



The Canticle of St. Francis

Published quarterly by St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
2150 Frieze Ave ♦ Ann Arbor, MI ♦ 48104-4799
(734) 769-2550 ♦ Fax: (734) 821-2102 ♦ www.stfrancisa2.com



Parish Newsletter: Volume 17, Issue 3

Fall 2012

Teens' Summer Service

This summer the high school youth ministry headed to locales near and far to serve and to learn more of the Church's social justice teaching.



Destination: Wisconsin

Things began with a trip to Green Bay, Wisconsin. Heading out just after school finished, a group of teens arrived at the home of the Packers and cheese curds, for a week of service and learning, centered around environmental stewardship and care for the earth.

This unique service trip allowed the teens to work with the Oneida Nation on their organic, sustainable, teaching farm. As the teens planted vegetables, shelled dried corn, weeded, fed cows and

generally got their hands dirty, they learned the traditions of the Oneida people and how they view the call to **live sustainably** and also **ensure that all have sufficient resources**. One afternoon a tribe elder even gave a *wild craft tour* where the teens learned what various native plants can be used for if one is stung by a bee, gets a cut, or needs a calming tea.



Destination: Guatemala

Later in the summer, another group of teens headed off to a very different service trip. This group braved the required vaccines and long preparations so they could help with the Francisco Coll School and Santa Clara Nursery run by International Samaritan in Guatemala City. This school and nursery are particularly special and in need of support as they are for the garbage dump community's children.



The teens on the trip helped construct a roof of cement over two classrooms in addition to weeding and removing bushes and vines from the garden area. They also had the opportunity to spend time in the classrooms and nursery rooms. After a hard week of work, the weekend tours of Lake Atitlan and Antigua were a welcome break.



Destination: Summer 2013 ?

If you are a teen and these sound interesting, keep an eye out this fall for the *registration and applications to participate* in the service trips for the summer of 2013. Details will be posted at all youth group events and parents' night. You can also contact Jen Delvaux in the youth ministry office at jen@stfrancisa2.org or 734.821.2126.

Mark Your Calendar

FALL 2012



RCIA – *It's never too late to join the Catholic Church!* For more information, call the Parish Office (734-769-2550).

September 8: **Middle Singles Potluck-40-50s single** / 6:30 pm in PAC / Jen 821-2126 or jen@stfrancisa2.org

September 9: **High School Youth Group** / Sundays @ 7pm/ youth room / Jen 821-2126 or www.stfrancisa2.com/hs

September 19: **Small Group-Facilitator Training** / 7:00 – 9pm/ POMR / Janene 821-2122

September 20: **Senior Recognition Luncheon Mass** / 11:00am / St. John the Baptist, Ypsilanti / Scott Wright 734-821-2121

September 21: **M.O.M.S.-ministry of mothers sharing** / 1st & 3rd Fridays @ 10am – 12noon/ Chapel & nursery / Bree 734-904-4339

September 26: **Weekly Meditation Group** / 7:00 – 8pm every Monday/ Chapel / Paul 734-646-5591

September 28: **Mother/Child Network** / 2nd & 4th Fridays @ 10am – 12noon/ Nursery/ Carol 734-769-1659

Autumn Saturdays: **Sustainable Garden Project** / seed collection & harvest / Erich Jensen 734-996-1439

October: **School of Spirituality—Franciscan Spirituality** / details in bulletin & website / Marty Lucas mlucas@stfrancisa2.org or 821-2125

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

October 2: **Flu Clinic**/ 2:00-6pm/ PAC/ Danaica Watson 734-821-2115

October 3: **Catholicism-what & why Catholics believe** / monthly study 1st Wednesday / church library / Marty Lucas 821-2125

October 7: **LIFE Chain** / 2-3:30 PM / Huron Pkwy & Washtenaw Ave / Marilyn Geyer 734-973-2422.

October 7: **Family Night @ High School Youth Group** / 6:30 pm / PAC / Jen 821-2126 or www.stfrancisa2.com/hs

October 8: **Monthly Shawl Knitting Ministry**/ 7:00pm / Church Library / Kathleen 734-717-0685

October 10: **Pilgrimage to Basilica & National Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation-Seniors'** Bus Trip to Carey, Ohio / 8:30am - 6:00pm / Scott Wright / 821-2121

October 13: **Catholic Business Professionals'**

Connection / 9:00 – 11:00am / School Library / Tom 734-649-2655

October 14, 15 or 20: **Eucharistic Minister training** / church/ Carol Fedewa (at liturgy@stfrancisa2.org or 821-2123).

October 15 or 20: **Lector inquiry** /church / Carol Fedewa at liturgy@stfrancisa2.org or 821-2123.

October 15—21: **Host Homeless Families @ Shelter** / shifts / IHN - Alpha House, Ann Arbor / Scott Wright 821-2121.

October 16: **NEW Young Adult Small Group (20-30s single or married)** / 7pm in the Youth Room/ jen@stfrancisa2.org

October 19, Nov 16, Dec 21: **Serve A Meal for the Hungry @ Delonis Center** / 3 or 5PM shift, 3rd Friday is St Francis volunteers/ Bridget 665-9549.

October 21: **Annulment Seminar** / 7:00 – 8:30pm/ School Library / Janene 821-2122

November 2-3: **Young Adult Retreat** / Jen 821-2126

November 3: **Fall Chore Day with Neighborhood Senior Services** / Volunteer Office / 712-7259.

November 11: **High School Jamboree** /all day in Lansing / Jen 821-2126

November 11: **Blood Pressure Screening**/ Church gathering space after masses/ Danaica Watson 734-821-2115

November 13: **Senior Citizen Veteran's Program & Thanksgiving meal** / Tues 10AM / PAC / 821-2121.

November 18: **Food Drive to Local Homes** / 10AM / School Gym / Scott Wright / 821-2121

November 23 - Dec 16: **Giving Tree Gift Sharing** / shift times / Church / volunteer to Scott Wright 821-2121.

December 6: **Christmas Dinner Party for Perry Nursery School** / 6pm / PAC / Scott Wright / 821-2121

Small Groups ... big church



Annual Summer Mass & BBQ

Participants of various small groups, as well as those interested in knowing more about small groups, gathered for Mass and a potluck barbecue at the end of June. While scorching temperatures forced the picnic indoors, spirits weren't dampened. The ever popular ice breaker game had people searching for someone wearing flip flops as well as someone

who had eaten alligator. The winner received a gift certificate for the fall small group book. Grillers kept the burgers and hot dogs coming as guests provided other delicious additions to the meal. After much fun and conversation, it was well past dark when we left that night and people were already asking when the next gathering would be!



JESUS:

What's With All the Names?



This summer we were pleased to have our seminarian intern, Gary Koenigsknecht, deliver a series of talks on three of the names of Jesus. First week, we learned *The Great Story of the Bible: God is with us!* Through visual presentation, lecture, Scripture passages

from both the Old and New Testaments, and table discussion, attendees learned that God's presence with His people is evidenced not just in the New Testament stories that begin with Jesus' birth, but since the very beginning of creation.

Next up, Gary enlightened the group as regards prophets—those who speak in the name of God under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. We learned the five basic characteristics of a biblical prophet and Gary went on to discuss how Jesus fulfills all five of these. The bigger challenge this evening was to gain a better understanding of how we are to put our call to be prophet today into practice.

On the third evening, Gary told of four specific obligations of a redeemer with examples from the Old Testament. He then looked at Christ the Redeemer through selected Scripture passages. Finally he engaged us in table discussion of "do we live like we have been redeemed" and "do we redeem those around us through our prayers and actions".



Summer RCIA

Christian initiation is a gradual process *"suited to the spiritual journey of adults that varies according to the many forms of God's grace, the free cooperation of the individuals, the action of the Church and the circumstances of time and place"* (RCIA, 5).

Many times people come during Lent or just after celebrating Easter with us. They are caught up in our liturgies and want to discern if Catholicism is right for them. Rather than telling them "we begin in September come back then", St. Francis Parish offers a spring-summer series of meetings with those interested in becoming Catholic.

The group met during June and July in a relaxed atmosphere of prayer, Scripture, video presentation, and questions & answers. We took a break in August, and will begin again for weekly sessions in September.

If you know someone who is interested in becoming Catholic, invite them to explore the RCIA at St. Francis. It takes many parishioners to help bring the faith alive for these individuals. **If you feel called to assist in this ministry** whether it is taking a larger role as a group facilitator, or one that is more behind the scenes such as providing snacks for the group: please contact Marty Lucas at 821-2125 or mlucas@stfrancis2.org for more information.



St. Francis Altar Servers

Attend Toledo Mudhens's Game

On Sunday, August 12, altar servers, their families and parishioners attended the Toledo Mudhens game versus the Durham Bulls at Fifth Third Field. Although we missed seeing our former priests and interns at this event, there was a great deal of camaraderie among the group as we cheered the Mudhens onto a 4-3 victory.

The trip was partially underwritten by Knights of Columbus who paid for the altar server's tickets and awarded them Mudhens money to use as they wished during the evening. The evening also served as an informal farewell to our summer seminarian intern, Gary Koenigsknecht, who along with Father Bosco, joined us for the event.

Players were available to sign autographs in the concourse pregame. Post game, children were invited to run the bases as

we waited for twilight to serve as a backdrop for a fireworks display. Could we have been watching the next Tiger's great during the game, or running the bases, postgame? It is anyone's guess!

Children 5th grade or higher are eligible to serve as altar servers. Training sessions will be held in late October for the upcoming year. Please watch for announcements in the Forum or contact Father Bosco for further information.



I Spy

The winner of the Summer 2012 'I Spy' drawing is Norma Doyle! She correctly identified the photo (*on right*) as the **icon of the Evangelist, St. Luke**, which is found on our silver and gold cover for the **Book of the Gospels**, used for every weekend liturgy.

An Evangelist is a "bringer of the Good news." Originally this term was applied only to the one who preached. Since the third century, it has been referred to as the four writers of the Gospels: Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Traditionally derived from the vision of Ezekiel and the creatures spoken of in the Apocalypse; thus St. Matthew is symbolized by the human head, St. Mark

by the lion, St. Luke by the ox, and St. John by the eagle.

This is the conclusion of the "I Spy" series in the Canticle. Thank you to all who have participated!




Mustang Roundup

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School
60th Anniversary Mass

Saturday, October 6, 2012, at 5:00 pm
St. Francis of Assisi Church
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Celebrant Bishop Earl Boyea



Mustang Re-Connect Celebration immediately following Mass in the School and Parish Activities Center

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

Mega Mustang Car Raffle Surpassed Challenge Goal!

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School held its 16th annual Car Raffle this past spring, yet with a new challenge from parishioner Ken Butman, owner of Gene Butman Ford in Ypsilanti. The Butman family furnished the Grand Prize, as they have always done, but set a goal of \$100,000 to be raised by the Raffle. This represents just more than a 40% increase from the previous few years. They ordered from the factory a fully-loaded, cherry red Mustang convertible just to serve as our Grand Prize.



Raffle emcee, Chris Loftus watches Tom Butman draw the winners.

School families were asked to sell more tickets this year, and they came through! In addition, the staff, faculty, and St. Francis community as a whole contributed to a total outcome of \$100,455!



(l. to r.): car raffle chairperson, Patrice Deutschmann, Ken Butman and Tom Butman.

Upon hearing the final result announcement at the Ice Cream Social on June 1st, Ken Butman (*photo right*) was overheard to say, "Yes! I was hoping that would happen!" Ken understands the importance of raising funds to support the cost of a Catholic school education in our parish, and he is committed to the cause. Students will be rewarded in September with 60th Anniversary "We did it!" t-shirts to celebrate their extraordinary accomplishment.

The Car Raffle has raised more than \$1.1 million for the school over the past 16 years, and has helped pay teacher salaries, buy new textbooks, pay for projects like classroom windows, and support school operations. It is one of the signature events of the school's Development efforts, which collectively keep the cost of tuition as low as possible for families, as well as help ensure the future security of the school through the continued growth of the Educational Trust Fund. Watch for the 17th annual Car Raffle to return next spring, and plan to buy a chance to support the school, and maybe win a great prize, too!

St. Francis School's 60th Anniversary Celebration Is Underway!

Since its formal dedication on October 5th 1952, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School has served thousands of families in the Ann Arbor area. This year, we will recognize the service of the school via a year-long celebration of Catholic education in our parish as the school celebrates its 60th anniversary!

With Patti Dobbs and Susan Zill as our anniversary co-chairs, a number of events are planned to recognize the school's wonderful milestone during the year. Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, a **Peace Garden** has been designed and is currently being installed on the north side of the building, near the Parish Activity Center.

The Development Office is actively seeking out St. Francis alumni. **Alumni** may visit the parish website www.stfrancisa2.com and register in the alumni directory, found under the School Community tab.



St. Francis of Assisi alumni, current and former faculty and staff, current school families and parishioners are all cordially invited to attend a special **school Mass on Thursday, October 4, 2012** at 10:00 a.m., followed by the blessing of the Peace Garden. Everyone is welcome back on **Saturday, October 6, 2012** to **worship and celebrate during the 5:00 p.m. Mass** when Bishop Earl Boyea of the Diocese of Lansing will preside. Afterwards, the school will host a **Mustang Reconnection party** throughout the building and in the Parish Activity Center. It will feature a strolling dinner, beer and wine as well as non-alcoholic beverages, live musical entertainment and fun. The cost of admission is \$25 per person, at the door.

For more information about 60th Anniversary events or the Mustang Reconnection party, please contact the school's Development Office at (734) 821-2208 or visit the parish website at www.stfrancisa2.com.

Summer @ Alpha House Family Shelter

In June 2012, we had a great week hosting the Alpha House shelter for homeless families on Jackson Rd.. The staff had many positive comments about the St. Francis volunteers and the food. They were also very impressed that we did not have any "no-shows." The volunteers who slept over encountered no emergencies, so they were able to have a peaceful night sleep. Alpha House had a very low census for most of the week - just 3 families - towards the end of the week they were up to 5 families. As our St. Francis Parish coordinator I met MANY new people from St. Francis. I really enjoyed it.

Thanks to the parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi Church, the residents at IHN Alpha House had great meals and more than seven hours of supervised playtime during the week of May 28 through June 3. Forty-seven volunteers, including 12 kids ages 9-17, provided approximately 150 hours of service to this homeless shelter for families.

Vicki Hatch, St Francis coordinator

Special thanks to Vicki Hatch, and, congratulations, on a fine job of coordinating this host week for the first time! Well done!! Thank you to all who participated in this service opportunity. Thanks to all who helped:

Catherine Anderson, Jane Antosiak, Michael Barera, Moni Barera, Janet Bourgon, Julie & Bob Conlin, Barbara Dankert, Cindy DeGalan, Patti Dobbs, Barbara Ferris + Ciara, Georgette Giordano & Luke & Ethan, Vicki Hatch, Crystal Heft, Ann Herrada, Karen Holeva, Kathy Kaveh, Chris Kempton, Briana Kraus, Steve Lavender, Lily Lee & Anna & Allan, Molly & Marty Lobdell, Linda Matton + Katie, Maryann Medon, Cicie Miller & Johnny & David, Michael Miller, Chris & Lynette Mollo & Anthony, Chris & Kathy Noble & Rilley & Brady & Julia, Giovoni Ortiz & Monica Hernandez, Madelon Possley, Dawn Robinson & Trenton & Tristan, Maya Savarino, Mary Sougstad, Gerald Wrubel.

Volunteers reflect ~

"I volunteer at Alpha House because I am so humbled to realize my blessings when I return home to the comfort of my own space."

~Crystal

"I believe it is important to give back. I have been blessed in this life, and this simple and pleasant gesture of working at the shelters is one way I can help my fellow man."

"Somehow I feel closer to God when I help with the shelter!"

~Catherine



"I enjoy volunteering at Alpha House because there is a pervasive sense of respect and dignity among families, staff and volunteers. I live alone, and find that I look forward to sharing meals at Alpha House."

~Janet

"Spending time at Alpha House helps me better understand need. When you meet and get to know neighbors in need of help, it becomes impossible to separate them in your mind from our community as a whole."

~Chris



Vacation Bible School: 2012



Thank you to all those who participated in Vacation Bible School this past summer!

August 2012 to December 2013 has been designated as the *Year of Faith / Year of Prayer* by the Church. We celebrate all the activities for children at St. Francis of Assisi Parish and welcome you and your family to join in the events.

Registration for 2012-2013 Religious Education classes is taking place now at www.stfrancisa2.com/religious-education

Looking ahead: the *Living Nativity Procession* is scheduled for Sunday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m. beginning in church.

Make an Impact on a Child's Life

Help Spread the Faith

BECOME A RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TEACHER/AIDE | LEAD IN THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY | GUIDE A SPECIAL NEEDS CHILD | CHAPERONE A YOUTH EVENT | HELP WITH A RE EVENT

To Volunteer:
CONTACT ELLEN WARD AT WARD@STFRANCISA2.ORG OR 734-821-2132
OR SIGN UP ON-LINE AT WWW.STFRANCISA2.COM/RELIGIOUS-EDUCATION

YEAR OF FAITH
YEAR OF PRAYER
AUG 2012 - DEC 2013

SERVICE + JUSTICE [821-2121]

serve others' needs

Why give food away when there are needy here?

Most of our efforts, especially our meal and grocery efforts are to help struggling people here at home. Every week of the year, all year long, members of St. Francis Parish bring non-perishable food items to Mass that are delivered by volunteers to local pantries: the Northside Community Center of Catholic Social Services in Ann Arbor; and Hope Center in Ypsilanti.

Also, two major drives each year are organized just for people in Washtenaw County. In November the Sunday before Thanksgiving and in February during Lent, we deliver to pantries in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.

Efforts beyond, Washtenaw County—traditionally in June each year, we partner with our sister parish in Detroit to help with the youth camp program by delivering our groceries to them.

Congratulations and thank you to all parishioners who participated in our June/summer 2012 Food Drive. Once again your generosity for the Food Drive was amazing! On behalf of Corpus Christi Parish and the children and families served with the food that you donated, thank you!

We collected and delivered 330 bags of groceries to our sister parish, Corpus Christi Parish for use at their children's summer camp. We greatly appreciate those who helped distribute the bags at the Masses and a special thank you also goes to those who were able to caravan to Detroit to attend the Corpus Christi feast day Mass, to unpack and organize the bags, and to share in a thanksgiving meal with Corpus Christi parishioners. We had 33 people there representing St. Francis. It is amazing to see all the food out of the bags. We thank Corpus Christi for the beautiful Mass, social gathering and lunch we enjoyed together.

Thanks to all of you (especially those of you who did not get named here) who went shopping or helped in any way. Special thanks to our project coordinators, Mary Hayden and Linda Wiseman, and to our truck driver, Jim Wiseman, who loaded the truck at St. Francis. Thanks to everyone for their work on this project: *Drivers and those who went representing St. Francis:* Lisa Boos, Barb Grabbe, Mary Hayden, Crystal Heft, Julia Jackowski, MaryLou Kellermann, Briana Kraus, Florence Kruzas, Dr. Hua-wei Ling, Naly Odum, Gary Koenigsknecht,



Natalia Reid, Matt Schnaidt, Susan Stahl, Tricia Suttman, Kathi Tobey, Carmen Lim Tsai, Chris Turner, Sharon Walker, Jim & Linda Wiseman, Sharon & Ed Wright, Elizabeth & Julia & Karol & Scott Wright. *As well as, those who assisted with distributing empty grocery bags after the Masses:* Matt Alex, Ann Marie Borders, Lisa Bozzi & family, Barb De Longchamp, Kathleen Downer, Christine Feak, Crystal Heft, MaryLou Heidt, Annabelle Herrada, Chris Kempton family, Bill LaCroix, Alice & Jerry McKay, Bruce & Ann Moln, Vance Nannini, Ken Schmanske, Michell Smith, Julie Soyer, Patricia Suttman, & Mariana Sweet.

We need you to help! Our Christian Service Committee is working on organizing project efforts like these food drives, our meal programs, our shelters for the homeless, as well as, transportation help. Come to our meetings on the *first Thursday of each month at 7:00pm in the Parish Office. Join us!!*

Thank You to St. Francis Parish!



Thanks to your support, during this past summer our parish St. Vincent de Paul needy fundassisted with:

- A lift Chair-Recliner for a member of St. Francis Parish who lives alone with a major physical disability.
- A post abortive reconciliation retreat. For a member of St. Francis Parish, the cost of participation in the Ann Arbor Rachel's Vineyard post abortive reconciliation and healing retreat. Questions contact: Beth Bauer, Site Director, Ann Arbor; 734-369-3470.
- A move: Thank you very much for helping me and my daughter move to a better place. Our family is grateful for St. Francis volunteers, Chris Mollo and Matt Zawistowski of the parish St. Vincent Service Committee, for the assistance in packing, moving my furniture, and using the Friends in Deed Truck. We are trying to live better here and in peace.
- A car repair for a low-income senior member of St. Francis Parish.
- Rent for a low-income single parent with health problems.

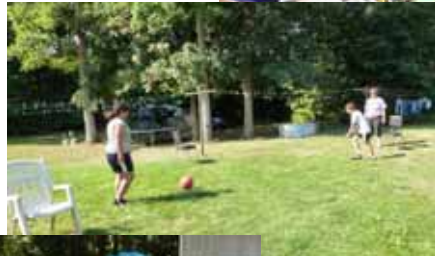
+ seek justice for our neighbors

Migrant Ministry

August 2012 at Du Russell Farm

St. Francis of Assisi volunteers are making August a little more interesting (for the fourth year in a row) for children living at Du Russell Potato Farm in Manchester. Families come to Du Russell in May/June to plant crops, cultivate them all summer, then harvest them in August-October. Their elementary-age children have summer school until the end of July and regular school after Labor Day, BUT August is very long for them. They are in daycare with one of the mothers who doesn't work in the fields. During August, we have been going out with books, balls, games, crafts, projects, etc. on Tuesday and Friday mornings, and Wednesday afternoons.

The children are a lot of fun to be with and easily interested in doing things with us. Some have played "chair base" kickball; others have been making stuffed animals. We have made puzzles, heard the book *Dinosaurs Before Dark*, measured the wing span of a Pteranodon (30 feet), made things with Legos, etc. All of the volunteers are wonderful and pitch in to help the children be engaged and have fun. Learn more about how you can participate in this ministry, contact: Teri MaryAnn Young <maryannteri@yahoo.com> or Rita Kieras <ritakieras@gmail.com> or (734-821-2121)



St. Francis supports: Affordable Housing

On June 21, St. Francis hosted the 13th annual membership meeting of **Religious Action for Affordable Housing (RAAH)**. RAAH is a nonprofit organization with the mission to work for the substantial increase of affordable housing in Washtenaw County.



Services, fulfilling RAAH's pledge of \$40,000 to each agency. Additionally, a balance at the Ann Arbor Community Foundation allows \$20,000 to be available for urgent needs of nonprofit agencies that provide affordable housing and supportive services.

The designated speaker was Jennifer Hall, Director of the Ann Arbor Housing Commission. She said, "In an ideal world, you can choose the rent you can afford. But in this real estate market, income and rent are no longer related: We are losing affordable housing faster than we can replace it."

Nobody understands this better than the approximately 70 individuals who were living in tents at Camp Take Notice. The State recently evicted the homeless campers. Despite promises of several dozen rental vouchers, only two of the campers have found housing because local landlords do not accept the vouchers that would make an apartment affordable. The struggle for affordable housing in our County continues.

- - Mary Wakefield (973-6113), St. Francis Parish representative on the RAAH committee. For more information visit RAAH.org

RAAH's 4th Capital Campaign raised \$100,000 over two years. Quoting from the President's report: "This campaign was undertaken during a time of financial hardship....but we did not underestimate the power and commitment of the Washtenaw County religious community; they recognized that the need for affordable housing is greater now than ever before. Checks were distributed to Avalon Housing and SOS Community

Down On The Farm

Seminarian, Gary Koenigsknecht spent this past summer with us at St. Francis Parish. He invited parishioners to visit his family's organic dairy farm, on a day-long trip to Fowler.



August 8, 2012: 55 parishioners boarded a bus to visit my family's organic dairy farm located north of Lansing. The farm milks 95 cows and sells the milk to Horizon Organic.

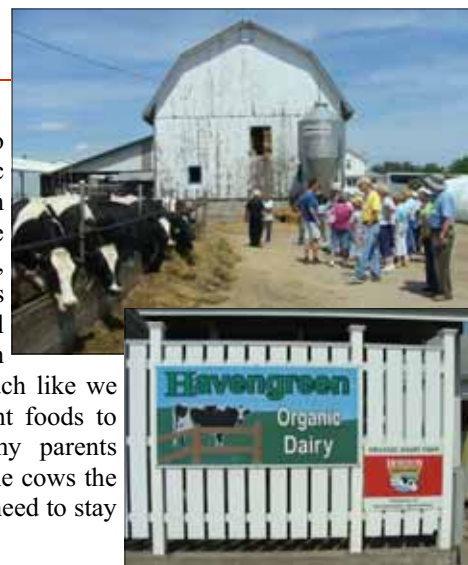
We began by going into the milking parlor and observing firsthand how cows are milked!

Next we helped feed calves and saw the laying hens that provide eggs for the family.

We stopped for a lunch prepared by my mother and foods sent by the Horizon Organic company. After lunch, there was an opportunity for tractor rides, which many of the kids present enjoyed!

I then led a tour of the remainder of the farm, explaining the daily chores, the use of pastures, and how feed is harvested and stored for the winter. We had an

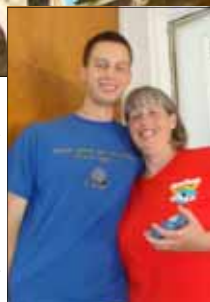
opportunity to explain how organic farming is unique in its treatment of the land and animals, and how my parents work to manage soil fertility through organic means. Much like we need to eat the right foods to stay healthy, so my parents work hard to give the cows the right nutrition they need to stay healthy.



We finished with Mass celebrated by my uncle, Fr. Bill Koenigsknecht, at the beautiful parish in Fowler. It was a wonderful day to welcome some of St. Francis Parish to the farm and explain how my parents and other organic farms work hard to provide the foods that we buy in the store.

Gary Koenigsknecht

Seminary Address and Email: I can be reached at 2701 Chicago Blvd, Detroit, MI 48206. koenigsknecht.gary@shms.edu



Parish Health Ministry

Keeping St. Francis Healthy and Well!

St. Francis Health Ministry taught the 4th grade class about the lungs as they learned the human body organs and systems. The dangers of smoking and the effects of how smoking harms the body and its' organs was shown in a demonstration (*right*) using pig lungs! The children really enjoyed this demonstration.



The Health Ministry also taught the Girl Scouts about first aid and would like to thank Huron Valley Ambulance for providing basic CPR skill training and providing first aid kits for the troop (*left*). The Health Ministry is committed to providing education to our children and community on prevention of disease and living a healthy lifestyle. We have provided blood pressure screenings that have resulted in detection of high blood pressure and have educated our children on the importance of hand washing to prevent germ transmission.



Our Annual Health Fair in May was a great success! Over 40 vendors volunteered (*left*) to provide health screenings including blood sugar checks, glaucoma screening, education on ovarian cancer prevention and early detection, Crohns Disease, colitis, Gift of Life, and U of M Allergy were just a few of the topics covered. If you would like to become a member of The St. Francis Health Ministry please email our Parish Nurse at nurse@stfrancisa2.org

We thank our volunteers and wish you all health and wellness in mind, body and spirit. May God bless you on your journey toward health. To learn more about the St. Francis Health Ministry please visit our blog, linked from the Health Ministry page of our parish website.

Sustainable Garden Project

Hoeing, Sowing and Growing in 2012



Over 11 years ago a St. Francis of Assisi parishioner broke ground just south of the rectory patio to plot an organic vegetable "Sustainable Garden" and harvest produce for families at Perry Nursery School (serving low-income, single parent families).

In the spring our seed and plant sales are held using seeds from the previous year's harvest. Garden

volunteers are currently harvesting and delivering vegetables and herbs biweekly to the school. "The Sustainable Garden" welcomes St Francis of Assisi parishioners to view it at any time, and if interested in volunteering and/or making donations, please contact Erich Jensen through the Parish Social Ministry office, 821-2121.





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Seniors @ St. Francis

More than 30 seniors and guests from St. Francis traveled in June to Ypsilanti for breakfast together and then a visit to the Yankee Air Museum at Willow Run Airport. The American diner décor of the Bomber Restaurant on Michigan Avenue provided the perfect beginning for learning about the production of the B-24 bombers during World War II. Every inch of space on the walls and ceiling of the dining room is covered by decals, posters, uniforms, and models of the planes which were built just five miles east.

Volunteer guides at the Yankee Air Museum often had to shout over the noise of construction and restoration in the building, where other volunteers worked to prepare acquisitions for display: a Douglas C-47 transport from 1945, a B-17G Flying Fortress, a B-25D Mitchell similar to the one used in Jimmy Doolittle's raid of Tokyo in April 1942, and a 1943 Stinson Reliant V-77.

Several seniors shared memories of their connections to Willow Run or to the planes produced there. They were

encouraged to become part of the Oral History Project of the Library of Congress and to see the interviews already submitted to www.loc.gov/vets.

(Reflection by Dixie Cocagne)

During our Seniors' annual Picnic Lunch at Washtenaw County Farm Park we enjoyed reviewing and reflecting upon the Seniors @ St. Francis events of this past year 2011 – 2012. A Boat Cruise on the Grand River, Lansing; Senior Recognition Mass and Luncheon; Plymouth Orchards Cider Mill trip; Solanus Casey - St. Bonaventure Parish, Detroit trip; Thanksgiving Meal & Veterans Day Talk; DIA "Rembrandt and the Face of Jesus" trip; Senior's Brunch; "Bernhardt on Broadway" Musical at WCC; Mardi Gras Dixieland Band; St. Patrick Party stories; A May Crowning of Mary; Yankee Air Museum trip; Purple Rose Theater, Chelsea.

