



The Canticle of St. Francis

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Parish Newsletter: Volume 13, Issue 3 Fall 2008



World Youth Day 2008 Sydney, Australia

Just a few weeks ago, 24 youth and young adults from St. Francis journeyed to Australia for the World Youth Day event. This pilgrimage took us to St. Bede's in Melbourne where we spent several days living in the homes of generous hosts. Then it was yet another flight to Sydney so we could participate in the week long set of events known as World Youth Day.

At the WYD events, we heard bishops speak at catechetical sessions, an opening Mass with over 150,000 people, the papal boat-ade, the incredible living Stations of the Cross, and then finally the overnight vigil and closing Mass with Pope Benedict XVI.



Though we began the week as relative strangers, many friendships were forged in our group and with people from around the world. One of the challenging parts of the pilgrimage was the weather—it is winter in Australia. The temperatures were very chilly in Melbourne. While warmer in Sydney, at night it got quite cold. During the overnight vigil, the temperature dropped to 46 degrees.



For all the details from the trip, see the Youth Group webpage where there are articles posted. You may also want to keep your eyes peeled for more information next summer if you're interested in joining us for **WYD 2011 in Madrid.**



The Youth Group website is:
<http://hs.stfrancisa2.org/>. Just look for the **WYD** tag.

Mark Your Calendar

September 13: **Catholic Business Leaders Connection** / 8:30am / school library / Nick Synko 734-332-8800, ext. 213

September 15: **Meditation Group** / 7:00 – 8:00pm every Monday/ Chapel / Paul 734-665-6802

September 17: **Infertility Group** / 7:00 – 9:00pm / Church Library / Jennifer 734-645-2567

September 18: **Guadalupe Group** / 1:00 – 3:00pm on Thursdays/ Nursery / Mary Carmen 734-483-0820

September 18: **School of Discipleship - Salvation History** / 7:00 p.m./ Music Room - Register online or call Marty Lucas 821-2125

September 19: **M.O.M.S. Group** / 10:00 – 12:00pm 1st & 3rd Fridays / Chapel / Janine 734-913-9418

September 22: **School of Discipleship - Christology** / 7:00 pm./ School Library - Register online or call Marty Lucas 821-2125

September 26: **Mother/Child Network playgroup/** 10am – 12pm 2nd & 4th Fridays / Nursery / Anna Mae 734-418-2435

September 27, October 2 or Oct. 11: **Altar Server Training - fifth grade & up** / church / Fr. John Linden 734-769-2550

September 28: **LIFE Chain** / 2-3:30 PM / on Huron Pkwy from Washtenaw Ave. to Professional Dr, Ann Arbor / Marilyn Geyer 734-973-2422.

Autumn Saturdays: **Sustainable Garden Project** / seed collection & harvest / Tracy Nagy 734-971-2464.

October 2: **Justice for Immigrants EVENT** / 6:30PM pizza, 7PM speaker panel/ Scott Wright 821-2121.

October 6: **Shawl Ministry Group** / 7:00 – 8:30pm /Music Room / Catherine 734-761-1421

October 12 **CROP Walk** / 1PM / First United Methodist Church, Ann Arbor / Patti & Chuck Yonka 734-461-2964.

October 13-19: **Host Homeless Families @ Shelter** / shifts / IHN - Alpha House / Scott Wright 821-2121.

October 14: **Senior Citizens' Day Trip & Lunch** / 10AM-4:30PM / car pool / Scott Wright / 821-2121.



Fall Events

October 15: **Dr. Georgia Masters Keightley presents Faithful Citizenship** / 7:00 p.m./ PAC - Marty Lucas 821-2125

October 17: **Serve A Meal for the Hungry** / 3PM or 5PM shift, 3rd Friday/ Delonis Center Shelter / Bridget McGillicuddy 665-9549.

October 24: **Business Breakfast Forum** / 7:00 – 8:30 am / Parish Activity Center / Nick Synko 734-332-8800, ext. 213

November 8: **Fall Chore Day with Neighborhood Senior Services** / Volunteer Office / 712-7259.

November 10: **Celebrating the Holidays Amidst Our Losses** / 7:00 – 8:30pm / Music Room /Janene 821-2122

November 12: **Melkite Archbishop of Galilee, Elias Chacour** / 7:00 p.m. / PAC - Marty Lucas 821-2125

November 23: **Food Drive to Local Homes** / 10AM / School Gym / Scott Wright / 821-2121.

December 11: **Christmas Dinner Party for Perry Nursery School** / 4PM or 7PM shift / PAC / Scott Wright 821-2121.



A GALLUP SURVEY FOR OUR PARISH

As we draw closer to the second decade of the 21st century, our Parish Pastoral Council is beginning work on a new Pastoral Plan for St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

One of our first steps is to hear from each of you. To this end, in October we will be conducting the Gallup ME25 survey, a census of all adult members of our parish. The ME25 will give you the opportunity to share your opinions on some of the critical areas of parish life.

The survey will be administered by Gallup, an independent research company known for its understanding of people and their opinions. Although most of us know them for their polling work, they have been listening to people and studying successful organizations for more than 40 years. With this they bring a seasoned capability to assist us in our effort to gather and understand all of the opinions throughout our parish.

Your opinions will be completely confidential; Gallup will not reveal any individual responses to anyone. After we've received the results back from Gallup, we will use them to move forward in developing our Pastoral Plan.

The success of this effort hinges on the completion of the survey by each one of us who is at least 18 years of age. To this end, we will be asking you to fill out the survey during the weekend Masses of October 18-19th (it only takes 5 minutes). Those who will not be present at Mass that weekend, will be able to fill it out "on line" from October 17th through November 10th.

This is an exciting time for our parish - we are taking important steps to fulfill God's purpose for us both now and in the years to come. We encourage you, when the time comes, to take a few moments and fill out the Gallup ME25 Survey

Fr. Jim McDougall & St. Francis Pastoral Council

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Stephen Ministry

Do you know someone in crisis who doesn't know where to turn. Someone who is tense, upset, worn out – needing someone to talk with, someone to care. Encourage your friend to contact the parish office.

Do You Dream of Truly Making a Difference in the Life of a Friend ... One You Haven't Met Yet?

Do you ask questions like:
 “What is my purpose in life?”
 “Where is God leading me?”

We Invite You to Become a Trained Stephen Minister.



“I learned a great deal about myself and how to work with others.”
“The scope and depth of the training program is impressive.”

Discover Stephen Ministry

**September 11 or October 16
 7 PM in the School Library**

Join us on Thursday evening, either September 11th or October 16th and learn how you, as a member of St. Francis Parish, are already an important part of this essential ministry at St. Francis. Our Stephen Leaders giving this Seminar are excited to share personal testimonies about how lives are being changed for the better because of this ministry.

Our next series of Stephen Ministry Training Classes are being planned for **Thursday evenings, running January 8, 2009 - June 2009**. Please consider joining in this much-needed and well-ordered ministry. You can help people in our community get the kind of help that is desperately needed – a listening companion on this earthly journey. And, become a better listener & encourager!

Questions: contact Scott Wright at 821-2121.
 Learn more & see the application at:

www.stfrancisa2.com/stephen

Stephen Ministry News . . .

The newest member of our parish Stephen Leadership Team is **Connie Berry**. In August, Connie participated in the week-long "Leader's Training Course" for Stephen Leaders, held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.



The Stephen Series at our parish has been administered by trained & commissioned **Stephen Leaders** through our parish Social Ministry Office, since 2006. To date, 10 Stephen Leaders (5 female; 5 male) have been trained for service. And, currently we have 8 active Stephen Leaders (3 female, 4 male).

Our parish has trained & commissioned 20 **Stephen Ministers** (11 female, 9 male) since 2006, to provide distinctively Christian care, serving as good listeners and companions for parish members who ask. Currently we have 13 active Stephen Ministers (6 female, 7 male).

Since 2006, we have served 28 care receivers (15 female, 9 male) with a personal one-on-one meeting for one-hour each week. Currently 13 care receivers are being served (7 female, 6 male). **Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry: The identity of those receiving care and what takes place in each caring relationship remains private.**

We pray for God's blessing upon our Stephen Ministers and especially upon the persons with whom they care. Our Stephen Ministers currently providing care are: Richard Badics, Alice Cerniglia, Connie Berry, Thomas DuRussel-Weston, Robert Ferris, Mark Gawronski, James Hiner, Mary Ianni, Sara Maxam, Mary Karen McClellan, Molly Mengebier, Neil Mueller, Karen Shellie, Patricia Sherzer, Nick Synko, Marty Javornisky, Kathi Tobey, and Scott Wright.

A LOOK AT ST FRANCIS 2008

Vacation Bible School (VBS)



Our greatest gift is our ability to love one another. During Vacation Bible School, the children enjoyed snacks, the beautiful weather, and the gift of one another.



This year's Vacation Bible School (July 21-25) explored the themes of faith and science.
(Above): Fr. John leads the children in prayer.



VBS children show their love by sharing with others. (Above): Scott Wright leads the children in sorting the backpacks and school supplies donated by our generous parishioners for the children of our sister parish, Corpus Christi.

(Right): Science is an exciting way to learn and share the blessings that God has given us in the world. **Thank you to our VBS science presenters:** Karen Paelicke and Sandra Kortesoja (Botany), Amy Gottfried (Chemistry), Christy Hoban (Nutrition), Dr. Kathleen Ignatoski and Sylvia Otero (Biology), Lee Ann Schwope (Engineering), Ted Emch (Physics), Lin Van Niewstadt (NASA-building the Mars Rover), and Dr. Andrea Brisson (Health). **More pictures from VBS** week can be found on the web at www.stfrancisa2.com (click on *Vacation Bible School*). **Questions?** Contact Ellen Ward at ward@rc.net or 734-821-2132.

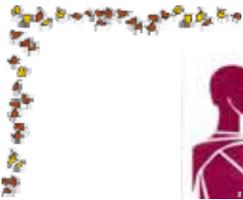


Teach your children Jesus Christ!

St. Francis offers Religious Education for children in grades preK-8. For more information, call us at 821.2130 or 821.2132.

Thank you to Scott Campbell for cooking 600 hotdogs for the VBS picnic which closed the week. **Thanks** to the Stando family for their work in providing for the needs of the picnic! **Thank you** to Carol Fedewa and the outstanding VBS band! **Thank you** to all 88 youth and 51 adults who volunteered to make this year's VBS successful! It would not have happened without you!





St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

The annual St. Francis of Assisi Ice Cream Social was held on June 11, 2008. Children and parents alike enjoyed the good food, warm weather, and the many games available. Pizza, hot dogs, cotton candy, smoothies, ice cream, and pop were all served. PTG parents sponsored the social and volunteered countless hours preparing for this special event. Thank you especially to Ice Cream Social co-chairs, Lisa Bozzi and Laura Stubbs.

Ken Butman of Gene Butman Ford donated a vehicle to the car raffle for the twelfth consecutive year! This year's grand prize was a 2008 Ford Edge 2-year lease or \$6,000. The lucky ticket holder was Daisy Demlow, parent of Madeline Demlow, a student at St. Francis. St. Francis families helped to sell the raffle tickets, raising \$64,220! Mr. Butman has helped St. Francis School to raise a total of \$885,477 over the years, thank you so much for your generosity!

This year's proceeds will help to purchase new classroom novel sets for grades K-8, platform risers for music and drama, and Outdoor Education programs such as Storer Camp and Ship Trip.



GRADUATION

On June 16th, 2008 46 eighth-grade students graduated from St. Francis of Assisi School. Many of these students have been at St. Francis for numerous years and we will miss their presence. St. Francis is very proud of our graduates and we wish them the best of luck in high school!



SCHOLARSHIPS

Many awards were bestowed upon St. Francis graduates by various individuals and organizations affiliated with the school.

In 1996 a St. Francis parishioner established the Religion Award, a \$500 savings bond. The Religion Award is presented to a student with a high academic record, service to their school and community, and of good character. The eighth grade award winners for the St. Francis Religion Award were Jamie Lutz and Mark Sulavik.

The Hermann Scholarship, a \$1,000 scholarship presented to a student attending a Catholic high school, was awarded to Shannon Lemmer who will be attending Mercy High School this fall.

The Virginia Burke Service Award is a \$500 scholarship given to a student who will be attending Fr. Gabriel Richard High School. Alyssa Laten was recognized for her service to the school, church, and community, her academic excellence, and her positive attitude.

The St. Francis Booster Club Award was established in honor of Lou Hollway, a former football coach and athletic director of Ann Arbor High School (now Pioneer High School). As a member of St. Francis Parish, Mr. Hollway wanted to recognize the achievements of a St. Francis student who excelled in scholastic achievement, displayed leadership, showed initiative and was unselfish, faithful, and persevering in all their duties. This year's \$250 award was presented to Tyler Madden.





Car Raffle Success!

The annual St. Francis School car raffle ended successfully on Wednesday, June 11th during the Ice Cream Social with \$64,270 raised! **Ken Butman of Gene Butman Ford donated a 2008 Ford Edge Lease, or \$6,000**, to the cause. 18,801 tickets were purchased by enthusiastic people in the community to help provide students in preschool through eighth grade with important school necessities.



(\$1,000); **Finola Pommerich** of Ann Arbor (\$500); and **Abby Combs** of Ann Arbor (\$250.) Madeline Demlow, a kindergarten student at St. Francis School, sold the Grand Prize winning ticket.

This year's proceeds will go towards purchasing classroom novel sets for grades K-8 as well as platform risers for music and drama. They will also help support the Outdoor Education programs (Storer Camp and Ship Trip) and teacher salaries this school year. For 12 consecutive years, the renewed commitment of Ken Butman has helped St. Francis School raise over \$885,000 in total!

Four lucky winners celebrated their good fortune following the announcement of car raffle prizes during the St. Francis School Ice Cream Social. They included **Daisy Demlow** of Ypsilanti (2008 Ford Edge Lease); **Roy Deutschmann** of South Lyon

Many generous businesses and parishioners contributed other prizes to the Car Raffle to add to its excitement and success. During the Ice Cream Social, they were awarded to top selling raffle ticket families. St. Francis School extends sincere appreciation to:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Domino's Farm | Mongolian BBQ |
| The Gottfried Family | Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation |
| The Jarzembowski Family | St. Francis PTG |
| K-Mart | Schoolbelles |
| The Leoni Family | The Stchur Family |
| Meijer | |

Over the years, the learning environment at St. Francis School has improved significantly as a result of car raffle proceeds and Mr. Butman's ongoing support. Our faith community fosters an environment where children develop spiritually, academically, physically and socially, which enables them to make great things happen in our world!



SOCIAL MINISTRY [821-2121]

Sister Parish: *Corpus Christi Catholic Community, Detroit*

Food Drive in June ...

The Lord has blessed us wonderfully in the relationship with Corpus Christi Community in Detroit. It is so good to share time with people we love. Especially enjoyable is the experience of presenting gifts to people we care about, and wonderful working together to improve the lives of children.

Thanks for your help on the Food Drive. We handed out about 575 empty grocery bags. (And, we delivered about 500 bags of groceries to Detroit.) Thanks to everyone who helped by shopping, and to Jose Mendez for stapling the labels on the bags, and to **Christine & Roger Parlett and Chris Mollo for coordinating this**

drive. As well as, thanks to those who traveled to help in Detroit: Ignatius Arokiara, Lisa Boos, Alison Hoover, Steve Lavender, Bridget McGillicuddy, Jose Mendez, Chris Mollo, Christine & Roger Parlett, Matthew Schnaidt, Hildegard Selig, and Elizabeth, Julia, Karol, Kasia & Scott Wright.

Please, plan to help on the next drive in November. You make it a success by helping with the many little jobs.

"My favorite parts of the day was working together with people from Corpus Christi to unload the truck and enjoying a great lunch with them!" - Chris Mollo

"I especially enjoy seeing our parishioners sorting the food." - Roger Parlett



Dear St. Francis of Assisi Parish :

Because of your generous food drive, more than 128 children in our summer day camp program enjoyed healthy lunches and snacks. We served 1523 meals.

Just to give you a glimpse of the program . . .

Campers began each day with a healthy breakfast including apple sauce, cereal, waffles, and fresh fruit. Then, campers participated in daily exercises. Next, they learned valuable skills in their age appropriate activities: Money Management class, Spanish class, basketball, volleyball, tee-ball and soccer.

After that, campers enjoyed well-balanced homemade lunches including grilled chicken breast, vegetables, spaghetti, tacos and fresh fruit. In the afternoon, campers enjoyed organized games, Dance/Cheer class, Sign-Language, Drum program, Life Skills and Nutrition class. The camp day ended with reviewing the "Choice is Mine" affirmation and giveaways for the campers who could answer questions about what they learned during the day.

Program highlights . . .

- Manny Harris, a sophomore basketball player from the University of Michigan , talked to the campers about making positive life choices.*
- The entire camp enjoyed a field trip to the Henry Ford Museum .*
- Mobile Dentists performed free dental exams, cleanings and x-rays for interested eligible campers.*
- Mr. Edwards from Shear Heaven Barbershop provided free hair cuts*
- Michigan State University Extension's (EFNEP) Nutrition program taught campers about proper nutrition necessary for maintaining a healthy weight and lifestyle.*
- Mrs. Derschaun Sharpley of the Helping Individuals Succeed Agency presented an exciting, fun and useful dining etiquette seminar.*

On behalf of S.A.Y.A. IHM campers, staff and dedicated volunteers, I would like to thank you for your support. Your commitment to helping children in our community is sincerely appreciated.

Peace and Blessings,

*Nalani Bradford, S.A.Y.A. IHM Summer Camp Director and
Christian Service Coordinator for Corpus Christi Catholic Community*

V isiting those in Prison . . . "I can see! I can see!"



By Laurie Malashanko, a volunteer with Catholic Religious Services at Washtenaw County Jail. Learn more at: www.stfrancisa2.com/jail/

Last week, one of the women inmates was really on my heart. Her name is Anne and she's my age. I just knew that God wanted me to pray in particular for her.

Last Friday evening, I visited Anne, one-on-one. She always looks like her eyes hurt. When I asked her about it, she said her glasses are in "her property" (box) because they are broken. She hoped to take them to get them fixed. She said she is blind without her glasses, so I said, "So am I! Try mine on." She did, and was very surprised that they worked for her. At that point, I was just goofing around.

We talked about the fact that she would be released soon, and she has a spot reserved at a homeless shelter in Ann Arbor. She is afraid that instead of trying to get herself to the shelter, she'll just walk back down to her "bad past" because it is easier. As she was speaking, I was thinking that it will be very difficult for her to find that homeless shelter when she can't even see. (I know, because I have terrible eyes, and I could not cross a street safely without my contacts or glasses, let alone read street signs or numbers on a bus.)

She mentioned she got her glasses at particular vision center. So, Saturday afternoon I went to the vision center to see how much it would cost to get another pair of glasses made for her. At the same time, it seemed crazy to me, because I could not afford to buy them. But, really, the Lord kept nudging me in that direction. I told a bit of her story to the man behind the counter at the vision center. He looked Anne up and found her information in the computer. He was very kind and interested in helping, but he said he's not permitted (by law) to make a new pair for her because she hasn't had a recent eye exam.

At that point, I remembered that I had an old pair of glasses at home and that Friday night at the jail, my own glasses helped her vision when she tried them on. I told that to him and asked if my old glasses might

work for her. He told me to bring them in, and he would compare them to her prescription. I ran home and went back to the vision center with my old glasses.

He took my glasses back into the lab and figured out what their prescription was and compared them to the information he had on the computer for Anne. He was amazed. He said there are charitable programs where people donate old glasses, and those glasses are matched to the eyes of needy people. He said he had never seen such a close match as between her eyes and my old glasses, and that anyone getting second-hand glasses would be lucky to have such a match. He said it was the best possible match. He was just amazed, and he gave me a nice, new eyeglass case for her. He even took the time to replace the nosepieces so she would have new ones!

After consulting with our ministry team leader, I went to the jail on Sunday evening and asked to see Anne one-on-one. When the officer brought her down, I had Anne go in the room alone, and then told the officer I had a question for her. I had prayed beforehand, she was one of the officers I would get because she is very kind and generous. In private, I gave the officer the complete story and asked if Anne could have the glasses.

The officer was wonderful! She was more than happy to help. She took the glasses down to medical, got them okayed, and then brought them back to Anne and me in the one-on-one room. I hadn't told Anne a thing, because I didn't want to get her hopes up in case the jail wouldn't let her have them.

She tried them on and they worked great! She kept saying, "I can see! I can see!" She is very excited to start a new life with her glasses. She thinks she'll get out on Tuesday, so pray for her! She is very touched that God has provided this for her and she KNOWS that He loves her. It has given her a great deal of confidence.

Business Manager's Report to the Parish



AUGUST 2008:

Since my last report to you in February, we have continued to work on many improvement or repair projects here at St. Francis. Summertime is the primary season for taking on these projects, both from the perspective of fewer people being around to be affected by the disruptions, and from the standpoint of the Parish knowing how much money remains available at the end of the fiscal year to commit to such projects. Our needs are many, but the resources are limited, so we need to prioritize our projects, and begin them only when we are comfortable that we will have the resources to bring them to completion.

This summer, a number of projects were completed that are visible to all parishioners. The largest project was the extensive repair and resurfacing of parking lots. It had been five years since any significant work had been done on the lots, and they were beginning to show signs of deterioration. This summer's work should give us several more years of service from the lots. Original single-pane windows in the Chapel and the Sacristy of the Church were also replaced with energy-efficient, low-maintenance dual-pane windows, and the Church was rewired to provide access to state-of-the-art T-coil hearing aid systems, as well as to facilitate the live-streaming of Masses to begin this fall. We also had to address a problem with groundwater leaking into an underground storage area on the lower level of the Church.

In the School, the largest project involved replacement of fifty-year old electrical panels, breakers, and wiring in order to bring more power into the classrooms. School Development efforts have provided much new technology to the School, but we have on occasion not been able to benefit from

all of it due to power constraints. Following this year's upgrades, this should no longer be a problem. Repainting/redecorating of the 2nd/3rd grade hallway and the entrance area around the K/1 entrance, along with three sets of stairs, also was completed, in a style to match the redesign work done in the front entrance and 4th/5th grade hallway last year. In addition, a new electronic security system was added to the main entrance doors of the School, and doors and windows at two of the buildings' entrances (K/1 and 2/3) were also replaced with new energy-efficient steel doors and windows. The red playground in front of the School, where the fitness trail is located, was also upgraded with new rubber mulch to match the other playgrounds around the School.

We continue to work through our "list" of capital improvement projects but, in a parish as large as ours, there never seems to be an end to the list. Items that we anticipate will need attention in the future, in no particular order, include replacement of inefficient windows/doors in the handful of locations not already done, replacement of the Middle School roof, replacement of old back-up hot water and steam boilers servicing the Church and School, addition of a supplemental HVAC system for the Gym, and brick repair/tuckpointing on the Bell Tower, Parish Office, and the PAC. Those of you who have been around for a number of years I hope would agree that our Parish looks more attractive than ever.

This progress would not be possible without your continuing support. Thank you all for that support. And, as always, please feel free to call or e-mail me should you have any questions or comments.

Dave Barera, Parish Business Manager
734-821-2111
dsbarera@catholicWeb.com

Seniors @ St. Francis

A peek at some recent events

Picnic Lunch on Tuesday, July 22 at Washtenaw County Farm Park. And, Ed Wright at the grill. We had lots and lots of a variety of very good food dishes. The weather was perfect. We also enjoyed a nice conversation and a walk through the flower gardens.



A Vaudeville Show Tuesday, June 10 by the Petticoat Ladies of Garden City Presbyterian Church. Besides being very funny this event was an experience with prayerful faith sharing. Please help me remember, could you answer this question, "*did Groucho Marks have a sister?*"



Utilizing Your Inner S.A.I.N.T.

Parishioner Nick Synko of *Careers Through Faith* addressed a varied group of parishioners including a high school student anticipating graduation, some retirees looking at future careers, those anticipating career changes and some who were recently down-sized. By having them consider personal

accomplishments at work and outside of work, Nick led the group through a process of identifying their **S**kills, **A**bilities, **I**nterests and **N**atural **T**alents, to give insight to the work that God is calling them to. Evaluations received were excellent, as those in attendance found his presentation both informative and inspiring.





Outdoor Movie Night

More than 100 parishioners and friends gathered on the back hill behind the church for a relaxed summer night at the St. Francis Outdoor Movie Theatre. All ages enjoyed *Ratatouille* and *National Treasure 2* and popcorn was plenty. After rescheduling from June due to threatening storms, the weather was great and even the mosquitoes were few.



St. Francis of Assisi Parish
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