



The Crossroads Messenger

2nd Quarter, 2019

The official newsletter of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

Mount Washington, Kentucky

Two Decades Of Picnic Fun

Christi Wantuck & Joey Followay
Picnic Chairpersons

The Picnic Committee is working hard on our 20th Annual Summer Picnic. This event is a wonderful community celebration and an important fundraiser for our Parish. We look forward to celebrating the beginning of summer with families including live music; booths; raffles; silent auction; inflatables; kids' games; great food and cool treats.

The Capital Prize and Mega Raffle Tickets are key to our success. The Mega Raffle ticket offers 30 prize drawings this year! Prizes include yard equipment, tools, a beautiful handmade afghan by Edith Foreman, gift certificates and much more. Capital Prize tickets cover prize drawings of \$5,000, \$1,500 and \$500. All drawings will be held on Saturday, June 8 at 10 p.m.

For our entertainment, we are excited to welcome Shane Dawson this year! Shane is from Mt. Washington and will bring his great country music talent to our stage. Please make time to enjoy the performance from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. nightly on the front lawn.

Chuck-A-Luck will return to our gambling area this year as well as many other favorites. Keep an eye out for Lucky Number pre-sales and Split the Pot during the picnic.

The always popular wheel booths offer fantastic prizes for just 10¢ per play! Prizes range from cakes; plants; bath and beauty items; surprise packages; and gift cards. We are also introducing a new Super Sweets booth for all ages and a new Cartoon Wheel for kids.

We thank in advance The Knights of Columbus, Michelle Osborne, and dedicated Parishioners in preparing a delicious Fish Fry dinner on Friday and a Broasted Chicken Dinner on Saturday. Fish will be served beginning at 4:30 p.m. Friday at the Carry Out booth. Carry Out and Dine-In begin Saturday night at 5 p.m. following the 4 p.m. Mass.

The \$5,000 Putting Contest returns for its third year. On Friday and Saturday night, golf enthusiasts can display their putting skills as they attempt to qualify for the Finale.

We look forward to seeing you June 7 and 8!

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PICNIC
JUNE 7★8

Mt. Washington • 5 - 10 PM

Dinners • Games • Raffles

\$5,000 Putting Contest

Friday - Fish Fry
Saturday - Chicken Dinner

**\$5000 Capital
Prize, Mega
Raffle, Wheel
Booths and
Inflatables!**



**Live Country
Music Featuring
Shane Dawson**
6:30-9:30
Both Nights!

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CHURCH
155 Stringer Lane, Mt. Washington

License #ORG1325

From The Pastor's Pen



As long as I can remember, I heard people in my family always compare life to “*valleys and hills*.” As a kid, I remembered “*valleys and hills*” (especially in little St. Joe outside of Lebanon, KY) as a place to use my toboggan/sled. As an adult, I think and hope I know a little better what my ancestors meant.

In these last few months, the faith-family of SFX has experienced some “*valleys and hills*” moments. Sometimes, these seem to balance themselves out. Other times, they just don’t. One “*hill*” moment for our Parish was the 100th birthday of Parishioner Elizabeth Dennis on Derby Day (to whom our Parish gave her

a papal blessing from Pope Francis). One very powerful “*valley*” moment was the offering of Jesse Abrams back to God as the gift he was for his parents Steve and Tina, his family, and so many people within the SFX family. With *eyes of faith*, this “*valley*” moment turns into a “*hill*” moment because of our belief in Christ’s Resurrection (the purpose of this holy season). The need to do this for ourselves

at least once a year, much less “*one day at a time*,” is crucial. It is our identity and conviction.

Other “*hill*” moments have been the celebration of First Eucharist for 16 of our young people. On May 21, fifteen eighth graders were confirmed as Catholic people in a world that needs them. Another “*hill*” moment was receiving 16 new people, young and old, into our church at the Easter Vigil as well as the children baptized by Deacon Gerry and Deacon Steve and catechized by Pastoral Associate Margee from month to month.

There will always be “*valleys and hills*” within Parish communal life. Thanks be to God that we have one another to help steady the course we follow and that road leads to the cross and, thank God, beyond!

Fr. Dale

You are GOD
of the
hills and
valleys



St. Francis Xavier

155 Stringer Lane
Mount Washington, KY 40047
502.538.4933 - or - 502.955.5366

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OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Friday, 8:30 a.m. - noon



The Deacon's Desk

Steve Age
Deacon

I recently drove to downtown Louisville. Exiting the freeway ramp, I stopped at the traffic light. Waiting for the light to change, I noticed city employees hard at work on the opposite street corner. They were busy preparing for this year’s Derby festival.

On the street outside my vehicle, stood a man. From his appearance and demeanor he looked to be homeless. His age reflected on his face, and the years seem to weigh heavy on his shoulders. He held a cardboard sign that read, “Stranded.” No other words, just “Stranded.”

The dull, black letters on that cardboard sign brought a thought to my mind, “Isn’t that where many of us find ourselves at times in life, and many times we are afraid to admit it?” At least the man on the corner was brave enough to admit being stranded. Many do not. For many the wounds and scars from the past--at no fault of their own--can make them feel isolated, alone, stranded. And it can affect them in many ways.

Many aspects of our formative years can have great effects on our spiritual lives. Emotional, physical, verbal, and sexual abuse can cause a fissure that can take a lifetime to correct. The wounds of abuse, though most often covered by thick layers of scars, can keep us from feeling not only the love of our family and friends, but it can keep us from feeling the love

of God Himself. Those who carry these deep wounds many times feel unworthy of love. They believe the lies told them by their abuser. In believing these lies, they unwittingly allow the abuse to become ongoing.

But Jesus tells us this isn’t so. In Mark 7:15, Jesus tells us that nothing that enters us from outside can defile that person, but that things that come out from within are what defile.

My wife, Shannon, and I recently participated in an event at Mary, Queen of Peace to help those who seek healing from the clergy sexual abuse scandal. This included survivors, their families and loved ones, the Parishioners and clergy. Dr. Jim Shields, Psychologist and deacon candidate, Martine Siegel, Director of Counseling Services and Victim Assistance Coordinator for the archdiocese, and Bill and Dianne Doyle, licensed therapists, along with Shannon and me presented information specifically about sexual abuse in general, treatment, archdiocesan policies and procedures followed by a panel discussion. There were over 30 people in attendance. The information was well received, and we have had inquires as to if we would be willing to present the program again. God willing, we will.

Part of our ministry as a couple is to help those who have been abused in any way. Keep in mind, we are not therapists and are not offering therapy. What we are offering is to be present to you; to walk with you, and to help you make the connections with those you may wish to contact for help when you choose to do that. It is our greatest hope that by having someone to walk with that you will begin to peel away the deep scars to let in the healing light of Christ, so your spirituality can grow to the beauty our God created it to be!

Finally, remember these words from the book of Hebrews, and I paraphrase, “...he [Jesus] has said, I will never leave you [stranded] or forsake you.”

Our Mission

St. Francis Xavier, a Roman Catholic Church in Mount Washington, Kentucky, was established in 1846 to further God’s Kingdom on earth.

We are a *welcoming* community of faith.

We are *serving* the spiritual, emotional, intellectual and physical needs of parishioners.

We are *dedicated* to the celebration of the sacraments and the teachings of the Church.

Our goal is to meet these needs through various parish organizations and through community ministries.



Margee Joseph
Pastoral Associate

margee's musings

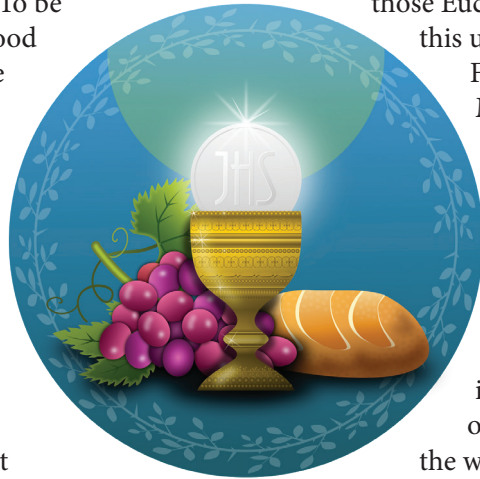
As stated in the last newsletter, St. Francis Xavier Parish is blessed with many ministries.

One that I hold close to my heart is that of the Eucharistic Minister. To be able to give the Body and the Blood of Jesus to others is an incredible privilege. It is not a ministry to be taken lightly. I like to think of it as offering food for the journey and in doing so, one participates in the priesthood of Jesus who told Peter, "Feed my sheep" (John 21:17).

To become a Eucharistic Minister, one must be in full communion with the Church, having been baptized, made First Communion and been confirmed. The recommended age for this ministry is 16 and over. If married, one must be in a valid, sacramental marriage according to the laws of the Church.

Currently one must attend formation sessions for this ministry offered at various parishes throughout the year by the Office of Worship. Plans are in the works for trainers to be eventually in every parish so parishioners can access the formation program at their own church. I plan to attend such a training in June and thus be able to offer Eucharistic Minister Formation to interested Parishioners here at SFX.

Once trained, Eucharistic Ministers are given a mandate, formally recognizing them as qualified members of this ministry. This would enable them to perform this ministry at any Mass at any time in the Archdiocese. The mandate is good for five years. At the end of that time, they



are required to attend an update session, thus mandating them for another five years. I am pleased to say that an update session is scheduled here at SFX in October of this year. I will notify those Eucharistic Ministers who need this update at that time.

For the most part Eucharistic Ministers participate in the two weekend liturgies.

Currently we have a limited number of people in this ministry and could certainly use more. According to Father Dale, if the number of ministers increase there is a possibility of adding another Mass to the weekend schedule. If you are interested in becoming a Eucharistic

Minister, please contact me at the Parish office at 502-538-4933.

There are some very dedicated ministers who distribute Eucharist at Elmcroft Senior Living every Sunday. If anyone is interested in doing this, please contact Deacon Gerry who helps coordinate the specialized ministry with Cathy Medley. Eucharistic Ministers also take communion to Catholic residents living at Green Meadows Health Care Center. Deacon Gerry takes Eucharist to some of our homebound. If you know of someone who is unable to attend church but would like to receive this sacrament, please contact the Parish Office.

Thank you to all our Eucharistic Ministers for your participation in such a grace-filled sacrament of nourishment and love. May God continue to grant you many joys and blessings in your ministry.

New Photo Directory In Works

Helen Hagen
Parish Manager

St. Francis Xavier will create a new pictorial directory this year. Our last directory was in 2015. Since then, we have welcomed many new members and families.

Photo sessions will be held the weeks of July 10-13 and August 13-17. Check in the gathering space for future details regarding online appointments and sign-ups, or visit our Parish Facebook Page for a direct link to online appointment booking.

Every family photographed will receive a copy of the directory and an 8 x 10 portrait at no cost. Extra photos for purchase will also be available.

We appreciate Vicki Hardin and Beverly Hamilton volunteering to help with this project.



WE NEED
YOU
to make our new
family directory
complete

Website Under Construction

Helen Hagen
Parish Manager

We have exciting news! After evaluating numerous companies, we recently signed a contract with Diocesan Publications, our Parish bulletin provider, to develop a new SFX website design. In addition, Diocesan will create a new Parish logo, provide future updates and enhancements to our website, and take care of website hosting services.

The new website will include more content and photographs with enhanced features. With Diocesan currently being our bulletin provider, our bulletin and Parish app will integrate well.

Special thanks to Ed Scott for all that he has done in designing and maintaining our website to date and for his leadership in spearheading our efforts to migrate to a new website.

The website will take some time to develop. Stay tuned for updates as the new design progresses.



PAC Updates

Mitchell Elder & Helen Hagen
Steering Committee Chair & Parish Manager

We are getting closer to starting construction of the new Parish Activity Center (PAC) and Renovation of the Old Church (Parish Hall). We have hired Mark Trier with JRA Architects as our architect and Wehr Constructors, Inc. as our builder. We are awaiting permission from Archbishop Kurtz to begin construction.

The sub-committees are hard at work contacting all SFX's ministries to confirm their needs as we enter the design phase of both the PAC and renovation. This is a very important part of the planning process to ensure that the needs of the ministries and our Faith Family are being met.

A town hall is being planned in the near future. Our hope is that construction can begin this fall.





A Faith-Filled Welcome

Easter Vigil Bestows Its Blessings

Margee Joseph
Pastoral Associate

On Easter Vigil night, the holiest of all nights, we welcomed 17 people into the church through the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.

Since the beginning of Lent 2018, it has been the privilege of the RCIA team to walk with this group who were called by God to take this journey. Our group consisted of people of all ages and all walks of life. They came together on Sunday mornings after the 9 AM Mass to inquire and study about the Catholic faith.

The group was unique this year with so many children preparing to become Catholic and be in full communion with the Church. Four of the children, Cole Fackler, Graicey Greenwell, Colby Sawyers and Marleigh Sawyers prepared for all three sacraments under the tutelage of Darlene Fowler. Three

brothers, Benjamin, Dominic and Daniel Corona prepared for First Communion and Confirmation. In addition to these, Colby and Marleigh's little brother Nolan was baptized that evening.

Our group also included 3 teens, Lexie Taylor who received all three sacraments; Livia Purdy; and Joseph Recktenwald who received Eucharist and Confirmation. Among the adults were Tony Phillips, Jason Hardin, Barbara Hatfield, Rebecca Laughlin and Luke Purdy. Tony was baptized, confirmed and received Eucharist while the others received Eucharist and were confirmed. Rebecca's daughter Molly journeyed with her mother and was confirmed.

To see so many young people coming into the Church is both exciting and promising. When we attended the Rite of Election, where



candidates are presented to the Archbishop, the number of children entering the Church far outweighed the number of older adults. Many families were presented that day and that too is very encouraging.

Many thanks to our RCIA team: Nancy Almony, Sandee Clark, Ann Elder, Joey Followay, Darlene Fowler and Lonnie Williams for all they add to the classes. It was very rewarding to the team to see the lights go on in the eyes of the candidates as they drew closer to the Easter Vigil. The excitement of this pinnacle of their journey is contagious. Tony said it best when he declared, "I feel like I am being reborn." You're exactly right, Tony. You have been reborn in the Way, the Truth and the Light of Jesus Christ. Congratulations to all those who now share in the mission of our Savior in the Catholic Church.

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming Catholic, please contact Margee Joseph at the Parish Office, 538-4933. Classes are already being formed for the next sessions of the RCIA program, but it is never too late to start the journey.



First Communicants Receive Circle Of Love

Darlene Fowler
Coordinator, R.E.

On Sunday, April 28, 2019, sixteen of our second graders came to the Lord's Table for the first time to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. This is the first of many times these children will join in sharing God's love. A very special song was sung as each child approached the table. His/her name was called at the beginning of the verse, "You are very special, very special to us all. Come if you will to our circle of love, each of us is special in God's circle of love."

Standing on the altar watching these young children come and receive Jesus for the first time brought joy to me. I could not help but think that Jesus was looking down on His children and feeling great happiness seeing them come to Him. As Matthew 19:14 says "Let the children come to me and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Let us keep these children in prayer as they continue their faith formation in the coming years.



The Crossroads
Messenger 2nd Quarter, 2019



Parishioners Feed Those In Need

Sometimes it's something we read or hear, or it's an experience we encountered that spurs us to take action. I recently chose to help the poor and needy, especially the hungry. I felt called to make a change. Along with a group of fellow Parishioners from St. Michael, I now volunteer at the daily lunch program behind the Cathedral of the Assumption in "bologna alley." I also keep a food bag in my car to hand out if I pass someone who is homeless.

We see compassion for the hungry numerous times in Scripture, including when Jesus fed the crowds. With only a few fish and loaves of bread, He multiplied the food to feed the thousands. "I have compassion on the crowd because they... have nothing to eat; and I

am unwilling to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way" Matthew 15:32. What a beautiful miracle He performed to show His tender love and compassion for those in need.

On March 17, Darlene Fowler, Religious Education Coordinator; Joe Recktenwald, Youth Minister; Dave Richardson, Youth Volunteer; and I packaged food bags at St. Michael Church for the Love the Hungry program. Approximately 25 adults and children packaged 10,000 bags.

Love the Hungry is a non-profit organization that provides Nutri-Plenty meals to Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Kenya, Nigeria and South Sudan, as well as a small percentage to families throughout Kentucky and Southern

Indiana. They work with non-governmental organizations to ensure every meal benefits children and families in need.

Here at St. Francis Xavier, we help support the poor in our local community through our Outreach Ministries. To expand our help more globally, we have scheduled Love the Hungry to come to St. Francis Xavier on March 8, 2020. This will be a great opportunity for all to get involved. For more information on Love the Hungry, go to www.lovethehungry.org.

Pope Francis said "You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. This is how prayer works." Stay tuned on how you can be a part of this community building effort to serve and love the hungry.

FOR WHERE
two or three
GATHER
IN MY NAME
I am with them
MATTHEW 18:20

Turning Over A New Leaf

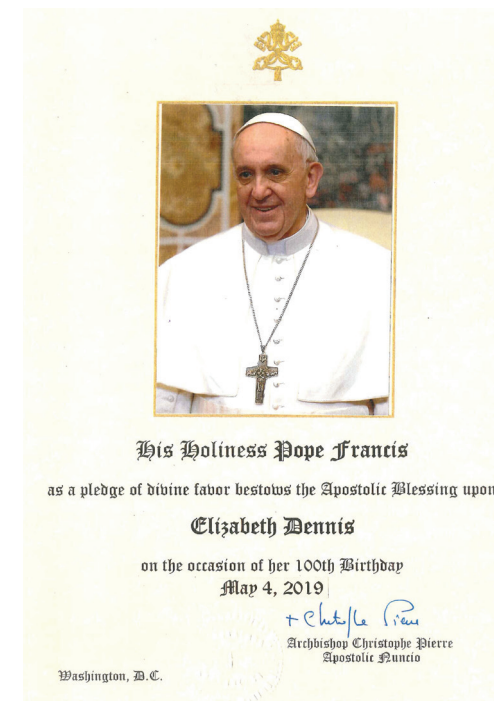
Helen Hagen
Parish Manager

"Turning over a new leaf" can apply to a number of things. It can apply to starting new routines and reaching new goals, as well as situations often involving much prayer and having to discern difficult decisions.

Last fall, Fr. Dale sent a letter to our religious education parents inviting them to "turn over a new leaf" by taking part in new Wednesday night offerings. A survey was created for parents to complete. The goal was to offer programs on topics of interest to them, such as passing on the faith to their children, forming a book club or bible study, or raising children.

As a follow-up to the questionnaire responses, a brainstorming meeting was held to develop a plan. During the meeting, Joe Recktenwald agreed to facilitate the group, called Parents Gathered In Faith (PGIF). PGIF met from the beginning of Lent through the last religion education class. The meetings were informal, with different topics discussed. It was an opportunity for parents to meet and engage in fellowship. It was a great start!

This fall, we would like to continue this gathering on Wednesday nights, as we expand upon programs pertinent to RE parents' interests.



Happy Birthday!

On May 4, 2019, St. Francis Xavier's oldest Parishioner, Elizabeth Dennis, began her second century of life. To honor Elizabeth, our Parish presented her with a Papal Blessing from the Nunciature in Washington, DC. It was signed by Archbishop Pierre, Pope Francis' representative to the USA.

Happy 100th birthday Elizabeth! God bless you for choosing us to be your faith-family!



A Garden Of Blessings

Sandy Clark
Chairperson

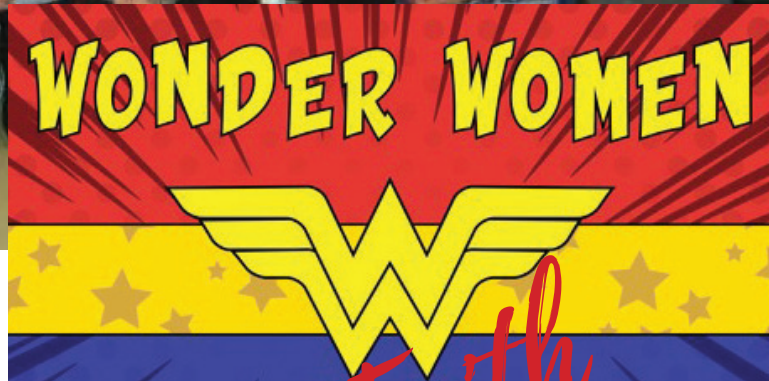
Spring is here, the ground is plowed, seeds were planted, and now we wait. We pray for sunshine and rain as we wait and watch them grow and produce.

On April 16, following the 8:30 AM Mass, Father Dale conducted the first Blessing of the Garden. As a group, we asked for God's helping hand to bless the soil, the seeds, and the crops that will mature and produce. We prayed that God would watch over us and that He reminds us of His love for all people; especially those in need of nourishment, strength, affirmation, hope and love.

All proceeds from our garden go to the Mount Washington Community Ministry where it is handed out to those in need on Thursday mornings.



*Lord of Creation,
who planted your own garden called Eden,
come and bless this soil which is to be our garden again.
All that dies becomes earth and so it lives again.
May this garden soil be both WOMB and TOMB,
a home for death and life, so that seeds of living things
may die and resurrect here in our garden.
May the care we show these seeds
remind us of your tender love for your people.*



Of Faith
Margee Joseph
Retreat Leader

On Saturday, March 23, thirty-six women from different Parishes came together to reflect on their call to act with justice and share their faith journeys. The Wonder Women of Faith Retreat was designed to compare fictional superheroines with women saints who fought and advocated for the same social justice teachings, to identify tools to help them advocate and to empower the women to stand up for causes close to their hearts.

The day began with a welcome, introductions, prayer and song. The first presentation compared Wonder Woman and the Black Widow with St. Teresa of Calcutta and Mary Magdalene. All four sew justice for others and in doing so reflected the love and mercy of Christ. As women of faith the attendees were reminded of their call to fight for justice. The presentation was followed by a guided meditation on the value of women. Shannon Age was spot on with her reflection on the different ages and stages of a woman's life.

Featured next was the Catholic Church's teachings on Social Justice. The ladies were reminded of the seven different areas in which they are to act with justice, from right to life and rights of workers to dignity of the human person, care of creation, solidarity and more. Upon the conclusion

of this presentation each woman present was invited to write her personal justice issue on a scroll and have her picture taken as a Wonder Woman of Faith

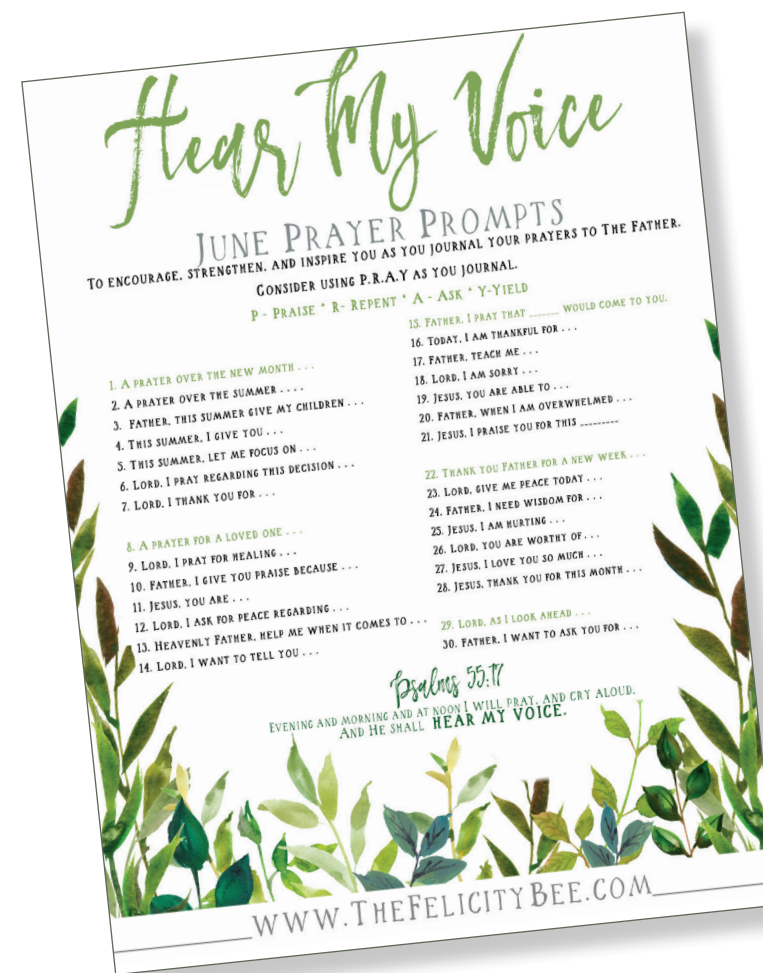
Following a tasty lunch of soups and hero sandwiches, Missy Robison, a former Confirmation Catechist from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, presented the tools to advocate, i.e. the Gifts and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. To illustrate these, she engaged the women in challenging but fun activities. She then concluded her talk with the song "Hands" by Jewell.

At the close of the day, the women gathered to praise the ideal role model in our Church, the Blessed Mother. Praying of the Litany of Mary of Nazareth was followed by the song, "Hail Mary, Gentle Woman."

Evaluations of the day's activities revealed an overall positive response with some excellent topics suggested for future retreat themes. All in all, it was a good day

with the women appreciating the relaxed atmosphere and the time to talk and share with one another.

Thank you to all who attended this retreat. A special thank you goes out to the Retreat Committee: Carrie Gary for the great music; Vicki Hall for the delicious food; Shannon Age for her wonderful reflection; Missy Robison for her interactive presentation; Krista Wibbels for researching and suggesting the superb props and mementos; and Michelle Gentry and Charlene Higdon for their eager help in decorating. Lastly, a huge thank you to Bobby Grace for setting up the room as it was designed and planned. With each one of you, this retreat materialized resulting in the affirmation and empowerment of 36 Wonder(ful) Women of Faith.



The Daughters of St. Paul
www.pauline.org

There's always been a special place in the Catholic Church for the keeping of spiritual journals. Some of our most beloved saints, including St. Therese of Lisieux (her journal was published as *The Story of a Soul*) and St. Ignatius Loyola (whose journal became the *Spiritual Exercises*), kept spiritual journals.

Closer to our own time, Pope John XXIII kept a personal journal from when he was a teenager until he died, and Pope John Paul II's personal notes are also soon to be published in English.

These journals were originally meant to be simply dialogues between individual souls and God; but they continue to be a source of inspiration and encouragement to millions of people who can grow and learn from these revelations of great saints' interior lives.

So what exactly is a spiritual journal?

It's not the same thing as a diary. A diary is a chronological accounting of daily events. A journal is much more: it's a prayer, a capturing on paper of an interior dialogue between the writer and God.

This is clear in Gabrielle Bossis' spiritual journal, *He and I*; it's a back-and-forth between her and Jesus. Father Gaston Courtois kept notebooks that he carried around everywhere and that reflected his interior conversations with God; they later became *When The Lord Speaks to Your Soul*.

Most of us don't hear Jesus' voice as clearly as did these people. We all try; and sometimes, if we're blessed and fortunate, we're able to get a glimpse of that same light the saints were blinded by. But we can all still come closer to God through keeping a spiritual journal.

Summer of Prayer





St. Francis Xavier

155 Stringer Lane

Mount Washington, KY 40047

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US POSTAGE

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MT. WASHINGTON, KY

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Upcoming Events



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FOR MORE INFORMATION
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502.244.6820
Cathy Blandford
frp.cathy@gmail.com
502.592.3554



WEDNESDAY
—SEPTEMBER—

18

2019

7-9:30 P.M.

ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH
1000 N BECKLEY STATION ROAD
LOUISVILLE, KY 40245

Sponsored by Family Renewal Project
HOST: St. Patrick Church
CO-HOSTS: St. Albert the Great
St. Peter the Apostle
St. Raphael the Archangel
St. Rita & St. Luke

www.FamilyRenewalProject.com



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

SUPER RAFFLE

BEGINS - AUG 31

DRAWINGS - OCT 19

Photo Directory Appointments



Portrait sessions for Parishioners will take place July 10-13 and August 13-17. Sign up for specific time slot is required. Read more on page 5, and log on to Facebook for a direct link to appointment scheduling.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

PICNIC

Mt. Washington

JUNE 7 ★ 8

Dinners • Games • Raffles