



St. Francis of Assisi  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

# MUSTANG CONNECTION

ALUMNI AND FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

Spring 2012

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## Mega Mustang Car Raffle



In the spring of 1964, Ford Motor Corporation introduced a new compact car, which may or may not have been named for the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School mascot. Now, several decades later, we have launched our 16th annual Car Raffle, sponsored by Gene Butman Ford and the Butman family. The grand prize is a two-year lease on a 2012 Mustang Convertible, or \$10,000!

The Candy Red Mustang Convertible has 305 HP, a 6-speed automatic transmission, leather seats, a power folding top, the Shaker 500 audio system, and much more. This extraordinary pony has an MSRP of over \$34,000.

The success of this fund raiser is critical to St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School, so Ken Butman upped the ante with his grand prize donation, and he is challenging us to raise \$100,000. He has shared that the extent of his future support could well be determined by our efforts to meet that goal.

The school community has embraced Mr. Butman's really big challenge. Each family has been asked to sell 24 books of tickets (a \$480 value.) In addition, the school has invited parishioners to sell tickets to help meet the goal.

Over the years, the Car Raffle has raised an amazing **\$1,050,866** for St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School, which has helped us maintain a quality education for our students, and keep tuition affordable too. The proceeds have also provided necessary school facility improvements (like air conditioning, windows, and bathroom upgrades) which have saved the Parish those costly expenses.

The school building is used by multiple ministries throughout the year (including Religious Education, Adult Faith Formation, the Common Conference, Vacation Bible School, the Homeless Shelter, and Stephen Ministry) so a financially successful Car Raffle directly benefits the entire Parish.

Please participate in this year's Car Raffle by selling a book of tickets, or by making a ticket purchase. In addition to the grand prize, there will be cash prizes of \$1,000, \$750, \$500, and \$250. Together we can meet Mr. Butman's \$100,000 challenge and help our school and Parish too.

Request tickets by calling the Development Office at 734.821.2208; you can also purchase tickets after Masses on May 26 and 27 and during the Ice Cream Social on Friday, June 1 prior to the drawing at 8:00 p.m.



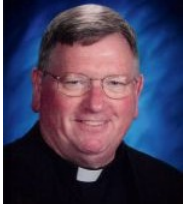
St. Francis of Assisi  
Catholic School's  
**60th Anniversary** is  
quickly approaching!

Help us spread the good news of the year long celebration -- encourage alumni to join our Alumni Directory. To do so, visit the Parish website, click the "School Community" tab and then (in lower left) **Quick Links: [Join the Alumni Directory.](#)**

### Philosophy and Mission Statement

*St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School is a family-oriented mission of the St. Francis of Assisi Parish community where each student is valued, respected and nurtured as a unique creation of God. We challenge our students spiritually, academically and physically to learn, care and lead as they work to discover the plan that God intends for them. As followers of Christ, we strive always to instill in our students the words of St. Francis of Assisi... "Preach the Gospel always, and when necessary, use words."*

# The Pastor's Perspective



Dear Friends,

The season of Spring is upon us – as Catholics, it is a season when we rejoice in Jesus' resurrection. Through his great sacrifice and love for us we are able to celebrate the gift of eternal life. This lush season is also one when we give thanks to God for His many signs and blessings of rebirth and renewal in the world around us.

Here at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School we begin a new chapter -- I am pleased to announce that Ms. Julie Fantone, who has been serving as Acting Principal, was recently named Principal. She has assumed her duties already with great skill and enthusiasm. Please join me in congratulating her on her new position and thanking her for her excellent leadership during the past several months. I am personally very grateful to the 10-member Search Committee for the many hours they spent in their work during the selection process for our new Principal.

Our vibrant Catholic school, distinguished by its religious character and culture, teaches children to have a deeper relationship with God and others. Through their daily prayer, instruction, and learning, as well as our school's community life, our students receive Christian nourishment to help them flourish spiritually, morally and intellectually.

The 2011-2012 school year at St. Francis of Assisi will end on June 8th -- to everyone who supported the vocation of providing our students with a quality Catholic education during the past year through contributions of time, talent and treasure, I sincerely thank you. With God's grace and our combined commitment, we can continue to help our students grow in goodness and holiness.

May God bless you and your loved ones,

Fr. Jim McDougall  
Pastor

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## Hail Mary

Hail, Mary, full of grace,  
The Lord is with thee,  
Blessed art thou among women,  
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
Pray for us sinners,  
Now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

# From the Principal's Pen



Spring is always an exciting time for St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School. Many of the events that we have prepared for throughout the year come to fruition during concerts, performances, graduations, and celebrations of all the students' hard work. I would like to share some of the changes that have been happening in our school over the past few months.

I recently had the honor to apply for the school Principal position, to be considered in the hiring process. The position was offered to me, and I accepted, effective immediately. This is a blessing to me as St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School was a positive experience for me growing up.

Ann Arbor is my birthplace and I attended St. Francis School for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade. That time created many special memories for me; it also provided me with an excellent academic program, and most importantly a strong faith foundation. I am excited to continue my ministry in education with faculty that were so very special to me as teachers. I am also very enthusiastic to welcome new teachers from this past year to our family at St. Francis School. I know as an alumnus St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School is a home to me and I prayerfully hope we can continue that for the many students, families, and faculty that are a part of this special community.

Another special memory that was a cornerstone in my faith life was my graduation from St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School. We look forward to graduating 55 amazing young leaders on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Having many of these 8<sup>th</sup> graders as students myself, I have no doubt that they will do great things in the example of Christ as they move to new adventures in high school.

I am happy to share that we currently have no retirements to announce for the 2012-2013 school year. As a faculty we truly enjoy working with one another. I look forward to an amazing year with such special people. We have one major change that we are preparing for relative to our Kindergarten program next year; we will offer two options for that grade. We will provide a full-day Kindergarten with two teachers and a half-day program with a curriculum-based enrichment option. We understand that all students grow developmentally at different rates and that we all have unique God-given strengths. By providing these two options, students and families will have choices in their students' education as they learn and grow as students in a traditional school setting.

We are all so busy at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School this time of year, but we welcome you in for a visit anytime. Our school is so special to us and we hope to share it with you. We wish you a blessed summer.

Julie Fantone  
Principal



# Mary Lou Daby Spring Arts Festival



The Mary Lou Daby Spring Arts Festival, which is held in May, is evolving, thanks to Cayla Samano, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School's new art teacher. Ms. Samano is completing her first year at our school, and she spent a few minutes with the Mustang Connection talking about art and how she integrates it into our school's curriculum.

"My focus is a multi-cultural approach," says Ms. Samano. "Students are working across the curriculum on different art projects." She recently had second-grade students write Haiku poetry and create an artistic display for their works. Sixth graders completed a unit on aborigine art, including pattern creation. She also had fifth-grade students create maps, which required them to incorporate latitude and longitude, along with mathematical measurements.

Ms. Samano also works in art theory and art history for the students. "We learn about famous artists and styles, and the philosophies behind art styles. I try to promote critical thinking and observational skills through art."

Ms. Samano tries to give students a broad art experience, saying that the Spring Arts Festival includes drawn and painted pieces, as well as clay sculptures, collages, multimedia pieces, wire sculptures, colored pencil drawings, pastels and a range of other materials. "Art is something you find in life; it's not a separate thing."

Ms. Samano says that she missed out on high quality art instruction when she was in elementary and high school, and wants to make sure that her students get the best possible exposure to art. "I'd like the students to leave St. Francis with a comprehensive knowledge of art movements, and a range of techniques – painting, drawing, sculpture, crafts – and a little bit of color theory," which, she adds, "can help them learn how to dress!"

Ms. Samano says that early Christian art provides a rich learning opportunity for children. "We've studied early churches, architecture, stained glass windows, and angels. The sixth-grade students recently completed a study of icons, too."

All students participate in the Mary Lou Daby Spring Arts Festival, and Ms. Samano includes a few new items of her own. This year the Festival features "Make and Take" tables, which students use to create new works of art "to go."

During the Festival, students sell their artwork, and guests enjoy refreshments and live music. Students also enter a raffle to win an art set.

Ms. Samano, who already has a Master of Fine Arts degree, is working on a second master's degree in Illustration, which she hopes to use to illustrate children's literature.

The Spring Arts Festival is named in honor and in memory of Mary Lou Daby, a past teacher and Principal at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School. Mrs. Daby was a firm supporter of the arts.



Ms. Cayla Samano

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## Middle School Choir to Travel to Washington, D.C.



Under the direction of music teacher Mrs. Linda Opaleski, the Middle School Choir at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School will travel to Washington D.C. in July of 2013 for the 38<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Pueri Cantores. Thousands of young singers will join together to proclaim the Peace of God at the first-ever gathering of Pueri Cantores choirs in the United States.

This special pilgrimage to our nation's capital will include a performance during the National Independence Day Parade and a prayer service at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial. The festival will culminate in an extraordinary Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, with his Eminence Cardinal Donald Wuerl of Washington in attendance.

As Mrs. Opaleski said, "This festival will bring children together to sing for peace, and there is nothing quite like singing the Mass with children from around the world. Our students will experience an unforgettable journey, as well as the Catholic Church in all of its grandeur." Pueri Cantores is an international Catholic choral organization that provides opportunities for school age youth choirs from all backgrounds to participate in liturgical music.

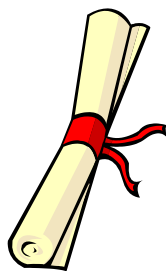
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Parish  
2150 Frieze Avenue  
Ann Arbor, MI 48104  
(734) 821-2200  
<http://www.stfrancisa2.com/school>

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## Graduating Families

Congratulations and thank you to the twenty-six families named below whose last eighth-grade students will graduate on June 4, 2012. Their years of support and assistance have immeasurably enriched the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School community, and we are grateful for their years of service. May God bless and protect them in their future endeavors.



Best Family (15 years)  
Brandly Family (9 years)  
Brooks Family (12 years)  
Burns Family (1 year)  
Deutschmann Family (11 years)  
Fink/Laidlaw Family (11 years)  
Gaur/Kant Family (2 years)  
Geppner Family (15 years)  
Hocott Family (9 years)  
Jetton Family (12 years)  
Johnson Family (3 years)  
Jung/Kim Family (6 years)  
Kim Family (5 years)

Koepele Family (12 years)  
Laten Family (13 years)  
Newman Family (3 years)  
Pommerich Family (8 years)  
Ryan Family (8 years)  
Smith/May Family (9 years)  
Smith Family (10 years)  
Strassburg Family (11 years)  
Swastek Family (16 years)  
Tishkoff Family (3 years)  
Tynan Family (11 years)  
Visintainer Family (22 years)  
White Family (16 years)

## Upcoming Events



- May 28:** Memorial Day  
*(No School)*
- May 29-June 1:** Fifth-grade Storer Camp
- June 1:** Ice Cream Social & Car Raffle  
*(Car Raffle drawing at 8 p.m.)*
- June 4:** Eighth-grade Graduation  
*(Mass in Church at 6 p.m.)*
- June 8:** Last Day of School – Early Dismissal  
*(All-School Mass at 9:45 a.m.;  
Alumni Choir Members Perform)*
- July 1:** School's 60th Anniversary Year Begins
- September 3:** Labor Day
- September 4:** Parent & Student Orientation
- September 5:** First Full Day of School
- October 4:** 60th Anniversary All-School Mass  
*(Mass in Church at 10 a.m.;  
Peace Garden Dedication Following Liturgy)*
- October 6:** 60th Anniversary Parish Celebration  
*(Mass in Church at 5 p.m. with Bishop Boyea;  
Mustang Re-Connection Party Following)*