

The Canticle of St. Francis

Published quarterly by St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
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Parish Newsletter: Volume 15, Issue 2

Summer 2010

Parish Mission

Mark Price assumes the roles of saints. At our Parish Mission this past Lent, it was Simon the man. Peter the Apostle. The Big Fisherman.

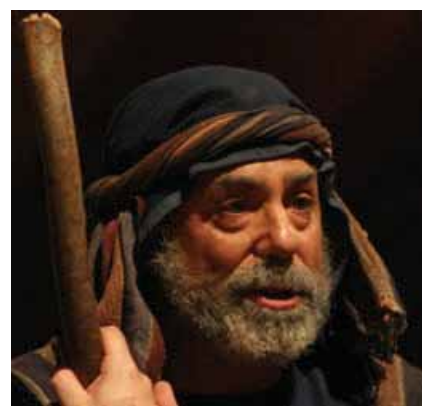
What was Peter really like? What did Jesus see in him? Why did he deny knowing Jesus? Are there people like Peter living today? Those questions and many more were answered on the first night, when Mark's biblical portrayal of Simon Peter brought in 600 persons to participate in our Lenten Parish Mission.

The following evening, we experienced Christ through the eyes of Judas Iscariot. Throughout these performances----charged with flourishing hand gestures and kneeling anguish----Mark as Simon Peter and then as Judas Iscariot educated the audience about customs of the time, Bible stories and values, and also dispelled a few myths.

On the third evening Mark, as himself, delivered a theological reflection that was dynamic, passionate, and engaging. If you missed the Mission, you can still view the presentations via the magic of the Internet! Here is the link:

<http://www.stfrancisa2.org/mission/>

(Below) 'Simon Peter' at St. Francis Church in March 2010.



Simon Peter



Judas Iscariot



Mark Price

Mark Your Calendar—Summer 2010

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 18: **High School Youth Group** /End of Year Party/ 6:30 pm / Youth Room/ Jen 821-2126

June 20: **Parish Blood Drive**/ 8am-2pm in the PAC/ For appointment call parish office, 769-2550.

June 21: **Weekly Meditation Group** / 7:00 – 8:00pm / Chapel / Paul 734-665-6802 (*no meeting July 5*)

June 24: **Weekly Guadalupe Group** / 1:00 – 3:00pm / Nursery / Mary Carmen 734-483-0820

June 25: **Mother/Child Network** / 10:00am / Strawberry & pea picking @ Rowe's Farm/ For playgroup's summer calendar call Anna Mae 734-418-2435

June 26: **Jail Volunteer Orientation** from 9am-12pm / Washtenaw County Jail Sheriff's Dept. / Scott Wright / 821-2121.

June 29: **Weekly Ya2acht Young Adults**-single & married/ events at <http://ya2acht.blogspot.com/> or call Jen 821-2126

June 30: **H.S. Youth Group** goes to *Cedar Point*/ details at <http://sfa-hsym.blogspot.com/> or Jen Delvaux 821-2126.

July 12: **Monthly Knitting-Shawl Ministry** / 7:00 pm/ school music room/ Kathleen 734-717-0685.

July 13: **SENIOR Citizens' Picnic Lunch** / 11:30AM/ Washtenaw County Farm Park/ Sharon Wright 434-1428.

July 16 (& Aug 20): **Serve A Meal for the Hungry** / 3PM or 5PM / Delonis Center Shelter / Bridget 665-9549.

July 21: **Infertility Support Group** / 7:00 – 9:00pm / Church Library / Jennifer 734-645-2567

August 9, 16, 23, 30: **Summer Organ Recitals**/ 7:00 pm/ church/ Tom Kean 734-821-2124

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

September 11: **Catholic Business Professional's Connection** / 8:30am / school library / Nick Synko 734-332-8800, ext. 213

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

September 12: **First Sunday Night H.S. Youth Group of the year** @ 7:00 pm/Youth Room/Jen 821-2126

September 17: **M.O.M.S**-Ministry of Mothers Sharing /10 am – 12 noon /Chapel/ Janine 734-913-9418

September 21: **St. Francis School Scholarship Fund Golf Outing** / The Polo Fields Golf & Country Clubs/ Colleen Pierce 734-821-2208

Vacation Bible School Mon- Friday, July 19—23 9 a.m.--12 noon

Register on-line with credit-card payment at www.stFrancisA2.com (click on *Vacation Bible School* or *Sign-Up Forms*). **High School & Middle School helpers, and Adult leaders needed!!!** Sign-up forms available at parish website. Questions: 734-821-2130.

What are the Spiritual Exercises?

A couple dozen interested parishioners gathered in the music room to hear about the life of St. Ignatius of Loyola, and how he came to create the Spiritual Exercises back in the 16th century. We learned about the different themes of the Exercises as well as different methods of prayer utilized within them. We ended by experiencing the Examen, an Ignatian prayer of reviewing our day, giving gratitude to God for the gifts as well as noticing when we were more loving vs. less loving than we wanted to be.

[Photos: Janene Ternes shares her knowledge of the Spiritual Exercises with an interested group.]



Thank you for the Tax Assistance

Our volunteer program coordinator, Julie Soyer is so delightful to work with and for—she has served as coordinator since 2004 and as a volunteer participant for more than seven years. Julie writes the following letter, which demonstrates her hope and gratitude. Julie, we thank you very much! --- Scott Wright



Julie writes—

One of my favorite concepts is that of synergy – the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. I can think of no better example of this than the tax assistance program at St. Francis of Assisi. Incredible individuals all work together to make this an amazing team!

This year we were able to meet with over 80 clients and prepare tax returns totaling over \$147,000 in refunds. This refund amount is up over 40% from last year's program. Just amazing!

These refunds will help our clients in many ways, from paying for current household expenses to perhaps saving for the future.

As I look back over the 9 weeks that our St. Francis' Tax Program ran and think about the many people we served, one young woman comes to mind. She came for her appointment on the last day of the program and fully expected to owe federal and state taxes due to low tax withholdings. After her taxes were prepared and she saw that she was getting a refund, she began to cry in disbelief. She was so happy! She was not aware of some of the credits that she was eligible for and was so happy that we were able to help her take advantage of them. This is why this program continues to be so important in our community and why I am so thankful to have all of you working so hard for all of our clients. Your time and commitment is why we were able to achieve the results that we did and continue to serve so many.

This year we welcomed seven new volunteers: Joe Kubis, Lynn Martin, Magda Munteanu, Megan Zhang, Andrew Szydowski, Michelle Yurcak, and Sandra Kortesoja. And, we welcomed back our past volunteers: Ralph Almer, Lisa Evans, Sylvia Al-Rawas, Brad Hatch, Kathy Koehler, Greg McConville, Lynn Sohacki, Deisy Santos, Julie Soyer.



Mother's Day at St. Francis



Moms were celebrated with Belgian waffles, fresh fruit and whipped topping. Children were invited to decorate a small plant with tissue paper in vibrant spring colors, ribbons, and a tag on which they could write "I love you, MOM!"



Many thanks to Paul Ward for manning the oven to warm the waffles, to Clare and Maria Ward for assisting the children with their projects, and especially to our moms who helped host this event: Keri Riegger, Viera Ciganikova, and Ellen Ward.

"I Spy"



Use the photo (on left) to find this spot in St. Francis Church.

To enter, send an email with the subject "I Spy" to liturgy@stfrancis2.org, or you can place your answer 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 August 16th 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.

The winner of the Spring 2010 "I Spy" drawing is Mary Ann Rickelmann. Twelve entrants correctly identified the photo (on right) as one of the holy water fonts at the doors of the church. *Making the sign of the cross with holy water as we enter the church is a way to remember our baptism.*



H <http://sfa-hsym.blogspot.com/> igh School Youth



The St. Francis High School Youth Group has had a busy spring. You may have seen the teens perform the **Living Way of the Cross on Good Friday**. If you are around the church on Sunday nights you may have seen them heading to the youth room for **Youth Group**. You may have seen them **babysitting small children** in the nursery during the new parishioner welcome event. Whew!

You likely haven't seen them preparing for this summer, but that doesn't mean they aren't ready. Over the past few months teens have signed up for our **summer service trip** to Franciscans for the Poor in Ohio. They have continued to prepare for **World Youth Day**, the pilgrimage we are taking in August of 2011 to Madrid, Spain. They have also prepared a full calendar of events for this summer and even started some of our planning for this fall and winter.



With the school year at an end, the teens are definitely looking forward to this summer—**Cedar Point** day trip in June, the service trip in July, and plenty of things to keep them busy in the youth ministry in between.

Y Young Adult Catholics in their 20s-30s *All Young Adults—single or married are welcome!* a2acht Club

The St. Francis young adult ministry, the Ya²acht Club, had a great **spring retreat**. Over the course of a weekend, a group of young adults gathered to enjoy some time away from the routines of life. Time was spent in prayer, reflection, and discussion. Of course there was also plenty of time open to enjoy the beautiful grounds of the retreat center and the indoor pool. If you missed this retreat, don't worry, the next retreat will be February 19-20, 2011.



Also, the young adult group was busy planning a **full summer of events**. Besides a variety of Tuesday evening activities—including service opportunities, we have some great day-trips planned for the weekends. Check out the internet for details:

<http://ya2acht.blogspot.com/>

My 2010 Lenten Offering!

“Sack Hunger sack” Fast from Energy

The St. Francis Peace and Justice Committee would like to say “thank you” to everyone who participated in our Lenten project this year. We are happy to report as of April 5, 2010 that, St. Francis Parish raised \$9,160.85 for Food Gatherers (to feed the hungry) through the “Sack Hunger Sack”.



“Thank you” to everyone who participated in the Energy Fast, and especially to those who provided feedback. Your input is extremely helpful and we appreciate all your comments. Of the 74 responses we received:

- ◆ 76% tried at least one of the calendar tips
- ◆ 72% said they learned something new
- ◆ 65% replaced at least one incandescent light bulb in their home with an LED or compact fluorescent bulb. This translates to a savings of 14,000+ pounds of carbon dioxide emissions per year – which shows that very small changes can have a very BIG impact!

Let’s thank God for the bountiful gifts we have been given, and strive to always be good stewards of God’s creation!

A Summary of the 74 responses (with feed back) is posted at: stfrancisa2.com/lent/

The Next Steps—Energy Evaluation of St. Francis Campus

In our ongoing effort to remain faithful stewards of creation, the St. Francis of Assisi community is pursuing several opportunities resulting from last winter’s campus wide energy evaluation report. Overall, the report indicates St. Francis is performing well in its use of energy resources. Our ongoing relationship with Michigan Interfaith Power and Light (MiIP&L) is providing additional approaches to enhancing our community’s pursuit of energy efficiency.

To better understand and optimize our energy utilization we must first recognize the patterns and cycles that describe our consumption of energy resources. A valuable aid in detailing our use of energy is the EPA Energy Star’s Portfolio Manager Utility Tracker. With initial support from MiIP&L, this software allows the user (i.e., St. Francis) to build an energy consumption database by entering the information contained in our monthly utility bills. Electric and gas meters monitoring energy consumption throughout our campus have been identified. Information detailing energy use from their corresponding monthly statements is now being entered into the database. As new bills are received the consumption data will be added to our database. The Portfolio Manager also incorporates weather data such as daily high and low temperatures. This feature will allow us to better understand the impact of heating on subzero January days and cooling during the summer months.

While collecting energy data will strengthen our



understanding of consumption patterns, it also provides a foundation for a larger overall approach to efficiency. In addition to analyzing monthly utility bills for energy consumption patterns, Portfolio Manager also accepts building profile information. Data such as total floor space, hours of operation, the number of computers in use, and even the total land area devoted to vehicle parking can all be included. This, plus additional information will be used to calculate benchmarks of key metrics indicating how efficiently our buildings use energy. Our goal is to achieve a benchmark rating of at least 75 out of a possible 100 points, meaning the St. Francis campus, as a top performer, could be eligible to earn the EPA’s Energy Star label. Our target date for submission of all information is June 1, 2010.

Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that care for the earth and all of God’s creation is not just an Earth Day slogan, it’s a requirement of our faith. We are called to

protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God’s creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored. At one level, our responsibilities to creation can be addressed on an individual basis as was so well demonstrated through our Lenten energy fast. Our recent energy evaluation highlights the value in approaching the St. Francis community’s environmental responsibilities with a Lenten like resolve for both innovation and commitment.

Religious Education Preparations & Parish Celebrations!



Confirmation (above) Bishop Earl Boyea speaks to the 110 Confirmation candidates prior to celebrating Mass with them on April 25. Confirmation generally begins in the 7th grade with the Sacrament conferred in the spring of the 8th grade. Please see the website at www.stfrancisa2.com for more information. Registration forms for 2010/2011 classes beginning in September are now available on-line under the link *Sign-Up Forms*.



First Eucharist Sylvia Otero (above right) gives last minute reminders to the First Eucharist candidates. Generally First Eucharist is celebrated in the 2nd grade (with prior 1st grade Religious Education instruction). There are always exceptions to the norm and St. Francis Parish works hard to accommodate the older child desiring to celebrate the Sacraments.

For more information, please contact Ellen Ward at ward@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2132. Parents of children not baptized Catholic and desiring the Sacraments may call Marty Lucas at 734-821-2125.



Children wrap flowers (above) for their mother's on Mother's Day! **St. Francis Religious Education** offers a variety of events, both formal and informal for children aged preschool to 8th grade.

Register now for 2010/2011 Religious Education classes beginning in the fall for children in grades preschool to 8th grade. Please remember that to claim the early registration discount, you'll need to register by July 23. See the website or email Ellen Ward at ward@stfrancisa2.org for information.

Coming soon is **Vacation Bible School (VBS)**! VBS meets Monday-Friday, **July 19-23** from 9 a.m.-12 noon for children going into preschool to 5th grade. We also are looking for faith-filled middle school and high school youth to help during the week. Adults are needed to lead! To sign up to help and for information visit: www.stfrancisa2.com (then click on *Sign-Up Forms* or *Vacation Bible School*) !



EASTER VIGIL 2010 . . . This is the night!

“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-two men, women and children were welcomed into the Catholic Church this past Easter. These men, women and children 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!**



SERVICE + JUSTICE [821-2121]

Christmas in Action:

One Day of Home Repairs to help Low-income Seniors



Nearly forty members of St. Francis of Assisi Parish improved the lives of two homeowners and their families by participating in the **Christmas in Action** "Day of Action" on Saturday, April 24th and rehabilitating two homes in Ypsilanti Township.

Christmas in Action is a national nonprofit organization with the mission of preserving safe and affordable housing for low-income, elderly and physically-challenged homeowners by bringing together volunteers, building professionals and donated materials to repair and rehabilitate the homes. This work is provided at no cost to the homeowners. Nationwide, hundreds of homes were renovated in dozens of locations this year.

A retiree's home was made safer by a crew that replaced the handrails at the front and back doors and repaired the locksets and storm doors. The home will be warmer this winter with a new thermostat and mail box slot. And the yard was brightened by the efforts of the landscaping crew, who dodged rain drops to remake flower beds, remove an old stump and reseed the grass.

Meanwhile, at the home of a woman confined to a wheelchair, the volunteers completed several major projects. The bathroom floor and vanity and plumbing were replaced. Electrical work included replacing a ceiling fan and light fixtures, and plumbing repair work and a garbage disposal installation were completed in the kitchen. Also, the living room and hallway walls were patched and painted, and a new storm door was installed. And to allow the homeowner to go outside, an entire wheel chair ramp was built outside the front door. This job required a few parish members to spend parts of two extra days to complete!

Congratulations and thanks go out to everyone who so generously gave their time and talents to this great cause. *Catherine Bielski, Robert Deegan, Thomas Deegan, Michael Falahee, Carl Fulper, Brian Fulper, Marissa Fulper, Patricia & George Gatecliff, Diane Gledhill, Bernardo Gonzalez, Mark Haney, Robert Klingler, Charles Lee, James Lee, Mary Lemire, Fr. John Linden, James Moore, Jeff Mynhier, Nathan & Brian O'Neil, Steve*



& Magen & Ryan Polgar, Luis Quintana, Myra & Tess Raveendra, Reynaldo & Max Romero Ronquillo, Mike Semanske, Robert Scott, Kevin & Kyle & Jacob Tallio, Nicolle Wahla, Thomas DuRussel-Weston, Jim Wiseman, Ed Yee, Matt Zawistowski, and Caroline Zubieta. Learn more at: www.stfrancisa2.com/socialministry/rebuildingtogether.htm

St. Vincent de Paul Funds: Directly help those in need

Our parish St. Vincent de Paul Fund is used to help persons that are struggling financially through a difficult period of time. When you contribute to the St. Vincent de Paul Fund you are reaching out to help others. Thank you for your contributions!

During the period, January 2009 - January 2010, this fund was used to help many struggling households with the following expenses:

- ◆ 40 households assisted with Housing/Shelter/Stop Eviction
- ◆ 18 households assisted with Transportation/Car Repairs
- ◆ 11 households assisted with Food
- ◆ 9 households assisted with Medical / Prescriptions/ Dental expenses
- ◆ 5 households assisted with Utilities/Electric Bill, Water Heater
- ◆ 2 households assisted with Funeral Expenses.

March Food Drive

St. Francis of Assisi conducts several food drives each year to serve the hungry in our area. Our parishioners have become accustomed to periodically seeing grocery bags stacked at the church entrances, and to dutifully returning them filled with groceries the following week.

Although these drives have become a regular part of the parish calendar, it's important to avoid a mindset where the effort becomes rote, executed without thought or prayer, and immediately forgotten. Consider that our March drive resulted in over 450 bags of groceries being distributed to the needy of Washtenaw County. That's a lot of food, helping a lot of people. The executive director of Perry Nursery School, one of several organizations with whom we worked to distribute the groceries, sent a note (see inset).



The next time you accept an empty bag on your way out of Sunday Mass and fill it up at the grocery store, please take a moment to consider the beneficiary of your generosity, and pray that they will receive the aid in good health. Pray that our parish conducts the drive with generous and friendly hearts. This will help the food drives remain a vibrant ministry for our parish. ~ by Chris Kempton



We want to thank you,

Mary Hayden, and all the wonderful people at St. Francis of Assisi Parish who coordinated the efforts to bring over forty bags of groceries to Perry Nursery School last month. The parents in our program are very grateful for the food, paper, supplies, detergents, and toiletry items that were donated for their use. As you know, so many of our families live on very small budgets, so the free groceries really help them out. We truly appreciate all you do for Perry.

Sandra Hamilton

Executive Director, Perry Nursery School

Prolife Committee Members Pray to End Abortion

Members of the St Francis Prolife Committee invite parishioners to *Pray for an End to Abortion*. If you are unable to go and pray in front of Planned Parenthood physically, the St Francis Prolife Committee would like to invite you to join us spiritually from your home or office. Please pray to give hope to those in crisis pregnancy situations, so that they may have the courage to choose life, pray for the conversion of hearts for those who work for the abortion industry, and pray for God's comfort and peace to reach those who have endured the pains of abortion. There is no more powerful weapon to combat evil, than to call upon the Lord who is our strength. Let us shower the heavens with our prayers, for the Lord will not deny the loving requests of his children. May God's will be done and God's LOVE reach those in need.



You are invited to join Committee members who will lead prayer at Planned Parenthood, 3100 Professional Dr, Ann Arbor on both the

- ◆ 2nd Friday of each month from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Contact: Sandie at 434-8447
- ◆ 3rd Saturday of each month from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Contact: Don at 997-6561

“The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful.” - James 5:16



Kentucky Derby - Race for the Future

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

Ninth Annual Educational Trust Fund Benefit

Thank you to all of our many friends who supported the success of the ninth annual Educational Trust Fund Benefit on April 24, 2010. The Ann Arbor Four Points Sheraton had the feel of the Kentucky Derby since the ballroom was elegantly appointed with beautiful red roses, derby style hats, warm candlelight, and the smiling faces of photographed students.

One highlight of the evening was the spirited horse races which partygoers participated in throughout the night. The lively cheers of Derby fans, many of them adorned in stunning hats, added to the excitement of the evening. Guests also had the opportunity to bid on "One-of-a-Kind Treasures" in the silent and live auctions.

Michael and Laura DeBacker (*right*), event chairs, and an outstanding team of volunteers, planned a winning evening for everyone in attendance. We applauded them for such a wonderful celebration. Through their direction, "*Kentucky Derby - Race for the Future*" raised nearly \$40,000 in projected, net proceeds for the Educational Trust Fund. In addition, many guests contributed \$16,150 to a special Tuition Assistance Appeal; those donations will help many families attend St. Francis of Assisi School next year.

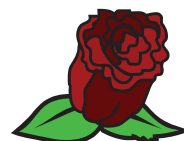
Following dinner, Fr. Jim McDougall recognized Bill Anhut (*photo above*) and his retirement from the Educational Trust Fund Board of Trustees. Bill served as the general co-chairperson (along with Ann Schriber) of the initial campaign for the Educational Trust Fund; that drive raised over \$581,000 from 631 donors. In 1987, he began serving as a



Laura & Michael DeBacker



Honoring Bill & Mary Claire Anhut



Pastor's appointment to the Educational Trust Fund Board of Trustees; then, in 1990, Bill was nominated as Chairman of the Trust Fund. He fulfilled that role through this fiscal year, ending on June 30, 2010.

Bill's wise and steadfast guidance has contributed to the success and growth of the Educational Trust Fund which now exceeds one million dollars. God bless him and Mary Claire Anhut for their unwavering commitment to Catholic education and the children of St. Francis of Assisi School.

To all of our friends in the St. Francis of Assisi Parish

community, please know that through your help, gifts, and prayers, the Educational Trust Fund keeps growing. Our dream continues to be a ten million dollar corpus in order to assure the existence ad infinitum of our beloved St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School.

May God bless our school, our dedicated principal, Ms. Sara Collins and her gifted faculty and staff, as well as each of you. For more information on the Educational Trust Fund, please contact Colleen Pierce, Director of Stewardship and Development at cpierce@stfrancisa2.org or at 734/821-2208.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

2009-2010 Service Projects

Service comes in many forms here at St. Francis School. From Preschool through 8th grade, our students have many opportunities to show their giving spirits. Here are examples of the ways our students have been committed to service this year:



Our Preschoolers chose as their service project to make tissue paper flowers to liven up the tables at the Veterans Administration (VA) Hospital. When they were done, they were able to place a "Colors of Faith" chain on the Advent Christmas Tree to link themselves to others as a reminder that, as students or veterans, we are all linked to God.

In Kindergarten, the children are currently collecting magazines to

brighten the days of those same veterans.



Catholic Social Services (CSS) has a great need of food for their Food Pantry this year and our 1st grade classes decided to support them by having their own food drive. All the food they collect will help many families in need. When asked why this was important, a student responded, "We are sharing our love with people that we don't know but we know that they need snacks."



2nd grade has learned the meaning of doing service in different ways. In November, each 2nd grader chose to learn about their favorite saint. They then dressed as that saint and, along with some assistance from 7th grade they prepared a Saint's Day prayer service for our school community. In February, our 2nd graders collected baby food and other baby items for Catholic Social Services as a service in action.

3rd grade and 5th grade joined together to create a prayer service during Advent where each of those students became a living part of the advent wreath. They encircled their fellow classmates and said Advent prayers asking Jesus to bless everyone during the Advent season. The 3rd grade will also be holding a school supply collection in May for CSS.



Also during Advent, our 4th grade focused their service again on our veterans at the VA Hospital by making fleece blankets for them. A student commented that, "By us

making the blankets, it gave them a spark and made them feel special and that someone cared for them."

This year, the fifth graders connected with the Rotating Homeless Shelter here at St. Francis to collect personal care items and snacks. The students received a very nice letter of appreciation from the shelter director, Steve Lavender, who wrote: "The service project undertaken by your 5th graders was an important and very supportive part of this year's Rotating Shelter program at St. Francis. All the men appreciated the efforts of your students and especially enjoyed the notes they found in each bag prepared by your young men and women... Through your initiative, our students have heard and responded to the gospel's call to welcome the stranger and tend to his needs."



6th grade has been very active in their service projects this year. When they see a need they jump in with both feet. Their acts of service have incorporated activities for our parish, the community and worldwide. These have included stapling labels on bags for the parish Thanksgiving food collection, making 100 woven placemats for the Perry Street Nursery School Christmas party, picking bushels of apples for Food Gatherers (photo), organizing a "Spare change for Haiti" drive which collected over \$1500, and picking up trash around the school & church grounds and Winchell Park on Earth Day. They are truly "Our Hope and Light in the Darkness."



Our 7th grade has focused their attention on the CSS food banks this year. During Lent, we held a school-wide food drive to help fill the need at CSS and Food Gatherers. The students have also taken turns volunteering to help sort and give out food at the Northside Community Center. Here they have seen firsthand the families that are in need and those that they have been able to help.



Our 8th grade has been working closely with our 1st grade classes this year to show them what it takes to be a servant of God. They have made valentines for Mott's Hospital, placemats for the veterans, as well as assisting to sort food for the 1st grade food drive. The 8th graders have also helped in the sorting, carrying and distributing of food at the Northside Community Center.



With service being one of the many strengths of our school, we continually look for ways that we as a school community can help those in need.



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Seniors Tour Shrine of The Little Flower

Seniors toured the national Shrine of The Little Flower in Royal Oak, during a day-long trip in May. The bus trip was fun! The food and friendship at Pasquale's Italian Restaurant was delightful. Bus seats were limited to only 28, and we sold out early. Perhaps our next trip will require a 55+ seater? Where would you like to go?



A big thanks to our Senior Leadership Team members who planned and organized this trip, especially: Sharon Wright, Mary Fister, MaryLou Heidt, MaryLou Kellerman, Florence Kruzas, and Jean Welch. Our Senior Leadership Team plans educational, devotional, and entertaining events and trips for the **Senior Citizens @ St. Francis (55 & faster)**.



Join us! Contact: Sharon Wright (434-1428).



History: In early May 1925, Michael J. Gallagher, the Bishop of the Diocese of Detroit, traveled to Rome to witness the canonization of **Saint Thérèse of Lisieux** (also know as the **Little Flower**). Determined to establish the first parish in her honor in the United States, he telephoned from Rome with instructions to name the new church after her . . . In the autumn of 1998, the Shrine of the Little Flower Church was declared a national shrine by the United States Bishops, one of only five in this country. [For more history visit - <http://www.shrinechurch.com/history/history.htm>]