

THE *Spirit* OF
ST. FRANCIS

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church



Spring 2019



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Cover photo: Christopher, Augie, and Adrienne Cummings share their family faith card from our First Communion Workshop on February 2, 2019.
(Photo courtesy of the Cummings family)

The *Spirit* of St. Francis

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Comments? Questions? Creative ideas? Awesome!
Talk to Kenneth. Email him at kcaruthers@sfasat.org.



Celebrating Our St. Francis of Assisi Family of Faith

By Kenneth Caruthers

In a General Audience address delivered on May 29, 2013, Pope Francis told those listening to ask themselves, "Do I feel part of the family of the Church? What do I do to ensure that she is a community in which each one feels welcome and understood, feels the mercy and love of God who renews life? Faith is a gift and an act which concern us personally, but God calls us to live with our faith together, as a family, as Church."

Our parish mission statement begins, "We, the parish family of St. Francis of Assisi, formed in 1980, are gifted with wisdom, productivity, and vitality." In this issue of *The Spirit of St. Francis*, we take the time to celebrate how our parish has lived our faith together as a family by sharing its gifts to build our people and reach out to others in service of Christ. We are especially blessed by how our parish makes everyone feel welcome and understood.

As we proceed on our Lenten journey, let us ponder how we can keep being a source of God's renewing love and mercy. The traditional pillars of Lent—prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—are good ways to focus our efforts.

The holy celebration of the Mass brings us together as a family of faith to give thanks to God. In addition to attendance at one of our weekend Masses, perhaps you can try joining us for daily Mass or our 6:30 am Liturgy of the Word

and Communion Service Monday-Thursday. You may also consider praying the Stations of the Cross with us on Fridays, going to Reconciliation, making an ACTS retreat, or spending time in our Blessed Sacrament Chapel. When our journey brings us to the Sacred Triduum, we highly encourage you to join us on all three days to fully meditate on the Paschal Mystery.

One of the benefits of fasting is that it makes us pay more attention to our neighbor. We can fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others. We can fast from grudges that embitter our hearts and seek the joy of reconciliation. These

are just a couple of approaches to fasting that bring us into fuller communion with one another.

Through almsgiving, we collaborate with God's providence to help His children, our Church family. Our parish offers several avenues for almsgiving, from the 40 Cans for Lent drive benefiting our St. Vincent de Paul food pantry to the

clothing donations and meal preparation and delivery with Mobile Loaves & Fishes and everything in between. We can also reach out to others through efforts like the Rice Bowl, the Archdiocesan Capital Campaign, and the Archbishop's Appeal.

May God bless and guide our family of faith during our Lenten journey so that we can rejoice together in the fullness of God's love at Easter.



Fr. Krzysztof Pawlowski greets Mallory, Alexander, John, and David Gregorio before Mass. The Gregorios are active members of our Young Adult Ministry and volunteer with our Mobile Loaves & Fishes (Photo courtesy of the Gregorio family).



A Letter from the Pastor

Expressing Gratitude for Your Contributions to Our Parish

By Rev. Tony Vilano with Sr. Rose Kruppa, CDP

My brothers and sisters in Christ,
"When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude." - G.K. Chesterton

When I reflect on this particular year of life in the St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Community, I want to assure each of you that you are not being taken for granted. Each of you—very new members to our community and seasoned members including the founders of our parish almost 40 years ago—matters. The children, the teens, the young adults, the married couples, the singles, those who are hearing impaired, those struggling with grief and illness, the homebound, the ministry and organizational leaders and participants—you all matter to us.

As your pastoral and spiritual leader, I thank you for being one of us. Your presence among us and your participation in parish life make us a very vibrant and active parish in the archdiocese. This issue of the newsletter is dedicated to naming our accomplishments. It is archival in nature, capturing the "goings on" in parish life and marking milestones in our history.

One of my greatest joys as your pastor is to see how our St. Francis community continues to grow in faith, love, and service. We have evidence of that in the number of families participating in faith formation processes, in service as liturgical

ministers and leaders of organizations and their activities, and in love as we joyfully welcome each other and those who come to join us by registering as parishioners. We are especially blessed with the number of young families who are choosing St. Francis as their parish. Their choice is affirmation of our mission to families and assures the faithful of a bright future for our parish.

Our parish is alive, vibrant, and filled with possibilities. Now that we are debt-free, we look forward to plans for our future growth. We trust that you will continue to be partners with us in our mission of forming more and more disciples of all ages who follow Jesus whole-heartedly.

As your pastor, I also invite and encourage you to go deeper in your spiritual lives, to become more engaged in parish activity and to use the gifts God has given to you in generous service. We are all members of the Body of Christ, and our participation in it does make a difference. It does matter.

As G. K. Chesterton reminds us with his wise words, we do not wish to take you for granted, but are always grateful for all that you contribute to our parish community.

With gratitude, your brother in Christ,

Top Photo: Fr. Tony Vilano greets parishioners after celebrating a Sunday morning Mass (Photo by Kenneth Caruthers).



Mobile Loaves & Fishes

Since January 2007, our Mobile Loaves & Fishes ministry has provided over half a million meals to our brothers and sisters in the San Antonio area. The support of parishioners, volunteers, and donors has enabled us to expand our meal deliveries to seven days a week to 26 locations around the city. If you would like to volunteer, please email volunteermf@gmail.com.

July 2017-June 2018 Fiscal Year



Created by Katie Maidjian from Nourish Project

76,572 meals served during the fiscal year

572,876 meals served through June 2018



This team made the 500,000th meal for our Mobile Loaves & Fishes ministry in July of 2017 (Photo courtesy of MLF).

Casino Night 2018



Casino Night 2018 volunteers take a quick break from the action for a group picture (Photo by Andy Parsons).

Our Casino Night on June 30, 2018 raised a total of \$51,000.00, a 70 percent increase from our previous Casino Night! These funds went towards our Mobile Loaves & Fishes ministry, our teen mission trip, and our sister parishes. Our next Casino Night is scheduled for July 6, 2019. Please contact Michael Scholl, Men's Club president, at 210-347-4109 if you are interested in volunteering.

Living as Stewards of God's Resources



The United States Bishops' pastoral letter *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response* begins with the following three main convictions:

1. We are called to become mature disciples who respond to the call of Jesus Christ regardless of the cost.
2. This leads to a way of life, not a series of activities or events.
3. This way of life is transformational.

In this annual report covering July 2017-June 2018, the leadership of this St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Community reflects on those convictions. We reflect on what it means to be mature disciples leading a way of life that is transformational.

In what ways do we give evidence of being mature disciples? How have we made the stewardship of the resources given to us a way of life? How has individual transformation changed our parish and made us a transformational parish?

In *Everyday Stewardship: Reflections for the Journey*, Tracy Earl Welliver lists six



characteristics of an everyday steward. They are characteristics of individuals; they are also the fruits of living as everyday stewards. Welliver lists the following characteristics:

1. Be mindful
2. Be prayerful
3. Be grateful
4. Be gracious
5. Be committed
6. Be accountable

With these characteristics in mind, we reflect on our faith journey as a parish community.

MAKING STEWARDSHIP A WAY OF LIFE

COMMITMENTS TO SERVICE



Service, compassion, and community mark our parish commitments in and beyond our parish. These are visible signs of a passion for evangelization and discipleship among our parishioners. Significant evangelization, discipleship, and service opportunities included:

- Geri and Bob Bonner recipients of Lumen Gentium award
- Mobile Loaves & Fishes achieved 500,000 meals served
- Kids' Day Out at capacity of 90 kids
- Dallas FISH Camp housing and hospitality
- Knights of Columbus and Ladies Auxiliary Fish Fries, Valentine Dance
- Liturgical minister training coordinated by Kathy Hassenger
- Wednesday morning Coffee and Conversation
- Custom parish calendar created and distributed
- Halloween Trunk or Treat sponsored by Moms Ministry
- Habitat for Humanity
- Living Water International Mission Trip to Nicaragua
- St. Vincent de Paul
- Young Catholic Professionals Executive Speaker Series
- FOCUS missionaries from our parish
- Sponsor couples for engaged couples led by Cecilia and Ray Bruce
- Wills and Estate Planning seminar led by parishioners Esther Cruz and Mike Ezzell
- V Encuentro leadership and participation at the diocesan and regional level
- Christmas caroling to the homebound by music ministers
- Mardi Gras red beans and rice parish community celebration
- Parish Festival
- Helped hurricane and flood victims

Top left: Sr. Rose Kruppa and Fr. Tony Vilano congratulate Lu and Joe Smith for 65 years of marriage (Photo by Eileen Kleffner). Middle: Fr. Krzysztof Pawlowski celebrates Mass (Photo by Kenneth Caruthers). Bottom: Nikki Galdamez, Kenneth Caruthers, and Natalie Hernandez get in the Mardi Gras spirit at our 2018 Fat Tuesday celebration, where parishioners enjoyed great fellowship and a free meal of homemade red beans and rice (Photo by Jose Gallardo). Top right: Denise and Olliana Marcos share their family faith card from our First Communion Workshop (Photo courtesy of the Marcos family). Top of next page: An Elementary Faith Formation class gathers in the church (Photo courtesy of Elementary Faith Formation). Bottom of next page: Parishioners prepare to tee off at our 2018 Topgolf tournament, which raised funds for scholarships for our youth (Photo by Eric Bowden).

BEING MATURE DISCIPLES

PRAYER, STUDY, SCRIPTURE, AND SACRAMENTS



Parish leadership and many volunteers work collaboratively and diligently to provide a variety of prayer experiences, to offer studies of Scripture, and to plan rich and meaningful liturgical celebrations. These intentional and consistent efforts foster both spiritual maturity and discipleship.

- First Gran Posada during Advent
- Deacon Frank Garcia spent the year with us in preparation for his ordination to priesthood in June 2018
- Sister Rose Kruppa's 50 Jubilee of Religious Life Mass and party
- Parish pilgrimages of Art and Faith
- Peter Kolar led a workshop of liturgical music for music ministers
- Libby Osgood shared her religious vocation discernment
- Advent and Lent reflection booklets distributed
- Visits to the homebound by Eucharistic ministers
- Pilgrimage to St. Timothy's for Stations of the Cross based on realities of the West Side
- Two men's, two women's, and one teen ACTS retreats
- Vacation Bible School for elementary and middle school
- Formation for Marriage seminars led by Cathy and Deacon Mike Portele
- Hosted Drs. David and Margie McKeon for a marriage enrichment day retreat
- Bible studies on The Bible Timeline led by Evelyn Huron and Mary Huebscher
- Planning Meaningful Funerals workshop led by Sister Rose Kruppa
- Parish Missions led by Cathy Portele for Advent and Fr. Krikor Gregory Chahin for Lent
- Taizé prayer
- Centering prayer twice a week
- Faith Formation for all ages
- Women in the Spirit
- Friday noon Mass added, including Stations of the Cross during Lent
- Beyond Cana on-campus retreat
- Attendance at Life Teen Leadership Camp, Los Angeles Religious Education Conference, Archdiocesan Assembly
- Grief and the Holidays seminar
- Small Church Communities formed from RCIA and ACTS retreats
- Dynamic Catholic book distribution of *Perfectly Yourself*
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Mass collaboration
- Seminarians formed in RCIA process
- Men's Spirituality, ENDOW, Lord, Teach Me To Pray seminars
- Young Adult Ministry continued to grow
- Pulpit swap with our sister parishes

TRANSFORMING LIVES

ACCOUNTABILITY AND LIVING THE MISSION



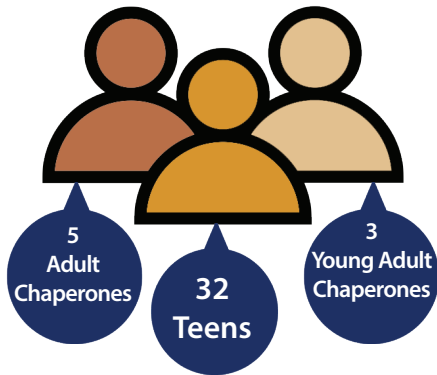
As our parish mission statement outlines, we focus "our greater concern on the building of our people, giving our time, talent, and treasures in reaching out to others and promoting peace and harmony within God's creation." Through accountability of our time, talent, and treasures, we transform lives by living our mission.

- Participated in the Pilot Wave of the Archdiocesan Capital Campaign with 50 trained volunteers and 80% of our goal pledged
- Exceeded our parish goal for the Archbishop's Appeal for the 7th year
- Inaugurated the use of eSPACE for scheduling, accessible by public
- Donation of a new organ enhanced our music for worship
- Donation of a lift enabled us to be more creative with our liturgical environment in the church
- Donation of a washer/dryer set aided with cleaning duties for custodians and MLF volunteers
- Added shelving and made improvements to the environment closet in the church
- Installed LED lighting inside and outside Henke Hall
- Replaced Henke Hall's HVAC unit
- Installed automatic door function to the parish office
- Casino Night benefitted St. Francis youth, MLF, and our sister parishes (St. Timothy's and Immaculate Conception)
- Golf tournaments co-sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and Men's Club raised money for scholarships
- Reduced parish debt
- Increased participation in community organizing with our sister parishes and COPS Metro
- Online giving grew in popularity



Vacation Bible School 2018

4 Years Old -	138
Entering 5th Grade	
Middle School	36
Teen Volunteers	39
Adult Volunteers	37



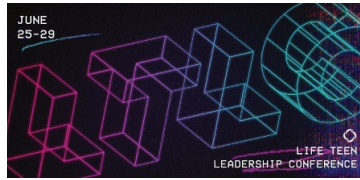
St. Francis has been attending a Life Teen camp since the summer of 2005. Our trip to Hidden Lake in Georgia in the summer of 2017 marked our 13th trip to camp.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

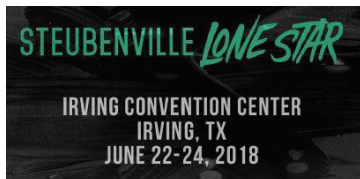
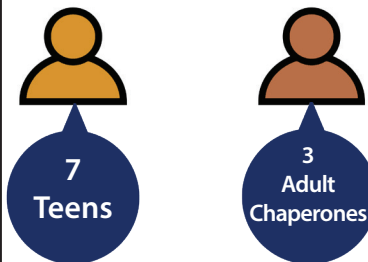


3,213 volunteer hours

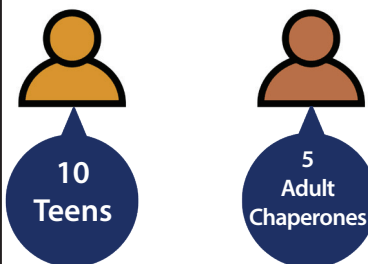
St. Vincent de Paul provides food and financial assistance to individuals and families in need in the parish boundaries.



Life Teen Leadership Conference June 2018



Steubenville Lone Star June 2018



Habitat for Humanity

Our parish community has teamed with Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio since 1999 to build an affordable home. Visit www.sfsat.org/habitat to learn more.

Active Faith July 2017-June 2018



www.sfsat.org/acts

Women's ACTS Retreats

November 2017 Retreatants	19
April 2018 Retreatants	20

Men's ACTS Retreats

January 2018 Retreatants	33
June 2018 Retreatants	30

Teen ACTS Retreats

December 2017 Retreatants	32
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Living Water International Nicaragua July 2017

Eight men and four women from St. Francis traveled to Nicaragua in July of 2017 to bring clean water and the living water of Christ in the scriptures to the people of the small community of La Arenera. The men drilled a 67-meter-deep borehole to reach an aquifer while the women taught the community about safe hygiene habits. Most of all, everyone learned about God's love.



Beyond Cana®
A Marriage Enrichment



Beyond Cana Retreat February 2018

Eleven couples went on our Beyond Cana retreat February 16-18, 2018 to learn tools to enrich and strengthen their marriages with God at the center. Go to www.sfsat.org/beyondcana to learn more.

Sacraments and Formation

July 2017-June 2018



108

Baptisms



Created by Gabriel Vogel from Noun Project

97

First Communion



Created by Alvaro Cabrera from Noun Project

69

Confirmations



Created by Miso Dazek from Noun Project

35

Weddings



Created by Marie Van den Broeck from Noun Project

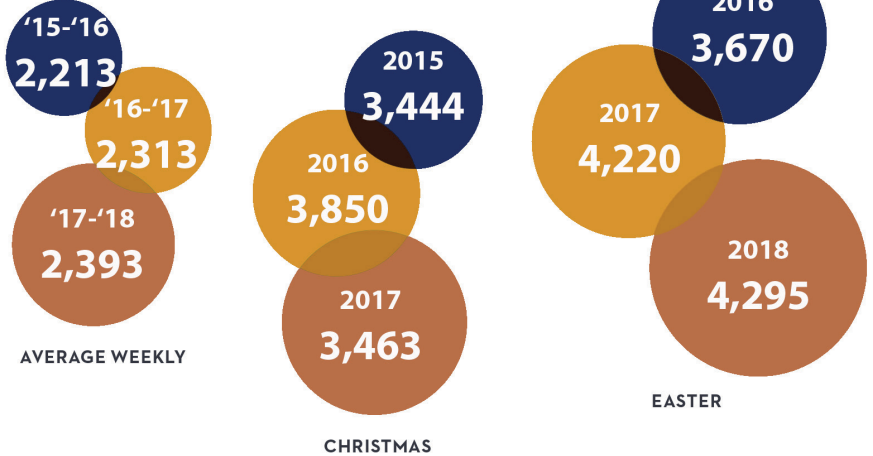
28

Funerals



Created by Iconic from Noun Project

ATTENDANCE



AVERAGE WEEKLY

CHRISTMAS

EASTER

Faith Formation Enrollment

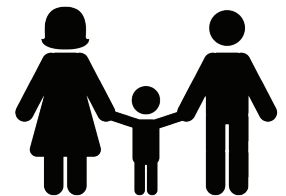
Elementary School	297
Sacrament Preparation	83
Homeschool	24
Middle School	50
Edge Program	73
Life Teen Program	86
Teen Confirmation	54
RCIA	23
Catechumenate for Children	9



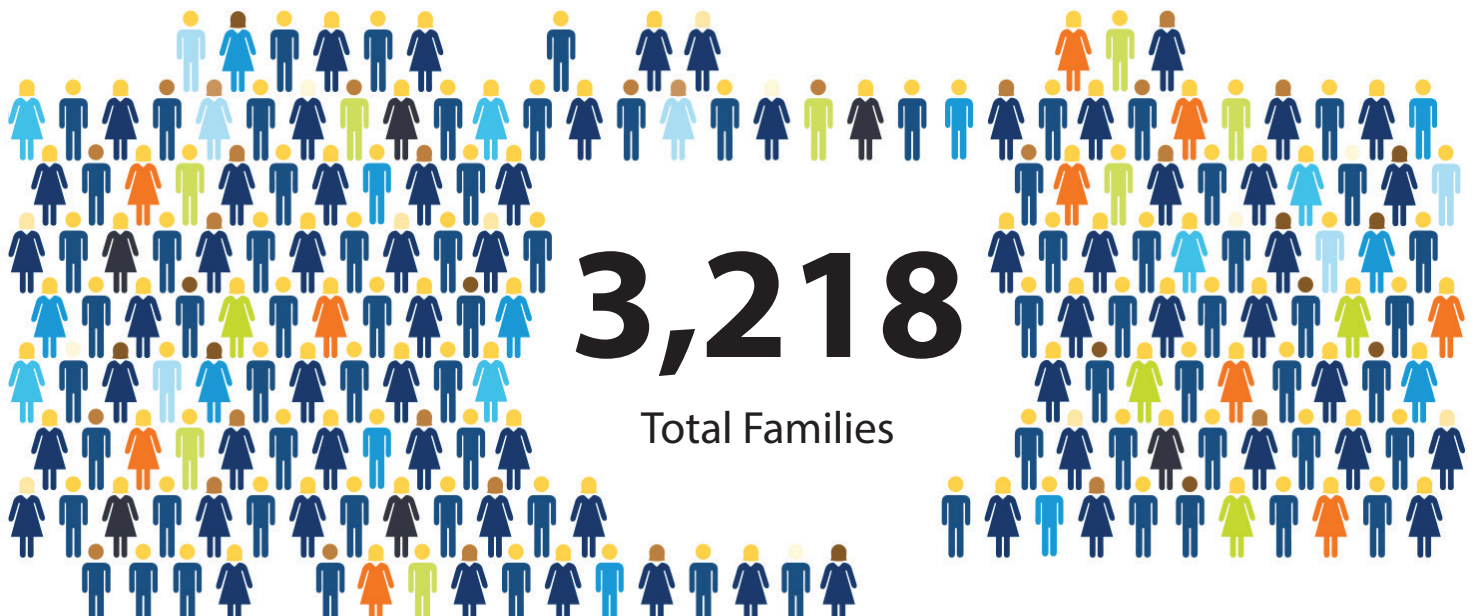
Created by Filippus from Noun Project

200

New Families



Created by Sunny Shiner from Noun Project



In Giving We Receive

Annual Financial Summary

	2017-2018
Income	\$2,453,215.65
Expenses	\$2,318,606.73
Balance	\$134,608.92*

Income Report

	2017-2018
Offertory	\$1,967,203.57
Debt Reduction	\$40,433.00
Faith Formation	\$158,103.09
Archbishop's Appeal Rebate	\$9,663.00
Hall and Room Rental	\$17,093.60
Music and Liturgy	\$1,225.00
Annual Parish Festival	\$93,802.88
CYO	\$71,285.94
Other Donations	\$27,705.40
Specific Donations	\$25,000.00
Other Income	\$41,705.40
Total Income	\$2,453,215.65

Expense Report

	2017-2018
Faith Formation	\$198,114.09
Archdiocesan Services Fund	\$357,852.00
Debt Payment/Interest	\$345,448.00
Staff Salary/Insurance/Benefits	\$631,315.50
Clergy(2): All Expenses	\$100,264.44
Insurance: Property and Liability	\$32,073.16
Maintenance	\$75,244.58
Contracted Services	\$42,241.78
Fixed Assets (Capital Improvement)	\$150,506.86
Utilities	\$123,569.15
Liturgy and Music	\$50,953.99
Communications	\$11,519.93
Festival Expenses	\$9,183.11
Parish Events	\$10,745.36
General Supplies	\$43,152.27
Grants to the Poor/Sister Parish Support	\$79,503.19
CYO	\$56,919.32
Total Expenses	\$2,318,606.73

*When funds are available, additional monies are applied toward parish growth. Finance Council policy ensures a healthy checking account to cover unforeseen incidental costs that may occur for facility repairs.



Outreach Income Totals

	2017-2018
Society of St. Vincent de Paul	\$118,655.23
Mobile Loaves & Fishes	\$100,221.28
Living Water International	\$14,053.65
Habitat for Humanity	\$27,735.04
2nd Collections to Archdiocese	\$110,337.97
Archbishop's Appeal	\$166,809.00
Total Outreach	\$499,057.24

Contributors and Registered Families**

Annual Amount	#	%
\$1-\$100	232	19.1%
\$101-\$500	295	24.3%
\$501-\$1,000	231	19.1%
\$1,001-\$2,000	207	17.1%
\$2,001-\$3,000	104	8.6%
\$3,001-\$5,000	70	5.8%
\$5,001-\$7,500	36	3.0%
\$7,501-\$10,000	22	1.8%
\$10,001-Above	19	20.7%
Total Families	1,212	100%

**Please note: Cash donations are not identifiable if envelopes or online giving is not used. Some donations are one time contributions from visitors.

Who is a Parishioner?

In the light of our parish commitment to the stewardship way of life, we define an active parishioner as one who:

1. Has completed and submitted a parish registration form via online registration or printed form turned in to the office.
2. Participates regularly in the liturgical life of the parish.
3. Supports the parish mission by completing and fulfilling an annual commitment of growing spiritually, participating in parish life by offering service, and contributing financially to the parish through sharing of gifts.

"Becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ leads naturally to the practice of stewardship. These linked realities, discipleship and stewardship, then make up the fabric of a Christian life in which each day is lived in an intimate, personal relationship with the Lord."

-Taken from *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*

To Have Hope is to Live

Traveling to Uganda as a Global Fellow of Catholic Relief Services



By Deacon Gene Festa

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the official overseas development agency of the American Catholic community. The Catholic Bishops of the United States founded it in 1943 to serve World War II survivors in Europe. Now reaching people in over 100 countries on five continents, CRS has several signature program areas: emergency response and recovery, agricultural livelihoods, and health and social services.

As a Global Fellow of CRS, I share information and support the values of CRS by preaching and teaching. I was invited to be part of an oversight team which visited Uganda in January 2019. Five deacons, three priests, and three CRS staff members journeyed together to see in person the incredible results of so many programs in which CRS is involved.

Coming face to face with people who are benefitting firsthand from so many beneficial programs, I could see programs I had only heard about or seen videos about come to life, and from the stories and comments of these people, I saw how much these programs mean to them.

As I look back upon my trip to Uganda, I am vividly reminded of encountering our God of Hope.

God of Hope, we encounter you in families.

We met Beatriz, a widow of 13 years who is trying to support her family by cultivating and harvesting her 1,500 coffee plants. Through CRS, she has learned to benefit the most from her crops and avoid the costly penalties of dealing with a middleman. She and her entire family are involved.

God of Hope, we encounter you in students.

Through the efforts of CRS, a brand new school in the Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement has been built for 2,000 students. The school boasts nine classrooms, new latrines, and housing for the teachers. The land upon which the school is located has been generously donated by the Muslim owners.

God of Hope, we encounter you in workers.

Young girls who are over 18 now have a future, thanks to the vocational training they have received from CRS and its affiliates. We visited two places, a dress shop and a hair salon, both managed by young ladies who have learned the trade. In addition, we met men who had been trained as carpenters and auto mechanics. This has given all of them hope for a good future.

God of Hope, we encounter you in community.

We were able to sit in on a community meeting, organized by CRS staff, at the Bidi Bidi Refugee Settlement during our trip.



see
ENCOUNTERING
on page 10



Encountering Hope in Uganda

Continued from page 9

We listened to the members' incredible stories, as well as how they have learned to work together as a community to begin to build a new life for themselves.

God of Hope, we encounter you in refugees.

Probably the most moving part of my trip was visiting the second-largest refugee settlement in the world, Bidi Bidi. Some 270,000 people live there. They are only a part of the 1.2 million who have had to flee their homeland of South Sudan. As far as the eye could see, there were dwellings, some huts, some only plastic tents. Truly, it made me feel that we must join them somehow and support them as best we can.

This trip deeply affected me. It has made me see things in a different light and has prepared me to speak of social justice with more conviction. But even more, it made me hear Jesus' words all the more, as he tells us: "Whatever you did for one of my least ones, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40).

CRS Rice Bowl



CRS provides many resources for Catholics to live in solidarity with their brothers and sisters across the world who are in need. One of the most well known and popular ways is the Lenten Rice Bowl. St. Francis has a long history of active participation and success in this Lenten observance.

Following Pope Francis' lead, the Rice Bowl invites us to take part in the second year of Share the Journey, a global campaign launched by Pope Francis to raise awareness and inspire action on behalf of migrants and refugees.

Through the Rice Bowl, we can participate in the Church's three traditional Lenten practices. We can pray by using the prayer on the side of the Rice Bowl or in the pamphlet that comes with it, we can fast by using the meatless recipes featured each week in the wonderful stories of hope from people all over the world, and we can give alms by using the Rice Bowl as a bank and coming up with creative ways to fill it by the end of Lent. Twenty-five percent of funds raised through the Rice Bowl stay in our archdiocese to support hunger and poverty alleviation, while the remaining funds support CRS programs.

Please turn in your Rice Bowls during Holy Week. To learn more and discover additional resources, visit www.crsricebowl.org.

Top of previous page: Deacon Gene and other global fellows of CRS meet members of a community in Uganda. Bottom of previous page: Deacon Gene meets a Ugandan woman who has benefited from CRS programs. Top of current page: Some of the people Deacon Gene met in Uganda. (All photos courtesy of Deacon Gene Festa)

The Archdiocesan Capital Campaign is still underway. Our parish target is \$2,424,000.00, of which we will receive back 30 percent or \$727,200.00. If we go over our target, our parish will receive 65 percent of every dollar raised up to 150 percent of the target, and 100 percent of every dollar raised beyond that!

As of March 1, 2019, we have 419 donors with \$1,932,242.00 pledged and \$1,075,965.98 collected. We thank everyone who has already donated or made a pledge to the campaign for their participation, and we ask those who have not yet donated to prayerfully consider contributing. Even the smallest gift brings us closer to our target and contributes to greater engagement!

You can learn more about the campaign and how it will address the needs of our community at www.sfasat.org/archsacapitalcampaign.



Our parish goal for the 2019 Annual Archbishop's Appeal is \$151,801.00. This will help fund efforts to feed the hungry, protect the vulnerable, educate our children, grow vocations, and support over 40 ministries across the archdiocese.

If you would like to make a gift to the Archbishop's Appeal, please visit www.archsa.org/archbishops-appeal or take a pledge envelope in the church and turn it in to the parish office.

Entering into Deeper Service

Parishioner Johnny Flores Discerns a Call to the Permanent Diaconate

By Kenneth Caruthers

About 20 years ago, St. Francis of Assisi parishioner Johnny Flores started thinking about the diaconate while on retreat in Louisiana.

"I sat at a table with two newly ordained deacons. I talked to these two men at length and really thought about the diaconate, but I wasn't ready," Johnny said.

The Jesuits run the retreat house that Johnny goes to in Louisiana each year, and he was really drawn to their spirituality. Since he has been married to his wife, Shirley, for almost 40 years, Johnny knew he was not going to become a Jesuit priest, but he did feel called to the clergy.

Many years after his conversation with the two deacons, Johnny again felt prompted to discern a vocation to the diaconate while he was teaching at one of the Confirmation preparation retreats. He mentioned that he had been considering the diaconate to Deacon Jim Hewson, and Deacon Jim encouraged Johnny to enter into serious discernment.

A year or so later, Johnny felt a very strong call as he was discerning while on another retreat. Knowing what he needed to do, he returned home and discussed it at length with Shirley. From there, he and Shirley met with Deacon Mike and Cathy Portele and Fr. Larry Christian, who was then the pastor of St. Francis, to get their advice. Three and a half years ago, Johnny finally started his formation.

"The Holy Spirit guided me through my discernment and led me through these meetings, the application process, and the interviews that followed," Johnny said.



Johnny Flores serves as a Communion Minister at our 8:30 am Ash Wednesday Mass on March 6, 2019 (Photo by Kenneth Caruthers).

Since beginning his formation, Johnny has been attending the five-year diaconate program for the Archdiocese of San Antonio at the Mexican American Catholic Colleges with monthly workshops on life in the diaconate.

Although he does not have as much time to participate as he would like because of his classes, Johnny has been involved with St. Francis' Confirmation preparation, Life Teen, and Knights of Columbus. He and Shirley have served as a sponsor couple for engaged couples, and he currently teaches a baptism preparation class each month.

"I hope that I will be able to resume active participation in these catechetical and service areas after ordination," Johnny said.

"I get great joy from helping others, and I especially love teaching."

Having recently been instituted an acolyte, Johnny is now one step closer to becoming a deacon.

"The acolyte serves at the altar, assisting the deacon and the priest. An acolyte's duties can include those of an altar server and some of the duties of a deacon when there is not one present. The acolyte does not have the authority to proclaim the Gospel or perform sacraments. As an acolyte, I am an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, and since I am also instituted as lector, I proclaim the first or second readings from time to time," Johnny said.

God willing, Johnny will complete his studies in May 2020. If Archbishop Gustavo accepts his petition, he will be ordained shortly after, most likely in May or June of that year. Please keep Johnny in your prayers as he continues his studies.

"The purpose of the diaconate is service, so it's a true blessing for me to be part of this formation process."

If you are discerning a call to ordained or consecrated life, please contact the Archdiocese of San Antonio Vocation Office at 210-735-0553 or vocations@archsa.org or reach out to Sr. Rose or Fr. Tony.

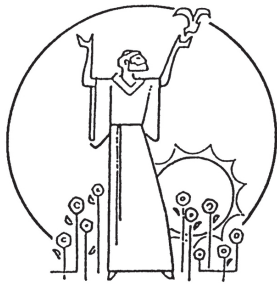
Join Us for Our Upcoming ACTS Retreats



An ACTS retreat places great emphasis on community and service within our parish. Learn more about ACTS at St. Francis at www.sfsat.org/acts. Please contact Larry Perry for adults or Monica Harness for teens for more information about our ACTS retreats.

Teen ACTS	April 11-14	Camp Capers, Waring
Women's ACTS	April 25-28	Moye Retreat Center, Castroville
Men's ACTS	June 27-30	Omega Retreat Center, Boerne

Our fall 2018 women's ACTS retreat returns to St. Francis on November 11, 2018 (Photo by Eric Bowden).



St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

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Mass Celebrations

Saturday 5:00 pm

Sunday 8:30 am | 11:15 am | 1:30 pm (Spanish) | 5:00 pm

Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday | 8:30 am

Thursday | 6:00 pm (Spanish)

Friday | 6:30 am | 12:00 pm

Reconciliation

Tuesday | 5:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Saturday | 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Liturgy of the Word & Communion Service

Monday - Thursday | 6:30 am



Vacation Bible School 2019 is June
17-21. Registration opens around the
beginning of May at www.sfasat.org.

Opportunities for Engagement

March

- 21 | Finding the Face of Jesus in Uganda
- 22 | Fourth Friday for Us
- 31 | Pancake Breakfast

April

- 1 | Silver Stars Spring Sock Hop
- 2 | YCP Executive Speaker Series
- 7 | BBQ Chicken & Sausage Sale
- 11-14 | Teen ACTS Retreat
- 13 | Last Supper for Children
- 14 | Palm Sunday
- 18 | Holy Thursday
- 19 | Good Friday
- 20 | Easter Vigil
- 21 | Easter Sunday
- 25-28 | Women's ACTS Retreat
- 28 | Pancake Breakfast

Every Friday in Lent: Stations of the Cross after
the noon Mass and Fish Fry from 5:30-8:00 pm

Sacred Triduum

Holy Thursday

7:00 pm

Mass of the Last Supper

Good Friday

3:00 pm

Living Stations of the Cross

7:00 pm

Veneration of the Cross

Easter Vigil

Mass at 8:30 pm

Easter Sunday

Masses at 8:30 am, 11:15
am, and 1:30 pm (Spanish)

