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# Capuchin Vocation Update Province of St. Joseph

## Postulant Finds Joy at St. Ben's Meal

*Former Used Car Salesman Seeks to Grow in Faith Filled Service  
(Used with permission from Breaking Bread, the St. Ben's newsletter.)*

Growing up, Postulant Vito Martinez remembers how his mother worked hard as a community organizer to better the lives of the poor. They themselves didn't have much, but rather than seek his fortune as an adult, Vito has spent several years seeking God's plan.



Vito jokes with a guest at St. Ben's.

Today Vito is a postulant, someone in the first year of formation as a Capuchin. As a part of that formation he volunteers at St. Ben's Community Meal.

"I am serving this year as a chaplain and volunteer coordinator. I help people get new ID's and bus tickets, and I refer them when needed to the Capuchin House of Peace and other agencies," Br. Vito said. "I really see it as the classic "porter" of the old friaries. The brothers would designate one person to answer the door and attend to the needs of the poor – that's me!"

Vivian is one of the homeless Vito has gotten to know. "She came one day feeling very depressed. She just wanted to tell someone her story of how as a poor woman she had become a prostitute." Vito added, "Even though I grew up poor myself I was very shaken by what Vivian shared."

Listening compassionately to the poor at St. Ben's helped confirm for him that he is on the right path. Vito noted, "Many people burn out over time. To do this with love my entire life I seek strength in prayer. One of my favorite prayers from St. Francis of Assisi asks God to grant us "*true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity....*"

Vito continued, "I also have the support of Br. David Schwab as Ministry Director. Br. Dave empowers me to do as much as I can for the poor. And he has helped me to learn how to do this work daily based on his own life in ministry." Vito also credits his life as a Catholic with helping him to grow in ministry. "Daily prayer, the Eucharist and playing the guitar at Sunday Mass all help sustain me," he said.

To learn more about Vito and his journey,  
read his blog at:

<http://vocationstory.blogspot.com/>

Plan to see old classmates at the  
SLS Alumni/Candidate Weekend  
January 16-18, 2009  
Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin

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