

Meeting Present Needs: Building For The Future

For Year Ended June 30, 2017

2017 Annual Report

To the People of St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Dear fellow parishioners,

By now you will have heard that we are undertaking a capital campaign to build a new parish hall and ministry center. This dream has long been spoken of and has finally become a possibility. After much discussion and sharing, our plan is to use the opportunity of the upcoming diocesan capital campaign to run a combined campaign with a goal of \$8 million dollars over a five year period. This new center, located on the west side of the church, will hopefully meet our ever growing needs as a parish and provide us with the necessary space that we need to carry out our wide variety of ministries and works. My prayer is that all our parishioners will join us in this worthy endeavor. Hence the above theme!

People often ask what makes St. Francis Parish so special? In many ways it is the rich diversity of her people as well as the wide variety of her many ministries. Hopefully you will get a taste of that diversity and variety from this annual report. Once again it comes as part of our Fall Canticle allowing you the reader to see the breadth of our ministries and to put them in a wider parish context. It is our hope that once you have read this you will pass it on to others and use it as an invitation for them to connect with our community of faith. Together let us be the Lord's presence while continuing to build for the future.

Fr. James Conlon
Pastor



Worship

"The liturgy is the summit toward which the activity of the Church is directed; it is also the font from which all her power flows."
Sacrosanctum Concilium 10

In our celebration of the Mass we become one with the Risen Christ. St. Francis Parish seeks to build up and enhance participation in music and liturgy at all levels and to offer all an opportunity to share their talents for the glory of God. Our new director of Music and Worship, Jonathan Hasey, worked to increase collaboration among the parish's music groups and to recruit new members (total musicians 200+). Sue Wawrzaszek, coordinator of worship, recruited and trained new readers, altar servers, and ministers of Holy Communion, and provided scheduling for these 335 volunteers. Highlights for the year included Holy Week liturgies, the Living Nativity, Taize and Tenebrae prayer services, and the Handbell Choir Anniversary Concert. This year as part of our Lenten and Easter celebrations we invited members of the Chaldean and Byzantine Catholic communities to share with us their traditions and liturgical life—reminding us of that rich prayer and liturgical diversity within the universal Church.

We began offering a weekly bilingual Sunday 5PM Mass in English and Spanish last Fall. Our Hispanic brothers and sisters have taken on greater roles of leadership at this liturgy in both worship and music. As we closed the Jubilee Year of Mercy last November, we again offered "Coffee & Chat with a Priest" in the PAC - an All-Day Confession, with over 600 people attending, supported by 23 priests from greater Ann Arbor. NEW this time: confession in Spanish was available. A Lenten All-Day Confession in March, provided more than 400 individuals an opportunity for God's mercy.

Evangelization

"Because she believes in God's universal plan of salvation, the Church must be missionary."
Catechism of the Catholic Church 851

St. Francis Parish strives to share God's love by word and deed with others, inviting all to a personal relationship with Christ within a supportive faith family. This year, a new parish web-site welcomes visitors and provides quick and easy access to information about our Parish and School. Its adaptive display accommodates phones, tablets and computers. Also, a new public Google Calendar shares information about upcoming parish events and their locations.

We also continued the practice of inviting all of our new parishioners to semi-annual welcoming events for new parishioners. These are opportunities for new parish members to meet with the pastor, the members of the pastoral council and local neighbor coordinators.



Lenten Reflections in Spanish

St. Francis Parish continues to build up its Hispanic Ministry and to welcome and include our diverse Spanish-speaking community in the life of the parish. Collaboration among ministry leaders and the Facilitator of Hispanic Ministry, Claudia Morales, increased awareness and accommodation for Spanish speakers in our parish ministries and school via bilingual resources and one-on-one relationships. Activities this year included V Encuentro (a diocesan think-tank), and a small faith-sharing group for Spanish speakers. Beginning September 16th we are pleased to announce the introduction of a weekly Mass in Spanish on Saturdays at 7pm with Confessions at 6pm. Our current bilingual 5PM Mass on Sunday evening will continue year round.

Faith Formation for Youth

"The Church is bound as a mother to give to these children of hers an education by which their whole life can be imbued with the spirit of Christ." Gravissimum Educationis 3

St. Francis Parish and School seek to assist parents in forming and teaching their children in our Catholic faith so that they may become missionary disciples who share freely their faith and hope with others. To this end all our educational efforts are about accompanying our families in living the faith and creating the necessary experience for all generations to grow in their faith. Through family pilgrimages, cultural sharings and prayer services from different Catholic traditions, our students live their catechetical experience. Our parish's new Director of Youth Ministry, Jake Kanitz, has expanded the opportunities for youth involvement including more youth group meetings and retreats. A joint Confirmation Mass at Hill Auditorium with St. Andrew Parish, Saline rounded out this year's achievements, with 121 St. Francis students being confirmed.



First Eucharist



St. Francis School students at Mass

Our school also worked to provide more faith formation opportunities for students and families to participate in parish life. Scott Wright, Director of Social Outreach, began to teach in the school with the goal of connecting what is going on at parish level with classroom formation. Last year he shared with the students about our Lenten giving to help the Christian community in Kottapuram in India. Next year he will be joined in this goal by our Director of Music and our Youth Minister. Other exciting accomplishments for our school include renewed accreditation, a budget that does not rely on annual fundraising or appeals, and the formation of a Newcomers Committee to connect new families to current ones and usher them into parish life.



Sunday Family Rel. Ed.

Adult Faith Formation

As a pilgrim people journeying together towards Heaven, we witness to and support one another in faith. St. Francis Parish seeks to help all grow in knowledge and relationship with Christ and his Church. Ongoing adult formation is one of the great growth areas in our community that calls for additional space.



Adult small faith-sharing groups have grown to include 100+ members in 11 groups, including groups for young adults, mothers of young children, and Spanish speakers. Events such as the Common Conference, the Women's Day of Reflection, and both Friday Breakfast & Talk series on Mercy and Resurrection encouraged parishioners to discover new aspects of their faith and grow in their understanding of Church teaching. At the Parish Picnic, groups and ministries hosted various activities, inviting attendees to further participation in parish life. A new Men's Ministry provides opportunities for prayer, fellowship and discussion among the men of

the parish. New sponsor couples have joined the effort to help engaged couples explore the sacramental nature of Matrimony. The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults continues to guide candidates to become intentional disciples of Christ in the Catholic Church. Other groups such as the Divorced and Separated continue to work hard to help parishioners in their time of need, and our now annual workshop to help those who are grieving *"Grieving with Great Hope"*, continues to flourish.

"Nobody in the Church of Jesus Christ should feel excused from receiving catechesis." Catechesi Tradendae 45

ATTENDANCE	
100+ adults	11 small groups
45 women	Day of Reflection
275 adults	Common Conference offering 19 topics
125 adults	Friday Breakfast&Talk
50 adults	Stories of Mercy
7 adults	RCIA new members
4 adults	Confirmed
40 adults	Bible Study in Chapel
12 adults	Gospel Group-weekly
171 pilgrims	3 Parish Pilgrimages

Social Justice

"When we attend to the needs of those in want, we give them what is theirs, not ours. More than performing works of mercy, we are paying a debt of justice." Catechism of the Catholic Church 2446

Outreach to the vulnerable in our community is central to the Christian way of life. St. Francis Parish sponsors many service opportunities to assist those in need in our local community and beyond. New leaders stepped forward this year to coordinate the bi-annual service week at Alpha House (for families), as well as our parish Elizabeth Ministry that provides temporary help to those experiencing a life-changing event. Here again a new parish center will allow us to expand our outreach ministries and/or services to welcome and care for the needs of the vulnerable, strangers, homeless, hungry, thirsty, and ill members of our greater community. The 2017 Lenten giving for the Diocese of Kottapuram in India was: \$12,7565.85 and the bishop there has contacted Fr. James to express his gratitude for our generosity. Likewise our Holy Week collection for the Christian Communities in the Middle East raised \$9,286.00 to assist our brothers and sisters in this time of turmoil and difficulty. Through our three food drives, parishioners donated and helped deliver 1,545 bags of food.



Giving Tree and Food Drive



Parish members at Donate A Day 2017 to help our needy Seniors



Meeting Present Needs:

Parish Operations

"The Church is both visible and spiritual, a hierarchical society and the Mystical Body of Christ. She is one, yet formed of two components, human and divine. That is her mystery, which only faith can accept." Catechism of the Catholic Church 779

Careful administration and operations of St. Francis of Assisi Parish ensures that all our resources, financial and otherwise, are used for the most efficient purposes and ultimately for the building up of the Kingdom of God. We strive to recycle as much as possible, cut down on paper usage and to encourage all to communicate electronically.

Our feasibility study invited parishioner feedback on plans to build our new Hall and Ministry Center. More information about the results of the feasibility study and the current campaign can be found at stfrancis2.com/witness-to-hope or by calling the Parish Office (734-821-2100).

Conclusion

No report can adequately describe the numerous and diverse activities of our large, dynamic parish and school. By highlighting a sample of our major accomplishments each year in an Annual Report, we communicate our priorities as a parish and we invite all members to take on a greater role in parish life. Whatever your talents, there is a place for you to serve.

Count the ways ...

Baptisms: 72 infant/child, 13 adults
Prepared for Baptism: 83 parents
Weddings at St. Francis: 12
Prepared for marriage: 19 couples
First Eucharist: 103 students
Confirmations: 132 youth & adults
Funerals: 48
Coffee & Chat with a Priest: 1,000 people
with 23 priests
Newly registered Parish Families: 300
Total registered households: 2,815



StFrancisA2.com

For more information about parish events, initiatives and fellowship learn more at our website: 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 value your input for continued growth and improvement. Please contact Fr. James Conlon, at frjames@stfrancis2.org

Total Parish Operating Income

Church	\$2,413,046	48.0%
<i>Sunday Collection, Interest, Mass Stipends, Atar Society, Memorial Garden, Other</i>		
Bequests and Memorial Gifts	\$2,460	0.0%
Development	\$190,671	3.8%
<i>School Appeal, Car Raffle, Tuition Assistance, Hopes and Dreams, Other, Net of Expenses</i>		
Religious Education	\$58,168	1.2%
<i>Tuition, Grade School, Youth and Adult Ed Programs</i>		
School, Preschool, and Extended School Programs	\$2,362,508	47.0%
<i>Tuition, Fees, Special Donations, ETF Distribution</i>		
Total Income	\$5,026,853	100.0%

Total Parish Operating Expenses

Church		
<i>Sunday Collection, Intrest, Mass Stipends, Music, Atar Society, Memorial Garden, Other</i>		
	\$947,765	18.9%
Religious Education	\$340,154	6.8%
School, Preschool, and Extended School Programs	\$2,719,842	54.1%
<i>School Appeal, Car Raffle, Tuition Assistance, Hopes and Dreams, Other, Net of Expenses</i>		
Additions to Tuition Assestance and Hopes and Dreams Fund		
<i>Tuition, Grade School, Youth and Adult Ed Programs</i>		
Plant Operations	\$788,229	15.7%
<i>Maintenace, Contract Services, Property and Liability Insurance, Snow Removal and Utilities</i>		
Capital Expenditures	\$227,173	4.5%
<i>Renovations of School Library, New School Roof, Renovations of Church Nursery, Climate Control System in the Church</i>		
Total Expenses	\$5,023,163	100.0%
Income to Expenses	\$3,690	0.1%