# The Canticle of St. Francis

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Parish Newsletter: Volume 6, Issue 2

**Summer 2001** 

## Parish Neighborhoods Initiated

As you are aware, St. Francis is a very transient community. In our parish between 300-400 households move in and out each year.

To help us to better introduce new people to our parish community, our Pastoral Council has taken several initiatives. One of these is to break our parish into fiftyone *Neighborhoods* each containing approximately fifty Catholic households. Each *Neighborhood* is lead by a *Neighborhood Coordinator*.

The Coordinator's chief responsibilities are to welcome new households into our parish, help them to understand and link up with the various ministries and groups, and to familiarize them with their local parish neighborhood. The Coordinator will also facilitate/help when someone from the parish neighborhood is in need (ie. meals when someone is ill).

All of this is a structural way of making sure that the newcomers are welcomed and nourished in our parish community. Just as important: *Each of us is called to be an Ambassador for Christ in our local Catholic community*. Be sure to welcome newcomers in your neighborhood. If they are Catholic, tell them about St. Francis; you might even offer to meet them at church that first Sunday so they don't feel so alone.

Also at Mass, if you see someone you don't know or who looks new, take time to introduce yourself and welcome them. That simple gesture on your part, may mean more than you will ever know.

Remember, hospitality is the first (and some would say most important) step in evangelization and proclamation of the Gospel.

Fr. Jim McDougall, Pastor



## <u>A BUS of Food for</u> <u>St. Benedict Parish!</u>

On Sunday, June 10 St. Francis Parishioners will be providing about 700 grocery bags of non-perishable food items for the needy at our sister parish, St. Benedict Church in Highland Park, and for *Wellness House*. *Wellness House* is their ministry that provides food and housing for people with HIV and AIDS.

We invite you to be involved by donating food. On the weekend of June 2/3 empty food bags will be distributed at all the Masses. Take a bag and purchase the items listed on the bag. During the weekend Masses of June 9/10 return the full food bag during the "presentation of gifts".

Also, consider helping us deliver the food to St. Benedict Church: by <u>riding the school bus</u> or driving your own van or mini-van in our delivery caravan group. We will depart from St. Francis <u>at 10 AM Sunday, June 10</u>. And, we will plan to stay for the St. Benedict 12:00 Noon Mass. We plan to be back at St. Francis by 4:30PM.

<del>~</del>	
Please, complete the form below by indicating how you	plan
to help. Return it in the collection basket or Fax (734-8	321-
2102) it to the parish office by Monday, May 27.	

Questions call Scott Wright 821-2121.

"On Sunday, <u>June 10</u> I will help deliver food bags to St. Benedict."

Name:		E-mail:	
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(Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or an adult guardian.)



## ADULT EDUCATION & FORMATION

**CONTACT:** Charline List [821-2125 or cllist@catholic.org]

### Kick off this Summer with two great education & formation opportunities:

#### Angels and Icons: A Celebration of Gifts

Pentecost Weekend, June 2/3<sup>rd</sup>
In the Parish Activity Center

Come see a special showing of angel art and icons presented by world-class artists. You will also have the opportunity to view the work of the artists of St. Francis parish, from novice to accomplished. The pieces of one of our parishioners, Anna Sandhu, who works in conjunction with an iconographer in Italy, will be displayed as well.

Featured on this weekend is the work of Ronald Pavsner, whose angel art has gained national recognition by the selection of two of his pieces for the John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, D.C. Ronald is a retired Royal Oak Schools art teacher who lives in Birmingham. His piece entitled, "Millennium Angel with the Candle," has been accepted at the



National Catholic Museum of Art and History in New York
City. Mr. Pavsner has had feature stories about his work in the Michigan Catholic and the Detroit Free Press. He will have some of his small prints for sale in the \$20-\$30 range...very affordable! Ron

states that the purpose for his work is to "communicate God's message. God is the one who is responsible for all this. I am just the vehicle. I was given a talent and calling to do it. It's not about me. It's about the Lord and what our purpose is, which is to find God. It is to bring Christ's peace into the world. This is my way of doing it."

Don't miss this great cultural and spiritual opportunity!

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### **Scripture Study: The Song of Songs**

#### Tuesday, June 5 and 12

7:00 p.m. in the School Music Room Presenter: Fr. Jay Kersten

"No book of the Old Testament is more difficult to interpret than *The Song of* 



Songs. It is clearly a collection of love poems full of sensuous imagery. It promotes no apparent theological or moral values and never even mentions God. For more than 2000 years, the Song of Songs has been not only a fascination but also something of a riddle." - Catholic Study Bible

Passages from the *Song of Songs* have been selected many times over by brides and grooms for proclamation at their weddings. What better month is there than June to delve into these beautiful and challenging passages, broken open with the clarity and depth of understanding that are the hallmark of Father Jay's presentations.

### **CHRISTIAN INITIATION**

Having completed their sacramental initiation into the



Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, our newly initiated adults and children of catechetical age continue their journey as neophytes for the coming year. Asked to comment on what the RCIA journey has meant to them, some of our neophytes replied:

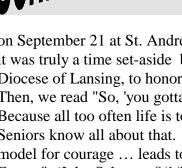
"Becoming Catholic has been the most important step of my life. By joining God's Church on earth, I have a giant new family (one billion strong) and a new understanding of the purpose of human life. A friend got me in the door but the Mass made me keep coming back. During Mass I started to encounter God, Jesus, Mary, the saints and angels. How did I ever get along before I experienced all these helpers? Not very well! Now I'm in a difficult family health crisis and I'm finding God's Church on earth and in heaven standing steadfast beside me. I am so grateful!"

"Even though none of my family 'gets it' about becoming Catholic, I now have all of the tools needed to gently guide them into something religious! It's very re-assuring to know I've made friends who will be supportive when family is not. I love hearing my children asking about Church. This journey has meant everything to me!"

"This class has changed my life. I already knew God before I started RCIA, but I found an even deeper, intimate place with God through my journey. I feel enlightened, enriched and energized. I am truly blessed to have been a part of this group."

closer

Do you know someone who is seeking a relationship with Jesus? Extend an invitation to them to consider learning more about the Catholic Church, and encourage them to call Pattie Scherer (821-2122) for further information.



enior Ministry The fall season began with the "Senior Parishioners Appreciation: May We All One Bread One Body Be"

on September 21 at St. Andrew Parish in Saline. And, it was truly a time set-aside by all parishes of the Diocese of Lansing, to honor seniors in a special way. Then, we read "So, 'you gotta have courage.' Why? Because all too often life is tough, often up-hill. Seniors know all about that. Right? Right! Our model for courage ... leads toward the light, towards Easter." (John Schwarz 8/1/2000 weekly FORUM)

Shortly after reading John's words about courage, and the appreciation week activities, our senior ministry leadership began to develop entertainment, educational, and devotional events for the St. Francis Parish senior citizens.

This senior group has grown to be a beautiful success! Over one-hundred fifty (150) senior citizens were in attendance at our parish senior ministry gatherings this year.

The following four "Senior Ministry Gathering" events were held in our Parish Activities Center at 10:00 AM Tuesdays with a light lunch served:

- Seniors: Like Anna & Simeon, blessing Jesus, October 17. A photo from this event can be found in the Parish 50th Anniversary Photo Directory.
- Seniors: Letter to the Elderly of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, November 14 with Scott Wright.
- Seniors: New Life, New Challenges a time to meet, enjoy, socialize, held January 30 with Betty McMullan
- Seniors' LENTEN DAY OF REFLECTION, March 13 with Sr. Donna Hart I.H.M. and Holy Mass with Fr. Jim.

To top it all off our St. Francis High School Youth Group and the Y.E.S. Middle School Youth Ministry co-sponsored the event of the year, the "Senior **Spring Fling'**. A dinner and reception was held on the evening of April 24 in the parish activities center.

Seniors Ministry - (continued on page 5)



### God Awaits You

During Lent, the Stewardship Committee ran a series of articles regarding how God often waits for us to use the talents God has given us.

Most of us know what we excel at, but sometimes it is difficult to translate those talents into how we can serve God. One way to discover how God

serve God. One way to discover how God wants us to serve our parish and community is to determine what spiritual gifts we possess.

We are all familiar with the passage in First Corinthians when Paul identifies spiritual gifts as speaking in tongues, prophetizing, healing, performing mighty deeds, etc. These archaic terms take on new meaning with we use more modern ways to interrupt them

For an example, someone who is gifted with the ability to prophetize really doesn't need to dress in sackcloth and head for the dessert for 40 days of fasting before they

can use the gift God has given them. This gift also means that a prophet processes a keen sense of dignity for all peo-

ple, a sense of timing, and knowledge of Scripture and how they apply to our parish and the community.

Several jobs a prophet would enjoy are: leading a Bible Study group, working with our sister parish in Highland Park, serving as a youth moderator, on taking part in peace and justice activities.

Someone who has been gifted with speaking in tongues, although a sensitive and power charismatic ability, might excel at communications. To exercise the gift of tongues means one can understand a foreign language (also including ASL, Braille, art, music) other then their native tongue. They might serve on the art and environment com-

mittee, help with the youth newsletter, act as advisors to our inclusive Masses, or work with different social task forces in the community.

In order to facilitate understanding our spiritual gifts, the stewardship is sponsoring a workshop every several month entitled God Await You--Finding the Balance in Your Life. The workshops gives each participant a time to reflect, pray, and complete a questioner developed to help he or she discover the gifts God gave them.

Upcoming dates will be announced in the Forum. If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity, call Kathy Barrett at 821-2208.

### **Habitat for Humanity**

A Coalition of Catholic Churches and agencies is sponsoring the Habitat for Humanity House Build 2001. It is on Bens Street in Ann Arbor (near the corner of Liberty & Maple). Everyone interested in working on this project is welcome to participate. If you do not have construction skills, training will be provided. There are also non-construction jobs. There are a variety of ways you can participate from general labor, like preparing food, driving nails, clean up, etc., to supervising a small group of workers. Volunteer for as many activities as you wish. Contact Scott Wright at St. Francis Parish Office [734-821-2121, or Fax 734-821-2102, or email at swright@rc.net].

#### St. Vincent de Paul Society

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with the ability to

prophesize really

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God has given them.

Our Parish SVDP Society is growing. You may be interested in joining . . . Come Serve the Poor with Us!

Inspired by the innovative spirit of its patron, our parish **St. Vincent de Paul Society** (SVDP) is a group of women and men that join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to the needy. The Society collaborates with other people & agencies of good will in relieving "de-humanizing need" and working to spread Gospel values. Come and join us.

Contact Person: Amy McCall (734-487-9895), or Scott Wright (<swright@rc.net> or 734-821-2121) at the Parish Social Ministry Office.

#### St. Vincent de Paul Fund

Our Parish offers financial assistance to persons in need by working closely with area social service providers. Friends in Deed is the office that we work closest with to coordinate financial resources among churches and agencies around Washtenaw County.

Examples of ways that this fund has been used during the last four months include: car repairs, housing rent, a storage bill, prescription medication (for Community Mental Health patient), Habitat for Humanity, Rotating Shelter, Pregnancy ProLife (Examples: Stop eviction of a pregnant mother of two children. And, a car repair for a rape victim who chose to have her child; A used wheelchair van for a family whose daughter was born paralyzed.)

# Welcome to St. Francis' Singles group...

If you haven't heard already, St. Francis' Singles group is actively here for you! It strives to provide opportunities where single people in their early 20s-40s can meet in a social atmosphere, and perhaps make some new friends. We also get together to provide stewardship to the parish and local community, learn more about the Catholic faith, deepen our spiritual life and our relationship with Jesus.

We meet on Thursday evenings for "Emmaus" - a faith-sharing group based on the story in Luke's Gospel – 24:13-27. We start with 7pm Mass in the parish chapel then proceed over to the parish rectory basement from 7:30pm-9pm to discuss the Gospel and hot topics that pertain to our lives as single people.

We also meet at Diocesan retreats and share activities with other single groups in the area. A few of our social & community outreach activities include a Fall Hayride/Barn Party, Dinner/Symphony or Movie Nights Out, monthly Wine & Cheese Socials, and baking cookies/meals at the local Ronald McDonald House, as well as helping with "Christmas in April" - a parish home rehabilitation project.

People get to know others best when they see each other on a regular basis, so plan to join us soon!

For more info or to get on our mailing list please call Marty Rhein at 821-2126 or e-mail at mrhein@rc.net.

# Please Pray For Our Youth Group's Summer Mission Trip!

On June 24<sup>th</sup> our youth group will depart St. Francis for "Catholic Heart Work Camp" in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. We will spend a week helping those who are less fortunate, with various work projects such as: painting, yard work, indoor/outdoor clean-up, new home construction, home maintenance and repair on existing homes, neighborhood revitalization, helping with children at daycare centers for low income families, helping at centers that distribute food to the needy

Our goal is to restore hope to those who have none. This powerful week will challenge us to get out of our "comfort zones" and learn how to be servants of Christ for others. And to top it all off, on Friday we will have a "free day" to go on a guided all-day WHITE WATER RAFTING trip!!

I am really looking forward to this exciting week and think it will be a great opportunity for our youth group to grow in many ways. Still, we need your prayers for safe travel, and energy to make a positive difference in the lives of others. You can be sure that we'll be praying for you too!

Thanks and may God bless you,
Marty Rhein, Director of Youth, Young Adults & Singles

Seniors Ministry – (continued from p. 3)

It was a wonderful time for the youth of our Parish to be hosts, and to honor



and celebrate seniors for the tremendous contributions they have made in our community. It was a huge success! Following is a sample from the many expressions of gratitude:

"Last night's Senior Spring Fling was a delight from beginning to end. Congratulations on the superlative job you (the youth) did. My profound thanks." *Lorraine Phillips* 

### **Senior Ministry Leadership**

Our senior ministry leadership team members enjoy growing in friendships, while at the same time developing educational, devotional, & entertainment events for the St. Francis Parish senior citizens. If you would like to join us, or for more information, contact Scott Wright (821-2121or email swright@rc.net).

THANK YOU! This quarterly newsletter was printed as a courtesy by Parish Publishing Solutions – our weekly bulletin publisher (800-521-4486), www.parishpublications.com

## Y.E.S. Youth Leaders Learn The Ropes

Y.E.S., which stands for Youth Enjoying the and worship, service, catholic identity, and commu-upon request. nity.

among its members, the Y.E.S. Youth Leaders will by Monday, July 30th. be participating in a Team Building Challenge tangible and a lot more fun, too.

This Team Building Day will begin at 9 a.m. Spirit, is a group of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders in the St. Francis parking lot. We will travel by car who are learning how to live by the power of the to Pine Hills Camp where the students will meet the Holy Spirit and discovering for themselves what it various challenges of the ropes courses by working means to be Catholic. The Y.E.S. Middle School as a group. Lunch will be provided at the camp. We Youth Ministry offers students concrete learning ex- will be returning to St. Francis at 5 p.m. The total periences in four different areas of our faith: prayer cost of the day is \$40 but scholarships are available

All Y.E.S. Youth Leaders are strongly en-Among these students there is a group of couraged to attend this day of Team Building. It is young people who participate in several areas within very important that the group learns to function as an the Youth Ministry and take a more active role in effective team. The skills they learn within the group planning the events. These young people are known will help them become more effective leaders among as the Y.E.S. Youth Leaders and they meet together their peers. To register for the Pine Hills Camp simonce a month to grow in their faith through various ply fill out the form below and return it along with activities. In an effort to build a sense of teamwork the \$20.00 deposit to the Religious Education Office

If you are interested in being part of the Y.E. Course at Pine Hills Camp and Retreat Center on S. Youth Leadership Team but need more informa-Monday, August 20, 2001. They plan to participate tion about the group or the team-building day, please in the Level II and Level III ropes courses which in- contact Jill Diroff at 821-2133. You can also check clude such activities as "The Spider Web", "The out the Y.E.S. website for pictures of last year's Zipline", and the "The 40 ft. Climbing Wall". These event and more information.. Go to the St. Francis activities will make the lessons on teamwork more Home Page at www.stfrancisa2.com and then click on the Y.E.S. site.

NAME:		GRADE:		
•	t's name)			
ADDRESS:			Louis	
			<b>Y Y</b>	
PHONE:			VFC	
(Home pl			Y.E.S.	
	cost of the day is \$40, which includes lunch. I am	enclosing a check made	Cader	
	Assisi in the amount of \$ I understand t	that the balance is due by	10-10	
August 13th.			CANU	

## High School Teens Check This Out!

St. Francis Youth Ministry is a place where today's youth can get away from the shallow temptations of our world and a place where they can safely explore their deeper spiritual lives. It's a place that understands the societal pressures placed on those who are growing up in this world of "Real" TV, advertising blitzes, and sound bites and a place that is fun and enriching at the same time.

The goal of St. Francis' Youth Ministry is to provide teens a positive environment of faith and love; a place where they receive and share the Good News of our world; a safe place to share their feelings and emotions as they face the challenges of growing up.

At "Frank's Place" - a dynamic teen faith sharing group - youth are encouraged to share their beliefs & questions, as they discuss the Gospels & other related topics. Our Sunday night youth group consists of faith sharing, dialogues of current issues related to the

teachings of the Catholic faith, opportunities for community service projects, and holy leisure (dances, pizza parties, hayrides, etc.). All of this is done with the constant awareness of Christ's guiding hand in our lives.

Get Ready, Youth - "LIFE TEEN" . . . is coming this Fall just for you! Stay tuned for more info!

#### **Ongoing Youth Ministry Activities**

- Youth Activity Night: Sundays (from Sept.- June) at 6:30 8:30 p.m. in the Parish Activity Center (PAC) "Frank's Place": Wednesday Nights 7 9:00 p.m. Location varies. Contact Marty for more info.
- All high school students are invited to attend. If you are interested in any or all of our activities, please contact Marty Rhein at 821-2126 or e-mail at <a href="mailto:mrhein@rc.net">mrhein@rc.net</a>. I look forward to meeting you!

# Watercolor Class with Marty Rhein



## <u>Part Two</u> - of the Adult Intro To Watercolor Painting Series

Last spring we kicked off our first watercolor painting class here at St. Francis and had such a wonderfully creative experience we're offering a second! This second class is designed to continue building upon the fundamentals we learned in the first class.

<u>Requirement</u>: Must provide own materials and have basic understanding of this incredibly creative medium.

Tuesdays - 7:15 - 9:15pm 10 weeks - August 14 - October 16 St. Francis School Art Room

Class Fee: \$90.00 per 10 week registration Art supplies NOT included.

R.S.V.P. Soon – Due to classroom size – spaces are limited. For more info/to register contact Marty Rhein at 821-2126 or e-mail at mrhein@rc.net - Thank you!



## Top 10 Reasons Why We Like St. Francis School

- All our friends are here.
- All the students and faculty are very kind.
- We can talk about our Lord and Savior.
- We can pray in school.
- We learn valuable lessons about life every day.
- We get a good education.
- We are able to go to church with our friends and excellent teachers every week.
- We have interesting and exciting classes to attend every day.
- We get to go on lots of exciting trips.
- Gym, art and music programs are excellent.
   By Hilary Bernard and Sabrina Lividini
   6th graders St. Francis School

For more information about enrollment please contact St. Francis School office at 821-2200. Limited enrollment opportunities remain for the 2001-02 school year in kindergarten and grades 4, 7 and 8.

# Business Manager's Report to the Parish May 2001

Since my last report to you late last year, we have continued to undertake various projects in an effort to maintain or enhance our facilities. A major one, which would be unnoticeable to virtually all, involved repairs to the heating system in the Church, which went out on Saturday, December 23rd, and to the heating system in the PAC, which went out on Friday, December 29th. The Church system was repaired in time for the Christmas Eve Masses, and the PAC system was repaired in time for our New Year's Eve Party. The PAC system, which is now almost 20 years ago, went out again in March, forcing us to install an expensive new blower motor assembly on the southwest unit. Other systems around the Parish are also showing their age; we had two steam leaks in the School in February and two more in the Parish Office in March, along with major repairs required to the School Library rooftop heating/AC unit. We will be addressing several of these failures during the nonheating season, in an attempt to get them resolved so as not to have to endure as many problems during the next winter season.

There was no progress on the completion of the West Parking Lot during the winter. As this is written, there remain only a few minor items requiring attention, including reinstallation of some signs, planting of trees (required by the City) along Stadium Boulevard, other minor landscaping, and improvement of drainage from the detention pond located in front of the Church. We hope that this project, which was to have been finished last summer, will finally be completed soon.

Our front concrete steps, which were replaced last summer, suffered snow-plow damage during the winter, and will be repaired this spring. Steps at the rear of the Church leading to the southwest and southeast entrances had minor reconstruction work done just before Easter, and

should last many more years.

Just before winter, we completed a project to light the Rectory Parking Lot. As more and more activities and meetings are occurring in the Parish, demands for space have grown dramatically, with the result that the Rectory Basement Meeting Room seems to be in almost constant use. Groups meeting there at night had been coming out into literal darkness, but this is no longer the case.

One of the projects currently under way is the beautification of the St. Francis Memorial Garden, located just off the lower level exterior entrance to the Chapel. Thanks to the family of Suzanne Whiteman, we have added a beautiful polished granite bench in the Garden, to match the Memorial plaques on the wall, and a tree and several plants have been relocated within the Garden. Future work will include improvements in pathways and signage and freshening up the paint on Our Lady.

On the subject of outdoor projects, we would like to thank our parish Knights of Columbus for their many hours of work on Saturday, April 28th, on the grounds and landscaping around the Church and PAC. Also, many thanks to our Cub Scouts and their families for their work around the School on Monday, April 30th. With a limited maintenance department, it is the volunteer efforts of so many individuals and groups that have allowed us to make significant headway on so many different projects.

Our sound amplification system installed in the Church last year, has been a great success. It utilizes our very own low-power FM transmitter in the Church, broadcasting at 90.3 MHz, and pocket-sized Walkman receivers. Fifteen parishioners, to date, have purchased their own receivers from us, and we have a supply of nine others in the Ushers' Room available for use during Masses. We would just ask

all who use them to make sure they are properly turned off when they are returned after Mass.

It is difficult to do projects in the School during the school year, but we have managed to do a few smaller things. Thanks to the support of the PTG, we have replaced all the old drinking fountains in the School with chilled-water fountains; they are very popular on warm days! We also upgraded the lighting in our 4th and 5th grade classrooms with high efficiency fluorescent fixtures; besides improving the amount of light, these new fixtures will also help reduce our electric bill. A special thanks is again due parishioners supporting the various school development efforts, for without their support, none of these improvements would have been possible.

Future agenda items include: improved controls for heating/cooling in the PAC, and for cooling in the Chapel; improved lighting in the Middle School; improved windows in several locations throughout the School, including classrooms, the Middle School hallway, and the Gym; installation of a sump and pump in the elevator pit to reduce standing water; renovation of the Religious Education office and relocation of the Parish Library; and further enhancements to our K-1 playground. As we have said in the past, several of our facilities here are nearing 50 years of age, and upkeep was not always done as it should have been. We continue to attempt, within the constraints of our financial capability, to do what we can to improve the facilities as rapidly as we can.

Thank you for your continuing support. As always, if there is an issue close to your heart that we have not yet resolved, it may be that we do not know of it. Please give me a call, or drop me a note, to offer any suggestions. Our role remains to be of service to you, our parishioners.

Dave Barera,

734-821-2111 or dsbarera@catholic.org

## We've Got "Theology on Tap!"

Originating in the Archdiocese of Chicago, "Theology on Tap" is a four-week program of speakers and conversations *for young adults in their 20s and 30s*. Catholic parishes host speakers and invite young adults to attend informal discussions <u>focusing on basic life issues</u> - jobs, careers, relationships, and families – and <u>how their belief in Jesus can affect those issues</u>. The faith sessions will feature clergy, religious, and lay speakers.

Mark your calendars: St. Francis' Young Adult group is meeting for "Theology on Tap!" Plan to join us from 7-9:00 pm on Mondays, July 16 & 30th, and August 13 & 27th

at Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub, located at 318 S. Main, in downtown Ann Arbor.



For more info or to get on our mailing list please call Marty Rhein at 821-2126 or e-mail at mrhein@rc.net

## Vacation Bible School: July 16-20

Enjoy a mystery? Come enjoy the Mystery of God!! This year in Vacation Bible School, we're "going to a mystery mansion" all on site at St. Francis Parish!

Vacation Bible School runs Monday – Friday, July 16 – 20 from 9 a.m.—12 noon for children in Preschool (4 years) and Grades K—5 (2001/02 school year).

A Registration Form is on page 9 of this newsletter. For more information or to volunteer to help please call Ellen Ward (821-2132) in the Religious Education Office.



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