



## What is YOUR mountain?

By the time you receive this newsletter you will have already experienced a few weeks of our Lenten Season. In preparation, I persisted in hearing (in my own heart) that He can certainly move the mountains in our lives—but even more importantly, He can use the mountain **For His Glory**, by allowing it to mold us and teach us what we most need to know at this time.

Of course, this information, even if we get it, doesn't usually sound very appealing. He places many people and circumstances and sometimes even' mountains in our lives to get our attention, but sadly the culture of the world that we live in today does not leave much time to hear such information. Therefore, placing an obstacle as large as a mountain in our life will most generally not be missed!

As the burning bush appeared to Moses, God instructed him to remove his sandals and made it clear to him that the ground before him was holy.

The Ash Wednesday reading from St. Paul to the Corinthians (5:20 and 6:2), implored them on behalf of Christ to be reconciled to God. It reminded them that in an acceptable time He heard them and that on the day of salvation He helped them. Paul says, **“Now is a very acceptable time; behold; Now is the day of salvation.”**



He was immediately struck with fear as looking upon the face of God would likely be his demise. So he hid his face—but he still listened as the God of the Universe would tell him his name—I AM. With the Mountain of Horeb in view and the burning bush speaking—**he listened**. God got his attention.

It is amazing how each of us in our differing journeys might see a mountain. For one, it might be the death of a loved one; for another the death of an abuser; for another the end of a job that should have been for a lifetime. To yet another, a diagnosis of cancer or the sheer inability to forgive someone who has injured or harmed us. The Psalms continue, as do the Holy Scriptures, to remind us of Gods Promise's.

Psalms 103 tells us that He redeems your life from destruction; He pardons all of our inequities; that He is merciful and abounding in kindness, and slow to anger.

Our mountain of disappointment or pain, or unforgiveness is telling our story for us. Often we feel that it is not possible to scale that mountain—or even look at it!! But He is still God, and we are not. We may have our face hidden like Moses did with the burning bush, but **we can still listen**. The hope that waits for us is the God of the Universe. He can wait forever—and will—at least until the Father deems our time is finished here.

**If today you hear Gods' call,  
do not harden your hearts. PSALM 95:8**

Perhaps the mountain is not so clear as it was. Perhaps it stays in the peripheral and is not always a source of consternation or pain or discomfort to you. Clearly, that doesn't mean it has been removed! The practices we are

# What is YOUR mountain?

*Continued from front*

admonished to offer in alms and sacrifice to God during this Holy, penitential time will readily 'help us listen.' Fasting from things that please us or our senses gives great clarity. When those desires are constantly satisfied there is little room for listening. The Lord says in the book of Joel, "even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; Rend your hearts, NOT your garments, and return to the Lord your God.

JOEL 12:12-13

In other words, don't just tear your shirt or jacket off in disgust and pitch it on the floor (give up) in your frustration of this mountain in your life. In those times someone would 'tear their cloak' or rend their garment in anguish or sorrow or frustration. Rather, the Lord suggests that you let your heart be torn, listen and let that torn heart that needs restoration be healed with the mercy of God who waits patiently for you to give it up. Let it speak so sufficiently to you, that after listening, your confession is brought to the one place it can be restored—the God of the Universe.

My prayer for you in this extraordinary season, is that you may use the practices that



our Catholic Faith and Traditions have given us to expand your personal view of the mountain in your life. It matters not what it is. What matters is that you come to understand that regardless how difficult or painful it might be—or just plain awkward maybe—that God in His infinite wisdom has permitted it to be in your life for a reason, and through these practices of fasting and penance, that you would be given 'eyes to see, and ears to hear'; that your heart would be rendered—not your garment. In this way, His will for your life will be honored, and your restoration with the Bridegroom will have been secured. You will now have that perfect peace that passes all understanding. PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

Peace in the Spirit,  
Debbie

## More Christmas Celebrations



*A surprise for SFPC! A 10½ foot Douglas fir Christmas tree.*



*Joel from Belleville, MI and Jakyra share Christmas fun.*



*Director Deb with new Christmas friends.*



*Ron & Agnes Taylor with one of our families.*



*The picture says it all!*



# Christmas celebrated at the Prayer Center

We wish you could have been here to experience the joy and exuberance from the adopted families as well as the adoptees! The Prayer Center was literally “filled to capacity” with adults and children as one big family. It was such a moving experience.

Below are a few of the many pictures taken that day. We laughed, we cried, we felt blessed. The spirit of Christmas truly dwelt among us.

Of course, where would we be without our many volunteers for the day. Along with our

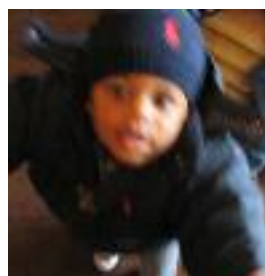
Director, Debbie Hawley, many others helped make the day even more wonderful. Helpers for the day included: Jean Shipley, Linda Noll, Joyce Ford, Jonathan Hawley, Liz Wilber, and Lizzy Lamson.



*Agnes Taylor has a new friend.*



*Doubly wonderful!*



*Braxton just wanted to play with the camera!*

*The Christmas tree was spectacular!*



*The smiles were contagious!*



*Just one big happy family.*



*Nothin' better than looking down from the loft.*



*Volunteer Joyce looks on as gifts are checked out.*



*Let's take a picture – smile!*



*Total girl = total fun!*



*Volunteers Jonathan H & Linda N setting up snacks.*



*Bi-i-iiiig hug!*



*Let's figure this out.*



*Debbie with a family.*



*Linda N & John B.*

# Those We Hold In Living Memory

## March 1, 2012 through February 28, 2013

Currie Cormier II  
 Albert D. DiNatale  
 Emmanuel Prayer Group  
 Family Unity  
 Gallaher Family  
 Joshua & Mary Jo Gallagher  
 Rev. David W. Harvey  
 Richard Heit  
 Jeanne & Paul Heying  
 & Family  
 Hillaker Family  
 Marie Koon  
 Iaquinto Family  
 Jean Latson  
 Norma Lake  
 Margaret Lehoux

Jack Matsko  
 Fr. Bob McKeon  
 Marie Meadows  
 Richard Miller  
 Sharon Miller  
 Jean Marie Miscisin  
 Michelle Mitchell  
 Dorothy Moore  
 Susan Nelson  
 Elizabeth Nemecek  
 Chester Novak  
 Barbara Ann O'Gorek  
 Ramona O'Neil  
 Ruth Penn  
 Sue Poirier  
 Kim Ramirez

Elly Richmond  
 Wm. Safranski & Family  
 Fr. Phil Schmitter  
 Special Intention - Lisa Surgery  
 Velma Stewart & Family  
 Joseph Tremain  
 Gail Tynnes  
 All those businesses and benefactors who have supported St. Francis Prayer Center



### Give the Gift of Prayer

Please consider using our Gift of Prayer Memorial Cards. The money is placed in the Prayer Center Memorial Fund. The principal is used as a "Gift that keeps on Giving" for years to come. The interest generated is used to further the ministries of the Prayer Center. The names of loved ones are kept on the altar at the Prayer Center and remembered in all of the Masses, Prayers, and Ministries of the Prayer Center.

We are very grateful to our friends who have named the Prayer Center as a Charitable Organization to whom a donation could be made on the occasion of the death of a loved one or in honor of a living person (graduation, wedding, new baby, get well, anniversary, etc.).

If you would consider this thoughtful gift idea to help support the Prayer Center or need additional memorial cards, please give us a call 810-787-5330, write us at G-2381 E. Carpenter Rd., Flint, MI 48505, or send your request via e-mail to [stfrancisflint@comcast.net](mailto:stfrancisflint@comcast.net).

### Comments from Past Retreatants

#### PILGRIM'S WAY

**For the first time** in my life, I see or experience the workings of the Holy Spirit thru the Pilgrim's Way program. Every week I am encouraged and inspired by the sharing in my group. -K

**Joining the Pilgrim's Way** and going to conferences at the Prayer Center has deeply enriched my spiritual life. There is a real sense of community here. The blessings I have received while at the Prayer Center overflow into all the areas of my life as greater love and service to people I meet during the week.

**This is a very deep** level of study. I have found the

Pilgrim's Way is the "college" of Bible studies and it covers not only scripture, but where it is in our own hearts and community. -Teresa

#### HEALING RETREAT

The workshop with Arlene Apone was great, as usual. Her teachings on the gifts of the Holy Spirit was full of clarity. Something that stood out to me was her statement on "a casual approach to Our Lord brings a casual Relationship." So if we want to grow in spirituality - be serious about it. It's an intentional effort that we must put forth. It's not a passive thing that we absorb thru osmosis. Intentional effort - that's a good reminder. -MMED



# Those We Hold In Eternal Memory

## March 1, 2012 through February 28, 2013

Sidney Adkins  
Joseph Andelora  
John Antos  
Travis Batway  
Liz Bell  
Fr. Jim Bettendorf  
Daniel Bois  
Gayle Briones  
Gerald R. Brunell  
Sr. Joanne Chiaverini  
Fred Clark  
Pat Clor  
Elsie & Allen Combs  
Florinda Crespo  
Sylvia Cummins  
Fr. Paul DeRose  
Mrs. Emily DiNatale  
Ruth J. DuCap  
Joel Eickholt  
Paula Erickson  
Donna Ferguson  
Raul Garcia  
James Gibson

John Gregory  
Noreen Harkins  
Kenneth Heit  
Joseph Iaquinto  
Margaret Kolinski  
Nancy Klumpp  
Loretta Laureto  
Lawrence Charles LaVictoire  
Mary Jane MacDonald  
Nicola Madonna  
Mark McCallum  
Thomas Miller  
Betty Moody  
Ellen Moran  
Cycilia Mousseau  
Thomas Murray  
Marjorie Mysliwski  
Robert Mysliwski, Sr.  
Stanley F. Nemecek  
Randy Noe  
Harold Patrick O'Rourke  
Louise Paliani  
James E. Pawloski

Arthur B. Pearson  
Stewart Pincumbe  
Lynde Podasek  
Richard Quintanilla  
Bernard Salvo  
Ruth Schmitter  
Catherine & Lewis Schulz  
Joseph C. Shmels  
John Smarney  
Genevieve M. Smith  
Rosemary Smothers  
Samuel C. Snavely  
Mary Ann Stewart  
Sam Stewart III  
Edward Tesler  
Ida May Themm  
Vincent Van Dalen  
Mary M. Verhaeghe  
John P. Voelker  
Robert Zak  
Anthony Zanotti  
Olindo Zucchet

## Will You Pray?

My Dear St. Francis Friends,

As you must know, there are many aspects to our Prayer Center that need attention: direction; money; and lots more. But we are first and foremost a place of prayer and love for our brothers and sisters.

Please ask the Lord if He may be calling to you in these particular requests. Our fundraiser is in the works and is our largest source of income monies for the center. We need a small group of faithful intercessors to pray expressly for this purpose—that the Holy Spirit would touch people's hearts' to be generous in their time, talents, and money for the good of the center and all those we help here.

Secondly, I would like to begin a Prayer Circle of people who would agree to be "On Call" for the



intentions of the Prayer Center and anyone who needs special prayer requests. I have a tentative date on the calendar of **Friday, May 3rd** as **Prayer Luncheon with**

**the Director.** Perhaps we could meet this first Friday each May as we continue this Ministry.

1 PETER 4:7-11

As the Lord leads, please contact the office with your name, phone number and email address, if you have one, and your availability to come to the luncheon on May 3rd. This is a vital Ministry to the Prayer Center, and not to be taken lightly. We want to stand in the gap for those that need us in all capacities and gifts that God has given us.

Make us a channel of Your Peace, oh Lord,  
–Debbie

Make your plans now to attend

St. Francis Prayer Center's 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Friend & Fundraiser

Join Us for some Sun, Sand & Fun at our

# BEACH PARTY!

## Saturday, April 27, 2013

### TICKETS \$100 EACH

Each ticket entitles 2 people to enjoy dinner!

Additional Guest Dinner Tickets available for \$25.00 each.



Tickets available on a first come, first serve basis – get your request in early!



**Elimination Drawing for over \$7,000 in cash prizes!**

- 4:30 Gathering
- 5:00 Dinner Buffet
- 6:00 Elimination Raffle / Live & Silent Auctions
- ??? Dancing to the sounds of Pat Blondin

There will be a **delicious dinner** catered by Pat Haley, a **Live Auction**, drawing of **Big Tickets**. Meanwhile there will be plenty of **Silent Auction** items to bid on and **50/50's** to win. Finally the last of the **Big Tickets** will be drawn and a winner announced. Then we'll finish out the evening **dancing** the tunes of Pat Blondin, DJ & Karaoke aficionado! Hope to see you there! **Order tickets now.**

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

### DINNER & DRAWING TICKET ORDER (Please Print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City/St/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of drawing tickets @ **\$100** each. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send the two dinner tickets included with each drawing ticket, we will be in attendance at the party for your caterer's count

\_\_\_\_\_ I wish to sponsor \_\_\_\_\_ persons attending @ **\$100** for two

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send \_\_\_\_\_ guest **dinner tickets** @ **\$25** each

\_\_\_\_\_ Sorry, we cannot attend, but will pray for your success. Please distribute the use of our dinner tickets to someone who will appreciate being present.

Amount Enclosed:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_ Check

Raffle License # R19659

**BE SURE TO LET US KNOW IF YOU WILL BE ATTENDING! We need to let the caterer know.**

## “A Date With the Deacon”

Who had a date with the deacon??? Well, several did, and boy did we have fun! Deacon Tony Verdun was with us our first week and shared the following weeks' Gospel and spent an hour with us afterward sharing. Deacon Jim Brown and his wife Mae (*shown at right*) were with us for a week, and brought with them lots of friends. We had a full house and much laughter with our learning. Deacon Denny Pennell from St. Roberts, Flushing was also with us and enjoyed



*Deacon Denny and Kathy Nerreter center pic. Ethel Hooker and Rosemarie Feckovics pictured at right.*

the groups' questions and comments. We will definitely do this next year, as we had much fun and fellowship. Many thanks to all participants!

## Our First Retreat Day in Pictures



*Kris Jones, Fr. John Ederer (Saginaw) and Director Deb. Our first retreat day with Mass.*

*First retreat day with mass celebrated in our 'new room.' Stained glass windows donated by one of the pilgrims in our Pilgrim's Way Bible study.*



*First retreat for our new director. Arlene Apone from Arch Diocese of Detroit. We had a full house!*



## Fundraiser Volunteers, We Need You!

Volunteers are needed to help prior to the fundraiser event including seeking donations from businesses, picking items up from businesses, bringing items up from the basement during the last few days, helping to take items to Holy Redeemer on Friday evening (hopefully).

We also need volunteers the **day of** the fundraiser: helping to set up in the morning (starting @ 9:00 am), during event by helping with the Silent Auction tables as an attendant, working at the Bid Number table, working at the Pay Table after auctions are complete, and finally cleaning up

at the end of the evening.

This is our largest fundraising event for the year. It takes many, many people to make it both an enjoyable event as well as producing revenue to keep the Prayer Center alive and well. *Won't you help??* Please call Debbie or Jean at 810-787-5330, tell us your area of expertise, we will find just the right job for you! **Help us think outside the box!**

Please remember that we accept only cash or checks (business or personal) for payment. We do not accept credit cards at this time.

–Jean Shipley, Chairperson



## St. Francis Prayer Center

G-2381 E. Carpenter Rd., Flint, MI 48505  
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### Sign Up for Newsletters by E-mail

We will add you to our list – send your request to stfrancisflint@comcast.net. We enjoy hearing from you as well. Send us a card or note to let us know how we are doing. May each of you be blessed during the season of Lent and throughout the coming year!

#### Christmas Greetings

Thank you for your dedication to ministry and for bringing New Life back to the Prayer Center! It feels – alive again! God is good. You are doing a terrific job.  
–Agnes & Ron Taylor

#### From our Mailbox



#### Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who made our Christmas and the holidays so much brighter. Your loving kindness touched our hearts. It was a very unexpected, but joyous surprise. Thanks again,  
–Sue Jones and Family

### ★ Save the Date ★

Since coming to St. Francis in September, we have had many things going on! The Pilgrims Way Bible Study began with about 60 people, and is currently holding at about 40 persons between all three classes. We have had several requests to start new classes.

**There will likely always be a Pilgrims' Way going on.** It is a formational kind of study—therefore, always ongoing and teaching people to delve deeply into their personal faith life. It is not uncommon for people to repeat it! Many have taken it multiple times over the years, as something new comes to them each time.



**Please contact our office at 810-787-5330** if you are interested in the next Pilgrim's Way study. Also indicate your preference for morning or evening session. Depending upon the response, I will likely begin another session in late spring.

We will soon be offering a follow-up course for current Pilgrims' Way participants that is not quite so long.

### Upcoming Events

*Watch for Postcards & E-mails*

#### When – What

- |               |   |   |
|---------------|---|---|
| 6/3           | Intercessors Prayer Luncheon with the Director                          |  |
| May 31/June 1 | Spring Garden Kickoff<br><i>(Come play in the dirt with us!)</i>        |   |
| TBD           | NEXT Pilgrim's Way Bible Study  |  |
| TBD           | Inner Healing Training  |   |
| TBD           | Music Ministry Retreat<br><i>(The How To's of Praise &amp; Worship)</i> |   |

