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The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>. Instead of giving something up for Lent this year, try walking a new step on the justice road every day. "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? (Isaiah 58:6)

Lent is a journey opening our hearts and bringing us to right relationship with one another: "A right relationship with people consists in gratefully recognizing their value. Even the poor person at the door is not a nuisance, but a summons to conversion and to change: an invitation to open the doors of our heart to others because each person is a gift, whether it be our neighbor or an anonymous pauper. Lent is a favorable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ. Each of us meets people like this every day. Each life that we encounter is a gift deserving acceptance, respect and love. The word of God helps us to open our eyes to welcome and love life, especially when it is weak and vulnerable. But in order to do this, we have to take seriously what the Gospel tells us about the rich man." (*Pope Francis: Lenten Message 2017*).

## Shelter From the Cold

Recently, temperatures in Milwaukee hovered around 20 below zero, with wind chill factors as low as 50 degrees below zero. *That's cold!*



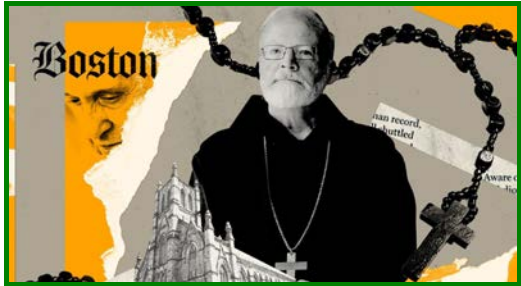
After seeing the weather report on January 27<sup>th</sup>, Rob Roemer (executive director, Capuchin Community Services) made the decision to keep the Community Meal Warming Center open 24 hours a day during the "Polar Vortex." The center averaged 103 guests per night, up from an average of 60 per night during most winter months. "We also served three meals a day, as opposed to one per day which is normal," Rob said. The Community Meal serves from 180-300 guests each day in the winter.

Normal hours of operation for the center are from 1 to 7:30 p.m. Sundays through Fridays. When the temperatures dip below 20 degrees, the center opens as a warming room from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. "The guests mostly read, watch TV, use the internet, play cards or games and sleep," said Rob. "Some of the guests were very helpful in serving or cleaning up for our two extra meals."

Anticipating a greater number of guests during the extreme weather, the Community Meal sent out requests for additional food and extra cots. The response was so great, that excess donations were given to the House of Peace Food Pantry.

“Unfortunately,” said Rob, “there are some homeless who will not come indoors, no matter how bad it gets. Some deal with mental illness and paranoia. They believe it is dangerous to be around others. There is a group called Street Angels that go under the bridges and in the woods to check on people, invite them in and make sure they are safe. They brought numerous people into our center each night last week, but they share with me that some will simply refuse.”

## Why Does the Church Keep Failing on Sexual Abuse?



Sean O'Malley has spent decades cleaning up after pedophile priests. Now he's once again found himself in the middle of a crisis. In a recent interview for *Atlantic* magazine, he spoke of his frustrations. Following are a few excerpts from that article.

Possibly more than any other cleric on Earth, Sean O'Malley (Capuchin archbishop, diocese of Boston) understands how deeply the Church's errors on sexual abuse have damaged its mission and reputation. Today, he is one of Pope Francis' closest advisers, the only American on a small committee of cardinals who meet regularly at the Vatican. He runs the pope's special commission on the protection of minors. And he is a member of the influential Vatican office responsible for preserving and defending Catholic doctrine. He believes that the Church has changed, can change, and will change. But as the world's top bishops meet in an unprecedented summit on sexual abuse at the Vatican, O'Malley has found himself frustrated, unable to push reforms through at the top.

O'Malley believes that the pope understands how important the issue of sexual abuse is: “His encounter with victims has made a very profound impact on his life and his ministry,” O'Malley said. And yet, the Church faces enormous structural and cultural barriers to establishing worldwide policies and procedures to deal with abuse, which O'Malley acknowledged. As for the meeting [this month], “My worry is that the expectations in the United States are that this meeting is going to address all of our concerns here,” he said, “which is not necessarily the case.”

O'Malley will turn 75 in June, the standard age at which bishops and cardinals submit a letter of retirement for the pope's consideration. One by one, the prominent clergy of his generation have been facing from the public eye — either by stepping down or being felled by scandals of their own. It's unlikely that O'Malley will leave his roles this summer, but he is slowing down.

*Ed. note: You can read the entire article at:*

[www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2019/02/sean-omalley-pope-francis-catholic-church-sex-abuse/582658/](http://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2019/02/sean-omalley-pope-francis-catholic-church-sex-abuse/582658/)



International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated annually on March 8th, a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women — while also marking a call to action for accelerating gender balance. Collective action and shared responsibility for driving a gender-balanced world is key.



## *Fraternal Visitation*

Thomas Karingadayil, provincial minister of the Pavanatma Province (Kerala, India) recently toured the Capuchin ministries in Milwaukee, including the House of Peace, St. Ben's Community Meal site, and our two Capuchin parishes.

The tour continued up to Mt. Calvary and Appleton. Prior to the Milwaukee visit, Thomas met friars and visited ministries in Detroit and Chicago.



*(L-R) Roche Gaspar, Jerry Smith, Thomas Karingadayil and George Kooran.*

## *We Saw You at the Tet Party in Chicago*



## *Become a Lenten Vegetarian*



According to a report from the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, together the biggest twenty meat and dairy conglomerates produce more greenhouse gases annually than Germany, Canada, Australia, the UK, or France, and the top five meat and dairy companies produce more greenhouse gases than either ExxonMobil, Shell, or BP. Clearly, these industries need to be effectively regulated if we are to meet the reduction in greenhouse gases necessary to avert a global warming catastrophe. But we can do our part by reducing our consumption of meat and dairy. If giving up meat has been a struggle, perhaps making it a Lenten resolution will boost your willpower. Lent is traditionally the season for fasting; what better devotional discipline than to become, for at least forty days, a vegetarian?



- Mary Jean Bond, sister of former friar Ken Bond, died recently.
- Bob Weller (younger brother of André Weller) is experiencing severe spinal problems causing loss of mobility.



Our brother, Joseph Maloney, died on February 14<sup>th</sup>, he was 88 years old. Joe was born in 1931 in Detroit, son of John and Virginia Maloney. He was invested in the Capuchin habit in 1951, perpetually professed in 1955, and ordained a priest in 1958.

Joe taught at the provincial “brothers’ school” in Crown Point IN and Mt. Calvary WI, and briefly was on staff at St. Lawrence Seminary. He ministered in Warren MI as a hospital chaplain, and served the Third Order in Detroit. He also ministered as a chaplain at Ford Hospital, and was on staff at St. Mary Magdalen Parish in Hazel Park MI. He was on an evangelization ministry team in Racine WI, and served on staff at St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit. He retired from ministry in 2012.

Joe was preceded in death by his brother Malcolm, also a Capuchin friar, as well as by his many Capuchin brothers with whom he lived, prayed and ministered for over 68 years. He is survived by his brother Jim of Clarkston MI.

- Phil Naessens has been diagnosed with liver cancer.
- Thomas Schroeder (brother of Tim Schroeder, SLS business manager) was recently diagnosed with Stage IV prostate cancer
- On behalf of my sister Carol and the family, grateful thanks to everyone for the prayers and support at the time of my brother-in-law John’s passing. It means a lot.

~ Randolph Graczyk

## MARCH



- 5 ..... **NAPCC, San Antonio TX**  
**Niles Kauffman (B)**  
**Jose Martinez (B)**
- 11 ..... **Formation Council, Mt. Calvary WI**  
**Alexis Luzi (B)**
- 12-13 ..... **Provincial Council, Mt. Calvary WI**
- 16 ..... **Kent Bauer (B)**

## Welcoming Another Brother

Chrispin Shirima, of the Tanzanian Province, arrived on January 24<sup>th</sup>, and is stationed at St. Lawrence Community and Seminary.



Chrispin Shirima (center) is welcomed by friars at O'Hare Airport in Chicago.



## The Last Word...



“Contrary to what you might have been told, Lent does *not* mean 40 days of beating yourself up. It does *not* even mean 40 days of God beating you up and reminding you of what kind of a person you really are. Lent means spring. It means lengthening days, opening the windows, letting in life and death, the things we can’t control.”

~Diane Roth, *The Christian Century*