



The Canticle of St. Francis

Published quarterly by St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
2150 Frieze Ave ♦ Ann Arbor, MI ♦ 48104-4799
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Parish Newsletter: Volume 19, Issue 3 Fall 2014

We journey together as one community in Christ!



Welcome Aboard!

Through our baptism Christ invites us to share in the journey of faith that will come to fulfillment in eternal life. The Christian life is never dull or boring, the mission to fulfill the Gospel mandate to love God and our neighbor never without its challenges or its joys, and so we journey on together as a community, supporting each other by our common prayer, our study and learning, and our service. At the heart of our community is Christ: he is our focus and our strength, around him we gather and from him we receive countless graces for this great journey of life together.



If you are receiving this edition of The Canticle and for any reason have disconnected from our community we invite you and welcome you home! We miss you: our community is incomplete without you! We need your presence and your participation! So let us know how we can help you reconnect. Please call any of the Pastoral Team members in the Parish Office at 734-821-2100.

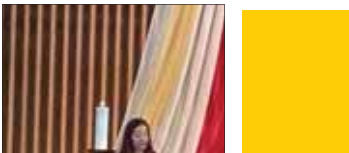


As you browse through The Canticle, I hope you will see a community that is strong and vital and yet very diverse and always welcoming. This is your community and all are welcome to participate.

May the love of Christ present among us continue to inspire us and to direct all our thoughts and actions.

F r. James Conlon

Pastor



Mark Your Calendar



RCIA – It's never too late to join the Catholic Church! For more information, call the Parish Office (734-821-2100).

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

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

September 9: **M.O.M.S.-**ministry of mothers sharing / 1st & 3rd Fridays/ 10am-noon/ Chapel & nursery / Megan 734-646-9034

September 9: **Young Adult Group** / meets Tuesdays / 7-9 pm in the youth room /Jen jen@stfrancisa2.org

September 9: **Bi-monthly Men's Group** / 7:00 – 9 pm/ School Library / Phil 662-4637

September 12: **Mother/Child Network** / 2nd & 4th Fridays/ 10am – 12noon/ Nursery/ Tanya 734-395-6651

September 13: **Middle Singles Potluck 40-50s single** / 6:30 pm in PAC / Jen 821-2126 or jen@stfrancisa2.org

September 14: **Redcross Blood Drive** / 8am-2pm / Gym / for appt call 734-821-2100

September 15: **Weekly Divorced/Separated Group** /7:00 – 8:30pm / School Library / Jeff 734-678-0995

September 15: **Weekly Meditation Group** / 7:00 – 8pm every Monday/ Chapel / Paul 734-646-5591

September 17: **Small Group-Facilitator Training** / 7:00 – 9pm/ POMR / Janene 821-2122

September 18: **Senior Recognition Mass & Luncheon** / 11:00 AM / St. Andrew, Saline / RSVP: Scott Wright 734-821-2121

September 21: **PreK-8 Religious Education begins this week** / register at stfrancisa2.com / call Religious Ed. Office 821-2130

September 22: St. Francis Catholic School **Golf Outing-Tee It Up for Tuition** / 9:30 Reg., 11AM shotgun/ Travis Pointe Country Club/ To register call 734.821.2208

September 23: **School of Discipleship course-Salvation History** / Tuesdays through October 28 /7:00 pm /School Music Room / register with Marty 821-2125 or mlucas@stfrancisa2.org

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

October 2: **Flu Clinic/** walk-in 2:30-6pm/ PAC/ parish nurse, Danaica Watson 734-821-2115

October 5: **Family Night @ High School Youth Group** / 6:30pm/ PAC/ Jen 821-2126 or www.stfrancisa2.com/hs

October 9: **Monthly Women's Group** / 7:00 – 9:00pm / PAC / Janene 821-2122

October 13—19: **Host Homeless Families @ Shelter** / IHN Alpha House, Ann Arbor / shifts / Scott Wright 821-2121.

October 17, Nov 17, Dec 19: **Serve A Meal for the Hungry @ Delonis Center** / 3 or 5PM shift/ 3rd Friday is St. Francis volunteers/ Bridget 665-9549.

October 21: **Historic Church Tour in Toledo** / 9:00am Bus departure from St. Francis / Scott Wright / 821-2121

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

November 15-16: **Young Adult Fall Retreat/** Colombiere Center/ Jen 821-2126 or jen@stfrancisa2.org

November 18: **Senior Citizen Thanksgiving meal & entertainment/** Tues 10AM / PAC / 821-2121.

November 23: **Food Drive to Local Homes** / 10AM / School Gym / Scott Wright / 821-2121

November 28 - Dec 14: **Giving Tree Gift Sharing** / shift times / Church / volunteer to Scott Wright 821-2121.

December 9: **Christmas Dinner Party for Perry Nursery School** / 5:45pm / PAC / Scott Wright / 821-2121

A journey of many surprises!

Adults of St. Francis travel to visit The Shroud of Turin Exhibit

On August 12, adults of the parish were on the road again! This time it was to Royal Oak to visit the Shroud of Turin exhibit. Spirits were not dampened by the rain, and all found the trip to be most informative. We viewed a replica of the shroud, various art work related to it, and gained an understanding of the vast research that has gone into investigating the authenticity of it. Following the tour, the group dined at a renovated service station called Vinsetta Garage. Food was 'delish', wait staff was pleasant and efficient, and everyone had a great time!



Summer Evenings in Cana With Mary

Frequently, we refer to the "dog days of August" because most summer vacations are winding down and preparations begin for the new school year. NOT AT ST. FRANCIS!

For three Tuesdays in August, we learned more about and celebrating the life of our Blessed Mother. We looked at Mary in Scripture, Mary as image of the Church, and Mary as Model of Faith, Hope, and Love, and Mother of Believers. We listened as Ellen Ward gave brief talks in each of these areas, and then time was spent in table discussion.

The group enjoyed light refreshments of wine spritzers, a selection of artisanal beers, cheeses, crackers, chips and fruit.

Quench Your Thirst Days

Another new program takes off during the summer as adults of the parish gathered at Conor O'Neill's Pub (downtown Ann Arbor) for a monthly talk on various topics. In June, those gathered enjoyed our "Ask A Priest" session with Fr. James. Authors, Jane Knuth and her daughter Ellen joined us in July and shared their experiences in serving the Body of Christ—Jane, through her work at a St. Vincent DePaul Store, and Ellen through her work teaching

English to Japanese women. August was the very intriguing topic: "Brain and God: Are we hard-wired for spirituality?" People came early to dine or relax with a potent potable and others arrived simply to hear the talk. Missed the talks this summer? Watch for *Quench Your Thirst 2015!*



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

A Glimpse into our School



Spring 2014 was a very busy time at St. Francis. Recovering from the cold months of winter, we began our annual preparation for our Mary Lou Daby Spring Arts Festival. Our students' art work was on display for all to view and enjoy. Simultaneously, our students in the fourth grade were preparing for their performance of Peter Pan. The school was filled with laughter and many of the students' God-given talents.



Students in first grade worked collaboratively to build on math skills. Our differentiated math groups and instruction showed exceptional results in our students' progress in their math abilities. We are so proud of their hard work and personal drive to be successful in their academics.

As part of our S.T.R.E.A.M. direction, education and philosophy, our students work to program and implement technology into all aspects of their curriculum.

Middle school students use their tablets each day to collaborate and communicate with their teachers and peers on the academic level.



It was an amazing year filled with joy, and tears as we said goodbye to fabulous 8th graders. We are so excited to hear of all of their successes as they enter high school and continue on in their mission with Christ.

Julie Pritzel
Principal



Religion Award Winners for 2014 were the following:

- 5th grade: 5A – Ella Bozzi, Kasey Bernas; 5B – Bradley O'Brien, Kelsey Walworth
- 6th grade: 6A – Catherine Sancho, Rafid Farjo; 6B – Amelia Catanzaro, Ian Sood
- 7th grade (\$25.00 per student): 7A – Patrick Cummings, Lauren Carethers; 7B – Matthew DeBacker, Emma Purdy

8th Grade Graduation 2014:

Our 8th grade graduation Mass was held at St. Francis Church on May 29, 2014. During the Mass several students received individual awards. They are the following:

- The Jackie Marolf Memorial Fine Arts** – Aria Falcone, Marcus Flores
- The St. Francis School Scholarship Award** – Ryan Babcock
- The Mary Jo Peters Service Award** - Sarah Remillard
- The Hermann Family Scholarship Award** – Reem Farjo
- The St. Francis Religion Award** - Olivia Hervey, Evan Sood

Congratulations to all our graduates!

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School

Car Raffle Raised Over \$80,000 for the Third Consecutive Year!

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School held its 18th annual Car Raffle this past spring, raising \$81,645 in gross revenue. For three consecutive years now, the event has raised more than \$80,000! That is a wonderful “first” for the Raffle. The majority of the proceeds will go directly into the school’s operating budget in this fiscal year.

Thanks to the continued generosity of past school parent and parishioner **Ken Butman** (Dealer Principal, Gene Butman Ford) families had the opportunity to raise funds via a two-year lease on a red, 2014 Fusion as the grand prize, or \$10,000. The Raffle also featured three generous cash prizes, namely, \$5,000, \$2,500 and \$1,000.



The Car Raffle winners, drawn by Tom Butman, included **Neil Mueller** (\$10,000, ticket sold by Colleen Pierce), **Rebecca Elowski** (\$5,000, ticket sold by Maria Kreger), **Megan Williams** (\$2,500, ticket sold by Jackson Armstrong) and **Megan Williams** (\$1,000, ticket sold by Jackson Armstrong). The drawing took place during the Ice Cream Social on Friday, May 30. It was a joyful end-of-the-year celebration!



Since its inception in 1996, the Car Raffle has raised \$1,320,575 for Catholic education at St. Francis of Assisi. As one of the signature events of the school’s Development Office, the Car Raffle has helped keep the cost of tuition as low as possible for families, while enabling curriculum and capital improvements too.

The 18th annual Car Raffle was a great success thanks to Gene Butman Ford as well as the dedicated team of volunteers who helped plan and implement all Raffle logistics, the businesses and churches who enabled school families to sell tickets at their locations, the school families who sold tickets and made donations, the parish and community members who purchased tickets, and the top selling family prize donors. Thank you all so very much for contributing to our fabulous finish! We are blessed!



Together helping others along life's journey

St. Francis Parish commissions new Stephen Ministers

“Equip God’s people for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,”

Ephesians 4:12.

At Saturday evening Mass on June 21, 2014 we commissioned Stephen Ministers to administer Christ’s care on behalf of our congregation. After completing 50 hours of training over the past several months, our Stephen Ministers are equipped to offer one-to-one Christian care and empathetic support.

The Stephen Ministry has been serving the St. Francis Community since 2005. This is a free ministry service for our parish members. (This is not professional counseling, nor is this Spiritual Direction.)



The pain of grief, the fears of critical illness, difficult relationships, and the stress of job loss are just a few of life changing situations impacting our friends, family and neighbors every day. Our Stephen Ministers offer support by listening, praying with their care receivers, and being present to provide trust and acceptance that God can bring the hope and healing.

We are proud and honored to commission our newest class of Stephen Ministers : George Azrak, Kathy Casalino-Ghisleni, John Fleszar, Paul Rigan. We pray for God’s blessing upon them, and their care receivers.

They join our 14 currently active Stephen Ministers & Leaders: We are grateful for Diane

Davidson, Bob Ferris, Denise Fisher, Mark Gawronski, Bryan Howay, Marty Javornisky, Marilyn Jensen, Donna Johnston, Mary Karen McClellan, Frank Mezmarick, Sylvia Prather, Patricia Prettyman, Karen Shellie, Kathi Tobey, Scott Wright, and Cathie Zmachinski.

Become a trained Stephen Minister, a great listener & encourager or a Stephen Care Receiver. If you are in need of confidential, one-to-one Christian care—or if you have a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative who might benefit from this kind of care please talk to one of our Priests, pastoral staff members or Stephen Leaders, or contact the parish office: Scott Wright 821-2121 swright@stfrancisa2.org Learn more at: stfrancisa2.com/stephen/

All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC):

Did you take the classes, yet miss the formal commissioning last May? **Set aside Sunday, October 12** for the commissioning!

Still need the training? Start by taking the on-line formation classes on our website at STFRANCISA2.COM (click on EMHC online class) and be sure to contact Carol Fedewa at cfedewa@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2123.

(Pictured right:) Our EMHCs were formally commissioned last May for their Eucharistic work among us!



Who is my neighbor on this journey?

St. Francis Youth Service Trip to Guatemala



When your average teen is asked what they did on their summer vacation, not many can say they went to Guatemala. Of those few, an even smaller number are able to say they spent a week serving at the Francisco Coll School and Santa Clara Nursery for the children of the garbage dump community. Yet, that is exactly what a group of our teens and their intrepid chaperones did this summer.



From August 3-11, this group spent mornings in classrooms working with the children and teachers. This included learning how to count to 25 in a nursery classroom, helping 4-year-olds across the monkey bars, teaching some English lessons to 5th graders, and playing the most confusing game of tag imaginable during recess.



As if that was not enough to keep the teens busy, their afternoons were spent working on constructing the new second floor of Francisco Coll School so that the program can expand to include more children and more grades.



After such hard work, the teens enjoyed a weekend exploring other aspects of the rich history, culture, and faith of the Guatemalan people. They traveled to Lake Atitlan, saw the cathedral built in the 16th century, learned about the lengthy civil war, and enjoyed the majestic beauty of the volcanoes. On Sunday, August 10 they celebrated Mass among the ruins of a monastery and saw the bustling town of La Antigua Guatemala. If you would like to see more photos and read more about the trip, please see our travels on the website: <http://sfa2-pilgrimimages.blogspot.com/>.



If this trip sounds like something you would like to participate in next year, interested teens and their parents are invited to the Informational Meeting on September 17 at 7 pm.

High School Summer Youth Group



This summer the high school youth group invited all of the other Catholic youth groups in our area for an afternoon best described as Water Wars. Despite threatening weather, a great turn out from all the parishes ensured a great event. The crowning activity was the all-out water fight that came right before our picnic dinner. Everyone is looking forward to our second annual Water War next summer.



Visiting our Sister Parish

Our Food Drive and trip to Corpus Christi Parish, Detroit



Our St. Francis Food Drive on June 29, 2014 provided 352 bags of groceries for our Detroit sister parish, Corpus Christi. The food collected will help them provide summer camp meals for the

children of their parish neighborhood. Corpus Christi is sincerely grateful that again this summer St. Francis has assisted them in helping their little ones stay healthy.

The Food Drive Committee would like to thank all who shopped, helped carry and/or load the bags and those who drove to Corpus Christi to deliver and sort our donations and attend Mass. These include Jim and Linda Wiseman who provided the delivery truck and trailer.

A very heartfelt thank you to BUSCH'S FRESH FOOD MARKET on Green Road for donating the grocery bags, and to Mrs. Lemke's 6th grade class at St. Francis School for stapling the labels on the bags.

We thank our drive coordinator Mary Hayden and those who assisted with the distribution of the empty bags after Masses: Maria Barrio, Kathleen Downer, Christine Feak, Amy Gottfried, Deborah Hunt, Chris Kempton and family, Donna Krukowski, Maya Savarino, Mark Sturgis, Tricia Suttmann and Linda Wiseman; **and, all those who delivered the food to Detroit:** Justin Akinleye, Teri Billau, Julie Crosby, Crystal Heft, Maria Merola, Matt Schnaidt, Adeti Sengupta, Jake, Kenna, Kim & Mark Spieles, Tricia Suttmann, Kathi Tobey, Sharon Walker, Jim and Linda Wiseman, Ed and Sharon Wright, Elizabeth, Julia, Karol, Miriam and Scott Wright.

-- By our parish, St. Vincent Service Committee

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"Thanks for organizing the trip to Corpus Christi Parish. Our family got a lot out of the day and giving back." - Mark Spieles

"On behalf of all of the children that we serve, we would like to thank the parishioners at St. Francis for the generous food donation. Please know we appreciate your kindness and generosity!"

Fr. Don, Nalani, & Curtis, of Corpus Christi Parish.

A family excursion to our sister parish

Photos and reflection by Kenna Spieles

During my experience at Corpus Christi in Detroit, I realized that I should rethink my priorities in life. As my family and I drove through the damaged roads of Detroit, many unfamiliar scenes were witnessed throughout the drive. Homes that could be seen through to their backyards because of shattered windows or holes in the walls, and people pacing in parking lots, carrying all of their last belongings were just some of the experiences in Detroit.

I was thrilled to hear that the annual trip to Corpus Christi to help with their summer camp was soon approaching. I remembered previously how welcomed I was and how grateful the parishioners were for giving our time. This reminded me of how much everyone of us needs to devote our lives to helping those in need, especially at our sister parish in Detroit. Sorting through food and carrying bags are some of the activities that we from St. Francis were involved in during our visit. Time is hard to cut out of our busy schedules but this experience provided more than sorting food for their summer camp. After mass we were invited to join the parish for coffee and donuts, providing us time to communicate with many of the women and men who attend Corpus Christi.

While talking with them I realized how important it is to experience different cultures. I enjoyed learning about their children, their lifestyle and the history of the church. Many of us agreed that even though we are sister parishes, we need to do more events together to improve both Corpus Christi and St. Francis. I highly encourage that next time any event involving Corpus Christi is offered, please put in your time because you will definitely get more out the experience then you might realize.



A children's fitness day ...



St. Francis parishioner, Justin Akinleye, organized a physical fitness day during the camp. Roughly 45 children ran through a series of military style obstacles as teams.

The children had a great time. This is service to God through direct action!

Sharing with our fellow pilgrims

Thank you for the Shelter at Alpha House

Thank you for making our St. Francis Parish week at Alpha House a success, providing plenty of volunteers. We had 38 volunteers providing 175 hours of **service for the families**. This includes supplying 7 evening meals and 2 breakfasts. The staff of IHN Alpha House is always very appreciative of our efforts.

We appreciate all of our **Alpha House volunteers for May 2014**, including: Catherine Anderson, Moni Barera, Herb Black, Heidi Bryan, Jack Bryan, Katie Colella, Bob Conlin, Julie Conlin, Peter DeChants, Cindy DeGalan, Ehren Dirksen, Isabelle Dirksen, Lisa Filipe, Lydia Filipe, Christina & Sophia Filipe, Dorothy Greca, Vicki Hatch, Mary Hayden, Crystal Heft, Edwin Hoffman, Rosaleen Kirk, Emilie Lin, Theresa MacLean, Rosemary Markel, Ethan McConville, Greg McConville, Peter McConville, Anthony Mollo, Chris Mollo, Brady Noble, Chris Noble, Riley Noble, Joe Okros, Catherine Pietryga, Candice Schlager, Sarah Scholl, and Janet Starr.



With sincere appreciation and thanks,
Vicki Hatch, St. Francis parish coordinator

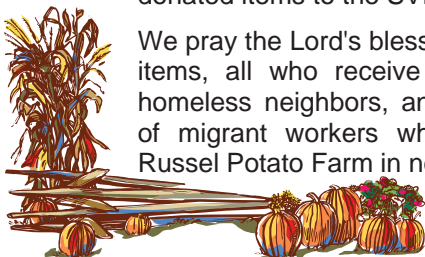
Thank you for the Generous Support!

Migrant farm workers, homeless persons, and people in our community who struggle to live on a lower income are being helped because of your generous donations of a good assortment of underwear, socks, kitchen towels and various toiletries.

The donations from St. Francis parishioners were even more this year than last year. This year 2014, a total of **42 bags** of items were collected and delivered to the SVDP Thrift Store. (That is an increase from the 35 bags collected last year 2013.)

Our St. Francis Parish St. Vincent Service Committee members are grateful for your participation in this drive. We especially want to thank, Amy Hesse for delivering all the donated items to the SVDP Thrift Store.

We pray the Lord's blessing upon all who donated items, all who receive these items, all of our homeless neighbors, and especially the families of migrant workers who are employed at Du Russel Potato Farm in nearby Manchester.



Parish Sustainable Garden Project

TWO garden initiatives under ONE sustainable garden project continue to grow at St Francis: (1) Feed Hungry Neighbors AND (2) Embrace Michigan Native Plants.

The "Feed Hungry Neighbors" initiative now in its 14th summer offers an even wider variety of fresh organic produce and herbs that are shared earlier and later in this season for the Perry Nursery School, a child care center for at-risk children and their families. This initiative was expanded this year to:

- Cultivate/plant berry plants (e.g., blueberries, red/black raspberries, and huckleberries)
- Use free standing garden containers/bags to grow more potatoes and peppers
- Install a second rain barrel donated by St Francis Girl Scout troop
- Rebuild new pole bean trellis, boards for raised beds, and wildlife (e.g., rabbits) barrier fence
- Identify all garden beds with faith based signage (e.g., scripture from 4 Gospels)
- Install hoop house on a raised bed to extend growing season for increased food production



The "Embrace Michigan Native Plants" initiative has been ramped up this Spring and Summer to introduce a variety of local plants to beautify the church grounds that also attract butterflies and birds and, additionally, to educate and encourage parish members and school children on native plants use.

This year's activities for this initiative have included:

- \$250 grant award from the Wildflower Association of Michigan for native plants
- Clearing/replanting of the church's 2 front steps brick planters including the addition of > 4000 pounds of fresh top soil and at least 8 types of native perennials, bushes and grasses
- Clearing/planting of the rectory's sloping backyard beds with more than a dozen types of native perennials, woody ornamentals, and evergreens
- Clearing a large (10 by 25 feet) overgrown school yard raised bed for future native plantings

For details and photos, check out our sustainable garden blog (<http://www.stfrancisa2.com/church-community/outreach/sustainable-garden> OR <http://sustainable-garden-project.blogspot.com/>). St Francis Sustainable Gardens ministry invites all parishioners to view them and welcomes volunteers and donations at any time. Contact: Garden coordinator & Master Gardener, Erich Jensen, 734.771.8511 or erichjensen@msn.com.

Sustaining Our Surroundings

St. Francis Recycled over 11,000 Pounds of Electronics!

Our parish had an opportunity in June to recycle old electronics, including unsold "leftovers" from the Rummage Sale. Our efforts were a huge success! St. Francis parishioners recycled a total of **11,564 pounds** of electronics:

- 4,416 pounds of servers
- 3,386 pounds of miscellaneous electronics
- 1,320 pounds of personal computers (desktop)
- 1,120 pounds of printers / copiers
- 920 pounds of CRT monitors/TVs
- 194 pounds of LCD monitors/TVs
- 120 pounds of laptops



It's important to recycle our old electronics instead of just throwing them away. Our gadgets contain hazardous materials such as lead, mercury, and cadmium—and electronic waste accounts for about 70% of the toxic waste in our landfills. Recycling keeps these hazardous materials out of our soil and our water supply. *Recycling is therefore a powerful way to care for God's creation.*

Reusing materials also reduces the demand for newly mined minerals, much of which is produced in war-torn countries and often by child slaves. In Eastern Congo, for example, armed groups who regularly commit mass rapes and murders earn hundreds of millions of dollars a year by trading primarily four minerals: the ores that produce tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold. The majority of these minerals end up in devices like cell phones, portable music players, and computers. *Recycling is therefore one way to help reduce human suffering.*

Honoring our Catholic commitment to social justice, GreenTech Recyclers guarantees that 100% of the e-waste will never enter a landfill, and also that it will not be sent to developing countries or to prisons for processing. For business recycling, learn more at their website: <http://greentechrecyclers.com>.

Thank You St. Francis

Thanks to your support, our parish St. Vincent de Paul needy fund assisted many during these past few months...



Dear St. Francis Community,



Once again you and your community have offered support to one of our clients and have stepped in to assist them where typical community resources had fallen short. In the case of our client, who was struggling as a single mother to provide an adequate home for her children and encountered an unexpected road block, she is forever grateful and this generous gift is a validation of her prayers. Not only will this allow this young woman to continue to work to provide for her children but it also gives her hope in a world that at times can feel like a series of never ending challenges. I envision a moment that her young children and she will be together smiling and enjoying what it means to be a family and this moment was made possible by your beneficent donation. Thank you for meaning so much to our client and to our community.

PORT provides holistic services to meet the unique challenges of mental illness, homelessness, substance abuse, and legal issues for a vulnerable population in Washtenaw County. The foundation of our service is based on the idea of meeting an individual where they're at. We do this through intensive outreach and support as we assist them through their journey to recovery and healing.

Gratefully, Thaddeus Jabzanka, MSW, Project Outreach (PORT), Community Support and Treatment Services, WASHTENAW COUNTY.

Thank You for a Child Bike Seat, for a Family with No Automobile

"Thank you for the great help. I feel much better to see my son being taken to the camp in the right child carrier. This would have not been possible if you were not there to help us. You are just awesome."



-Basumatary Family and Kyla Berry

We are young, we are old: we are One in Christ



Children's Choir

The Parish Children's choir, for all children in grades K-8, begins again for the new school year with rehearsal Thursday, September 11.

- at 6:15-6:55 p.m. for ALL children
- and 7:00-7:30 p.m. extended rehearsal for Middle School students.

Rehearsals take place in the choir room, located in the basement of church.

Questions? Contact Kelly Hernandez at khernandez731@gmail.com or (734) 904-3946, or Carol Fedewa at cfedewa@stfrancisa2.org or (734) 821-2123.

Pictured left: (above) The parish Children's Choir sings at the 12:30 p.m. Sunday Mass!

(below) Our talented middle school and high school youth joined together to form the band for Vacation Bible School Band this past summer.

God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.—St. Augustine

ST. FRANCIS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

734-821-2130
www.stfrancisa2.com
 Click on Religious Education

Every Child Deserves a Faith Education
 Religious Education classes for children in grades preK-8 begin the week of September 21, 2014.

Easy Options to Register your Child:

- 1 On-line with credit card payment at stfrancisa2.com/religious-education
- 2 Download a paper form from our website or find the form in the Sunday bulletin, or in the Religious Education and Parish offices.

 **Get involved!**

Share your faith with children. Volunteer to be a Religious Education Teacher (Catechist), Aide, or Leader for the Toddlers & 2s or Children's Liturgy! Contact Ellen Ward at ward@stfrancisa2.org or call 734-8212132..



St. Francis of Assisi
PARISH

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Pilgrims Tour Historic Detroit Churches

More than 100 people from St. Francis and nearby parishes traveled in two comfortable buses to visit four historic churches in Detroit on June 24, the feast day of St. John the Baptist.



The first stop was at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on Woodward Avenue to see the renovation of the building completed in 2003 to bring more natural light inside. Artifacts from Pope John Paul II's 1987 visit to the cathedral were on display there.

Detroit's Irish community built Most Holy Trinity Church, second on the bus tour, in the Corktown neighborhood in 1856. An unusual statue of St. Mary Magdalene stands near the entrance to the church.

The seniors attended Mass at Old St. Mary's Church in Greektown and toured the three grottos housed within: Gethsemane, depicting Christ's agony; Baptismal, depicting Christ's baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist; and Lourdes, a



replica of the shrine in southwestern France. The church building was completed in 1885 and houses three of the four bells from the 1843 church.

Pegasus Taverna in Greektown served delicious Greek food specialties to the tourists.



The final stop on the tour was the church of Ste. Anne de Detroit, built in 1886 in what is now known as Mexican Village in southwestern Detroit. The parish was founded in 1701 to serve the French population of the area, and Mass was celebrated in French at the church until 1942. Only St. Augustine, Florida, has a Roman Catholic church which has been in continuous use in the United States longer than Ste. Anne.

Occasional rain showers during the day never dampened the spirits of the travelers, who returned to Ann Arbor filled with memories of the beautiful worship spaces still serving the Catholics of Detroit.

By Dixie M. Cocagne