

From Bro Alan's Desk:

Peace & Goodness! Finally, summer has arrived and with it sun-drenched days, the end of the school year and the beginning of summer vacations. Last fall we opened our Capuchin Outreach office in an effort to more closely work and walk with our marginalized sisters and brothers in the Parkdale area.

Our programs at this new office have been met with varying degrees of success as we tailor them to better respond to individual needs. One of our most successful programs has been a "Voluntary Trust" program whereby myself and our Outreach Worker work one on one with people to help develop a monthly budget and money management skills.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Rob Kleysen who was previously a participant in our Capuchin Associate Program. At the conclusion of that program Rob decided to remain in Toronto and work with the Catholic Worker movement rather than return to his hometown of Winnipeg. We have since employed Rob as an outreach worker to help handle the growing variety of requests that come our way.

Rob writes: "I am thrilled to be working in this new outreach capacity with the many people we see who struggle with homelessness, drug addiction, mental illness, family trauma, and other life challenges at Capuchin Outreach St. Francis Table. Because of the flexibility of my position, I have been able to support one person with a long-term addiction off the street and into rehabilitation, advocate for disability payments for another man with a long prison record, accompany a suicidal woman to hospital, arrange housing for another person being discharged from hospital with no where to live and counsel numerous persons in crisis. I am truly blessed to see Christ in so many of these neighbours of mine and am very grateful to the people who make this work possible. Thank you."

We look forward to a busy summer around here and wish each and every one of you a truly joy filled and sun drenched summer, relaxing vacations and safe travels to all of your destinations. As always we offer our heartfelt thanks and gratitude for your generous and prayerful support of our ministry. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Pax et Bonum, Bro Alan



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 and EA meetings as well as an informal drop-in for patrons of St Francis Table.

The **Capuchin Outreach Program**, initiated in 2003, provides direct service and supportive advocacy to those who are in need. Outreach staff provide assistance to patrons with issues such as access to food and housing, personal budgeting, community and life skills, community agency referrals, as well as pastoral counseling.

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 or income.

St. Francis Table

Summer Newsletter 2004



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Greetings from Parkdale!

As the school year closes, we'd like to thank the youth groups who have volunteered their time and energy to the meal program at St. Francis Table. Students from De LaSalle, Loretto College, Monsignor Fraser College, Brother Andre, St. Martins, Father Bresani, Monsignor Johnson, Cardinal Carter, St. Paul's (Hastings), Toronto District Christian School, Bishop Allen Academy, St. Elizabeth High School, and Bishop Morocco/Thomas Merton have helped prepare and serve meals to our patrons along with their teachers who have freely shared their time and service. These groups accent our outstanding individual volunteers and our friends from the Toronto Association for Community Living who form the core of our service teams. Over 100 volunteers are needed each week at the Table and we are indeed blessed to achieve our goals with the dedication and generosity of all of these individuals.

During the summer months the needs of our outreach grow as different food programs and drop-ins close for the season. St. Francis Table and Capuchin Outreach remain open all year long and as our long term volunteers take some well deserved vacation time, we welcome groups from the Centre for Student Missions and Youth Works who will be working every meal through until August.

On behalf of the patrons of St Francis Table I thank you, our benefactors, who through your generosity allow our community with the most vulnerable of our society to continue to be a source of food, friendship and faith.

Gerry McGilly, Administrator
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Volunteers at the Table!



Sorting out the tins in the pantry



Bro Alan and Volunteers during mealtime



Cleaning up after the meal



Fr Ron McIntyre has returned to the Table celebrating mass for volunteers and patrons in our Knights of Malta chapel on Wednesdays at 11am.

**Your
continued
support is a
blessing to our
community at
St. Francis
Table**

**May you all
have a safe
and joyful
summer!**