



# Summertime ... and the livin' isn't easy!



## **We were off to a rough start for 2020!**

When we first became aware of the coronavirus, we didn't know what our country, our state, our county, our city, or our community would soon be facing. The near total shut-down of everything was mind boggling to say the least.

As we go to press ... all restrictions still in place and we believe them to remain this way well into the fall. While not so convenient for the Outreach Ministry, the health of our clients and employees is still top priority. Even our beloved churches, while now open, are seeing a very slow comeback, as people gage their involvement in crowds.

## **Welcome to the world of Zoom!**

Zoom, has opened the door for likely future use on a more permanent basis of doing 'some' things. It has stretched us (*some more than others, LOL*) but it's a healthy stretching. We've had Prayer Center Board Meetings, Fundraiser meetings, as well as Bible classes. Church was cancelled so we had to watch videos of Sunday Masses or church worship services. We found ourselves struggling to "keep in touch" with our current setups.



## **Food Pantry Remained Open**

The Food Pantry Outreach pushed through like a bull dozer as multitudes came through SFPC that had never before been here. Even though the food bank restricted us (as a smaller outreach) many wonderful people brought food and supplies by the carload to us. Director Deb was ecstatic to have the extra as our numbers quadrupled for a time, and our resources

were reduced! God is always mindful, and knows the needs of his people.

## **Bed Deliveries Halted for A Time**

Bed deliveries halted for several weeks while Covid was so brand new, we had almost caught up and beginning to 'breathe' a bit when it hit. So, backed us up again another 2½ months for deliveries. We did start back significantly earlier than anyone in the city, however. Still, at this time, many organizations are not up and running a normal schedule. This means not only deliveries not done, but nothing taken in like bedding either. SFPC jumped back into action, albeit with all precautions taken and began to serve people again. We are in full production again, but are only permitted to bring things to our client's porch or driveway.



We are still in need of bedding and dressers. Both children and adults have been sleeping on the floor. Sometimes when they leave a difficult situation, they cannot take all of their items with them. That isn't something you and I have to think about. Remember these words...

**'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'** MATTHEW 25:40 NIV

## **Prayers continue for everyone!**

We pray for everyone affected by the coronavirus. May you each be blessed with courage and faith!

### **St. Francis Prayer Center Mission Statement:**

Secure in God's love, the St. Francis Prayer Center, Flint, exists to serve all people, especially our poor, our parishes and our diocese through the ministries of prayer, evangelization, healing, formation, direct services and social justice.

# Where is God in this Covid mess?

Sadly, there is much confusion and discouragement and downright hatred among God's people around the country at this time. But I have seen many things happen in this time that are very good.

**DEUT. 31:6** Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave or forsake you.

By removing what is familiar to us, there has been a longing for 'real' things, people, and relationships; and time spent with those we love. In our required isolation we have needed to cling to God's promises and his provisions for us—quite literally, as we 're-prioritize' our lives.

In essence we have been fasting ... and what does fasting do for us? It heightens our awareness of our need for God; it compels us to cling to Him and His

ways, not our own. It helps us listen, pay attention, and turn around—a 'metanoia' experience. Covid 19 will have many fatalities both physically and emotionally, but it brings with it an opportunity to DIVE DEEP, AND LOOK FOR THE MORE that is being offered to us

Come Holy Spirit, Come in Power. Help us stay strong and not to live in fear or dread, but to trust the promises of Jesus, and listen to what he speaks in our hearts, and have the courage to 'dive deep.'

—Director Deb



## 2020 Annual Fundraiser



**Our First Ever Virtual Fundraiser**

### What will happen:

- Big Ticket Raffle will continue.
- An on-line Auction will be held.
- A Virtual Event will be a "live feed" from the Prayer Center starting @ 6 pm
- Big Ticket draw to be shown around 7:00 pm.

## Ch-ch-ch-changes!

Yes, we have made some changes! Due to the uncertainty of Social Distancing, on September 26, SFPC will be holding our **Annual Fundraiser VIRTUALLY!**

★ The Fundraiser Committee, headed by our Co-Chairs, **Desiree Londrigan** and **Laura Carpenter**, has been hard at work making this a fun way for **YOU** to help us achieve an important goal in our Outreach Ministry. The need for full and queen size beds, bedding, and food pantry items has increased in light of the shut-down of many small businesses.

★ When you purchase an \$80 Big Ticket, a link on our web site ([stfrancisprayerflint.com](http://stfrancisprayerflint.com)) will be sent to you email (click on the STAR link) that allows you to view the event.

**To help in this new venture, call 810-787-5330.**



### ST. FRANCIS PRAYER CENTER BIG TICKET ORDER FORM *(Please Print)*



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Main Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

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

City/St/Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Other (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Your Email address is important in order to send you information about the upcoming Event!*

Please send me # \_\_\_\_\_ Big Tickets @ \$80.00 each. Total enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Raffle License # R58558



\_\_\_\_\_ YES. I/We will pray for a successful event.

*If you have any questions, please call us @ 810-787-5330 if you are interested in Guest Tickets.*

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





## Deb's Corner

While Deb scrambled and prayed how to continue to serve God's people in the best and most efficient ways during a time there was such a need, the Holy Spirit came with very clear directives while in prayer.

“Go to all persons that have been ‘referred to you by other agencies, and call each one individually, to understand their need.” Well, I was shocked and could not imagine I could really do that! But, as I explained it to Robin in our office, she quickly drew on her great administrative skills and provided them all to me very quickly and arranged by zip code!! God knew. All I had to do was be obedient to what I had heard.

Each call, I personally spoke and prayed for people individually. Some struggled with fear, others with cancer, others with a pregnancy delivery expected in Covid time, still others with chronic disease, no bed and on the floor!

The Holy Spirit knew that ‘I’ needed to know these things to intercede for them specifically. I was humbled beyond belief to pray for them and share their heartaches.

The final chapter in this particular story is the spectacular heart of the Bed Boys, our wonderful team of so many volunteers and staff here.

A very special thanks to the delivery guys, who became ‘food delivery’ guys during this time. This means ALL OVER THE CITY.



So, 1st I had to be obedient to what I heard; then I did my part, then Robin did her part, and then the guys did their part. If they couldn't deliver beds—God would have them deliver food/personals, and thanks to Robin, it was so easy to do by zip code! Totally a God Thing. See what the word of God says about teamwork.

The scripture is 1st Corinthians 12:14, “for the body is not 1 member, but many.”

The Body of God's people when serving in unity, mirrors Jesus himself. Pride sneaks in when we become a 1-person operation. When done as a team the glory goes to God, because the people and the Ministry, belong to Him not us.

Please let us know if you no longer wish to receive our newsletters. Send an email to [stfrancisflint@comcast.net](mailto:stfrancisflint@comcast.net)

## FOOD PANTRY – *A Journey in Process*

*Have you ever wondered what the whole process is for running a food pantry?*

- Food Bank of Eastern Michigan (FBEM) is contacted and given our order.
- Food is picked up by **volunteers**, put on shelves.
- Various **volunteers** pack Family food boxes.
- Clients check in & are given food, paper products, cleaning supplies, and personal care items as needed.

What initially began as a very limited pantry – one that could give a small amount of emergency food to families, grew ...and grew ...and grew. We now have a large room dedicated to the Food Pantry. Shelves were added to hold the abundance of items, both purchased and donated.

Also, we were gifted 2 refrigerators w/freezers, and 2 Large freezers, and 1 small. With a complete pantry, and these added, we are a full service pantry.

Riverside Tabernacle recently heard of our Pantry and Outreach program and offered to ‘fill in the gap’ for us each week. The fresh food has been eliminated



for us temporarily because of Covid, so they stepped in to help us.

Many thanks, and God's blessings to our newest helper in serving God's people.

**THANK YOU TO OUR MANY VOLUNTEERS** and all those who continue to donate items. What a blessing **YOU** are to the Prayer Center & those we serve!

## Praise God for Wonderful Gifts

### PARTNERS IN GOD'S WORK

## Crossover Ministries

As you may have read in other newsletters, often a large hotel or university will donate beds, and dressers to SFPC. As I write this letter, Joe Buffa and the 'bed boys' got the news CMU were donating 400 beds to us. But wait ... there's more! As the procurement began a few weeks back, we were offered about 600 more. An enormous effort by all is being made as we speak to go get them, store them, and ready them for our clients. **No more kids/moms on the floor !**



A big part of Outreach Ministry is partnering with others in similar work. SFPC partners with many places to serve our people. Crossover is one of these relationships. We are very grateful to Craig and the staff for their help in providing bedding for our clients, and are a constant go-to, for us to serve other needs of the household. Thanks so much. May God continue to bless and prosper your work in the downtown ministry.

Director, Deb



**DOWNTOWN OUTREACH MINISTRY**  
414 W. Court Street - Flint, MI 48903 • 810-234-2471  
www.crossoverministriesflint.org



### St. Francis Prayer Center

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(no spaces).

### Our Web Site

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

### Skaff Furniture & Elga Credit Union – A Joint Gift

Many happy children are now enjoying your most generous offer of beds to the SFPC. Complete with bedding and pillows, many of them have beds for the first time. Our hearts ❤️❤️ are full for them. Blessings to you both.

### RestoCraft Mattress Co.

So many thanks, Mr. Kraft, for your generosity. Your staff at the office and driver of the huge semi truck were a shining example of the goodness we can see in another. We are humbled, surely, at your response to our need. –Debbie & Staff

### Family Promise

Our prayers and support for all the families that go through the program to find a new life and a new way! St. Francis is proud to be a supporter for your families. Thanks for the opportunity to fill their homes with beds, dressers and furniture for their new life

### It's Closer Than You Think! Thanksgiving & Christmas at the Prayer Center



Sign up to Adopt-A-Family for Christmas. Many will be in need this year!

Our beautiful tree from 2019.