



A Ministry of the
Capuchin Province of
St. Joseph

House of Peace

House of Peace Newsletter

www.houseofpeacemilwaukee.org

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"Serving Christ's Poor"

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The House of Peace is a
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House of Peace
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Milwaukee, WI 53205
Phone: (414) 933-1300
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Donations accepted
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

GUEST GIVES WITNESS TO DONORS' LOVE

Helped by House of Peace, Now He Helps Others

Eric is on Disability and Food Stamps so he relies on the House of Peace (HOP) as he faces his challenges.

Linda Barnes, Social Worker, said, "Eric came to us for help with his energy bill. It had been disconnected in October." Eric added, "It was cold then so I used blankets and a portable heater to stay warm at night."

Linda continued, "Since the days of Br. Booker, the HOP has helped people with their energy needs. We receive donations from individuals to support this program and this past year a grant from the Gesu Parish Endowment Fund."

Eric also received a box of food at Thanksgiving and again at Christmas. He only receives \$115 in food stamps which is not enough for one person to eat for the month.

"And then something interesting happened," Linda said with a smile. "Eric offered to volunteer to help out a few hours a week starting in October, it grew to be 5 days per week full time and well, he's still here!" Eric said, "I found I liked it here, it is very peaceful."

"Eric is real faithful," Linda said. "He has given us much more than we have given him. Our donors help the HOP do good for people like Eric. They help us to affirm Eric's dignity, provide him with a purpose and allow him to be a volunteer and recipient."

"This is like being in church," Eric

commented. "I am glad to see people come and get their boxes of food. And I was shocked to see the food come in from the donors; I never knew where it came from!"

Linda said, "Eric was in an interesting position. Most guests see the toys, clothes and food boxes piled up but don't know how any of it gets into the HOP. But Eric saw staff and volunteers bring in the boxes,

lawyers in the Marquette Volunteer Law Clinic sort toys, Br. Mark go out to speak to many groups, and he saw donors drop off gifts."

"God sure knows how to bless us when we need it," said Eric. Linda added, "Thank you to all of our donors for all the different ways they help the HOP help others!"



Above: Linda Barnes, Social Worker, and Eric, Guest & Volunteer, stand in the food pantry surrounded by donations.

SPECIAL THANKS: A grant has been awarded to the HOP by The Forest County Potawatomi Community Foundation

Dove Notes



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P.S. Are you, or do you know of, a man aged 18 - 50 who you think would make a good Capuchin Friar? If so, please contact our Capuchin Vocation Director, Fr. John Holly, at (920) 915-4400. He's waiting for your call.

Dear Friends of the House of Peace,

Peace! I trust you have been well. I have to apologize. It is said that humility is a virtue and I certainly admire it in others. I just cringe when it's my turn to practice it!! It is my turn. After we mailed out our Christmas card to you I got a call asking if Lisa Calderone-Stewart (who is our Director of Youth Leadership Ministry) was still with the House of Peace (HOP). The caller was asking because Lisa's name wasn't listed on the card as one of the HOP staff wishing a Merry Christmas! I was so embarrassed and remain so, because that was all my fault. I am sorry. I want everyone to know two things: Lisa is still with us, and she did wish you all a very Merry Christmas. There. I hope my lesson in humility is over for this year. One can always hope.

I always struggle in writing these letters to you because I never know how to start or about what you'd like to hear. In "The Wizard of Oz" the good witch Glinda says to Dorothy, "It's always best to start at the beginning." But I have looked around here, friends, and there's no yellow brick road to tell me where that is!! I guess I'll just start and see where we go.

First, let me thank you on our behalf and that of the many people who were helped this past holiday season. Over 1,200 poverty-stricken households enjoyed a holiday meal in their own homes at Thanksgiving and Christmas through our HOP holiday program, and over 2,200 children in those homes received a Christmas gift because of you. That's a lot of big numbers, but they all boil

down to one person; one person at a time. Your generosity and care for the poor is incredible and touches our hearts and the hearts of so many good people in need.

Along with your help we had some pretty famous people helping! On the Monday before Thanksgiving the Milwaukee Bucks came to the HOP and handed out food boxes and turkeys. Coach Terry Stotts came to help along with players Michael Redd and Bobby Simmons. They and everyone from the Bucks organization were so kind and friendly to us and our guests in need. Their involvement was a real treat.

As Christmas rolled around I found myself in the food pantry handing out the Christmas food boxes. As I handed out one box and turned to hand out another I found myself looking into the eyes of a crying woman. She wasn't crying out loud and sobbing, but she

had tear after tear rolling from her eyes. I asked what was wrong and if I could help her. "Brother," she said, "Every one of your staff and volunteers has asked me if I'm OK ever since I came in here today. I'll tell you what I told them; these aren't tears of sadness, they're tears of joy. I am so grateful for all your help. I wouldn't have anything for Christmas if it weren't for what you all are doing." Hugs were in order and it was one of the best hugs I'd had in a long time.

Then shortly after Christmas we got a letter. It was from a man who wrote, "...the House of Peace an there staff worked very hard this holiday season to make family's have a nice Chirmas. My family was one of them. They gave my kids such nice gift's. Your



Above: Milwaukee Bucks Bobby Simmons and Michael Redd relax after distributing food to 150 households. Linda Barnes, Social Worker and students from Messmer High School and Divine Savior Holy Angels High School were among those helping the players.

staff made me stop and think that there is a higher power. I would like to say on behalf of me and my family thank you very much." The help we get from people who don't have to help like the Bucks folks and you, the hugs and the letters from people who have nothing but hugs and letters to give in return, the volunteers who put in untold hours sorting and packing toys and food, the knowledge that Susy and Marquis got a doll or basketball for Christmas when they would have otherwise received nothing, it all comes together and makes it worthwhile. Donors, volunteers, staff, our guests in need, we were all part of the same experience. And it is my hope that we all benefitted.

One of my favorite parts of scripture is the 12th chapter of 1 Corinthians. In there St. Paul explains how we are all members of the one body of Christ and makes the analogy to the human body. We are different members with different tasks, but we are all members of the same body: the body of Christ. The passage has always explained to me why I get upset or feel sad when something bad happens to someone else, and why I can feel joy when another has a success or good fortune. Who among us doesn't feel hurt when we hear of another soldier killed in war whether we knew that person or not? And who among us doesn't feel happy for the parents of a lost child found? We're all one. The soldier was part of us; same for the lost child and her parents. One body. We all hurt when one hurts, we all dance when one dances.

Mark Twain said, "It ain't those parts of the Bible that I can't understand that bother me, it is the parts that I do understand." Normally I agree with the wit and wisdom of Mr. Clemens but not here. When I consider 1 Corinthians in light of the holiday program at the HOP, I see that all the members of the body of Christ came together to celebrate, and to celebrate together. From the famous to the forgotten and all of us in between, the body of Christ came together to give, to receive, and to be whole. We all danced. I like it that I understand that.

Lately we've been busy throwing out those things that should have been thrown out long ago. We're getting ready for the capital project to start that I've previously told you about. The dust should start flying in late February. I will be so happy when we're done and have restrooms for people with disabilities and an elevator to the downstairs nursing and legal clinics. So happy.

Speaking of the nursing clinic, we were blessed to have Capuchin Br. Zoy Garibay help out at the clinic in January. Br. Zoy is an RN who took his first vows as a Capuchin in December and had the month of January free before beginning priestly studies in Chicago. He asked if he could help out at the HOP for the month. Of course we said yes. Some decisions are easy. Br. Zoy didn't limit himself to the nursing clinic, he put his back into helping out all over the HOP. We miss him but of course wish him well with his studies.

I started this letter not knowing how to start, and now I must end it without knowing how to end. It reminds me of when my youngest nephew, Vincent, was little. That boy could and would talk your ear off and then some. But I thoroughly enjoyed sitting him on my knee when I got home and just letting him go at it. He never had a thought he didn't publish so I always laughed a lot and learned a lot. One day in mid-sentence he abruptly stopped talking and asked me if he was talking too much. "No, Vincent," I said, "I like to hear you talk." He turned his head and with no modicum of pride shouted at my Mom in the next room, "Grandma! Uncle Mark likes to hear me talk!" And he took up where he had left off.

I don't have the same luxury as Vincent, for while I could tell much more, I am running out of space. And the idea of me sitting on someone's lap could make the strongest among us

shout for pity and get it. But just like I knew what was behind Vincent's prideful boast without hearing the details, you know the stories I could tell about what happens here at the HOP and why your assistance is so important: hurting people come here for help, and you help them. You help because when one of us hurts we all hurt. And when one of us dances we all dance. Thank you so much for all your generosity. We pray for you every day.

Your Brother in Christ,



Br. Mark Carrico, OFM, Capuchin
Executive Director



Above: Newly professed Br. Zoylo Garibay, O.F.M., Capuchin shares food with an elderly neighbor.



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Thank you to the all individual, parish, school, foundation and corporate donors to the 2006 Holiday Gift Box & Toy Drive program including the following groups:

Catholic High Schools:

Messmer High School, Milwaukee

Divine Savior/Holy Angel High School, Milwaukee

Thomas More High School, Milwaukee

Catholic Parishes, Schools & Orders:

Messmer Prep School, Milwaukee

Holy Wisdom, Milwaukee: St. Helen's School and St. Alexander's School

St. Anthony, Pewaukee: Family Catechesis

Tosa Trio: St. Pius X, Christ King and St. Bernard, Wauwatosa

St. Pius X School, Wauwatosa

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St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, New Berlin

St. Boniface, Germantown & District 6 Parishes

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Catholic Central, Racine

Good Shepherd, Menomonee Falls

Mary Queen of Heaven, West Allis

St. Bernard, Wauwatosa



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Dominican Sisters of the Perpetual Rosary

St. James, Menomonee Falls

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Churches & Community Groups:

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King of Kings Lutheran Church, Milwaukee

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Milwaukee Bucks, Milwaukee



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We apologize if any groups were left off this list. Please send corrections to the House of Peace.

Please consider including the House of Peace in your will. To discuss other giving options, call Jim Van Hoven, Development Director, (414) 416-4284.