

# Working Together in The Year of Mercy and Beyond

For Year ending June 30, 2016

## To the People of St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Once again it is my pleasure to present to you our annual parish report for the year 2015 to 2016. As you will see this past year has been a very active and busy one for our community of faith and my thanks go to all who were involved in making it so successful. Here we have highlighted just a few of the many events and activities we have organized and celebrated in this ongoing Jubilee Year of Mercy. It is my hope that this will give you an overview of what we have tried to achieve. The fact that this is a Jubilee Year has certainly added another dimension to all of our activities and has given us a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and share God's mercy. If you have not yet turned your focus to the Jubilee Year, I invite you to consider joining the Holy Father and all of us in celebrating this great gift of mercy, revealed to us in Christ.

Please enjoy this annual report, which again comes to you as part of the *Canticle*. Taken together we hope they will encourage you to engage all the more with your community of faith and to be part of this ever-growing dynamic parish. When you have finished you might even pass it on to others, especially those who are searching for a family of faith. Remember there is no greater gift you can give another than the gift of a relationship with Christ and those who belong to him, and in this Jubilee Year it will certainly make a real difference. Here at St. Francis we cherish that sacred relationship and welcome all who seek to join us. It is our joy to share Christ and our faith with others. Let them know that there is no obstacle that cannot be overcome! So go on: invite your family and friends to join us! Christ is waiting and so are we! Together let us share God's mercy and love with others.

*Fr. James Conlon*  
Pastor

## Evangelization

*"You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt" (Lev 19:34)*

St. Francis Church strives to welcome everyone joyfully as brothers and sisters in Christ, sharing the gift of our faith and the blessings of our community.

St. Francis Church is in the process of rebuilding its website to make it more informative, welcoming, and user-friendly. Our social media presence increased significantly this year on Facebook and Instagram. Also new this year is a welcome kiosk, located in the gathering area, which provides information to visitors.

The pastoral team created a comprehensive plan to reach out to our Hispanic brothers and sisters, a growing group within our parish family. Some of the activities sponsored by the Hispanic Ministry in the last year included a Day of the Dead (All Souls Day) Mass in Spanish with a reception, a bilingual Mass for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe with a reception, and a cultural fair representing the many different countries of origin of our Hispanic community. The St. Francis Religious Education office facilitated preparation for the Quinceañera culminating in both bilingual and Spanish Masses. Members of St. Francis made a pilgrimage to the Jubilee Door of Mercy at Holy Rosary Cathedral in Toledo, that included being hosted for breakfast and Mass by Fr. Molina and our Hispanic brothers and sisters of Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Toledo.



2016 Annual Report



## Social Justice

*"When you did it for the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you did it for me." (Mt 25:40)*

Outreach to the vulnerable in our community is central to the Christian way of life. Some of our service projects this year included weeks of service with Alpha House Shelter, seasonal food drives, the Christmas Giving Tree (*photo left*) and Re-Gift Box, the CROP Walk to raise funds for Faith in Flint, and Donate a Day for service to seniors. Our Gardens and Grounds Grooming group completed an action plan to coordinate the many gardens on our campus. Our Stephen Ministry held a 50-hour training culminating in 10 new commissioned Stephen Ministers. The senior citizens group developed a new "Go Out for a Meal" series of restaurants, one each month.

Special collections included:

- \$5,352 for a new dormitory at St. Joseph Academy Primary School in Kakamega, Kenya
- \$4,334 to support the Dominicans in Iraq
- \$6,000 to support Friends of the Master, a prisoner rehabilitation organization
- \$3,418 for Arbor Woman pregnancy counseling center
- \$18,304 raised through our Lenten drive for the Diocese of Kottappuram in India, with which we are developing a strong, binding friendship.

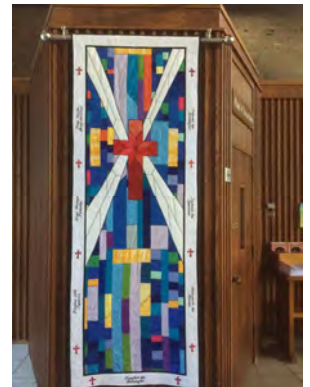


*"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Mt 18:20)*

## Worship

In our celebration of the Mass we become one with the Risen Christ. St. Francis Church seeks to enhance participation in the liturgy and to offer all an opportunity to share their talents for the glory of God.

New liturgical decorations this year included two Mercy Quilts, handmade by four parishioners, depicting the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, along with a Mercy Banner hung on the front of the bell tower. Students at St. Francis Parish School, under the direction of the art teacher, prepared a Door of Mercy that has been on display next to the altar. Cayla Samano made a new stable for our Christmas crèche in the church.



The sound system in the church has been upgraded with a new digital mixer board to better facilitate our parish worship experience.

New liturgical ministers trained this year include 20 Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, 6 Altar Assistants, 4 Lectors, and 18 Altar Servers. Updated training materials and serving guidelines are available for all liturgical ministers.

## Education and Formation for All

As a pilgrim people journeying together towards Heaven, we witness to one another and support each other in faith. St. Francis Church and School seek to help all our members grow in knowledge and relationship with Jesus Christ and his Church.

Highlights of the year included:

- Biennial Parish Mission: Jubilee Door of Mercy with Stephen Binz
- Annual Parish Picnic
- School of Discipleship courses offered on the Early Church Councils, and the Resurrection accounts in the Gospels.
- Trunk n' Treat event with biblical themes designed by middle school youth
- Bible Study offered two times a week on the Gospel of Luke
- Women's Retreat at the Weber Center
- Assisi Lectures: Stories of Hope held on two evenings in October as part of our annual celebration of our patron
- Talk by Brother Guy Consolmagno, the Director of the Vatican Observatory
- 10 different Jubilee Year of Mercy dinner and talk events
- 2 family pilgrimages to Holy Doors of Mercy
- Grieving in Great Hope retreat offered for those who have lost a loved one
- 5 meetings of the Women's Faith and Fellowship group with topics such as Celtic Spirituality, and Balance with Grace, as well as Taizè Prayer and a Baby Shower benefiting local pregnancy centers
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion commissioning workshop
- The Way of the Cross event on Good Friday, planned and conducted by our high school Youth Group
- 7 Evenings of Prayer for our young adults, followed by a shared meal.
- Fr. James led a group of young adult parishioners to Krakow, Poland for World Youth Day with Pope Francis.

Our parish Religious Education program has also purchased new catechetical resources and children's learning materials that will be accessible to all through the school and church libraries.

## BY THE NUMBERS

Our faith formation programs had a very busy and productive year.

<b>401</b>	Children and youth attended Vacation Bible School
Adults participated in 11 small faith-sharing groups	<b>130</b>
<b>800</b>	Attended the Living Nativity and Choir Service
Took part in the All Day Lenten Reconciliation Service	<b>600</b>
<b>9</b>	Entered the Church at the Easter Vigil
Children received First Eucharist	<b>103</b>
<b>124</b>	Received Confirmation on the Eve of Pentecost, including 4 adults

## Our Parish School

St. Francis of Assisi Parish School had a busy year as well. Students and parents grew in their faith through service projects with ChadTough, Alpha House, the Flint water crisis, assisted living homes and our parish homebound. Our school held workshops on bullying. A new weekly class for 7th and 8th grades facilitated discussion on our relationship with Christ, and encouraged students to remain involved with the parish in their high school years and beyond. This year the social studies curriculum was reviewed by faculty; new materials will be purchased for next school year. New computers were purchased for the elementary lab and a five-year technology plan was created for 2016-2021. This summer, renovations include new windows in two classrooms, updates to middle school restrooms, and new flooring in the school office. NWEA assessment scores for the year rank St. Francis Parish School above the national and diocesan averages.



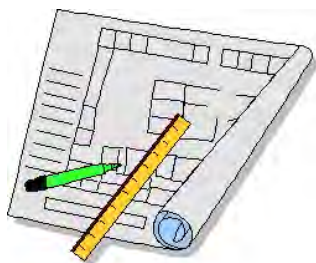




## Sharing our Financial Gifts

*"For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." (Mt 6:21)*

The Parish Finance Council stewards our parish resources so that our ministries have the funds they need to achieve their objectives and our physical facilities are adequate for the needs of our parish.



Plans continue for a new Parish Hall building. Requests for Proposal were sent to nine architectural firms and we received seven proposals in reply. After a proposal is selected, Fr. James will work with the newly-formed building committee to move forward with the planning and design process.

Fundraising efforts for St. Francis Parish School continue to be very successful thanks to our generous donors, and the commitment of our many dedicated volunteers. Total gross contributions (excluding outstanding pledges) to school operations, tuition assistance (including our Hopes and Dreams Fund), and our Educational Trust Fund exceeded \$305,000.



Outgoing Business Manager David Barera (*photo*) served the parish faithfully for 19 years. New Business Manager Michael Scott will begin work this summer.

### God's Blessings!

*As many of you know Dave Barera retires this month after over 19 years as our parish business manager. I want to thank him for his many years of service and his excellent oversight of our parish finances. As pastor I have been blessed by the wealth of his experience, wisdom and insight of our parish, which he has promised to continue to make available to us from the comfort of his armchair. I know that you will join me in wishing Dave every blessing in his retirement.*

*Fr. James*

### StFrancisA2.com

For lots more information about parish events, initiatives and fellowship learn more at our website: [StFrancisA2.com](http://StFrancisA2.com)

**Parish Year end Financial Statement.** Our parish year end financial statement has been posted to our website, and copies are available to pick up in our Parish Office.

**Parish Pastoral Plan.** Our Parish Pastoral Plan for 2015-2020 is being implemented. It is also posted on our website.

### Have an idea?

Your Pastor and Pastoral Team values your input for continued growth and improvement. Please contact Fr. James Conlon, at [frjames@stfrancis2.org](mailto:frjames@stfrancis2.org)

*Remember the greatest gift we can give another is the gift of Christ!*

**St. Francis of Assisi Parish**  
**Ann Arbor, Michigan**  
**Statement of Financial Operations**  
**July 1, 2015--June 30, 2016**

**Total Parish Operating Income**

Church	\$2,426,748	48.2%
<i>Sunday Collections, Interest, Mass Stipends, Altar Society, Memorial Garden, Other</i>		
Bequests and Memorial Gifts	17,185	0.3
Development	175,986	3.5
<i>School Appeal, Car Raffle, Tuition Assistance, Hopes and Dreams Fund, Other, Net of Expenses</i>		
Religious Education, Youth, and Adult Programs	77,742	1.5
<i>Tuition, Grade School, Youth and Adult Ed Programs</i>		
School, Preschool, and Extended School	2,345,861	46.5
<i>Tuition, Fees, Special Donations, Trust Fund Distributions</i>		
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$5,043,522</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

**Total Parish Operating Expenditures**

Church	\$ 927,418	18.4%
<i>Christian Service, RCIA, Worship, Music, Diocesan Assessments, Administration</i>		
Religious Education, Youth, and Adult Programs	398,151	7.9
<i>Elementary, Middle School, Youth and Catholic Singles, Adult Ed Programs, Sacramental Preparation</i>		
School, Preschool, and Extended School	2,409,626	47.7
<i>Instruction and Administration for Elementary, Secondary, and Extended School Programs</i>		
Additions to Tuition Assistance and Hopes and Dreams Funds	115,385	2.3
Plant Operations	759,285	15.1
<i>Maintenance, Contracted Services, Property and Liability Insurance, Snow Removal, Utilities</i>		
Capital Expenditures	332,514	6.6
<i>Renovation of School for second Kindergarten Room; Renovation of Middle School Restrooms; New Windows in School; Renovation of Chapel; New Sound System and Kiosk in Church; New Tables for PAC; Computer Upgrades</i>		
Property Purchase	187,186	3.7
<i>Purchase and Renovation of Adjacent House (funded from \$180,000 Bequest received in Fiscal year 2014-2015).</i>		
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$5,129,565</b>	<b>101.7%</b>

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<b>Net Difference</b>	<b>\$ ( 86,043)</b>	<b>( 1.7%)</b>
<b>Without Property Purchase</b>	<b>\$ 101,143</b>	<b>2.0%</b>