



Summer 2017

ST. FRANCIS PRAYER CENTER

G-2381 E. Carpenter Rd., Flint, MI 48505

P: 810-787-5330 • F: 810-787-5399

Power & Freedom

“You will receive power when the Holy spirit comes down on you; then you are to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, yes, even to the ends of the earth.”

I am quite certain there could be many lively conversations regarding ‘receiving power’ in these times of social media, however the power Jesus refers to has nothing to do with controlling someone else’s actions; influencing the higher ups in your work environment, or any other counterfeit idea of what power is.

In fact, that kind of power isolates, constricts and is self-focused and has no freedom for either party.

Jesus’ idea of freedom comes with the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:18, Isaiah 61:1). It proclaims freedom for those who are captive, brings good news to the oppressed, and binds the brokenhearted. It is other centered.

His power has a purpose to build the Kingdom of God, and the only way that will happen is if those who believe in Him are ‘anointed’ (*empowered*) for this very task.

This ‘anointing’ of the Holy Spirit cannot be received in an unrepentant heart, therefore, it follows the baptism of water (*repentance*). Only then, are we free to say ‘yes’ to the Holy Spirit. It is a decision on our part to ‘enter in,’ and like Mary’s fiat—say yes to Him who calls us.

In the life of the Trinity, the Father has the plan, Jesus consents to give his life, and the Spirit then animates (brings to our mind and understanding) what we need to know to love and serve him with our whole self, nothing held back. The love story of the Trinity and their love for us becomes visible and accessible to us for the first time.

We not only need to be assisted, but empowered,

to live this Christian life and to minister among one another with effect. The scripture, Acts 1:8, is a two-fold proclamation.



First, you will receive power, when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, then you will be witnesses, not just in your hometown for a week or two, but in the whole world and until the end of time!! He is not to be out done.

Before His great commission to them, Acts 1:8, He first empowered them for the task. If we are to see good fruit from our efforts to share the gospel, we will most definitely need the ‘push’ to go; and we’d better have his anointing power to go with it.

The Father sent; Jesus went. Jesus preached, taught, and healed but only after He was ‘Baptized in the Holy Spirit,’ was the anointing and power both given and seen.

It is the Father who calls us; Jesus who brings truth, light and forgiveness to us; and the Spirit

who then anoints us with power to act in the Father’s will for the Kingdom.

We will always be equipped for the task God has called us to. He does not call us to something that he has not already provided for.

It was the Holy Spirit who empowered Jesus’ own birth. He was ushered into this earthly life. Mathew 1:20 and as Acts 1:9 goes on to tell us, the Spirit then ushered him back to the Father. Like Jesus, we too need the Holy Spirit to guide and empower us for the job the Father has given us to do; an ability to teach, preach and heal as He also did.

Continued on back page

Healing and the New Evangelization

To those who work in ministry the term New Evangelization is not an unfamiliar term. But for the average church goer, St. John Paul II 's encyclical *Redemptoris Missio* will enlighten us greatly. He describes three situations to understand these ideas of Evangelization better.

First to evangelize in general, we must first go where the people do not know Christ or his gospel. *Mission ad gentes*: Latin for "to the nations."

Secondly, we must go to established Christian Communities where we already know Him and are currently serving Him, and continue to faithfully continue to build up and exhort and pastor those who are already fervent (in our churches and communities).

Thirdly, he speaks of this New Evangelization as somewhere between the first and second, where entire groups of people who are baptized, have lost their sense of faith and fallen away all together, or who live a life so removed from the gospel, no one would know (like our current status in many churches).

How does this apply to us? What does this have to do with healing? Most of us have personal family who fit the third description. Most are sitting next to people in our churches each week who also fit this description. Some of us may be this person!

I have had many heartfelt conversations with people in the 5 years I have been director here about this topic. We cannot bring someone to something we a) know nothing about or b) know but do not practice ourselves. The first would be ridiculous, the second, a very poor witness. Practical understanding applies here. As we minister to the families in the surrounding neighborhood here in the north end of Flint, we often need to provide food and shelter for them, before we try to share the gospel or bring them to church. Their immediate physical need must be met first (Matt. 14:21). It is no surprise that Jesus did the same.

In countless examples in the scriptures, we see Jesus 'feeding' his flock. Feeding physically was often first, then He taught, and then He healed. So today, things are not that different in this regard. They are called miracles! Does that still happen? You bet!

In the neighborhood, or in the churches, we need our needs to be met—all of them, physical, emotional and spiritual. It is what He did. It is what we need to do as well. More often than not it won't happen behind church walls either. It happens at the workplace, in the home, on the street, in the bars. So many people looking for love in all the wrong places. All of them, looking to get their needs met—somehow, some-

where, by someone—anyone. 'These' people are **us**, broken and wounded by life or sin; we need healing and forgiveness. We need the cross.

If we are trying to bring a brother or sister back to the faith, and they are broken and wounded in their life, they are not likely to trust anyone enough to really be 'all in.' Some may come to church but not live it out as the Gospel of Christ intended, and some may have thrown the baby out with the bathwater and closed the door altogether. This scenario isn't much different than the person who has no food or shelter and we are trying to share the Gospel with them. Jesus' mission was to bring all men to the Father, and to build the Kingdom of God here where we are living now!

Seven years ago I had a dream about ministering to people at a certain place. It was outside, and there was worship music, and food stations, and bounce houses for kids. There were people being prayed for all over the place. All the time this was going on I kept hearing "feed my people". I heard that several times. I woke not understanding much about what I had dreamt. One year later I would be asked to be the Director at St. Francis Prayer Center! I understood now, I needed to feed His people—however they needed, physically, emotionally or spiritually. My knees were shaking, but I said yes. He would have to provide what was needed. They were his people not mine, and this was his place, not mine. Holy Spirit, please lead me.

Healing Services are now offered several times a year in our area. We at St. Francis Prayer Center train, mentor and stand alongside those who have been called to the great ministry of compassion and healing. Jesus waits for us to ask in faith to heal.

So, what is the first step to bring your family member or neighbor back to the faith?

First, pray, pray, pray. Then ask the Holy Spirit to give you the words to speak, or the action to take. Be courageous about your own needs first. Trust the Holy Spirit and address the area of your own life that needs healing, remembering that you cannot bring someone to something you do not yet have yourself. Pray for humility to do this. Keep your heart and mind open to God's lead. Plunge into His river of grace and mercy. He is waiting there for you.

Heal Us, Oh Lord, as we put our trust in You. Give us the compassion to enter in the lives of those you place in front of us, and the wisdom to allow You to lead us. Give us the humility to attend to ourselves first, then reach out to another. Empower us, Lord, as we stand in the gap and feed your people.

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We Are Called

What is our response?

Our director, Deb Hawley, is closing in on her 5th year here at St. Francis Prayer Center! She started her ministry in September of 2012. We've seen many changes during that time. The number of people who have become closer to God and grown spiritually has increased year by year. We want that to continue.

Recently, Director Deb sent a thank you letter to those who had purchased a Fundraiser Big Ticket. As you know, when you purchase a ticket, you get two dinner tickets as well.

We were so near the 400-people maximum that we became concerned that some people would not be able to attend even if they had purchased a ticket. Many, many phone calls were made to see who and how many would be coming.

In that letter, Deb shared the answer to her prayers to God which she heard. While being very ex-

cited about the large number that would be attending, she was also daunted about the future of St. Francis Prayer Center – bills continue to come in, things need to be maintained or repaired, a portion of the roof is in definite need of replacement!

God explained to her that half of the people attending the Annual Fundraiser were those who shared the original vision of Sr. Joanne and Fr. Phil; that they 'saw & understood' the vision God had given them.

He also said, "Now, the other half of those in attendance will be **new** people to St. Francis Prayer Center and, like the other half, they too *see and understand* 'the vision' I have given you... **I have enlarged your territory.**"

In her closing remarks, the prayers and support of everyone, in her own words, were "humbling and so appreciated." She also asked for each of you to continue to pray for us this summer as we find a way to **RAISE THE ROOF!**

You've Helped Us Stretch Our Tent Pegs in the Past, Will You Help Us Raise Our Roof?

Ok, so I know I've spoken a bit about Healing.....and yes, I do have much faith that God does indeed still do these works, however, I must tell you I do not see me climbing to the steep rooftops at the Center here and dropping anyone through the hole in the roof! (Luke 5:19) But, I am interested in standing 'under' the Word of God, and not beside it as though it were a tale being told. He is who He says he is! If he has spoken prophetically to us here at SFPC, that our tent pegs are being stretched, then I believe that as I said on page 1, "he will not bring us to something he has not already provided for.' He will make a way, even though we may not see it yet.

The growth for the countless people of God has been remarkable to witness in these few short years since I arrived. You are all part of this vision that he has set us under.

The larger part of our roof is still good for quite a while—we hope, but these older sections must be replaced before winter. The cost will be approximately \$9,000. We are getting several estimates now. Please prayerfully consider 'extending the tent' for us to continue this work for his people. Director Deb



Our roof in much need of replacement!

RAISE THE ROOF CAMPAIGN!

____ YES, I/We am willing to help St. Francis Prayer Center "Raise the Roof."

____ Sorry, I/We cannot help at this time but will keep you in prayer for a successful campaign.

____ I will support the Roof Campaign with \$ _____ amount.

Name: _____ Home Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ Work Phone: (____) _____

City/St/Zip _____ Cell: (____) _____

Please clip and send to St. Francis Prayer Center, G-2381 E. Carpenter Road, Flint, MI 48505

Triumph of the Cross

Stations of the Cross

MASS

Lunch

Praise & Worship

Saturday, September 9, 2017

St. Mary's Catholic Church

& Our Lady of the Woods Shrine

100 Deyarmond St., Mio, Michigan 48617, 989-826-5509

Our Lady Of The Woods Shrine

Our Lady of the Woods Catholic Shrine Grotto – is a mountainous structure of stone honeycomb with grottos and niches. The very name, Our Lady of the Woods, reflects the thousands of acres of God's beautiful and majestic timberlands. It began with the visions of Rev. Hubert Rakowski in the mid 40's and was dedicated in September of 1955. It is dedicated to Our Lady.

For more information or to register, please contact

St. Francis Prayer Center
G-2381 E. Carpenter Rd.
Flint, MI 48505
810-787-5330.

Fundraiser Volunteers

Where would we be without the many individuals who continue to help with our Annual Fundraiser?

Ticket sellers, auctions, 50/50s, clean up, hospitality, decorations, set-up, & prayer committee – it takes many, many individuals to put on an event of this size. Some were ticket sellers along with helping in other areas. Following are those who helped or sold tickets:

Lynn & Dan Berezny, Lila Burnash, Jerry Decker, Donna Fisher, Ron & Agnes Taylor, Joe & Pat Forlenza, John & Cathy Vanderkuur, Ron & Jackie Pung, Marv & Pat Crooks, Zen & Andrea Anson, Andy & Margaret Verdun.

Deb Hawley, Carol Latus, Clare Londrigan, Fr. Phil Schmitter, Gary & Peggy Wescott, Henry Jacobi, Jack Quinn, Jean Shipley, Joe Kalush, Mary & Keith Dharamraj, Larry Blondin, Lisa Hayward, Nanette Kowalczyk, Laura Johnson, Genna Riopelle, Sue Drummond, Linda Noll, Sue Jones, Dick & Kathy Frasier, Laura Clark, Jen & Steve Loftin, Clay & Sara Phillips, Yvonne & Bill Harris, Barb Carrette, Jim & Kathy Neumann, Pat & Cheryl Blondin, Penny & Mike Messer, Joan Cook, Maxine Swisher (*recently deceased*), Karen Ford, Val Tannehill, Pat Kelly, Elaine Ward, Sam Stewart, Maryann Zimmer, Jeanne Johns, Marie Knight, Harriet Tucker, Michelle McCartney, Jonathan Hawley, & Kristie Pillen, & Kathy Patterson.

Our apologies if we missed anyone.

Prayer Center Gardens

Looking Good!

Our gardens are looking much better – thanks to the volunteers who come every year to help plant, weed, and clean up our grounds. It is a large task, but the result is so worth the effort.

Helping with this year's efforts were:

Pat Forlenza, Agnes Taylor, Lynn Berezny, Dick & Kathy Frasier, Jeff Larman, Peggy Wescott, Jen Loftin, Nannette Kowalczyk, and Connor Gasiewicz.



Kentucky Derby Fundraiser in Pics



What A Great Evening!

So many people came out to enjoy the evening with dinner, Live and Silent Auctions, 50/50s, the Wine Pull (*did you get a bottle?*), the booze basket raffle, and finished up with dancing! *Thank you all for your support.*

Thanks to the many volunteers who help year after year as well as some new people.

A **BIG** Thank You to **Little Caesar's** in Davison for hosting our "Pizza Thank You" Party on June 12.



Our Thanks to each these businesses for donating items for our Auctions!

Atlas Valley Country Club

8313 Perry Rd.
Grand Blanc, MI 48439
810-636-2273
888-422-9645

Bavarian Inn Lodge

One Covered Bridge Ln.
Frankenmuth, MI 487334
989-652-7200

Brick Street of Grand Blanc

1223 E. Grand Blanc Rd.
Grand Blanc, Mi 48439
810-603-2114

Bronner's Christmas World

25 Christmas Ln.
Frankenmuth, MI 48732
989-652-9931

Bueche's Food World

300 W. Main St.
Flushing, MI 48433
810-659-6162
810-653-6899

Cary Ann's Hallmark

100 E. Main St.
Flushing, MI 48433
810-659-1999

Chateau Chantal

15900 Rue de Vin
Traverse City, MI 48688
231-223-4110

Da Edoardo

8185 Holly Rd.
Grand Blanc, MI 48439
810-694-1300

Duke's Car Stereo

2833 S. Dort Hwy.
Flint, MI 48507
810-744-2500

Flushing Valley Country Club

1124 E. Main St.
Flushing, MI 48433
810-487-0792

Holy Family

3rd Order of Franciscans

The Church of the Holy Family
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Hunter's Creek Club

675 E. Sutton Rd.
Metamora, MI 48455
810-664-4307

Jack's Place

124 N. Cherry St.
Flushing, MI 48433
810-659-9881

Jets Pizza

230 W. Main St.
Flushing, MI 48433
810-487-0400

Johnny's Pour House

240 W. Main St.
Flushing, MI 48433
810-487-1020

Kathy's Restaurant

126 E. Main St.
Flushing, MI 48433
810-659-9616

Letavis Enterprises

Fast Eddies
8478 Miller Rd/PO Bx 27
Swartz Creek, MI 48473
810-635-7013

Massage Advantage

Ileta Sullins
1128 Gwen Dr.
Lapeer, MI 48446
810-247-1767

Neil Gloudeans

110025 Wheelock Rd.
Ft. Wayne, IN 46835
260-627-3008

North American Dismantling Corp.

Jerry Decker
P.O. Box 307
Lapeer, MI 48446
810-664-2888

Ogorek Automotive Group

Barb & Al Ogorek
4067 E. Court
Burton, MI 48509
810-744-2826

Powers High School

1505 W. Court St.
Flint, MI 48503
810-591-4741

St. Pius X Arise Group

G-3139 Hogarth Ave.
Flint, MI 48532
810-810-235-8574

Sandhill Crane Vineyards

14724 Walz Rd.
Jackson, MI 49201
517-764-0679

Sloan/Longway

11221 E. Kearsley St.
Flint, MI 48503
810-237-3400

Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort

6800 Eagle Blvd.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
989-775-7777

Temple Dining Room

Brother Lawrence Battiste
755 S. Saginaw St.
Flint, MI 48502
810-235-7760

The Whiting

1241 E. Kearsley St.
Flint, MI 48503
810-237-7342

Zito Construction

G-8033 Fenton Rd.
Grand Blanc, MI 48439
810-695-9025

“Derby” Pics!



More Kentucky Derby Fundraiser Pics



Thanks go out to these individuals for their Auction donations!



Anonymous
Dena Barclae
Lynn Berezny
Jerry Decker
Laura Clark
Cathy Diffendorfer
Joyce Ford
Pat Forlenza
Kathy Frasier
Ann Hagerman
Debbie Hawley

Lisa Hayward
Kathy Konesny
Steve & Jen Loftin
Clare & Susan Londrigan
Debbie McPherson
Al & Barb Ogorek
Kathy Patterson
Pat Paul
Linda Noll
Ron & Jackie Pung

Theresa Robinson
Fr. Phil Schmitter
Ruth Schmitter
Sandy Shaker
Jean Shipley
Edie Thennisch
Andrew Verdun
Kathy Vickery
Peggy & Gary Wescott
Maryann Zimmer



A Big Thank You to everyone for purchasing our Big Raffle Tickets!



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www.facebook.com/stfrancisprayercenter-flint (no spaces).

Our Web Site

www.stfrancisprayerflint.com



Springtime at the Prayer Center.

What is going on at the Prayer Center?

- **Understanding the Spiritual Gifts Group** meets the 1st & 4th Thursday of the month
- **June: Pilgrims' Way** classes will begin sometime mid-June @ Holy Family.
- **June 20** Shepherd's Healing @ St. John, Fenton; 10a-12p
- **August 11-12:** Youth Leader Retreat
- **August 19:** 3rd Order of Franciscans, Holy Family, Grand Blanc, Day of Reflection
- **August 26:** Mass & Healing Service at St. Mary's, Flint
- **September 9:** Triumph of the Cross in Mio, day pilgrimage
- **September 29-October 1:** *Weekend Reunion Retreat* with Arlene Apone for those who attended the Leadership School, *Knowing the Shepherd*. Fri. 5:00p to Sun. 1:00p
- **October 13-15:** Charismatic Retreat in Gaylord, MI

Contact the Prayer Center to register or for more information on these events.

Power & Freedom Continued from page 1

The Holy Spirit provides the power to heal the sick; the power to find the lost; the power to establish; the understanding of when to speak and what to say; the grace to forgive; and the desire to ask for forgiveness first for ourselves, then to forgive others.

So, with true power, comes **freedom** and **truth**. There is no pretense, no keeping up with others. It does not constrict and is not self-focused. What it does offer is perfect peace knowing God's Love for yourself first, then His love for others. This coupled with the gift of the Holy Spirit yields much fruit for the Kingdom of God.

May his Shalom Peace be with you always,
Director Deb

Looking to Advent

Join us for morning prayer, fellowship, lunch, and the building of your own very special Advent Wreath. Anyone desiring to bring a pot of soup may do so. Sandwiches and the dessert will be provided. Cost \$20.

You may also bring any type of decorating tools or accents to add to the ones we will provide. The more to choose from, the more fun it will be! Plan ahead as we will only have room for 20 to attend.

November 11, 2017; 9:30-4:30; RSVP Required Please.
Contact the Prayer Center at 810-787-5330.