

The Canticle of St. Francis

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Parish Newsletter: Volume 15, Issue 1

Spring 2010

Third Annual Business Breakfast Forum

“Balancing Life, Faith & Career”

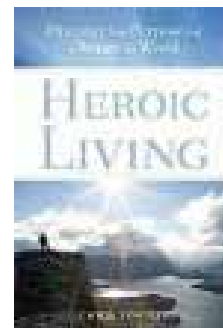
About 150 business men and women gathered in the Parish Activity Center on Friday, February 5th at 7:00 a.m. for a delicious breakfast and an inspiring presentation by author and international speaker, Chris Lowney. As a onetime Jesuit seminarian and a former Managing Director for J.P. Morgan & Co., Lowney integrated the spiritual wisdom of the Jesuits with common business principles.



In his spirituality of leadership and living, Mr. Lowney gave us four principles to follow:

1. Live and lead with a sense of purpose greater than ourselves
2. Seek self awareness
3. Seek a sense of inner freedom
4. Treat others with love, respect and dignity

More information can be found in his book, *Heroic Living – Discover Your Purpose and Change the World.*



Chris Lowney was named a Managing Director of J.P. Morgan & Co. while still in his thirties and held senior positions in New York, Tokyo, Singapore and London until leaving the firm in 2001. Prior to joining J.P. Morgan, Lowney was a Jesuit seminarian for seven years. He is a summa cum laude graduate of Fordham University, where he also received his M.A. and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.



His first book, *Heroic Leadership: Best Practices from a 450-Year-Old Company that Changed the World* was the #1 ranked bestseller of the CBPA and was named a finalist for a 2003 Book of the Year Award from ForeWord magazine. In *Heroic Living*, Lowney combines the proven practices of Ignatian spirituality with his business expertise to help each of us discover our mighty purpose in life and develop a personal life strategy to achieve it.

If you missed his talk, see it on www.stFrancisA2.com by clicking on “Watch the Video”.



Mark Your Calendar—Spring 2010



February 6 - April 10, 2010: **Tax Assistance Program**—Saturdays 10:30AM to 12:30PM / Parish Office. By appointment only—769-2550 (during business hours)

March 13: **Catholic Business People's Connection** 8:30AM school library / Nick Synko 734-332-8800, ext. 213

March 14: **Food Drive** delivered to local pantries @ 10AM from Gym / Scott Wright 821-2121

March 15: **Meditation Group** / Mondays 7:00 – 8PM / Chapel / Paul 734-665-6802

March 15—22: **Rotating Shelter for Homeless Persons** / St Francis School Gym / Scott Wright 821-2121.

March 16: **YA² ACHT-Young Adult—single or married 20-30's / Tuesdays @ 7PM** / for location: Jen 821-2126 or jen@stfrancis2.org

March 17: **Infertility Support Group** / 7:00 – 9:00PM / Church Library / Jennifer 734-645-2567

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

March 19: **M.O.M.S. Group** / 1st & 3rd Fridays 10AM – 12 noon / Chapel / Deanna 734-222-0961

March 19 (April 16 & May 21): **Serve A Meal for the Hungry** on 3rd Friday / 3PM or 5PM / Delonis Center Shelter / Bridget 665-9549

March 26: **Mother/Child Network** / 2nd & 4th Fridays 10AM – 12 noon/ Nursery / Anna Mae 734-418-2435

March 28: Return Lenten **"Sack Hunger"** sack contributions at Palm Sunday Mass / Scott Wright 821-2121.

April 1—4: **Triduum & Easter Sunday** (see schedule below)

April 13: **SENIOR Citizens monthly program** / 10AM / for location call Scott Wright 821-2121

April 17: **Going South to New Orleans** Service Trip / Patti & Chuck Yonka / 734-461-2964

April 24: **Rebuilding A Home** with "Christmas In Action" one-day program of home repair for a "person in need" / Scott Wright / 821-2121.

April 24: **Educational Trust Fund Benefit Event** @ 5:30 PM / Four Points Sheraton / Colleen Pierce 734.821.2208

May 12: *Registration begins for Vacation Bible School* **July 19—23, 2010** at www.stFrancisA2.org click *Sign-Up Forms* / call Ellen Ward 821-2132

May 16: **Parish Health Fair** 10AM-2PM / School Gym / Danaica Watson, RN 821-2115.

May 23: **Parish Blood Drive** 8AM—2PM / PAC / Danaica Watson, RN 821-2115.

June 7: **St. Francis School 8th Grade Graduation Mass** @ 6 PM in church. Sara Collins, Principal / 734.821.2200

June 7 - 13: **Hosting at Shelter for Homeless Families**, IHN - Alpha House in Ann Arbor / shift times / Scott Wright / 821-2121.

June 4: **Ice Cream Social & Car Raffle Drawing** (raffle drawing at 8PM), Colleen Pierce / 734.821.2208.

June 30: **H.S. Youth Group Cedar Point Day**, for details & reservations call Jen 821-2126.

Lent Communal Penance Services

Family: Monday, March 22 at 5:00 p.m. in church

All Parish: Thursday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m. in church

TRIDUUM / EASTER 2010 MASSES

Holy Thursday, April 1: 7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 2: 12 noon Stations of the Cross enacted
1:15 p.m. Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
6:30 p.m. Good Friday Evening Prayer

Holy Saturday, April 3: 8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil & Mass (no 5PM mass today)

Easter Sunday, April 4: Easter Mass 7:00 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m.—in Church, and 10:45 a.m. in PAC (parish activity center).

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





Energy Evaluation

Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that we show our respect for the Creator by our stewardship of creation. As part of our ongoing stewardship effort, St. Francis of Assisi conducted an energy evaluation of its entire campus (church, school, parish offices and rectory) on December 30, 2009. Support for the energy evaluation was provided through a grant from Michigan Interfaith Power & Light (MiIP&L). This past October 2009, St. Francis joined the group of 81 congregations comprising MiIP&L.

The wide ranging review covered systems such as heating, air conditioning and lighting as well as structural components including roofs, insulation and windows. The evaluator's observations during the review confirmed both the importance and proper focus of our proactive, ongoing maintenance efforts. Recommendations from the evaluation will assist the St. Francis community as we strive to remain faithful stewards of the resources entrusted to our care. The evaluator's complete report is anticipated in late February.



Join the St. Francis Green Team!

Caring for God's Creation

Pray, Learn, Assess/Act, & Advocate

Help with assessments of energy consumption and greenhouse gases? Help in the effort to preserve creation! Take the St Francis pledge at: catholicclimatecovenant.org Invite a member of the St. Francis Green Team into your home to assist with an assessment of your current energy and consumption patterns. The results of the assessment are completely confidential and will be used as a baseline for future actions and improvements.

Contact: Steve Lavender (734-973-2564), St. Francis Parish Peace & Justice Committee



"I Spy"



Use the photo to find this spot in St. Francis Church.

Once you know where this is ... send your answer in an email with the subject "I Spy" to liturgy@stfrancisa2.org Or write your answer on a piece of paper & place it in the collection basket, or bring it to the Parish Office. **You must include your name, and phone number or email.** All correct entries received by April 30th will be eligible for a random drawing. Winners will receive a San Damiano Cross.

The answer and winner's name will be printed in the next issue of the Canticle.

SERVICE + JUSTICE

Thank You For Giving Tree Gifts 2009!

We received thank you notes from all of our Giving Tree recipient organizations and even from many of the individual recipient family members. Here are just a few:

The Pregnancy Help Center: *Our Mothers, Babies, and Families are most appreciative. Thanks to all the parishioners of St. Francis for their most generous support to the Giving Tree.*

St. Louis Center: *Thanks, your kindness was appreciated by all of us. You and all your families will be kept in our prayers and the prayers of our children and adults with developmental disabilities.*

Project Transition: *“Dear St. Francis, Your kindness added a special love for so many Christmas 2009.”*

Hope Clinic: *On the behalf of the 105 persons that you provided Christmas gifts to... It was because of your generosity and compassion for the less fortunate that their Christmas was made brighter and happier. Thanks for being a tremendous blessing to the less fortunate.*

I can't begin to express *what your gift means to me and my family. Our daughter is already wearing her sneakers and she asks me to read her “How the Grinch stole Christmas” as her bed time story. This tough economy time has been difficult for us, but knowing we have the support of people like you certainly help. Please know I won't forget your kind gesture. Thank you again from the bottom of my heart.*

Thank you! *I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the persons responsible for the many wonderful gifts that were provided to my son and I for Christmas this year. The year had been a struggle for me as I lost my job (like so many others) and lost my best friend to cancer 8 days before Christmas. When I was given those gifts I was so surprised, happy, and most of all grateful! I would like to say “thank you” so much for your gift of giving it does not go unnoticed!! God Bless you and thank you!*

Perry Nursery School: ... *Thank you for providing the wonderful gifts. Your gifts brightened this Christmas for so many of our families. Several parents were in tears as they took the gifts home telling us that they would otherwise have nothing to give to their children. Also, thank you for the Christmas Dinner Party. We enjoyed your hospitality and parents were impressed with the kindness shown to them. Lastly, our families were happy to receive the groceries provided to them by your parishioners in November. We appreciate your continued support and belief in Perry.*

Giving Tree Gift Report

More than 992 Individual Gifts were given from St. Francis members to individuals in need through the following communities. Thanks to all of you shoppers and gift wrappers, and special thanks to Susanna Brown for her amazing organizational contribution as our project coordinator.

Who got the gifts?

150 gifts for Catholic Social Services (programs include: Adoption Services, Families First, Father Patrick Jackson House, Grandparents As Parents, Healthy Families, Housing Support Services, Lifeline, Pregnancy Counseling, and TeenLink).

150 gifts for Community Action Network at Hikone & Green Baxter Court

75 gifts for Community Support & Treatment Services

52 gifts for HIV/AIDs Resource Center (H.A.R.C.)

105 gifts for Hope Clinic, Inc.

35 for Home of New Vision -Women in Recovery

15 for POWER Inc.

96 for Perry Nursery School –struggling single parents

40 for PORT - Project OutReach Team—homeless live out doors in tents

100 for Pregnancy Help Center (PPC)

21 for Project Transition –adults with developmental disabilities

50 for SAFE House/ Domestic Violence Project Inc.

51 for St. Louis Center – children & adults with developmental disabilities

30 for SOS Homeless Children's Services

23 for St. Francis Parish



Christ Has No Body?



What do these congregations have in common?

- 1) St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Ann Arbor
- 2) St. Luke Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor
- 3) United Methodist Church, Dexter
- 4) First Presbyterian Church, Saline

Answer: STEPHEN MINISTRY, and a joint Training Series hosted here at St. Francis. Stephen Leaders from our four congregations have united to train our new class of almost 10 Stephen Ministers. *"We are a small class, but, we have great spirit and purpose driving us to serve Christ in this ministry. And, the added benefit of experiencing our different congregations working together, is a real rush of joy!"*



After 50 hours of training the Stephen Ministers will be publicly commissioned in their respective congregation for service, be assigned a care receiver and meet with them for one hour each week for as long as needed, participate in two hours of monthly peer group supervision, and attend one hour of continuing education each month.



Listening is an essential part of Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministers use active listening skills to help people recognize and accept the feelings they are experiencing.



As you go through your day, let yourself be the eyes and ears of Jesus. When you notice a need, ask about it and then listen some more. Might this be a need for Stephen Ministry?



Call 734-821-2121. Learn more at: www.stfrancisa2.com/stephen/

Christ Has No Body but yours

No hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes with which he looks

Compassion on this world,

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,

Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,

Yours are the eyes, you are his body.

Christ has no body but yours,

No hands, no feet on earth but yours,

Yours are the eyes with which he looks

Compassion on this world.

Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

~ Saint Teresa of Avila

Christmas Re-Gift Box results



The St. Francis ReGift Committee would like to thank the many donors who helped make this new project a success. And, we give special thanks to Mary Hayden who served as our volunteer coordinator. We received **almost 500 gifts**, especially adult clothing and children's toys. Your gifts will be distributed to those in need by Catholic Social Services, Father Pat Jackson House, Perry Nursery School of Ann Arbor, PORT (Project OutReach Team) for persons who are homeless with a mental illness.



Religious Education Solidarity & Friendship Events!



Hundreds of donuts (*above right*) were baked up by John & Cicie Miller as treats for **Saint Nick's** visit (*above*) in the Parish Activities Center (PAC) last December.



In addition to religious studies, **Middle School Youth** have opportunities for **service** (*left*: At bake sale in February, \$1361 was raised for the Haitian people) and for **solidarity & friendship** with the start of the **new Edge** middle school youth group (*above*)! For more activities, watch the Sunday Forum, visit www.stfrancisa2.com or call 821-2130.

December's Nativity Procession (*right*) re-calls the wonder of Christ's birth. **St. Francis Religious Education** offers a variety of faith enrichment activities.

We also offer an affordable and faith-filled **Preschool** for three and four-year-old children. Registration for the 2010-11 year is taking place now. Preschool enrichment classes for three year olds meet Monday & Wednesday mornings and classes for four year olds meet Tuesday & Thursday mornings. Registration forms can be found on the web at <http://stfrancisa2.com/rel-ed/PreschoolRegForm.pdf> To enroll or for questions, please call us at 734-821-2130 or 734-821-2132.

Vacation Bible School is **July 19-23**, Monday-Friday from 9a.m.-12 noon and this year's theme is **Egypt!** Watch for sign-up in mid-May!



High School Youth!



Above: St. Francis cantor, Darren Fedewa - parishioner & Huron High School junior.

What is NCYC?

This winter has been busy for the high school youth group. First it was the National Catholic Youth Conference-NCYC in Kansas City. We journeyed forth to join *over 20,000* other Catholic youth for this conference where we took over the city, had incredible keynotes, formed new friendships, and deepened our faith through workshops, prayer, and liturgies.

In addition we nearly lost our voices cheering on Darren Fedewa (*left*), one of our high school youth. Following a national audition process, he was one of a few dozen chosen to be one of the performers for the conference. He amazed the stadium full of youth and adults with his incredible voice.



winter retreat, youth group, service trips . . .



Closer to home, we have had a great year of youth groups, girls nights, and other events. Our winter retreat the weekend of February 6-7 was a great experience. Though we've had a busy winter, we have plenty of plans for this spring and summer. Besides for youth group, girls' nights, and other social events, we have two service trips planned. One will take us to Franciscans for the Poor in Ohio, and the other will have us traveling with Maryknoll to Sacaba,



Bolivia. We also plan on having several special youth group events including the annual trip to Cedar Point, a social justice lock-in, and a special summer schedule.

To find out more about any of these events, please contact Jen Delvaux at (734) 821-2126 or jen@stfrancisa2.org.



<http://hs.stfrancisA2.org>

Toward healthy body, mind & spirit

Parish Health Ministry News



Our **Hand Washing Campaign—Henry the Hand**, was a great success this past fall. We educated preschool through 4th grade students at St. Francis School on proper hand washing techniques. They especially loved the glow germs light box and the fun videos.



At our last Parish **Blood Drive** in December, we collected 45 pints of life saving blood. Our next blood drive is **Sunday, May 23rd** in the PAC (parish activity center) from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sign up to donate blood, or to help with the drive at *Sign-Up Forms* on the parish website www.stfrancisA2.org (Remember you donate blood anytime at www.redcrossblood.org)



The annual **Parish Health Fair will be Sunday, May 16!!!** Over 40 vendors will be there offering free blood pressure checks, free glucose checks, cholesterol checks, glaucoma and dental screenings. We've been busy planning this event, and are continuing to recruit volunteers and begin advertising. The Parish Health Ministry is committed to educating our community on disease prevention and health promotion!

For your health-related questions, or to get involved call & leave a message at our Parish Health voicemail 734-821-2115. ~ Danaica Watson, RN parish nurse **Learn more at: www.stfrancisA2.com/health/**

Mental & emotional health

The parish **Counseling Assistance Program (CAP)** provides convenient and affordable professional counseling services to registered parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Parish. The services are provided by qualified licensed/certified professionals that are parishioners. The program was established in 1998. The CAP philosophy is based upon our shared Catholic values and beliefs. CAP clinicians are skilled in providing the following services: assessment and referral, couple or conjoint therapy, individual psychotherapy, family systems therapy, group dynamic therapy and special event or presentation speakers. Confidentiality is of the utmost concern therefore be reassured we provide no information about your involvement with CAP.



You may schedule an appointment to see a CAP therapist by calling the Parish Office (734-769-2550) during normal business hours. All counseling services are provided at the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Office.



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School News



Catholic Schools Week + Spirit Week = Fun & Faith

Our middle school Leadership students organized an amazing week of activities for us this year. The 2010 national theme for Catholic School's week was "Catholic School's—Dividends for Life".



Faith:

We had a "Dress up as your Favorite Saint Day." Some of our third grade saints are pictured above. Fr. Jim visited our classrooms and shared some special time with our Kindergarteners. We also had an opportunity to stop everything, and pray like a monk for 15 minutes of silent meditation time.



Knowledge:

Albert Einstein visited our PEP Assembly (*right*) and shared some interesting facts about himself. The students were rewarded with special prizes for responding correctly. Another fun, yet educational



Mrs. Schurmur in 2A

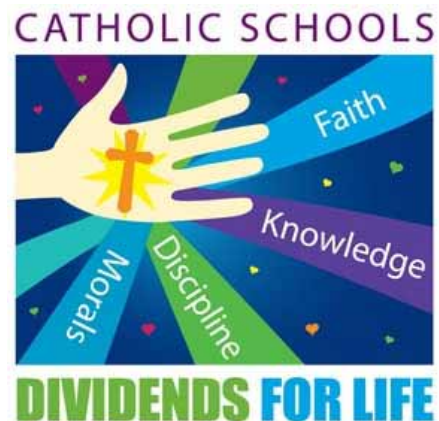


Mrs. Lemmer in 7B

activity was a teacher SWAP day (*left*). The teachers taught a lesson for students at different grade levels. For example, Mrs. Shurmur moved from 7/8 grade to second grade. Mrs. Lemmer in second grade moved up to 7B to teach some of the very same students she had taught five years earlier.

Morals: Stewards of the Earth

Mrs. Bogits came around to each classroom to describe a new recycling project for the school. The students have been asked to recycle their juice boxes and pouches. The school receives 5 cents for each pouch that is sent in. We also turned off all the lights in the classrooms and hallways to remind us how we can each do our part to reduce the use of energy. Students were also given seed packets so they can grow their own herb garden.



Yes, we do Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr.



Martin Luther King, Jr. advocated the liberation of all people, and the elimination of the injustices that plague our society, like racism, poverty, and war.



While he was not a Catholic himself, we celebrate the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr. because his goals are completely aligned with the themes of Catholic Social Teaching: the life and dignity of all people; the call to community participation, and, the duty to advocate for those who are downtrodden, putting the needs of the poor and vulnerable first; and solidarity in our one human family, regardless of racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences.

Imagine what we could accomplish if we all found such a sense of purpose, and the courage to live it!

We thank our St. Francis Contemporary Choir under the direction of Carol Fedewa, as well as, the Corpus Christi Choir under the direction of Michelle Baines. Corpus Christi Parish is our sister parish in Detroit.

We also thank the St. Francis Middle School Choir, under the direction of Linda Opleski, and students & parents for the spaghetti dinner after the mass.

Thanks for another great celebration! We enjoyed it again in 2010. And, we look forward to 2011.

If you missed this, you can watch the video of the MLK celebration Mass online at: www.stfrancisa2.com/socialministry/mlk.htm



SPECIAL REPORT:

Thanks For Your Generosity to the Earthquake Victims in Haiti

A devastating 7.0 magnitude earthquake hit the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince late afternoon Tuesday, January 12th. That next weekend at all masses, St. Francis Parish began a special collection for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. We thank all of you that have given so generously. All funds collected will go to Catholic Relief Services. Catholic Relief Services has an established presence in Haiti and does heroic work in response to disasters such as these. *As of February 14, 2010 the people of St. Francis had donated \$45,988 to help the earthquake victims in Haiti.*



Preserving Memories

The Parish Activity Center was full of energy as 42 women of all ages, including a few children in training, gathered on Saturday, January 23rd to preserve memories of special times and people in their lives. Photos were affixed amidst beautifully decorated pages of scrap books, as participants shared stories of the loved ones in their lives. Scrappers began gathering at 9:00 a.m. and the last of the group finally left about 9:00 p.m., tired but happy with their new creations and looking forward to next year!



SMALL GROUP: Facilitator Training . . .

What is a Facilitator?

Eleven small group facilitators gathered to enhance their skills in preparation for their upcoming Lenten journey of facilitating small groups. They learned that a facilitator is *not* the one with all the answers, the one who has to host the meeting, provide the snacks for the group, or the one who does all the work. Rather, their role is to gently guide a group by helping people to feel comfortable, asking questions and encouraging those who haven't spoken much to share.

They had fun role-playing a small group meeting, including acting out various personalities within a group, to help them facilitate a friendly, focused and comfortable small group experience. Presently eleven Lenten small groups are underway using a variety of resources for group discussion:

- *Heroic Living – Discover Your Purpose and Change the World* by Chris Lowney
- *Sunday Mass Readings*
- *Jesus' Journey to the Cross: A Love Unto Death* by Jeanne Kun
- *The Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans*





St. Francis of Assisi Parish
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Staying Connected to our Seniors . . .

Tele-Care Birthday Calls to Seniors:

We are grateful to our St. Francis Parish Tele-Care Ministry folks who are making birthday calls to parish-member-senior-citizens who are 65 and over. Our 21 callers, are each assigned a ten-day period, and each caller makes about 20 phone calls during that time. We also especially thank Neil Mueller, who coordinates our ministry schedule.

One of our callers, Barb De Longchamp, said, *“Everyone is so excited and thankful when I call. What a rewarding experience for me and for them. I was surprised how just a simple call with Happy Birthday . . . would make people so happy. WOW! I like the effect this has on the receiver and the giver! Thanks for the opportunity.”*

Thanks to all of you faithful callers: Teri Billau, Nadine Brown, Colleen Burroughs, Elsie Casiano, Darlene Cox, Barb De Longchamp, Karen Digby, Marian Digby, Audrey Drago, Mary Jo Hepburn, Tim Hogan, Shirley Hogan, Kathleen Homiak, Angela Juarez, Bernice Mathews, Jim McMurtrie, Neil Mueller, Paul Peterson, Lloyd St. Antoine, Erin Zaleski and Susan Zill.

