



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 501 (c) (3) ministry. All donations are tax deductible as allowable by law.

House of Peace
1702 W. Walnut St.
Milwaukee, WI 53205
Phone: (414) 933-1300
Fax: (414) 933-0395
Donations accepted
Monday - Friday
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

BLESSINGS DOUBLED FOR TWINS

Sisters share the many ways they help & are helped

Speaking together Joyce King and Janice Harrell said, "It is a blessing to have the House of Peace in our community." Joyce and Janice are twin sisters who have been helped and who do help at the House of Peace. "Our mother used to come when Br. Booker was here to get food to stretch out the family food budget."

The sisters' nickname in the neighborhood is "The Twins." Upbeat and bubbly they shared the many ways the House of Peace has helped them. Both ladies participate in the Wellness program which is offered by the UW-Milwaukee College of Nursing clinic and the House of Peace.

Janice said, "I joined one of the first Wellness groups and learned the importance of exercise." Joyce added, "People are afraid to go to the doctor and may not have health insurance. I try to pass on what I have learned about high blood pressure, nutrition and diseases." Joyce commented, "I volunteer with the Capuchin Clothes Closet and help stuff boxes for the Holiday Gift Box program."



Above: The twins pose for a picture with some of the staff. Left to right—Faye Wallace, Joyce King, Shirley Bourdeaux and Janice Harrell.

Janice said, "Everyone has to attend a class before they can qualify for a Holiday Gift Box."

The House of Peace offers a series of free one hour classes to people registered to receive a Holiday Gift Box on a variety of topics including personal finance, child rearing, nutrition, etc.

Registered recipients of food boxes at Thanksgiving and Christmas must document household income and agree to attend at least one hour of a class.

Joyce and Janice especially appreciate the medical professionals who teach the Wellness classes. The ladies have met many nursing students from UW-Milwaukee. Janice said, "I always tell them to come and work in a city hospital. And I have seen several when I have been at the hospital!"

Both Joyce and Janice agree on what sets the House of Peace apart. Janice said, "It is the love you can feel from the staff. Br. Mark and Fr. Matt are wonderful."

Both Janice and Joyce are looking forward to the Holiday Gift Boxes. Joyce said, "Money runs short during the holidays and the food boxes fill a real need."

Janice said, "Some months we do run short so receiving that box really helps." Joyce added, "There are even recipes in the box on how to prepare healthy meals with the food." Janice said, "It is a blessing to get that meal."

"Money runs short during the holidays and the food boxes fill a real need."

Dove Notes

Fall, 2006



House of Peace Ministry Council

Chairperson:

Judge Maxine White

Vice Chairperson:

Frederick Muth, Jr.

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Thomas Fischer

Fr. Matthew Gottschalk,
O.F.M., Capuchin

Jeff Monday

Thelma Sias

Br. Bob Smith,
O.F.M., Capuchin

Sr. Shawnee Sykes, SSND

Fr. Al Veik,
O.F.M., Capuchin

Executive Director:

Br. Mark Carrico,
O.F.M., Capuchin

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 and all good to you! I don't know about you, but one day it was Spring, then I turned around and Summer was gone. It makes me feel old because that's the kind of thing I used to hear the old folks say when I was a kid. I guess I'm one of the old folks now because I now know exactly what they meant. I hope you have been happy and well. I - apparently - have been growing old.

Our social worker, Linda, came to me one day recently wanting to know if we could help someone who was in her office. Linda told me the person's story and we were able to help. The lady was very grateful and later I said something to Linda about how I wish our donors could hear those words of

gratitude. Linda said to me, "Why don't we ask some of our guests to write a letter thanking our donors and include them in the newsletter?" I thought it was such a splendid idea that I have been trying to claim it as my own!! But Linda won't let me. So we asked, and here are some excerpts.

From a mother of four children who needed help getting out of a shelter: "I would like to give thanks for the donations. It is a blessing to me and my children. We were in a homeless situation and needed...housing. Because of your

helpful donations we're able to have stability once again."

From a man who lost his job, then his apartment, and was about to lose his rented room:

"I would like to thank you for helping me in my time of need. Had you not helped me I would have been on the streets again."



Francisco Ortiz (Volunteer) and Barbara Blackwell (Food Pantry Manager) accepts a gift of bread to share with needy households. All donations of food are weighed and checked for freshness before being distributed.

A mother of two children wrote: "I'm writing to let you know, thank you very much for helping me and my family with our electrics. My son is 10 years old, he has asthma [and] he needs his nebulizer every day because of the weather. His breathing not so good in the summer. Thank you very much!!"

And one more: "I am a 41 year old working mother of two. In the last two years I have had medical problems that have interfered with me working consistently and I fell behind in my rent. I have been everywhere

“Because of your helpful donations we’re able to have stability once again.”

looking for help. There is no help for working people like myself. I was finally referred to the House of Peace. Here I was able to find some help, and some understanding. I have worked all my life and I have tried to pass that on to my children. A special and heart felt thanks to all the [House of Peace] donors.”

Some of the letters are short, others are longer. But the message of thanksgiving for your compassion is as clear as a clanging Sunday morning

church bell ringing out on a bright, crisp autumn morning. You’re doing a lot of good, friends, and we all thank you.

Speaking of doing good, our last newsletter mentioned that we needed school supplies for children. You sure responded! It started slow but then all of a sudden we had plenty. The kids we saw here seemed very excited about school starting up again and getting their new supplies. Thank you for all those supplies. Seems to me I was always more excited about the end of a school year than I ever was about the beginning of one. Of course during summer I didn’t have to take home report cards with comments like ‘Talks too much in class’ on it!!

If Fall goes as fast as Summer did - and it will - Christmas will be here yesterday. Garrison Keillor said, “A lovely thing about Christmas is that it’s compulsory, like a thunderstorm, and we all go through it together.” I like that. Last year we went through it together and provided Christmas presents to over 3,300 needy children. We don’t know the number for this year yet, but we do know we’re going to need your help again if we use the past few years as our gauge. We will again provide new toys and other new gifts for children of both genders ages 17 and down. So, please, if you, your family, your church, class, school, civic organization, office, business, etc. want to do something at Christmas for children who don’t get much in life, consider yourself begged by Br. Mark at the House of Peace to help us with the kids we’ll see here. Whatever you can do to help is needed and will be appreciated.

This is just an aside, but there’s something I want to share with you that I think is just remarkable. It’s on a personal level so I hope you don’t mind. In October my parents will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary. What a witness to faith and the vows of marriage. My sisters and I - along with everyone else in our family - are very proud of them and love them very much. We praise and thank God for their lives together! (Thank you for indulging me, but I want to tell the world!)

To me, one of the most important stories from the life of Jesus is the story of the multiplication of the loaves. And not because of the miracle performed of multiplying the loaves per se. What strikes me about the story is that when the few who had something to share, shared it with the many who had nothing, so many with nothing were helped. What they gave accomplished more than they could have ever imagined, even though what was shared didn’t necessarily appear to be enough to make a dent in the overwhelming need. It really was an act of faith to share what they had.

I think of that story when I think of your donations. (No, I can’t multiply them!!) But when you send in to us what you have to share, you’re just like those who did the same with their loaves and fishes in the crowd that day. You are committing the same act of faith. And what you give helps so many people who have nothing. I firmly believe that somewhere in the mix Jesus is seeing what’s happening, is giving us His blessing, and is seeing to it that your donations are helping more people than you might suspect and in more ways than you might imagine. He continues to work miracles with what people share for the benefit of others in need.

You have been so good to us and the people who come to us for help. And so much good has come from it. I know you’ll continue to share what you can and I thank you. Have a blessed Fall.

Your Brother in Christ,



Br. Mark Carrico, OFM, Capuchin
Executive Director



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Milwaukee Bucks player Bobby Simmons holds Golf Outing to benefit the House of Peace



Above: Br. Mark Carrico and Faye Wallace, Capuchin Clothes Closet Manager speak to dinner guests at the Bluemound Country Club.



Milwaukee Bucks player Bobby Simmons raised funds for his foundation and the House of Peace. Bobby's gift will go to the capital campaign to help build a new Capuchin Clothes Closet.

Left: Bucks player Bobby Simmons, Bucks owner Senator Herb Kohl, WE Energies VP & HOP Ministry Council member Thelma Sias, Golf Outing Planning Committee member Terry Davinroy and Judge Maxine White, HOP Ministry Council Chair pose at the end of the outing.

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www.thecapuchins.org

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414.933-1300

The Holiday Gift Box Food Drive starts October 15th. Please consider donating one, two or all of the items needed for a box:

- 1 box of mashed potatoes
- 1 bag of stuffing
- 4 cans of green beans
- 4 cans of corn
- 2 cans of cranberry sauce
- 1 32 oz. can of sweet potatoes or yams
- 1 box of cake mix
- 1 can of frosting
- 2 boxes of pudding or Jell-O
- 2 boxes of cornbread mix
- 2 boxes of macaroni and cheese

Drop off your gift to the House of Peace on the corner of 17th and Walnut. Food is needed to fill 2,000 boxes for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Food donations for the Holiday Gift Box program are needed between October 15 and December 15, 2006 and beyond.

Can you help feed the hungry this year?



Waiting in line for Holiday Gift Boxes.

ADVENT TOY DRIVE

Can your family or parish help?

The House of Peace is distributing 2,000 food baskets to needy households this holiday season. Last year's households included over 3,000 children.

We need to collect 2-3 new toys per child to distribute at Christmas. Please consider holding an Advent Toy Drive for the poor. If your family or parish can help, please contact us to confirm the details. We would like to have toys ready to distribute by Thursday, December 14th.

If your family or parish can help, contact:
Jim Van Hoven, Development Administrator
Capuchin Province of St. Joseph
1927 N Fourth Street, Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 416-4284 jvanhoven@thecapuchins.org

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