
The Canticle of St. Francis

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Fall 2003

Spring and Summer Brought

Opportunities for Adult Learners

The warm days of June, July and August beckoned many to the air-conditioned comfort of the parish facilities to explore ideas and to learn about our faith.

Philosophical conversation and scientific knowledge converged as the setting for a four-part series on proving the existence of God. Karl Young gave a presentation each evening to set the theme and then facilitated the lively discussion that was entered into by the twenty-five plus participants who came from a variety of backgrounds, from inside and outside the St. Francis community. Participants wrestled with concepts and facts, hypotheses and data in a Spirit-filled exploration of each week's topic.

Another popular series was Father Innasimuthu Arulsamy's course on the Psalms. Exploration of content, style, authorship, and classification were included in the makeup of the six-week study. Father's capable teaching

style and method of imparting information made for an interesting new experience each time the classes converged. St. Francis parish was blessed with Father Arulsamy's presence this summer. Father has a doctorate in Scripture from the Catholic University in Louvain, Belgium. He has taught at the seminary in India for many years. He came to St. Francis to experience parish life in a large American faith community. In the process, he was able to impart some of his vast knowledge of scripture to eager parishioners who wanted to learn more about the bible.

Rounding out this summer's offerings was a look at 'What Makes Us Church' as presented by Cathy Torgerson. Cathy is a St. Francis parishioner and a theology student at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. She guided the group through the Vatican II document on the Church which she has studied extensively and upon which she ably shared her insights. This was evidenced by the lively discussion and questioning of the participants during each of the sessions.

Adult learners will continue to find offerings throughout the coming fall and winter such as

- * Father James' series on the Sacraments: "Encounters with Christ"
- * RENEW small groups
- * bible studies
- * the dignity of work program
- * "Prayer in Motion"

Watch the Sunday bulletin for information, or check the parish website at <www.stfrancisa2.org>.



Father Innasimuthu Arulsamy's course on the Psalms