

The Canticle of St. Francis

Published quarterly by St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
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Parish Newsletter: Volume 18, Issue 2

Summer 2013

Balancing Life, Faith & Career



Speaker, Jeff DeGraff

Sixth Annual Business Breakfast Forum

The PAC was buzzing at 7AM, as about 120 people gathered for their morning coffee, breakfast, some networking AND a huge dose of energy and support to live out their faith in their work lives, and indeed all aspects of their lives.

Noted speaker, Jeff DeGraff, author of *Innovation You: Four Steps to Becoming New and Improved* and host of a Public Television show of the same name, shared with us how to grow in wholeness. This included finding a balance in doing new things, doing things now, doing things right and doing things that last – all under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

If you'd like to watch the video of his talk or review his slides, visit the video library located on our Parish website at www.stfrancisa2.com/video-library and click on the link for the 2013 Business Breakfast Forum.



Mark Your Calendar—Summer 2013

June – October: **Connect with Migrant Farm Workers** / DuRussel Farm, Manchester/Teri Young 727-417-9902.

Saturdays all Summer: **Sustainable Garden Project** maintenance & harvest in the front yard of the rectory. / Erich Jensen 734-996-1439.

June 17: **Divorced/Separated Group** /weekly 7:00 – 8:30pm / School Music Room / Jeff 734-678-0995

June 17: **Monday Meditation Group** / weekly 7:00 – 8PM / Chapel / Paul 734-646-5591

June 23: Food Drive to Sister Parish-Corpus Christi, Detroit/ 10AM - 4:30PM / Scott Wright / 734-821-2121 / swright@stfrancisa2.org

June 26: **H.S. Youth Group** goes to *Cedar Point* details at www.stfrancisa2.com, or Jen Delvaux 821-2126.

June 29 - **Middle Singles German Park** / 4:30PM carpool / Jen 821-2126 jen@stfrancisa2.org

July 7, 14: **New T-shirt Drive for Migrants & Homeless** / weekend mass /Church entrance area / Scott Wright 821-2121 or Amy Hesse 734-477-9021.

July 9: **SENIOR Citizens' Picnic Lunch** / 11:30AM/ Washtenaw County Farm Park/ Sharon 434-1428.

July 12: **The Alpha Course: How Can We Have Faith** /7PM/ PAC /Marty Lucas 734-821-2125

July 19 (& Aug 16): **Serve A Meal for the Hungry** / 3PM or 5PM / Delonis Center Shelter / Bridget 665-9549.

August 2: **The Alpha Course: Why We Believe** /7PM/ PAC / Marty Lucas 734-821-2125

August 4 - **Brunch after 10:30 am Mass - Young Adults 20-30's**/ Jen 821-2126 jen@stfrancisa2.org

August 5,12,19,26: **Summer Organ Recitals**/ 7:00 PM/ church/ Tom Kean 734-821-2124

Vacation Bible School

For children in grades PreK-5

Mon- Friday, July 22—26, 9am-12pm

High School & Middle School helpers, and Adult leaders needed!!! Sign Up NOW at stfrancisa2.com/religious-education with credit-card payment or pick up form in the RE or Parish offices. Questions: 734-821-2130.

August 23: **The Alpha Course: Who Is the Holy Spirit** /7PM/ PAC /Marty Lucas 734-821-2125

September 6: **M.O.M.S**-Ministry of Mothers Sharing / 1st & 3rd Fridays/ 10AM– noon /Chapel/ Janene Ternes 821-2122

September 8: Parish Picnic / 12:15PM outdoor Mass. Picnic 'til 4PM / behind the church / Janene Ternes 821-2122

September 8: **H.S. Youth Group Resumes**/ Sundays 7:00 PM/ Youth Room/ Jen 821-2126

September 9: **Monthly Knitting-Shawl Ministry** / 7:00 PM/ church library/ Kathleen 734-717-0685.

September 13: **Mother/Child Network**/2nd & 4th Fridays/ 10:00AM – noon /Nursery/ Carol 734.769.1659

September 14: **Catholic Business Professional's Connection**/9-11AM/ School Library / Tom 734-649-2655

September 20: **St. Francis Catholic School Tuition Assistance Golf Outing**/ 9:30 a.m. Registration / The Polo Fields Golf & Country Clubs, Ann Arbor / Colleen Pierce 821-2208 cpierce@stfrancisa2.org

Seniors' Spring (55 & Faster)

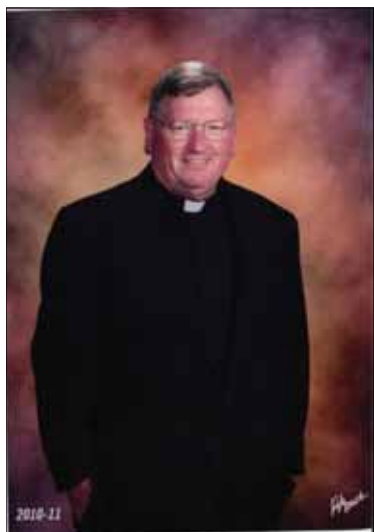
A good time for all was had at our **Karneval** - a German Style Mardi Gras Carnival with German lunch (including homemade pretzels) and entertainment by the Saline New Horizons German Band, in February. Over eighty people enjoyed hearing from **Fr. Jim about his Spiritual Journey**. Presented as a Lenten Reflection in March, it was soooo good. We welcome Fr. Jim to come back and join us again next year! Blessings upon your retirement!



In April we enjoyed a **Spring Country Road Trip** to Pious Union of St. Joseph Shrine in Grass Lake for Mass and lunch. At our **May Crowning of Mary**, seniors offered delightful honor, flowers, singing, and fun. We want to thank Doris Filisko for hand crafting the beautiful crown and for supplying us with flowers; Sue Bemis for placing the crown; Mary Fister for decorating the throne; Shirley Yengoyan for leading music on piano; and everyone participating. We worked up an appetite, so afterwards many from the group headed to the iconic Bomber Restaurant for a late breakfast.



Farewell & Thank You



On August 12th I will retire as pastor of St. Francis and Fr. James Conlon will become the new pastor.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your dedication in following Christ and to the ministries here at St. Francis. You have made St. Francis a great place to be – a place where, by our lives, Christ's Gospel of love, compassion and forgiveness is proclaimed and lived. You care and form our young people. You reach out to the ill, elderly and those in need. You work to bring about God's justice in our world. You seek to more fully understand and live the way of Christ.

I am constantly humbled as you live out our baptismal call to live Christ's call and to build God's kingdom. For any small part I have had in all of this, I give thanks to God.

Since I will be living in Ann Arbor, I am sure we will see each other from time to time. My parting prayer is that you continue to proclaim and live the Good News of Christ to our community.

May we all seek to be God's blessing to one another and to the world.

Fr. Jim McDougall, Pastor

ALPHA Course

“GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS.”

The **Alpha** course is a series of talks and discussions to connect people with living a faith-filled life. People worldwide have gone on this course and come away with a renewed love for God and the Church.

“Before **Alpha** I simply attended Church, now I understand the depth of God's love and it has touched my life in such a way that I read the bible, my prayers are deeper and I live my faith daily instead of just on Sunday.”

“I feel refreshed and renewed. I feel like I am on the road to do what I should have been doing all my life.”

“I rarely prayed or relied on my faith to help me through difficult situations. Now I realize what a tremendous resource our faith is if we only utilize it.”

USCCB calls **Alpha for Catholics**, “one of the best evangelization methods and resources available for parish outreach.”

Alpha is currently running approximately monthly at St. Francis Parish with a different topic for each session. Even if you missed the first sessions, you are welcome to register and attend. *We have a space for you!* To register or for more information, visit the parish website or contact Marty Lucas (821-2125).



Finance Council Commits Parish to Environmental Action



In September 2011, the Parish Finance Council adopted the following Environmental Policy Statement:

"Our patron Saint, St. Francis of Assisi, believed that nature itself was 'the mirror of God.' He preached the duty of all people 'to protect and enjoy nature as both stewards of God's creation and as creatures ourselves."

"Following the path of our patron, St. Francis of Assisi Parish recognizes that our daily operations impact the environment, and pledges to protect and improve the environment through best practices wherever possible."

"St. Francis of Assisi Parish will work to integrate environmental considerations into our business decisions and to adopt environmentally-friendly alternatives throughout our operations wherever possible."

Following this initial step, a Committee of the Finance Council was formed to focus on Environmental Issues affecting the Parish and its parishioners. This Committee began an intensive review of environmental audits and reviews recently performed by the Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner's Office, the WARM Training Center on behalf of the Michigan Interfaith Power and Light Coalition, and our own Peace and Justice Committee, and supplemented those inputs with an energy audit on the Rectory conducted by an outside environmental contractor in September 2012.

The Committee was pleased to find how much had already been accomplished in the Parish. Virtually all outdated T12 lamps throughout our campus have been replaced with high efficiency T8 fluorescent lamps with electronic ballasts, many incandescent bulbs have been replaced with high efficiency Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFL's), and interior Exit signs have been changed over to Light

Emitting Diodes (LED's).

Many of our building entrances have had doors and windows replaced to reduce air infiltration and heat loss, most restrooms have been re-equipped with motion sensors on toilets, urinals, and wash stations, and occupancy sensors have been added to all restrooms and maintenance closets. Water heaters are located throughout our buildings near usage points to maximize efficiency, and energy-efficient appliances are purchased whenever we need to replace an appliance.

In November 2012, following the audit of the Rectory, we replaced both the furnace and air conditioning systems, which dated from 1993, with high efficiency units, capturing both energy savings (natural gas and electricity) and rebates from the manufacturer and utility. Solar-powered vent fans, CFL's, water faucet aerators, and foam pipe insulation have also been installed in the Rectory wherever appropriate. We continue to favor products that are recycled or recyclable, or if that is not practical, compostable as in the case of cups used for Coffee and Donuts. We participate in the City of Ann Arbor's Recycling program, generating a full dumpster or more almost every week of the year; large wood items such as pallets are taken to Recycle Ann Arbor, and re-usable items such as desks, chairs, or furniture are given to charities or taken to the Re-Use Store. Compostable waste is delivered to the City's Composting Program.

Finally, the Council expressed its support of continuing efforts within the Parish to improve our environmental footprint, and to support the efforts of the Sustainability Project established by our Peace and Justice Committee. We encourage all parishioners in their own efforts at achieving Sustainability, and reducing their own demands on the environment shared by all.

Julie Soyer,
2012-2013 Chair, Parish Finance Council



H

igh School Youth



We hope that you were able to join the high school youth ministry for the Living Way of the Cross on Good Friday. We appreciate the wonderful music provided by the Sunday 5:00 pm Mass ensemble. The musicians and teen performers did a wonderful job. If you missed it this year, we hope you can join us next year.



In addition to the Living Way of the Cross, the teens hosted a Lenten Prayer Labyrinth, went on a weekend retreat, met to discuss summer service trips, all in addition to our normal Sunday night youth groups.



With such a busy spring, you would think we might slow down over the summer, but the teens are anticipating a full schedule of events that will take us from the youth room to locations around the U.S. and the world! Watch for updates on our summer events on the website and in the Forum!



S

pring "Ring and Sing" Concert

St. Francis of Assisi Handbell Choirs had a rare opportunity to perform in concert with the Boychoir of Ann Arbor in April. The Boychoir of Ann Arbor, led by founding director Dr. Thomas Strode and assisted by Alex Sutton, is the only boys' chorus in the area. The concert began with an inspirational Easter processional of boys and bells, followed by selections played by the Assisi Ringers Handbell Choir. The audience joined the Boychoir in singing the Easter hymn, "I know that my Redeemer lives" as the Assisi Ringers rang, and Dr. Strode accompanied on the organ.



The Boychoir mesmerized the audience with a selection of traditional and contemporary favorites, including Schubert's "The Lord is my Shepherd" and "Baba Yetu" by Christopher Tin. The St. Francis Handbell Choir was joined by oboist Rita Kieras on an arrangement of the Chinese folk melody "Le P'ing" and Patricia Karr played the haunting Native American flute on "Fantasy on Terra Beata". The finale, "Fanfare Prelude on Come Christians, Join to Sing", combined all twenty eight handbell ringers and 36 Boychoir members and featured Ted Emch on organ, Andy Perez on trumpet and Bob Wallace on timpani.

Two boys, Andrew Cadavieco and Tony Birchler, performed double duty as they sang with the Boychoir and also rang with the handbell choirs. The concert was a special one for handbell director, Ginny Birchler; joined by her father (timpanist, Bob Wallace) and son, Tony (Boychoir chorister and handbell ringer), there were three generations of musicians in the program. A delightful reception followed the concert. It was a wonderful event; the handbell choirs hope to perform with the Boychoir of Ann Arbor in the future!

Thank you for Parish Projects

Sustain a House- Fight Poverty:

Our parish Lenten project taught us about **Habitat for Humanity's** sustainability practices and raised \$12,162 for renovating the 2013 Catholic House. This year's house, at 2143 Merrill in Ypsilanti, will be owned by Hosanna Vivas-Linaras. Hosanna and her daughter, Andrea (age 11), are originally from Venezuela and have lived in Washtenaw County for the past seven years. Hosanna works for U of M as a Spanish-English medical interpreter. The Catholic House volunteers worked from April 5th - June 8th. Questions? Call (734) 677-1558.



Additionally, the Habitat for Humanity ReStore truck visited St. Francis ... (See the next article for details.) Thanks to everyone who contributed to making our Lenten project a success!

Don't Dump It, Donate It Habitat Restore Truckload

As a part of our parish Lenten **Sustain a House** effort, a **Habitat ReStore** truck was parked at St. Francis during weekend masses on March 16/17 for parishioner donations of gently-used furniture, small appliances, and household goods. The **Habitat ReStore** provides an environmentally and socially-responsible way to keep good, reusable materials out of landfills. Also drop off your items at the **ReStore** Warehouse at 3909 Jackson Road, or to *arrange a pick-up* contact Vic Whipple (at 734-323-7028) or call Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley ReStore (734.822.1530). You can also purchase new and used home and building items at the **ReStore**.



Our great appreciation goes out to all who helped to greet donors and load items while staffing the hours (especially during those very cold days): Ann Borders, Peter DeChants, Jane DeChants, Dan Demlow, Brian Fitzgerald, Bill LaCroix, Mary Lowe, Chris Mollo, Maya Savarino, Karen Shellie, Sandra Tracey, Megan Wiseman, and Scott Wright.

Easter Chocolates Make a Difference!

The St. Francis Peace & Justice Committee sold about 300 bags of fair trade chocolates, raising \$500 for hurricane relief in New Jersey and educating parishioners about **fair trade** practices. To learn more about fair trade, visit the Catholic Relief Services website: www.crsfairtrade.org or contact our Parish Peace & Justice Committee (734-821-2121).



We especially want to thank our coordinators, Megan Wiseman & Kelly Gauthier, as well as, all who helped sell and package the chocolates and helped make this event happen: Dick Brown, Andrew Comai, Nora Clark, Alina Domagala, Kyle & Bethany Eurick, Kelly Gauthier, Kathleen Ignatoski, Steve Lavender, Maguire Family, Alex Mah, Chris Mollo, Andrew & Donley Nash, Barbara Pomey, Paul Schwankl, Ryan Stack, Jim & Linda & Megan Wiseman.

St. Francis Sustainable Garden Projects

Feed Hungry Neighbors and Support Michigan Native Plants Initiatives (new)



Successful St Francis Seed Sale April 6/7: Sales were at \$88.00! Bestsellers: Wildflowers; Spinach; Lettuce; Seed Balls. Sale proceeds are used to fund supplies for 2 on-site gardens. One garden provides fresh organic produce and herbs to Perry Nursery School Families, a program for children of low-income single parents. A second *brand new* Michigan native plant garden is another initiative of the St Francis Sustainability Committee.

Compost Day April 20: We did it! Many thanks to 8 diehard volunteers who braved the cold and shoveled rain soaked compost on a beautiful sunny morning. We



filled the new potato and native plant bed with compost. Many thanks to all of our garden volunteers: Susan Allen, Katy Derezinski, Julie & Frank Fazekas, Erich & Ann Marie Jensen, Bob & Joan Meagher, Rose & Patrick & John Sherry, Sherry & Julie White, Ron Yonkoski. Thanks for donations from the these local businesses: **Stadium Hardware** for a hedger, plant stakes and watering can. **Downtown Home and Garden** for seed potatoes, pea, and spinach seeds. **Donations and volunteers are also welcome.** Come learn about gardening! Contact Erich Jensen: erichjensen@msn.com or 734-771-8511.

Thank you for Home Repairs

Christmas in Action 2013

Nearly thirty members of St. Francis of Assisi improved the life of a homeowner by participating in the **Christmas in Action "Day of Action" on Saturday, April 27th 2013**, rehabilitating a home 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.

The St. Francis home this year provided many opportunities to improve the homeowner's safety and well-being. The completed tasks included replacement of two badly rotted windows and frames with brand new installations. The bathroom vanity which could not support the sink was completely replaced with a shiny new version. Throughout the home, ungrounded electrical outlets were replaced with safer GFIs. This job required running wiring through an 18 inch high crawlspace! New kitchen cabinet handles replaced broken versions, several faulty light fixtures were replaced, and the ripped dryer vent was replaced with a new version. And on the outside, missing siding was replaced with brand new perfectly matched pieces, and missing gutters and downspouts were replaced to carry rain water away from the house.

Meanwhile, the dedicated landscaping team took advantage of the glorious spring day to transform the yard. Debris and overgrown trees and bushes were removed, and a big hole in the yard was filled with topsoil and seed. And throughout the yard, empty planters and spaces were converted to beautiful beds complete with mulch, edging and flowering perennials. The homeowner, who loves plants and flowers but cannot tend to them daily was thrilled with this fantastic solution.

And on Friday, a dedicated and efficient food crew of twelve parish members prepared and packed breakfast and lunch for ALL the Christmas in Action volunteers in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. The volunteers were grateful for the food and snacks during a busy Saturday.



Congratulations and thanks go out to everyone who so generously gave their time and talents to this great cause. See: christmasinactionsemi.org **Special thanks** to our Action Day coordinator: Brian O'Neil, our house leader, Jim Wiseman, our food purchaser/preparation leader: Linda Wiseman. A huge THANK YOU goes out to all the St. Francis members who participated in this year's Christmas in Action Day of Action!

Thanks to our Friday evening meal prep helpers:

Food Preparation making sandwiches, etc., and preparing first aid kits. Alina Domagala, Robert Klingler, Theresa Maclean, Bernice Mathews, Leslie McMacken, Brian O'Neil, Maya Savarino, Joshua Szewczul, Linda Wiseman, Megan Wiseman, Judy Wojnowski, Scott Wright.

Thanks to our Saturday yard and home repair teams:

Home Repairs, Painting, Electrical, Plumbing, Dry Wall Work & home or yard work, Planting and trimming, etc. Lots of fun for everyone. Tom Balinski, Isaac Balinski, Catherine Belski, Jack Bennett, Jackson Bennett, John & Claire Brinley, Larry Eiden, Diane Gledhill, Bernardo Gonzalez, Steve Lavender, Mary LeMire, Theresa Maclean, Chris Mollo, Brian O'Neil, Sophia & Sonia Scherer, Anne Schott, Yohan Shim, Lynn Shock, David White, Mary Kate Wing, Jim & Linda Wiseman, Joe Wottreng, Matthew Zawistowski, Kurt Zrull.



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.

Congratulations and God Bless You!



Confirmation: 108 of our youth (*photo above*) were confirmed on April 21, 2013. Thank you to the parents, sponsors, catechists, and all those who helped prepare our youth for this holy day!

Confirmation begins in the 7th grade with the celebration in the spring of the 8th grade. Older youth interested in preparing for Confirmation, or missed the deadline, please contact Ellen Ward at ward@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2132.

First Holy Eucharist: Preparation for First Eucharist begins in the 2nd grade, normally with participation in the 1st grade religious education class. For information on preparing your child, contact Ellen Ward at 734-821-2132 or ward@stfrancisa2.org. Also look for registration forms at www.stfrancisa2.com/religious-education.

Children (*right*) prepare to bring up the gifts at their First Holy Communion Mass.



The children (*left*) gather around the altar to experience at close view the Eucharistic prayer.

Congratulations to our 100 children who celebrated their First Holy Eucharist last May.

EASTER VIGIL 2013**WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST CATHOLICS!**

The Easter Vigil is the culmination of the entire RCIA process. On this night, light drives out darkness, joyful sounds fill the silence, and we proclaim and renew our resurrection hope as the Elect and Candidates reach the highpoint of their long journey to initiation in the Catholic Church. For the unbaptized Elect, this is the night they are born in the waters of Baptism—then, along with the already baptized Candidates, they are sealed with the Chrism of Confirmation and share the Eucharist as full members of the Roman Catholic Community.



Educational Trust Fund Leadership Circle

A Great Success Story

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School is strong and vibrant and we thank all the families in the parish who are committed to Catholic education. In the 60 years the school has been part of our Parish, thousands of students have graduated with strong academics and a stellar fine arts experience, but most importantly with a faith foundation that is the bedrock of their life going forward. Our students develop a keen knowledge of their faith, engage in important service projects and deepen their prayer life through daily prayers, school masses and adoration.

A current school family tells a wonderful story of a prayer they say on the way to school each morning. Each person in the car adds what they are grateful for and what they are praying for that day:

Good morning sweet Jesus, we love you. Please bless us and be with us. Help us to open our

hearts to your love, to know how loved we are and to love each other well. Today I am grateful for ... and I pray for ...

What's most touching about the story is that St. Francis is often what the kids are grateful for and it's the kids who lead the prayer in the morning. There's nothing more important for our children going forward than to know how loved they are and to build their life and future leadership roles on a strong faith foundation and a strong prayer life.

That's what St. Francis School is all about and we thank all the Parish families who engage in the success of our school. We would like to thank in particular the forty two families who have joined the Educational Trust Fund (ETF) Leadership Circle and those who have secured a matching corporate gift. (See following list)

Membership 2013

Peter and Jane DeChants
Daniel and Daisy Demlow
Frank and Kim La Marca
Mike and Diane Leoni
Christopher and Karen Ongena
Deb and Joe Purcell
John-Paul and Clare Stando
Kathie and Dave Sullivan
Pitney Bowes Company (matching gift)

Membership 2012

James and Ann Marie Borders
Timothy and Jamie Cahill
John and Denise Carethers
Doris Filisko
Tom and Gigi Jetton
Florence Kruzas
John and Bridget McGillicuddy
David and Kathy Swastek

Membership 2011

William and Mary Claire Anhut
Herbert and Christine Black
Christopher and Traci Coffman
David and Charlotte Decker
Bill and Ehren Dirksen
Jim and Lisa Edwards
Mark and Karen Falahee
Marc and Julianna Feeney
Ted Fosdick
Robert and Angela Geppner
William and Angela Giannobile
Glenn and Amy Gottfried
Steve and Debra Hermann
William and Susan Hermann
Jeff and Stacey Higgins

Richard and Elizabeth Jarzembowski
Steve and Julie Lavender
Mike and Stacy Marsh
Steve and Lisa Morris
Tim and Shann Patton
Greg and Laurie Ruselowski
Michael and Kimm Sarosi
George and Judi Schwartz
Manak and Lucienne (Lucy) Sood
Mark and Jane Vogel
Thomas and Mary Wakefield
Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance
Company (matching gift)

As a Parish, we are truly blessed to have the ETF which is now valued over \$1.4 million. This enables an annual award to the school which will total \$63,000 next fiscal year, the highest ever. The ETF Leadership Circle and the annual ETF Benefit are the primary means of growing the Trust Fund. The Leadership Circle, which brings together families who commit a minimum of \$1,000 per year for five consecutive years, is critical to our ultimate ETF goal of \$10 million.

As Catholics we are called to give thanks for what God has given us by investing in the present and future of the young people of our Catholic community. Please consider if this is the year for your family to join the ETF Leadership Circle or to include the ETF in your estate planning. Please contact the Development Office at 734-821-2208.



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School Blessings and Memories

We have been so blessed this year with such exceptional students, parents, and faculty. As another year has come to an end, I thank God for such amazing people who make St. Francis School a special place for everyone.

As another school year has come to an end, we must say goodbye to some special people. Two of our faculty members are venturing into new adventures near and far. We are sad yet excited for them to start a new chapter with God's grace and guidance. Mrs. Julie Rick and Mrs. Sarah Drew will be leaving us for the 2013-2014 school year. Mrs. Rick is enjoying her time with her new son. Mrs. Drew and her family are returning to Portland, Oregon after many wonderful years here in the Wolverine state. We are grateful for the love they have shown so many and their dedication to St. Francis School over the years. We at St. Francis School wish them many years of blessings and love.

With goodbyes and the end of a year, we look back with fondness on the many special memories we shared:

Our field day in the fall kicked off a special year with our leadership class. The school came together to celebrate a wonderful fall day and the joy of our school community with relay races and fun. The unity theme was extremely appropriate as the students shared memories and joined in the celebration of our school.



Our 8th graders and 2nd graders participated in the holy sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion. It was a privilege to be present to watch these students grow in their faith. What always moves me is watching the families welcome their students more fully into their faith journeys. First Communion masses are such a remarkable moment as families gather around their students to share in the Blessed Sacrament.

St. Francis of Assisi School was proud to graduate 36 remarkable, young stewards. Our graduates are wonderful leaders who always cared for their school, community, and others. Their stewardship at St. Francis of Assisi School included but was not limited to garden planting around St. Francis, collecting shoes for students in Africa, collecting books for students in Africa, raising money for Home of Hope, working with first graders in reading groups, selling car raffle tickets to support the school, and many, many more service projects. They are leaders here at St. Francis and will all go to learn, care, and lead in the world.

The faculty and students always are excited for the jubilation of summer. It is rewarding to look back and remember an amazing year celebrating our faith and building in knowledge. We wish everyone a memorable summer filled with joy and love.

~Julie Fantone, principal





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HONORING OUR PASTOR, FR. JIM

On behalf of the Pastoral Council, I have important information to share with you regarding Fr. Jim's retirement. His last day at St. Francis will be Monday, August 12. The Parish will host **farewell receptions** after all weekend masses on August 10th & 11th.

Father has already rented an apartment in Ann Arbor of a modest size: so much so that he is not sure whether there will even be room for all of the art he has collected over the years. He hopes to have the resources for more extensive travel than he has been able to indulge in before now. Should you wish to honor him with a **farewell gift**, please consider helping to make Fr. Jim's travel dreams come true.

As a token of appreciation for how Fr. Jim has touched our lives, we would like to collect written reflections and stories from parishioners. These remembrances will be assembled into a **Memory Book** and given to him on that last weekend. Share a written account of an interaction that demonstrates Fr. Jim's special care and gentle leadership and its impact on your life.

To submit your Memory, please email an article (a photo is optional) to ppcchair@stfrancisa2.org. Photos need to be high resolution. The emailed article should be 125 words or less, and within the email, or attached in doc, docx, or txt format. You may also drop your submission in the weekend collection, or mail it to the Parish Office, Attn: Pam Smith, 2150 Frieze Ave, Ann Arbor MI 48104. Please understand that should we need to edit a contribution, every effort will be made to maintain the spirit of the entry. Due to space limitations, we may not be able to include every article. **DEADLINE** for submissions is June 27, 2013. For any questions, please contact me or parish secretary, Pam Smith (at parishoffice@stfrancisa2.org or 734-769-2550).

Kathleen Kubis, ppcchair@stfrancisa2.org
Parish Pastoral Council 2012-2013 Chair



FAREWELL RECEPTION
honoring
Fr. Jim McDougall

August 10 & 11
in the Parish Activity Center
following all weekend masses