

# Faith in Flint? You bet!

## *Mission in Action*

Shalom,  
I pray this finds you all enjoying and resting in the magnificent Michigan summertime with the warm temperatures and freedoms to be barefoot in the grass.  
What an eventful several months we have had at the Prayer Center! Recently, we had the pleasure of being the intended 'Mission' of St. Jude, DeWitt, and Holy Family, Grand Blanc. Our cover story is to relay to you the grace, mercy and fellowship that occurred here from July 11-15.  
Imagine my surprise when I received the call

that asked if St. Jude's, DeWitt could come and spend a week—with 25 people (adults and youth)—to work here for us? To see the hearts of those who don't even know us here (since they are an hour away) who were moved to see that 'we are mission' and we desperately need help to remain and sustain our ministry and building in this community.

Day after day, Fr. Bob Irish, and his team of youth, parents and friends worked tirelessly in the

*Continued on next page*



# What a week, continued from front

90 plus degree heat, tearing up and replacing decks and benches, cutting down and removing diseased, 60' pine trees; and hand sanding the 4 decks for hours on end. Our benches around our decks were so worn the guys were surprised someone hadn't fallen through yet!

Several others worked hard to serve and feed the troops, too. Three meals a day and lots of dishes and cleanup was tackled for 5 days by volunteers with a love for the Prayer Center and a dedication to serve.

While the gospel is clear about service to one another in love, clearly you need not go out of the country to find a mission field! This is Flint, Michigan. Only a short time ago we had 80,000 GM jobs here; now we have 8,000. In many circumstances, our upper middle and middle class residents have become near poverty level income homes. Many no longer even have a home!

The Prayer Center's job is not only passing out water to residents when asked, but rather helping the **families** who fall through the cracks for some reason and have nowhere else to turn. They find us, often on foot, to be there for them and help with food, beds, mattresses, and clothing. Many are unchurched and simply need someone to listen and pray with them. They do not know Jesus yet—and certainly not the 'Catholic Jesus' – or realize there is only one of Him! They meet Jesus when they meet us. They meet Jesus when we pray, when we lift their child up and hug and love them even though they may smell bad, have filthy

clothes on, and have no bed to sleep on.

This is how they meet Jesus at the St. Francis Prayer Center.

## This is how they meet Jesus at the St. Francis Prayer Center.

Our need to be here is not optional. It is not disputable, nor does it duplicate the services they can get elsewhere. Other organizations are vital to our community, too. We are not set up to feed hundreds at a time—but the Sisters of St. Luke Center are...

We are not set up to house and warm hundreds at a time like the Catholic Charity building can...

There are many reasons God has chosen to provide differing gifts and resources and places. If we are actually living the Gospel, we must do as the scriptures suggest and use our own charisms and resources to serve those people He places in front of us. We must have equal concern for each other and be available in time, treasure and talent to support the others.

In Romans 15:5, Paul prays that they would have unity with one another; in verse 7, to 'accept' one another; and in 12:3-6, that we are part of the same 'one body,' although our gifts are different.

What a great example of brotherly love and concern these 2 parishes have been to all of us! We grow and become better people of God when we simply love and serve God's people and do not count the cost (or scrutinize how our brother or sister is doing it), we become usable vessels, not caught up with our own agendas and ideas.

My heart is forever changed having had the wonderful privilege of camping out at the Center for those 5 days with the youth and their leaders. I made them all promise they would come back again—this time to enjoy a retreat and campfire and God's Love here at St. Francis Prayer Center.

I hold every hope in my heart that He who knows all things, will make a way for us to remain here and serve his people.

**FAITH IN FLINT? YOU BET!** Come, see for yourself what God has done for us and prayerfully consider being a regular supporter of the 'little St. Francis Prayer Center' in the Diocese of Lansing.

*May the Holy Spirit Have His Way With You,*  
Director Deb





# A few comments about the Mission Week

The time spent at St. Francis was a phenomenal week for the Youth of St. Jude. Coming together to serve as a community did so much for them and helped to strengthen not only their faith, but their sense of community as members of St. Jude Parish. It also allowed me to get to know the students I will be serving (and though I might be biased, they are a mighty fine group of kids, aren't they?!). In addition to all of that, it introduced us to you [Debbie Hawley, Director] and the St. Francis Prayer Center. For that, we are truly blessed.

—Hallie Card, Adult Chaperone

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## Allison G. (18 – Recent HS Grad):

“As someone who has just graduated from high school, I was looking forward to the impacts I could make in the greater community before heading off to school in the fall. Volunteering on this mission trip provided me with a week of friendship, learning, prayer, and giving to the St. Francis Prayer Center. After many hours of work in the sun, I left having learned new skills such as sanding wood, repairing a deck, using paint stripper, and trimming many, many trees. I am thankful for the opportunity to impact the Flint community and to have helped rebuild a beacon of light to the people who live there.”



*A few brave souls spent some time cleaning the gutters & putting on gutter screens.*



*A few of the youth spent some time planting, weeding, and repotting plants.*

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## Melissa G. (Soon to be sophomore – Allison’s sister)

“This year’s mission trip to Flint really opened my eyes up to all of the great opportunities we have here in Michigan to lend a helping hand. Not only was I able to bond with the people within the parish, but I was able to help a huge part of Flint’s community. The St. Francis Prayer Center is one of the few places Flint citizens can see any hope. Helping fix up the house and grounds, creating a wonderful bright atmosphere for Flint was a very rewarding experience.”



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**Brian.** The Prayer Center to me was a beacon of light and salt in our world. From those who serve on a daily basis to those that are served on a daily basis, it was evident that faith and spirit still thrives in the area. In my time working there, it was clear to me how essential the Prayer Center is to everyone, from the meals served to the spiritual healing of visitors, the staff are truly blessed people who answered their call to serve, a lesson all who visit can learn.

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**Front Cover Photos** starting at top, left to right. **1.** This amazing group of youth – some from St. Jude, DeWitt, and some from Holy Family, Grand Blanc – spent some very hot days in clean up and repair @ the Prayer Center. **2.** Breakfast, lunch & dinner served every day. **3.** Cutting down & hauling away the 60’ diseased pines. **4.** Hard at work replacing & sanding boards. **5.** Bill & Melanie French – our thanks are immense – for buying & preparing food for the week. **6.** The first night a chance to sit around the fire pit & enjoy s’mores! **7.** Fr. Bob surprised us with a new grill. Thanks, we hop you will come back to see it in use! **8.** Their bags were all packed & ready to go.

**Page 2,** lower left, A group at work sanding boards while others work in the flower bed. A empty space for new boards to be installed.

# Volunteers for Mission Week

What a blessing we have! Not only did we have a wonderful group of teens to help us in so many ways, we had a great group of volunteers to buy, prepare, serve, and clean up for all the meals. THANK YOU.

Among those helping were: Melanie & Bill French (Melanie figured out how much food to purchase, purchased it, and prepared some of it), Linda Noll, Margaret & Andy Verdun, Lisa Hayward, Nanette Kowalczyk, Yvonne Harris, Sue Jones, Jean Shipley, Mary Dharamraj, Kathy Konesny, Michelle Lambaria, and Ileta Sullins. Some of these people also purchased & prepared food for various meals.



*Pictured at right are a few of our volunteers: Top, left to right: Linda Noll, Yvonne Harris & Mary D. Bottom, left to right: Margaret & Andy Verdun, Sue Jones. Melanie & Bill French are pictured on the front cover.*

## *Thank You to our "Knight" Friends! Your support is Encouraging!*

Following are some of the Knight groups who have given us significant support in our quest to update and repair the Prayer Center facility. Our thanks to St. Robert Bellarmine K of C; Most Blessed Sacrament Council K of C, Flint; Swartz Creek K of C; Davison K of C; Fenton Association K of C; Blessed Sacrament Men's Club, Burton; Grand Blanc K of C #0510; Grand Blanc K of C #6742; St. Joseph Guild #2211/St. Roberts SMOA Swartz Creek; Most Blessed Sacrament Council K of C Burton #11532; Catholic Community of St. Jude, DeWitt; Knights of Columbus, Fenton; Burton K of C #1017. We know there were others who participated in a "group" donation that we have not acknowledged. We thank them as well.

# Adopt-A-Family Projects

We will soon be gearing up for our Annual Adopt-A-Family Projects for **Thanksgiving** and **Christmas**. It's not too early to sign up to sponsor a family. We try to target families in the North end, but are also willing to take families others have suggested. Give us that information.

Last year, we added some families because the response was so encouraging and overwhelming. Thank You to those who have participated in the past few years. May each of you be blessed!

General donations are always appreciated and accepted as well!

## Sign Up to Sponsor a Family @ Thanksgiving and/or Christmas

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to sponsor food for **Thanksgiving Baskets** for a:  Family/4;  Family/5;  Family/6;  Family/7;  Just a general donation.  I wish to sponsor a Turkey for the Thanksgiving Baskets

I wish to sponsor food for **Christmas Baskets**:  Family/4;  Family/5;  Family/6;  Family/7

I wish to sponsor **Christmas Gifts** for:  Family/4;  Family/5;  Family/6;  Family/7;  General donation

*If you choose to sponsor a family with both food & gifts for Christmas, please mark both lines.*

**Send info to St. Francis Prayer Center, G-2381 E. Carpenter Rd., Flint, MI 48505.**

# We Are Growing and Touching Lives

*Help us reach out to others with spiritual & physical needs.*

Dear Friends of the St. Francis Prayer Center,

The Center has had an unexpected growth spurt in the last 3 years. Director Deb is in numerous parishes weekly providing classes, evangelization, offering Days of Reflection, and Retreats at the Center. Jean, one of the office ladies, tells me the Center has never been so busy!

While this is a good thing, we have grown so fast that we cannot keep up financially. Also true, is that we have lost many of our supporters due to the economy, moving away, and, of course, those who have been called 'home' to the Lord. Oddly enough, the need here in the north end is more necessary than ever before. The sheer volume is staggering. Where else can they go?

Our local Knights have been an enormous support to us, and we are so very grateful, but the actual monthly running of the Center must be addressed.

We are implementing a **Day Sponsor** program. Many of you have parents or close family members who loved the Center. We felt it would be a great way to honor them by helping the Prayer Center stay viable and operating. We are working on a very special way to recognize those who participate in this way. Also, there may be some of you who would 'match' a donation made by another, and get some friendly competition going on.

Below and to the right, are some other ways to pledge and help us with monthly finances. Please pray and ask the Holy Spirit, specifically, what God would have you do. In Jeremiah 29:11 He says, "For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for woe!"

I pray for you all each day and ask that you pray for us here, too. If each one who received a newsletter responded with something, we would not have such grave concern.

*We still find that the northern community of Flint is desperate for our help. The parishes that we serve continue to respond incredibly well to what we offer. It would seem the Lord still has much work for us to do.*

Won't you please consider helping us regularly?  
In His Holy Name of Jesus,  
Director Deb

## ADOPT ONE OF OUR MONTHLY EXPENSES

BECOME A DAY SPONSOR

**\$409**  
Consumers

**\$110**  
Accounting

**\$150**  
Phone/Internet

**\$350**  
Helping Hands

**\$200**  
Bulk Mail/Postage

**\$60**  
Alarm System

**\$50**  
Printing

**\$270**  
Lawn & Garden

*Here are some ways you can help us reach our goals:*

**8 ppl @ \$500 month**  
Currently we have 0

**10 ppl @ \$200 month**  
Currently we have 0

**10 ppl @ \$100 month**  
Currently we have 3

**10 ppl @ \$50 month**  
Currently we have 3



# Fr. McAlear Welcomed



Photo by Penny Messer  
taken at St. John, Fenton

## HEALING MINISTRY & THE NEW EVANGELIZATION

We were extraordinarily blessed in Genesee County to have with us Fr. Richard McAlear, OMI, from Boston, Massachusetts. Fr. Mac, as he likes to be called, has been in the Ministry of Healing exclusively for some 25 years. I have had the distinct pleasure to know and minister with him for 20 plus years.

As we try to live out our Bishop's Pastoral Letter, we can see that in many cases our brothers and sisters are broken and wounded (as we are often ourselves), and there are many reasons why we need healing.

Some of the obstacles to our 'living in freedom' are un-forgiveness, ostracism, shame, anger and resentment, depression and mental illness; just to name a few. And, let's not forget those who are simply alone and forgotten by the rest of the

world, and who have not one person to love them. A broken heart and world unfriendly to the ways of Jesus will keep many people from coming back into our fold of the Kingdom of God—not to mention the Catholic Church.

Sometimes we must just 'love' them back. In the Ministry of Healing Prayer, we let Jesus do that through us.

Thousands of books have been written about it and dozens of methodologies in 'how' to do it—but Jesus is the only Healer, and those who have been called to this Ministry have the heart of Jesus and the Armor of God as they discern the call and love His people back to Him.

Lent of 2016 with Fr. Mac in Genesee County,  
*continued in next column*

*Pictures: worth a thousand words!*



*Jesus of Nazareth is walking among us.*



*Beyond capacity ... God's people came.*



*Fr. Gary Koenigsknecht, Fr. McAlear, Msgr. Jerry Vincke;  
Fr. Mathias Thelen.*



*He is present, our Redeemer and Healer.*



*Elevation. Fr. Jim Rolph; Msgr. Richard Groshek; Fr. John Ederer; Fr. Ben Hawley, S.J.; Fr. Richard McAlear, OMI; Fr. Gary Koenigsknecht*



*And all together we say, "Our Father who art..."  
and 1200 plus brothers and sisters in Christ.*

was a glimpse into the Ministry of Healing. **We served 2,500 people in 3 days** at St. John, Fenton, Holy Family, Grand Blanc; and Holy Redeemer. At Fenton and Holy Family there were 12 clergy involved at each event. Some prayed with formed Prayer Ministers; 4-5 at a time served in confession lines of 35-45 people at a time and 25 more served in other ministerial capacities. These are 'our brothers and sisters'; these are 'God's people'; these are the 'wounded in the field.'



*An overflowing church ... praise God!*



# Thy Kingdom Come: Becoming a Servant of the Kingdom

When I was young and would pray, “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.” I would imagine the heavenly Jerusalem descending upon the earth and God’s will finally being done here (see Rev. 21:2). I wondered how long it would be before this prayer would come to pass... and I waited with great expectation.

But that’s not how Jesus lived. And that’s not how we are to live. In the Gospels, Jesus shows us the Kingdom alive and present. He shows us the Father’s heart in action as He preaches and demonstrates the Father’s love and mercy often with healings, signs, and wonders. Jesus lived from the Father’s heart and so can we.

When we live from the Father’s heart, we develop a Kingdom mindset and perspective. We recognize that God is God and we are not. Instead of bringing our plans to God for His blessing, we learn to be still and listen to God’s heart, following His plans instead. Like Jesus, we become servants of the Father to mankind. We see Kingdom realities and possibilities that we would never consider without the Father revealing them (such as feeding 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish). This is why the greatest in the kingdom must be the servant of all (Matt. 23:11).

## Encountering Jesus In Small Group Study @ SFPC

**Pilgrim’s Way** continues to bring people closer in relationship with Jesus and gives way to new thoughts of ways to live our faith. The study has brought in well over 300 people since September 2012. Formational in nature, a large majority still continue on in the follow-up programs of Shepherd’s Healing, Listening, and others; keeping 50-75 people always in motion. New classes are targeted for the fall; possibly one for married couples.



A recent class held @ St. Francis Prayer Center.

When we are in intimate relationship with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we have the greatest access to help mankind and to spread the Gospel. We can expand God’s Kingdom on earth here and now. This is what true service and servanthood look like. Will you join me?

Jennifer Loftin

[www.BreathOfHisSpirit.com](http://www.BreathOfHisSpirit.com)

## Spirit Filled Catholic Living

A 6-week seminar given in parishes have brought a multitude of people into small group studies. The seminar’s focus is on understanding the Holy Spirits’ movement and discerning the charisms each have been given. Holy Family of Grand Blanc, and St. John in Fenton, have seen record numbers of parishioners attending and remaining in formation for months afterwards. St. John saw 250 persons each week for 6 weeks, while Holy Family saw 150 each week. Both parishes have numerous folks doing the follow up courses and staying in formation and intentional discipleship.



Spirit Filled Catholic Living seminar at St. John, Fenton.



Spirit Filled Catholic Living seminar at Holy Family, Grand Blanc.



# An Invitation to Our Volunteers

On Friday, September 16, 2016 from 4:00-6:00 pm  
Join Us for a Picnic @ the Prayer Center  
It's an Appreciation Picnic for the many Volunteers  
that keep us going & going & going!

Please R.S.V.P.

to 810-787-5330 or email us at [stfrancisflint@comcast.net](mailto:stfrancisflint@comcast.net)

We hope you can make it!

## Thank You All!

Over the past year, we have received a number of donations. *We take this opportunity to thank each of you.* Whether items we can use here at the Prayer Center, or things we pass on to someone else in need, they are very much appreciated. Our thanks ...

- ◆ To Anne & Jim Guzdizal for the donation of books and pamphlets that will enhance our prayer ministry.
- ◆ Lenny & Andrea Sly – for the many pieces of furniture & beds donated prior to their move.
- ◆ Dan & Tammy Jackman for the donation of an electric stove.
- ◆ To Mike & Deb McPherson (in memory of Eva McPherson) who donated furniture for Jojo's House.
- ◆ Tony & Dena Barclae for the donation of 2 vacation getaways – one in Florida & one in Black Lake – for our Annual Fundraiser.

## Comments from Healing Services

- What a joy to receive reconciliation after 30 years! I needed this healing first.
- This special event has brought intimacy w/Lord to me that I have **never** experienced before—thank you.
- This was not a 'program' but an experience that changed my life!
- This service brought my family member back to church—its been 35 yrs. Praise God.



## Monthly Pledgers

Each amount may seem small in comparison to the overall need, but each dollar that is pledged continues to allow the Prayer Center to host or co-host events like bringing Fr. McAlear to this area. Or holding Healing Masses at local parishes ... or offering Pilgrims' Way and other classes either at the Prayer Center or your local parish.

There may be some who think the St. Francis Prayer Center is not viable in its endeavors. We ask that you put yourself in the shoes of the many individuals who come to our doors seeking help—those who cannot get help from any other source (and we encourage them to try)—they are the ones that fall through the cracks and we do our best to help them.

From the comments made during the 3 nights Fr. McAlear was here in April, there were many who had not been to church in a long while. They would still not be "in church" without St. Francis Prayer Center co-hosting this event. Many individuals were impacted in a very positive way.

*So, what does that have to do with you?*

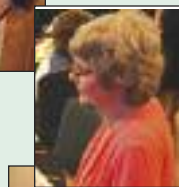
Simply add your name to our list of growing monthly, yearly, one-time pledgers. We try to be as frugal as possible in containing expenses, but the fact remains that heat and lights cost money. Will you help us with our efforts?

**Many, many thanks to  
all who currently pledge.**



# 2016 St. Francis Prayer Center's **35th Annual Fundraiser**

Lots of Fun, Food & Findings!





**Thanks to the following businesses who donated items or gave us financial support.**

**Atlas Valley Country Club**  
810-636-2273  
888-422-9645  
**Bentley Florist**  
810-742-3174  
**Big John Steak & Onion**  
Frankenmuth, MI 48734  
**Blackstones Pub & Grill**  
810-234-9011  
**Bueche's Food World**  
810-659-6162  
**Cinema Hollywood**  
Birch Run, MI 48415  
**Clio Big Boy**  
810-687-4430  
**Colonial Lanes**  
810-659-5675

**Flushing Florist**  
810-659-5741  
**Gaines Jewelry**  
810-230-2727  
**Harlow's Day Spa**  
810-659-0730  
**Hill Road Grille**  
810-285-9112  
**Italia Gardens**  
810-732-4390  
810-653-6899  
**Holy Family**  
**3rd Order of Franciscans**  
Grand Blanc, MI 48439  
**Jets Pizza**  
810-487-0400

**Johnny's Pour House**  
810-487-1020  
**Kathy's**  
810-659-9616  
**Leo's Coney Island**  
810-720-1100  
**Letavis Enterprises**  
**Fast Eddies**  
810-635-7013  
**Lighthouse Bibles & Herbs**  
810-810-635-9580  
**Merle Norman**  
810-659-5550  
**North American**  
**Dismantling Corp.**  
Jerry Decker

**Ogorek Automotive Group**  
810-744-2826  
**Powers High School**  
810-591-4741  
**Signature Chop House**  
810-867-4319  
**Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort**  
989-775-7777  
**Sorrento's**  
810-659-4351  
**Temple Dining Room**  
810-235-7760  
**The Whiting**  
810-237-7342  
**Vic Bond Sales**  
810-787-5321  
**Zito Construction**  
810-695-9025

*We also thank all the individuals who donated items for our auctions.  
A Big Thank You to those businesses – and many individuals –  
who purchased \$100 Tickets in support of our Fundraiser.*

Our continued thanks to  
**Little Caesar's** in Davison  
for hosting our Pizza Thank  
You Party each year!

**We Have A Theme for 2017 – Kentucky Derby**

*Start dreaming up your hat now!*

**We'll Run For the Roses on April 29, 2017!**



It's not too  
early to  
volunteer for  
next year's  
Fundriaser



**A Prayer For Us All**

Following is a portion of a prayer heard recently at church that is something worth thinking about.

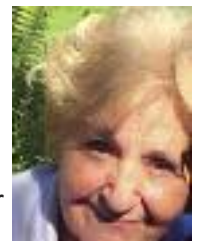
*“Interrupt us, O God, disturb our set patterns and rigid responses. Shake us loose from thinking we know the only way. Free us from opinions that are held in tight grips, from holier-than-thou attitudes.”*

**Inner Healing Retreat**

**September 30 - October 2**

To sign up for this retreat, please  
**RSVP to St. Francis Prayer Center**  
810-787-5330 or by email to  
stfrancisflint@comcast.net.

Reservations fill quickly, so get your  
registration in as soon as possible.  
Will be held at the Prayer Center.





## ST. FRANCIS PRAYER CENTER

G-2381 E. Carpenter Rd., Flint, MI 48505  
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Non-Profit  
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Permit #453

### Newsletters by E-mail

To receive your newsletter via email (PDF format) rather than hard copy, please send a request via email to stfrancisflint@comcast.net.

### Like Us On Facebook

www.facebook.com/stfrancisprayercenter-flint (*no spaces*).

### Our Web Site

www.stfrancisprayerflint.com

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### Creativity in Creation

#### A Retreat Workshop

at St. Francis Prayer Center in Flint

Date: **Saturday September 24th,**

9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m

For more information call Barb

White at (810) 659-2269 or email:

barbjwhite@sbcglobal.net

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## Upcoming Events @ St. Francis Prayer Center & Elsewhere!

**JULY:** DeWitt Kids to come for Mission work at the Prayer Center.

- **Listening Group** started July 18 for 12 sessions. Held the 1st & 3rd Mondays from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Prayer Center.

**AUGUST:** Pray your summer has been filled with joy and peace.

**SEPTEMBER:** • **Triumph of the Cross;** Sat., Sept. 10th. Mio, Michigan (all day event). Contact SFPC at 810-787-5330 to register.

- **Picnic @ the Prayer Center;** Friday, Sept. 16th from 4-6 pm. An Appreciation Picnic for the many Volunteers that keep us going & going & going! *See page 9.*
- **Healing Mass: Holy Redeemer;** September 18th from 1-4 pm.
- **Healing Retreat:** Sept. 30-Oct. 2nd (RSVP Early please to SFPC. *See page 11*)

**OCTOBER:** 21-22; Diocesan Assembly in Lansing.

**NOVEMBER:** • **Season of Healing** Holy Family, Grand Blanc; Nov.14th from 6-10 pm.

- **Healing Prayer Workshop;** Nov. 16, 2016. More information to come. Please RSVP to SFPC if you are interested in this workshop.
- **Adopt-A-Family** Thanksgiving 2016; Sponsors contacted in late October or early November.

**DECEMBER:** • **Adopt-A-Family** Christmas 2017; Sponsors contacted in late November thru early December.

### Looking Ahead in 2017

**FEBRUARY 17-18:** 50th Anniversary of the Renewal @ Eastern MI University in Ypsilanti. 50 Years of AMAZING GRACE. To register, call 734-282-6244 or dccrcenter@aol.com Detroit Catholic Charismatic Renewal Center

- **Adopt-A-Family** Thanksgiving Nov. 2017.
- **Adopt-A-Family** Christmas Dec. 2017.