

The Canticle of St. Francis

Published quarterly by St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
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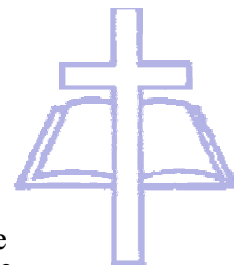


Parish Newsletter: Volume 13, Issue 1

Spring 2008



RITE OF ACCEPTANCE



The men, women, and children of catechetical age participated in the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens which is the first major liturgical celebration of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

As a parish community we welcomed and affirmed them in their desire to follow Christ. Accompanied by their sponsors, they acknowledged before those assembled their acceptance of the gospel of Christ and committed themselves to a journey of faith under his guidance.

The catechumens (unbaptized) and candidates (previously baptized) are signed with the cross to show that they now belong to Christ, and that they are now to follow him on the way of the cross. Following the celebration of the rite they received a bible and from this time on they are included in the Catholic family household.



From the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults - #41

The rite that is called the rite of acceptance into the order of catechumens is of the utmost importance. Assembling publicly for the first time, the candidates who have completed the period of the pre-catechumenate declare their intention to the Church and the Church in turn, carrying out its apostolic mission, accepts them as persons who intend to become its members. God showers his grace on the candidates, since the celebration manifests their desire publicly and marks their reception and first consecration by the Church.

Mark Your Calendar—Spring 2008

Saturdays, February 3 - April 12, 2008: **Tax Assistance Program** 10:30AM to 12:30PM in the Parish Office. (Except Sat, March 22) By appointment only-call 769-2550 (during business hours).

March 9: **Parish Health Fair** 10AM-1PM, School Gym / Sandy Evanski-Klipp 821-2115.

March 11: **SENIOR Citizens' Lenten Program & Lunch** 2nd Tuesdays @ 10AM in the PAC. Sue Bemis 483-6351

March 15/16: Return Lenten **RICE BOWLS** to weekend masses. Scott Wright / 821-2121.

March 19: **Infertility Support** 7:00pm Church Library / Jennifer 734-645-2567

Friday, March 21: **Help Serve A Meal for the Hungry** on 3rd Friday of month. 3PM or 5PM shift at Delonis Center Shelter, Ann Arbor. Bridget McGillicuddy / 665-9549.

April 7: **Knitting into the Mystery Shawl Ministry** / 7:00pm / school music room / Sally Eder 973-6788

April 12: **Catholic Business Leaders Connection** 8:30am school library / Nick Synko 734-332-8800, ext. 213

April 12-13: **YA² ACHT-Young Adult Retreat—single or married 20-30's**. Jen 821-2126 or jen@stfrancisa2.org

April 19-20: **H.S. Youth Spring Retreat** - Jen Delvaux 821-2126

April 24: **Tri-Arts Festival** 7pm Sara Collins, Principal / 734.821.2200



April 25: **Educational Trust Fund Benefit**, Kensington Court, Colleen Pierce / 734.821.2208

April 26: **Scrapbooking Day** / 8am – 5pm / PAC / Janene Ternes 821-2122

April 26: **Rebuilding Together ("Christmas In April")** one-day program of home repair for a "person in need"/ Scott Wright / 821-2121.

May 5 & 10: **Eucharistic Minister Training**-May 5 at 7pm & May 10 at 9:30am / Barb 821-2123.

May 18: **H.S. Graduation Mass & Brunch**. Jen / 821-2126

May 22: **St. Francis School Mary Lou Daby Spring Arts Festival** and 4th grade play @ 7 p.m. Parish Activities Center and throughout the school. Sara Collins, Principal / 734.821.2200

June 2—8, 2008 / **Host Homeless Families at IHN-Alpha House** of Ann Arbor shelter. Scott Wright 821-2121

June 11: **Ice Cream Social & Car Raffle Drawing**. Drawing at 8:00 pm, Colleen Pierce / 734.821.2208.

June 16: **St. Francis School 8th Grade Graduation** @ 6 p.m. in church. Sara Collins, Principal / 734.821.2200

July 21 – 25: **Vacation Bible School 2008**. contact: Ellen Ward (821-2132)

Lent Communal Penance Services

Family: Monday, March 10 at 5:00 p.m. in church
All Parish: Thursday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. in church

TRIDUUM/EASTER 2008 MASSES

Holy Thurs., March 20: 7:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, March 21: 12pm Stations of the Cross enacted
 1:15 pm Lord's Passion

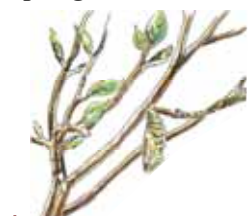
6:30 pm Good Friday Evening Prayer

Holy Saturday, March 22: 8:00 pm Easter Vigil & Mass (no 5PM mass today)

Easter Sunday, March 23: 7:00 am, 8:45 am, 10:30 am, 10:45 am (in PAC), 12:15 pm

Note: There will be no 5PM mass on Holy Saturday & Easter Sunday





Adult Opportunities

7 Successful Strategies for the Reluctant Networker

Employed and job seekers alike gathered in the school music room on January 17th to hear national speaker and coach, Shawn Driscoll, share her strategies for networking:

1. Get clear on your goals
2. Record your network
3. Reconnect and revamp
4. Know your value
5. Proactively build relationships
6. Make specific requests
7. Stay connected



Shawn Driscoll of Succeed Coaching & Development encourages us to think of our existing network

Shawn led those present through a short exercise to determine our 90 day goals, identify our existing network and which people we would commit to reconnect with in the next week. The room was a buzz as people mingled and networked comfortably with one another. She encouraged us to remember that networking is more about giving than receiving and helped us to identify resources and expertise we have to share with others. Taken in that context, networking is not a scary prospect but rather an exciting opportunity to help others and through that process make contacts that can enrich our lives in many ways.

What is Spiritual Direction?

The Spirit was very present in the chapel as 20 people gathered on Thursday night, January 31st to hear what spiritual direction was all about. The three St. Francis spiritual directors, Mary Carol Conroy, Janene Ternes and John Wagner, each shared their personal stories about how they got started going to spiritual direction, and then how the Lord subsequently led them to become spiritual directors.

Those present learned what a typical spiritual direction session was like and the benefits of seeking spiritual direction. While the Holy Spirit is the real Spiritual Director, human spiritual directors undergo a rigorous 2 year training program in order to be truly present to the Spirit and provide prayerful, compassionate companionship to those in direction.



A card with a selection of Scripture passages on God's love was distributed to those in attendance to pray with to discern if they might be called to seek one-on-one spiritual direction. For more information on spiritual direction, contact Janene Ternes at

821-2122 or jlternes@stfrancisA2.org

St. Francis Scrapbookers share Fun and Family



On Saturday, January 26th the Parish Activity Center was transformed into a scrapbooking haven for 20 St. Francis women who gathered to organize, embellish and preserve their photos. Those present shared not only a fun, relaxing time together, but also shared community as they looked at each others photos and shared the stories related to those photos. Those new to scrapbooking were given instruction and ideas to get started.

Experienced scrapbookers just went to town! There was a resounding "yes" when asked if we should do this again, so we have already scheduled our next date for Saturday, April 26th. Mark your calendar to come and join the fun!



Faith Grows in Community with Others



In anticipation of Lent—Mardi Gras!

Children design crowns to wear during the Mardi Gras celebration, while others enjoy paczki and fresh fruit. Around 400 people joined in the festivities held after both the 8:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses the Sunday before Lent! Thank you to all those who supported this event either by good work, prayer, or kind word!



Tricia Strassburg (*above*) reads the exciting story that all of the preschool children worked on during class!

Preschool Enrichment

St. Francis offers an affordable and faith-filled preschool for three and four year old children. Registration for the 2008-09 year is now taking place. Preschool enrichment classes for three year olds meet Monday and Wednesday mornings, and classes for four year olds meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Registration forms can be found on the web at <http://stfrancisa2.com/rel-ed/PreschoolRegForm0809.pdf> To enroll or for questions, please call us at 734-821-2130 or 734-821-2132.

Full-day Preschool

St. Francis also offers a full-day preschool for four year olds, please call 821-2290 for information!



Youth Confirmation

Carol McGarvey (*above*), youth teacher and gifted presenter, led activities for youth and their sponsors and parents at a Confirmation preparation meeting.

Please pray for our Confirmation candidates as they continue their preparation for the Sacrament to be conferred on Sunday, May 18 at 2 p.m.

At St. Francis, preparation for Confirmation 2009 has begun. If you have a youth currently in 7th grade or older in need of the sacrament of Confirmation, please contact Ellen Ward at ward@rc.net or call 734-821-2132.

High School Youth

High School Youth Group

The high school youth group has been quite busy—especially enjoying the new youth room. This winter we've had Girls' Days (lock-ins & knitting afternoons), Bible studies, social nights (parties!), and our regular

Sunday
Night
Youth
Group.



We've been enjoying the Youth Room -
Foosball Table
Couches
Floor Chairs
Games & Cards
all our supplies like Bibles & candles
And more!



Watch for our Spring Retreat
April 19-20, more social
nights, more Girls' Nights, our
Bible studies, and of course the
Sunday night youth group!



Youth Group Reunion

With graduates now studying at colleges near and far, we invited all recent high school graduates to a Youth Group Reunion January 5th. We had a great



turn-out. We found out what everyone was doing. There was plenty reminiscing of our past adventures including service trips, World Youth Day 2005, retreats, and Cedar Point Day trips. It was such a success that we are planning another for this summer!





St Francis of Assisi Catholic School News

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a man who proudly preached and lived by Christ's example. To commemorate his life, St. Francis school invited a speaker to come and speak to our students on January 10th. Students learned about Dr. King and the positive impact he had—and continues to have—on our country. The elementary and middle school had two separate assemblies where the speaker reenacted several of Dr. King's speeches in his presentation, and told the students about Dr. King's courageous mission to have all of God's children treated equally.



On January 27th, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School held its **annual Open House**, and what a success! Over fifty families came to see the school and meet the teachers. Twenty-two current families were at the Open House giving tours; it was very exciting that St. Francis families were able to share their love for the school with others. The event was one that took a lot of preparation and help from teachers, parent volunteers, and our own wonderful students. Thank you to all! Registration has begun and we are so excited to welcome new members into our School Family.



There are many wonderful aspects of our School Family, but the most definitive quality is our faith: We are Catholic. To celebrate this, St. Francis School participated in the **National Catholic Schools Week** event during the last week of January. Every day the school community acknowledged the gift of a Catholic Education. Students shared special reading time with their Mass families, wrote thank-you notes to the local

businesses that support our school, and raised money for an orphanage in Mexico. It is so easy to get caught up in the hustle-and-bustle of life; Catholic Schools Week provided an excellent opportunity for the school community to take time and celebrate the very special Catholic education our children are receiving.



Back by popular demand, St. Francis held its second annual **Women in Science** event on January 31st. The fair brought women in science professions from around the community to the PAC. Girls and their moms learned about the diverse job opportunities in the science world, such as a pharmacist, aerospace engineer, teacher and veterinarian. St. Francis prides itself on the capable and well-prepared students we send out into the world; the girls who attended Women in Science are sure to do amazing things in their future, whatever their calling may be.





The **EDGE** is about ... **Jesus, fun & serving!**

The EDGE Middle School Group has been very busy this winter! We have done a combination of service and social events to offer something for everyone! In November, we participated with Neighborhood Senior Citizens in the annual **Fall Chore Day**. Despite the cold weather, the youth were excited to be out and helping.

In December, we made 25 **Flannel Blankets** for the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County. We continued to serve others by playing **bingo with Senior Citizens** at *The Village* Senior Complex at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. The youth really enjoyed being able to help other people. It gave us



all a chance to share the love of Jesus with those around us, even to strangers.

The EDGE had lots of fun activities as well. In December, we had 24 youth take over **Zap Zone Laser Tag** in Ann Arbor. Then, in January, we headed over to **Putt 'n Glow for some indoor glow in the dark golf**. Everyone had a great time! They played great music and even allowed some of the youth to become our DJ's for the night!



Mark Your Calendar!

EDGE Olympics is coming on April 20th. **Christmas in April Service Project** is on April 26th. Plus, do not miss our end of the year **Pizza/Gym Night** on May 23rd!

Please read the Forum for more information on these and other great events and activities planned for this Spring. The **EDGE** website is at www.stfrancisa2.com under the *Middle School* link! You can also check here for information about our events!



**EDGE events are open to all
6th, 7th, and 8th graders!!**

For more information on
the **Edge**, please contact
Victoria Emch
at 821-2133 or
emch@stfrancisa2.org



SOCIAL MINISTRY

Christmas Giving Tree Gifts Help!



The St. Francis Parish Giving Tree Program helped our community social service providers with more than 1100 gifts, and really made a difference for those less fortunate in our community. Thanks, especially to our coordinator: Susanna Brown; to all of you who shopped, and those who helped in some leadership capacity: Joyce Durham, Lewis Fulcher, Nancy Fulcher, Christopher Mollo, James Palm, Pamela Palm, Jane Sanchez-Pens, Carol Wisner, and Victoria Emch & The Edge middle school youth group.

In January, after the program has ended, we get so many thank you notes. Here we print a unique story from one of our parish members, Mary Wakefield, about "Project Transition."



SAM: store and move usage donated by Corrigan Moving of Ann Arbor.

The Project Transition Story



Project Transition has been a social/recreational weekly gathering for about 40 years. It was started when our country's care of mental health illnesses changed from institutional care to "main streaming". Various groups across the country were asked to help in the transition of residents from institutional settings into the general society. Thus the name "**Project Transition.**" In Washtenaw County many church groups and not-for-profit groups worked with social work and occupational therapy to accomplish meaningful transition for men and women dealing with mental illness. Job prep was offered, ways to get back into school and chances to interact in the world of commerce were some examples of activities available.

Now in Washtenaw County, **Project Transition** of the 21st century continues through the support of Parish Partnerships, Community Mental Health, and Good Shepherd Church. No longer are there social workers or occupational therapists organizing activities. Now it is a handful of faithful loving volunteers, most who have continued their service since the early 70's, helping our friends with various mental challenges enjoy social/recreational activities. Traditional outings such as apple picking and pumpkin picking have occurred this fall. From road trips to enjoy our county parks, playing board games and bingo, working on poetry and talking over a cup of coffee, we all benefit from the time together. We are an *all inclusive* group and each of us, volunteer and member come away with increased warmth in our hearts from being together.

St. Francis Parish has become part of our group by the warmth shown through the **Giving Tree** activity at Advent/Christmas time. What our parish does through the **Giving Tree** often is the highlight of our simple Christmas event together. *Thank You.*

I am a "younger" volunteer with Project Transition as I found out about this group while working on a masters degree about 15 years ago. I have been volunteering ever since and feel that my life would be missing something very important if I did not get to be with my **Project Transition** Friends. Thank You, St. Francis for your part in validating **Project Transition** by remembering the members at Christmastime.

Mary Wakefield, St. Francis parishioner



Sharing Food, Music and Worship

"When I was hungry you gave me food."

Thanks for the Thanksgiving Groceries!

St. Francis volunteers delivered more than 637 bags of food/ groceries to the pantries at:

- 249 bags for Hope Clinic,
- 143 bags for SOS Community Services,
- 161 bags for Northside (Catholic Social Services),
- 84 bags for Neighborhood Senior Services / Food Gatherers.



Thank you to everyone who helped by shopping. And, thanks to those more than 26 persons who assisted with delivery. And special thanks to Katie Jackel and Roger Parlett for coordinating the drive.



To Commemorate the Memory of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

we welcomed 20 choir members from Corpus Christi Parish, our sister parish in Detroit. Our Peace & Justice Committee extended the invitation for them to visit us, and sing and worship with us at our 5 pm Mass on Sunday, January 20. After mass in the PAC all were invited to supper. Learn more at: www.stfrancisa2.com/corpus-christi-detroit/ *Thanks to those of you who went out of your way to make this happen:* Michelle Baines, Corpus Christi music minister; Carol Fedewa, St. Francis music minister; and members of St. Francis Peace & Justice committee, especially, Phil Kearney, Patti Yonka and Mary Wakefield.

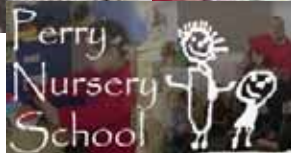
Christmas Dinner Party for Perry Nursery School

~ a fun success again this year!!!

Thanks to more than 80 volunteers our parish again shared the joy of Christ at Christmas time with those less fortunate. The kids were entertained, the food was very good and well handled, and the decorations were the best I have ever seen for this Advent party. Thank you, especially to our coordinators: Roger & Chris Parlett & Bridget McGillicuddy (food); Joyce, Loren & Zach Weathers (decorations); Chris Kempton (activities).

And to all of you who helped...

Catherine Anderson, Richard Badics, Matthew Barera, Michael Barera, Robert Berarducci, Terese Bertcher, Christine Billick, Elaine Brady, Elaine Brandenburg, Elaine Caoili, Suzette Charron, Laura DeBacker, Barbara Dehn, Richard Dehn, Patti Dobbs, Joyce Driscoll, Sandi Estep, Terri Fenelon, Colleen Flynn, Elle Gallagher, Thomas Gallagher, Mary Jo Hepburn, Margaret Hermes, Christy Howden, Mary Howrey, Donna Huntsman, Erich Jensen, Agnes Jensen, Jimmy Jensen, Patrick



Jensen, Joan Karas, Kathleen Kaveh, Julia Kearney, Philip Kearney, Dawn Keene, Natalie Keene, Charles Kellermann, MaryLou Kellermann, Barbara Kelly-Ferris, Andrea Kempton, A J Kempton, Chris Kempton, Lillian Kempton, Wendy Lemke & the St. Francis School 6th Grade Class, Julie Leonard, Preeti Malani, Jose Martinez, Bridget McGillicuddy, Maria Merola, Cecilia Miller, David Miller, John Miller, Molly Neuman, Jack Ottenwess, James Palm, Christine Parlett, Roger Parlett, Mona Peterson, Paul Peterson, Cathy Pietrasiuk, Christopher Raveendra, Teresita Raveendra, Kay Reason, Colleen Regan, Denise Regan, Sean Regan, Keri Riegger, Brenna Sexton, Pamela Sexton, Shannon Sexton, Daniel Simonelli, Patricia Simonelli, Sharon Sprague, Janet Starr, Denise Sulavik, Janine Sulavik, Angela Szewczul, Loren Weathers, Zach Weathers & Joyce Weathers, Linda Wiseman & Carol Marino & the Young Adult Friendship Helping Group of Young Adults with Developmental Disabilities.



St. Francis Social Ministry:
(734) 821-2121

Senior Citizens @ St. Francis

On November 20, at our Traditional Thanksgiving Meal we enjoyed singing "Happy Birthday" to Fr. John.



On December 3 our car pooling day-trip participants saw the 25th and final annual Crèche Exhibit of over 1000 crèche from 111 countries artistically portraying the birth of Jesus Christ. Then we ate lunch together at Applebees. What fun!

Have you remembered

. . . St. Francis Parish or the Educational Trust Fund in your will or trust?

For more information and/or to share your intent, please call Dave Barera, Business Manager at 734.821.2111, or Colleen Pierce, Director of Stewardship & Development at 734.821.2208.



Business Manager's Report to the Parish: FEBRUARY 2008

As regular readers of these reports know, most of our capital improvements are seasonal, taking place in the summertime when the weather is better, there are fewer people around to disrupt, and the Parish has a better idea of how much money remains available for such projects. My August 2007 report to you highlighted the projects that had been completed, or were about to be completed, last summer. Since my last report to you in August, the projects undertaken have been significantly smaller in scope.

Foremost among these was the upgrading of HVAC wiring and controls affecting heating and cooling units located in the Church, the PAC, and the K/1 level of the School. In addition, continuing problems with the old heating/cooling system in the Parish Office (estimated 15-20 years old) required the replacement of those two rooftop units in September. We also installed a new heat pump to provide room heating/cooling in the Choir Room, allowing groups to meet there in comfort year-round, without having to run the full Church heating or cooling system.

New energy-efficient windows and curtains were also installed in the Choir Room. We also completed the change-over from original less energy-efficient T12 magnetic-ballast lighting in the Chapel, Nursery, Choir Room, PAC, and School to more energy-efficient T8 electronic-ballast

lighting. This change puts us two years ahead of Department of Energy rules which prohibit the production and sale of the old magnetic ballasts after 2009, effectively requiring conversion by that date, and the new lights are estimated to provide 20% more light while using 20% less electricity.

During the coming year, we expect to complete the replacement of conventional windows in the Church (not the stained-glass windows!); the only areas left to upgrade are the Chapel and the Sacristy/Flower Room. We also expect to upgrade windows and doors in various entryways of the School, with such work to be funded by School Development funds. Other items that we anticipate will need attention in the future, in no particular order, include repair and resurfacing of parking lots, replacement of the Middle School roof, and brick repair/tuckpointing on the Bell Tower, PAC, and Parish Office. We hope that you will continue to be proud of the improvements made to our Parish facilities, and thank you for your continuing support, for without that support, none of these improvements would have been possible.

As always, please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or comments.

Dave Barera, 821.2111 or dsbarera@catholicWeb.com

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC SCHOOL
7th Annual Educational Trust Fund Benefit
Pre-Party kick off

***"Come Fly With Me ...
 Soaring to New Heights"***

On Saturday, February 2nd, Debra Hermann, Chairperson of the 2008 Educational Trust Fund Benefit, along with her husband Steve, hosted a festive pre-party for the event at their home. Over 50 guests attended the celebration that included delicious hors d'oeuvres and desserts while the nostalgic music of Frank Sinatra and Michael Buble played in the background.



Debra set the stage for the April 25th event and its theme, ***"Come Fly with Me ... Soaring to New Heights."***

During the party, Debra thanked the dedicated volunteers who are hard at work planning the Benefit. She also provided guests with a preview of several "One-of-a-Kind Treasure" auction items. Opportunities for giving, such as table sponsorships, were shared with guests too. These efforts were intended to build support and awareness for the Benefit.



Catholic education is a key ministry at St. Francis Parish. Debra is proud to chair a committee that strengthens St. Francis School, which both of her children attend. As she said, "Our children, Jake and Julia, have grown in countless ways through the Catholic education and values inherent at St. Francis School. Our family joined the parish 5 years ago and we feel truly blessed to be included in a community that has a clear direction spiritually and academically. The vision and leadership at St. Francis is very special."



The Educational Trust Fund Benefit gives our parish a gateway to support and

recognize the extraordinary environment that nurtures and educates our children. Supporters come together to celebrate, affirm and secure the goodness and future prosperity of Catholic education in our parish community.

Educational Trust Fund

The Educational Trust Fund was established in 1987 to provide long-term financial assistance to our school. The corpus of the Fund, which had a balance of \$1,096, 098 at the end of 2007, is invested, and interest is generated. Each year, a percentage of the interest is deposited in the school's operating budget to assist with a variety of operating expenses. This year the award totaled \$43,000.

Through our collective support and prayers, the Educational Trust Fund helps safeguard our academic environment so we can continue to provide children with strong, Catholic and moral foundations, enabling them to contribute to the world in meaningful ways. These are wonderful and lifelong gifts.

***You are invited to attend the 7th Annual
 Educational Trust Fund Benefit
 Friday, April 25th***

at Kensington Court in Ann Arbor

Guests will be entertained by emcee Lucy Ann Lance and one of America's finest and funniest acts, ***Three Men and a Tenor.***

To request an invitation, call Colleen Pierce at 734.821.2208 or email her at cpierce@stfrancisa2.org. You can also visit www.stfrancisa2.org/school for more information on this memorable event which is designed to be enjoyable in every detail!

St Francis of Assisi Worship



Liturgical Ministers' Gathering

Over 60 Liturgical Ministers (altar assistants, lectors, commentators and Eucharistic ministers) gathered for community and prayer in January. As part of the morning program, Janene Ternes led us in a variety of prayer forms including guided meditation, movement, reflection on Scripture, and journaling to deepen our experience of God.



Special mass of Blessing for Health Care Providers

(right) Jane Antosiak's hands are blessed as part of the special mass for Health Care Providers.



Burning Palms

(left) In preparation for Lent, last year's palms were burned to make the ashes used on Ash Wednesday.



St. Francis of Assisi Parish
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