

CHARITY BRINGS PEACE...REFLECTION

By Leader Tom Finn (Connecticut)



....As we left the parking lot in our van, we turned to head toward Queen Street and as we headed through the light, Ricardo shouted, "Mr. Finn, stop, can we please go back?" I wasn't sure what he meant. (I instantly recalled the scene from 'Miracle on 34th Street' when the little girl tells Mr. Galley to stop for the house Santa had delivered). But, he then said that he had seen a boy sitting on the sidewalk with a sign asking for help outside the store and felt a need to see if he/we could help him some how. As we made our way back, Ricardo said that something just 'made me notice him....he seemed to be my age.' All the kids took the grabbed food they had with them, along with some fruit that you had sent to Youthworks and placed it all in a bag. When we gave the food to the boy, who looked indeed to be about fifteen, he turned to us and his face seemed to reflect an image of the suffering Jesus. He smiled and as we left he gave us the 'peace' sign. As we drove away with everyone in tears and many in sobs, it was apparent that 'service to the poor' had found a very personal meaning for us. Since then, the peace sign has served both as a reminder of service performed and a reminder of service to which we remain called.

I know that our time with you, Br. Ken, Dom, Sam, Matt, all your volunteers and, most of all, your patrons, has shown us how to see the face of Christ in all his people. The joy with which you so faithfully live out God's call to serve the poor not only pumped us up with a 'servant' energy during our days at St. Francis Table, but has sent us on with an awareness of our need to continue serving and to bring that energy to others. One of our youth, Nick, summed up our experience by saying, "I never thought I'd see so many of the corporal works of mercy happening in just an hour over lunch." So not only did we see so many, but we learned that we, ourselves, can be messengers of God's mercy and witnesses for God's living love in the world.



1322 Queen Street W., Toronto, ON M6K 1L4

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.

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

Capuchin Outreach to the Poor (Parkdale) is a registered charitable organization

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ST. FRANCIS TABLE FALL APPEAL 2012



**1322 QUEEN STREET WEST
TORONTO, ON M6K 1L4**

PHONE: 416.532.4172

FAX: 416.532.8814



Email: st.francistable@yahoo.ca

Visit our website ...

www.capuchinoutreach.org

25th ANNIVERSARY: 1987-2012!!!



I am happy to introduce Br. Stephen Van Massenhoven OFM Cap. who will be assisting at St. Francis Table from September-December 2012. In January 2013 Br. Stephen will be responsible for the ministry while I take a sabbatical after 30 years as a friar. We look forward to Br. Stephen's presence. He is originally from St. Mary's, Ontario and entered Postulancy in 2004 and was ordained as a priest earlier this year.

It has been another great summer with Youthworks and various other groups that volunteered to cover our evening meal. Br. Ken and I travelled to Mansfield, Ohio to visit a volunteer group that had been part of our ministry this summer. Thanks to the Staich family, whose son Charlie is a Youthworks volunteer, for welcoming Br. Ken and I into their home for five days. Many thanks to all who provided us with real Ohio hospitality, especially from the Ontario Christian Fellowship Church in Mansfield!

Many thanks for your ongoing generosity. The reflection from Youthworks leader, Tom Finn testifies to the fact that you make a difference in the lives of all who are part of the ministry of feeding the hungry. Again, thank-you!

Br. John Frampton

Bro. John Frampton, ofm, cap.
Animator



Youthworks volunteers from Connecticut
& Woodstock, New Brunswick.



Youthworks volunteers from Ohio & Florida!

VOLUNTEERS, STAFF AND PATRONS!!!



Salesian Youth
Volunteers
from St.
Benedict Parish
(Toronto)



Volunteers from St.
Christopher Parish
(Mississauga)



VOLUNTEERS, STAFF AND PATRONS!!!



Toronto Police Services Volunteers
11 Division



(left to right): Br. Ken Cole, Charlie,
Joel, Staci (with Darcy) and Sam Staich
with Br. John Frampton

