



Hope for Flint...

Hope for the World

ST. FRANCIS PRAYER CENTER

Lent / Easter 2016

PHOTO BY DOUG CAREY

Hope for Flint... Hope for the World

His Mercy Endures Forever

I have lived my entire life in the Genesee County/Flint area. My own memories, as well as many of the readers of this newsletter, are mixed with great affection and also sadness at the declining condition of our great city. Childhood memories belie the current status however. Walking on the city streets and taking the bus downtown to Smith Bridgman's to shop was a great joy and fun for me as a teenager. We would never permit our children this experience today!

In November, on the Feast of All Saints, Pope Francis shared a story from the book of Revelations 7th chapter, about a multitude of people—every race and color—standing before God. He reminded us that they were clothed in white because they had been washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. The Pontiff expressed, “that is our hope, and this hope does not disappoint. If we live our lives with the Lord, he will never disappoint us.”

In order to ‘have’ this hope, we must know him personally. The word know suggests to ‘experience’ and to know intimately. Indeed, this is a prerequisite to having a relationship with the one true God who knows us by name and knew us while still in the womb of our birth mother.

What does that really look like in our lives today? Is it really possible to ‘know’ him?

Perhaps, by seeing his life lived among us, we can see his faithfulness to the father in all things, which included dying on a cross to save each and every one of us. His mercy gave the hope for the rest of the world.

That hope was also witnessed by everyone who ever met him. He, in his humanity, did not only wish to love, teach, save and instruct his close friends and family. He reached out to the poorest, the diseased, and the most marginalized of his time. He referred to them as brothers and sisters. Mercy and hope was being formed in all who shared life with him. Knowing him gives way to Mercy and Hope—in all walks of life. They are the means by which he redeems humanity.

Psalm 118 sings the praises, “Give thanks to the Lord, his mercy endures forever.” No situation or dis-



ease or shame-based sin would keep the love of God and his mercy from his people.

Romans 5:2-5 has a very powerful story for me personally. After several years of great adversity and heartache and three bouts with cancer, my faith had been tested, I thought, beyond my capacity to rebound.

Not being one to hardly remember a normal dream, I was stunned to experience a very vivid dream that I remembered every detail.

We have all seen the scene of the wild stormy sea, with billowing sails, ready to spill over into the raging waters. I was on this ship, tattered and alone

and thrown overboard. Even in this life and death crisis, I was not moved. I knew I had great skill in swimming and saw the huge rope hanging from the side of the ship with the monstrous knots. It was banging ferociously against the ship. If I could only 'time' my swim to coincide with the waves and grab this huge rope, I was sure I could save myself. What my fatigued

body and mind had not considered was that the ship was rolling wildly from side to side, so when I reached it and hung on for dear life, I would be slammed with great force into the side of the ship—again, and again, and again.

Romans 5 begins with justification because of our faith, and how our peace comes through our Lord Jesus.

Paul tells us to boast in our afflictions—that was my pitch into the sea, and the frantic valiant fight to grab the rope. But the 1st huge knot produced much **endurance**; and all the time clinging to it with all my strength, I would be slammed against that ship over and over, and that produced proven **character**; this was the 2nd huge knot. One knot remained near the top of the ship, the knot of **hope**, which is Jesus the Christ, my hope that would never disappoint me.

I learned much from this very vivid dream. I have been given a great supernatural gift of faith, and nothing will shake the truth of who He is for me or for the world. He is my anchor and my hope. The early Christians used the anchor as a symbol of **hope**. I believe we need to "anchor up our hearts" as Pope Francis said on the Feast of all Saints, to

where our loved ones are, where the saints are—where God is.

While it is true we have great adversity in Flint, it is also true that God has a plan for us here. **Jerimiah 29:11 says, "For I know well, the plans I have in mind for you—plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope."**

We must be witnesses to the Power of Jesus Christ and what that looks like in our lived experience. When we know (experience) him we will be formed in

Mercy and Hope. Then we, like Mother Theresa, will not feel the need to be successful—only faithful—to serve our brothers and sisters in great need.

Our own poverty of spirit must be addressed first. Our own sin and shortcomings honestly looked at in our own lives.

As the master forms us, in his Mercy and Hope, we become suitable to minister to the least among us—often times our own families. We are a remnant people. During this most holy time of year, let us not be complacent in dealing with our own sin, and our own poverty of spirit. Only, in doing this will we set our city and county back upon solid ground with the dignity it deserves.

Psalm 118:1 "Give praise to Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever. (Douay Reims Bible)

Romans 5:2-5 "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoiced in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. (NIV)

Psalm 46:4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells.

In 1997 at a National Gathering of interdenominational Christian leaders (in Kansas City, MO), there was a prophetic word given out to the assembly, "Flint, Michigan shall be a Holy City." At still another time there have been words from prayerful groups within our own city that a 'revival' would come to the City of Flint; that God was raising up His people in this city. My heart went immediately to Psalm 46:4, "there is a river whose streams make glad, the City of God, the Holy Place, where the Most High dwells." Indeed, our God is with us here in Flint. There is Hope for Flint and Hope for the World. His name is Jesus and His Mercy endures forever.

—Debbie Hawley, Director

His Mercy Endures Forever



Thank You to Our Monthly Pledgers!

"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples." –Isaiah 56:7

We are reminded daily of what all of you mean to the Prayer Center. Without your ongoing support, we would be closing our doors instead of opening doors for others – both spiritually and physically.



The last 3 years here at St. Francis have been the most remarkable years for me. It has given me great joy to be able to continue the work Sr. Joanne and Fr. Phil started so long ago. To those who continue to pledge or tithe to us, I am so grateful! I recently spoke to the local priests in our vicariate and asked for them to pray that someone among them would be an advocate for us here at the Center. We really need the help of our local parish people to remain active and viable. Perhaps you could direct your pledge to the utility bill, phone bill, or possibly the gardens. St. Francis is the 'northern border' in Flint. There is almost no one left this far north to help those in need. Please consider helping us and remember to call us when in need of a visit from Director Debbie for healing prayer or to put someone on our 'Intercessory Prayer List.' We are here to serve you too.

In His Mercy, Debbie



Those We Hold In Living Memory

March 2015 through February 2016

Amy Avery	Harland Hyatt	Stephanie Piechocki
Dolores Brennan	Anna & John Lafret	Kim Ram'nez
Jackie Bouchard	Latson Family	Geoff Welch
Matthew Dickinson	Ed Marx	
Fr. Dwight Ezop	Nancy Leach	
Imelda Feckovics	Doris Mary	
Clarence Hartmann	Virginia Matsco	



Those We Hold In Eternal Memory

March 2015 through February 2016

Rosemary Baker	Lois Martin	Tom Stevens	Sue White
Alice Benabedes	Lisa McNichol	Ronald L. Sylvester	Edward Zmuda
Susanne M. Berriman	Jack Murphy	Joe Valenta	Ivo Zucchet
Lawerance Bosel	Stanley F. Nemecek	Joseph Weibel	Olindo Zucchet
John Crosson	Nicole		
Sue Daly	Randy Novak		
Shirley Dawson	Leslie (Spike) Packard		
Kevin Dillon	Justin A. Piper		
June Dolan	Mary Lou Ploucha		
Ernest (Kelly) Gleason	Jerome Powers (Jerry)		
Sue Graham	Tom Prevost		
"Grace" Nettie Green	Lillian Nina Rachid		
Lyle Grondin	Fred Rademacher		
Johanna Pauline Harvey	Eugene Reinke		
Andrew S. Kalush	Shaheen Shaheen		
Jack Kildee	Mary Skidmore		
Jack Larmor	Frank Smejkal		
Shirley McCaslin	Jean Smith		
Ray McGuire	Nancie Stahl		

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 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.

Thank you friends, for naming 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 gift idea to help support the Prayer Center or are in need of additional memorial cards, please give us a call at 810-787-5330 or write us at G-2381 E. Carpenter Rd., Flint, MI 48505-1862, or send your request via e-mail to stfrancisflint@comcast.net.

We are the Face of Jesus!

As we reflect on the Advent/Christmas season, we are reminded of the many ways in which you, our friends and family, came together once again to help make the holidays a little brighter for those less fortunate. We have much to be thankful for.

What does the "Face of Jesus" mean to you? Is it the humbleness of a family, struggling to make ends meet, as they received a food basket for Thanks-



giving? Is it in the joy you see as a child opens a welcomed gift?

When we think of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, what face would we have seen on the innkeeper, or his wife, or on Mary or Joseph? Would it have been joyous or concerned?

Well, maybe, just maybe, there was a brightness – a brightness that has lived and will continue to live on.

Christmas 2015 @ the Prayer Center





St. Francis Prayer Center's 35th Annual Fundraiser

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

YES! We have been celebrating 41 Years of Ministering with our Community!

Join Us on Saturday, April 16, 2016

Grand Prize is \$5,000 – 2nd Prize is \$500



TICKETS \$100 EACH*

Each Big Ticket give you 2 Dinner Tickets
PLUS 4 Complimentary Drink Tickets.

*If 300 tickets or less are sold, Grand Prize will be \$4,000

A limited number of Guest Dinner Tickets are available for \$25 each.



Order your tickets NOW!
Seating limited to 400 people.

How many stars
will we see that
night?



Will you come
dressed as
your favorite
artist?

BIG TICKET ORDER FORM (Please Print)

Name: _____ Home Phone: (____) _____

Address: _____ Work Phone: (____) _____

City/St/Zip _____ Cell: (____) _____

of Big Tickets @ \$100.00 each. _____

____ YES, we will be attending at the party and would like the 2 dinner tickets and 4 drink tickets included with each drawing ticket.

____ 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.

____ Please send _____ additional guest dinner tickets @ \$25 each (limited number available)



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

Please clip and respond ASAP to St. Francis Prayer Center, G-2381 E. Carpenter Road, Flint, MI 48505

Items Up for Bid @ the Fundraiser on April 16!



Whiting Auditorium

Hot Sardines - Jazz group; May 13

Atlas Valley Country Club

Certificate for Golf for 4

Soaring Eagle

Gift Certificate

A favorite of attendees!



Tiger Tickets

We don't know the date yet!



Decker Cottage

September 22-25, 2016

Has many updates!

Help Make Up A Themed Basket for Auctions

Let your imagination run wild!!

Well, not too wild. But we are in need of donations for our Auctions.

Would you consider donating a **themed basket** that we could use for either our Live or Silent Auctions?

Here are a few suggestions:

- **Tea for Two** - include a variety of teas, teapot, teacups, biscuits;
- **Prime Time Movie** - add a couple of DVDs, popcorn, bowls
- **Dinner for Two** - a certificate for dining out or ingredients for making dinner
- **Baby Baskets** - One for a boy; one for a girl
- **Family Game Night** - coupons or tokens to a local gaming spot
- **Stay-at-Home game night:** Yahtzee, checkers, Trivial Pursuit
- **Toys for Toddlers** - Grandma & Grandpa may be interested in something for their grandkids!
- **Movie Rental Tickets** - gift certificates for a movie, popcorn, & drinks
- **Gourmet Coffee** - a coffee maker, some cups & a variety of coffees, creamers & sweeteners!

- **Sporting Event!** Tickets for entry & parking
- **Tickets to a Concert** - what is going on at the Whiting or somewhere in Detroit?
- **Backyard B-B-Q** - mitts, tools, seasonings, and maybe a grocery certificate for meat!

Bring them in already made up or bring us the items and we will make up the basket. We even have a few baskets for you to fill!





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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

Upcoming Events @ SFPC

March 11: Vicariate Meeting with Bishop Boyea

April 16: SFPC Annual Fundraiser

May 20-22: Spring Retreat with Debbie (The Open Door)

Mid April: A new Pilgrims' Way class or classes will begin.

Regional Healing Services

Since 1976, Father Richard McAlear's (OMI) Ministry has been offering hope, healing, love, and peace to tens of thousands of people all around the world.

Father's gifts of teaching and healing are powerful indicators of the healing love of Jesus Christ being poured out on today's world. He is much in demand as a speaker for retreats, conferences, and seminars for priests, deacons, and other religious associates and conducts healing services, weekend renewal retreats, parish missions, and days of teaching in parishes around the world.

April 25: Healing Service at Holy Family, Grand Blanc

April 26: Teaching on Mercy at Holy Redeemer, Burton

April 27: Healing Service at St. John, Fenton



Fr. Richard McAlear, OMI

The Spirit of God is on me. He anointed me to bring Good News to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted and to free the oppressed." (Is. 61:1)

Testimonies

"I'm writing this afternoon to share a miracle of healing with you. For the past two Fridays, I have gone to Adoration with your precious little book, Come Away Awhile. I know I read it years ago, but for some reason, the Holy Spirit used it now to heal my heart and soul. It is very hard to put into words as things of the Spirit can be.

"Thank you for your prayers, God has answered all our prayers! Joseph's scans came back clean."

"I wanted to send a testimony to share to Praise God for my healing to be shared with everyone.