



House of Peace

"Serving Christ's Poor"

A Ministry of the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph

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In This Issue

Fr. Matt remembers
— Page 1

Dove Notes
— Pages 2 & 3

Corporations & Foundations Support the House of Peace
— Page 4

School Supplies Drive begins!
— Page 4

FORTY YEARS OF SERVING THE NEEDY

Fr. Matthew Reflects On A Lifetime Of Service By Capuchins, Staff & Volunteers

Capuchin Fr. Matthew Gottschalk co-founded the House of Peace (HOP) with Br. Booker Ashe 40 years ago. He recently shared some of his memories of the ministry. "Our goal from the start was to serve the poor. We planned to address poverty's social and cultural impact on the African American community but Br.

Booker changed the focus to immediate needs," Fr. Matthew said.

"Br. Booker was able to involve leaders from the African American community in his efforts to serve the poor," Fr. Matthew said. He continued, "The original building was small so our food pantry often had to give people vouchers for food. Another early emphasis was scholarships. Br. Booker gave young people scholarships to Catholic high schools, a program which continues now."

Fr. Matthew continued sharing, "The HOP has always been a place where the poor could get clothing. The Capuchin Clothes Closet started out as a series of tables we dumped donated clothing on and people just looked through them. It evolved into a separate room in our outdoor garages and now is in a room in our new addition that looks just like a regular clothing store."

"That is because Br. Mark, our current director, has helped us to renovate and expand the building to better serve those in need," Fr. Matthew said. When asked how

the first 40 years of ministry at the HOP have affected the community Fr. Matthew said, "I think prior to 1968 the Catholic Church was seen as part of the White power structure. Now people living in the minority community see our church as being helpful and living the gospel."



Above: Fr. Matthew Gottschalk, OFM, Capuchin poses with Nursing Clinic staff.

"Many other groups have helped the Capuchins meet the needs of people living in poverty," he added. "UW-Milwaukee School of Nursing offers a Nursing Clinic; the Marquette Law School holds a Legal Clinic and a variety of groups like PEPCI, a group for at-risk youth and the

Heritage Chorale use our community room."

While retired from active ministry, Fr. Matthew still says the 6:45 AM Mass at the HOP several days per week and funerals when he is available. Next to the altar in the chapel is a stack of prayer requests.

"I read each prayer request personally and I pray for them," Fr. Matthew said. "I recognize lots of supporters of the HOP." He continued, "I see some of the fruit of my ministry, that of other Capuchins and our many fine diocesan priests in this community. Parishes like St. Francis Borgia, Cedarburg, Good Shepherd, Menomonee Falls and many others help us feed, clothe and minister to the poorest of the poor."

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 (773) 475-6206. He's waiting for your call.

Dear Friends of the House of Peace,

From all of us at the House of Peace to all the folks in your house, we wish you peace!

Forty years ago a note was written that read, *"To Whom it May Concern: Yesterday I sent Mark to your office to get some campaign material to help us study elections in our civics class. He said you wouldn't give him anything. The Republicans were quite helpful when he went there and gave us a lot of stickers, pins and such.*

Please give Mark any extras you can spare to help the 7th grade class. Yours in Christ, Sr. Donna Gilbert Marie."

It was 1968 - an election year - and my life of crime was in full swing as I forged the above note and took it to the Democrats' campaign headquarters in my hometown of Huntington, Indiana. I had been there the day before in search of 'freebies' but the lady had chased my friend and I away. So I was as nervous as a fox in a forest fire when I handed her the note this day. But she fell for my deception and loaded my accomplice and I down with all kinds of bumper stickers, campaign buttons, brochures and even a larger than life-size poster of Hubert Humphrey that she took off the wall to give us. Our arms were piled high as she helped us out the door saying, "Now you be sure to tell Sister that we didn't know what you wanted these for yesterday!"

That was 40 years ago. I've been to Confession for my sins since but I do still have some of the buttons. They hang in my Dad's bedroom as part of a framed collection and until now he probably never knew how I got them.

While I was busy honing my nefarious ways 40 years ago Fr. Matthew & Br. Booker were busy establishing a new Capuchin ministry whose simple purpose was to serve the needs of those in need, and to do so

with compassion, dignity and respect. They began a ministry that has now served the community for 40 years: the House of Peace. They did it by

leaning on faith in God and faith in the goodness of people to help get it started and then support it.

I've been here a fast five years now, and I haven't been anywhere in the Archdiocese without meeting somebody who knew Br. Booker. The man got around! And I can't throw salt over my shoulder without hitting someone who was either baptized, married, counseled or otherwise pastored by Fr. Matthew. Their numbers are legion and they love him.

It isn't just that these two Capuchins' love for God's children has impacted so many lives over the 40 years of the House of Peace (HOP), although that is true. But these two friars also found a way to enlist, ignite



Above: Letterhead Press and Badger Boiled Hams joined Fr. Gene's Help Center in donating food for Easter dinners. Br. Mark accepted the donations on behalf of the needy.

and inspire the innate goodness in us all so that we wanted to join with them in caring for the poor. And a lot of good has come from that!

We had four seniors graduate from our Teen Leadership Program on May 3rd. Forty years ago they weren't even an idea and here they are going off to college full of ideas about the future. Their futures are impacted by the ministry and history of the HOP.

For Easter Sunday we were able to provide over 150 families with a traditional Easter dinner to be enjoyed in their own homes. But we were only able to do that because of a partnering effort between us, Fr. Gene's Help Center, Badger Boiled Hams, Letterhead Press, Inc., Palermo's Pizza and you. It was a community effort much as beginning the HOP was 40 years ago. The history of community involvement at the HOP continues today and continues to better today's world.

With the onset of summer we're ready to start our Back-to-School Supplies Drive so we'll be ready for the kids in the fall. I know that from the start Br. Booker & Fr. Matthew considered education integral to fighting poverty and injustice. But for just how long the HOP has had the 'Supplies Drive' I don't know. But I know the kids are going to need that stuff come fall.

Last week one of our guests asked for me. All she wanted was to thank me for the HOP being here and helping her and her family. You know as well as I do that her thank you was intended for everyone who throughout the years has had a hand in sharing with those in need. And we know just as well that she spoke for many who are just as grateful but for whatever reason would find it difficult to ever say so. Things are going along OK here. Together,

we're getting some good done. And have been for forty years.

Forty years ago another note was written. This one read, "...In the near future, a small, accessible community center will be established in an area which is comparatively remote from the more established parishes. We ask you to say a prayer for its success." It wasn't a

"...her thank you was intended for everyone who throughout the years has had a hand in sharing with those in need."



Above: Dr. Lisa Calderone, left and Teen program participants surround Shirley Patterson-Bordeaux after presenting her with a hand signed apron. Shirley works as the receptionist during the week and cooks for the teens' graduation event.

forged note this time. It was legitimately written by Fr. Matthew for the St. Francis Parish bulletin announcing an experiment called the House of Peace. Those prayers that were needed 40 years ago continue to be needed, and we continue to ask for them.

It's an odd thing to consider celebrating

40 years of serving the poor because we all wish we weren't needed for this. So we really don't celebrate it. But it certainly is worth noting, and it is something for which we are grateful. Much good has come of it.

I do ask for your continued prayers and financial support and I thank you for all you'll do. I'll keep you in my prayers, but I must sign off now. It's an election year again, see, and I've got this plan for how to get some more campaign buttons.....

Your Capuchin brother,

Br. Mark Carrico, OFM, Capuchin
Executive Director



A Ministry of the Capuchin
Province of St. Joseph

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BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE

Our annual school supplies drive runs through August 31, 2008. The need is always significant so please consider making a donation. New school supplies can be dropped off Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to Noon and 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM. There is a special need for book bags and backpacks.



Any of these items would help!

book bag or backpack
 package of #2 pencils
 pink eraser
 ball point pens
 pencil sharpener
 crayons
 glue sticks

Elmer's glue
 child safety scissors
 colored markers
 index cards
 ruler
 pocket folders
 Kleenex
 hi-lighters

notebooks
 3 ring binder
 loose leaf paper
 construction paper
 Scotch tape
 Combination lock
 calculator

*Please consider including the House of Peace in your will. To discuss other giving options, call
 Jim Van Hoven, Development Director, (414) 374-8841, ext. 26.*