



The Crossroads Messenger

The official newsletter of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church • Mount Washington, Kentucky

2nd Quarter 2022



Xavier Center Dedicated

Archbishop Shelton Leads Faith Family In Celebration

Miles Spalding
Newsletter Committee

The Xavier Center is now open. It has been an inspiring journey to get to this day. The St. Francis Xavier faith family was fortunate to share this memorable moment with the Most Reverend Shelton J. Fabre, Archbishop of Louisville. This dedication day is the culmination of seven years of commitment, planning and toil. Generations to come will reap the rewards of this momentous day.

It was fitting that Dedication Day occurred on Ascension Sunday and Archbishop Fabre presided over the Mass. He noted in his greeting that where the head goes, the body

■ *Continued page 10*



A Blessed and Busy Campus

The months of May and June are very busy here on Highway 44. As you can tell by our Parish communications, we are peaking in our Easter days and putting final touches on our new Xavier Center. So much work has been done by many in our faith-family toward creating this structure as well as renovations of the old church (now with a fresh, newer and cleaner look). While there are so many to publicly acknowledge, I want to especially thank Mitchell Elder, *once again*, for all his leadership and work, seen and unseen, on our projects for these past several years (*which is pretty close to an eternity*). Please share, with me, your communal and personal gratitude and best wishes to Mitchell for a job well done!



Also, we have changed tasks within our staff. Jennifer Sweeney has moved from Administrative Assistant to Director of Engagement, a new title which includes stewardship, fundraising and reaching out to all members of the Parish who are, *and need to be*, involved in Parish life. Jennifer brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to this *newest* role. Paula Silliman, our Pastoral Associate, has taken on more responsibilities also for which we are grateful. Darlene Fowler will continue her work as Director of Religious Education and with children's sacramental preparation on a part-time basis. Bobby Grace has great command of our Facilities with his efficient steward's care. I thank the new group entitled **SFX Facilities Board** and their work of engaging more Parishioners to take greater ownership of daily and special activities on our campus. Helen Hagan continues her mastery with Parish business matters and her dedicated Catholic foresight in all areas of Parish life. Carrie Gary is, in a single word, maestro! As a Parishioner, **you are so fortunate** to have these dedicated souls caring for your needs, today and tomorrow. **Please thank them when you see them in the coming days.** They deserve it greatly... as do our deacons, Steve Age, Earl Baker and deacon-emeritus, Gerry Mattingly.

Lastly, when celebrating my 40th priesthood jubilee, I note that I have but three years left at SFX and (God willing) I want to make them my best three years in the ministries for which I was trained and ordained ... *but only with your continued help can this happen.* **Thanks for all you have done in the past and please keep your faith active and vital.** It makes all the difference in what gets done to fulfill the Gospels of Jesus Christ. It is all about Him... always has been, always will be. In our Cornerstone,

Fr. Dale

St. Francis Xavier

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

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

www.sfxmw.com

Calling upon Holy Mary

Every day we look at recent news, we are confronted with both the sadness and the bewilderment of the headlines coming from the crisis in Ukraine. It is very difficult to observe the destruction and the loss of innocent lives across the land of a sovereign nation wrought by its aggressive neighbor, Russia. Beyond the horrendous sights, we are also concerned about the consequences this crisis may have upon the world, and how it may destabilize that region of the world for years to come. Recently there have been threats of the use of nuclear weapons. One can only hope and pray that those in power will exhaust all means of peaceful negotiations to resolve this conflict soon and to seek the common good of the people.

By viewing disturbing news like this every day, it seems one could develop some level of tolerance for conflict and death as a result of war. But looking beyond these scenes, do we realize that people are being displaced from their homes, that families are being separated, and that people are migrating without the necessities of life? Whenever I think of those who are suffering in this conflict, it causes me to pause and be thankful for my home, a warm place to rest, and food to eat. It saddens me that during our wars and conflict, the women,



Earl Baker

Deacon's Desk

children and the elderly carry the brunt of the suffering. What can we do? First and foremost, prayer is always an answer. Prayer can lead us to greater acts of charity. Each person may consider what that response will be. May our voices cry out for an end to the conflict and join the voice of our Holy Father. On March 25 at St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis pronounced the Act of Consecration for the world and, in particular, Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary during a Lenten prayer service. His hope and prayer were that peace would reign in the world as he laid the fate of both countries at the feet of Mary. Bishops from all around the world announced special services that coincided with the timing of the consecration in Rome. Our cries and prayers for peace are sent to the one who comes to our aid—our mother, the Queen of Peace, Mary the Mother of God. She is the one who can help bring peace to the world, in the name of her son Jesus. She is already working on this conflict by the prayers of so many from around the world. May she lead us to



a greater sense of the dignity of each person, of every human life, and bring this war to an end. In closing, I offer you the Prayer to the Immaculate Queen of Peace that we can recite as this conflict continues: Most holy and immaculate Virgin, Mother of Jesus and our loving Mother, being his Mother, you shared in his universal kingship. The prophets and angels proclaimed him King of peace. With loving fervor in our hearts we salute and honor you as Queen of peace. We pray that your intercession may protect us and all people from hatred and discord, and direct our hearts into the ways of peace and justice which your Son taught and exemplified. We ask your maternal care for our Holy Father who works to reconcile the nations in peace. We seek your guidance for our President and other leaders as they strive for world peace. Glorious Queen of peace, grant us peace in our hearts, harmony in our families and concord throughout the world. Immaculate Mother, as patroness of our beloved country, watch over us and protect us with your motherly love. Amen.



Paula's Ponderings

Paula Silliman
Pastoral Associate

Thirteen Months With You

For this latest edition of the Crossroads Messenger, I want to share a few pictures from my first year serving as YOUR Pastoral Associate. It has been an exciting time trying to get to know you. When I first came to SFX everyone was wearing masks and therefore it was hard to recognize people as I was trying to learn your names. Then masks came off, for the most part, and the learning began all over because now there was more face to learn.

But I am slowly learning your faces and hopefully the correct names to go along with them.

Thru masks, no masks, sickness, up and downs, wins and losses I have been blessed to be a small part of the SFX community. Please enjoy the pictures of some of my favorite activities I have been a part of during these last 13 months.

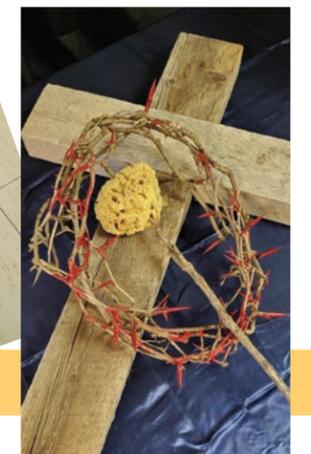
I look forward to serving you each day and am excited about all the events I hope to share with you in the future.



Ladies loved the Labryinth exercise during the 2022 Women's Retreat. It was a great time to connect with ladies of the Parish and meet others from Parishes of surrounding counties. It was an inspiring, positive atmosphere where everyone felt important. An excellent set-up, great good, fellowship and friendship, it was the perfect setting for us to each grow closer in our faith.



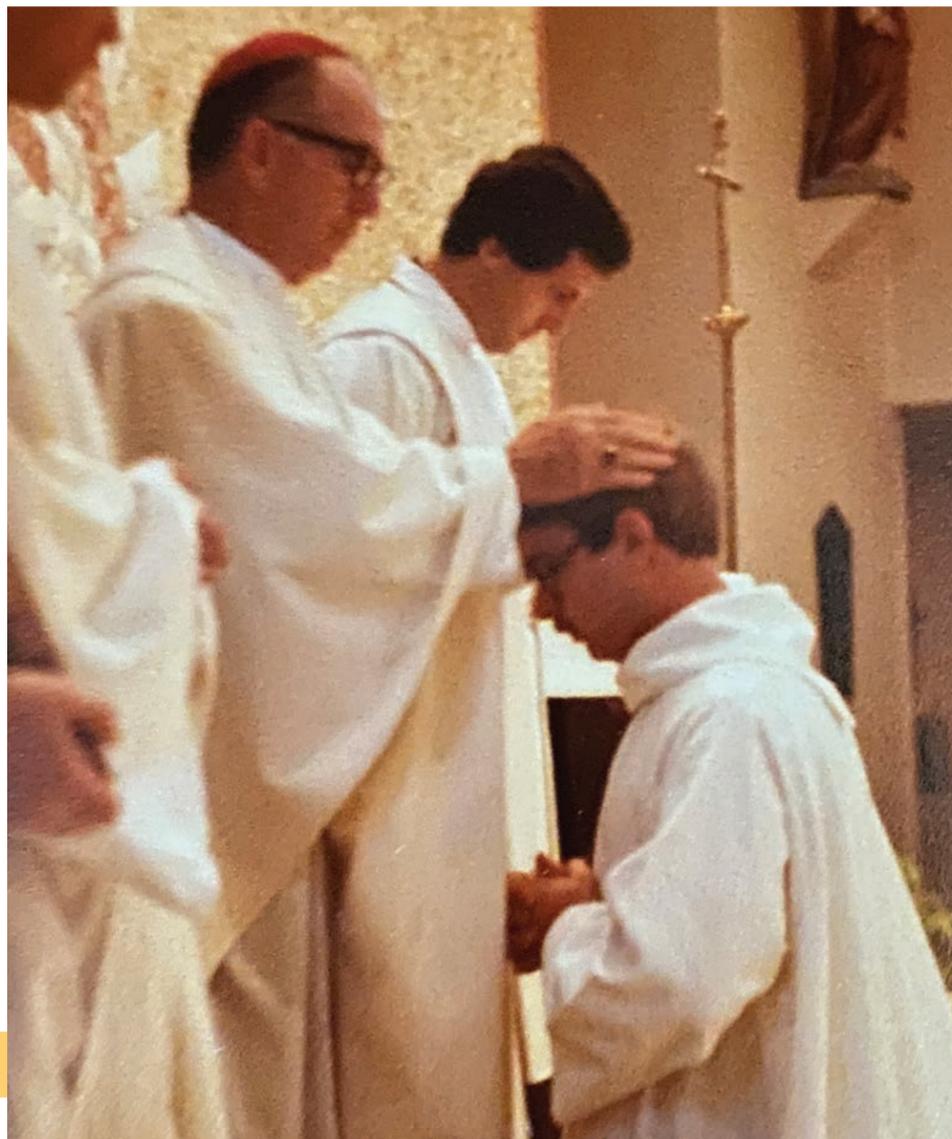
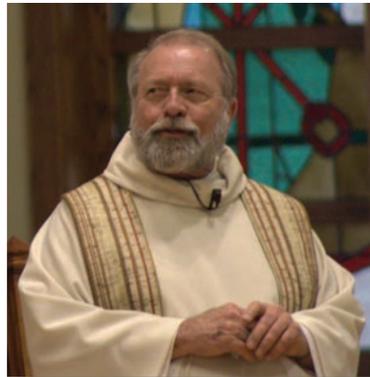
“It is difficult for us to express what we saw when we entered the RE building to begin our walk to view the interactive Stations of the Cross. At the first station, I immediately began to shed tears. All was quiet. Every minute we felt we were walking in the steps of Jesus. Each station was emotional. We both came away thankful to the ones who organized the Interactive Stations. No words can express what we felt. Hopefully this will take place next year. - Armie and Lynn Way -”





40th Jubilee

Father Dale Celebrates Milestone



Forty Years And Counting

Rhonda Abner
Newsletter Committee

On May 22, Father Dale Cieslik, with family, the St. Francis Xavier Faith Family and special guests in attendance, celebrated 40 years of priesthood. How fitting that this jubilee celebration was the first event held in our new Xavier Center, the cornerstone of the current long-range plan Father Dale has overseen these past several years. It has been a long, faith-filled journey, from May 22, 1982 when Archbishop Thomas Kelly ordained 27-year-old Dale Cieslik, to exactly 40 years later as pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church.

Father Dale knew from an early age he wanted to be a priest. After graduation from Southern High School in 1973, he spent one semester at Bellarmine University and

then attended St. Meinrad College where he graduated with a BA in history in 1978 and a Master of Divinity in 1982. He has served several Parishes in the Archdiocese including St. Leo the Great, St. Rita, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Pius X, St. Leonard, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, All Saints and our own St. Francis Xavier since 2012. Father Dale has also served as a high school chaplain, Chancellor for the Archdiocese for many years as well as Archivist during which time he established the Archdiocesan History Center in the old St. Vincent DePaul church. He is currently the Historian for the Archdiocese and chaplain of the Bellarmine





Men's Basketball team.

"I have been so honored to have served," he said adding he has learned over the years that his priesthood "is a gift, not a reward or a right or an entitlement."

So on a cloudy, spring Sunday afternoon in Mount Washington, so many people whose lives Father Dale has touched in some way, gathered to celebrate his milestone jubilee with him. Many more were there in spirit. It was obvious to all how much he relished sharing this memorable day, especially with his many family members but also with brother priests and his SFX Parish family, though he quipped,

"... it makes me a bit nervous to see such a gathering as today; people found in every...area of my life... sitting next to each other with the ability to compare notes"

Father Dale has stated in the past how much God surprises him every day with this vocation and so his journey continues, with thanksgiving and gratitude, toward a not-too-distant retirement.

"...a mere 1125 days away," he smiles, "but who's counting?"



Women's Club Rolls For Fundraiser

Sarah Lozada
Newsletter Committee

Just like that, spring has sprung for the St. Francis Xavier Women's Club. Finally being able to reunite for their annual Spring Bunco was a cause for delight. The ladies raised approximately \$500 to help with various causes. The money allows the Women's club to support ministries such as the High School Youth Group and the Garden Ministry. This year, the club will also contribute funds to Spencer Marks' Eagle Scout project building outdoor Stations of the Cross on the SFX grounds.

The Women's Club looks forward to great turnouts for their Fall Bunco and Christmas Bazaar later this year!



Continued From Front Page

will follow. The Xavier Center would not have been possible without the initial inspiration of Father Dale Cieslik. The Parish family rallied to make Father Dale's dream the dream of the entire Parish body. The archbishop noted in his homily that when Jesus ascended, he did not leave us, but rather he blazed a trail that we could follow. The Xavier Center represents a legacy to all who follow from those living and dead who made immense sacrifices to bring this dream to fruition.

After Mass, the congregation followed Archbishop Fabre and Father Dale around the parking lot to the entrance. A brief recounting of events that led to this moment were provided by Father Dale and a ribbon cutting followed. With great anticipation, the congregation flooded into the Xavier Center to see our new family home.

After welcoming remarks by Father Dale, the Archbishop prepared those gathered for the blessing. This included readings from St. Paul to the Ephesians that the Xavier Center is our new home and that Jesus Christ is the capstone and from Paul's letter to the Romans that reminds us that while we are many parts, we are one body in Christ. Mitchell Elder, the chairperson of the SFX Steering Committee, spoke about the importance of time, talent, and treasure to the ultimate success



of the Xavier Center project. Lou Leppert, Pastoral Council Chairperson, presented a plaque to Father Dale in recognition of his hard work in the creation of the Xavier Center. A great thank you goes to Mitchell Elder and all the Steering Committee, the Stewardship Committee, the Parish staff and all the Parishioners, both living and deceased. Archbishop Fabre noted in his dedication homily that we gather at the Xavier Center to be with each other, but when we leave, we are challenged to take Jesus wherever we go.





**We are updating the
CHURCH
DIRECTORY**

Helen Hagan
Parish Business Manager

St. Francis Xavier will create a new pictorial directory this year. Our last directory was in 2019. Since then, we have welcomed many new members and families.

Photo sessions will be held the weeks of August 16-20 and 23-27. Sign-ups for the directory can be done by following a link that will be on our Parish website or Facebook page, or by signing up in the gathering space of church.

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.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with sign ups in church, contact Jennifer or Helen in the Parish office. Our new directory won't be complete without YOU! Stay tuned for more information!



St. Francis Xavier Church
MOUNT WASHINGTON, KENTUCKY

155 Stringer Lane
Mount Washington, KY 40047
www.sfxmw.com

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
MT.WASHINGTON, KY
PERMIT NO. 50



St. Francis Xavier Church
MOUNT WASHINGTON, KENTUCKY



SUPER RAFFLE

Grand Prize \$20,000
2nd Prize \$1,500
3rd Prize \$500

\$20 per ticket 5,000 tickets available
Drawings - Saturday, June 11, 2022 at 7:00PM
in the Parish Activity Center.

Purchase tickets online www.sfxmw.com/raffle

or visit the following locations

St. Francis Xavier
Mt. Washington

Derby City Pizza
Mt. Washington

The Tea Cup
Taylorsville

All Saints
Taylorsville

Charitable Gaming License Number ORG0001325



**Mark Your Calendar and Join Us on
Saturday, June 11th for the 2nd Annual
SFX SPRING FLING!**

Sign-up now for the SFX Volleyball Classic!
We will have Pickleball, Bingo, a Basketball Shooting
Contest and much more!
The Valu-Market BIG GRILL will be here for lunch and
the Knights of Columbus will host their famous fish
dinner in the Parish Hall, more details to follow!