

ST. FRANCIS PRAYER CENTER

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Deb's Corner

Working, Serving, Worshipping

Unity And Diversity

Greetings Dear Friends of St. Francis,

Change, change, change. In these Covid times, it seems that is the only constant we have. It is practical of course, as we go through it all, that we are trying to be safe, and still try to have our life in some normal order. It has been, however, pretty messy, and rather uncomfortable in many ways.

Most of us don't do change very gracefully. We prefer to not change. Our 'constants' have become pretty elusive, and we find ourselves not trusting anyone or anything very easily. Relationships have been severely challenged. The norms are no longer in place, and good old fashioned nice manners and courtesy have albeit flown out the window.

However, there is a constant that never changes; is always available to us; who waits patiently for us to lean in and find comfort and

peace there. It is the Father's Love. He has loved us with an everlasting love (Jer. 31:3) and when things change or get messy. He's still Lord; He's still boss; He still has a plan. We must enter in ... and do the work of 'our part.' Scripture teaches us how—thank God.

It is a particularly good time to stay the course He's placed you on, stay true to the 'mission' He

If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it.
1 CORINTHIANS 12:26

has called you into, and not allow yourself to be taken off course. 1 Corinthians 12 has much to say about the differ-

ences of our gifts in the body, and how valuable each is to God's larger plan. But in order for these diverse gifts to be fruitful, all of those working in that particular mission must share the same goals, have no jockeying of position, no undercurrents that are divisive. No upstaging the other; stay in your own pew, where He placed you, not hopping into someone else's and trying to be the 'Boss' of them.

What God calls you into, He will anoint (bless). But, where there is no vision, the people perish. Proverbs 29:18. When we can operate in humility, and a shared vision, we use the beautiful diversity of each ones gift, and operate in unity for the Glory of God the Father. When in unity, we accept our place where he has placed us and don't constantly vie for someone else's spot. We don't have to be in the 'front' position in every situation.

We can stay hidden and out of view, and not only bring joy to the person leading, but bring joy to the Lord who sees what happens in secret and behind the scenes.

Director Deb

PENTECOST SAVE THE DATE!

Ascension Thursday:

begins Pentecost Retreat on May 26th
Mass/Reflection (*evening*)

Closes: Saturday, June 4th. Mass / Lunch

Details: TBD, Mass/Confession –
hopefully daily.

Overnight Guests: yes. More info to follow.
Please call and leave name & number if
interested. Will also be posted on FB

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.

Special Thanks to...

Linda Waggoner from Holy Family who donated pillows, pillow cases (homemade), & fleece hats.

Carousel Family Florist and Lawrence Fortners' Home of A Second Chance donated quilts and bed pillows.

Bob Harcek (father) & **Kathy Bronson** (daughter) donated a car and van load of new toys, clothes, coats and boots.

U of M Tau Beta Pi fraternity for the donation of 50+ blankets and afghans.

An anonymous donation from a Davison person who brought in 100 knitted hats for adults and 100 knitted hats for children as well as a number of scarves.

Joseph Hebert donated money, pillows, canned goods, and toothbrushes.

Dollar Store in Fenton: we received a number of new, small toy items. They were used to support our "Shop4Kids" program for those unable to sign up at an agency.

Joanne & Dave Clor donated top to bottom SUV & truck with many blankets and comforters, etc.



Aaron & Deena Decker donated 30 mattresses & covers; 15 queen & 15 full.

Kathy Hardy donated blankets.

Richard & Cheryl Sands donated 10 bags of sheets, blankets, and pillows.

Kathy at Double K Auctions in Swartz Creek donated the sellers' fee, for auctioning off our Christmas Village items.

Linda Faircy donated blankets and coverlets.

Carol Briscoe donated tons of comforters.

Mel & Fred Moore (from Holy Family) donations of comforters and sheets



Ezekiel 11:19. I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh.

Fall of 2021 – Whew!

Isn't it amazing that when things seem to be falling apart, we find that God has another plan for us? *The Prayer Center experienced that last fall.* A few things happened that tested our fortitude.

Our bed ministry needed re-evaluation. We had to close it down for a time in order to build it back up. We have some new people in place to help with deliveries along with some who have been with us for awhile. It has taken some effort, but we slowly got back into a routine.

Two of our employees contracted Covid at the same time and were off work for two weeks. That put us behind on the **Adopt-A-Family for Christmas** program as well as the bed ministry. The Lord was reigning supreme as people stepped up to "adopt" – 27 families adopted along with more families adopted by **St. John in Fenton.**

We were able to help about 15 families who came to our "**Shop4Kids**" outreach from new toys that had been donated. These are families who were too late in signing up with any agency for help and was in need gifts for their children.

Thanks to all those who shopped, wrapped, and brought gifts in. *May your blessings abound!*

Director Deb stepped in to handle both the bed ministry and the food pantry duties. She continued to work at those while developing the new bed ministry system.

Just as we were getting the bed ministry going again, another of our workers contracted Covid. That put us behind again.

In the midst of the other trials, we were broken into. One of the French doors was completely broken out and the other one was severely twisted. Some damage was done inside but the alarm must have scared them off before they could do too much damage. Again we were blessed with donations towards the replacement/repair of the French doors.

Throughout this topsy, turvy time, we know the **Lord** was with us every step of the way. When it looked like things were falling apart, a light appeared and in *His grace and mercy*, the difficult path was overcome.