

The Canticle of St. Francis

Published quarterly by St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
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Parish Newsletter: Volume 16, Issue 1

Spring 2011

Fourth Parish Common Conference For Adults, Teens & Children

Were *you* there? Nearly 300 men, women, and children celebrated their faith by attending some portion of this daylong event on January 22nd. Fr. Jim, in his opening remarks, as well as Dr. Jerry Galipeau (*photo right*) our keynote speaker, reminded us that our Baptism is far more than a ritualistic entry into the Church. It is the invitation to respond to God's gift of faith in our lives. We lead a life of faith through our response by learning, prayer, and action---in other words, living the life of a true disciple of Christ.



Mark Your Calendar—Spring 2011



February 5 - April 9: **Tax Assistance Program**-Saturdays
10:30AM to 12 noon / Parish Office. By appointment
only—769-2550 (during business hours)

March 28: **Meditation Group** / Mondays 7:00 – 8PM /
Chapel / Paul 734-665-6802

March 14—21: **Rotating Shelter for Homeless Persons** /
St Francis School Gym / Scott Wright 821-2121.

March 22: **YA² ACHT-Young Adult —single or married
20-30's / Tuesdays @ 7PM** / for location: Jen 821-
2126 or jen@stfrancisa2.org

March 19: **M.O.M.S. Group** / 1st & 3rd Fridays 10AM –
12 noon / Chapel / Shawn 734-975-2938

March 18 (April 15 & May 20): **Serve A Meal for the
Hungry** on 3rd Friday / 3PM or 5PM / Delonis Center
Shelter / to volunteer, call Bridget 665-9549

March 25: **Mother/Child Network** / 2nd & 4th Fridays
10AM – 12 noon/ Nursery / Anna Mae 734-418-2435

April 9: **Catholic Business People's Connection**
8:30AM school library / Tom Buiteweg 734-649-
2655

April 11: **Monthly Knitting Shawl Ministry**/ 7:00pm /
School Music Room / Kathleen 734-717-0685

April 12: **SENIOR Citizens monthly program** / 10AM /
for location call Scott Wright 821-2121

April 14: **Infertility Support Group** / 7:00 – 9:00PM /
Church Library / Jennifer 734-645-2567

April 14 & 28: **Guadalupe Group** / 2nd & 4th Thursdays
1:00 – 3pm / Nursery / Mary Carmen 734-483-0820

April 17: Return Lenten **"Sack Hunger"** sack
contributions at Palm Sunday Mass / Scott Wright
821-2121.

April 21—24: **Triduum & Easter Sunday** (see schedule
below)

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

April 30-May 8: **Going South to New Orleans** Service
Trip / Patti & Chuck Yonka / 734-461-2964

May 19 - St Francis School's Mary Lou Daby **Spring Arts
Festival & 4th Grade Play** / 7PM school / 821-2200

May 22: **Parish Health Fair** 10AM-2PM / School Gym /
Danaica Watson, RN *voicemail* 821-2115.

May 22: **Parish Blood Drive** 8AM—2PM / PAC /
Danaica Watson, RN 821-2115.

May: *Registration begins for **Vacation Bible School**
July 18—22, 2011 at www.stFrancisA2.org click
Sign-Up Forms / call Ellen Ward 821-2132*

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

June 6 - 12: **Hosting at Shelter for Homeless Families,**
IHN - Alpha House in Ann Arbor / shift times / Scott
Wright / 821-2121.

June 3: **Ice Cream Social & Car Raffle Drawing** (raffle
drawing at 8PM), 5:30 Colleen Pierce / 734.821.2208.

June 15, 16, 17: **Altar Society RUMMAGE SALE,**
opens 9:30 a.m./ Gym/ 734-769-2550.

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

Lent Communal Penance Services

Family: Monday, April 11 at 5:00 p.m. in church

All Parish: Thursday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m. in church

TRIDUUM / EASTER 2011 MASSES

Holy Thursday, April 21: 7:00 p.m. Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 22: 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 23: 8:00 p.m. Easter Vigil & Mass (no 5PM mass today)

Easter Sunday, April 24: Easter Mass 7:00 a.m., 8:45 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m. (in PAC-
parish activity center), and 12:15 p.m.

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





St. Francis Parish School of Discipleship

Graduates of the School of Discipleship

We have now completed 12 courses in the School of Discipleship. Over 125 of our parishioners participated in the School, some taking only one or two classes, and others were able to attend seven or eight.

- ⇒ *“The caliber of teachers for these courses has been excellent!”*
- ⇒ *“There is always something new to learn about my faith.”*
- ⇒ *“Spending time in even one course makes me want to learn more.”*
- ⇒ *“I really just enjoy learning new things.”*

Three parishioners - Karen Cole, Julie Jackowski, and Helen Rysse - were able to attend all *twelve* of the courses offered over the span of three years. Congratulations!



“I Spy”

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

To enter, send an email with the subject "I Spy" to liturgy@stfrancisa2.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 May 10, 2011 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 Winter 2010 “I Spy” drawing is Mary Lynn Bridge-Fosdick. 16 entrants correctly identified the photo (on left) as the **Sanctuary Lamp**. The sanctuary lamp is a constantly burning candle, often a red color, located near the tabernacle. It serves as a sign that the sacramental presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, is present in the tabernacle.

SERVICE + JUSTICE

Thank You For Your Support!

Selling Soup for our Sister Parish

Results of the soup sale for Corpus Christi (our sister parish) in Detroit was: 85 packages of soups sold (\$595). Not bad for one Sunday of selling in the



PAC, and a few ancillary purchases in the month afterwards. We thank Kelly Gauthier for her work in coordinating this effort.

Giving Tree Gifts 2010

Catholic Social Services writes ~

Parishioners step up to help struggling families during the holiday season.

The holidays are over, but the needs of vulnerable families and individuals are not. Thanks to the support of parishioners, they have not been forgotten. The holiday gifts for clients of Catholic Social Services through the St. Francis of Assisi Giving Tree will ensure a brighter new year for our neighbors in the most difficult of circumstances. All of us at Catholic Social Services truly appreciate and are grateful for your generosity this past year. We truly couldn't do it alone.



Thanks for the Food Drive for Our Neighbors!

Thanks to all of you unnamed shoppers, and deliverers, practical assistants, and to our February 2011 drive coordinators Mary Hayden, Linda Wiseman, and Michael Nazareth for coordinating this drive!

And, special thanks to those more than 30 persons who assisted with loading and moving the bags: Andrea Best, Elaine Best, Ann Denoyer, Cletus Denoyer, Emily Deschenes, Timothy Deschenes, Colette Gaba, Richard Galant, David Grogan, Mary Hayden, Chris Kempton & Family, Christopher Mollo & Family, Ann Moln, Bruce Moln, Patricia & Angela & Joey & Pat Meyer, Michael Nazareth, Ryan Polgar, Chris Turner, Danielle Wilson, Jim Wiseman, Linda Wiseman, Ed Wright, Sharon Wright and Nolan Yeiter.



We delivered groceries to these four pantries:

127 to **Hope Center**, Ypsilanti

125 to **Catholic Social Services at Northside**, Ann Arbor

124 to **St. Clare Episcopal/Temple Beth Emeth**, on Packard Rd, Ann Arbor

58 **Corpus Christi Parish**, Detroit (our sister parish)

434 bags total delivered



Sack Homelessness!

These statements and images (*below*) are reflections from those who took some time to write, draw and color messages to the homeless Holy Family and the Homeless Community of Washtenaw County during our Advent season.

Dear Homeless,

- ★ I feel sorry you don't have homes. I wish you luck this new year that you get a home.
- ★ I hope you get a home soon. I hope you get things you deserve. I wish you luck.
- ★ I pray for safe haven for all people who have no place to stay.
- ★ My thoughts and prayers are with the 2,000+ people who are homeless in Washtenaw County.
- ★ May you know that God is holding you in the palms of his hands.
- ★ For all the kids who do not have parents and are lonely, [I wish] they can



have parents.

Homelessness Art on exhibit in St Francis Church, December 2010



Now through our Parish Lenten Service Project to **Sack Homelessness**, we are learning more about homelessness in our area—which organizations assist people, as well as, what adults and children can do to help. The March 6th weekly parish bulletin contained a **SACK HOMELESSNESS!** Sack, and the **2011 Lenten Calendar of Activities** which are helping us to really make a difference.

Christmas Re-Gift Box Report



January 2011

The St. Francis ReGift Committee would like to thank the many donors who helped make this project a success, now in its second season. Parishioners were invited to donate any new gifts that they had received for Christmas, and didn't really need.

And, we give special thanks to Frederica Kilburn and Mary Hayden who served as our volunteer coordinators. We received **more than 400 gifts**. Your gifts were redistributed to those in need by:

- Perry Nursery School of Ann Arbor
- PORT - Project OutReach Team for persons who are homeless with a mental illness
- St. Louis Center (for children and adults with developmental disabilities) in Chelsea



High School Youth!



A Not So Traditional Christmas Vacation

This past Christmas vacation, two van loads of high school youth and their chaperones, Marty Lucas and Jen Delvaux, headed to New Orleans. Over the course of the week between Christmas and New Years they experienced many adventures, big and small. From being introduced to the joys of packing 7 people into one van for two days, to discovering just how much paint it takes to paint a house. It was a wonderful experience, though most would be perfectly happy not seeing the paint colors, Bayou Blue or Baby Oz ever again, especially our chaperones.

Over the course of the week, our teens impressed the workers and the home owner with their dedication to the work and the spirit of service. A bit of rain, both of the normal variety and of the falling paint variety could not stop this bunch. After so much hard work, the group ventured down into the French Quarter to see the Cathedral, the French Market, and of course, sample beignets from Café du Monde. Then we began the new year 2011 with a very early morning start for our drive home.



Want to know what the High School Youth are planning next? Then, visit: www.stfrancisA2.com/hs



St. Francis Middle School Choir Pilgrimage to Rome

A Message of Love, Joy and Faith . . .

from Pope Benedict XVI was delivered to all choir members and their families at a private audience at Sala Nervi. His message was spoken in many different languages so that each person could be touched by the loving grace of our Holy Father, also affectionately called "Papa".

December 30, 2010

Dear young members of the Pueri Cantores Federation,

I am pleased to welcome you today as you celebrate your thirty-sixth International Congress here in Rome and I thank you for the commitment you have shown to the apostolate of choral singing in the liturgy. In Saint Augustine's words: "singing is an expression of joy and ... love" (Sermo 34:1). As you use your talents and your faith to sing God's praises, you give voice to the natural desire of every human being to glorify him, with songs of love. It is hard to find words to convey the sheer joy of the soul's loving encounter with God, indeed the great mystics could only remain silent before the mystery. Yet beautiful music is able to express something of the mystery of God's love for us and ours for him, as we are reminded by the theme chosen for your Congress, Deus Caritas Est.

Always remember that your singing is a service. Firstly, it is a service to God, a way of giving him the praise that is due. It is also a service to your fellow worshippers, helping them to raise their hearts

and minds to the Lord in prayer. And it is a service to the whole Church, offering a foretaste of the heavenly liturgy that is the goal of all true worship, when the choirs of angels and saints unite in one unending song of love and praise.

I greet especially the groups present today from the United States, Sweden, Ireland, Latvia and South Korea. I encourage you to persevere in your good work, I assure you of my prayers, and I gladly invoke upon you God's abundant blessings."

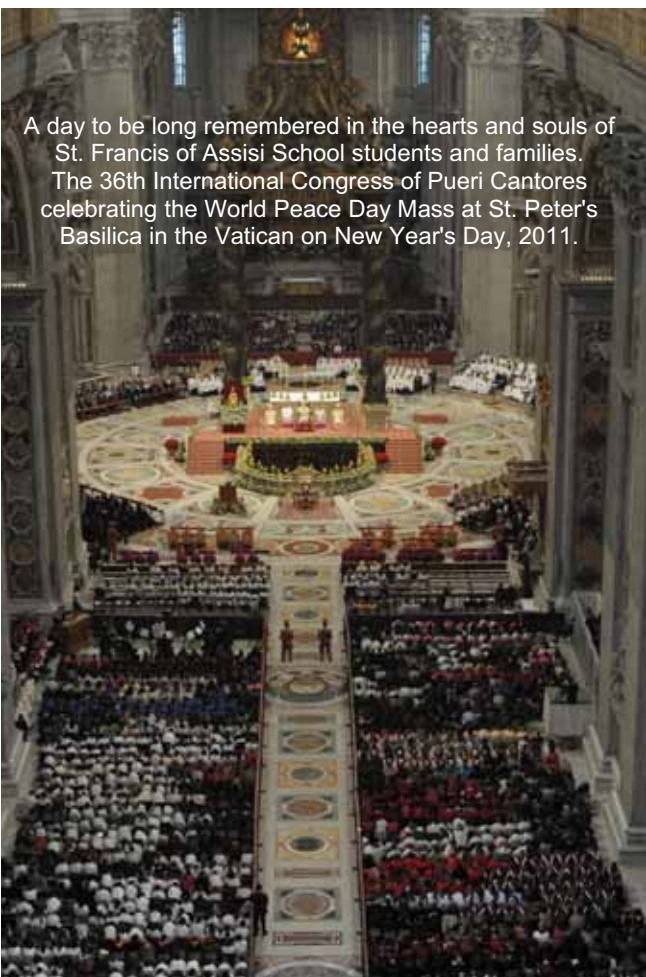
Pope Benedict XVI

The St. Francis of Assisi Choir (right) performing along with the International Congress of Pueri Cantores, Mass of the Nations at the St. Ignatio di Loyola Church.

Pope Benedict addressing the choirs during our private audience at Sala Nervi.



A view from on high ... the 4000 choir members celebrating the New Year's Day Mass with Pope Benedict XVI. The St. Francis of Assisi Choir members are in the middle left side of the photo wearing the maroon robes, with white trim.



A day to be long remembered in the hearts and souls of St. Francis of Assisi School students and families. The 36th International Congress of Pueri Cantores celebrating the World Peace Day Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican on New Year's Day, 2011.



Healthier Parishioners

Parish Health Ministry News



During the month of October, the Parish Health Ministry partnered with the Michigan Visiting Nurses and organized a flu vaccination clinic, with over **100 people vaccinated**. We also worked with The American Red Cross and organized a parish blood drive and collected over **45 pints of life saving blood**.

And, we partnered with St. Joseph Mercy Health System to offer parishioners with information on **Advanced Directives** and Advanced Care Planning, for a time when you cannot make medical decisions for your self.

In **December**, the Health Ministry kicked off the National **Hand Washing** Awareness campaign and educated St. Francis School students on germ transmission, and the importance of hand washing. The weekend of February 5-6th after masses, **free blood pressure screenings** were offered.

Our annual **Health Fair is scheduled for May 22**, where we will have wonderful educational topics and screenings related to health and living well.

The St. Francis Health Ministry is committed to educating our community on the promotion of health and wellness and disease prevention. For your health related questions, or to get involved, call and leave a message at our Parish Health voicemail 734-821-2115. Learn more at: www.stfrancisa2.com/health



St. Francis is a Place for Healing

Good news to my ears is hearing the great stories of individuals making a difference right here at St. Francis! Everything we do to better our world counts. I am learning daily that no act of kindness to another person is TOO SMALL! Here is an inspiring testimonial.

“Since I joined St. Francis Parish around a year ago, my Stephen Minister has been meeting with me for one hour each week. I appreciate the care, and I have to tell you, I am so pleased to be a member of St. Francis. Also, my small faith group has turned out to be so welcoming and intellectually stimulating. The same can be said about the Catholic Business Connection. This is the first time I have been in a parish where a single person has so many opportunities to “make connections.” Thanks again.

NOTE: For information on Stephen Ministry, Small Faith Groups, and the Catholic Business Professionals read the weekly bulletin, call the parish office, or visit our parish website: www.stFrancisA2.com



Religious Education Memories of Christmas 2010

Live Nativity

(Pictured right and below)
Although the snowy weather kept us from going outside this past December, the Nativity story was told in music and narration inside the church! Thank you to all who helped make the procession possible!



Visit from St. Nick

(left and right): The week before Christmas, Saint Nicholas came to visit Sunday Coffee Hour, where middle school youth designed mice out of chocolate and strawberries! Thank you to Cici and John Miller for the homemade donuts!



Martin Luther King, Jr.



Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance and Celebration

For the past 4 years, our St. Francis community has honored Dr. King at all weekend masses before the national holiday.



The celebration recognized this non-violent man's efforts to bring peace and justice to all people. The 5:00 PM Sunday mass featured our Contemporary Choir under the leadership of Carol Fedewa, and the Corpus Christi Choir (our sister parish in Detroit) under the leadership of Michelle Baines. The combined choirs bring a vitality and energy in honoring Dr. King.

This year's mass on January 16th was no exception! After a moving, song-filled service, all were invited to a fish dinner hosted by our own Knights of Columbus. Fellowship and good food added to the festive occasion. Thanks to all who participated and served at this event. A 2012 Coordinator is needed – if you could help, please call Scott Wright, Social Ministry @ 734-821-2121.



THANK YOU! This quarterly newsletter was printed as a courtesy by J.S. Paluch Company, Inc – our weekly bulletin publisher (800-621-5197 or www.jspaluch.com)



Valentine's Day Mass



Over 70 couples renewed their marriage vows as they gathered with their families on February 12th for a special mass in celebration of Marriage.



Prolife Committee News!



Wine and Cheese Gathering

The St Francis Prolife Committee hosted a Wine and Cheese gathering on Thursday, Nov 11th at 7:00 pm with 15 parishioners in attendance. As children are always welcomed to our gatherings we also served milk and cookies! Those in attendance affirmed that the Prolife Committee should permanently move back to holding evening meetings as a way to accommodate more parishioners' busy schedules. Please watch the bulletin for announcements on future meetings.

Parish Scholarship Awarded

Ruthie Blower, parishioner and a student at Father Gabriel Richard High School, was awarded the Prolife Committee scholarship to attend the 2011 March For Life in Washington D.C. on January 24th.





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Young Adult Winter activity . . .

Annual Young Adult Retreat

February brought the young adults out of hibernation and on retreat. A great group of those in their 20s & 30s - includes those who are married and single - headed to FaHoLo Camp & Conference Center where we spent an awesome weekend exploring our faith journey. After lively discussions, reflections, and Mass with Fr. Prabhu, everyone enjoyed the grounds and the indoor pool to relax.

We are looking forward to next year's winter retreat, as well as a young women's retreat coming this fall. Watch for more details, and our weekly events at: <http://ya2acht.blogspot.com/>



St. Francis
yaach²club
Young Adult Catholics in their 20s-30s