





# His Mercy & Light

I suspect that by the time you may be reading this, our countless days of frozen iced trees and snow plows will have ceased. However, the remarkable picture you see on our cover of this issue, brings the brilliance of God's Light blasting through the trees unmatched in intensity and clarity.

I immediately thought, when seeing it for the first time, how interesting it is when our emotions are frozen or paralyzed from sin and darkness, (our own, or those of another affecting us) that we do not think with great clarity at all at these times. In fact, our thought process is rather muddy and rarely is dependable to make solid decisions regarding things of importance during these times!

Enter in, the blazing Light of Christ, whose TRUTH & LIGHT is unmistakable. It also burns off the chaff, binds up the wound, shows the way, and can perform exacting surgery on our souls. He does all this while restoring us in His Mercy.



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*“As long as I am in the world, I am the Light of the world. When he had said this, He spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes.” JOHN 9:5*

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Notice, *in the front page photo*, the delicate ice covered branches are not scorched or damaged by His burning Light. Sound familiar? We are like those ice covered branches. We are delicate, frozen in our pain and isolated in our fears. We fear we cannot be holy enough to reach the mark of the Royal Priesthood that we have been called to, by God. However, in His Mercy, He restores us back to wholeness—without injury to those fragile branches that hold our deepest fears and hurts. Although they contain our woundedness, they *still* glisten like diamond insulators holding us captive until they are healed.

Isaiah says it beautifully in 58:8-9. “Then your light shall break through like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then, you shall call and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom will be like noon day.”

Holy Spirit, help us make this a “good Lent.” Indeed, as we feed the poor, fast and find our way to reconciliation, let the mercies of Our Lord Jesus restore us completely. Let the blinding Light of your countenance examine and probe us. Let us not be fearful of the ‘thaw’ as Your love surrounds and restores us to the dignity of your workmanship, for we are fearfully and wonderfully made in Your image.

Yours In Christ Jesus,  
Debbie

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*“Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him. On those who hope in His mercy.” PSALM 32:18*

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# Annual Fundraiser Coming Up soon!

Whether you are new to the Prayer Center or have been with us for many years, we hope you will plan to come out and enjoy a fun evening of dinner, drawing, deals, & dancing! Our theme this year is **Picnic/Garden Party** – costumes are welcome!

By purchasing a \$100 Big Ticket, you not only help ensure the future of SFPC, but it entitles two people to enjoy dinner. If the cost is too much for one person, get a few friends together; go in on the purchase (4 @ \$25 ea.); then have a drawing among you to see which two get to attend the dinner and participate in the event.



## You make it up or let us!

We come to you asking for baskets already made up to be used in either the Live or Silent Auction. The theme this year is **Picnic/Garden Party**. But please don't let that limit your creative genius – other "basket" ideas are welcome. If you don't care to come up with something yourself, we do have someone willing to shop for and put together baskets. We just need a few sponsors to help with the expense. Call the office 810-787-5330 to help.

## Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes!

We will be trying a few new things this year at our Annual Fundraiser and would appreciate your comments – what went well and what went not so well. There will be a suggestion box available so you can let us know!

## Saturday, April 26, 2014 Our 33rd Annual Fundraiser

4:30 pm Start Gathering

5:00 pm sharp is Dinner Buffet

6:00 pm starts Elimination Raffle  
and Live & Silent Auctions

The evening continues with Dancing!



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

### **BIG TICKET ORDER (Each ticket includes 2 Dinner Tickets. Please Print.)**

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Number of Big Tickets @ **\$100** each. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send the two dinner tickets included with each Big Ticket, we **will be** attending the party

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Sorry, we cannot attend, but will pray for your success. .

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____  Raffle License # R19659
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**BE SURE TO LET US KNOW IF YOU WILL BE ATTENDING! We need to let the caterer know.**



# Christmas 2013 Celebration

The families adopted for Christmas filled the Prayer Center to overflowing. There was plenty of good food, fellowship, sharing, and caring.

Of course, none of this would be possible without all those who helped with the Christmas Adoption Day – by adopting a family or helping us serve them. It is a joy to use your gifts for God's glory!

Following are some pictures – all taken by Sherree Miller who has taken many pics for the Prayer Center as well as volunteering for other things!



*Fr. Phil: "It's been many years since I heard the pitter patter of children's feet in the Prayer Center."*





## Music & Song

Thanks to Dcn. Wayne Corrion and his daughter, Terese, for providing the music for our enthusiastic carolers at our Christmas celebration!!.



# Annual Garden Party

On **SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2014**, St. Francis will host our 2nd Annual Garden Party in honor of Sr. Joanne and her own personal intentions and mission for the Prayer Center.

Weather permitting, we will eat outdoors and enjoy the gardens and the wonders of God.



*Pictures of participants from last year.*



A free-will offering will be collected to keep Sr. Jo's Memorial Garden & flowerbeds beautiful. and to help defray cost for dinner. We hope to have Fr. Phil with us and enjoy Mass out in God's creation. Please RSVP for us so we can plan food. Call the office 810-787-5330 or email us at [stfrancisflint@comcast.net](mailto:stfrancisflint@comcast.net).

Blessings in the Spirit,  
Director Deb

*And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.*

*1 Corinthians 12:28*

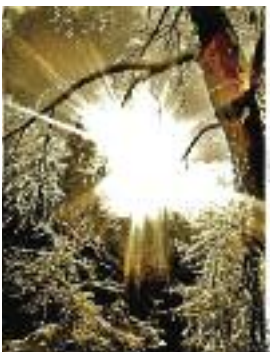
It takes many people with many different gifts to help the Prayer Center give help to those in need.

Thank you for sharing your gifts and being a very important part of these wonderful gifts.

## Twin Boys; Unique Haircuts



Looking at them from the front, you wouldn't expect to find such an uplifting message but... from the back, no matter which way they stand, the message is positive – "God is Good"; "All the Time" or "All the Time"; "God is Good."



## Our Front Cover Photo

The photo was taken by Doug Carey. He is a new friend of SFPC. His photography is spellbinding and captivates our senses. We thank him for sharing his photos with us.

# Those We Hold In Living Memory

## March 1, 2013 through February 28, 2014

Patrick & Sandra Bisson  
 Robert J. Brown  
 Barbara Bruns  
 Kati Bruns  
 Kelly Combs  
 Elizabeth Comer  
 Linda Deroschers  
 Fr. George, Holy Rosary  
 Gary Gallagher  
 Barbara Hallwood  
 Scott Halprin  
 Anna Iafret  
 Sally Janssen  
 David Kelly

Teresa Marcou  
 Lawrence E. Marx  
 Julie McFadden  
 Ron Miller  
 Sharon Miller  
 Allen Miracle  
 Elizabeth Nemecek  
 Nelson Family Unity  
 Shayne O'Neil  
 Schiefer Family  
 Special Intention

Kenneth L. Spegel  
 Betty Stawasz  
 Mary Jo Tostukhov  
 Beatrice Venturino  
 Dolores Wilson  
 Prayers & masses of  
 special intention



### 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).

### Retreat Report

SFPC had a full house for the Visions and Dreams Retreat held Feb. 4th & 5th. Among the good things was that we had 4 dioceses represented! Slowly, but surely, we will get the word out about our ministry and what happens here. The lower level was conformed to host 10 extra people over night, and the upstairs 13 more. Much was learned about the 'entirety of our lives and how God helps us see that through our dreams. His vision holds the complete tapestry and in our dreams through signs and symbols, we can put the missing pieces together to hear Him speak to us in the NOW.



Impossible to do without great helpers...I want to personally thank Carol and Jean in the office, and Mary D, Sherree Miller; Elaine Ward, Jon, and all who so lovingly worked hard for its success. A big thanks to all those who visited for the first time and Arlene Apone for the timeless treasure of her teaching and expertise in faithful Catholic living.



# Those We Hold In Eternal Memory

## March 2013 through February 2013

Robert Anderson  
Michael Arellano  
Robert Barber  
Jack & Elaine Bickford  
Jerry Bonk  
Charles W. Brasier  
Colin Broddle  
William F. Carr  
Joseph S. Cash  
Elizabeth Cirner  
Douglas L. Clapp  
Alfred J. Claramunt  
Commodore Coles, Sr.  
Butch Combs  
Elsie & Allen Combs  
Tom Coyne  
Mathew Drozdowski  
Ardon Dubie  
Joe Dupcza  
Edward G. Eickholt  
Norm & Helen Evans  
Carolyn Evans  
John Gibbons  
Pasqualina Grossi  
Stephanie M. Hawka

Fred Hilliker  
Robert Hogan, Sr.  
Fritz Hoffman  
James Hooker  
Pat Hooker  
Eileen Jakubowski  
Carl & Charlene Jarema  
Thadeus Kuta  
Marion E. Kryza  
Margaret LeHoux  
Virginia Lillywhite  
Mary Lotts  
Bill McCoy  
Richard Maher  
James Maupin  
Stanley F. Nemecek  
Louise Novak  
James O'Dea  
Dennis O'Neill  
Brandon A. Norko  
Frances Pavelich  
Louis Pete  
Carol A. Piesko  
J. Lawrence Pillepich  
Doris M. Pollard

Martin Pung  
Donna Pustelnik  
Joyce Reber  
Sam Reid  
Audrey Rosa  
Richard Schmidt  
Catherine & Louis Schulz  
William "Bill" Scott  
George Sherman  
Joan Simmons  
Henry Skoczylas  
Paul Tachias  
Mrs. Talbot  
Mr. Jack C. Tennant  
Verlee M. Tennant  
Peggy Trickey  
Joseph Tuharsky, Jr.  
Patrick Uhlmeier  
Linda Upton  
Mr. & Mrs. Barth Venturino  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Venturino  
Jerry Zerbe  
Joy Lavonne Zerbe  
Ivo Zucchet  
Olindo Zucchet

## Inner Healing Retreat

Arlene Apone, Arch Diocese of Detroit will once again be the Presenter for a weekend retreat that will be held at St. Francis Prayer Center, G-2381 E. Carpenter Rd., Flint 48505. This Interactive Style will include experienced Prayer Teams—both in Inner Healing and Theophostic Healing. There will be sessions of teaching and ministry.

Registration is Friday 5:30-6:30 with the first session starting at 7:00 pm.

Saturday morning breakfast for the over-nighters is 8:00 am. Lunch and dinner provided. Concludes with 1 session and Mass on Sunday.

The cost for the Retreat is \$65.00 or \$75.00 to spend the night.

Many who enjoyed our last Retreat have signed up for this one. Call 810-787-5330 soon to add your name to the list. Limited sleeping accommodations are available at the Prayer Center; others can stay at the Holiday Inn Express, Flint, which is a short distance from the Prayer Center.





**ST. FRANCIS PRAYER CENTER**  
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### Like Us On Facebook

Type the following into your browser: [www.facebook.com/stfrancisprayercenter-flint](http://www.facebook.com/stfrancisprayercenter-flint) (no spaces) or Google search for us by typing [St. Francis Prayer Center - Flint Facebook](#) in your search window.

### Change of Address

Be sure to let us know if you have moved. The post office will not forward bulk mail.

### Prayer Circle

Our Prayer Circle is now activated. If you would like to add someone to the prayer list, please call the Prayer Center at 810-787-5330 and let us know or leave a message.

## The Windows of Our Heart – A Windex® Moment

We have all seen the result of using Windex on a window or mirror. When the surface is cloudy or obscure we are prohibited from seeing clearly in either direction. At the very least it is annoying to not see what is really there.

In our spiritual life how can this be applied? Only in complete authenticity can we really be free to accept God's love in its fullness or for that matter the love of someone else either. **When we permit our heart to stay clouded and obscure we are not being truthful and authentic.** Even if we clean the inside (partial obedience) we can still hide from those wishing to 'see in.' Either way, when we are not transparent and 'Windex clean' we hold onto practices and behaviors and ways of thinking that are injurious to ourselves and to others. It permits us to still hide from the truth. More important than just annoying us, the scriptures and church traditions teach us to confess, repent, and to search our hearts for the truth. During this season we have multitudes across the country going through what the church calls 'scrutinies.' How often have we 'scrutinized' ourselves and our behaviors? It is very convenient to hide behind the dirty window and not

allow anyone to see in. The irony is, what we use to hide behind may be our religion, our job, our position or vocation or our education. When we are 'Windex clean' before the Lord, it allows us to see not only our sins, but what great new thing God has for us! It spotlights the path He wishes us to take and predisposes us to stay on course. The clear heart is authentic with the Lord and with others. In the honesty, we are the recipients of His Grace and Mercy—and it gives us *Eyes to See*, and a *Heart to Follow*. This life to the full is not possible with partial obedience and a cloudy and obscured heart.



**Let us ALL RISE with Him at the Resurrection this Easter season with a clean heart and a 'clear view' of where He is directing us in our lives. Let us ALL take the steps to be 'Windex clean' before our Lord Jesus.**

May your Easter Season be filled with God's Mercy and a clear view of the path He has for you.  
*In the Power of the Holy Spirit, Debbie*