



28 November 2018

Advent
 A Season of Hope
 & Expectation

Issue 1144



Lord, in a season when every heart should be happy and light, many of us are struggling with the heaviness of life—burdens that steal the joy right out of our stockings.

Tragedy arrives as innocent victims suffer, and an inner voice whispers, "Be afraid!"

We need your peace, Jesus. We confess that our hearts are too often filled with wonder of a different kind: wondering when the terror will stop, when rest will come. Will it ever?

Is the message still true? In a world where worry, not peace, prevails, stir up that good news again.

This Advent, make it real in our hearts. Never have we needed Your joy and peace more than now.

~Edited from Rebecca Barlow Jordan's "A Prayer for Peace & Joy at Christmas"

Gesu Church hosts faith forum on homelessness

The Church of the Gesu (Milwaukee's Jesuit parish) hosted its second faith forum this year recently. The forum was titled "Homelessness in Our Neighborhood." Jim Flaherty SJ said Gesu will hold faith forums during the winter and spring on discernment in the Ignatian tradition, the origins and development of the creed of Ignatius and how to integrate faith with professional life.



Rob Roemer

Toiletry items and new socks for men, women and children were collected before the forum. Peg Flahive, director of human concerns for the Church of the Gesu, said the donations will be given to the Cathedral Center and Capuchin Community Services. Representatives from both organizations spoke about homelessness and programs and resources provided by their organizations to assist the homeless.

Rob Roemer, ministry director at Capuchin Community Services, said volunteering at Capuchin Community Services' meal program is a great way for guests and volunteers to interact with each other. He said volunteering is not just about serving food to the guests.

"The main thing is to listen to people...It's about hearing people's stories." He added that a smile goes a long way for the guests. "So many (guests) tell me 'I feel invisible because people don't look at me,'" Rob said. Capuchin Community Services also provides guests with showers, co-pay prescriptions and gas cards among other resources.

Capuchin Community Services is also building temporary housing for guests that will include a gathering space, a barber shop and a laundromat. Rob said that guests tell him they have to throw their clothes away after a few days because they have no place to wash them.

The people around us may be homeless and we may not even know, Rob added. "A neighbor is not just someone that lives next door or someone you sit by. A neighbor is anyone we pass on the street."

Capuchin Soup Kitchen raises \$500,000



Jerry Johnson (right), exec. director of the Soup Kitchen



"Hunger Free in the D" donors at the Lear Corp World Headquarters

November 19th marked the end of the Detroit Capuchin Soup Kitchen's "Hunger Free in the D" fundraising drive, a partnership

with WJR Radio and Gleaners Community Food Bank, with a live broadcast from Lear Corporation World Headquarters. A grand total of nearly \$500,000 was raised in support of the Soup Kitchen and Gleaners to provide support to our metro Detroit neighbors experiencing poverty and food insecurity. Donations were matched by a generous \$200,000 matching gift from the Celani Family Foundation.

Former St. Anthony Hospital begins new life as supportive housing

Following many months of construction and years of planning, St. Anthony Apartments in Milwaukee are almost complete. Just this past week, the first tenants were expected to move into the former St. Anthony Hospital, as the building begins its new life as permanent, supportive housing for our sisters and brothers living on low incomes or formerly living on the streets. Tenants have access to on-site case managers, social workers and other resources. In addition to the 60 units of supportive housing, Capuchin Community Services will occupy approximately 5,300 sq. ft. of space in the building, made up of offices, a chapel, a computer lab for job searchers, as well as laundry, barber and shower facilities for guests. In addition, there is a gathering space providing a year-round climate-controlled waiting area to protect guests at St. Ben's Community Meal from inclement weather.



St. Anthony Hospital was constructed in 1931 by the Capuchins to serve the medical, surgical and maternity needs of St. Benedict the Moor Parish and surrounding community as the *city's first integrated hospital*.

In 1954, the physicians of St. Anthony Hospital elected Wisconsin's first African American chief of staff, John Maxwell. For its role in Milwaukee's history, the building was listed on the national and state registers of historic places in 2017.

On Saturday, November 17, approximately 100 volunteers packaged housewarming baskets, delivering them to each of the 60 units in the building. The housewarming baskets included small appliances, bedding, linens, cleaning supplies and other household items to make each unit move-in ready for new occupants. Items valued at more than \$20,000 were donated through an online housewarming drive earlier in the fall. Among the volunteers distributing items were families, religious and former health care workers employed in the building during its days as a hospital, as well as people born right there in the St. Anthony Hospital maternity ward.



Volunteers and friars at St. Anthony Apartments "housewarming."



Steve Kropp (prov. vicar) attended the open house, along with friars and volunteers.

The total cost of renovation is \$13.8 million, funded through a variety of sources, including historic tax credits and a Capuchin Community Services-led capital campaign. Heartland Housing, a subsidiary of Chicago-based nonprofit Heartland Alliance, is the developer and property manager of St. Anthony Apartments. Case management and other services are provided by Milwaukee-based nonprofit JusticePoint.

This project has been many years in the making and is the culmination of much hard work on the part of Capuchin Community Services staff, volunteers and partners, led by executive director Rob Roemer.

Prayer for World AIDS Day, December 1st

God of all compassion, comfort your sons and daughters who live with HIV. Spread over us all your quilt of mercy, love and peace. Open our eyes to your presence reflected in their faces. Open our ears to your truth echoing in their hearts. Give us the strength to weep with the grieving, to walk with the lonely, to stand with the depressed. May our love mirror your love for those who live in fear, who live under stress and who suffer rejection.

Mothering, fathering God, grant rest to those who have died, and hope to all who live with HIV. God of life, help us to find the cure now and help us to build a world in which no one dies alone, and where *everyone* lives accepted, wanted and loved.

(Prayer for 2018 World AIDS Day, Maryknoll AIDS Task Force)





Our brother, Ambrose Simon, died on 4 November at the age of 94. Ambrose was born in 1924 in St. Kilian WI, the son of Frank and Margaret Mary Simon. He was invested in the Capuchin habit in 1942, perpetually professed in 1946, and ordained a priest in 1950. Ambrose served as a

missioner in Central America for a total of 19 years. He also served on the faculty of St. Lawrence Seminary for one year, and as a chaplain in Arizona for one year. He retired from active ministry in 1984. He is survived by his many Capuchin brothers with whom he lived, prayed and ministered for more than 76 years.

- Virginia Siler (sister of Paschal Siler) has been hospitalized for kidney and heart problems.
 - José Vera's uncle - Rafael Villagomez- died recently.
 - The wife of Steve Maddock (former SLS faculty member) died recently. Steve is grateful for the many offers of prayer and support.
 - Anthony Schlaefer, brother of Capuchins +Salvador and +Austin Schlaefer died recently.
 - Bob Wheelock has been hospitalized following a heart attack.
 - Joe Maloney's twin brother is recovering well from recent heart surgery. Joe is grateful for the prayers.
 - My sister Margo and I are deeply grateful to the Liturgical Commission and all the friars, family and friends of Bertin for your prayerful support and participation in making the Christian Rite of Burial for our brother a very beautiful, pleasing and memorable event. We thank you.
- Margo (Douglas) Lynn and John Francis

After Annunciation

**This is the irrational season
when love blooms bright and wild.
Had Mary been filled with reason
there'd have been no room for the child.**

~ Madeleine L'Engle

November

- 25 Faris Najor (B)
- 27 Liturgical Commission
- 29 Alan Veik (B)
- 30 Jerry Smith (B)
André Weller (N)

DECEMBER

- 2 Paul Yaroch (B)
Affiliation of Shirley Horn, Mt. Calvary WI
- 3-4 Pro Council, Milwaukee
- 4 Paul Schmitz (B)
- 6 Nat'l Day of Action on violence against women
St. Nicholas' Day (F)
- 7 Jerome Campbell (B)
- 10 Human Rights Day
- 11 Tom Nguyen (B)
- 12 Paul Koenig (B)
Wellness Commission

Save the Date!

Spirituality of St. Clare - Bill Hugo
Thursday, January 24, 2019
Catholic Theological Union
5416 S. Cornell Avenue, Chicago IL 60615
5:30 pm: Dinner
7:00: Presentation & Discussion
8:30: Reception

