

# The Canticle of St. Francis

Published quarterly by St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church  
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Parish Newsletter: Volume 14, Issue 2

Summer 2009



## *This is the night . . . Easter Vigil 2009*

“The third step in the Christian initiation of adults is the celebration of the sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and eucharist. Through this final step the elect and candidates, receiving pardon for their sins, are admitted into the people of God. They are graced with adoption as children of God, and are led by the Holy Spirit into the promised fullness of time begun in Christ and, as they share in the Eucharistic sacrifice and meal, even to a foretaste of the kingdom of God.” (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, 206)

Thirty-five men, women and children were baptized or received into the Catholic Church this past Easter. We are among all people, richly blessed. These men, women and children also challenge us, the already baptized, to reflect once again on just why we are here. Please continue to welcome our newest Catholics into the life and worship of the St. Francis Parish community. *Welcome!*



## Mark Your Calendar—Summer 2009

June 17: **Summer H.S. Youth Group** every Wednesday (unless otherwise noted) 6:30-9pm / youth room/ visit <http://hs.stfrancisA2.org/> or Jen Delvaux 821-2126.

Saturdays, June – October: **Read a Book or organize sport/games for Migrant Children** / 3:30PM / DuRussel Farm, Manchester / Hilary Connors 316-2633 or Rita Kieras 761-7796.

Saturdays all Summer: **Sustainable Garden Project** maintenance & harvest in the front yard of the rectory. / Tracy Nagy / 734-971-2464.

June 21: **Parish Blood Drive**/ 8am-2pm in the PAC/ For appointment call parish office.

June 27: **Jail Volunteer Orientation** from 9am-12pm / Washtenaw County Jail Sheriff's Dept. / Scott Wright / 821-2121.

June 28: **Mother/Child Network** / 5:00pm / Family dinner & music at Top of the Park/ For complete summer calendar call Anna Mae 734-418-2435

June 29: **Weekly Meditation Group** / 7:00 – 8:00pm / Chapel / Paul 734-665-6802

July 2: **Life-Line Assessment** / 8AM - 5PM at St. Francis / Pre-registration is required. Call 1-800-690-6313 (or questions 821-2115)

July 2: **Weekly Guadalupe Group** / 1:00 – 3:00pm / Nursery / Mary Carmen 734-483-0820

July 7: **YaZacht Picnic for Young Adults**-single & married/ visit <http://youngadults.stfrancisA2.org/> or Jen 821-2126

July 11-12: **Lock-in for High School youth** (entering 9th through graduated 12th) / Jen 821-2126

July 13: **World Youth Day 2011 Informational Meeting** / Jen 821-2126

July 14: **SENIOR Citizens' Picnic Lunch** / 11:30AM/ Washtenaw County Farm Park/ Sharon Wright 434-1428.

July 15: **Infertility Support Group** / 7:00 – 9:00pm / Church Library / Jennifer 734-645-2567

July 17 (& Aug 21 & Sept 18): **Serve A Meal for the Hungry** / 3PM or 5PM / Delonis Center Shelter / Bridget McGillicuddy / 665-9549.

September 2 - **High School Family Picnic** at Fuller Park / Jen 821-2126

September 7: **First Sunday Night H.S. Youth Group of the year** @ 7:00 pm/Youth Room/Jen 821-2126

September 11: **Mother/Child Network**/10:00 – 12:00pm/ Nursery/ Anna Mae 734-418-2435

September 12: **Catholic Business Professional's Connection** / 8:30am / school library / Nick Synko 734-332-8800, ext. 213

**September 13: Parish Picnic** / 12:15pm outdoor mass, picnic 'til 4PM / behind the church / Janene Ternes 821-2122

September 18: **M.O.M.S**/10:00 – 12:00pm/Chapel/ Janine 734-913-9418

September 23: Senior Appreciation Mass with Bishop Boyea / 11AM Mass & Lunch / **St. Andrew Church, Saline**/ Scott Wright 821-2121

### Vacation Bible School Mon- Fri, July 20—24 9 a.m.--12 noon

Register on-line with credit-card payment at [www.stFrancisA2.com](http://www.stFrancisA2.com) (click on *Vacation Bible School*), or at the Parish or Religious Education Offices. Questions: 734-821-2130.

**High School & Middle School Students, and Adult volunteers needed!!!** Sign-up forms available at parish website.



## Catholics Returning Home

Most of us do not have to look very far to find non-practicing Catholics in our circle of family and friends. Many people can't explain why they stopped coming to church except that life just got in the way. Some inactive Catholics bear a tremendous amount of guilt, legitimate anger, or misinformation; but they are afraid of rejection if they approach the Church.

Our Catholics Returning Home program focuses on facilitating the return of Catholics who for whatever reason and for whatever length of time, have become inactive in the Church. Through participation in this program, the men and women take responsibility for reflecting on their faith journey. Various parishioners, who themselves had left and returned, help these people through the process. In a comfortable, casual, confidential setting, the group gathers for prayer, faith sharing and instruction.

Once the first step back is taken, these people feel as if they have returned to a God who had been waiting for them all along.



## Finding God In Troubled Times

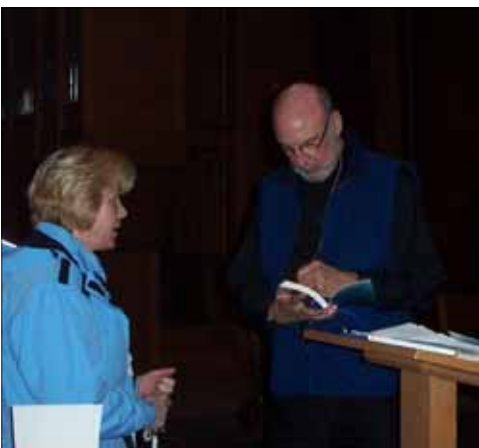
### Parish Mini-Mission: *hosts author*

After hearing him preach at all the weekend masses, hundreds gathered in church Sunday night, March 8<sup>th</sup> to hear Richard Hauser, S.J. share his thoughts about finding God in times of suffering. So often our initial reaction is to question where God is in our times of trouble, threatening our faith and our very foundation. Using scripture and personal stories Fr. Hauser reflected on God's Presence in strength and love accompanying us through our difficulties, a comforting thought as these troubled times continue.



Richard Hauser, S.J.

Following his talk Fr. Hauser conversed with attendees individually about their struggles as well as signed copies of his book, Finding God in Troubled Times, which was



available for purchase. Richard Hauser, S.J. is Rector of the Jesuit Community, Professor of Theology and Director of the Masters of Arts in Christian Spirituality Program at Creighton University.

### Big Church... Small Groups

10 small groups met during Lent this year to discuss either Richard Hauser, S.J.'s book, "Finding God in Troubled Times" (*see article on left*), or the Sunday lectionary. Comments from the many people involved in these small groups say it all: "It was great!", "I feel stronger in my faith ... For the first time I recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit in my daily life... what a treasure!", "Our meetings sparked new ideas", "Finding God in troubled times has been a positive and life changing experience for me", "I



learned to be able to talk about my faith openly", "We were able to share our burdens and

learn from one another", "My faith was strengthened by my participation", "We grew closer together as a small community of believers", "I am so glad I had this opportunity."

Since the feedback was so overwhelmingly positive we will offer opportunities again this fall to become a member of a small group. We hope you will join us!

Photo above: Some of our Lenten small group leaders gathered in the parish office to reflect on their experience of being a facilitator. (From left: Mary Lynn Bridge-Fosdick, Maria Alcini, Julie Kentch, Nancy Lyon, John Wagner)

## Parishioners Find Help Here at Home!

During these troubled times, we are helping each other through a variety of resources at St. Francis. Listed on a special page in our FORUM bulletin each week are specific events, organized especially by St. Francis community members, to help others right here at home. For example, the programs address concerns in the following areas: Career Search; Emotional & Health Assistance; Fiscal Assistance, Spiritual Assistance, Family Issues Help. See some of the winter 2009 programs on **page 4**.

For more details about these programs see the weekly FORUM bulletin, or contact the parish office. Visit: [www.stfrancisa2.com/help/](http://www.stfrancisa2.com/help/)

St. Francis of Assisi

## Parishioners find Help here at Home



### Career Transition Workshop at St. Francis

We have a room full of spirit with 24 participants and a full course of reflections and activities lead by Workshop facilitator and Careers Through Faith founder, Nick Synko.

**Are you or someone you love experiencing a career transition?** Give us a call and join us to find long-term career results while integrating your career, faith and life. Learn professional strategies for getting "out of the



stack." Call Scott Wright 821-2121 or see: [www.stfrancisa2.com/career-network/](http://www.stfrancisa2.com/career-network/)

### Cutting FOOD Costs !!!

**Why am I part of the Community Kitchen @ St. Francis?**

**BEFORE** joining the Community Kitchen @ St. Francis I was spending around \$800/month for my family of 5.

**NOW** as part of the Community Kitchen @ St. Francis we spend around \$300/month on food for a family of 5.

**"Eat convenient, healthy food for le\$\$"** This is a bulk-buying and food prep club. All are welcome. We just need to hear from you a week before the pick-up date. Our grocery pick-up dates are posted in the bulletin FORUM and on our web blog.



**To Sign Up,** and for recipes, tips, photos, and information see: <http://communitykitchenstfrancis.blogspot.com/>

Call Scott 734-821-2121.

## From Stress to Serenity

St. Francis parishioner and counselor, Ruth Koelling, LMSW, shared with us how to become more resilient during times of transition. When hit with life disrupting change, it is important to acknowledge the effect the event has on your life, decide how you want to emerge from the disruption, and allow time for the process to unfold. Given our stressful times it might be good for all of us to reflect on some strategies to facilitate transition and decrease stress in our lives:

- Gain self knowledge
- Do not blame others
- Accept that life is not fair
- Develop a regular practice of meditation and/or prayer
- Optimize your physical health
- Write about your problems and the feelings associated with them
- Make a list of the positive experiences in your life right now



Ruth Koelling shares her vast experience in stress management

On-going difficulty in coping with stress and/or transition may indicate a need for help. Licensed professional therapists from our parish are available to meet with you privately and confidentially at the Parish Offices. Call 734-769-2500 for an appointment.



## My Lenten Offering!

### Habitat House

On February 28, 2009, St. Francis Parish and the Catholic community in Washtenaw County began refurbishing another Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley (HHHV) house at 328 Garland Street in Ypsilanti.

This house required gutting almost the entire kitchen and bathroom, replacing the basement windows, scraping the paint off the exterior walls, rewiring and replumbing throughout, building a new shed, replacing the floors with laminated wood and linoleum, along with various other essential tasks. Volunteers from various parishes eagerly accomplish assigned duties each Saturday, making new friends and also satisfying a willingness to serve. Estimated finish is likely June or July 2009.

We are very pleased to announce that a Partner Family has been selected for the house:

**The Niemeyer Family - Krystle with her daughters Aaliyah & Brooklyn**

Krystle works at the University of Michigan in Housekeeping and currently lives with her daughters in Ypsilanti. Her daughters are Aaliyah, 3 ½ yrs old, and Brooklyn, 1 yr. old. Aaliyah will start preschool in the fall and wants to take up dance and soccer. Brooklyn is not old enough for school yet! Krystle graduated early from Roberto Clemente High School with Honors and plans to continue her education with an ultimate goal of obtaining a Masters in Social Work. The whole family enjoys going for walks, riding their bikes, and going to the park. Krystle also likes taking photos of her girls and scrap booking! The family also has a dog and wants to have more animals!



Krystle is originally from Ypsilanti and has spent a part of her childhood in the Habitat home of her mother, Faith Burns, which was the 2002 Catholic House. She is excited to now have the opportunity to own her own Habitat home, as she also loves volunteering with Habitat. Krystle says owning a house will be "something to make us feel more complete (as a family)." Krystle also loves to decorate and paint so she is ready to have a place of her own where she can be creative and where her girls can have their interests and personalities reflected on the walls of their own bedrooms! Aaliyah loves Tinkerbell and Brooklyn's room will feature Winnie the Pooh!

### Lenten Collection for R.A.A.H.

Dear Members of St. Francis Church:

Thank you so much for the donation of \$5,611.60 to RAAH (Religious Action for Affordable Housing) for the current project! Because the JEHT Foundation is no longer able to contribute to this MPRI pilot project (a victim of the Bernard Madoff scandal), the name of the project has been changed to the MISH project (MPRI Intensive Supportive Housing). Fortunately, the project continues to function successfully (there are now 14 parolees with disabilities involved) and MPRI is finding other funds to replace the previously anticipated JEHT ones.

We are very impressed with the scope of your Lenten collection and happy that this year you chose to share it with RAAH.

Sincerely,  
Mary C. Browning, Secretary

Since 1997 our Catholic community has sponsored and built six (6) new, and two (2) refurbished Habitat houses in Washtenaw County. Each build was extremely successful and furnished housing to a needy family. This is not a giveaway program; in addition to a down payment, low-income homeowners (partner family) must invest hundreds of hours of their own labor -- sweat equity -- into building their Habitat house and/or the houses of others. At the end of the build these Habitat homeowners qualify for an interest-free mortgage from Habitat.

All Catholics are welcome and encouraged to participate by working, supplying meals to workers, donating "Gifts in Kind" and building materials, fundraising, or donating money to this worthy cause.

If you would like to help by donating money, please send your check to: Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley, 170 April Drive, Suite A, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Write "Catholic House" on the check so it will go toward this house.

Steve Polgar, Catholic House Leader



## Deepen the Life of Christ Through the Sacraments, Religious Education, and Vacation Bible School!



**Confirmation** (above) Bishop Carl Mengeling calls upon our youth to put their hearts into living for Christ, during his homily last May 17. Afterwards, the 118 youth were anointed into the Holy Spirit. Preparation for Confirmation begins in the 7th grade and continues throughout the 8th grade year. Youth (and older youth) interested in being confirmed are invited to contact Ellen Ward at ward@rc.net or 734-821-2132.

**Registration** is now taking place for **Fall 2009-2010 Religious Education classes** (including sacramental preparation)! **NEW this year, you may register on-line with credit card payment.** To register on-line, see our web page at [www.stFrancisA2.com](http://www.stFrancisA2.com) and click on *Religious Education*. Follow the directions for on-line registration. You may also register by paper (downloading the registration form as a pdf file) or picking up a form at the Parish or Religious Education offices.

**Vacation Bible School** runs from **July 20-24** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon daily for children in grades preK-5 with middle school, high school, and adult volunteers. New also this year, you may sign up your children on-line for Vacation Bible School with credit-card payment (as well as to sign-up to volunteer!). Go to [www.stfrancisa2.com](http://www.stfrancisa2.com) and click on *Vacation Bible School* link.

**First Holy Communion** (below) 150 children celebrated their First Holy Communion the first weekend of May!





## St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School Service Project for Orphanage

St. Francis School's year-long fundraiser for **Home of Hope Orphanage** in India culminated at the end of April with a visit from Sister Sophy Joseph, a nun with the Salesian sister of Don Bosco from the orphanage, and Paul Wilkes, their U.S. Coordinator. Home of Hope houses 67 destitute girls who have been abused or abandoned. Two years ago, Mr. Wilkes visited St. Francis and our parishioners dug into their pockets and raised \$25,000 to help build a new three-story facility for the orphanage.

For the 2008-2009 school year St. Francis School decided to sponsor a year-long service project to create a "Field of Dreams" in what is now a swamp. This *Field of Dreams* will include a brand new playground and grassy area, a much needed play space for the girls. Throughout the year, students have had the opportunity once a month to bring in \$1.00 for an optional dress down day, with all proceeds going to Home of Hope. In January, the 3rd and 5th grades sponsored a Children's Used Book Sale. Parishioners and school families donated gently used books to this sale which generated a total of \$1,400! In February, the 4th and 6th grades sponsored a Chocolate Valentine Airplane Sale, this fundraiser generated around \$1,250 for Home of Hope!



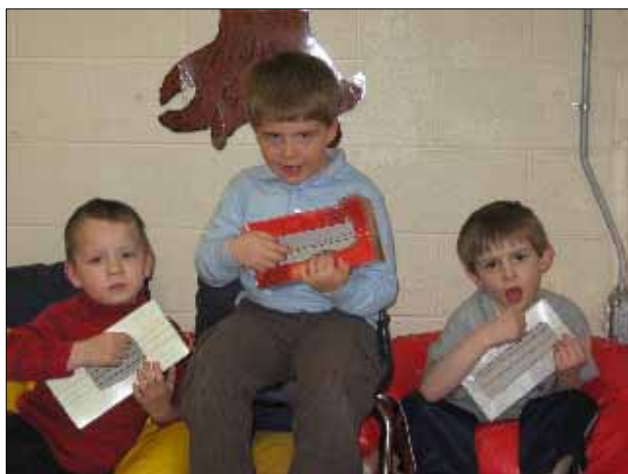
The check that was presented to Sister Sophy and Mr. Wilkes on April 29th was for \$6,614; however, St. Francis School is not done yet! The 2nd and 7th grades sponsored a Car Wash on May 20th and raised \$571! For the last big fundraiser, parents of St. Francis students will sponsor the Adult Summer Reading List Sale, a sale of gently used adult fiction and nonfiction books, on May 31st after Masses and June 1st after school.



During Sister Sophy's visit, the whole school held a prayer service. The Middle School Choir sang, students read special prayers, and Sister Sophy and Paul Wilkes presented a slideshow of pictures of the orphanage, explaining to our students what life at Home of Hope was like. There were few dry eyes in the church during this service and many students were inspired to hopefully visit Home of Hope in the future. After the service, Sister Sophy and Mr. Wilkes visited each classroom individually and students presented them gifts to take to the girls at the orphanage.



Construction on the *Field of Dreams* playground should begin before the rainy season comes to India later this summer. Our students and staff cannot wait to see pictures of the girls enjoying their new outdoor play area!



## Harmony In The Preschool

Parent, Kathy Ignatoski, recently visited the preschool classroom and brought with her a host of musical instruments. The classroom had a real hands-on experience! The children also made their own instruments.

There are still a few spaces in the school's classroom for 4-year-olds. This program runs 5 days per week. Part-time schedules are available. If you are interested, contact Diane Sheffrey at 821-2290.

The parish also offers an enrichment preschool for 3's and 4's that is run through the Religious Education Department, for details call 821-2130.



## SERVICE + JUSTICE [821-2121]

### Rebuilding Together (Christmas in April) *THANK YOU!!!*

Members St. Francis of Assisi participated in the **Rebuilding Together** national "Day of Rebuilding" on Saturday, April 25, 2009.

**Rebuilding Together** is a national nonprofit organization with the mission of preserving safe and affordable housing by bringing together volunteers, building professionals and donated materials to repair and rehabilitate the homes of low-income, elderly and physically challenged homeowners. This work is provided at no cost to the homeowners. Nationwide, an estimated 10,000 homes were renovated in over two hundred locations this year.

In Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, the lives of fourteen homeowners were improved by nearly two hundred volunteers. Members of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Mary Student Parish of Ann Arbor, and St. John the Baptist and Transfiguration parishes of Ypsilanti participated on various homes that day. Completed tasks included construction of a wheelchair ramp, exterior door and lockset replacements, roof repairs, electrical repairs,



kitchen and bath updates, exterior painting, railing installation and repair, dead tree removal and other yard work.

Special thanks to Linda & Jim Wiseman for being our project leaders this year. And, thanks to all who contributed to our successful project! Your generosity will be remembered by the receiving family for years to come - Well done!

St. Francis volunteers (& other friends): Maya Bruer, Thomas DuRussel-Weston, Anya Holodnick, Cherie Holodnick, Justin King, Mary LeMire, Fr. John Linden, Oleg Mihans, Susan Mihans, Erin Norton, Brian O'Neil, Alexander Pietrasiuk, Cathy Pietrasiuk, Max Romero, Reynaldo Ronquillo, Allison Strassburg, Patricia Strassburg, Randy Strassburg, Russ Strassburg, Jim Wiseman, Linda Wiseman, Joe Wottreng, Mark Wottreng, Jamie Zawistowski, Matthew Zawistowski, and The St. Francis Edge Youth Group.

More photos at: [www.stfrancisa2.com/socialministry/rebuildingtogether.htm](http://www.stfrancisa2.com/socialministry/rebuildingtogether.htm)

### St. Francis Tax Assistance Program 2009

This year we prepared approximately 73 sets of tax returns resulting in close to \$103,000 in net refunds to our clients. As you all know, tax refunds act as a stimulus to the economy because many times people use their refunds to purchase items that they would normally not purchase otherwise. This year due to the poor economy, many of our clients are now living on reduced incomes as a result of pay decreases or loss of employment, so these refunds are even more important as they will provide additional cash flow for household expenses. Whatever the use our clients will put these refunds to, the result will surely help them and perhaps provide a small boost to the economy in the greater Ann Arbor area.

Special thanks to our coordinator Julie Soyer. And, thanks to all of you who, without the major commitment of your time, this program would not be possible. Thank you all for the care and kindness you showed to every client who came into our offices. Sometimes it's difficult to listen to all of the hardship cases that come with a poor economy and low incomes, but each of you are amazing individuals and our clients are very appreciative of your help and support. Sometimes our clients just like to talk to someone who is willing to listen and you provided that extra comfort to them during this stressful time: Joe Abraham, Sylvia Al-Rawas, Ralph Almer, Virginia Almer, Diana Cieslak, Lisa Evans, Brad Hatch, Kathy Koehler, Greg McConville, Bob Mull, Greg Ruselowski, Lynn Sohacki, Deisy Santos, Julie Soyer, and Patricia To.



# New Orleans—Going South 2009

On February 14-21, 2009, we had a group mission trip to New Orleans to rebuild houses, and to be of service to Christ in the most vulnerable of the poor there. We are proud of you .... John D'Addona, Evan George, Cherie Holodnick, Laura Johnson, Jane Levy, Kate Levy, Megan McGibney, Ernestine McGlynn, Carl Opp, Debbie Sedor, Mary Wakefield, Charles Yonka and Patricia Yonka.



# Mission to San Pedro Sula, Honduras

Dear St. Francis Assisi Parish,

On behalf of International Samaritan (formerly known as Central American Ministries – CAM) and the garbage dump community of San Pedro Sula, Honduras, we graciously thank St. Francis Assisi for your generous donations of school supplies, children’s clothing, vitamins, toothbrushes, and formula.

Your generous support has helped to feed and clothe the desperately poor children whose parents scavenge for food and recycled materials inside the local garbage dump. The formula will provide an excellent source of vitamins and minerals essential young children’s health. The director and day care workers at the nursery are overwhelmed by the quantity of anti-lice medication that they now have available for the children at the nursery.



The pictures include photos of the children, and donations being made at the International Samaritan School and Nursery. Again, thank you very much for your support serving the poorest of the poor.



Sincerely,  
*Andrew Pawuk*  
Program Director  
International Samaritan  
(734-222-0701)



## Business Manager's Report to the Parish

In my most recent report to you last November, I told you about the upgrades to our electrical infrastructure throughout the School, Parish Offices, and PAC. That work has now been finished, including upgrading outdoor lighting around the School and Church, and the flood light on the Bell Tower. We are realizing improved lighting, almost 100% reliability, extended bulb life, and even somewhat lower electrical use, so it has been a win-win situation. There have been the usual other maintenance problems common to any facility our size, which have been addressed as necessary. These types of things include clearing drain or sewer lines, and replacing hinges and pivots and the Church doors.

As you can see, there have been no new major projects begun, owing primarily to our concern about local economic trends and their impact on our revenues (i.e. Sunday collections); as an example of this, we have postponed the previously anticipated replacement of back-up hot water and steam boilers, and the re-programming of controls to take advantage of the newer, more efficient boilers. Not that these are not worthwhile projects, but we have become much more cautious given local economic concerns. I might note that, by the time you read this, we expect that we will have been successful in locking up our natural gas supply for the next two winters on a fixed-price basis that will be at least 20% less than our current discounted fixed rate. Even with the long, harsh winter of 2008-09, our gas/heating expenses did not increase over the prior year, and we would expect, with more normal winters, we would begin to see significant cash savings in energy use.

Our summertime projects for 2009 number only two or three, but they include a couple of major items. First and foremost is the anticipated replacement of the Church roof. As most of you are already aware, we have been experiencing an increase in water leaks from the Church roof, and some have become so troublesome that they have knocked out certain components of the Church sound system. Our Parish Finance Council has supported the replacement of the roof to solve these problems (which regular repairs have been unable to solve), and we expect that this work will begin in June or July. Although

the work will be costly, it will be funded out of funds from the Thomas and Shirley Taylor bequest. Also planned is the renovation/upgrading of restrooms on the K/1 and 2/3 levels of the School. This work will be funded out of Summer Appeal funds raised earlier this fiscal year. We also expect to add secured storage space of some sort in our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms.



John 15:1

Projects which remain on our “to do” list continue to include, in no particular order, the replacement of inefficient windows/doors in the handful of locations not already done; brick repair/tuckpointing on the Bell Tower, Parish Office, and PAC; addition of a supplemental HVAC system for the Gym; replacement of the Middle School roof; and renovating/upgrading school restrooms on the 4/5 and Middle School levels. Although it

was not a project of the Parish, we should note, because it would have affected many people coming to the Parish, that the City of Ann Arbor has informed us that it has postponed the previously scheduled curb, sidewalk, and street repairs to St. Francis Drive between East Stadium Boulevard and Nature Cove Court, presumably due to financial concerns. This work is now anticipated to occur during the summer of 2010.

We appreciate very much your continued support of the Parish and School during these relatively difficult times. Although the pace of project work may seem less in the coming year, rest assured that we are proceeding to take care of whatever needs immediate attention, so that we do not have more ground to make up when the economy eventually turns around, as we expect that it will. Please feel free to call or email me should you have any questions or comments.

*Dave Barera*  
Parish Business Manager  
734.821.2111 or dsbarera@catholicWeb.com



# Thank You!!!

## Thanks from Pilgrims of Ibillin

Dear members of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church,  
 Thank you so much for your church's recent gift of \$1,893 to Pilgrims of Ibillin. It was so generous of you to direct your Holy Thursday offering to the important peace-making work of the Mar Elias Schools in Ibillin and other organizations in the Holy Land. In this challenging economic climate we appreciate your gift even more, because we know you had many good choices for how to use precious financial resources. Thank you for choosing this cause! Archbishop Elias Chacour truly appreciates your friendship and generous commitment to peace-making. It makes a great difference.

## Hope Clinic

Hope Clinic wishes to thank everyone at St. Francis who contributed food, personal items and time in an effort to help those in need. Thank you for opening your hearts and hands to those less fortunate. In 2008, Hope distributed more than 12,000 bags of groceries—an increase of nearly 70% over 2007. This would not have been possible without the support of St. Francis. We are blessed and overwhelmed by your generosity. "Through the evidence of this service, you are glorifying God for your obedient confession of the gospel of Christ and the generosity of your contribution to them and to all others"—2 Corinthians 9:13

## Thanks for the Shelter!

Thank you very much for your critical involvement in our 2008-2009 Rotating Shelter Program. Your support made it possible for twenty-five men and six women to have a warm and safe place to sleep each night, during the coldest months of the year. Lives were literally saved because of your willingness to help our fellow neighbors in their time of need. Thank you for your kindness and compassion. As you may know, the Rotating Shelter Program is at the heart of our Winter Services. Emergency shelter is provided through both the Rotating Shelter and the Warming Center where each night, up to 81 individuals can seek refuge from the cold. This year alone, because of your congregation's efforts and leadership, 127 men received refuge from the cold and an additional 330 individuals through our Warming Center Program. We thank you, each of your volunteers and all the members of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church for your hospitality and your dedication to this project.

# Seniors @ St. Francis (55 & Faster)

**Our Seniors Really Celebrate Marti Gras.**  
 Please don't drop the baby,  
 baby!



## LIVE BROADCAST

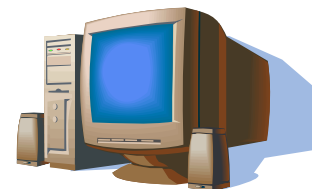
of St. Francis Parish  
**Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass**

**See a Live Broadcast of the St. Francis Sunday  
 10:30 a.m. Mass on Your Computer!**

Last September 14<sup>th</sup> the parish began live-streaming the Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass on our parish website. We are doing this so that our shut-ins and those who are not able to join us in the Eucharist, can at least unite with us through a live broadcast on their computer screen.

The live broadcast will start a few minutes before 10:30 on Sunday morning, and will end when the Mass is over.

Visit our parish website and click on the **Sunday 10:30 AM Mass** link (along the left side of the home page). You will then find options for the live broadcast, and for a sample video to see if your computer is able to play Windows video.





# H igh School Youth

The youth group has spent the past few months on retreat, having fun, and wrapping up Sunday Night Youth Groups. We had to say good-bye to another group of seniors in a great send-off night. Plus everyone got their paper plate award for the year.



We have also been busy getting started with our summer planning, events, and even World Youth Day 2011.

- ◆ We set up a summer lock-in with other churches here at St. Francis for July 11-12.
- ◆ We picked our travel package for World Youth Day 2011 to Madrid, Spain.
- ◆ Plus we're finalizing all our plans and preparations for the Honduras service trip on August 2-12, 2009.



If you haven't been able to join us yet—don't worry! We have a full calendar of events available for the summer—Wednesday night youth groups, a lock-in, other special events...and World Youth Day planning!



St. Francis of Assisi Parish  
2150 Frieze Ave  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-4799

*Return Service Requested*

Non-Profit Org.  
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John 15:1