the United States remains identified with key figures such as Dorothy Day and the Berrigan brothers, as prophetic and different from mainstream America and integral in the counter-cultural posture of American Catholicism.

It was the height of the Vietnam War, and the Knights of Columbus had allowed the Selective Service to use a room in the hall as a local draft office. On May 17, 1968, the activists drove the parish van to the hall on Frederick Avenue, gathered up several hundred draft cards, took them out into the parking lot and burned them with homemade napalm.

They joined hands around the fire, prayed, and waited, peaceably, to be arrested and taken to jail. The Catonsville Nine would be tried at the federal courthouse in Baltimore, convicted of destruction of U.S. property, destruction of Selective Service files, and interfering with the Selective Service Act of 1967, and sentenced to prison.

The actions of the nine, which included not only Philip Berrigan, a Josephite priest, but also his brother, Daniel Berrigan, a Jesuit, stunned many, but not Deborah Holly. "It was a normal thing for our parish to be involved in those kinds of things," said Holly, a teenaged parishioner at the time. In the days when black worshipers were expected to sit in the back of Baltimore's white churches, she said, she and her St. Peter Claver's friends would march in and sit in the front row. "If you're gonna be in a church," Holly said, "you're gonna be about justice."



The Catonsville Nine

"If you're gonna be in a church, you're gonna be about justice."

— Deborah Holly



Margarita Melville stands next to a state sign unveiled last week to recognize the activists' 1968 protest.

Fifty years after the demonstrators burned the draft cards, the State of

Maryland is honoring their protest. An exhibition of artwork by one of the nine will be on view at the Maryland Historical Society. Vigils, symposiums and film screenings are planned. Supporters this month unveiled a state-approved sign on the grounds near the site. "The Catonsville action played an important role in the antiwar movement, inspiring similar acts of civil disobedience across the country," the sign says.

"Sowing peace all around us...

That is holiness." — Pope Francis, Gaudete et Exsultate

PEACE

Friar Named Pastoral Director at House of Peace

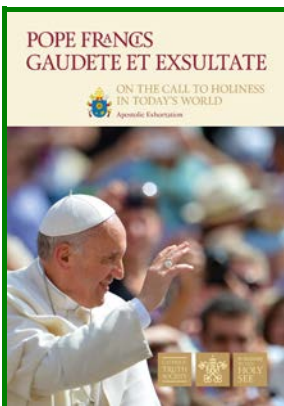


Johnson Jayaraj, with Derrick Crawford (volunteer) and Dominique McGhee (pantry director)

Johnson Jayaraj has joined Capuchin Community Services as a pastoral director at the House of Peace. Johnson, who is a member of the St. Conrad Community in Milwaukee, is one of many Capuchin friars participating in our “fraternal collaboration,” and comes to us from one of the Capuchin provinces in India. In the photo (left), Johnson helps pack pantry bags for the House of Peace’s Emergency Food Pantry. Each pantry bag is meant to feed a household for several days.

The House of Peace is a ministry of Capuchin Community Services, which also includes the St. Benedict ministries.

On the Call to Holiness



Caring for migrants and the poor is as holy a pursuit as opposing abortion, Pope Francis declared in a major document issued by the Vatican. Pushing back against conservative critics within the church who argue that the 81-year-old pope’s focus on social issues has led him to lose sight of the true doctrine, Pope Francis again cast himself, and the mission of the Roman Catholic Church, in a more progressive light.

“The other harmful ideological error is found in those who find suspect the social engagement of others, seeing it as superficial, worldly, secular, materialist, communist or populist,” Pope Francis wrote in an apostolic exhortation on the subject of holiness. “Our defense of the innocent unborn, for example, needs to be clear, firm and passionate. *Equally sacred*, however, are the lives of the poor, those already born, the destitute, the abandoned.”

“We often hear it said that, with respect to relativism and the flaws of our present world, the situation of migrants, for example, is a lesser issue,” he said. “Some Catholics consider it a secondary issue compared to the ‘grave’ bioethical questions.”

“That a politician looking for votes might say such a thing is understandable, *but not a Christian*,” he continued, adding that welcoming the stranger at the door was fundamental to the faith. “This is not a notion invented by some Pope, or a momentary fad.”

As he put it elsewhere in the document, “Seeing and acting with mercy: That is holiness.” That statement is a distilled expression of Francis’ vision of the church, which is consistent with a view articulated by Joseph L. Bernardin, the cardinal archbishop of Chicago who died in 1996, and who called for a “consistent ethic of life” that wove issues of life and social justice into a “seamless garment.”

Throughout the document, Francis urges followers to be less consumed with showy demonstrations of faith and piousness than with patiently and lovingly raising children, working hard to support families and representing what he called “the middle class of holiness.”

While he says “the silence of prolonged prayer” is critical, Francis adds that holiness at times requires the faithful to be loud and active, and says it “is not healthy” to seek prayer while disdaining service.

In a section of the document titled “Signs of Holiness in Today’s World,” the pope explicitly laments a modern culture that includes “the self-content bred by consumerism; individualism; and all those forms of ersatz spirituality — having nothing to do with God — that dominate the current religious marketplace.” The pope, like many others, is also worried

that social networks like Facebook feed into the hedonism and consumerism that “can prove our downfall” and are, in short, a waste of time.

“When we allow ourselves to be caught up in superficial information, instant communication and virtual reality, we can waste precious time,” he says, adding that “all of us, but especially the young, are immersed in a culture of zapping.”


In the document, the pope excoriates Christians taking the path of “an obsession with the law, an absorption with social and political advantages, a punctilious concern for the Church’s liturgy, doctrine and prestige.” They should instead be passionate about “seeking out the lost,” he writes. He is also withering in his criticism of the hostile tenor that often reverberates throughout the conservative Catholic blogosphere.

“Christians, too, can be caught up in networks of verbal violence through the internet,” Francis said, citing vicious examples of defamation in some Catholic outlets where “people look to compensate for their own discontent by lashing out at others.” He adds that in upholding some commandments, they ignore the forbidding of bearing false witness and vilification. “Here we see how the unguarded tongue, set on fire by hell, sets all things ablaze,” he says. “Sowing peace all around us,” he writes. “That is holiness.” *(Excerpted from The New York Times)*



- Antonio Garibay (father of Zoilo Garibay) died recently.
- Martha Kessel (mother of Jerry Kessel) died recently.
- Betty Hugo (mother of Bill Hugo) died recently.
- Kathleen Mertens (sister of Leopold Gleissner) is scheduled for cancer surgery.
- Joe Monachino completed radiation treatments with no complications. He is grateful for the expressions of prayerful support.



	
16	Liturgical Commission Video Conference Myron Kowalsky (B)
17	JPIC Video Conference
19	Mitchell Frantz (B)
20	Robert Wotypka (B)
22	Burials of Vernon Wagner & Brian Braun Jozef Timmers (B)
23	Public Relations Video/Zoom Conference Kenneth Smits (B) John Hascall (B) Johnson Jayaraj (B)
24	HR Video Conference Postulancy Admissions Board, Detroit Werner Wolf (B)
25	David Reichling (B) Bede Louzon (N)
26	Robert Kose (B)
27	Brian Joseph (B)
28	Gebreyesus Boyine (B)
29	Gerald Pehler (B) Joseph Wolf (B)
30	Public Relations Video/Zoom Conference
31	David Hirt (B)