

Weekly re:Cap



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Capuchin Bishop Named Cardinal

by John Corriveau

Former general minister of the Capuchin Order, and bishop emeritus of Nelson, BC, Canada

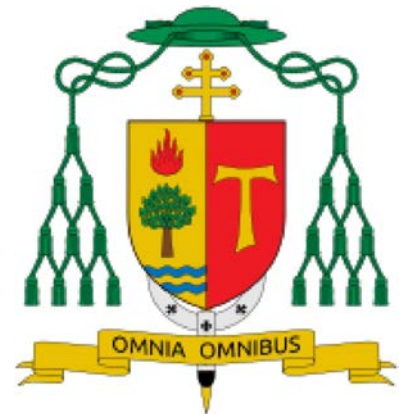


Fridolin Ambongo Besungu was born on 4 January 1960 in the village of Boto in the Equatorial Province of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. After completing his secondary school with the Capuchins at Bwamanda, he entered the Capuchin Order. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1988 and worked in several parishes before studying at the Alphonsianum Pontifical University in Rome where he obtained his doctorate in moral theology.

In 1997, Br. Ambongo was elected as the first Congolese minister of the Vice-Province of the Congo. Shortly after his election, a civil war commenced in the Congo and wrought devastation in the Equatorial Province where the Capuchins were primarily centered. With great courage, he managed to shield his brothers from the effects of war with the missionary brothers from Belgium and Italy returning to Europe and the Congolese brothers disappearing in the villages from which they originated. The friaries and other residences of the brothers were completely stripped, some of them losing even the doors from their houses. As vice provincial minister, Ambongo concentrated on fostering vocations and forming the young brothers. Many brothers were sent to Pretoria in South Africa where the order established a Pan-African formation center. Ambongo managed to build a new house of theology in Kinshasa where the brothers studied at the university. He also established a fraternity at Point-Noire in Congo-Brazzaville as a missionary outreach of the vice province.

Between 1997 and 2004, he was elected president of the Major Religious Superiors of Congo as well as president of the Capuchin Conference of Western Africa. He was also involved in the work for justice and peace where he labored for the poor and marginalized.

Having completed six years as vice provincial minister, in 2004 Ambongo was chosen as bishop of the Diocese of Bokungu-Ikela (North Equatorial Region of the Republic of Congo). In 2008, he was named apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Kole and of the Archdiocese of Mbandaka-Bikoro (Central Province of the Congo). He was named archbishop of Mbandaka-Bikoro in 2016. In 2018, he was named coadjutor and soon after archbishop of the Archdiocese of Kinshasa. Recently, Pope Francis named Fridolin Ambongo Besungu a member of the College of Cardinals.



Coat of Arms
Fridolin Ambongo Besungu

CSK Recognized for Program Excellence



Jerry Johnson (exec. director of CSK) and Stevie Washington (floor manager at the Soup Kitchen) accept the Richard F. Huegli Award for Program Excellence from Mariam Noland, president of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan.

At the June meeting of its board, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan recognized the Capuchin Soup Kitchen with the 2019 Richard F. Huegli Award for Program Excellence. The award identifies a nonprofit that reflects Mr. Huegli's high standards in human services programming and belief in human potential.

Huegli, who died in 1988, was an integral figure in the Detroit region's human services sector for nearly half a century, spending 42 years with United Community Services of Metropolitan Detroit, now part of the United Way for Southeastern Michigan. He later helped to establish the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and served as the foundation's acting director in its first year of existence. "Like the many wonderful non-profit organizations in the region, we resonate with Mr. Huegli's belief in human potential," said Jerry Johnson. Working together with others,

we try not to think of someone in need as a case to be solved, but as a sister or brother to be listened to and cared for. We are humbled by so many people working together to support our sisters and brothers with their short and long-term dreams and goals."

To Serve Means More Than Food!

"Brother Bob, you're everywhere," said a guest at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen with a smile. Bob Malloy, with a twinkle in his eye, smiled broadly, then quietly returned the greeting. Bob, along with all of the chaplains at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen sites, it seems, really is everywhere. The chaplains at the Soup Kitchen are present for guests, walking with them on their journey, working to lift them up.

The chaplains listen, counsel and offer to pray with and for guests of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen. Never proselytizing, but always there to comfort and help. On Wednesdays at the Meldrum meal site, Bob convenes a prayer service for those who wish to spend some time in worship and prayer. It's not a Catholic Mass, rather it's the Word, hymns and a reflection from Bob. The service is highly interactive, with guests invited to share in the celebration. On this day the Gospel reading for the day is about the risen Jesus walking with his disciples on the road to Emmaus. None of the disciples recognize Jesus until they sit down at a meal and Jesus breaks the bread. At that point, the disciples recognize Jesus and are amazed. Bob relates to how sometimes we don't recognize Jesus in our midst, but that even when we feel beaten down, we walk with God. He then shows a small statue of the risen Jesus. The hands are broken off. Bob shares that the statue serves for him as a reminder of a phrase attributed to St. Teresa of Avila: "Christ has no hands but yours." Each of us is called to be the hands of Jesus in the world. Through the good work of the friars, staff, volunteers and benefactors, the hands of Jesus helped Thomas, a guest attending the prayer service this day.





Bob Malloy offers opportunities for guests to share their struggles within the context of prayer.

Thomas came to the Soup Kitchen for a meal after facing difficult circumstances. The emergency assistance team referred him to temporary housing through the Neighborhood Services Organization, then to permanent housing. Finally, through Street Outreach Court Detroit held at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen Meldrum site, Thomas was able to get his driver's license reinstated. This opened the door to finding work. Part of the ministry of the Soup Kitchen is working with guests like Thomas to build self-esteem and undo years of being told by society: "you'll never amount to anything." The chaplains recognize the human dignity of every individual and work to build up what the world has torn down. At the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, to serve means more than just food. It also means

delivering spiritual food, respecting the dignity of the individual, building relationships and regenerating the connective tissues that make up the social fabric of our communities. *Note: the names of guests have been altered to protect their anonymity.*

An Australian Anniversary!

We received an announcement from the Australian Province that September 20th was the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the St Joseph Province friars in Australia to take on the responsibility of the province's formation program.

"Their contribution was a true lifeline to our province and together with Bishop Joseph Ouderman turned our jurisdiction from a Capuchin outpost to a veritable Capuchin provincial presence. May the Lord reward them for their generous service."



Roland Dusick – Served in Australia from 1969 to 1974.

Carmel Flora – Served for 47 years in Australia as novice director, provincial vicar and provincial minister. Others from the St. Joseph Province who served in Australia include John Myers, Darren O'Rourke, Bede Luzon, Philip Naessens, Lucian Pulvermacher, Carl Pulvermacher, and Larry LaCross..



Australian Province Chapter Photo

La fé se vive de pié

Faith is lived on your feet. On whatever motors your body, faith calls the body to become incarnate in the realities in which Christ too becomes incarnate. These past few weeks have seen tremendous *movimiento* – movement. People of faith, of all ages, abilities, sexual orientations, religious traditions, genders and ethnicities have mobilized! They moved into spaces and advocated for dignity – their own and others. They clamored in the streets and in the halls of political power for human rights for those who are held captive. They bore on their bodies and in their witness some of the injustices being heaped upon the most vulnerable. — *M.T. Dávila, associate professor of Theological Studies, Merrimack College.*



M.T. Dávila



- Rae Paula Schimke, sister of Franklin Eichhorst, died recently.
- Tonya Minden, sister of former friar Joshua Minden, is in the last stages of cancer.
- Rick Voell (SLS faculty member) is recuperating from pacemaker insertion surgery.
- Martha Hemauer, sister of deceased friar Gil Hemauer, died recently.
- Michael Zuelke's recent surgery was successful, and he is grateful for the prayers.
- Dear brothers and friends:

I am deeply grateful for your kind words and supportive prayers. It has been a hectic time and some of the results of my fall continue to limit my ability to walk without assistance. I am finally back at the computer and catching up on things. I still do what I can as provincial spiritual assistant and will do so for a short time yet. ~ Lester Bach



Who Knew?

Certainly looks like NBC's weather forecaster Al Roker is an avid fan of Solanus Casey!

Neighbors in October

By David Baker

All afternoon his tractor pulls a flat wagon with bales to the barn, then back to the waiting chopped field. It trails a feather of smoke. Down the block we bend with the season: shoes to polish for a big game, storm windows to batten or patch. And how like a field is the whole sky now that the maples have shed their leaves, too. It makes us believers—stationed in groups, leaning on rakes, looking into space. We rub blisters over billows of leaf smoke. Or stand alone, bagging gold for the cold days to come.

September

- 27 Robert Wheelock (B)
- 29 Michael the Archangel (F)
TL Michael Auman (N)
Michael Zuelke (N)



- 2 John Scherer (B)
- 3 Transitus of Francis
Ronald Smith (B)
- 4 Francis of Assisi (F)
Franklin Eichhorst (N)
Francis Dombrowski (N)
- 7 Shebin Philip (B)
August Seubert (N)
- 9 Brenda Boatman (B)



Happy Feast Day!
October 4th

