

July/August 2015



the

connecting the community of st. francis xavier parish

Navigator

275 proudly lend a hand in Parish Day of Service

Our first Parish Day of Service on May 23 came off beautifully with the enthusiastic participation by 275 parishioners who worked in 25 locations throughout Medina.

The weather was a perfect 71 degrees and sunny as crews gathered at 8:30 a.m. in the church basement to register, collect their T-shirts and water bottles, get instructions and pray before heading out to their work assignments. The scenario repeated at 12:30 p.m. for afternoon work assignments.

Our participants were excited to get to work helping others in Medina. As some crews finished their work early, they returned to ask what more they could do. When the parks turned out to be cleaner than expected, several families took the lead in finding new locations in need, including fields and marsh areas near the Medina Community Recreation Center. They filled three large garbage bags and even fished a tire out of the marsh.

Those who participated included young families who pushed strollers while their children learned about service, families with teens preparing for confirmation and senior citizens who were happy to sit and clean muddy pinwheels and toys for the Medina County Children's Center. Several people collaborated to bring a fellow parishioner who doesn't drive so she could participate in our morning prayers and rosary.

The crew of older children and adults at Cups Café scraped then painted about half the building's exterior, giving the nonprofit a fresh new look. We are looking at a "mini Day of Service" in early August to finish the job. Watch the bulletin for details if you are able to lend a hand.

Participants returned for 5 p.m. Mass, wearing their yellow Parish Day of Service shirts and beaming with joy from their day's work, knowing they made life a little better for some of our most vulnerable neighbors. We relaxed with pizza and

SERVICE continued on page 2



Saturday Vigil – 5 p.m., Sunday – 8 & 10 a.m., noon & 5:30 p.m.

Weekdays – 7:30 a.m. Monday through Saturday; 7 p.m. Monday, Thursday & First Friday of the month



Service

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salad in the church basement after Mass, giggling at pictures from the various work sites.

Thanks to all who participated in some way, contributing their time, talent and, in some cases, treasure to make this event a success. We will do it again!

What are people saying about the Parish Day of Service?

From some of our parishioner volunteers:

"Definitely will do this again. We've been looking for a service project to do together as a family."

"Kids had a great time and hung in there for awhile. Cleaning up trash was perfect for smaller children."

"Thank you! Great day!"

"This was a great idea. We did it with the whole family. We had a lot of fun."

"This was fun! Our family enjoyed it."

"Such a great idea. More fun than work. Great community builder. Can't say enough good!"

"Excellent idea & excellent execution!"

"GREAT!!"

"It was awesome!"

"I think that we should do more than 1 service day a year!!"

"This was a great idea!"

"This was a great idea and should be continued."

"We were so happy to be a part of it!"

"Many thanks to those who organized this Day of Service and those who donated financially."

"I'm sure you've heard this from a lot of people, but I wanted to thank you for organizing the Day of Service. It was a huge success. Personally, my family had a great time helping out at the Children's Center. It was really nice for us as a family to do something positive for the community. Thanks so much for the opportunity."

"I loved Day of Service and the levels of ages that participated. How nice to work together for a common goal while making new friends or refreshing an old friendship. I don't think you will ever have a problem finding people to commit to this kind of work!"

"I felt so proud to belong to our parish!"

From some of the people we served:

"Today was the first day I had the opportunity to check out all of the work that your parishioners did at our houses at Medina Creative Living. They did a beautiful job. I spoke to one of the gentlemen who lives at the house on North Harmony, and he said, 'Wow, did they ever do a great job! They put down mulch and cleaned up our yard. They even washed the windows!' He was so happy and excited. Thank you so much for thinking about our residents. They really





appreciate all that everyone did for them. Please let the volunteers know that we think they are AMAZING!" – *Sharon Biggins, certified occupancy specialist, Medina Creative Living*

"What a great time of serving with St. Francis! Your team did an awesome job, and we are well on our way to finishing." – *Pastor Doug Davidson, Cups Café board member and honorary SFX parishioner*

"Thank you so much for the Day of Service!!! All of our volunteers showed up and did an amazing job!!! Our outside playground looks amazing!" – *Rhonda Wurgler, executive director, Children's Center of Medina County*

"Thank you for the wonderful volunteer day of service. We appreciate that very much." – *Joe and Martha Dylinski, parishioners*

"I would just like to thank the group for giving their time and talents to help people with disabilities." – *Sandi Sammon, The SHC, The Arc of Medina County (Camp Paradise)*

"Thank you so much; we greatly appreciated your thoughtfulness – God Bless You!" – *Samaritan Care Center*





Music minister joins parish staff



A new chapter in our parish's 155-year history begins this month with the appointment of Ryan Neal to lead our praise and worship in song.

Ryan, who turns 32 in August, joins us from Bellevue, where he served as director of liturgy at Immaculate Conception Parish for the last three-and-a-half years. He started here July 1 as director of music ministries.

"I'm really excited," he says. "I've built some strong friendships that I'm going to miss, but I'm looking forward to being in a very vibrant and active parish."

Ryan grew up in Norwalk, where his parents still live, and has an older sister and brother, and a younger brother. He graduated from Ohio Northern University with a bachelor's degree in music, specializing in organ performance. He has played the piano since he was 5 and played the French horn through college.

He has played music for churches since he was 15. And, although he grew up Episcopalian, he joined the Catholic Church in 2012.

At Immaculate Conception, a parish of about 1,200 families, he led a traditional choir that got "amped up" at Christmas and Easter with more members who didn't have the time to sing more often. "I could take a regular group of six or eight and turn it into a group of 30," he says.

"I've also returned children's choirs to the school liturgies, working with the music teacher at the school," he adds. Immaculate Conception had two grade-school choirs, one for grades three and four, and another for grades five

through eight. For Christmas, he led a 50-member parish children's choir: "It was the first time in almost a decade they'd had a children's choir."

He's also passionate about community and semi-professional theater work, having worked as a music director for more than 150 productions. He's looking forward to getting involved with theater groups in Akron and his new hometown of Medina.

"It's a wonderful opportunity; I'm really excited," Ryan says. "It feels right."



Ryan Neal

GETTING TO KNOW YOU:

We posed 12 fun questions for our new director of music ministries. Here are his answers:

Do you prefer...

1. "How Great Thou Art" or "On Eagles' Wings"? **"How Great Thou Art"**
2. Organ or piano? **Piano**
3. Chocolate or vanilla? **Vanilla**
4. Choir robes or Sunday best? **Choir Robes**
5. Idina Menzel or Bernadette Peters? **Why is that an "or"?**
6. Street-corner a capella or full orchestra? **Full orchestra**
7. New York City or Medina, Ohio? **This is a trick question! NYC**
8. Latin Mass or English Mass? **English**
9. Hawkeye or Green Arrow? **N/A - I don't know what this is** 😞
10. Pepsi or Coke? **Coke**
11. Indians World Series win or Browns Super Bowl win? **Are either likely?**
12. Mac or PC? **Mac, no questions**



Children climb closer to God

It was warm and sultry outside, but inside our Vacation Bible School last month, teachers were wearing their snow gear and talking about sledding.

During the Everest-themed week of morning activities, more than 125 children studied God's power, courage, care, forgiveness and love. They learned they could overcome any obstacle with God's awesome power. The Xavier Room was turned into a mountaintop base camp, where the children gathered to learn about the latest mishaps of Gina and Deanna (Paulette Kerns and Sue Rohe-Brooks) and Father Thom – wearing a stocking cap and suspenders – led them in prayer. Snow-capped mountain peaks adorned the hallways.

Children learned Bible stories of how God provided for and spoke to Elijah and healed Naaman, that Jesus died on a cross to save us from our sins, and that he promises us an eternal home.

"In heaven, we're all friends with one another and we share," Father Thom explained later in his classroom, as he handed out warm crocheted blankets to the children as they sat on the floor. "And boys and girls, in heaven, God's going to provide us all the rich foods – so today we have chocolate chip cookies!"

And, to make sure no one was left out, he gave a child with a peanut allergy a glow-stick bracelet.

"And God will generously provide all that you need." (2 Corinthians 9:8)





Construction continues across the campus

Work on the new vestibule on the west side of the church building got under way in June with the demolition of the crumbling ramp. Once gas and water mains were relocated, the bricklayers arrived to lay concrete blocks for the foundation of the addition that will house stairs to the church and basement, as well as a wheelchair lift.

Concrete footers were poured, walls were waterproofed and the area was backfilled with gravel and dirt. Soon, the bricklayers will return to lay brick for the exterior of the addition, which will match the existing church exterior. Work is expected to be completed this fall.

Meanwhile, 11 windows were replaced in three first-floor classrooms and one upstairs hallway of the school. With these new installations, the school now has all updated windows with much greater energy-efficiency than the original ones.

The windows were purchased through grant money allocated to the parish through the diocesan Rooted in Faith – Forward in Hope campaign. Thank you for your generous stewardship of your treasure to provide these necessary improvements.

Lastly, Medina City Schools is replacing the two trailers that were stationed on the east side of the gym with a single, large unit to house the Learning Center. One of the trailers had been there more than 20 years! The center provides such state-funded services as speech therapy, tutoring, psychological assessments, learning intervention and more.

We all look forward to these projects being completed and appreciate your continued patience while the work is in progress.



Edge campers have fun in service



About 35 teens in our annual Edge Camps spent a week in July learning more about people in our area in need and the social service agencies that serve them.

Led by Sue Rohe-Brooks, our director of religious education, the teens traveled to the Cosgrove Center in Cleveland, where they sorted clothes and interacted with the clients. They also played wiffle ball with residents of the Medina County Home, made crafts with residents of Brookdale South nursing home in Medina, worked with children and spread mulch at Country Life Kids Camp, participated in a talent show at the Medina County Board of Developmental Disabilities, and more. They also made time for fun with teambuilding exercises at Camp Christopher and a day at Fun 'n' Stuff in Macedonia.



In celebration of St. Francis Xavier Parish's 155th anniversary, all parishioners are invited to display their artistic talents in a juried fine art show Aug. 14-16. Parishioners are invited to create and submit fine artwork with some religious or faith-based theme. Art that feature aspects of our parish are of particular interest!

Type of work may include: painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, or mixed-media.

The weekend of Aug. 14-16, visit the Church Basement to see the beautiful pieces of art. In addition to our judges' decisions, we will invite visitors to nominate a "People's Choice" winner. That winner and three other pieces selected by our judges will be featured on blank note cards that will be available for sale at the parish office before Christmas.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)

Rules:

1. Must be a registered parishioner of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Medina, Ohio
2. Only one submission per person.
3. Artwork MUST be matted or framed.
4. Artwork of any size or medium is welcome, but must be transported to and from the parish grounds by the artist or his/her representative.
5. Artwork may be selected for reproduction by the parish, which may choose to make and sell representations of the work to benefit the parish, but all artwork remains the property of the artist.
6. Artwork must be dropped off at parish office by August 7 and must be picked up by 2:30 p.m. Aug. 16 in the church basement or, after that, in the parish office.
7. St. Francis Xavier Parish representatives reserve the right to withhold submissions deemed inappropriate for this setting.
8. St. Francis Xavier Parish or representatives are not responsible for any lost or damaged artwork.
9. Entry must have label attached to the upper left corner on the back of artwork.

St. Francis Xavier Parish
Medina, OH



155th Anniversary
Celebration

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PHONE _____

TITLE _____

E-MAIL _____

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 12

LifeShare bloodmobile,
9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Priests' Driveway



July 12-17

Life Teens travel to
Catholic Heart Work Camp,
Pittsburgh

Tuesdays in July

'Aging Gracefully' book study,
8:30 a.m., Xavier Room

July 22 & 29, Aug. 5, 12, 19

The Supernatural and the
Church's Teaching Tradition,
7 p.m., Xavier Room

July 21

Seniors Club trip to
Gervasi Vineyard, Canton



July 25

Knights of Columbus Pig Roast,
4:30 p.m., Church Grounds
Call Dave Selby, 216-389-4916,
or email dselby8020@msn.com,
for tickets.

Aug. 5

Seniors Club
1 p.m., Xavier Room

Aug. 10-16

SFX hosts Operation HOMES,
Randel House

Aug. 14

School Open House and Tailgate
Party, 6 p.m., Parish Grounds

Aug. 14-16

Parish Art Show during tailgate
party and after all Masses,
Church Basement



Aug. 16 & 23

Confirmation retreats,
2 to 8 p.m., Xavier Room

Aug. 19

First
day of
school!



Aug. 22

Walk with Mary day of reflection,
Parish Grounds

Aug. 31

24th Annual St. Francis Xavier Parish
Charity Golf Benefit