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# *The Canticle of St. Francis*

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Summer 2004



## **Legacy of the Popes Exhibit** ***Draws Raves***

by Charline List

Early on a rainy, late-March morning, fifty-seven people, including Father James Conlon, boarded a chartered bus in the St. Francis parking lot, and headed for Cincinnati Museum at Union Station. The goal of the journey was to view the largest exhibition of art and historical objects ever to tour North America from the Vatican Museum. The extraordinary collection included works by Michelangelo, Bernini, Giotto, Canova and others. Some items dated back to the third century, and even earlier. One small tin artifact with a cross symbol upon it was thought to have come from the grave of St. Peter.

The group had time to take a bus tour of Cincinnati and have lunch at the Washington Platform Restaurant before heading over to the museum which is in the beautifully converted train terminal not far from downtown.

To set the mood, entrance to the exhibit began with a movie about the Vatican and a short history of the beginnings of the Church. After passing by a bust of Pope John Paul II, the group walked through a replica of a street in "old Rome" at the time of the early church. The exhibit was a Journey through Church history and the papacy using multiple types of visual and audio components. Objects included one of the most ancient representations of the face of Jesus Christ, drawings by Michelangelo, the famous pastoral staff of Pope John Paul II, the Papal Tiara of Pope Pius IX, the codex of Saint Peter's Square and Basilica reliquaries, a 4<sup>th</sup> Century sarcophagus, 5<sup>th</sup> Century fresco of Saint Peter, a 799 A. D. mosaic of an apostle and other works by many of the world's most acclaimed artists throughout the centuries. Liturgical objects, frescoes, jewelry, vestments, maps and historic documents, sculptures and paintings, more than 300 works, offered an amazing look into the Papacy and the Vatican.

From experience with other large exhibits, time allotted to view the exhibit was set at two hours, which was thought to be generous. As with many tours of this type, a limited number of people are scheduled to view the exhibits at any given time. Therefore, most had an excellent opportunity to spend individual time viewing items of spe-

cial interest. However, most of the St. Francis visitors wished they had had even more time to spend in the exhibit because of the vastness of the collection and the well prepared commentaries that accompanied each artifact.

This was the third time in as many years that tours have been offered to St. Francis parishioners and their friends. The first took place at the U of M for the history of the written Scripture with the "Papyrus to King James" exhibit. Last year a busload went to see the Dead Sea Scrolls at the Van Andel Museum in Grand Rapids. Those who took part in this year's tour are eager to participate in another opportunity to learn about our faith through this type of experience. Who knows where that will lead!



**Adult Formation &  
Education Office:**  
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## **The Journeys of St. Paul**

**June 10, 17 & 24**

7:30 p.m. – School Music Room

Presenter: Father James Conlon

Come along and hear about this incredible preacher and traveler (that's St. Paul not Fr James!) who left an indelible mark, on our faith and what we believe about Jesus Christ as the Risen Christ and Redeemer. Learn about the spread of our faith in the early years after the Resurrection. *Bring a friend or two!!!*

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## ***Lights, Camera, Faith!***

### **A Movie Lover's Guide to Scripture**

**June 30 & July 7, 14, 28 & August 4 & 11**

Two Show Times:

★ Wednesday Matinee Movie: 1:00 p.m. in the PAC, with  
Childcare available by reservation at 1 pm, only.

★ Wednesday Night Feature Movie: 7:00 p.m. in the PAC

Movies selected will in some way portray real-life struggles of people—real life struggles that beg a human response. Immediately after each movie presentation will be an opportunity to discuss and apply the Christian story as found in the Gospels.

*Escape the Heat in the Air Conditioned Comfort of the PAC! Popcorn & cold beverages provided.*

## Mark Your Summer Calendar



**June 10, 17 & 24: The Journeys of St. Paul** - details see page 1.

**June 30 & July 7, 14, 28 & August 4 & 11: A Movie Lover's Guide to Scripture** - see page 1.

**June 21:** Join the Young Adult Friendship/Helping Group for their potluck picnic at 6:00PM at the Gallup Park Pavillion Scott Wright (734-821-2121) <swright@rc.net>

**July 19 – 23: Vacation Bible School** – see page 9.

**August 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: Summer Organ Recitals** at 7:00 p.m. in church.

**September 12: Parish Picnic** Begins with 12:15 p.m. Outdoor Mass. Plan now to come to this great parish event of family, friends, food & fun!



*Photo:* Children in the Religious Education program check their answers. After Easter break, students went on an egg hunt and working together as a class found 7 eggs of the same color filled with art paintings of post-Resurrection stories. Their job was then to match the paintings to the scripture stories. The class won an Easter treat if they finished the work correctly.

For more information or to enroll your child in the Religious Education children's program, call the office at 821-2130 or Ellen Ward at 821-2132.

## The Singles Group

Over the past few months, the Middle Singles Group has been busy with some new and exciting activities.

On Saturday, March 13, we hosted a regional, ecumenical *Singles Saturday* in the parish activity center. We had a guest speaker, Anne Marie Kidder from First Presbyterian speak on the theology of Singleness. Fr. James Conlon shared his thoughts on the single life and the call to singleness with the



group after supper. One of our parishioners, Marty Lucas spoke about her experiences and how important it is for those who are single to seek fulfilling roles in parish life.

Over 55 singles from the area attended the day. We enjoyed several discussions throughout the afternoon, participated in Mass together, and enjoyed a wonderful catered meal.

For those who came and enjoyed this event, or for those who were unable to attend, mark your calendars, we are having another *Singles Saturday* on November 20, 2004!

The Singles Group is always busy with new and exciting activities. Check out our webpage for more information at [www.stfrancisa2.com/middlesingles](http://www.stfrancisa2.com/middlesingles).

