

The Canticle of St. Francis

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Parish Newsletter: Volume 12, Issue 4

Winter 2007-2008

Business Breakfast Forum



Bright and early (7am!) Friday morning, October 26th, more than 50 business men and women gathered in the Parish Activities Center for breakfast, networking, and presentations on balancing life, faith and career. Those in attendance included many St. Francis parishioners as well as business people from other Catholic and Protestant churches. One man even came all the way from Cincinnati! The areas of employment of those who attended were equally diverse, including financial planners, real estate agents, attorneys, small and large business owners, University of Michigan employees, those in sales and those seeking employment opportunities.



Presenters Lori Buiteweg, Principal with Nichols, Sacks, Slank, Sendelbach & Buiteweg, PC, and Rick Haller, President & Chief Operating Officer for Walbridge Aldinger, spoke on how their values were formed and how they strive to live these values daily. Lori and Rick also shared tips they use for life balance to ensure that they truly spend their time on what they value.



photo courtesy of J. Michael Lenniger,
The Catholic Times

Fr. Jim McDougall was the moderator for the event and spoke on the four keys for living a balanced spiritual life:

1. Build a strong personal morality and virtue (i.e. honesty)
2. Build a strong social morality (i.e. care for others and work for the common good)
3. Belong to and participate in a faith community (it supports us and keeps us honest)
4. Laugh (lighten up – it's in God's hands)



The Business Breakfast Forum was sponsored by the Catholic Business Leaders Connection, a group of senior business leaders who meet on the second Saturday of each month at St. Francis to explore practical leadership approaches to applying their Catholic faith in the business world.



Mark Your Calendar : Winter 2007-08



Nov. 25 - Dec 16: **Giving Tree Gifts.** Help move gifts after weekend mass, Susanna Brown, 222-0057.

December 4: **Ya2acht Club**, Tuesdays @ 7-9:00 p.m., Jen Delvaux, 821-2126

December 8: **Catholic Business Leaders Connection @** 8:30a.m. in school library, Nick Synko, 734-332-8800, ext. 213

December 8: **Singles Potluck Social**, 2nd Saturday @ 6:30 p.m. in PAC, Jen Delvaux, 821-2126

December 10, 11, 12: **Advent Mini-Retreat – online.** You pick the time! Closing Mass & dinner on December 14, Marty Lucas, 821-2125

December 11: **Edge-M.S. Crab Soccer Tournament**, 3:30-5:00 p.m. in PAC. Victoria Emch, 821-2133

December 13: **Christmas Dinner Party for Perry Nursery School in AA**, 4 – 9:00PM in PAC, Scott Wright, 821-2121

December 16: **Edge Service Hours** - help at Living Nativity, 6-9:00 p.m. in PAC, Victoria Emch, 821-2133

December 16: **Living Nativity Procession** begins at 6:30 p.m. in church followed by the Children's Christmas festival. Ellen Ward, 821-2132

December 18: **Edge Christmas Party**, 3:30-5:00 p.m. in PAC, Victoria Emch, 821-2133

December 19: **Infertility Support @** 7:00pm in Church Library, Jennifer, 734-645-2567

December 21: **Serve A Meal for the Hungry** (3rd Fridays) 3PM or 5PM shift, Delonis Center Shelter, Bridget McGillicuddy, 665-9549

January 3-4: - **High School Retreat**, Jen Delvaux, 821-2126

January – May: **Stephen Ministry Training Class**, Thursdays, 7- 9:00 PM, school Library, Scott Wright, 821-2121.

January 6: - **High School Youth Group** resumes Sundays at 7 pm, Jen Delvaux, 821-2126

January 6, 7: **Catholics Returning Home.** Jan. 6 @ 2:00 pm or Jan 7 @ 7:00 pm, Pattie Scherer, 761-1658

January 7: **Knitting into the Mystery Shawl Ministry @** 7:00pm in school music room, Sally Eder, 973-6788

January 17: **Networking for the Reluctant Networker @** 7:00pm in school music room, Janene Ternes, 821-2122

January 19/20: **Pro-LIFE Porch Prayer Candle** for babies lost to abortion / distributed at masses, Marilyn Geyer, 734-973-2422

January 19/20: **Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.**, at Masses, Scott Wright, 821-2121

January 26: **Scrapbooking Day.** 8am – 5pm in PAC. Janene Ternes, 821-2122

January 26 & again March 8: **Going South to New Orleans 2008** week-long Service Trips, Debbie Melican, 734-222-6322

January 27: **St. Francis School Open House** 1.30-3.30 p.m. in the Parish Activities Center, 734.821.2200.

January 31: **Introduction to Spiritual Direction.** 7:00pm in Chapel, Janene Ternes, 821-2122

Lenten 2008: **Soup & Speaker @** 6:00 p.m., Marty Lucas, 821-2125

February 2008: *begin* **Eight Great Dates @** 6:30 p.m., Marty Lucas, 821-2125

February 3 - April 14: **Tax Assistance Program** (Prepare a tax return for a low income person - to volunteer, Julie Soyer 734-547-7164) Saturdays from 10:30AM to 12:30PM, Parish Office.

February 5: **Senior Citizens' Mardi Gras Party**, 10AM in PAC, Scott Wright, 821-2121

February 6: Ash Wednesday Masses
7:00 am, 9:15 am, 5:15 pm & 7:00 pm
in church

February 9: **Rite of Election-RCIA**, 11:00 a.m. at St. Francis, Marty Lucas, 821-2125

February 17, 18: **Parish Mission**, 7:00 p.m. in church, Marty Lucas, 821-2125

February 25 - March 3: **Rotating Shelter for Homeless Persons**, School Gym, Scott Wright, 821-2121.

March 2: **Grocery-Food Drive**, deliver to local PANTRIES @ 10AM from School Gym, Scott Wright, 821-2121.

April 25: **Educational Trust Fund Benefit Evening** at Kensington Court, Ann Arbor, Colleen Pierce, 821-2208



Advent Communal Penance Service

Thursday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m. in church

CHRISTMAS 2007 MASSES

Monday, December 24

5:00 p.m. Children's Liturgy

5:15 p.m. (in PAC)

7:00 p.m.

10:30 p.m. (*caroling at 10 pm*)

Tuesday, December 25

9:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m.

NEW YEAR MASSES

Monday, December 31

5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 1

10:00 a.m.





Adults Growing in the Faith

HONORING OUR PATRON: Transitus of Saint Francis of Assisi



The Transitus of Saint Francis of Assisi is a commemoration of the passing of Saint Francis from earthly life to eternal life.

October 3, 2007: the eve of Feast of St. Francis of Assisi In the dimmed chapel, we began by singing the Prayer of St. Francis as Fr. John entered with a single candle to represent the life of Francis. As each reader came forward to tell a portion of the story of the end of Francis' life, they carried a candle. These five candles signified the stigmata that Francis received. Fr. John proclaimed the same gospel passage that Francis had read to his followers. Cantor Patti Karr led Psalm 142 which was also something that Francis prayed as he died. We closed with the Canticle of the Creatures composed by Francis in 1225.

PRAYER – What Is It and How Do We Do It Well?

For his debut Adult Faith Formation presentation, Fr. John gave a talk on prayer. Attendees learned that in its simplest definition, prayer is conversation with God. It must be learned just as we learn all of our communication skills, and we become adept by continuing to practice!

How do we pray?

Adoration – We acknowledge we are creatures of God and we offer our praise.

Contrition – “O God, be merciful to me a sinner”

Thanksgiving – What are you grateful to God for?

Petition – Jesus himself told us to ask for what we need.

There are many different methods of prayer so if you are uncomfortable with one type, try another. Pray without ceasing!



Fr. John Linden

ST FRANCIS BOOK GROUP



It seems you can hardly open a book these days without someone mentioning they belong to a reading group.

Join fellow parishioners for good books, good conversation and good company! All are welcome - if you don't have a chance to read the book, you are still invited to come for good conversation and to find out about the next selection.



We read one book each month, and gather usually on the last Thursday to talk about that month's selection. Currently, the only limitation we are placing on the selections is that they have some relevance to living a Christian life.

The **EDGE** is about

Jesus, Fun and Serving!



September Fun Night & Helping in the Nursery

The Edge had a very fun and exciting start to the school year!! In September we had a pizza fun night which was a blast for everyone!! We were able to have lots of fun games and activities including scooter relay!! All the youth who came were able to have a wonderful time hanging out with their friends and eating yummy pizza! Then, on September 30th we helped with child care at the Sunday morning Church nursery. I am not sure who had more fun ... the youth or the little ones they were playing with!!!



October Activities, Youth Group Challenges, and Service

In October, we kept going with more great activities including bowling at Colonial Lanes and the after-school Tuesday Youth Group which meets twice a month. Some of our Challenge topics included, "Let Your Light Shine" and "Saints Saints Everywhere!"

For our October service project, we helped out with the Sunday Morning Coffee and Donuts. The youth were great servers!



For More Information

Please read the weekly Forum for details on these and other great events and activities planned for the Winter! **Online Calendar:** The Edge calendar of events is on the parish website. Find out when our next Tuesday Youth Group will be, and all our other events!! www.stfrancisa2.com then click on the *Middle School* link! Contact: Victoria Emch at 821-2133, or e-mail at emch@stfrancisa2.org



Edge events are open to all 6th, 7th & 8th graders!



High School YOUTH

Fall Retreat!



This high school youth retreat was a great success. We had several area youth groups join us. We even had a few special guests as our theme revolved around life issues, the gifts of the Spirit, and Hollywood.

From outrageous ice breaker activities, to small group discussions, to large group presentations, it was a wonderful time. During the free time we played Ultimate Frisbee, climbed the rock wall and enjoyed the great outdoors.



Next Retreat:

Mark your calendars for our next RETREATS:

January 3-4, 2008

April 19-20, 2008



St. Francis of Assisi School

Grandparents and Special Friends Day



On October 5th St. Francis held its biennial Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day. The day began at 7:30 AM with coffee and breakfast in the PAC. It was remarkable to see such a diverse group of people brought together by a shared love for St. Francis students. Through their support, encouragement and simply their presence, Grandparents and Special Friends are responsible for the achievement of the beautiful students we have at St. Francis. Our community—students, teachers, and parents—all delighted in the opportunity to celebrate those whose effects are certainly felt daily at St. Francis.



Once the breakfast hour concluded, Grandparents and Special Friends accompanied their student to his or her classroom. The classes were able to share a bit of St. Francis daily life with their Grandparents and Special Friends and demonstrate the knowledge and creativity of both students and teachers.

A special Grandparents and Special Friends Day Mass concluded the event. Fr. Jim led our community in a meaningful homily about how our Grandparents are the anchors in our children's lives; being able to share in the Eucharist with our Grandparents and Special Friends was most exceptional, indeed.



The day would not have been a success without the generous help of dozens of parent volunteers and the hard work of the St. Francis teachers. A huge THANK YOU to all involved!



Parker Mill Service Project

On October 23rd the fourth and sixth grade classes worked as stewards of God's wonderful Earth through their Community Service Project at Parker Mill and Fleming Creek. Despite the cold temperature and steady rain, the students labored all day to beautify the park.



The students were divided into seven service groups, each with a specific task to complete. Some students planted wildflowers while others planted tree seedlings. Another group cleaned signs and maps found along hiking trails, and several students spent the day raking up damp leaves.

The students' efforts certainly paid off; Parker Mill and Fleming Creek, already a beautiful park, was much improved by the students' hard work. The trees the students planted will continue to grow and inspire for generations. Although the weather conditions were less than ideal, the students persevered. Their example is a powerful one of the fortitude and strength one garners through performing Christ's work.



Snapshots from Religious Education—Fall 2007



Pictured left:

All God's creatures and saints enjoy treats on Halloween. Tricia Strassburg, Preschool Enrichment teacher, and Catherine Farrell, RE secretary, helped make the day special for those charming preschool children!

For information on Religious Education, call us at 734-821-2130!



Pictured above: A social of pizza and friendship followed the October 28 Mass with bible presentation. Traditionally, St. Francis presents the bible to youth in 6th grade during Mass.



Pictured above: Youth in 6th grade arrange a time line of the bible during a preparation class for the Mass. **Pictured below:** Children build a Faith candle! Religious Education forms children as followers of Jesus Christ!



Pictured Above: Youth engaged in "Spirit" activities on retreat. Confirmation candidates spend a weekend away building their relationship with God and others. **Pictured below:** Children in 5th grade study their faith in Religious Education classes.



Parish Social Ministry

Parish helps Friends In Deed Respond to Need for Reliable Transportation



Walt Hayes of Select Auto teaches at the car care clinic

On August 4, St. Francis Parish helped Friends in Deed (FID) offer a Car Care Clinic by hosting the class in the St. Francis parking lot. The goal of the class was to help save money in costly repairs by teaching preventive maintenance and tips on how to spot trouble before it becomes a major problem. Attendees learned car care basics, gained familiarity with their car's engine compartment and dashboard lights, and got tips on monitoring fluids and tires and selecting service persons and facilities.

Our parish St. Vincent de Paul Society works together with Friends In Deed to get donations of cars in good condition. Currently 15 households are waiting for a donated vehicle. In 2006, 87 requests for transportation-related needs were processed. During the *first six months* of 2007, 63 requests were processed by FID. Financial hardship means growing numbers of requests for help in getting and maintaining vehicles. Requests include car repair, fuel, car insurance or payment, and car donation. Many in poverty cite the lack of reliable transportation as the foremost barrier to finding or keeping a job.

Donate a Vehicle

- ⇒ in any condition: call 1-877-788-4623 / St. Vincent de Paul Society, Detroit
- ⇒ repairable /in relatively good shape: call 734-485-7658 / Friends In Deed

Family camp- Alabaré



Check it out ... It takes a team to run a camp. What an awesome team we have been blessed with. This year's wonderful theme was

"Be who you are and be that well."

- St. Francis de Sales



The volunteers and campers were inspiring it was a peace-filled, spirit-filled week. We were energized

through his music and friendship, the welcoming atmosphere, fireworks, rosary procession, fishing, creative sport activities for everyone. Mark your calendars with the dates of next year's family camp-Alabare June 28-July 5, 2008. See photos and comments at our website

stfrancisa2.com/holyfamilycamp

Thanks for the Special Collections

ArborVitae-Pregnancy Help Center

Dear parishioners of St. Francis,



Please accept the sincere thanks of the staff, volunteers and clients of Pregnancy Help Center (PHC) for the generous gift you've given through the recent special collection. Your spontaneity of heart means that this winter, more children in our area will be warmly dressed and well fed. More children will be safely tucked in cribs instead of drawers to sleep. And more parents relieved from worry over how to clothe and take care of their babies about to be born. May God bless and reward you!

Sincerely in Christ's love and peace,
Suzanne Abdalla, PHC Director

SOS Community Services

Thank you to all our friends at St. Francis for your generous support of our efforts here at SOS Community Services. The proceeds from your special collection will be a great help to us in placing homeless families with children into permanent supportive housing through our SOS Housing First Program. Because of your generosity, some of the most vulnerable members of our community will have safe havens and new starts in life.

The parishioners of St. Francis responded to the special collection with over \$2,000! This unexpected flow of generosity and kindness astonished and delighted us. The money will help fill a gap in our matching funds for Homeless Children's Services. That means an impact of over \$10,000 of funding for Time for Tots, the therapeutic day care program for children staying in homeless family domestic violence shelters. St. Francis is helping kids recover from the trauma of homelessness and abusive homes and gain the resilience to resume normal childhood development. That amounts to giving them a future filled with hope. On behalf of our clients, staff, and supporters, please accept our boundless gratitude. We are humbled by your kindness and commitment to making a better world.

Sincerely, James McClain, Development Associate
Gary Bell, Executive Director SOS



Living Catholic Stewardship

Ministry Reception & Fair



As a family of faith, we walk together to strengthen our relationship with God as well as our Catholic beliefs and practices. On October 13th and 14th, our parish community renewed its commitment to stewardship of time and talent during our Ministry Reception & Fair. We heard God's call to share those gifts on behalf of others to bring glory to Him.

Adults and children alike enjoyed special festivities in the Parish Activity Center following the 8:45 am & 10:30 am Masses. Ministries featured informative, interactive and decorative displays. Children colored paper crosses while eating fortune cookies that included stewardship messages such as:

"You will be blessed when you share your gifts with others." –James 1:25

"Make the world a better place. Use your gifts & talents." –Matthew 25:21

"You will live a joyful life when you reach out to help others." –Acts 2:28

"God calls you to live a life of Stewardship." –Luke 12:42

Everyone celebrated with seasonal treats of pumpkin, apple and chocolate chip mini-muffins as well as fruit, yogurt and juice too.

The Ministry Reception & Fair created awareness for the numerous and varied service opportunities within our parish; it also extended appreciation to the thousands of volunteers who contributed gifts of time and talent last year. Our spiritually grounded community has responded generously to the all-important task of helping others.

Following the Ministry Reception & Fair, hundreds of parishioners renewed their commitment to service; hundreds more volunteered for something new. We are each blessed with unique, God-given talents and we all have something to give.

Our Catholic faith stands for being responsible and for caring for others. If you haven't already done so, visit www.stfrancisa2.com/tt/ to review our Time & Talent Form; you can sign up for a ministry there too. When you share your time and talent in gratitude for your blessings you will strengthen your faith and live a richer, more passionate life.



Fall Worship at St. Francis



Outdoor Mass at annual Parish Picnic

Our parish family gathers together on the first Sunday following Labor Day to renew old acquaintances and welcome new members as summer vacation ends. The outdoor mass was followed by a time of fun, food & friends.



All Souls Remembrance Mass

At this mass we remembered all those who were buried from our parish over the past year, as well as other friends and family members as their names were spoken and candles lit.



Book of Eternal Life

During the month of November, we remembered all of our departed brothers and sisters by inscribing their names in the Book of Eternal Life. All enrolled



were remembered at all the masses for the entire month.



Special Mass for all in the Legal Profession

As the new session of the Supreme Court began, we took time to recognize, give thanks and ask God's blessing for all who work in the legal profession.

Men's Night-Out Basketball!!!



So far the score in the game is tied, but how did this game turn out? The parish men's basketball teams are in full play for the fall season. Playing on Wednesday nights, 4 teams of 11 players compete with games at 8 p.m. and 9 p.m. Interested in playing? The next season begins in early February, with teams forming in January. From beginning to advanced, all men are welcome! For information, contact Paul Ward at 734-476-8699.

Memorial Garden Has New Art Work! ✨

I am pleased to "introduce" to you our new Good Shepherd statue. This statue of Christ can be found in our St. Francis Memorial Garden. The bronze art work, the creation of Ginger Hadd of our parish, is the gift of one of our fellow parishioners who wishes to remain anonymous.

A brief blessing ceremony for our new statue was held on Sunday, September 16th at the end of the 10:30 a.m. Mass.

It has come to my attention that many of you are not aware that we have a Memorial Garden. It is located to the immediate west of the church – next to the lower chapel/ nursery entrance. Actually the garden has existed since the late 80s and several hundred people are buried there. The Memorial Garden was created to inter the cremated remains (cremains) of our beloved faithful departed. Unlike a columbarium, in the St. Francis Memorial Garden, the cremains are buried directly into the soil without a container or urn. The name of each person interred in the garden is inscribed on the granite walls of the garden.

Our Memorial Garden is open to any parishioner of St. Francis. The one-time cost is \$400.00 per person. This covers the inscription of the name on the granite walls, the interment and the perpetual upkeep of the garden.

Stop by sometime and see the beautiful new statue of Christ the Good Shepherd and the lovely Memorial Garden. If you think you might wish to have your burial at the garden, please call the parish office.

Fr. Jim McDougall, pastor



✨ Theology on Tap

Each month, on the second Tuesday, the Ya2acht Club has sponsored a **Theology on Tap** session. Meeting at Arbor Brewing Co., we have heard presentations on Integrating Faith, Work, and Life; Faith in the Real World, Fear and Faith; and How the Vatican Thinks.



These sessions included speakers, discussion time, and plenty of great food, drink and fellowship.

The series will continue on January 8th, when we will dive into the ethical issues surrounding stem cell research.



St. Francis
ya²ach club
Young Adult Catholics in their 20s-30s



Senior Citizens @ St. Francis

"Day Trips"

We were nestled all snug in our 15-passenger van as we enjoyed the Fall Trip to **FRANKENMUTH** in October. We visited Bronner's CHRISTmas Wonderland, ate lunch at Zehnder's, cruised the Cass River aboard the Bavarian Belle Paddlewheel, and then after a taste of warm fresh fudge and a scoop of ice cream we toured the Frankenmuth Historical Museum. Just before we hit the road home we stopped for an amazing time of prayer at the Silent Night Chapel. It was a pleasant day. And, we



Bishop Mengeling's 50th Anniversary

certainly got to know each other better.

Later in October we took a passenger van to **East Lansing** to wish Bishop Mengeling well and thank him for 50 years of service to the church as an ordained priest. We were blessed to pray and celebrate the 50th Anniversary with hundreds of people, lay ecclesial church ministers, nearly a hundred deacons, at least a hundred priests, and to our surprise 19 bishops. The reception and meal were fun and delicious.



St. Francis of Assisi Parish
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