

# ST. FRANCIS PRAYER CENTER

December 2012

G-2381 E. Carpenter Rd. • Flint, MI 48505 • Phone 810-787-5330 • Fax 810-787-5399  
Web: stfrancisprayerflint.com • E-mail: stfrancisflint@comcast.net



† **Isaiah 60:1** "...Your light has come, the glory of the Lord shines upon you."

† **John 3:21** "But whoever lives the truth comes to the light..."

† **John 8:12** "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

† **Psalms 27:1** "The Lord is my light and my salvation."

† **Psalms 43:3** "Send your light and fidelity that they may be my guide."

† **Matthew 5:16** "Just so, your light must shine before others..."

† **Matthew 5:14** "You are the light of the world."

† **Matthew 6:22** "The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be filled with light."

† **Psalms 118:27** "The Lord is God and has given us light."

† **Psalms 119:105** "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light for my path."

† **Isaiah 2:5** "...let us walk in the light of the Lord!"

† **John 3:21** But whoever lives the truth comes to the light so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God."

† **John 8:12** "...I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

† **John 12:46** "I came into the world as light..."

† **1 Thessalonians 5:5** "For all of you are children of the light..."

† **Revelation 22:5** "...for the Lord God shall give them light..."

# The Light of the World

*My Dear friends of St. Francis,*

What a joy this time of year is for those of us who know the King! Every year I wonder how it is that this one or that one cannot find the joy that I seem to always have as our Saviors' time draws near. Even through the greatest of difficulties this 'very pregnant' time of year draws me out of myself and into **hope**—which is, of course, He, Himself.

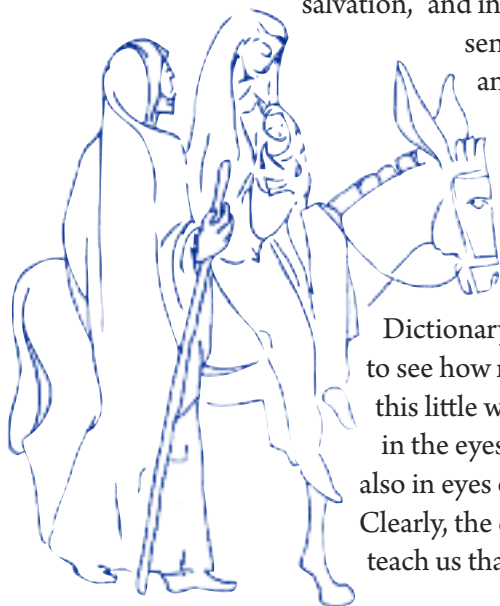
More remarkable, is that His choice to be obedient and come as a tiny child in this life of our humanity, would make ALL people worthy to know Him and be loved by Him—regardless of their denomination or knowledge at all! It is true that those who do not understand Christianity may not have the whole picture (at least in their mind) but like the times of the Acts of the Apostles, the Gentiles were to be included. They were in the Fathers' Plan—**no exclusions**. He came for all.

I am captivated by how Gods' Light shines through like a sword into our lives, permeating literally everything we see, touch, feel and encounter. This light has so many meanings and jobs to do for us—it is the greatest gift—the Gift of the **Light of the World**. For a second time Jesus Himself declares this Himself in John 8:12, "I am the Light of the World. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." The word **light** is used more than 270 times in the Holy Scriptures. We read that **He is the light**; we read that if we live in truth we will **come to the light** (Him) John 3:21.

The Psalmist tells us in 27:1 "the Lord is my light and my salvation," and in 43:3 pleads "Oh,

send out Your light and Your truth."

When reading with the help of the Holy Spirit (and Webster's Dictionary) it is fascinating to see how many meanings this little word has—both in the eyes of Scripture and also in eyes of the world. Clearly, the divine scriptures teach us that God is light



itself. They also teach us that light is truth. But what about Matthew 5:14, "**you** are the light of the world"? This is Jesus teaching the Beatitudes and telling us that **we** are the light of the world too!



This marvelous merciful God has given us everything we need in this life by giving Himself to us as the greatest gift to mankind. You need not be a Christian to see goodness—or to experience it either! All walks of life all over the world celebrate the Christ of Christmas ... even though they may not understand the reality that it is **He** who gives them this ability to be kind, caring, giving, selfless, etc. Because *He Is the Truth and the Light*, it is He who is the giver of these attributes—even to those who do not know Him or those who may not even believe in Him at all. Ultimately, every goodness, every good thing comes from God. It is not necessary for the human to understand this—He gets to still be Boss, to be in charge. It is His show.

So back to my thoughts in the beginning about not understanding other folks not feeling the joy of the season ... I have concluded that I am immensely grateful for my faith and my acceptance of my own role of the 'created' not the Creator! It is His special gift for me to have this, therefore I am able to experience what He meant when He said in Matthew that I am the light of the world, too. The fact that I cannot see outward signs of others' joy should not suggest to me that they do not have it, but should encourage me to let my own shine so they can see it! It should spur me on to do everything in my power to be the light that someone else can see.

Our good friend Mr. Webster tells us light reveals, discloses, shows knowledge of, it is opposite of darkness, to understand or come into existence. The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that 'light and cloud' both refer directly to God Himself in the Holy Spirit.

It is my sincere prayer that you will bathe yourself in this most precious Light—the Christ in all seasons, but most especially this one. Allow His truth to be like that two-edged sword that separates the holy from the chaff.

**Debbie Hawley**, Director  
St. Francis Prayer Center

# Fundraiser Bash Recap & Annual Meeting January 9, 2013

## From the Director

I would like to personally thank all who attended this night. There is much for me to learn here at St. Francis Prayer Center. This Fundraiser is really a HUGE endeavor, and I would be lost without Jean and Carol and all of you to do as Proverbs says, "train me up" in the way I should go. It meant a great deal to see your support of me as a New Director by coming and committing yourselves to this important event. For certain, it would not happen without you!

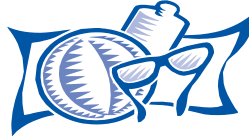
Gods' Blessings to each of You,  
Debbie

## From Party Chairperson

We had a wonderful turnout for the Fundraiser Bash held on Nov.

14. It was so great seeing both old and new faces!

Many people expressed the thought that everything seemed to go smoothly. As Party Chair, it didn't feel quite so smooth, but as one person at the Bash stated, "It was only chaotic for you. The rest of us doing our individual things felt it went great." That may be true. Good planning is very important, but what a talented group of people with which to work—the Lord has blessed



us indeed. All of you do your jobs so well!

Set aside **Wednesday, Jan. 9, 2013**, 6:00-8:30 pm for the annual committee meeting for our **32nd Annual Fundraiser**—which will be held April 27, 2013—many have already signed up, we pray others will as well. Many hands are needed to make this a successful event.

The theme for 2013 is "**Beach Party.**" Get those swim suits ready and join us for some Sun, Sand & Fun!

*So, how can you help?* We need people: to sell tickets (\$100 each), for hall setup, publicity/promotions, decorations, hospitality, to handle desserts, bar set-ups and ordering, MC table (calling out or recording of big ticket numbers), photography/video, auctions—both live and silent, 50/50's, clean up, prize acquisition, and, most important of all, prayer committee. Some of these committees already have people signed up to chair or help. We pray you will consider participating this coming year.

◆ **RSVP: Please let us know if you will be attending** by calling the Prayer Center at 810-787-5330 or email us at [stfrancisflint@comcast.net](mailto:stfrancisflint@comcast.net) so we know how much food to have on hand.

Thanks and peace, Jean Shipley

## The Gift of Sharing

A Praise Report ☺: We adopted 12 families for Thanksgiving. It was more than our hearts' could hardly handle to meet the moms, grandmas and little ones who came to our door the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. We were able to learn a little about them, pray for several and give cookies to all. Our Director Deb got to get lots of hugs and kisses from little people which was her personal delight for sure! Jean and Carol and volunteer Marie organized, made a beautiful personalized card for each family and made the occasion one of great charity for everyone involved. Some were even delivered for them as they had no transportation to come and get their baskets. The "baskets" were extra large laundry baskets filled to the brim with groceries and a big turkey.

## The Christmas Blessing

We are currently doing the same for Christmas although we will include gifts as well. Currently, we have 4 families that have been adopted. We are praying that the other 8 will be adopted very soon. A Wish List for each family plus ages and sex of children; sizes and personal needs will be provided. These families have so little—they are so unbelievably grateful—their little children's eyes light up when they are given only a cookie! Please give prayer and consideration to the adoption of one of our families this Christmas.



Here are a some options for this process:

1. Give a fixed amount; but cannot do shopping for it—no problem, we will; and sign your name on the card
2. Take the *Wish List* and shop; then drop off here
3. Co-Adopt: 2 families may go together (one do food; the other gifts) you shop or we shop

◆ **Some may want to meet the families and give the gifts directly to their family. With the permission of the family, we can arrange for that to be done here at the Prayer Center. Not all will be open to this. Some are embarrassed or shy; but others are very open. We must ask them first.**

Please call the Prayer Center right away if you are interested. **810-787-5330.**

## ST. FRANCIS PRAYER CENTER

G-2381 E. Carpenter Rd., Flint, MI 48505  
Phone 810-787-5330 • Fax 810-787-5399  
E-mail: stfrancisflint@comcast.net  
Web: stfrancisprayerflint.com

December 2012

Volume 37, Number 9

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Flint, MI  
Permit #453



*Let us know how we  
are doing. Too much,  
too little, just right.*

## Prayer Chain Ministry

Anyone interested in being on the Prayer Center's prayer chain, please call 810-787-5330. We would like to get this going again!

### REMINDER:

If you would like to receive our newsletter via email, please give us a call or send us an email to stfrancisflint@comcast.net

## Upcoming Events at the Prayer Center

### NOV 28 & DEC. 5 – “A Date with the Deacon”

Wednesday, 10:30 am-12:30 pm. *Although these dates have passed before you get the newsletter, we've included it for continuity.* Deacon Anthony Verdun & Deacon Jim Brown, teachers.

### DECEMBER 12 – “A Date with the Deacon”

Wednesday, 10:30 am-12:30 pm, series continues.  
Deacon Dennis Pennell teaching.

### DECEMBER 19 – “A Date with the Deacon”

Wednesday, 10:30-12:30 am, series continues.  
Deacon Wayne Corrion teaching.

**JANUARY 9** – *Annual Fundraiser meeting* for all committee chairpersons, helpers, and other interested parties, from 6:00-8:30 pm.

**JANUARY 19** – *A Healing Retreat.* Come & be healed. Arlene Apone, liaison from Archdiocese of Detroit will present. Morning teaching—methods of healing • lunch • afternoon of ministry • confession, inner healing &, hopefully, concluding with mass. Cost is \$25 per person. **Please RSVP by January 12, 2013**—810-787-5330.

## Pilgrims' Way Great Success

There are about 60 people attending one of three Pilgrims' Way study groups. This once-a-week gathering is studying “*How to Form an Intimate Relationship with God.*” In fact, there has been so much interest, it will be repeated in the future. There are already people on the waiting list. Let us know if you are interested—810-787-5330.

## Keep the “Christmas Memory” in your Memory

Due to lack of time to secure the ornaments and with limited interest, we have decided to cancel this event.

We hope you will keep this in mind for next year. It is an event we would like to expand on for future years.

God Bless you this Christmas Season. May you in turn bless others.

*The Board & Staff of SFPC*

## Donations for Programs

Although we do not ask for a specific amount for the programs put on by St. Francis Prayer Center, we do accept free-will offerings. We hope you understand that these offerings help offset the cost of keeping the Prayer Center open for all the programs provided and our outreach to the community.

A weekly or monthly donation will go a long way in helping the Prayer Center continue.

We sincerely appreciate all those who have responded to our Annual Harvest Appeal. We thank each and every one of you. May the Lord bless you each in whatever way is needed.

