



A Mantle of Love

How many times have we all heard, “I didn’t realize how much I loved until they were gone.” I suppose it is part of the human condition, but very often we are ‘covered’ by someone in great love and/or protection and do not realize this until they are taken away.

In the ordinary scheme of life we are under the mantle of our parents who love and raise us to become what the world expects—self-sufficient, independent adults. The mantle provides a covering of protection and a space to be nurtured and grow and even make mistakes without fear of being lost to a world we do not yet know how to navigate.

In our haste to ‘grow up’ we often throw off this mantle, seeking to stand alone and make our determinations of life without this protection. The wisdom, however, of the One who loves us will gently spread it out even further to allow us the room to explore and yet return quickly in times of need. The same wisdom will not only promote our growing up and

someone greater than ourselves and something far greater than our education and money can provide. The

Mantle of Love provides both the human aptitude of skills and accomplishment and the Divine Providence and Wisdom of our Heavenly Father.



Director Debbie & Fr. Phil pose with the Mantle (scarf) given to her at the Fundraiser by Fr. Phil.

What follows is a life that is prepared to not only take care of oneself, but also one who is ready to serve another. The Covering (mantle) that was provided for us, permitted growth, mistakes, and possibly even rebellion for a short period. It equipped us for what was to come while not stifling

us with oppression or removing our free will.

Psalms 91:2-4 reminds us that He is a refuge and fortress, and we may find shelter under His wings, and be covered by His feathers.

This sounds to me like a safe place to grow up, mature, and become. This sounds to me like a place I can feel safe, well

taken care of, and not break a leg if I fall or trip over an obstacle. It does not sound like a place of weakness and wrongful dependence on others. Rather, it sounds like Wisdom.

When we become ‘equipped’ for life, it does not mean we are now independent. It means like a broken bone in a leg must be ‘set straight’ by a physician, so, too, do we need to be ‘set straight’ for the work that is waiting for us in the Kingdom of God. We need to be not out of joint—but set straight. In right order, not out of order—His order.

So, the Mantle that covers and protects us is one that prepares us and equips us as well. Before we take

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The distinction between growing up, making our own way, becoming independent, and wholly depending on the wisdom and love of the One who loves us is vastly different.

independence, but will instill a knowledge of undefeatable benevolence toward us, an Agape Love that models for us what ‘dependence’ on the One who loves us, really means.

The distinction between growing up, making our own way, becoming independent, and wholly depending on the wisdom and love of the One who loves us is vastly different.

The first relies on our skills and talents and perhaps education or financial wherewithal. But Proverbs 3:5 instructs us to lean not unto our own understanding, but in all things to acknowledge Him, and He will direct our paths.

So true wisdom and love does indeed rely on

A Mantle of Love *Continued from page 1*

our first breath He is already equipping us for His mission and for His Glory. In the womb He covers us and forms our inmost parts (Psalm 13), knowing what He has in store for us. This Wisdom, this Mantle, empowers us.

Jesus was intent on providing the Mantle for His disciples. In order to equip them, He knew that he first would have to submit to death on a cross. His promise to them that the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, would then come was the Mantle He would provide.

The Holy Spirits' Mantle provides the power we need in all things. Without it, we are weak in the biggest sense of the word. We are ill equipped to handle life and all that it entails. But, the Spirit empowers us with the strength and vigor and capacity to accomplish all things—and it is all done in His Divine Wisdom and for His Glory.

With the Holy Spirit as their Mantle, they would have the wisdom, understanding, love, and patience that it would require to bring Gods' people to know and love Him.

The one thing that the disciples had not counted on was that Jesus would have to be taken up and away from them for this to occur. Jesus told them this of course (Acts 1:9) but they did not understand yet. So, it was in His going away from them that the Mantle was given. Indeed, the Mantle of the Father was also covering His Only Son by a cloud in this process! The Father also covers His only son in a Mantle of Love (seen

At the Fundraiser, it was with much love and great humility that I bowed my head to allow Fr. Phil to cover me with that beautiful mantle (turquoise scarf).

by the disciples as a cloud) as He takes Him back to Himself. The Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, then remains behind as the Divine protector, the most complete counselor and the most effective healer, to instruct and lead the disciples and to 'grow them up' and train them in the way they should go (Proverbs 22:6).

I think we would all agree that this kind of 'growing up' is most ideal. At whatever age we may be, we are still children of God. He still requires obedience and faithfulness. We still require instruction, setting straight, and formation in our Spiritual Journey.

At the Fundraiser this year, I got a chance to meet many of you for the first time. It was with much love and great humility that I bowed my head to allow Fr.

Phil to cover me with that beautiful mantle (turquoise scarf).

As he explained the story of Elijah and Elisha, I was deeply moved. I knew I needed the wisdom to see where the Lord is leading the Prayer Center. I also knew I would need much patience to accomplish this, and that it would not and could not be done only by my



During the welcoming speeches at the Fundraiser, Fr. Phil is passing on the mantle to Debbie Hawley, our new director, as Andrea Anson looks on.

willing it to be so, or by my sheer determination or grit—both of which I have an abundance of. 😊

Rather, it would be accomplished by the Mantle of Love that had been placed over me, and that it would be by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit that it would be fruitful.

Elisha tagged along with Elijah and, at times, became a pest of himself. He was determined to not let him out of his site. He wanted the abilities and the heart that he saw in Elijah for himself, too, and was not timid about asking for them.

My prayer for myself is that my ideals and intentions are as pure as Elisha's were. I pray that I may be as faithful to what has been given to me to care for and nurture and grow.

My prayer for you, as you read this, is that you will allow the same Mantle of Love to cover you and your family as well. That you would not be seeking to live life on your own without the wisdom and instruction of the Holy Spirit. That in ALL things you would defer to Him who loves you best, to be over you and be in charge of you.

Come, Holy Spirit, come in power. Allow us at any age of our lives to be disciplined, loved and nurtured in Your ways. Permit us the humility to see that we do not know the ways of God without your help. Cover us with surety and comfort that You will never leave us and that You are all we need.

Give us the disposition of a child, the wisdom of our elders, and the love that only YOU can provide.

In Jesus the Lord,
Debbie

Old Fashioned Revival

Sat., Sept. 7, 2013

10:00 am to Dusk on the grounds of

ST. FRANCIS PRAYER CENTER

G-2381 E. Carpenter Rd., Flint, MI 48505, Phone 810-787-5330

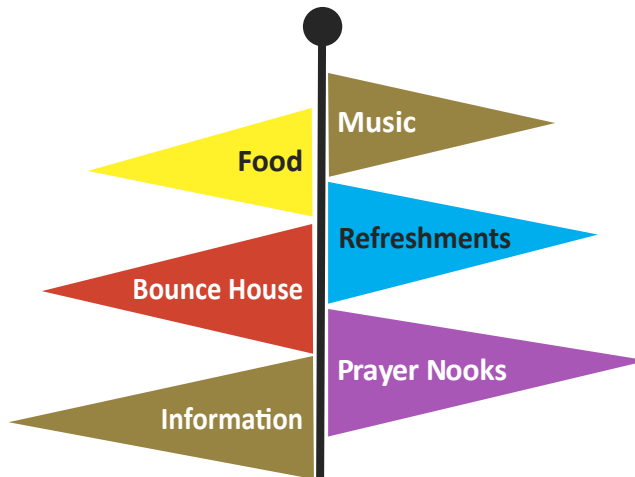
Come for a musical, spirit-filled, community-minded, fun-filled event!



Ice Cream Cart



Pastoral Care



Singing & Playing



Prayer Nooks



CHURCHES AND CHURCH GROUPS

You may sponsor or host any of the food, refreshment, or musical areas.

Contact the Prayer Center @ 810-787-5330 to help make this day a celebration to the Lord.

Invite your family & friends to join you for a good old fashioned revival.

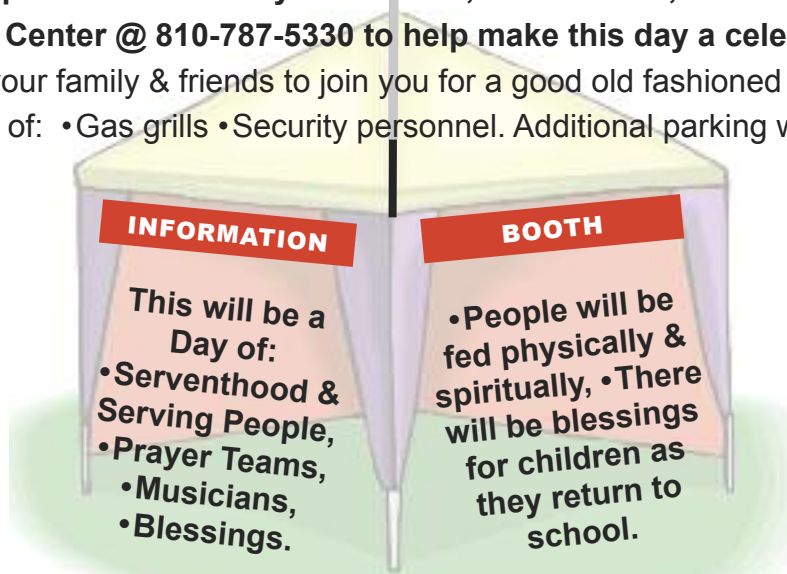
We are in need of: •Gas grills •Security personnel. Additional parking will be available.



Refreshment Stands



Pastoral Blessings



INFORMATION

This will be a Day of:
 •Serventhood & Serving People,
 •Prayer Teams,
 •Musicians,
 •Blessings.

BOOTH

•People will be fed physically & spiritually,
 •There will be blessings for children as they return to school.



Benches for Relaxation



Bounce House for Kids
 (Not actual one pictured.)

Free Will Donations Accepted.

St. Francis Prayer Center's 32nd Annual Friend & Fundraiser



MANY THANKS TO OUR WONDERFUL SUPPORT NETWORK

We wish to thank the following businesses who donated items for our Annual Fundraiser. Without them, we would be hard-pressed to continue!



- Bay Mills Resort & Casinos • Bentley Florist • Big John Steak & Onion • Brick Street of Grand Blanc • Clio Big Boy • Cinema Hollywood Empress of China • Fisher Brothers • Holy Family 3rd Order of Franciscans, St. Joseph Fraternity • Italia Gardens • Little Caesar's, Davison • Meijer, Inc. Store #28 • North American Dismantling Corp. • Quality Tax Service • Sloan Museum / Longway Planetarium • Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort • Sorrento's Food & Spirits • Temple Dining Room • Vic Bond Sales • Whitey's Restaurant.

The following individuals contributed to our fundraising efforts. We thank them, as well.

- Al & Barb Ogorek • Agnes Longaker • Andrea Anson • Ruth Schmitter • Joe Forlenza • Sam & (the late) Elizabeth Rudnick • Kathy Konesny • Kitty Kelly • Jerry Decker • Cindy Brandon • Robbie Ogorek • Marlene Willett • Debbie Hawley.

Sun, Sand & Fun ... 2013



Please Forgive Us...

This year there were many things different about our Fundraiser. Among them was the number of people we had to help us! While it was marvelous to have such a grand turnout, we needed more people to help us in various places. If anyone was spoken to abruptly or rudely we beg your forgiveness. We are most grateful for your support of the St. Francis Prayer Center and sincerely apologize if we have offended anyone of you whom we love so much. Mea maxima culpa.

Director Deb

The Grand Prize winner is...

GREAT GETAWAY 8

Order your tickets now! \$5 each or 6 for \$25. Use form below.

Drawing will be held on September 7, 2013 @ 2:00 pm

A portion of the proceeds from the raffle ticket sales will benefit our Old Fashioned Revival held Sept. 7. Your purchase of tickets will help insure a spirit-filled, fun-filled event!

at **ST. FRANCIS PRAYER CENTER**

G-2381 E. Carpenter Rd., Flint, MI 48505, (810) 787-5330

Choose from three exciting prizes! First ticket pulled gets choice of any of the 3, 2nd ticket pulled chooses from the 2 remaining, 3rd ticket gets final prize.

1. Kindle Fire HD 7", The world's most advanced 7" tablet. Stunning HD display, exclusive Dolby audio, ultra-fast Wi-Fi. Donated by Anonymous.

2. Soaring Eagle Gift Certificate, Overnight stay in First Class room and \$60 dinner voucher. Valued at over \$250. Compliments of Al Ogorek.

3. Sanyo 39" HDMI TV, Flat screen, 2 HDMI ports, USB port (PhotoViewer). Donated by Al & Barb Ogorek.

All proceeds to benefit St. Francis Prayer Center Ministries

YOU NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN

Raffle Lottery No. R22671



One night stay and dinner Gift Certificate

Great Getaway 8 Raffle Ticket Order Form

Raffle Lottery No. \$22671

Drawing held on Sept. 7, 2013 @ 2:00 pm

To purchase tickets, call the Prayer Center, 810-787-5330, or fill out this form and mail to:
St. Francis Prayer Center, G-2381 E. Carpenter Rd., Flint, MI 48505.

YES, I would like to purchase ___ book(s) of tickets @ \$25 ea.

YES, I would like to purchase ___ tickets @ \$5.00 ea.

A portion of the proceeds from the raffle ticket sales will benefit our Old Fashioned Revival.

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Phone/Cell _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Garden Clean Up & Memorial Service

On Friday, May 31 and Saturday, June 1 a number of people came out to recondition the gardens at the Prayer Center. We want to give special thanks to Jill Poma, Pat Forlenza, Jonathan Hawley, Maryann Krutka, Peggy Wescott, Agnes Taylor, Nancy Morgan, John Brethouwer and our "Energizer Bunny" director, Debbie Hawley, for working so hard to recapture the beauty of the Prayer Center grounds we've all come to know and love. *(Sorry if we missed anyone.)*

On Saturday, a Memorial Mass was held in remembrance of Sr. Joanne Chiaverini, IHM, whom, along with Fr. Phil, started the St. Francis Prayer Center in 1974.

Fr. Phil Schmitter presided with Seminarian Patrick Brennan assisting. Many friends participated as well. A potluck luncheon was held following the mass.

On Monday, June 17th, Mary Dharamraj, Jill Poma, and Maryann Krutka finished the planting. They requested the Debbie NOT buy any more plants!!

Thank you to everyone who came to serve – in the planting, the praying, and the preservation of St. Francis Prayer Center. What a wonderful way to praise our Lord!



More Sun, Sand & Fun...2013



Praise Workshop

with Tom Clark

On June 14th and 15th, SFPC had the first overnite retreat since our new Director Debbie has been with us. Bedrooms have been overhauled; new sheets and pillows and lots of TLC has gone into preparing our Prayer Center to be ready for guests. About 25 persons attended this workshop that instructed those who are in music ministry in the details of Worship for the Lord in the Holy Spirit.

Very comprehensive in nature, Tom Clark and his team (pictured at right) shared how the aptitude of a musician and even their experience (long perhaps) never replaces the first and foremost reason for our music and song—to Give God the Glory and Worship Him ! His teaching was inclusive of Traditional Church Liturgies and also Charismatic and Spirit Filled Liturgies.

In both—if the Spirit is leading then He is the Boss of them, and ego plays no part. If the Spirit is the Leader, the congregation will be 'drawn in' and desire to participate. It is never a performance. It is not about the lead guy; the cantor; or the fabulous choir. It is about Jesus, and



Pilgrim's Way



In May, a group of about 38 persons finished the 6 months of study called Pilgrims' Way. It was a blessed time for all who attended. The Formational style of the course not only moves in and around the Bible, but examines the life and relationship of the Holy Trinity. This is then used as an example of what our relationships, both with others and with the Lord, should look like.

The groups were drawn deeply into their relationship with the Holy Spirit and experienced a closeness with God that they had not experienced before. All felt clearly directed to take the 'next step' that God has for them. Praise God !!



how to help us open ourselves enough to let the ego go and truly 'lead' people in the worship of the Lord. Tom is DRE and Youth Minister for St. Joseph Parish in Monroe Michigan, and has been in ministry for 20 years or more. He and his group do Ministry for Retreats all over Michigan.

Prayer Circle

Our dear Ethel Hooker was pestered by the Holy Spirit to take the task of assembling a circle of prayers for SFPC. Director Deb was unsettled that we did not have this in place, as we are A PRAYER CENTER!! In all fairness there has been one in place for many years but has not been very active in a long while.



Please see Prayer Circle below. We have set up intentionally that you may cut it out and put in a convenient place. Many thanks to Ethel for listening to the Holy Spirit and assembling this group of Godly men and women to intercede for us.



ST. FRANCIS PRAYER CENTER PRAYER CIRCLE CALLING LIST

St. Francis Prayer Center	810-787-5330
Jane Nimcheski	810-348-6211
Juanita Robinson	810-610-9621
Ethel Hooker	810-686-4086
Jo'Ann Hryniewiecki	989-288-6926
Maddie White	810-691-0067
Barb Mann	810-631-6681
Barb Staton	810-238-5537
Mary Dharamraj	810-635-3803
Kathy Konesny	810-736-4742
Fr. Phil Schmitter	810-252-4459
Vera Slattery	810-687-4710
Deb Hawley	810-577-4609



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

Summer 2013

Volume 38, Number 2

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

Sign Up for Newsletters by E-mail

We would like to hear from you. Please send us a card or note to let us know both how YOU are doing and how WE are doing. Blessings for a wonderful summer. Send your request to stfrancisflint@comcast.net.

**Please Sign
Up ASAP for
the various
Dates. Some
are limited
capacity.**



In Loving Remembrance

We are filled with sadness to lose the ones we love and who are so dear to us, however Jesus in His great mercy reminds us that HE is the one who loves us best! This year we have sent home to Him some of our favorite folks. May they be in paradise with Him and interceding now, for us. **We remember: Elizabeth Rudnick; Charles Brasier; Stephanie Hawka; Robert Hogan; Michael Zuwala; Sam Reid.**

*Watch for Postcards
& E-mails about our
upcoming events!*

★ Save these Dates ★

- **Sat., Sept. 7: 10a til Dusk, Old Fashioned Tent Revival** @ St. Francis Prayer Center, multiple musicians, ministry of prayer, confession, food and fun, and a bounce house.
- **Thu., Sept. 12: 10a-12, Shepherds' Group Inner Healing** @ St. Francis Prayer Center. Thursday AM: Using Spiritual Gifts for Deep Healing-12 Weeks. *Note:* Same class offered on Monday Nite at HRFC 6:30-8:30.
- **Sat., Oct. 5 & Mon., Oct. 7: 9a-2p, Fr. Gary for Lecturing Workshop.** Formation for Lectors (readers of Mass).
- **Thur., Oct. 17th: 6:30- 9:00p, Living the Spirit Filled Life** @ Holy Redeemer Family Center, Thursday Nites for 6 weeks. Different Clergy each week
- **Sat., Nov, 2 & Sun., Nov. 3 (Time TBD), Retreat with Fr. Gary McGinnis.** @ St. Francis Prayer Center
- **Thu., Nov. 28th: 6:30-8:30p, Pilgrims Way Scripture Study** @ Holy Redeemer Family Center, Thursday Nites for 6 months. Follows Spirit Filled Life .
- **Wed., Nov. 27th starts "A Date with the Deacon" 10a-12,** 4 Wed's in Advent, @ St. Francis Prayer Center. Brunch and Homilies on the Gospels of Advent. Different Deacon each week.

Please sign up ASAP for these Programs!