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FALL 2018

The Canticle

OF ST. FRANCIS

QUARTERLY PARISH NEWSLETTER VOLUME 23 • ISSUE 3

'ALL THE DARKNESS OF THE WORLD CANNOT EXTINGUISH THE LIGHT OF A SINGLE CANDLE'

BE THE LIGHT; SHARE THE LIGHT

St. Francis, our patron saint whom we celebrate in October, lived in a world before the onset of electricity and public lighting. Back then, folks relied on candles and torches and lived with the cycle of night and day -- they rose with the sun and went to bed with the stars.



So his words (in the title quote) have a particular meaning that is often lost in our world of continuous light. This edition of the Canticle, which covers all events and activities in our parish up to Advent, focuses

on this quote as its theme. In it, Francis reminds us of the power of light to brighten our lives and the lives of those we serve. In all that we do, we strive to be light in our ever-darkening world. In all we do,

we seek to bring the light of Christ into as many lives as we can.

So we invite you to share this light and to be light for others. Christ reminds us that we are the light of the world (*Mt 5:14*) and *with that growing light, we can overcome the darkness of violence, division, racial and social*

injustice, and the culture of death in our world. When you have finished reading this issue, pass it on to family and friends and invite them to be light for others!

Fr. James

BECOMING CATHOLIC/BIBLE STUDIES

ENCOURAGE SOMEONE TO BEGIN THE JOURNEY

The Acts of the Apostles tells of the descent of the Holy Spirit wherein the apostles heard “a noise like a strong driving wind” and then “there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them” (Acts 2:2-3). A large crowd gathered and heard each apostle speaking in his own language. Peter, the rock upon which Christ built his Church, testified to the risen Christ. And “about 3,000 persons were added that day.”



If only all conversions could be that easy. If only we could all witness the birth of Christ’s Church and hear the first pope, Peter, testify to the divinity of Jesus. “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38).

God speaks to us in so many languages: nature, scripture, other people. Often the whispering voice of God is heard in the quiet of our own heart. The passing thought, the persistent call to do something, the realization we have been putting something off for a

while--this too is the voice of God. Perhaps you have been thinking about becoming Catholic for a time. Perhaps a friend or loved one has expressed this interest to you.

The process, designed by the Church for adults and adapted for children, helps people to answer God’s call to explore discipleship in the Catholic Christian community. It is a process which respects the individual’s faith journey and helps the person further

discover God’s path. Through prayer, study, and worship with the community the individual becomes more attuned to the call of God through the working of the Holy Spirit.

If you know someone who has questions about our faith, perhaps you could encourage them to take the first step into RCIA. Be that light of the world for them. Shine *your light* on the path of *their journey*. Your words of encouragement and interest will be taken to heart.

Contact Marty Lucas at mlucas@stfrancisa2.org or (734) 821-2125 for more information on RCIA.

BIBLE STUDY

“May the Word be a lamp for your feet, and a light to guide your path.”

We usually hear this in relation to the dismissal of our catechumens, but those words are of great import for **all** in the pews.

Every biblical page is a threshold---a place to leave behind the routine, giving us words that will inspire and *truly light a fire*, a place of transformation.

These studies are good for men, women, young adults, seniors, those who winter here or snowbirds!

Select the day and time that best suits your schedule: Tuesdays at 10 a.m. OR Thursdays at 7 p.m. All study groups meet in the chapel.

Fall study: Sept. 11/13 to Dec. 11/13.

Winter study: Jan. 8/10 to April 11/13.

Join us to study Scripture and rekindle the fire of the Holy Spirit within!

Register at stfrancisa2.com, or contact Marty Lucas at mlucas@stfrancisa2.org or (734) 821-2125 for more information.

'LIFE IN THE SPIRIT' / SMALL GROUPS

'LIFE IN THE SPIRIT' SEMINAR

**Life in the Spirit Seminar:
Sundays, Oct. 14 and 21 and
Nov. 4, 11 and 18 at 6:15 p.m.**

YOLO - You only live once is a popular expression today, where the quest for experience becomes almost an end in itself. In the 1200s, St. Francis was very much the same, seeking the glory of conquest, when he was injured and forced to contemplate again the idea that you only live once. In that profound acknowledgement, St. Francis chose to live entirely for the Lord. In doing so, he was a light to his culture and time.

Seminars will be held in the PAC beginning at 6:15 p.m. and lasting until 7:30 p.m., we will be exploring the Life in the Spirit with Fr. James Conlon leading prayer for the Holy Spirit on Nov. 18. In the words of Pope Francis, "Each saint is a mission, planned by the Father to reflect and embody, at a specific moment in history, a certain aspect of the Gospel...You too need to see the entirety of your life as a mission." After all, YOLO.

Mark your calendar and join us for these Life in the Spirit

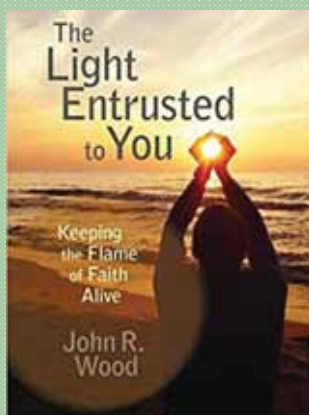


Glorious
Grace

Seminars. Sign up by showing up and if you are able, bring a dish or snack to share so that we'll have plenty of good conversation over good food. Contact Scott Wright at (734) 821-2121 swright@stfrancisa2.org or Ellen Ward at (734) 821-2130 ward@stfrancisa2.org.

JOIN A SMALL GROUP THIS ADVENT

In "The Light Entrusted to You, Keeping the Flame of Faith Alive," author John Wood explains that the best way to learn something is to teach it. In six "lessons" throughout the book, he explores some fundamental truths of our Catholic faith and how we can best share these truths and become the light of Christ to our families, workplace, and communities.



Each of the lesson titles makes up the acronym SAINT, this the purpose of our baptism and journey of faith, that we can "one day go out to meet the Lord" in communion with all the saints. In John Wood's words, "Become a Saint. Nothing else really matters."

Throughout the six-week meetings of small groups, we will discuss these truths of our faith and how we can best share these truths with those around us. This session will aim to fan the flame of faith and love of God in you, so that you might, in the words of St. Catherine of Siena, "set the world ablaze."

Small groups meet on different days and times, choose one that works best for you. Sign-up can be found on our web page or in the bulletin.

If you are interested in forming a small group with your friends, family, and fellow parishioners contact Kelly Hernandez at: khernandez@stfrancisa2.org or call (734) 821-2122.

SCHOOL NEWS/CURSILLO

ST. FRANCIS SCHOOL NEWS

A new school year is now underway at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School! We are pleased to share that our enrollment continues to grow and several grade levels are currently full.

We welcome the following new faculty members to our team for the 2018-2019 school year:

Joan DesJarlais (KA aide); **Sara Froncowiak** (KB); **Maria Jakimcius** (3A); **Eric Marshall** (8A homeroom/MS math); **Lisa Pham** (Computers), and **Jeff Moyer** (Part-time physical education and math)

Over the summer members of our school choir traveled to Barcelona, Spain to sing in the Pueri Cantores International Congress. The choir performed with other ensembles from around the world singing for peace, and worshipping God. We are so proud of our students!

This August, science teachers participated in a five-day training on Next Generation Science Standards. This student-centered, research-based learning approach will be implemented over the next three years.



Fr. James and the Middle School Choir in Barcelona

In the upcoming school year, staff members will continue to engage in mindfulness and prayerful meditation, and this year a goal is to also help our students grow in mindfulness. Teachers will be looking for ways to integrate these practices into lessons and activities, helping students to be more present in their daily activities of prayer, academic studies, and social interactions.

Our teachers and students look forward to a great year! Please keep St. Francis school, staff, and families in your prayers.

CURSILLO —ENCUENTRO CON CRISTO

¡Tu puedes ser una vela encendida en este mundo!

¡Cursillo en español!

Cursillo es un **encuentro con Cristo** que promueve una revitalización espiritual de nuestro mundo. Al vivir una vida plenamente cristiana, llevamos a Cristo a otros, incluidos los miembros de nuestra familia, la escuela, el trabajo, etc. Cursillo desarrolla la conciencia de que estamos llamados a ser líderes.

El Movimiento de Cursillo se presenta durante un período consecutivo de setenta y dos horas llamado "Fin de Semana de Tres Días". Durante este fin de semana, que comienza el jueves por la noche y finaliza el domingo por la noche, un equipo de religiosos y laicos presenta una serie de charlas a los candidatos y todo el grupo pide al Espíritu Santo que les ilumine y les dé orientación. *El cuarto día es el resto de tu vida.*

Marca tu calendario, este año, **del 6 al 9 de septiembre habrá un Cursillo para hombres y del 13 al 16 de septiembre, habrá un Cursillo para mujeres.** Los fines de semana de la primavera de 2019 serán en inglés. **Inscríbete y obtén más información en: lansingcursillo.org/**



ACCOMPANY US ON PILGRIMAGE

IN PURSUIT OF BISHOP BARAGA: OCT. 9 & 10 WITH FR. JAMES

Venerable Frederic Baraga, Michigan's snowshoe priest, ministered to the European immigrants and the native peoples in the mid-1800s. Bishop Baraga spoke eight different languages and founded several missions in the U.P., often traveling for hours by snowshoe.

Declared venerable in 2012, Bishop Baraga played an important role in sharing the love of God in the Catholic faith by his teachings and works, establishing missions, schools, and literary efforts to preserve the Ojibwa native language, and by advocating for both the immigrant and native peoples.

Dedicated to the Lord, Bishop Baraga was known for giving the first hour (in prayer) to God in the dark forest and on the shores of lakes, amidst the roaring storms as well as in his private chapel or in some hidden corner of the crowded shopping places while on his journey...he persisted in following this rule even when he had been traveling under great hardships, by water and by land; sometimes even when he had not been able to sleep until midnight. Bishop Baraga understood well, the sweetness of the light of Christ.

Join us on pilgrimage with Fr. James Conlon, pastor, on Oct. 9 and 10 to learn and visit some of the sites important to Bishop Baraga. Some planned highlights include:

- the Cross in the Woods Catholic Shrine, Indian River;
- exploring an early Baraga mission on Sugar Island;
- touring Sault locks (weather permitting) with the US Army Corps of Engineers;
- seeing the snowshoes of this holy bishop in St. Mary's proto-cathedral in Sault Ste. Marie.

The spiritual experiences of Mass, worship, and prayer, combined with the glory of God's nature in the fall season, promise to deepen our love and commitment for our Lord.

We leave around 7 a.m. on Oct. 9, and return around 11 p.m. on Oct. 10. \$295/person (double room occupancy) or \$540/couple. The price includes transportation by coach, two lunches, breakfast, two dinners and all tour fees. Sign up on our website: stfrancisa2.com/pilgrimages/ For questions, contact Scott Wright (at 734-821-2121, swright@stfrancisa2.org) or Ellen Ward (at 734-821-2130, ward@stfrancisa2.org).

Join Fr. James Conlon on Pilgrimage to Discover the Catholic Heritage of Mexico with Guadalupe and more, Nov. 26 to Dec. 5, 2018

This is a 10-day exciting, jam-packed pilgrimage and tour of Mexico. This is a safe trip escorted by Steve & Janet Ray, producers of the Footprints of God documentaries. The areas we tour are wonderful, free of danger and clean and friendly. For information, visit: footprintsofgodpilgrimages.com or contact Corporate Travel at (800) 727-1999 ext. 150.

Pilgrimage to Italy: June 20-29, 2019

Come on this life-changing pilgrimage as we travel with Fr. James to Assisi, Siena, and Rome.

This 10-day journey takes us to Assisi as we tour beautiful basilicas, burial sites, and other holy places. Our journey also takes us to Rome where we will explore and have a general audience with Pope Francis (pending confirmation). Our pilgrimage includes daily Mass, and music provided by some members of our music ministry. For information, visit the parish website or contact our Corporate Travel rep, Dave O'Brien, at dobrien@ctscentral.net or (313) 565-8888 ext. 142.

WITNESS TO HOPE UPDATE / 'EMMAUS ROAD' EVENT

UPDATE: WITNESS TO HOPE/NEW PARISH MINISTRY CENTER

Our initial survey of the property is almost complete and we have taken the information to the city to open negotiations to build the Ministry Center. By September, our architect and building committee will have finished the initial program model for the new Ministry Center. A program model is a written interpretation of what the building should look like and provides the framework for the architect to design the Ministry Center with all of the parameters in mind.



Coming later this fall, the building committee and the architect will host several town hall meetings to introduce and discuss the new program model and welcome any feedback not already considered. The rest of 2018 and all of 2019 will be spent drawing up plans for the new Ministry Center and submitting these plans for approval to the City of Ann Arbor and the Diocese of Lansing. By early 2020, we should begin the

bidding process for a general contractor. After that, we will have to wait until we receive most of the money from Witness to Hope pledge payments. We will need to have at least \$4.5 million in our parish account from Witness to Hope payments before the Diocese of Lansing will allow us to build. As of June 30, 2018, we have received \$699,898.54.

SAVE THE DATE—FEBRUARY 16
'EMMAUS ROAD: ONE DAY, ONE STORY'

“Are you the only one who does not know of the things that have taken place?”

We are each part of God’s love story---the story of our salvation. That story is God’s great desire to share His life with us that began with creation and continues throughout history to us today. God’s love story is told in the Bible.



Jesus, on the day of His resurrection, journeyed with two disciples, interpreting from scriptures all that pertained to Him.

We too are travelers on that road who sometimes require guides to help us understand Sacred Scripture.

Explore books and themes of the Bible in this *FREE* event!
9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Suggested donation for lunch: \$7.

“Through Christ the whole structure is held together and grows into a temple sacred in the Lord” (Eph 2:21)

For Year Ended June 30, 2018

2018 Annual Report

To the People of St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Dear fellow parishioners,

Each year I have the opportunity to write an introduction to our annual parish report. After much reflection, I landed on the above text from Ephesians which reminds us all of our identity in Christ and our purpose as the Church in our world. We are to build a sacred temple where the Lord is worshipped and served through our liturgical life and our many other ministries and apostolic works.

The past year has been a very busy one for us on all fronts. We have raised over \$6.6 million of our \$8 million pledge goal toward building our new Ministry Center - our campaign continues and the opportunity to gift is still there. Our various ministries continue to grow and to flourish. We have a lot to give thanks for and as always a lot of work yet to do - but then that is the nature of being Church - the work of the gospel is never ending. Yet, as in all things we trust in the Lord and pray God's anointing on our endeavors.

This annual report should give you a taste of what we have achieved in the past year. I hope that you will take a few minutes to review it and to note all that we together have achieved.

Fr. James Conlon
Pastor

Administration, Development & Technology

Diane Green-Boyd, Jim Russo & Michael Scott



May 2018: Ground blessing of west lawn

“I hope that all communities will devote the necessary effort to advancing along the path of a pastoral and missionary conversion which cannot leave things as they presently are. ‘Mere administration’ can no longer be enough. Throughout the world, let us be ‘permanently in a state of mission’” (Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel*, 25).

The Witness to Hope capital campaign to build a new ministry center for the parish dominated much of the efforts that fall under the parish's day-to-day administration. Collaboration among the pastor, parish leadership, architects, the City of Ann Arbor, and parishioners in general made the arrival at our new parish ministry center's future ground breaking a more tangible reality. The envisioned 15,000 square foot ministry center will create needed office, meeting, and social space for our parish campus on the west side of the church. Parish wide improvements to technology and communications have been conducted and continue to be envisioned. Development efforts directly related to our parish school continued to be successful as they have been in the past due to the generosity and sacrifice of parishioners.

Evangelization

Claudia Morales Farfan, Kelly Hernandez, Jake Kanitz, Marty Lucas

"The Church which 'goes forth' is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice. An evangelizing community knows that the Lord has taken the initiative, he has loved us first (cf. 1 Jn 4:19), and therefore we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast. Such a community has an endless desire to show mercy, the fruit of its own experience of the power of the Father's infinite mercy" (Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel, 24).



Our parish has dedicated itself to reaching out to those seeking to know Christ, to enrich those who already have an existing personal relationship with Jesus, and to provide support to all who seek salvation, companionship, and sanctification through Jesus. A special outreach to Spanish-speaking people continued through our liturgy, religious education programs, and parish school. Our youth and young adult ministries continued to support younger parishioners through retreats, liturgical events, and Christian social outreach. Mark Price's 3-night performance in February helped many parishioners and visitors to encounter Christ in a dramatic way. The parish men's ministry continued to grow with the presence of U of M head basketball Coach John Beilein being a major highlight of the year with over 300 men attending Evening Prayer (photo left), dinner, and a talk by Coach Beilein.



Men at Evening Prayer

The Women's Faith & Fellowship and the various adult faith groups continued to serve as resources for parishioners who wish to grow closer to Christ, to support one another, and to encourage parishioners to "go and announce the Gospel of the Lord."

Education & Catechesis

Julie Fantone Pritzel & Ellen Ward

"In fulfilling its educational role, the Church, eager to employ all suitable aids, is concerned especially about those which are her very own. Foremost among these is catechetical instruction, which enlightens and strengthens the faith, nourishes life according to the spirit of Christ, leads to intelligent and active participation in the liturgical mystery and gives motivation for apostolic activity" (Paul VI, Declaration on Christian Education, 4).



First Eucharist

Religious Education and St. Francis of Assisi School grew in numbers and continued to shine as vibrant ministries of the parish. St. Francis School saw enrollment continue to increase, to provide creative and constructive professional development to the faculty and staff, and to make improvements to the school facilities including the library, and gymnasium. A review and update of the school's science curriculum has been planned for the coming school year. School students were enriched through learning about



St. Francis School students at work

and carrying out activities related to Christian social justice, through music, visual, and dramatic arts, and athletics. St. Francis School was listed in the *Ann Arbor Family Press* as the 2018 "favorite private school." Religious education continued

to provide catechesis and sacramental formation for hundreds of parish children during the school year, through summer Vacation Bible School, and many other programs and events. It has also expanded outreach to the parish's Latino / Spanish-speaking community through use of bilingual texts and the recruitment & training



Confirmation

of bilingual volunteers. The implementation of the Montessori inspired Catechesis of the Good Shepherd preschool program has been planned for the coming year.

Worship & Music

Jonathan Hasey & Susan Wawrzaszek

Liturgical ministries were expanded and enriched. New liturgical ministers were trained, including new extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, and many new servers as the St. Francis Catholic School fifth graders all were trained as servers as part of their religious instruction, as well as other parishioners at various grade levels. The worship commission saw ten new members accept the ministry of overseeing the parish's worship and liturgical ministry. Latino / Spanish-speaking parishioners have been and continue to be sought out to participate in liturgical ministries. A Mass in Spanish (with confessions prior) on Saturdays at 7:00 p.m. was added to our Sunday liturgy schedule to reach out to those who speak Spanish as their first language, and to further enrich our diverse community of faith. Our music program saw continued



internal change and growth, and it continues to reach out to the community beyond our parish through various concerts that bring many visitors to the parish church. The sound and display technology in the church is under evaluation so it can better serve our liturgical needs in the future.



"... [B]y participating in the liturgy we make our own the language of Mother Church, we learn to speak in her and for her. Of course, as I have already said, this happens gradually, little by little. I must immerse myself ever more deeply in the words of the Church with my prayer, with my life, with my suffering, with my joy, and with my thought. It is a process that transforms us" (Benedict XVI, General Audience 3, Oct. 2012).

Christian Outreach, Service, & Justice

Scott Wright

St. Francis Parish advanced in its outreach to the poor, the homebound, and those in any kind of need. Training and education for Stephen Ministers were conducted at the parish during the past year. Regular and extraordinary food drives and fundraisers for the poor in our region and throughout the world, particularly in the Diocese of Kottappuram in India, successfully raised awareness among parishioners that human need knows no borders or bounds. Continuing education on the Church's concern for the poor, the natural environment, and for the migrant fueled the drive of parishioners to seek justice both in theory and in deeds.



2018 Food Drive for Kids—delivered to our Detroit sister parish

"Jesus loves each person no matter what his or her culture, race, limits or weakness may be. For him, each person is important; each one is 'holy ground'; each one is part of a common humanity" (Jean Vanier, The Scandal of Service, 61).

Parish Operations

Michael Scott

"The Church is both visible and spiritual, a hierarchical society and the Mystical Body of Christ. She is one, yet formed of two components, human and divine. That is her mystery, which only faith can accept." Catechism of the Catholic Church 779

Careful administration and operations of St. Francis of Assisi Parish ensures that all our resources, financial and otherwise, are used for the most efficient purposes and ultimately for the building up of the Kingdom of God. We strive to recycle as much as possible, cut down on paper usage and to encourage all to communicate electronically.

From our Church General Fund a school HVAC rooftop unit, and a steam boiler were replaced, and new concrete work was done on steps/ramps on the northeast part of the church. Independently controlled thermostats were installed in the four, 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms. We also embarked on a longer term parking lot improvement plan to be completed by 2020. Thanks to support of our School fund raising events, the *Jog-a-thon* provided for Gym improvements, while the *2018 Car Raffle* provided St. Francis School Fine Arts program with new stage lighting & sound in the PAC, and new text books.

Future needs of our physical plant range from replacing the remaining two HVAC school rooftop units (\$42,826 already budgeted), replacing the wood frames around the stain glass in the church that have rotted (estimate \$15,000+), replacing the failing retaining wall, brickwork, front steps & sidewalk at the church main entrance (\$250,000+). This will include a street level sidewalk that will connect the east and west sides of the church. We are researching an upgrade to our current camera and recording system in the church to help improve the quality of our live-streamed Masses to our homebound parishioners.

Count the ways ...

Baptisms: 66 infant/child, 13 adults
Prepared for Baptism: 116 parents
Weddings at St. Francis: 13 + 6 convalidations
Prepared for marriage: 18 couples
First Eucharist: 108 students
Confirmations: 122 youth & adults
Funerals: 56
Coffee & Chat with a Priest: 1,000 people with
25 priests
Newly registered Parish Families: 180
Total registered households: 2,815



StFrancisA2.com For more information about parish visit our website: StFrancisA2.com

Conclusion

No report can adequately describe the numerous and diverse activities of our large, dynamic parish and school. By highlighting a sample of our major accomplishments each year in an Annual Report, we communicate our priorities as a parish and we invite all members to take on a greater role in parish life. Whatever your talents, there is a place for you to serve.

Have an idea?

Your Pastor and Pastoral Team value your input for continued growth and improvement. Please contact Fr. James Conlon at frjames@stfrancis2.org

Remember the greatest gift we can give another is the gift of Christ!

PARISH FINANCIAL STATEMENT



St. Francis of Assisi
PARISH

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
Fiscal year ending June 30, 2018

Parish Financial Statement

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Total Parish Operating Income			
Church: Sunday Collection, Interest, Mass Stipends, Altar Society, Memorial Garden, Other	\$2,399,055.		48.9%
Bequests and Memorial Gifts	1,475.		0.0
Religious Education: Tuition, Grade School, Youth and Adult Ed Programs	59,432.		1.2
School, Preschool, and Extended School Programs Tuition, Fees, Special Donations, ETF Distribution	<u>2,444,532.</u>		<u>49.8</u>
Total Income	\$4,904,494.		100.0%
Total Parish Operating Expenses			
Church: Sunday Collection, Interest, Mass Stipends, Music, Altar Society, Memorial Garden, Greater Mission Fee, Other		\$1,064,631.	21.8%
Religious Education		333,702.	6.8
School, Preschool, and Extended School Programs School Appeal, Car Raffle, Tuition Assistance, Hopes and Dreams, Other		2,591,011.	53.0
Plant Operations: Maintenance, Contract Services, Property and Liability Insurance, Snow Removal and Utilities		797,201.	16.3
Capital Expenditures: Replacement of Church Steps and sidewalks, Replacement of HVAC unit above school library, parking lot enhancements		<u>100,889.</u>	<u>2.1</u>
Total Expenses		\$4,887,433.	100.0%
Net Income to Expenses		\$ 17,060.	.3%

Parish Fundraising and Capital Campaign Activities

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Net</u>
DEVELOPMENT			
Fundraising Income: Car Raffle, Jog-a-thon, Hopes and Dreams, Tuition Assistance, other Development income	\$243,497.		
Fundraising Expenses: Car Raffle, Jog-a-thon, Hopes and Dreams, Tuition Assistance, other Development costs		<u>\$ 41,159.</u>	
Net FY2017/2018 for future use			\$202,337.
WITNESS TO HOPE / MINISTRY CENTER CAMPAIGN			
Witness to Hope Income: Parish Share received for FY2017/2018, and Interest	\$703,255.		
Witness to Hope Expenses: Architect fees for FY2017/2018		<u>\$ 11,277.</u>	
Net (as of June 30, 2018) toward the Ministry Center			\$691,979.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



Women's Faith and Fellowship
 Explore the beauty & challenge
 of being a Catholic woman

The Women's Faith & Fellowship hosts monthly gatherings and speakers regarding topics of faith. All gatherings are open to women in all stages of life. Through prayer, fellowship, and study, we strive to grow in our relationship with Christ and one another.

'HOW TO BE A MARY IN A MARTHA WORLD'

Join us:

"How to Be a Mary
 in a Martha World"
 with Sheri Wohlfert

Thursday, Sept. 27

6:30 p.m. (church) Rosary
 and Benediction

7 p.m. (PAC) Fellowship
 and Talk

What a busy world we live in today! With all the things to get done each day, it can be hard to find time for prayer and deepening our relationship with God. Sheri Wohlfert

is a Catholic wife, mom, speaker, and teacher whose ministry is to encourage others to find the simple ways each day to find God.

Whether it's the laundry, a ball game, work, chores, and the myriad of other things that pile up, we can all find the joy and beauty in these tasks when we find God through them. Sheri will speak on how we can find our Lord even in the most routine and mundane chores.



Sheri Wohlfert

**'CLARE & FRANCIS:
 A HEAVENLY FRIENDSHIP'**

Thursday, Oct. 25th with Sister Joan Jurski

6:30 p.m. (church) Adoration, Song
 and Benediction

7 p.m. (PAC) Fellowship and Talk

Francis, the son of a rich merchant left everything in pursuit of Christ. Clare followed in his path, leaving her home and family to become a bride of Christ. Sister Joan, of the Sylvania Franciscan Sisters, will speak on how this relationship between these disciples led them to deeper faith and impacted the world for centuries to come.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY/MEN'S MINISTRY



WOMEN'S DAY OF REFLECTION
 'IN YOUR PRESENCE IS
 FULLNESS OF JOY'

If I believe that I have faith in God, how does that faith lead me to an encounter with Jesus? How then do I manifest that light of Christ out to others?

All women of the parish are invited to an on-campus retreat with guest director, Kathleen Lindemann. Our day begins with hospitality and Morning Prayer followed by Kathleen's first talk: "Touching the Hem of Jesus". Kathleen will focus on the scripture passage of the miraculous healing of the woman with the hemorrhage and how her trust in God also led her to complete trust in His saving power. This salvation is available to each of us every day. We will gather for a catered lunch and spend time socializing. In the afternoon, Kathleen will help us understand the *GPS* (God Provides the Spirit) Coordinates God sends us to live out the virtues and find joy in our everyday lives leading us back to Him.

Take a one-day break from the bustle of your own lives. Get your hearts ready for the Advent Season. Prepare room for Christ at Christmas. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, Nov. 17, 9:30 am at St. Francis; we will conclude with Mass at 5 p.m.** Cost: \$20. Register online or by contacting Marty Lucas at mlucas@stfrancisa2.org or 821-2125.

The St. Francis **Men's Ministry** exists to join men more fully each day in the mission of the Holy Spirit, by equipping them to live as disciples of Jesus Christ, to support and encourage one another through prayer and sharing, and to demonstrate the love of the Father through word and deed to a world in need.

MEN'S MINISTRY EVENTS

Thursday, Sept. 20
 Join Fr. James,
 Fr. Shaun,
 and Dcn. Gene for:
 Beer 'n' Brats with
 the Padres



Bring your questions
 regarding our faith
 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer (church)
 7 p.m. Dinner and Q&A (PAC)

Oct. 18: Peter Herbeck:
 "St. Francis Used Words!"
 Have you ever heard the quote "Preach the Gospel always and when necessary use words"? Did you know that St. Francis never said this? Unfortunately, this attribution has led some to believe that St. Francis rarely used words to evangelize. Peter Herbeck will explain from first-hand accounts how St. Francis, following in the example of Jesus and His disciples, used words to evangelize!



Nov. 15: Marty Bodnar:
 "Basketball, the Law,
 and the Lord"
 Devout Catholic, attorney, and former U of M Basketball player, Marty Bodnar, will share with us his personal testimony of faith. He will speak on how his faith in Jesus Christ has motivated his work as an attorney and passion for collegiate athletics.



MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

WELCOME BACK, MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH!

When: Sept. 16, 3:30-4:45 p.m.

Where: St. Francis gym

Who: All middle school youth in grades 6-8 in the parish, religious education, and St. Francis school.

What: Welcome back party to kick off the year with games, food, and awesomeness. Bring your favorite dish to pass AND, meet your new Middle School Youth Minister, Alli Kanitz!

Contact: Andrew Kanitz at akanitz56@gmail.com for questions!



Andrew Kanitz



"The revelation of your words sheds light, gives understanding to the simple (Psalm 119:130)."

6TH GRADE BIBLE MASS

Traditionally, St. Francis Parish provides bibles to the 6th-grade students enrolled in St. Francis School or parish religious education classes. The bibles are presented during Mass with a special blessing.

This year's bible presentation will take place at the 5 p.m. Mass on Sunday, Oct. 28.

A social of pizza, salad, and pop (hosted by the middle school youth group) follows the bible Mass in the PAC. A donation of \$7/ person (\$25/family) at the door is appreciated. Please RSVP at stfreled@stfrancisa2.org or call (734) 821-2130 with number attending.

TRUNK N' TREAT

Join us for a Trunk n' Treat Festival on **Wednesday, Oct. 24 at 6:30 p.m. in the PAC & parking lot of the church.** Our 2018 theme is *"All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle."*--St. Francis

What: Trunk n' Treat is a festival of treats (car trunk to car trunk) and children's games and activities.

Where: PAC & parking lot of church

When: Wednesday, Oct. 24 beginning at 6:30 p.m. and lasting a little over an hour

Why: To have fun and share our faith with one another!

How: Middle school youth and families: please decorate the trunk of your car with your favorite bible story, saint, or a theme illustrating the light of Christ or of our faith. Parents, bring and park the car by 6:15 p.m. We'll have prizes for the best decorated car trunk!

Questions or the RSVP for your car trunk: Contact Andrew or Alli Kanitz at akanitz56@gmail.com or call the Religious Education Office at (734) 821-2130.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES START SEPT. 23

To know of the love of the Lord is a great treasure that we give to our children and grandchildren. The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us, "Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child's earliest years... The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents" (CCC 2226).

If your child is not enrolled in St. Francis Parish School, please register your child for Religious Education classes. Classes are for children in grades preschool through 8th

grade and include sacramental preparation. Classes begin the week of September 23. Please register online at stfrancisa2.com or pick up a form at the Parish or Religious Education offices.

Every child has the right to an education in the Faith and we take this obligation to heart. If finances or language spoken in the home make things difficult for you or your child, please let us know and we'll arrange for the aid that your child needs.

For more information, please contact us at stfired@stfrancisa2.org or (734)821-2130 or Ellen Ward, Director at ward@stfrancisa2.org.

CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD FOR PRESCHOOL CHILDREN STARTS SEPT. 16

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is an approach to the religious formation of young children that allows for the development of Faith using the methods of Maria Montessori. Children gather in a room prepared for them, which contains simple materials for them to play and interact with.

A young child, yet unable to read, can begin to understand a biblical passage or a prayer from the liturgy by taking the created objects that represent that text and by working (playing) with it — placing wood figures of sheep in a sheepfold of the Good Shepherd, setting

sculpted apostles around a Last Supper table, or preparing a small altar with the furnishings used for the Eucharist.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish is offering a Sunday preschool class designed with the Montessori methods. Classes begin Sept. 16 and run for two hours (10:20 a.m.-12:20 pm) each Sunday. Parents may choose the frequency of classes for their child to attend, either every Sunday or two a month.

Learn more about the program by contacting Joan Kangas at jkangas16@gmail.com or (734) 474-4609 or by contacting the



Religious Education Office at stfired@stfrancisa2.org (734) 821-2130. You may sign up your child on our website at: stfrancisa2.com



St. Francis of Assisi
PARISH

2150 Frieze Avenue
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CANTICLE OF ST. FRANCIS

FALL 2018

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‘PLANNED AGING AT ST. FRANCIS’— OCT. 13

Join us for a planned aging workshop on **Saturday morning, Oct. 13** in the Parish Activities Center. This breakfast workshop will help the senior members of our community to better understand medical, financial, and housing decisions as we age.

This morning workshop will include short talks by our guests:

- a lawyer,
- a finance person,
- a realtor,
- Fr. James Conlon on funeral planning for Catholics

Representatives from the Housing Bureau for Seniors, along with several independent living and assisted living communities in our area will be part of this workshop.



To RSVP or for more information on this event contact Scott Wright (swright@stfrancisa2.org or 734-821-2121).