

# The Canticle

OF THE CAPUCHIN RETREAT CENTER



**FALL NEWSLETTER 2024**



## About our Upcoming 2024-25 Retreat Season

When we read the Gospels, we tend to focus on Jesus' teachings and actions. We want Jesus to shape our lives so that we can live most fully aligned with God's will and be good disciples. But what if we also looked to the example of the other characters in the Gospels to help us with our discipleship?

Looking at these Gospel Characters and how God works through them, we should ask the following. How do they receive their call from Christ? How do they respond to it? What happens after these characters have a personal encounter with Jesus?

Join us as we delve into the stories of those whose lives were linked to Jesus Christ in the Gospel. If, by their connection to Jesus, they experienced transformation, conversion, and strength in their faith, so can we! Join us for our 2024-25 Retreat Season at the Capuchin Retreat Center and sign up for a silent retreat as we focus this season on what we can learn from these remarkable men and women. View our schedule for women's retreats, men's retreats and mixed retreats in the list to the right. **To sign up online or view the schedule on our website, scan the QR code in the box below.**



## Women's Silent Retreats

Retreat #1 .....	September 6-8
Retreat #2 .....	September 13-15
Retreat #3 .....	September 27-29
Retreat #4 .....	October 11-13
Retreat #5 .....	October 25-27
Retreat #6 .....	January 17-19
Retreat #7 .....	January 31 - February 2
Retreat #8 .....	February 28 - March 2
Fellowship Retreat (not silent)....	March 14-16
Retreat #9 .....	March 21-23
Retreat #10 .....	March 28-30
Retreat #11 .....	April 11-13
Retreat #12 .....	April 25-27
Retreat #13 .....	May 2-4

## Men's Silent Retreats

Retreat #1 .....	November 1-3
Retreat #2 .....	January 3-5
Retreat #3 .....	January 10-12
Retreat #4 .....	March 7-9

## Mixed Retreats (Men & Women)

Midweek Silent Retreat .....	September 24-26
Addiction Recovery Retreat .....	December 6-8
Married Couples Retreat.....	January 24-26



**Scan the code to view the schedule and register online.**



# Inside this ISSUE

## THE BEAUTY OF CREATION 04

After being graced with two events that showcased the beauty of Catholic artwork, the retreat center witnessed the unveiling of a new permanent installation on our property.

## WELCOMING FR. BENOY 06

The summer saw changes in the leadership staff here at the Capuchin Retreat Center. With new friars arriving and others taking on exciting new roles, we're grateful for growth.

## EMBRACING THE FAITH 08

The Holy Spirit was alive among retreatants and friars this last summer as we experienced God's grace among brothers, sisters and laypeople through several events.

## OUR UPCOMING EVENTS 11

Check out our upcoming Morning of Reflection dates for the 2024-25 season and learn about how you can enjoy a meal at Culver's while supporting the Capuchin Retreat Center!



## *From the DIRECTOR*

In St. Francis of Assisi's writings, he shares this: "Where there is rest and meditation, there is neither anxiety nor restlessness." Since 1969, the Capuchins have made it their mission to extend this divine tranquility to everyone through the ministry of the Capuchin Retreat Center.

With so much happening here, I have decided to change the look of our newsletter. Our new format will continue to provide information about our ministry and programs, while also presenting it in a way that is reflective of the rest and meditation that our retreatants experience. May God's blessing be upon you, and I hope you enjoy our new format.

**Fr. Vito Martinez, OFM Cap.**  
Director of Capuchin Retreat Center

# *The beauty of* **CREATION**

**This past summer, we were graced with two events that showcased the beauty of Catholic artwork in our community and witnessed the unveiling of new permanent installation on our property.**

## **New Statue Unveiled**

St. Francis received the stigmata – the wounds of Jesus Christ on his hands, feet and side from his crucifixion – eight centuries ago in La Verna, Italy.

For those of us in southeast Michigan, a recently unveiled art installation brings this event to life at Capuchin Retreat Center. The newly cast bronze statue depicts the exact moment when St. Francis is

said to have received these special marks on his body.

One of St. Francis' earliest biographers describes the event as occurring while he was visiting a hermitage on Mount La Verna, located just north of Assisi. While there, Francis had a vision of an angel affixed to a cross. Afterward, nails appeared on Francis' hands and feet, while the right side of his abdomen "was marked with

an oblong scar, as if pierced with a lance."

This statue on the grounds of our Capuchin Retreat Center is appropriately built to reflect this moment in Francis' life. The statue depicts Francis on his knees and in prayer, looking in agony toward the large, iconic crucifix in the center of our pond, one that has long been a focal point for retreatants. Here, past visitors have often reported experiencing many profound moments of Jesus' presence at this cross while bearing their own intense sufferings.

The sculptor, Mary Dudek, is a local artist who specializes in sacred fine art. A University of Michigan graduate, Dudek teaches in the Detroit metro area and several of her other statues are on also display at the nearby St. John Vianney Catholic Church, in Shelby Twp.



## Icon Retreat

"Starving artist. Will teach for food." Brother Thomas Skowron could use that as his marketing slogan. (We're kidding, of course. He's not starving; we feed our friars around here.)

But there's no question the artistically inclined Capuchin friar can wield a mean paintbrush — and can teach others to do the same. This summer, Skowron led a retreat to teach others the ancient art of icon "writing," or the process of producing beautiful, Byzantine-style icons of Jesus and our favorite saints.

20 retreatants joined the 5-day-long seminar, each getting to keep their iconic handiwork. The specialty of this program was that the participants did not come to just learn to how paint icons as a hobby. Rather, they came to embrace a retreat filled with prayers, meditation, silence and focus to give expression to the image of Christ that is in their heart.

This retreat became popular in the Archdiocese of Detroit. In fact, it was even featured on the Detroit Catholic's website in September 2024. Stay tuned for more information on the next Icon Painting Retreat on February 16-22, 2025, where you too can have the opportunity to prayerfully paint an icon of Christ and bring it home. No art skills required!

**TOP IMAGE:** Br. Thomas Skowron teaches as a group gathers around him to watch.

**MIDDLE IMAGE:** Attendees gather in the chapel to display the icons they painted at the retreat.

**BOTTOM IMAGE:** A retreat attendee looks fondly on the icon of Jesus that she painted.





# *Welcoming* **FR. BENOY JOSEPH**

**This summer saw changes in the leadership staff with our former Assistant Director, Fr. Julius Milton, accepting a new role as Programming Director and Fr. Benoy Joseph beginning his tenure as our new Assistant Director.**

## **Role Changes**

As of the summer of 2024, there have been changes in the leadership team at the Capuchin Retreat Center.

Upon Fr. Julius Milton's return from his trip to India, he has assumed a new role as Programming Director for the Capuchin Retreat Center, stepping down from his former position as the Assistant Director. In his new role, Fr.

Julius will be taking a more hands-on approach to future programming for our ministry and stepping away from the administrative duties involved in his former position.

With these changes, we are excited to announce that Fr. Benoy Joseph will be taking over as the new Assistant Director of the Capuchin Retreat Center. Fr. Benoy comes to us from the same Capuchin Province as former



Capuchin Retreat Director, Fr. Binoy Augustine and former leadership staff member, Fr. Biju Parakkalayil.

## About Fr. Benoy

Fr. Benoy Joseph hails from the state of Kerala in India. Since his ordination in 2006, he has served as a local guardian in Capuchin friaries in addition to carrying out the responsibilities of his priesthood. Fr. Benoy also has both a Master's Degree and a PhD in sociology and has served as a principal in various Indian schools.

Before joining us here at the retreat center, Fr. Benoy served our Capuchin Order as a counselor and later as the Provincial Minister of the Capuchin Province of Kristjyoti, located in northwest India. During this time, as administrator and pastor, he helped promote unity in both the Catholic church and the Capuchin mission for the friars in his province.

Fr. Benoy enjoys living out his vocation as a priest, celebrating Mass, preaching, performing baptisms, confessions, marriages, and anointings and always ensuring the Catholic and Capuchin characteristics of the parish where he serves. We are grateful to have him here with us as he continues his service in our community. Please join us in offering Fr. Benoy a warm welcome!

# Thank you for A GOUDA EVENING

Over 200 excited guests joined us this past June for our third annual A Gouda Evening summer fundraiser! The evening featured music and entertainment, great food from Villa Penna and New Little India and frozen espressos. Thanks to all who supported us this year by attending, sponsoring, donating, participating in raffles and silent auctions, and for all those praying for us!



# A Summer of EMBRACING THE FAITH

**This past summer at the Capuchin Retreat Center saw a flurry of events that brought our Franciscan Catholic faith to life. Among these were our first-ever Eucharistic procession, a collaborative retreat with friars from around the world, and more.**

This past summer at the Capuchin Retreat Center, we were blessed to both host and witness a flurry of events that allowed us to truly bring our Franciscan Catholic faith to life in vibrant, visible ways. Among these events were the Solemn Profession of Vows taken by our Br. Daniel Viyakularaj in late May, our first-ever Eucharistic procession, a retreat with more than 20 professed religious sisters, and a collaboration retreat with 15 friars hailing from around the world.

## Profession of Vows

It's always a blessing when a Capuchin friar professes perpetual, lifelong vows like our brother, Daniel Viyakularaj, did here on May 29, 2024. In our humble little chapel packed with family members from Br.

Daniel's state of Tamil Nadu in southern India, along with Capuchins from around the Midwestern United States, Br. Daniel professed his perpetual vows in the Capuchin Order to his provincial superior, also from Tamil Nadu.

## Corpus Christi Procession

This year, the Capuchin Retreat Center held our first-ever Eucharistic procession as part of a lively celebration during the feast of Corpus Christi.



The special event, co-hosted with our neighboring parish, Ss. John and Paul in Washington Twp, featured a procession throughout the grounds of the retreat center and concluded with a holy hour in the chapel.

## Religious Sisters' Retreat

There's a beauty in religious life that we love to embrace here at the Capuchin Retreat Center. This summer more than 20 of our professed sisters from various religious congregations met here on our grounds for a retreat. In what's become an annual tradition, the sisters spent about a week recuperating and getting spiritually refreshed with the Capuchins before heading back into their regular ministries. The retreat featured spiritual conferences touching on themes of Franciscan spirituality, as well as a special healing service in the chapel.



## Fraternal Collaboration

As Capuchin friars, part of our vocation is to live in community with others, and nowhere is that seen more abundantly than when we have the opportunity to come together with our brothers from across the world.

This summer, over 15 different friars hailing from countries across the globe gathered at the Capuchin Retreat Center for a time of fellowship, bonding and social interaction. The friars are from the countries of India, Ethiopia, Tanzania and Poland and are each ministering currently with our Detroit-based Capuchin Province of St. Joseph. Our Province has been collaborating with Capuchins from a variety of different countries for a decade now and retreats like this one provide an excellent opportunity for friars to grow in fellowship and learn from one another.





## **How to Support Capuchin Retreat Center**

We welcome contributions of any size. All are acknowledged and are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Capuchin Retreat is a ministry of the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph. Unless otherwise directed, donations support the local ministry and the Province.

### **To donate through the mail:**

Capuchin Retreat Center  
62460 Mt. Vernon Rd.  
Washington, MI 48094

### **To donate from a bank account:**

Use your bank or credit union's  
bill pay program and set up  
one-time or recurring gifts.

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### **To donate using a credit or debit card:**

Please visit our website at  
[www.capretreat.org/give-now/](http://www.capretreat.org/give-now/)  
or scan the QR Code to the right.



# *Don't Miss our* NEXT EVENTS!

## MORNING OF REFLECTION DATES FOR 2024-25

**September 10, 2024 - August 19, 2025**

Join us for our Mornings of Reflection during our 2024-25 Retreat Season! See below for a list of our upcoming dates:

- September 10, 2024
- October 15, 2024
- November 19, 2024
- January 21, 2025
- February 18, 2025
- May 20, 2025
- June 17, 2025
- July 15, 2025
- August 19, 2025



## CULVER'S FOR CAP RETREAT



**Tuesday, October 15, 2024 | 4 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

Do you like Culver's and the Capuchin Retreat Center? Here's an opportunity to support them both! Drive through or dine-in at Culver's in Washington Twp on October 15, 2024 between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. and a portion of the day's proceeds will be given to the Capuchin Retreat Center! Support the Capuchins and local business at the same time!



### EMAIL OPT-IN!

Opt-in to receive our email blasts by visiting [ofmcap.cc/CapRetreat-SignUp](http://ofmcap.cc/CapRetreat-SignUp) or scan the QR Code and clicking sign-up for news at the bottom of the page.



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