



## St Francis Table Facts and Figures

- Meals served between June 2002 and June 2003: **44,426**
- Percentage of male St. Francis Table Patrons: **85%**
- Percentage of St. Francis Table Patrons who are Seniors: **23.5%**
- Percentage of St Francis Table Patrons who are children: **0.6%**
- Patrons who participate in our monthly meal budgeting program: **11%**
- Percentage of Patrons unable to make \$1 donation between June 2001 and June 2002: **13%**
- Percentage of Patrons unable to make \$1 donation between June 2002 and June 2003: **22%**

The number of meals we have served this year is up just **1%** from last year – that's over **400** more meals. Most of our patrons are men between the ages of 30 and 60 and we continue to serve a significant number of Seniors. **6,612 women** ate at the table over the past year along with **250 children**.

The \$1 donation for a meal policy is a distinct part of St. Francis Table's meal program. **90%** of our patrons normally made donations towards their meals. Over the past year, however that number has decreased to **79%** due to an increase in homelessness and rents in the area. More than **5%** of our patrons over the past year had their donations paid for by local organizations who distribute meal vouchers to those in need.



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 tearoom 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 provides direct service and supportive advocacy to those who are in need. Services offered include: housing advocacy, personal budgeting, community service referrals, and pastoral counseling. Additionally, a transitional housing program is under development.

**Capuchin Outreach to the Poor is a registered charitable organization (#11883-7970-RR0001). We receive no government or direct United Way funding, instead relying on the charity of private individuals and businesses for our income.**



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# SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2003

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## Greetings from Parkdale!

We recently received a donation in memory of a man called 'Tom'. Tom was a man who had an unhappy life but was slowly trying to put things together. He was doing well until a set back occurred. For most this would have been minor, but for Tom it was the last straw in a frustrating struggle. One evening, full of despair, Tom took his own life. This scenario is far too familiar to us here at St. Francis Table, having lost several patrons recently under similar circumstances. For a few years now I have written about the increases in poverty and decreases in housing. People sleeping on the sidewalks and in doorways have become part of the Toronto experience. The pressure on those who are homeless and hungry must be staggering and for those with a mental illness that desperation is too often fatal. The community we have built at St. Francis Table continues to grow stronger, however, as more people find compassion and companionship through our meal program and outreach. Many individuals, much like 'Tom' have been able to get that extra support they need through our Street Outreach, in which Brother Alan works with individuals with specific goals such as getting off the street and into transitional housing, accessing detoxification programs, budgeting towards independent housing, or help with making connections with various services in the area. Since starting the Outreach Program in September of 2002, I have seen many who with Brother Alan's help have successfully made their way from life on the street through detox programs and to independent

housing. From the humble vision of creating a faith community with the vulnerable through services that enhance human dignity, St Francis Table has often been a life changing place for our patrons as well as volunteers, friars and staff. Amidst the reality of the suffering due to increased poverty, hunger, and homeless we here at the Table are very aware of the blessings we receive and the joy that comes to those who open their hearts to life and all of its possibilities. I thank you for your continued support for our ministry and ask that you continue to pray for our community and especially for those who fall into depression – that we may all be open to God's presence in our lives and live lives worthy of children of God.

Peace,

*Gerry McGilly* Administrator  
gmcgilly@capuchinoutreach.org

### DONATIONS and RECEIPTS

- Please make St. Francis Table the recipient of your charitable giving for 2003. Your donations will enable us to continue our Meal and Outreach programs for the most vulnerable of our society.
- All outstanding receipts will be posted by August 2003 unless you have indicated an annual receipt preference. One receipt for the year reduces our administration costs.
- Any questions regarding donation options or receipts should be directed to Gerry McGilly at 416 532-4172.

## Table Faces...

Over the past few months, Fiona Crawford – who along with Sam makes up the kitchen staff – has been taking pictures of some of the folks we see around St Francis Table. Many thanks to Fiona for sharing her photos!

