

ST. FRANCIS PRAYER CENTER

September 2012



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A Time for Change

The beginning of chapter 3 in Ecclesiastes, verses 1-8, is about time.

¹There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under the heavens. ²A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. ³A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build. ⁴A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance. ⁵A time to scatter stones, and a time to gather them; a time to embrace, and a time to be far from embraces. ⁶A time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away. ⁷A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to be silent, and a time to speak. ⁸A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace. From *The New American Bible*.

What time is it for St. Francis Prayer Center?

In 2010 we began the search for a new director. It was a national search. Not just once or twice, but three times we searched. In the first two searches, the candidates ultimately chosen decided not to take the job – some for health issues; others just felt it wasn't the right call for them.

Our last search resulted in hiring Sr. Ruthann Williams, OP, from Caldwell, New Jersey. Unfortunately, it was not a good time for her since health issues forced her to relinquish her duties here after one year. We ask you to continue to pray for her needs at this time.

So, where do we go next? The Board needed prayer and guidance as, once again, they deliberated about the leadership of St. Francis Prayer Center.

What should the "Prayer Center" be? Do we even need a prayer center? What could a "prayer center" do that other agencies couldn't? We have agencies that help with food for those who are hungry, health care for those without insurance, pay for utilities when a person loses their job, and sometimes for temporary or permanent housing.

Where does a person go who is searching for "spiritual" guidance and nurturing? Would any of the above mentioned institutions provide that aspect? Is the spiritual health of a person any less important than food or rent? Some would say no. What do you say?

Let's take a trip back in time. Following is an excerpt from the History of the Prayer Center:

During the spring of 1973, after a profound religious experience of her own 30-day retreat, Sr. Joanne Chiaverini, I.H.M. began to sense a need and an urgent desire on the part of lay men and

women to grow in the "how-to's" of prayer. There was an attraction to the use of sacred scriptures in prayer and reflection; people were asking for "oasis spots" - places where they could find some silence and peace and for friends they could share faith with more personally. As she felt this need and shared this with friends, they encouraged her to begin. It was Sr. Joanne's conviction that the Prayer Center ought to be located where the poor could walk. A group gathered together in Sharon & John Ahearn's living room one evening, and prayed for wisdom and direction. This group became the first Prayer Center Team, and thus the seeds were planted.

Did you read that? ... an urgent desire on the part of lay men and women to grow in the "how-to's" of prayer. Has that changed? Is there no longer a need for this growth? How about "oasis spots"?

Have you been to the Prayer Center?

It takes you a step away from the hustle and bustle of our busy, sometimes mad, lifestyles. A quiet place. A place to contemplate, reflect and renew.

St. Francis Prayer Center can be a leader in the spiritual nurturing of people in this area. We've been through many trials and tribulations. And there may be more to come. But with the help of God, we will continue to grow and evolve – perhaps in ways we can't even imagine at the moment. God has plans for SFPC. Will you continue to be part of those plans? Is this the "time" for the spiritual health to grow in our area ... and in you?

"Who will I send?" We'll let our new director, Debra (Debbie) Hawley tell you about herself and her answer to that question...

...meet our new Director

Greetings, and Gods' Peace be with you. My name is Debra Hawley and I am honored and privileged to introduce myself as the new Director of St. Francis Prayer Center as of September 1st.

I may be familiar to some—as I have been in business as an interior designer in the Flint area for 30 years. My years of design business have taken me into the lives and homes of many beloved friends and clients from Florida and South Carolina to Traverse City and back to Flint.

I have been involved in many kinds of ministry in the last 25 years. From Baptism classes to organizing parish missions; from planning Healing Masses to more formational things like 7-week "Life in the Spirit" Seminars. In 1985 while at Mass one Sunday, I had a rather profound experience of God. One of the songs at communion time was "Here I Am Lord." I felt a definitive call on my life that day. New at such revelations, I smiled and took it in stride when I heard the words, "I have heard my people's cry ... who will I send?" "Here I am Lord," I heard myself respond internally—"I will go if you lead me."

Knowing that I had 2 sons to raise and a thriving business, I had no idea what had just occurred. I had no idea of the 'yes' I had spoken to God in my heart that day!

The following 25 years were fast and often hard. I thought the Romans 5:1-5 verses about adversity and endurance were written just for me. I continued to further my own growth by attending leadership conferences and evangelism courses and classes on how to teach Spirit filled Catholic Living. Before long my Pastor began to send people for Spiritual Direction my way and my life had begun a big turn about. Often, the words of Jeremiah 29:11-14 followed me like the hound-dog of heaven. "For I know the plans I have for you..."

In the year of the Jubilee 2000, I began to earnestly ask the Lord to find a place for me 'full time' in His service. By this time I had made many friends in the church, both lay and clergy, and many knew that God had a call for me ... but we were all waiting—and praying—for it to be made manifest and evident to Debbie's heart.

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Only to the measure of our obedience will we see or hear or recognize Gods' call or direction or answer to our prayers. Much like trying to see through a very dirty window—the dirt; dust, pride, woundedness and fear will cloud our vision and block our ears from hearing the Voice of The One Who Loves us Best.



Debbie (above) enjoys the sun at the Prayer Center. Debbie with sidekick, Katie (at left).

These many years of differing service for Gods' People, have ministered to me as well in a very deep way. Those who have so little are often those most generous with what they have. Those who seek direction and guidance are willing to be transparent too and welcome someone who is also a sinner and looking for their way (me) to help guide and direct them, and has faith that God has placed them there as a companion.

We are a Pilgrim People. As Gods' People we are not known because we are Catholic or Baptist or African American or white or socially well thought of or poor beyond understanding. We are known because we are all loved first by Him Who Loves us Best. He is no minder of persons. When we are truly authentic, we are in right relationship with Him. Then, and only then, do we have what it takes to be in right relationship with others, and can also be good companions for our brothers and sisters.

I am in awe at the wonderful mission and accomplishments that St. Francis Prayer Center has provided both to the community and to its' fellow man. It is with a most humble heart I accept the opportunity to serve you. Please pray for me often as I discern the Holy Spirit's direction for the Prayer Center. I am looking so forward to meeting you all and hearing your stories.

Your Servant in the Spirit,

Debbie (Debra Hawley)
Director, St. Francis Prayer Center



Autumn Peace

by Debra Hawley

The sun glides over
The freshly washed trees
Their branches filled with mercy
Waiting for someone to receive

Raindrops glisten,
like diamond dust
On asparagus trees
A breathtaking view
And photographers' delight

Feathered friends enjoy breakfast
And a fresh drink too
Water from the Living Well
A Fathers' plenitude

Leaves sway on branches
Like dancing little children
Tossing drops of mercy
On the ever waiting earth



All are singing a song
of delight
The dark night has passed
He bringeth the light

Birdcage stands,
with door ajar

All visitors welcome
From near or from far

The door's always open
The banquet all set
The meek may attend
Let the haughty forget

Let all that has breath
Praise the Lord on High
Let the day lilies and
trumpet vines
Lift their faces to the sky

Let the black-eyed Susans'
Nod their heads to agree

Jesus is Lord—
He died for me

What's Coming Up???

From the Director's desk...

There is an old adage that if you always do what you've always done—you'll always get what you've got!! I am uncertain where that came from, but I certainly can attest to the accuracy of such a mindset.

It still amazes me that when God answers prayers the result is always far greater than I can truly imagine! My being at St. Francis Prayer Center is the result of such prayer.

I pray that Sr. Joanne will be interceding for me as I begin to plan for things at the Prayer Center. I am doing much reading of things done in the past and how all of you participated. There is amazing response when our hearts are passionate for the Glory of God, and not necessarily for what please us!. I believe when we can 'hear' God for ourselves we begin to do life differently. It is for this reason the **Pilgrims' Way** study was chosen for the Prayer Center. There are many ways to study scripture—and a plethora to offer your attendees. This study will not drill the events and places and time lines into your brain with "information." It will instead, slowly teach you skills of 'hearing and listening,' not only with your physical self, but with your **heart!**

Over a period of being in the same group for 6 months, you develop close relationships with other like-minded Christians—and you begin a very new learning curve. You begin to hear what God has to say to you.

So, I know this is **not** what has been done before! And, I know it is for a longer period that many are accustomed to, but the commitment is worth it, and I am in it all the way with anyone who is looking for this closer walk. I will walk that journey with you and we'll see what the Lord has in mind together.



October:

†Pilgrims' Way:

A one-time weekly formational study group on *How to form an Intimate relationship with God*. This is a 6 month study. Each class is approximately 1-1/2 hours. There will be classes offered here at the Prayer Center and also at Holy Redeemer. See below to sign up.

†Fall Garden Clean-Up

Oct. 12th & 13th - 10:00 am-5:00 pm
Come and meet the Director and help me see what is in those gardens! Let's make it beautiful together and get to know one another, too. Bring your garden



gloves and favorite tool. I'll have the soup or chili ready and cider and doughnuts available to nourish your bodies as we work to renew the flower beds.

Please RSVP if you plan on coming so we will know how much soup to make! If we have a successful clean-up day, maybe we can plant bulbs for the springtime. In case of inclement weather on the 12th, we will meet on October 13th. If you can help, please call the office 810-787-5330.

NOTE: Debbie would be particularly interested in meeting and talking with anyone who is/was very active in the gardens previously or is a master gardener.

ST. FRANCIS PRAYER CENTER REGISTRATION FORM

G-2381 E. Carpenter Road, Flint, MI 48505, Phone 810-787-5330, Email: stfrancisflint@comcast.net

Please mail this coupon to the Prayer Center, *call or email us to reserve your place.*

Name _____
Address _____
City/St/Zip _____
Email _____

In lieu of a fixed cost for programs, a free-will offering will be taken.

Yes, I would like to attend a retreat or special day. Please sign me up for:

___ **Pilgrims' Way** @ St. Francis Prayer Center on Oct. 15th - Mondays from 10:00 - 12:00 pm. Book is \$20. RSVP

___ **Pilgrims' Way** @ St. Francis Prayer Center on Oct. 18th - Thursday from 10:00 - 12:00 pm. Book is \$20. RSVP

___ **Pilgrims' Way** @ Holy Redeemer on Oct. 16th - Tuesday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. Book is \$20. RSVP

___ **Fall Garden Clean-Up** Friday, October 12th from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

___ **Fall Garden Clean-Up** Saturday, October 13th from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm (*rain date for 12th/plant bulbs for spring*)

___ **Advent — A Date with the Deacon** Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19 from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm

Plans for the Future

November:

†Advent: A Date with the Deacon “How do YOU prepare?”

Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12, 19 — 10am-2pm

Be sure not to miss these Wednesday's in Advent with a local Deacon. We intend to have much fun while the Deacons are the teachers ☺. We are blessed to have several Deacons from our area. Each Wednesday morning they will be teaching on the following Sunday's Gospel. The dates are November 28th, Dec. 5th, 12th, and 19th from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon.

Please RSVP by filling out the Registration form on previous page, by calling the Prayer Center at 810-787-5330 or emailing us at stfrancisflint@comcast.net.

Other plans in the works:

Healing Mass
with Adoration

Days of
Healing

Several
Prayer Teams
Available



Confessions, direction and
quiet time all available.

December:

†A Christmas Memory Dates To Be Determined

We are considering getting large ornaments people could purchase to honor someone or in memory of a loved one. The ornaments would be artistically inscribed. We will then have a special day of prayer. There would be a tree lighting ceremony followed by hanging our ornaments ... and we may sing some carols. We'll have coffee or tea and desserts after the ceremony.

What do you think?

Let us know what you think of this idea. We don't want to overwhelm everyone, but wondered if this is something you would be interested in. If so, more information will be in a future newsletter.



A Recipe to Delight Your Taste Buds

Pumpkin Cake Ingredients

1 lb. canned pumpkin (mix w/spices in it)
1/2 cup sugar
12 oz. Pet evaporated milk
3/4 tsp. of cinnamon
3 eggs
1 box yellow cake mix
2 sticks of margarine (I use butter)
1-1/2 cups chopped pecans
1/2 cup brown sugar
Topping: 8 oz. cream cheese, 1/2 cup powdered sugar, as much Cool Whip as necessary to make it easily spreadable for the top.



Pumpkin Cake Directions

Line a 9x13 pan with wax paper. Mix pumpkin, sugar, milk, eggs, and cinnamon. Pour onto wax paper. Prepare cake mix according to directions and pour over top of pumpkin mixture; mix pecans and brown sugar and pat on top.
Bake at 350°F until knife comes out clean, approximately 25-30 minutes.
Before it gets too cool, flip over leaving pecan mixture as top.
Add topping.

FAMOUS DUOS VOLUNTEERS for FUNDRAISER

My face is red!

You know how you can tell an old person?? By some of the goofy things they say and do. Me, for one. It was stated in a past newsletter that we would run the names of volunteers. Have you seen them? Nope. Me either.

Instead of the list of volunteers, I ran the list of businesses who gave us donations — two times. I'm not sorry about that because they deserve second recognition. What I am sorry about is that the volunteers names were missed!

Thank You, Thank You!

Following are those individuals or couples that volunteered their time and put much effort into pulling together a very successful fundraiser.

They are: **Ticket Committee:** Carol Yahr, Steve Figliuolo, Henry Jacobi, Donna Fisher, Ron & Agnes Taylor, Lila Burnash, Richard & Jo'Ann Hryniewiecki, Rick & Maddie White, Joe & Pat Forlenza, Marty & Catherine Arend, Ted Zimmer, John & Cathy Vanderkuur, Jerry Decker, Ron & Jackie Pung, Marv & Pat Crooks, Zen & Andrea Anson, Jane Nimcheski, Al & Barb Ogorek, Sharon McAndrew, Maria Eichhorn, Dick Beauchamp, Ellen Safley, Paul Silveri, Andy & Margaret Verdun, Gary & Peggy Wescott, Fr. Phil; **Hall Set-Up/Caterer:** Pat Haley & a host of those that stepped in while there;

Decorations Committee: Margaret Verdun, Cathy Tedesco, Jo'Ann Hryniewieski, Vicky Wykes, Jo Kekel, Agnes Taylor, Janet Helfrich; **Hospitality Committee:** Juanita Robinson, Maxine Swisher, Chris Ross, Tamika Robinson; **Bid Numbers:** Kathy Konesny, Joyce Ford; **Food Committee:** Teresa Marcou, Cecilia Marcou, Ethel Hooker, Tammy Licquia, Joan Cook; **Bar Committee:** Zen & Andrea Anson, Rick & Maddie White; **MC Table Committee:** Lori & Keith Hatton, Jim & Kathy Neumann, Joe Forlenza, Pat Blondin;

Photography Committee: Rudy Verdun, Chuck Brasier; **Music Committee:** Pat & Cheryl Blondin; **Prayer Committee:** Joan Cook, Maxine

Swisher, Barb Mann, Rudy & Joan Nasser, Mary Rousseau, Mary Frankovich, **Promotions:** Sr. Ruthann Williams, O.P.; **Clean-Up Committee:** Pat & Marv Crooks, Rudy & Joan Nasser, Angela Crooks; **50/50 Committee:** Margaret Verdun, Vicky Wykes, Carol Piechocki, Pat Panek, Kitty Kelly, Andy Verdun, Steve James, Pat Kelly, Sam Stewart, John Kekel, **Auction Committee:** Pat Forlenza, Jackie Pung, Cheryl Blondin, Peggy & Gary Wescott, Carole Dupcza, Jamie Hutchison, Kathy Irwin, Kathy Konesny, Jean Shipley, Agnes Taylor.

Some of these people could have their names placed in many areas. We apologize to those whose names we may have missed — and we thank you as well! Also a BIG THANK YOU to all those that participated in the Live and Silent Auctions. Each piece of the puzzle adds up to one beautiful picture. *We go together like YOU and St. Francis Prayer Center.*

Party Chairperson, Jean Shipley



The theme chosen for the
2013 Annual Fundraiser
is

BEACH PARTY!

Let's think
Sun & Sand & Fun!

A Companion for the Journey

Are you looking for someone to journey with you in your spiritual life? Do you sometimes feel there could be more to your spiritual life, but do not know how to find it? A companion in your spiritual life can be a great source of comfort and also a great catalyst in personal growth.

A Spiritual Companion Will:

- Give you uninterrupted time and confidentiality
- Never judge you
- Be a companion on your journey
- Pray for you specifically
- Tell you the truth
- Always let you be yourself
- Help you form disciplines and practices to further your growth in the Lord
- Always ready to listen
- Help you recognize your own God given gifts

A Spiritual Companion Will Not:

- Tell you what to do or think
- Criticize how you behave or speak
- Compare you to another
- Betray your confidences
- Take the place of a licensed psychologist or doctor
- Tell you only what you want to hear
- Please call the office to set up an appointment.

Come and Share Life † Share Prayer † Share the work of the Holy Spirit—with A Trusted Friend.

1 John 1:1, 3, 5

This is what we proclaim to you; what was from the beginning, what we heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked upon and our hands have touched—we speak of the word of life.

What we have seen and heard we proclaim in turn to you so that you may share life with us.

Here, then, is the message we have heard from Him, and announce to you; that God is Light; in Him there is no darkness.

Helping Those In Need

As we go to press, we wanted to let you know that we are still helping those less fortunate. In the past year, a number of individuals have come to us for help with utilities, rent, bus passes, water bills, food, etc. We try to help those we can.

We do have a procedure we follow. Those that come to us are required to go through Love, Inc. Clients can call Love, Inc. at 235-4990 or 235-4992 between the hours of 9:00 am and 2:30 pm.

Their web site is loveincogcc@comcast.net.

We Are In Need

We are in need of a reasonable, heavy duty vehicle to haul a trailer (which we already have) around the Prayer Center property. It will not be used on the road, just the PC property. If you have any information on such a vehicle, please call the Prayer Center at 810-787-5330. Thanks.



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Volume 37, Number 8

Non-Profit
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Flint, MI
Permit #453



To Our Monthly Pledgers

We take time once again to thank all of our monthly Pledgers. *Where would we be without you.* You have kept us going during the uncertain times. You have been consistent. You are very important to us.

As we begin a new era at the Prayer Center, we hope you will continue to support us.

We invite others to consider becoming a monthly pledgers as well. We currently have only 18 monthly Pledgers.

We pray for all of you; for your life journey, for your family and friends, for ever!

*Thank
You!*

Would you like to
receive our newsletters
via email?

Send your request to
stfrancisflint@comcast.net
Please include your name.

We currently have 105 people
who will be receiving this
newsletter by email.

Also, if you no longer wish
to receive our newsletters or
would like your name removed
from our list, please let us
know. Thank you.

Great Getaway Winners — 2012

First of all we extend a great big **THANK YOU** to everyone who purchased tickets for our Great Getaway Raffle. And, while we wish you could all win, there were only three tickets drawn. We also wish to thank those who donated the prizes!

Secondly, even though the winners are not currently living in the immediate area, they have been Prayer Center members for a long time. Tom & Emily were around when the chalet part was built in the 70s. Frank DeRose's brother, Fr. Paul, was a good friend of Fr. Phil's. Bob and Arlene Manzardo were in the first couple group for an In-Home Retreat.

Our drawing was held August 28th at 2:00 pm. The first ticket drawn belonged to **Tom & Emily Borton**. They chose the 43" Samsung TV which was donated by Al & Barb Ogorek.

The second ticket drawn belonged to **Frank De Rose**. He chose the Bay Mills Resort & Casino Gift Certificate. It was donated by Bay Mills.

The third and final ticket drawn belonged to **Bob & Arlene Manzardo**. They received the final prize of a Kindle Fire full color touch screen which was donated by an anonymous person.

We hope each of them enjoy their prizes!