



Capuchin Outreach to the Poor was founded in 1987 by the Capuchin Franciscan Friars 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.

15 years later, St. Francis Table serves on average 250 meals a day, six days per week in Toronto's Parkdale community. Patrons are asked to make a \$1 donation towards their meal and are provided with full restaurant service in a comfortable and pleasant environment. Soup, a choice of entrees followed by dessert and coffee or tea are the everyday fare of St. Francis Table.

The St. Clare Centre, next door to 'The Table', is a drop-in centre and tea room for our patrons. St. Clare Centre also hosts a weekly Alcoholics anonymous meeting, monthly foot clinics, as well as everyday chess and cribbage games.

The Capuchin Street Outreach program has its office above St. Francis Table and provides direct service and supportive advocacy to those who are in need. The Capuchin Street Patrol runs from this office providing a Franciscan presence on the street and under the bridges and back alleys of our community.

Capuchin Outreach to the Poor 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.



We need your help!

As our ministry grows, so do our needs. We have compiled a short list of giving ideas that will help us more efficiently serve those who are in need this summer.

Financial Donations: Your donations pay for food, kitchen/cleaning supplies, utilities, property taxes, staff, maintenance and office supplies.

In-Kind Donations: You can help us defray costs by donating items to be used directly by our ministry. Our current needs are:

- Canned goods: soup, vegetables, tomato sauce, baked beans, tuna, salmon, corned beef.
- Rice
- Food vouchers, gift certificates, and TTC tokens for our *Capuchin Street Outreach* program.
- Office Supplies: printer paper, postage stamps, paper coin rolls, and office dividers.

*Tax Receipts can be provided for In-kind donations.

Service: We are also looking for someone to assist us with wiring our new office for phones and computers.

Please contact Gerry McGilly at 416.532.4172 if you are able to help with any of these needs.

St. Francis Table Newsletter



Capuchin Outreach to the Poor (Parkdale)

Summer 2002



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& St Clare Centre
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A message from Administration...

Dear Friends,

Beginning in September 2002, we will be launching the *Capuchin Street Outreach* Program to more directly serve the needs of our patrons. This new expression of our ministry is intended to provide increased support to those who are struggling with both personal and practical issues. As the housing crisis grows, the need for nurturing and enhancing our brothers and sisters sense of human dignity is vital.

Capuchin Street Outreach services will include a Franciscan street patrol, formal counseling by qualified professionals, art therapy, individual advocacy for housing and financial issues, as well as referrals to other existing social services. We will be walking with our patrons through their times of hardship and sharing with them the contacts and resources we have built up over the past 15 years.

St. Francis Table continues to be the cornerstone of our ministry and the principle recipient of your donations. I encourage everyone to look at the column on the other side of this page to find out the many ways you can support our ministry to the poor and vulnerable of our society.

May God bless you and keep you now and always!

Gerry McGilly

From Bro. Alan's Desk ...

In Psalm 104 written in praise of the creator we read the following...

"All of them depend on you, to give them food when they need it. You give it to them, and they eat it; you provide food and they are satisfied."

For 15 years in Parkdale we have enjoyed a good reputation and the steadfast support of many people in carrying out our meal programs. Again we say a heartfelt "THANK YOU".



Also in Psalm 104 it says... "When you turn away, they are afraid; when you hold back your breath, they die, and go back to the soil they came from. But when you give them breath, they live; you give new life to the earth."

In keeping with the spirit of the above verse and in an effort to manifest new life among our brothers and sisters, we will as September begins be formally expanding our outreach. This will include opportunities for counseling and art therapy, connecting people with housing and medical assistance, and meeting them on the streets, under the bridges and other secluded areas of the neighborhood.

We look forward to your continued prayers and support as we venture into these new forms of outreach. I wish each and everyone of you a safe and enjoyable summer.

Pax et bonum,
Bro. Alan



Volunteers!

Each week close to 100 people volunteer at St. Francis Table preparing and serving meals as well as cleaning up afterwards. At St. Francis Table, our volunteers change with the school year and summer time means we say goodbye to some of the people that have been with us since the fall.

Special thanks to all of the dedicated individuals who have spent so much time and energy serving the poor and making our community a diverse and lively place to be!

We also would like to thank the many groups who have served at the Table this school year!

Thank You to this year's volunteer groups:

Bro Brian (pictured above with Wednesday Volunteers), Bro Michael and Bro Jean-Phillipe from the Capuchin Post Novitiate Program; Students and staff from St. Martins Secondary (Mississauga), St. Joan of Arc Secondary (Maple), Father Bresani Secondary (Woodbridge); Volunteer teams from the University of Toronto's Newman Centre, Scarborough Foreign Missions, and Tap Root; Staff and clients from the Toronto Association for Community Living; and to our summer groups from the Centre for Student Missions and YouthWorks.