

# The Canticle of St. Francis

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Parish Newsletter: Volume 14, Issue 4

Winter 2009-2010

## Big Church . . . Small Groups . . .



Some members from the Tuesday morning small group pose for a photo

## Small Groups ... a Group for Everyone

Seven small groups met this fall. Some discussed the book, *"The Shack"*, by William Paul Young, others focused on the weekly Sunday readings. Some met in homes, others at church. Some met in the day time, others at night. Some were groups of many different parishioners, others focused on specialized groups such as a men's only group, and a group of moms with young children. Each was led by a trained facilitator and filled with avid participants. All found a closer sense of who God is, a better idea of their faith, and made some new friends. Not a bad return on a few hours spent over the course of five weeks!



## Small Group Facilitator Training

Pete Ries, former Director of Adult Faith Formation, RCIA and Evangelization for the Lansing Diocese shared his expertise on group facilitation with an eager assembly of people. Together they explored the role of a group facilitator, shared their previous experiences as group participants and/or leaders, and learned how to help everyone feel comfortable participating in discussions.



# Mark Your Calendar : Winter 2009-2010



- Nov. 27 - Dec 20: **Giving Tree Gifts.** Help move gifts after weekend mass, volunteers call Susanna Brown (222-0057).
- December 8: **Senior Citizen's Christmas Brunch @ 10 AM,** PAC. Scott Wright (821-2121).
- December 8: **Ya2acht Club-Young Adults,** Tuesdays @ 7-9:00 PM, Jen Delvaux, (821-2126)
- December 10: **Christmas Dinner Party for Perry Nursery School** in Ann Arbor, volunteer 4:30 – 9:00PM in PAC, Scott Wright (821-2121)
- December 12: **Catholic Business Professionals Connection @ 8:30 AM,** school library, Nick Synko (332-8800 x. 213)
- December 13: **Living Nativity Procession** begins at 6:30 PM in church followed by the Children's Christmas festival. Ellen Ward (821-2132)
- December 14: **Meditation Group** every Monday at 7-8 PM in chapel, Paul Thompson (665-6802)
- December 16: **Infertility Support @ 7:00 PM** in church library, Jennifer (734-645-2567)
- December 17: **Guadalupe Group** at 1-3 PM Thursdays in nursery, Mary Carmen (483-0820)
- December 18: **M.O.M.S. Group** 1st & 3rd Fridays at 10AM-noon in chapel & nursery, Deanna (222-0961)
- December 18: **Serve A Meal for the Hungry** (3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays) 3PM or 5PM shift, Delonis Center Shelter, volunteers call Bridget McGillicuddy (665-9549)
- December 20: **High School Youth Group Christmas Party @ 7-9 PM,** Jen 821-2126.

- January 3: - **High School Youth Group** resumes Sundays at 7:00 PM, Jen Delvaux (821-2126)
- January 8: **Mother & Child Network playgroup** 2nd & 4th Fridays at 10AM-noon in nursery, Anna Mae (418-2435)
- January 16/17: **Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.** at weekend masses, Scott Wright (821-2121)
- January 18 & 28: **School of Discipleship** (winter term classes begin) Marty Lucas 821-2125.
- January 21: **Introduction to Spiritual Direction.** 7:15 PM in Chapel, Janene Ternes (821-2122)
- January 24: **St. Francis School PreK-8 Open House & New Student Registration,** 1:30-4 PM in the PAC, Ms. Collins, principal (Office: 821-2200)
- January 23: **Scrapbooking Day.** 9 AM – 5PM in PAC. Janene Ternes (821-2122)
- February 2010: *begin* **Eight Great Dates @ 6:30 PM,** Marty Lucas (821-2125)
- February 1: **Knitting into the Mystery- Shawl Ministry @ 7:00PM,** school music room, Catherine Savage (761-1421)
- February 5: **Business Professionals Breakfast @ 7:00AM** in the PAC, Nick Synko (734-332-8800, ext. 213)
- February 6—7: - **High School Winter Retreat,** Jen Delvaux (821-2126)
- February 6 - April 10: **Tax Assistance Program Saturdays** from 10:30AM to 12:30PM (except 4/3/10), Parish Office—by appointment only. (Volunteer to prepare a tax return for a low income person, call Julie Soyer 734-547-7164) .
- February 16: **Senior Citizens' Mardi Gras Party,** 10AM in PAC, Scott Wright (821-2121)
- February 14: **Eucharistic Minister Training—1:30PM/ or Feb 15—7:30PM/ or Feb 20—10:30AM.** Call Barb Schutzgruber (821-2123).
- February 15: **Lector Inquiry @ 6:30PM/ or Feb 20—9:30AM,** Barb Schutzgruber (821-2123).



## Advent Communal Penance Service

Thursday, December 17 at 7:00 p.m. in church

## CHRISTMAS 2009 MASSES

Christmas Eve-Thursday, 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*)

Christmas Day-Friday, December 25

9:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m.



## NEW YEAR MASSES

Thursday, December 31

5:00 p.m.

Friday, January 1

10:00 a.m.

## February 17: Ash Wednesday Masses

7:00 am, 9:15 am, 5:15 pm & 7:00 pm  
in church

February 2010: **Going South to New Orleans Service Trip.**  
Patti & Chuck Yonka (734-461-2964).

March 6-7: Young Adult Retreat, Jen 821-2126.

## March 7-9: Parish Mission, 7:00 p.m. in church, Marty Lucas, (821-2125)

March 15-22: **Rotating Shelter for Homeless Persons,** School Gym, Scott Wright, (821-2121).

April 24: **ETF Benefit Evening** at Four Points Sheraton-Ann Arbor, Colleen Pierce 821-2290.



## Ya<sup>2</sup>acht Club

Young adults, in their 20s & 30s, married or single



This fall the Ya2acht Club sponsored a four-week series of Theology on Tap. We heard from Fr. Terry about *faith in troubled times*. Fr. Jim shared his vast knowledge of *Rome, particularly the history and archeology*. Nancy Joseph from the Diocese of Lansing led a discussion on *women in the Church*. Finally, just before Halloween, we concluded with a wonderful presentation on *Faith and the Supernatural* led by Fr. John Esper and Deborah Tourville.

While we have returned to our normal Tuesday night events, there are still some wonderful special projects and happenings on the horizon.

Young adults should mark their calendars for our **Retreat on March 6-7**.



For details on any young adult ministry activities, please contact Jen Delvaux at (734) 821-2126 or [jen@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:jen@stfrancisa2.org).



St. Francis  
<sup>2</sup>**yaacht club**  
Young Adult Catholics in their 20s-30s



## The St Francis School of Discipleship



Jesus said, "Make Disciples," not "Make converts". A convert is someone who changes from one religion, doctrine, opinion, etc. to another. However, Jesus wants us to be disciples. The word disciple comes from the Latin *discipulus* "pupil" and from *discipere* "to grasp intellectually, analyze thoroughly".

Our St. Francis **School of Discipleship** helps to form people to know Jesus and to live out the gospel values. Through various theological and scriptural courses, Jesus is presented as someone who cares and is involved in the lives of people today, the same as He was when He physically walked the earth.

The church today stands in constant need of renewed worship and testimony- a determined struggle to seek faith with understanding. Our **School of Discipleship** is where adult students can revisit what it means to follow Jesus.

We are now half-way through our program of courses! Over the first year, we have obtained a variety of instructors from both the Diocese of Lansing and the Archdiocese of Detroit. Class size has ranged from fifteen to forty-nine students.

Watch the bulletin for registration information on our next two courses beginning in January—Church History (with Fr John) and The Psalms (with David Seitz). For more information, contact Marty Lucas at 821-2125 or [mlucas@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:mlucas@stfrancisa2.org)



Winter 2010 Instructors: Fr John Linden (above right) & David Seitz



# PreK-8 Religious Education Fall Happenings



## Two Spirit-Filled Weekends in Preparation for Confirmation: October & November Retreats

The retreat is an important part of the faith journey for those preparing for Confirmation. The overnight retreats allow for the candidates to become more aware of the workings of the Holy Spirit in their lives and to grow spiritually in friendship with the Lord and their peers. Designed for the young teen, the retreats have times of prayer, reflection, and celebration of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. Faith sharing by youth mentors, talks regarding Confirmation, praise and worship songs, Gospel skits, and times of community building enrich the retreat experience.

Altogether 117 youth candidates are preparing for Confirmation this spring! May God bless all of our young people with a personal knowledge of God's love for them in Jesus Christ!

A special thanks to our October adult chaperones: Patti Biggs, Karen Shambaugh,



Anne Stemmerich (Assistant), Michelle Snowden, Mike Thompson, Kim Tynan,, Kelly Jo Walter, Carol Young.

A special thanks to our November adult chaperones: Shari Canales, Marilene Dwyer, Mary Fesmire, Dr. Tom Giordano, Donna Kaufman, Diane Marx, Terese Olson, Sylvia Otero, Edgar Puno, Jim Skochelak, Anne Stemmerich (On-site Supervisor), and Denise Ten Brink.

Thank you to the Youth to Youth team, the presenters, Retreat leaders-Joe Philip and Fr. Gordon Reigle, and to all those who gave of their time to make these retreats possible for our youth.—Ellen Ward, DRE



**Service:** (left) About 30 middle school youth put together and decorated the ornaments for the Giving Tree! The ornaments list gifts for those in need this season, and will be placed on Christmas trees put up in church during Advent. Thank you to Susanna Brown for leading and organizing the ornament party for the middle school youth.



(Below) A parent oversees the work of the children as they interview each other as part of Family Religious Education.



**Praise** (above) Children in grades K-2 learn to chatter with the angels for the Nativity Procession. In a separate choir practice (not pictured), the older children sing their praise of the Lord Jesus. The Nativity Procession, a re-telling of the Christmas story using live animals, song, light acting, and narration, is **Sunday, December 13** at 6:30 p.m. beginning in church.

**For more information on Religious Education events**, contact Ellen Ward at ward@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2132. If you would like to enroll your children in classes on the Faith, call the Religious Education Office at 734-821-2130





# High School Youth Group

## Fall Events

So far this year we have gone on retreat, braved a haunted hayride, survived a girls' night lock-in, and had weekly Sunday Night Youth Groups—and we're just getting warmed up.



## 2010 Service Trips: Ohio and Bolivia

We have also been getting ready for two service trips—one to Ohio to work with the Franciscans for the Poor, and another to Bolivia to work with Maryknoll Lay Missioners.



## World Youth Day 2011: Spain

World Youth Day 2011 planning is also in progress. Our youth and young adults have been registering and starting to prepare for this incredible pilgrimage experience.



If you're a high school teen and you are interested in any of our youth group activities, check out our website <http://hs.stfrancisa2.org/> or contact Jen Delvaux at (734) 821-2126 or [jen@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:jen@stfrancisa2.org).



# Seniors @ St Francis (55 & faster)



In October, we were happy to learn how to live a “brain healthy” lifestyle as a part of the “Maintain Your Brain” program. The Alzheimer’s Association gave us some hope that while a cure is being found for Alzheimer’s disease, there are steps we can take to help prevent it.



In November we enjoyed our traditional Thanksgiving meal with a presentation on modern day Pilgrims/Immigrants. The spot light was on Indonesia as we enjoyed an Indonesian dance performed by Nunu Lysloff who has worked at the St. Francis Parish Office for 20 years now. What fun!!!

Watch the weekly Forum for our monthly events.





## Stellar Day for our annual Parish Picnic!

We couldn't have asked for a better day for our annual parish picnic in September. Great fun was had by more than 600 parishioners. The weather was gorgeous, the food delicious, the music lively and the games entertaining. Adults enjoyed the music and conversation while the children played games, did crafts and had their faces painted. People of all ages participated in the BINGO where prizes were plentiful. Raffle prizes donated by Barnes Ace Hardware, Fantasy Cake, Great Harvest Bread Company, Village Pharmacy II, and Weber's Inn added to the excitement. A great time was enjoyed by all!



A great time was enjoyed by all!



## Service + Justice

### Cool Congregations



On Sunday, September 20, six members of St. Francis attended a “Cool Congregations” training hosted by Michigan Interfaith Power and Light, and the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice (ICPJ). We learned about the work being done by congregations around the country to better care for God’s creation, and to live in a way that is more sustainable and will have less of an adverse impact on future generations.



The St. Francis Peace & Justice Committee was excited to have the opportunity to attend this training, and will be leading a “green” program in our parish – you will see more about this in upcoming issues of the weekly Forum.

As the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops says on its website, **“Today, our Catholic community is addressing more consistently and faithfully how to protect God’s creation and the environment that sustains the human family and all the earth. As Pope John Paul II**

**said, ‘respect for life and for the dignity of the human person extends also to the rest of creation, which is called to join man in praising God.’ We show our respect for our Creator by our care for His creation.”** We hope that our work today will benefit the generations of people yet to be born, and we hope that you will join us in our efforts!

### A Moral Issue

As Catholic bishops, we seek to offer a distinctively religious and *moral perspective* to what is necessarily a complicated, scientific, economic, and political discussion. Ethical questions lie at the heart of the challenges facing us.  
Pope John Paul II insists:

**“We face a fundamental question which can be described as both ethical and ecological.....  
How can one prevent disasters that destroy the environment and threaten all forms of life?”**

*--from “Global Climate Change, a Plea for Dialogue, Prudence, and the Common Good, 2001, by US Catholic Bishops*



If you would like to measure your carbon footprint using the Excel program we used at the Cool Congregations training, you can visit the ICPJ website where they have posted the “Carbon Calculator Program”:

<http://www.icpj.net/2009/cool-congregations-coverage-and-resources/>





## Serving Homeless Families



### Thank you for Shelter!



Thank you for serving in October at IHN Alpha House Family Shelter. We thank our coordinators: Al Zangrilli, Kate Miller, and Mary Hayden, as well as, all of our ALPHA HOUSE VOLUNTEERS who helped...

Julie Allison-Conlin, Jane Antosiak, Avery Bennett, Herbert Black, Karen Cole, Bob Conlin, Paul Crossley, Ann Denoyer, Cletus Denoyer, Bill Dirksen, Ehren Dirksen, Isabelle Dirksen, Nicole Dirksen, Samuel Dirksen, John Douglass, Patricia Douglass, Georgette Giordano, Mary Hayden, Crystal Heft, Marty Javornisky, Dawn Keene, Natalie Keene, Barbara Kelly-Ferris, Chris Kempton, Erin Lane, Julie Leonard, Jane Levy, Kate Miller, Christopher Mollo, Dan Paulus, Barbara Pomey, Anna Riegger, James Riegger, Lori Riegger, Carol Rigg, Cynthia Smigielski, John Wagner, John Walsh, Mary Ellen White, Linda Wiseman, Mary Wissman, Al Zangrilli, plus all of you non-St. Francis helpers (Tag

Alongside): Julie Ankenbrand, Ann Arbor Open School: teachers, parents, students: Julie Roth, Janie Martin, Edie Linton, Mark Albercook, Karen, Meke, Vince, Gabe, Noah, Eva, Zoe, Cecilia, and Eliaz & UM/EMU students.



### IHN Mission:

The mission of the Interfaith Hospitality Network of Washtenaw County (IHN) at Alpha House is to provide temporary shelter, food and support services in a caring atmosphere of dignity and safety. More than providing just a bed and a roof for families, our goal at IHN is to support the families in securing and maintaining their own home.

### A Year at Alpha House Means:

- \* A safe place for 120 children and adults.
- \* 24,000 home-cooked meals.
- \* Intensive support services for 35 families in shelter.
- \* 24 hour response to more than 400 calls from families seeking shelter.
- \* Coordination of more than 2,000 volunteers representing more than 30 local congregations and civic organizations.
- \* Home-based support services for 30-35 families a year to build on families' stability after they leave the shelter.



## St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

### Educational Trust Fund: Securing and Advancing Catholic Education



St. Francis School, with its highly educated and dedicated faculty and staff, is recognized as one of the leading Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lansing. The Educational Trust Fund (ETF) has contributed significantly to the success of the school. Here is a bit of ETF history.

In 1987, then Pastor Fr. Raymond Rademacher, along with some far-sighted parishioners, established the Educational Trust Fund to provide funding for all religious education in the parish. Under the guidance of then Pastor Fr. Charles Irvin, a drive to fund the ETF was held in 1988 which raised \$500,000 from several hundred parishioners. In 2000, the Trust was amended so that St. Francis School would be the sole beneficiary. At the urging of current pastor Fr. Jim McDougall, in 2001 the ETF Board of Trustees established the first annual fund raiser - a benefit at The Inn at St. John's Retreat Center in Plymouth. This annual, springtime event has become the social highlight of the Parish. It's now in its ninth year and is held locally in Ann Arbor.

In addition to the proceeds from the benefit, the ETF receives gifts of cash and marketable securities, as well as being recognized in decedents' estates. Interest income and unrealized investment gains or losses make up the balance of the annual net income. For the year ending June 30, 2009, the balance

invested with the Diocese of Lansing was \$888,948.

Annually, five percent of the average of the beginning fund balance for the last three years is disbursed to St. Francis School to support operational needs - the most recent distribution being \$53,000. Since its inception, the ETF has paid out \$646,788 to the school. The long-range goal of the ETF is a \$10,000,000 corpus, the income from which should go a long way toward ensuring a stable future for St. Francis School.



As is the case with most Catholic grade schools, St. Francis no longer has the luxury of a religious community providing faculty and staff at a minimal expense.

Therefore, the presence of a dynamic ETF is essential.

Please consider all of the benefits of the ETF and if you can be of help, we urge you to do so by calling Bill Anhut, Chairman, at 434-6713; Dave Barera, Business Manager, at 821-2111; or Colleen Pierce, Director of Stewardship & Development, at 821-2208. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Fund through your prayers, financial support or volunteer efforts during the past year.



# Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day

St. Francis of Assisi School  
October 23, 2009



*"From the Darkness into Light"* should have been the theme of this year's Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day, as the morning began with a real old-fashioned Michigan torrential downpour in complete darkness while our guests and parents maneuvered their way through the school parking lot.



As daylight began to break through the sky and, finally, the lines of cars were reaching an end... it was time to join the crowd of people in the PAC.

The sounds of voices swept through the hallways with a surge of pure, sweet joy and happiness. With great anticipation, the day had finally arrived and the PAC was filled to capacity with grandparents, godparents, parents, aunts, uncles, and special friends from near and far.



The feeling of unconditional love was overflowing in the school that extraordinary day and it will be carried in everyone's hearts in the years that follow. The Holy Spirit reminded us that day of the eternal love that God has for each of us and inspired us to celebrate those special relationships that have helped guide us to follow the right path of life.

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**





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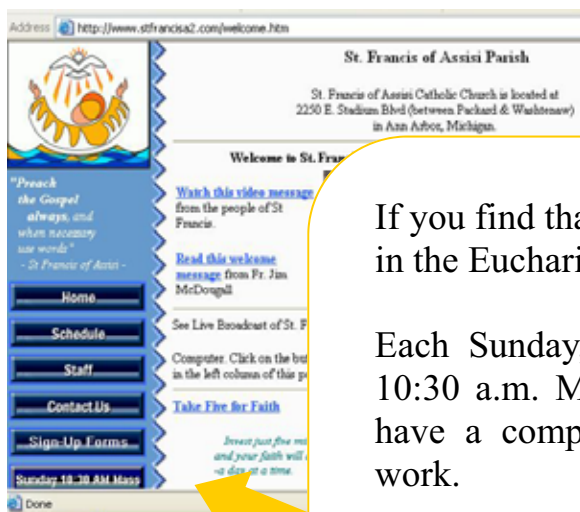
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# Watch the ST FRANCIS 10:30 a.m. MASS

## on your computer



If you find that some Sunday you are ill and can't join us in the Eucharist, we invite you to join us by computer.

Each Sunday, we broadcast (live-stream) our Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass through our parish web page. If you have a computer with broadband capabilities, it will work.

Just go to our web page: [www.stfrancisA2.com](http://www.stfrancisA2.com)  
and then click on the link (on left):  
**Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass**

