

From Bro. John's pen...

Easter is a time to rejoice because life matters! Here, at St. Francis Table we are blessed through our donors and volunteers, essential bodies in the lives of those we feed....our patrons! We are continually graced from day to day with the wonderful life-giving contributions from an 'Easter' people!

These reflections from volunteers with St. Raphael's Youth Ministry confirms the 'Alleluia' of Easter....."I would like to thank you for the opportunity you gave us to experience the 'awesomeness' of St. Francis Table you and your fellow staff members showed us what it truly means to be helpful and compassionate. Everyone should experience a warm meal and you are providing it for a lot of people. You have shown me, as well as my fellow youth ministry leaders what it means to be a son of God. And for that, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts." (Cody)

"Thank you very much for giving us this wonderful opportunity, although it was heart breaking. It made me appreciate what I have on a daily basis: food, water, clothes, warmth and much more. It was visible that people who come to St. Francis Table don't have a place to sleep every night, a bottle of water, clean washed clothes; and especially, no food. I watched these people scrape their plates clean, and I think it really put life in perspective for all of us!" (Samy)

On behalf of the Capuchin friars, staff, volunteers and patrons, have a

HAPPY EASTER 2008!



Capuchin Outreach to the Poor (Parkdale) was founded in 1987 by the Capuchin Franciscan Friars of Central Canada with the vision of creating a faith community with the poor by providing direct services that seek to enhance the sense of human dignity of those who are in need.

St Francis Table, the primary expression of Capuchin Outreach, serves on average 250 meals per day, six days a week in Toronto's Parkdale community. Patrons are asked to make a \$1 donation towards their three course meal which is provided with full restaurant service.

St Clare Centre is our Outreach and Drop-In space, hosting weekly AA meetings as well as an informal drop-in for patrons of St Francis Table.

Capuchin Outreach to the Poor (Parkdale) is a registered charitable organization (#11883-7970-RR0001).

We receive no government or United Way funding, instead relying on the charity of private individuals and businesses for our income.

ST. FRANCIS TABLE EASTER 2008



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ARCHBISHOP COLLINS VISITS ST. FRANCIS TABLE

St. Francis Table concluded its 20th Anniversary celebrations (1987-2007) with a pastoral visit from Most Reverend Thomas Collins, Archbishop of Toronto on January 16, 2008. With over 900,000 meals served, it was truly a fitting ceremony of blessing of the San Damiano Chapel, the St. Clare Centre and our restaurant, St. Francis Table.



Archbishop Collins was assisted by Bishop-Elect Br. John Corriveau OFM Cap., Br. Paul Coleman, OFM Cap., Br. Greg Mulligan OFM Cap., and Fr. Dominic Barber, Vice-Rector of St. Augustine's Seminary. The Music Ministers during the Mass were Brian and Mary Docherty. Br. John Frampton OFM Cap., Animator of St. Francis Table thanked Archbishop Collins for his pastoral visit.

Barbara Breda, an Advisory Board member for St. Francis Table proclaimed the First Reading from the Book of Samuel. Bishop-Elect Br. John Corriveau proclaimed the Gospel from St. Mark and Archbishop Collins delivered a fitting homily for all gathered.

He related the story of St. Francis of Assisi to that of Samuel who proclaimed, "Here I am Lord, I come to do our will." Here, today, at the chapel, the San Damiano Cross is a constant reminder for all of us to be open to the will of God in our lives; whether we are staff, volunteers, donors or patrons. The cross signifies the promise given us by God and through Jesus.



Archbishop Collins with volunteers

Those who gathered represented all aspects of our Capuchin ministry in Parkdale. Staff, donors, volunteers and patrons joined together for the blessing. All were graced with the presence and words of Archbishop Collins and his belief that ministry to the poor is primary for all who respond to the will of God. Not only Samuel from the First Reading bears truth to this reality. From the Gospel of St. Mark, the words from Archbishop Collins were confirmed in the healing ministry of Jesus. Our Capuchin ministry includes the spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi, rooted in compassion, respect and appreciation for all, as sisters and brothers; in imitation of Christ. Archbishop Collins took the time to be present with our patrons at lunch time. His witness is truly a gift that was appreciated by all who

met him. Volunteers are daily thanked for their presence and ministry at St. Francis Table. Today, we appreciated the same from our local shepherd!



Sam Kumarasamy (Cook), Br. John Frampton OFM Cap., Animator, Archbishop Thomas Collins and Dominic Morris (Cook).



Music Ministers: Mary and Brian Docherty