



A Light  
Unto the World



# It's All About You, Jesus

2014 Fall / Christmas Newsletter



## From Director Deb's Desk:

Each year I think it is impossible to be more impressed with God's Glory in creation. The skies are painted with clouds against cool blue backgrounds that are contrasted with fire red and flaming orange leaves in the fall, and move to a glacier of white powder in a few short weeks. A sheer act of God. We in our most creative moment couldn't improve on the wonders of our God. **IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU – JESUS.**

As the pictures around the edges of the front cover suggest, it is the same God of the Universe who sends His Spirit to "lay hands and pray for one who is broken hearted," or counsel one who is confused or provide a warm coat to one who is homeless.

It is the same God who makes those colors so vibrant that also gives us the wherewithal to bravely begin to use and employ the myriad of Spiritual Gifts that we have been given; to build up His Kingdom and begin to 'furnish' that Kingdom. Complication and divisiveness happens when we forget that He built the structure and foundation—not us. **It is only by working 'with' the Spirit that those gifts will actually have transforming power and turn the hearts' of people to the Lord.** When that happens, life changes as we know it! We have eyes to see—differently, and a heart that is compassionate enough to take a step of action to serve another, even if it is out of our comfort zone. The zone changed, when we acquiesced to the Spirit and Love became the aim.

As we die to our own self-interest, we are more likely to use those gifts to express and demonstrate love to one another. As long as it's all about us, the loving part doesn't happen. Staying watchful of ourselves and the willingness to be held accountable to others (Christ

*What the cover pictures represent: clockwise from lower left corner: Wise Men, crucifixion, begging, praying, feeding, laying on of hands, sorrowful; homeless, caregiver, and center 2nd line Thanksgiving.*

like friends) protects us from serving only our own interests. Telling someone you may have just met to 'have a good day' and 'God Bless You,' is a rather empty remark if they have no place to rest their head and haven't

had a decent meal in several days!

If we are watchful and stay awake to what God has for us, we are being intentionally mindful of Him and what He is saying to us—we are in relationship with Him. It is then that the actions we take are driven

**As Advent people we wait expectantly for God to come to us and transform our darkness into light. We wait expectantly for Him to change our hearts' of stone to one of flesh that will readily want to serve our fellow man before ourselves.**

out of love. His love is perfected in us, therefore the transforming power of the Holy Spirit moves and compels us to say, do and live in ways that will honor him and give glory to the Father. Real faith is

not a set of rules or a 'code.' Real faith is living out the Love that God has for us and pouring it out for others. When the gifts have been used for this purpose and His power is manifested we see the fruits. Staying awake and alert has permitted us to serve our brothers and sisters and prepare for the time we will be called home. When John exclaimed "**Repent, and prepare a way for the Lord,**" he was issuing a call for conversion from them—a change of heart, a change of the way they were living. This is alert and watchful living, and it is birthed out of a relationship, with the one true God, and was referred to by the Lord himself as 'the way.' John 14:6.

As Advent people we wait expectantly for God to come to us and transform our darkness into light. We wait expectantly for Him to

change our hearts' of stone to one of flesh that will readily want to serve our fellow man before ourselves.

As Advent people, we believe that He has gifted us sufficiently to accomplish the call on our life.

As Advent people we submit ourselves over and over, trusting that His Joy will make us complete and that we will have courage to wait for Him and then act.

In preparation for the coming of the Savior of the World, what have we done to prepare? Who have we served? Who have we loved? How are we using the gifts we have been entrusted with?

The call on our lives may be unexpected! It may take us somewhere we thought we'd NEVER GO. I'm certain that Mary never anticipated what her 'yes'



*Continued on page 7*

## Help with the growth & continuation of St. Francis Prayer Center.

*“Praised be my Lord for our mother the  
earth, which sustains us and keeps us.”*

*– Francis of Assisi*



### Thoughts from Debbie's desk

There's lots of hub bub these days about 'having an **encounter** with Jesus.' Certainly, to know Him is not **knowing** about Him—but really knowing Him. In this way we begin to have a relationship—one where we are known too. This '**knowing**,' gives way to the gift of understanding and the real lived experience of being loved. By definition we begin to perceive; to come to know; to recognize; and to fully understand this Divine Lover who loves us.

This agape love is hardly grasped by us, but as we allow Him to draw us close and yield to the Power of the Spirit, we start to see with His eyes and love with His heart. Power comes from the word (dunamis) which means with great energy and force (dynamite). It is not a power that can be manifested on our own.

It is then that the power of Jesus transforms us and we become new people. It is then that the '**encounter**' occurs. Then the 'knowing' has an inception--a beginning, and a progress and an attainment. We see how Jesus sees and love like He loves.

These are the eyes and the heart we operate with here at St. Francis Prayer Center. Daily, we are feeding, clothing, counseling, and loving the people who knock on our door. Routinely, we are serving children that are sleeping on a cold hard floor, or who are waiting for a hot meal. We are only 1 of many organizations, but God sends those who He sends---Please pray for us and bless us with your financial help. This permits those who come here ... to **encounter Jesus** too.



### ST. FRANCIS PRAYER CENTER

G-2381 E. Carpenter Rd., Flint, MI 48505

Phone: 810.787.5330 Fax: 810.787.5399

Email: [stfrancisflint@comcast.net](mailto:stfrancisflint@comcast.net)

New Web Site: [stfrancisprayerflint.com](http://stfrancisprayerflint.com)

St. Francis Prayer Center - Flint/Facebook

*“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all people.”* Isaiah 56:7

Send your request to:

St. Francis Prayer Center, G-2381 E. Carpenter Rd., Flint, MI 48505-1852

### My Prayer Request

I request prayers for the following people \_\_\_\_\_

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## Fall Harvest Appeal

Pictured above is one of the trees that light up the Prayer Center area every fall. God's wonderful, colorful display is breath-taking and inspirational.

This time of year we often begin to reflect upon the blessings we have received throughout the year. For some, life may seem to provide anything except blessings. It is a struggle just to live; to provide for your children; to pay the rent; to pay the utility bills; to survive any way possible.

St. Francis Prayer Center is one of the many organizations that help those less fortunate. Following are a couple points from our Mission Statement:

- To promote justice, particularly by affirming the self-worth of our poor, to be a spiritual presence for them and to establish channels where their basic needs can be met, whether it be in a role of advocacy, referral or initiation.
- To share with our community the shelter of the Center as: an oasis in a spiritual wasteland... a haven for those who are alienated from other religious structures... a meeting place for groups seeking to improve the quality of life in our community.

St. Francis Prayer Center does as much as possible to help those less fortunate. We rely on the generosity of our faithful members and others to help us achieve that goal.

**So, once again, we are asking for your support with our Fall Harvest Appeal.**

Help brighten the day of someone in need by responding to this invitation. Use the coupon below. May you and your family be blessed this year and throughout the coming year.

*—The Officers & Staff of St. Francis Prayer Center*

*Make your tax-deductible gift payable to: **St. Francis Prayer Center***

*And mail to: G-2381 E. Carpenter Rd., Flint, MI 48505-1852*

### **FALL HARVEST APPEAL**

☐ *Yes, I would like to partner in the ministries of **St. Francis Prayer Center**.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please receive my gift of \$500 to sponsor one day at the Prayer Center. I wish to sponsor this day

☐ In Honor of or ☐ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to make a donation of ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to help sustain the Prayer Center with a monthly pledge of ☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$100

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to make an annual contribution in the amount of ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000

☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

***Thank you for your gifts and your prayers. You are in our prayers each day as well.***



**Can you help us reach our goal?**

**8 @  
\$500  
a  
month**

**10 @  
\$200  
a  
month**

**10 @  
\$100 a  
month**

**10 @ \$50  
a month**

**Our goal is \$90,000 per year.**

**Monthly Pledgers can help us reach our goal.**

*We reach out to others with spiritual and physical needs.*

St. Francis Prayer Center • G-2381 E. Carpenter Rd. • Flint, MI 48505 • 810-787-5330

## *Monthly Pledgers*

There was a time when the Prayer Center had many who pledged on a monthly basis. Many were a visible presence at the Center too, volunteering and participating in many things. I'd like to ask that you prayerfully consider making the St. Francis Prayer Center a priority in your stewardship. There are very few small Retreat/Prayer Centers left for us to go to. As the climate of our economy and income has changed, our churches are closing and centers for prayer and retreat almost gone entirely.

St. Francis Prayer Center is currently providing Overnight Retreats, Days of Reflection, Bible Studies and Formation for many different kinds of ministry. This is all happening in Flint. We desperately need your support if we are to remain open and serving



in these capacities.

Check out our page on our financial goals to see if you could take one of the pledges suggested. We send about 3500 of these newsletters out. If only 2% responded it would be 70 new pledgers. Help us continue our service to the people of Flint and Genesee County.

***Thank You, Thank You!***



# SFPC 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Fundraiser

Celebrating 40 years of ministering with our community.

## Sat., April 25, 2015

at Holy Redeemer Family Life Center  
1227 E. Bristol Rd., Burton, MI

### Tickets \$100.00

**Attention!**

If you sell a full table of  
tickets, (4 tickets) your  
name will be entered into  
a drawing for \$100.

Each ticket gives you 2 dinner tickets **plus**  
4 complimentary drink tickets.

**Free coffee, water and soft drinks!**

Additional drink tickets may be purchased for \$2.00 each!  
Limited additional guest dinner tickets available for \$25.00 each.

**Use the ticket order form below.**

**ELIMINATION DRAWING FOR UP TO \$7,000 IN CASH PRIZES!**

**To bring you up-to-date.**

Each year we make a few changes to the annual fundraiser – for the benefit of the Prayer Center and make things flow better. It's trial and error.

The Fundraiser Committee discusses the various suggestions and decides to either implement them or not. Some things are not feasible for our type of fundraiser. It may work for others but not for us. So please keep in mind that we do not just pick an idea out of the air and go with – it gets discussed then decided.

Costs for many things have increased in the past few years. This coming year we are researching a new caterer. I'm not sure how long Pat Haley has catered the Prayer Center's fundraiser, but am

guessing it is a loooong time!

We need to sell all 350 tickets @ \$100 each in order to make this a more successful fundraiser. As stated above, if you sell a full table (4 tickets), your name will be entered into a drawing for \$100. So put on your seller's cap. A reminder, seating capacity at Holy Redeemer is limited to 400 people.

We invite your suggestions and ideas. If you would like to have a say, be willing to Chair a committee. We have some people chairing more than one committee.

**Come join us for "A Carnival Fun Night"! Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 25, 2015. We look forward to seeing you next year.**

*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 and 4 Drink Tickets. Please Print.)**

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

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

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send the two dinner and 4 drink tickets included with each Big Ticket, we **will be** attending the party

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

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

Amount Enclosed:

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

Raffle License # R29265

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

## Adoption of Christmas Families

This year the Prayer Center has taken 12 families for Thanksgiving and 12 for Christmas. We often have a few to add to that before all is said and done. As our newsletter is significantly late in getting to you, we have stepped out in faith and are trusting God and our dear friends of the Prayer Center to be generous and bless our efforts to bless, love, feed, and provide for these families! We are in need of people who will shop; people who contribute finances; people who will prepare and serve lunch, and those who might like to wrap presents. Don't forget that 2 families may go together to provide Christmas for a family.



### Christmas Past

*The picture above is of some of the children from one of our recent Christmas parties hosted by the Prayer Center. These children and their families are the reason we ask members and others to sponsor families for both Thanksgiving and Christmas.*

## Great Getaway 9 Winners!

It's been awhile since the Great Getaway contest was held. September 24, 2014 was the drawing date. The winners and their choices are: 1st ticket drawn - Mary Lynn Stone chose \$500 cash; 2nd ticket - Claude & Sally Green chose the Soaring Eagle Certificate; 3rd ticket - Gene Myers received the Beach/Backyard/Tailgating items like: a grill, BBQ set, tennis/ badminton/croquet games, beach chairs. Congratulations to each of these lucky winners!

Thank you to everyone who participated in this fundraiser! What a special group of individuals you are! The Prayer Center can go on another day with your continued support in all of our fundraising efforts.

**THANK YOU & MAY GOD BLESS YOU & YOUR FAMILY!**

### From the Desk of Director Deb

*Continued from page 2*

would entail either. But, out of perfected love, she was docile to the Spirit—and yielded to a 'way' that was not known to her. She permitted the Father to choose how, when and why, and trusted Him implicitly.

This Holy Season, I pray that we embrace the waiting by entering into a personal relationship with the one who waits for 'us' as we allow Him to purify and sanctify our lives. In a constant and undeterred love for us, He waits. Let us prepare by serving one another with that same love. Let us give our coat to the one who is cold, offer our meal to the one who is frail from hunger, listen to the one who is alone, encourage the one filled with despair. Show us, Jesus, how to use the gifts You have given us, to serve Your people. Give us eyes to see and a mind to understand that **IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU – JESUS!**

### Ra's Best Carrot Cake

3 cups flour	2 cups sugar
1¼ cups of corn oil	2 teaspoons vanilla
1 cup coconut	1 teaspoon grated orange peel
2½ teaspoons baking soda	3 eggs
1 teaspoon salt	11 oz can mandarin oranges w/juice
3 cups of shredded carrots	1¼ cup of corn oil

Mix well and bake at 350 degrees 45-55 minutes. Frost with a generous portion of your favorite cream cheese frosting. Garnish: with sprigs of finely shaved carrot or sprinkle of coconut.



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Volume 39, Number 3

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### Newsletters by E-mail

If you would like to receive your newsletter via email (PDF format) rather than hard copy, please send a request via email to [stfrancisflint@comcast.net](mailto:stfrancisflint@comcast.net).

### 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.

### Our New Web Site

To get updated information on events, check out the web site. Go to [www.stfrancisprayerflint.com](http://www.stfrancisprayerflint.com) to check out the calendar and the Meditation of the Month.

## Save These Dates! ...and more to come!

### ❖ A Date with the Deacon

Each week the Advent scriptures will be studied. Each week is led by a different Deacon. A light lunch will be served. Contact the Prayer Center at 810-787-5330 to sign up for these sessions.

- 1 = Wednesday, November 26, 2014; 10:00 am-12 noon with *Deacon Jim Brown*
- 2 = Wednesday, December 3, 2014; 10:00 am-12 noon. with *Deacon Wayne Corrion*
- 3 = Wednesday, December 10, 2014; 10:00 am-12 noon. with *Deacon Mike Dear*
- 4 = Wednesday, December 17, 2014; 10:00 am-12 noon. with *Deacon Dennis Pennell*

### ❖ A Christmas Reflection

On Saturday, **December 6, 2014** from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. *Fr. Gary McInnis* will present a Christmas Reflection. A light lunch will be served. Contact the Prayer Center at 810-787-5330 to sign up for this event.

### ❖ A Day of Discernment

Director, Debbie Hawley will present this class. The actual date has not been set yet; it will be held sometime in **February 2015** from 1:00-4:00 pm. Information will soon be entered on our web site calendar page. Contact the Prayer Center at 810-787-5330 to sign up.

### ❖ Laying Hands Workshop

Stay tuned for the date and time of this workshop. It will be held in the Spring!