

*“Through Christ the whole structure  
is held together and grows into  
a temple sacred in the Lord”* (Eph 2:21)

For Year Ended June 30, 2018

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

Dear fellow parishioners,

Each year I have the opportunity to write an introduction to our annual parish report. After much reflection, I landed on the above text from Ephesians which reminds us all of our identity in Christ and our purpose as the Church in our world. We are to build a sacred temple where the Lord is worshipped and served through our liturgical life and our many other ministries and apostolic works.

The past year has been a very busy one for us on all fronts. We have raised over \$6.6 million of our \$8 million pledge goal toward building our new Ministry Center - our campaign continues and the opportunity to gift is still there. Our various ministries continue to grow and to flourish. We have a lot to give thanks for and as always a lot of work yet to do - but then that is the nature of being Church - the work of the gospel is never ending. Yet, as in all things we trust in the Lord and pray God's anointing on our endeavors.

This annual report should give you a taste of what we have achieved in the past year. I hope that you will take a few minutes to review it and to note all that we together have achieved.

**Fr. James Conlon**  
Pastor

## Administration, Development & Technology

Diane Green-Boyd, Jim Russo & Michael Scott

*“I hope that all communities will devote the necessary effort to advancing along the path of a pastoral and missionary conversion which cannot leave things as they presently are. ‘Mere administration’ can no longer be enough. Throughout the world, let us be ‘permanently in a state of mission’” (Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel, 25).*

The Witness to Hope capital campaign to build a new ministry center for the parish dominated much of the efforts that fall under the parish's day-to-day administration. Collaboration among the pastor, parish leadership, architects, the City of Ann Arbor, and parishioners in general made the arrival at our new parish ministry center's future ground breaking a more tangible reality. The envisioned 15,000 square foot ministry center will create needed office, meeting, and social space for our parish campus on the west side of the church. Parish wide improvements to technology and communications have been conducted and continue to be envisioned. Development efforts directly related to our parish school continued to be successful as they have been in the past due to the generosity and sacrifice of parishioners.



## Evangelization

Claudia Morales Farfan, Kelly Hernandez, Jake Kanitz, Marty Lucas

*"The Church which 'goes forth' is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who are involved and supportive, who bear fruit and rejoice. An evangelizing community knows that the Lord has taken the initiative, he has loved us first (cf. 1 Jn 4:19), and therefore we can move forward, boldly take the initiative, go out to others, seek those who have fallen away, stand at the crossroads and welcome the outcast. Such a community has an endless desire to show mercy, the fruit of its own experience of the power of the Father's infinite mercy" (Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel, 24).*



Our parish has dedicated itself to reaching out to those seeking to know Christ, to enrich those who already have an existing personal relationship with Jesus, and to provide support to all who seek salvation, companionship, and sanctification through Jesus. A special outreach to Spanish-speaking people continued through our liturgy, religious education programs, and parish school. Our youth and young adult ministries continued to support younger parishioners through retreats, liturgical events, and Christian social outreach. Mark Price's 3-night performance in February helped many parishioners and visitors to encounter Christ in a dramatic way. The parish men's ministry continued to grow with the presence of U of M head basketball Coach John Beilein being a major highlight of the year with over 300 men attending Evening Prayer (photo left), dinner, and a talk by Coach Beilein.



Men at Evening Prayer

The Women's Faith & Fellowship and the various adult faith groups continued to serve as resources for parishioners who wish to grow closer to Christ, to support one another, and to encourage parishioners to "go and announce the Gospel of the Lord."

## Education & Catechesis

Julie Fantone Pritzel & Ellen Ward

*"In fulfilling its educational role, the Church, eager to employ all suitable aids, is concerned especially about those which are her very own. Foremost among these is catechetical instruction, which enlightens and strengthens the faith, nourishes life according to the spirit of Christ, leads to intelligent and active participation in the liturgical mystery and gives motivation for apostolic activity" (Paul VI, Declaration on Christian Education, 4).*



First Eucharist

Religious Education and St. Francis of Assisi School grew in numbers and continued to shine as vibrant ministries of the parish. St. Francis School saw enrollment continue to increase, to provide creative and constructive professional development to the faculty and staff, and to make improvements to the school facilities including the library, and gymnasium. A review and update of the school's science curriculum has been planned for the coming school year. School students were enriched through learning about



St. Francis School students at work



and carrying out activities related to Christian social justice, through music, visual, and dramatic arts, and athletics. St. Francis School was listed in the *Ann Arbor Family Press* as the 2018 "favorite private school." Religious education continued

to provide catechesis and sacramental formation for hundreds of parish children during the school year, through summer Vacation Bible School, and many other programs and events. It has also expanded outreach to the parish's Latino / Spanish-speaking community through use of bilingual texts and the recruitment & training of bilingual volunteers. The implementation of the Montessori inspired Catechesis of the Good Shepherd preschool program has been planned for the coming year.



Confirmation

## Worship & Music

Jonathan Hasey & Susan Wawrzaszek

Liturgical ministries were expanded and enriched. New liturgical ministers were trained, including new extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion, and many new servers as the St. Francis Catholic School fifth graders all were trained as servers as part of their religious instruction, as well as other parishioners at various grade levels. The worship commission saw ten new members accept the ministry of overseeing the parish's worship and liturgical ministry. Latino / Spanish-speaking parishioners have been and continue to be sought out to participate in liturgical ministries. A Mass in Spanish (with confessions prior) on Saturdays at 7:00 p.m. was added to our Sunday liturgy schedule to reach out to those who speak Spanish as their first language, and to further enrich our diverse community of faith. Our music program saw continued



internal change and growth, and it continues to reach out to the community beyond our parish through various concerts that bring many visitors to the parish church. The sound and display technology in the church is under evaluation so it can better serve our liturgical needs in the future.



*"... [B]y participating in the liturgy we make our own the language of Mother Church, we learn to speak in her and for her. Of course, as I have already said, this happens gradually, little by little. I must immerse myself ever more deeply in the words of the Church with my prayer, with my life, with my suffering, with my joy, and with my thought. It is a process that transforms us" (Benedict XVI, General Audience 3, Oct. 2012).*

## Christian Outreach, Service, & Justice

Scott Wright

St. Francis Parish advanced in its outreach to the poor, the homebound, and those in any kind of need. Training and education for Stephen Ministers were conducted at the parish during the past year. Regular and extraordinary food drives and fundraisers for the poor in our region and throughout the world, particularly in the Diocese of Kottappuram in India, successfully raised awareness among parishioners that human need knows no borders or bounds. Continuing education on the Church's concern for the poor, the natural environment, and for the migrant fueled the drive of parishioners to seek justice both in theory and in deeds.



2018 Food Drive for Kids—delivered to our Detroit sister parish

*"Jesus loves each person no matter what his or her culture, race, limits or weakness may be. For him, each person is important; each one is 'holy ground'; each one is part of a common humanity" (Jean Vanier, The Scandal of Service, 61).*



### Parish Operations

Michael Scott

*"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.

From our Church General Fund a school HVAC rooftop unit, and a steam boiler were replaced, and new concrete work was done on steps/ramps on the northeast part of the church. Independently controlled thermostats were installed in the four, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms. We also embarked on a longer term parking lot improvement plan to be completed by 2020. Thanks to support of our School fund raising events, the *Jog-a-thon* provided for Gym improvements, while the *2018 Car Raffle* provided St. Francis School Fine Arts program with new stage lighting & sound in the PAC, and new text books.

Future needs of our physical plant range from replacing the remaining two HVAC school rooftop units (\$42,826 already budgeted), replacing the wood frames around the stain glass in the church that have rotted (estimate \$15,000+), replacing the failing retaining wall, brickwork, front steps & sidewalk at the church main entrance (\$250,000+). This will include a street level sidewalk that will connect the east and west sides of the church. We are researching an upgrade to our current camera and recording system in the church to help improve the quality of our live-streamed Masses to our homebound parishioners.

### Count the ways ...

Baptisms: 66 infant/child, 13 adults  
Prepared for Baptism: 116 parents  
Weddings at St. Francis: 13 + 6 convalidations  
Prepared for marriage: 18 couples  
First Eucharist: 108 students  
Confirmations: 122 youth & adults  
Funerals: 56  
Coffee & Chat with a Priest: 1,000 people with 25 priests  
Newly registered Parish Families: 180  
Total registered households: 2,815



**StFrancisA2.com** For more information about parish visit our website: **StFrancisA2.com**

### 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.

### Have an idea?

Your Pastor and Pastoral Team value your input for continued growth and improvement. Please contact Fr. James Conlon at [frjames@stfrancisa2.org](mailto:frjames@stfrancisa2.org)

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