



Easter 2018

## ST. FRANCIS PRAYER CENTER

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

P: 810-787-5330 • F: 810-787-5399

# ISAIAH 43:19

See I am doing a new thing. Now, it  
springs up, do you not perceive it? I am  
making a way in the wilderness and  
streams in the wasteland.

Spring is on its way--finally! What a long and snow filled season we have had. Under the leaves and brush I actually saw little nubs of tiny green buds in some of the early flowers. I hope they will stay low profile for a bit, as 40 degrees and sun today is moving back to snow tomorrow.

First, let me apologize for the lengthy time between newsletters.

Our daily activities have easily doubled or perhaps even more, since the first of September. We began the fall like a power surge happened. We came into the Center each day in mid-September and found our porch filled with people waiting for our doors to open.

By the end of October we had depleted every single thing we had in the whole building to give away. All cupboards of food; of paper products; of soaps/detergents; of personal care items and every package of meat in the freezers were emptied. I was overwhelmed, and worried, really worried.

Isaiah's words in 43 speak of God making a way in a wasteland or wilderness. Flint has changed remarkably in the last 20 years and some (especially those looking from the outside) might view Flint as a wasteland or wilderness. No one would argue. We sure do have our challenges! So, we are following this 'new way,' trusting that God is directing it, and that it will be fruitful if it is His plan for us, and I am becoming a rather proficient 'beggar.' We have some very difficult days here, but we have other days when a young mother calls and reports she is going to keep her baby after visiting with us and receiving the prayer we offered.

As this surge descended upon us, some changes were made to accommodate the need. A previous retreatant working on her masters, drove 2 hours each way to volunteer in our now burgeoning outreach. Kathy, a previous educator, the wife of our mainte-



nance man, Dick, also came on board a few days a week to do intake and manage the multitudes of beds and blankets and food, we were now providing.

Someone suggested putting an ad in the local Catholic churches about the things we needed. I had never done that, but was desperate to find a solution to help all those the Lord had sent us.

Several things occurred. Many individuals stopped by our Center or called us to drop off items that we needed. Most had never heard of the St. Francis Prayer Center! They were so excited to help us. I was moved beyond tears—day after day.

**St. John, Fenton** rose to the occasion in a huge way. St. Francis Prayer Center has been doing different seminars and bible studies for them during the last 3 years. I have been in and out of that parish regularly. We have made many friends there who have begun to be a part of our 'family' at the Center. **Dcn. Terry and Melanie** at the desk, said, "Come out here to our outreach center, Debbie. Send your guys with the van. We will help you." **I had no idea!!**

Three hours later, the guys were back. It took 3 more hours to unload, unpack, and store the groceries, meat, and other supplies. St. John's literally set us back on our feet, and permitted us to continue to take care of the multitudes that needed help.

Thank God for **St. John, Fenton**, and for all those who answered the call to help us. So many of you are praying and answering our call for help here. We are so grateful, the young families we serve, are so grateful.

**There is indeed something new going on here, and no, we didn't quite perceive it, Lord, but we are trusting in you completely.**

We are walking the walk Lord, as best we can—keeping our eyes fixed on you.

—Director, Deb

# Thanksgiving Adopt-A-Family Project

For the 2nd year in a row, **Lansing Catholic Central High School** spent the weekend with us prior to Thanksgiving. They organized and boxed the food we had collected, then carried to the cars that lined the drive—one car after another.

Several times we gathered around the car and prayed for their special intentions—a most unusual opportunity for the students. We were all very blessed in doing it. We served 56 families this year. The boxes were not only for the holiday of Thanksgiving, but for additional days of food as well.

Our dear friends at **St. Jude, DeWitt**, supplied half the food for us this year as they have done the last 2 years. In 2015, they were with us for 1 whole week working at the Center to help us. Even Fr. Bob Irish came with them! They continue to help us at Thanksgiving. Director Deb recently spent an evening with them speaking during Lent. Again, God is doing

something new here ... building new friendships while serving the Kingdom of God.

This is where a picture of our helpers from **Lansing Catholic Central** would go – unfortunately, our camera with the pictures on it was taken!!



## Thank You for the Gift of Vestments

When he heard about our lack of Vestments available for priests attending events at the Prayer Center, **Fr. Gordon Reigle** from **St. Roberts** listened. He brought us Vestments for a variety of seasons and holidays. *Thank you, Fr. Gordon.*

## Thank You for the Beds, Bedding, Paper Products, & Food!

We asked. You delivered.

What an out pouring of love from old friends and new friends of the Prayer Center. When the message went out that we were in need of bedding, many people responded – and

are still responding – to our call. This is just a glimpse of all the items you helped us with. We received blankets, sheets, pillow cases, pillows, and comforters of all sizes and varieties.

In addition to that, food products were brought in by the

bag and box full. Our friends at **Holy Family, Grand Blanc**, brought us boxes of food at Christmas time helping to restock our shelves.

Since our call for paper products went out, we have received many donations

in that area. These are some of the things not available to purchase if you are using a Bridge card – things the rest of us sometimes take for granted. Run out of toilet tissue or laundry detergent – no problem. Stop at the store for a replacement. The paper products, laundry detergent, and personal care items go out almost as fast as they come in.

While we wish to help people in need, we also encourage them to become more independent.

*Canned goods above; food Boxes from Holy Family below.*





# Discouragement or Silver Lining

On December 8th I received a call to respond to a break-in at the Center. In pajamas and boots I rushed to the Center to find the garage door open and police in our building. My heart sank as I realized we had hundreds of gifts in the building awaiting our big Christmas Adoption party 2 weeks later. The van that we delivered all the beds for kids was taken. Our snow blower, leaf blower, power washer, chainsaws and all big tools that we use to maintain the property—all gone. The alarm system was ripped out of the walls. I was so angry, and then immediately—so discouraged. I begged Jesus to help me not be so angry, and to please just help us do what he had asked us to do “feed my people.”

## ABC TV 12

Local news reporter, Ann Pierret, reported from the Prayer Center with Director Deb. The report was quite candid. We were very grateful for the opportunity to let the community know our struggle. So close to Christmas and so much work to do and snow to plow ... it was hard to be authentic and still allow our witness for Christ be visible. Deb did publicly forgive the thieves but added she was very discouraged, as we had many beds promised for children before Christmas.



Mark Bullion, from TV12, came back the day of our party and interviewed adoptees and those who had been adopted. It was a great piece showing how God had a Silver Lining in mind for St. Francis.

A local U-Haul donated a truck for the beds promised before Christmas. The blue van was a surprise that hadn't come yet!

## OUTREACH NEWS

We still need someone who would volunteer a few hours a week to monitor our pantry and shop for it. Because of the huge increase in people we help, it has become a vital piece of our work here.

**All kinds of food:** meats, paper products, laundry/dish soaps, shampoos, and personal hygiene

items are in constant need.

**Beds:** we are quite likely the only place left who will provide mattresses. It is a very persnickety thing to accomplish which is why most do not do this anymore! In the last 90 days we placed 26 children in a bed who were sleeping on the floor. We currently have a waiting list of 18. This is a critical need.

## One week later: Angels Drive Blue Vans

A visitor rang the bell. “Is that lady here that was on the news?” I said, “Yes, that’s me. How can I help you?” He said, “I’m Karl, this is my son. My wife Kathy and I saw the news. We are from



Owosso. I brought you a van. We would like you to have it. It’s a bit rough looking, but only has 40,000 miles. Will that help you? Speechless, but with crocodile tears running down my cheeks, I muttered something, and nodded my head. He and his son gave me a giant Oreo hug and handed me the title.

**Yep, think that was an Angel alright.**

**10 days to the party ... tons of snow coming, no snow blower. Oh my, what will we do?**

A short time later, a visitor rang the bell. “Is that lady here that was on the news? No, Jean says.” May I help you?” “Well uhh, ... here (he opens his wallet and thrusts a wad of dollars into her hand then asks), “You going to be here awhile?” “Yes, ‘til 4:00,” she says. Two hours later he came back with a brand new snow blower with the tags still hanging on it!

**Yep, I guess Angels not only drive blue vans but come bearing snow blowers too!**

**What someone intended for harm,  
God had different ideas about!**

Jer.29:11(NIV) “for I know the plans for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future.”

They must be free of stains, but gently used is always fine. We accept (when the need is there) sofas, chairs, and small tables, dishes, silverware, glasses, pots & pans, blankets, sheets.

Contact the Prayer Center at 810-787-5330 if you have something you wish to donate.

## Christmas Adoption Party

With the help of our buddies from **St. John, Fenton**, we adopted 67 families! Holy smokes! It was absolutely amazing. The day was filled with families, children, new helpers and joy filled music. The luncheon was supplied and prepared by our masters in the kitchen **Kathy Vickrey, her mom, Yvonne Stevenson, and her sister, Donna Beckner**. They generously donate their time and groceries and hugs for this special day.

**Elizabeth Lamson** came with her 'boxes' of handmade cookies and bags of treats for the kids—always a special treat for us. Several new helpers wrapped gifts; shopped for gifts and did multitudes of tasks to make the day happen. Jean worked like a crazy lady to keep us all in line and all things properly accounted for.

**Holy Family, Grand Blanc**, donated a van load of food boxes for us Christmas week. It was a much needed boost as our number of families grew to 67, much, much higher than ever before. Love to you all, and many thanks.

New in our volunteer department this year is **Deborah Keyes** and **Karena Glynn**. They helped during Christmas & continue to come in once a week for whatever we need done. From making beds to folding brochures for the Fundraiser as well as many other tasks.



## New On Staff

**Robin DuCap** has joined our staff. She is a welcome addition with many gifts and talents. She handles our bookkeeping and many office tasks. We are thrilled to have her on staff. She made it through Christmas and is still with us, now if she makes it through the Fundraiser we'll be all set. Hang on Robin, we need you!

**Kathy Frazier** isn't really 'new' to us, as she has been volunteering since her husband Dick came to work for us a few years ago. She has begun a part time schedule helping with our Outreach and Pantry. She has a heart of gold and is doing a great job.



## Raise the Roof

Before the snow flew we had a new roof on the oldest section of the Prayer Center. Thanks be to God, and many thanks to those who helped us raise the money. A very special 'Angel' from Flushing started us off on this campaign with a significant donation.

A special Thank You to our **Knights** friends who have made donations in the past and continue to do so.

**WE HAVE A NEW ROOF!!**

## Re-vamp the Ramp

Our main deck with the ramp got a facelift before winter too. The boards were very dangerous and in need of replacing. We expect to have them refinished this spring. Our **DeWitt** helpers, in 2016, did much to prepare them and did some finishing of the smaller ones. This summer we should be completed. Also, we applied for a \$2,500.00 grant from **Community Foundation of Greater Flint** and were awarded this grant for our deck. Many thanks for those who helped make that happen.





# Rejoice, O Earth

As I read the words of Isaiah in chapter 49, I am always brought to a new depth of personal understanding of God the Father's love for me and for His people.

My heart is consumed with the great need for people who are hurting. The sorrow, fear and desperation is palpable. They are bound and held hostage in circumstances that seem to have no answers.

But this is not true. There is a way—He is the Way the Truth and the Life.

He promises Healing and even Restoration. He makes a way where it can't be seen. In Max Lucado's words, like a child who falls into a mud puddle with a beautiful white dress on, "He picks us up and washes



our face, comforts us and does not scold us, but takes us home changes our clothes, and sets us back lovingly on our own two feet." He is our Father, and He Loves

us Best. He is gentle. He is Love.

He floods us with mercy in so many ways, if we but only plant ourselves near Him and receive that Living Water that restores us back to life. When we draw near, he cleanses and sanctifies us, readies us to receive the **more** that He has waiting for us. He is a Good Father who loves us. He will make a way.



Jesus says in John's 5th gospel that He only does what the Father tells him to do, He doesn't act on His own. Imagine, this is Jesus speaking! He doesn't act on His own accord! Perfect Love and perfect submission – my

goodness what a model for us He is.

This Holy season, my prayer for all who may read this is, that you will come to know the "One Who Loves You Best," the one who gave His life for yours. I pray that this 'knowing' will be your own **personal encounter with Jesus**—because in knowing Him (experiencing personally), you will also know your Father.



Know of our prayers for all of you, and how we pray constantly for the Will of God to be done by us here at the Prayer Center as well.

Pray, please, for me as I personally try to follow Jesus, and 'do only what He tells me,' both in my personal ministry and in the work at the Prayer Center.

As I write this I head to Ohio and Indiana for Healing Ministry with Fr. Richard McAlear, for 9



days. We expected 3 to 5 thousand people. Pray, that they may be restored.

In His Mercy Alone,  
Director, Deb





# St. Francis Prayer Center's 37th Annual Fundraiser! Saturday, May 5, 2018

## TICKETS \$100 EACH\*

**Each Big Ticket includes 2 Dinner Tickets!  
PLUS 4 Complimentary Drink Tickets.**

**You MUST turn in your Dinner Ticket @ dinner time!**

**Additional Drink Tickets will be available at the hall for \$2 each.**

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

Please use the order form at the bottom & let us know if you will be attending.

**You can help us by  
making up a basket for  
our Silent Auction.**

Choose a theme & add some  
items: movies, games, sports,  
evening out, child's – call us!

**Consider a donation for our Wine Pull – Call 810-787-5330 – We will pick up or you drop off!**

**The evening starts at  
4:30 pm** for Gathering  
**5:00 pm** for Dinner Buffet  
**6:00 pm** starts the Big  
Ticket Raffle, Live &  
Silent Auctions, and  
50/50 Drawings.  
The evening continues  
**Dancing** will follow the  
drawings!

**Order your tickets early! Last year we had a packed house. We are  
limited to 400 seating capacity but we welcome your contribution  
by purchasing a ticket. You need not be present to win.**

**Grand Prize is \$5,000. 2nd Prize is \$500.  
A maximum of 350 Big Tickets are sold.**

**\*If 300 tickets or less are sold, Grand Prize will be \$4,000.  
\$100 winners are pulled during the course of the drawing.**

**New Location this year! Fr. Bush Hall at Holy  
Family, Grand Blanc. 11824 S. Saginaw St.**

Raffle License # RA45957

### BIG TICKET & DINNER 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 the party & 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)

Raffle License  
# RA45957



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

**Please clip and send to St. Francis Prayer Center; G-2381 E. Carpenter Road; Flint, MI 48505; 810-787-5330**

## Those We Hold In Eternal Memory

Mid-February 2017 to March 2018

Bob Anderson

Rosalie Arnes

Mary Ann Barnes

Donna Berger

Dolores L. Boris

Dr. Lan H. P. Bui

John Butz

Robert Christ

Cokley Family Grant  
through the  
Community  
Foundation of  
Greater Flint

Carl Coppola

Susan Daunt

Rita Mary Des Armier

Ann DiDonato

Mark Ellico

Rose Marie Feckovics

Ken Ferguson

Marion J. Galvas

Carole Malloy Gray

Barbara Guettler

Billye Guettler

Carol Guettler

Gene Guettler

Karen Guettler

Jack Harmon

Bill Hayes

Lillian Heyneman

Richard Hollenbeck

Darrol Keely

Dr. John Jay

Madonna

John Mazur

Barb McClanahan

Lois Meadows

Eleanor Mickels

Pat Montpas

Yvonne Nelson

Stanley F. Nemecek

Maria Pawloski

John Psenski

Lorlea Rouleau

David Alan Sizemore

Nancy L. Sylvester

Maxine Swisher

Chad Thomas

Steven Wilkerson



## Those We Hold In Living Memory

Mid-February 2017 to March 2018

Berger Family

Norman Berna

Walter Berna

Brian

Fallen Catholics to find  
their way back

Fr. Paul Donnelly

The Dube family

Robert Elkins

Richard Green

Ed Hallwood

Kirk Family

Marianne Klein

Frank Matsco

Fr. Gary McInnis

Karen Michniewicz

Sharon Miller

Cipriano and Dolores Noveloso

Neil Peel

Joan Petril

Maya Joelle Slattery

The United States of America

Hassie West

Eloise Wild

Dolores Wilson

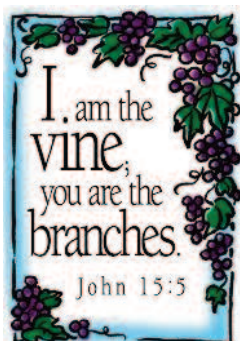


## Give the Gift of Prayer



Please consider using our Gift of Prayer Memorial Cards. The money is placed in our Outreach Ministry fund. It is used as a "Gift that keeps on Giving." 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.

If you would consider this gift idea to help support the Prayer Center or are in need of additional memorial cards, please contact the Prayer Center.



## Thank You Monthly Pledgers!

## Thank You Occasional Gift Givers!

YOU, the branches, keep us forever grateful for your continued support! Our Annual Fundraiser generates a portion of our needs, but without all of you and your on-going support, we would surely wither and die on the vine. Thanks for being that "living vine" for us. **You are appreciated!**





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Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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### Newsletters by E-mail

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(no spaces).

### Our Web Site

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Donate through PayPal. Don't have an account?  
You can use your credit card by clicking on the  
"Don't have a PP account? icon."

We recently received an anonymous gift from a very special Angel. Words cannot express our most sincere thanks! Thank YOU!

## A Look At the Past & Upcoming Events @ the PC

While we took a break during much of January as we recovered from the hectic pace of Thanksgiving & Christmas, other events were scheduled from Feb. on.

- **January 23.** Annual Fundraiser meeting.
- **February 9.** Healing Mass at St. John, Fenton.
- **February 23-25.** A weekend Retreat with Arlene Apone - **Come My Beloved - I Call You By Name.**
- **March 16-22.** Director Deb travelled to Indiana and Ohio with Fr. Mac as he spread his ministry of Hope & Healing
- **March 24.** Holy Family, Grand Blanc held their RCIA one day Retreat.
- **April 7.** One day Retreat with Arlene Apone – **Spiritual Warfare.**
- **April 20-22.** A weekend Retreat for SS. Charles & Helena Church Youth.
- **May 5. Our Annual Fundraiser.** Tickets are on sale now. Contact the Prayer Center to get yours!
- **May 19.** Pentecost Vigil at Holy Family, Grand Blanc.
- **June 8.** Memorial Service in honor of Sr. Joanne Chiaverini. It is the 10th anniversary of her death.
- **June 23.** Tentative Shepherd's Day Retreat.
- **August 13.** VBS (Vacation Bible School) at St. Francis Prayer Center grounds. If you are interested in this Outreach Ministry to those children who do not get much exposure to the Word of Jesus, please contact the Prayer Center at 810-787-5330. We need teachers, craft people, game people, and food people!
- **September 15.** It's been 5 years since we had a Revival here at the Prayer Center. We have tentatively set aside this date for our next one.

Our Annual Fundraiser is May 5, 2018.  
The proceeds from this event helps us  
keep our doors open – doors that are  
open to help those less fortunate around  
us; those who fall through the cracks!  
Purchasing a Big Ticket will help them!