

September/October 2014



connecting the community of st. francis xavier catholic church

the

# Navigator

## Road to diaconate uncertain, paved with peace

By Jennifer Webb

Listening for God's call takes time, patience, attention and a willingness to sacrifice in order to gain "the pearl of great price." For two men of our parish, discerning God's call has led them to a formation process that could one day bring them to ordination as deacons in the Diocese of Cleveland.

By comparison, Bob Cavanaugh, who began his study last year as an aspirant, is near the beginning of his journey, having just been accepted in August into the program as a candidate for diaconate formation. He begins the first of four years as a candidate.

Both men note that their journey through the process could end at any time, should their professors and spiritual directors at St. Mary Seminary in Wickliffe conclude that they are not called to the diaconate. And they are at peace with that, because they too want to feel certain of God's plan for their lives.

Dino's path began after he attended a Christ Renews His Parish men's renewal in 2003. He decided to team, and found he enjoyed leading the team as lay director far more than he expected. After the year ended, he felt like he wanted to "do more." But, with young children at home, he and his wife, Gabrielle ("Gabby"), decided the time wasn't right.

By the time he was asked in 2010 to be co-spiritual to a new team of renewalists, the desire had started to surface again. But Dino and Gabby hadn't discussed that feeling with anyone.

Out of the blue, after an evening Mass, a woman he didn't know approached Dino and asked him, "are you a deacon?" When he said no, she responded, "I'm going to pray for you that you consider the diaconate."

The encounter continues to stun him. "I shook her hand, so I know she's real," he quips. "I'm sure she was meant to be there."

Ironically, he says, he was searching for people to talk him out of pursuing life as a deacon. But after a long talk with Deacon Paul Kipfstuhl and others, he found only

*Diaconate continued on page 2*



Gabby and Dino Paoletta have four children: Lauren, 22, Raymond, 20, Dino, 16, and Anthony, 10.

When school resumes this fall, Dean "Dino" Paoletta will enter his fifth and final year of formation, a process that requires numerous hours of study, many term papers, dedication to service and much prayer.

Photo by Dawn Cavanaugh



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



# Diaconate *continued from page 1*

encouragement. Then, as his year as co-spiritual was drawing to a close, he again encountered the woman – he learned her name was Ellie – after a weekday Mass.

“I called (the seminary) the next day,” Dino says.

Bob’s discernment also arose from men’s renewal. It was during adoration that a friend told him that he should consider the diaconate. “I said, ‘yeah, right,’” Bob recalls. “But it came into my head and just wouldn’t go away. A year later at adoration, the exact same thing happened.”

Soon after, his wife Dawn told Bob that she had dreamed that Bob had announced he was going to investigate the diaconate. This was doubly significant, because she hadn’t dreamed since their daughter Jordan died suddenly five years ago.

Several weeks later, en route to the Fest, Dawn asked Bob if he was going to do anything about “this deacon thing.” “I said, ‘I need one more nudge,’” Bob recalls. That day, a friend asked him: “Did you write your letter yet (about the diaconate)? What do you need, a *nudge*?”

After the trauma of losing their daughter, Dawn says, she was open to anything. “Our lives had changed so much over the last five years, what’s one more? I thought, let’s see what this is about,” Dawn recalls.

While their husbands are the ones pursuing ordination, Gabby and Dawn are very much part of the process.

With children ages 11, 9 and 5, Gabby says she recognized that Dino might have a calling to the diaconate, but prayed and felt the timing wasn’t right just yet. Then, seven years later, in the spring of 2010 – with one more child in the family –

The church has both “permanent” deacons – where a man studies to become a deacon – and “transitional” deacons – where a man is ordained as a step toward priesthood. Both work in many different settings. Unlike priests, most permanent deacons maintain full-time jobs outside the church. In addition to assisting at Mass, they might minister in a jail, hospital, school or homeless shelter. They may baptize, preside at a funeral, bring the Eucharist to the sick, assist at weddings and preach.



Photo by Jennifer Webb

Dawn and Bob Cavanaugh have two sons, Andrew, 22, Jonathan, 21, and Jordan.

Gabby says she again felt his call. “I trusted God,” she says.

The logistics aren’t easy. “But I had a deepening faith and trust that, whatever it would require, God would get us through,” Gabby says.

Every fall, when classes begin, she asks how they will manage a schedule that required them both to attend classes in Wickliffe on Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings. “I think, ‘how are we going to handle the kids?’” Gabby says. “Usually someone steps in out of the blue to help. Every year it works out. I just trust, and God’s always brought somebody.”

Bob and Dawn say their fears were allayed by turning to Deacon Paul and his wife, Michelle, for advice. Their sons, Jonathan and Andrew, were in college.

“I have an overwhelming sense that I’m called to serve,” Bob says. “I have no idea how.”

Dino says he doesn’t fear the uncertainty of ordination. “I’ve learned that I’m where I’m supposed to be,” he says. “Even if a week before ordination they tell me I’m not going to be ordained, I would know that I’m exactly where I’m supposed to be.”

He feels that he’s on the right path because, with every step, he feels tremendous peace. Sharing Deacon Paul’s advice, Dino urges those who might feel a call: “Let the Holy Spirit disturb you. Embrace discomfort.” Exploring those feelings – no matter how difficult – is the only way to discern God’s will for your life. Doing otherwise, he fears, would be an affront to God.

“How can I say no to God? If I go through it and it doesn’t work, at least I know I said yes,” Dino says. “If I don’t go through it, I have to go through my life wondering if I said no to God.”



# Life Teen celebrates 20 years

By Paul Koopman, director of Life Teen Youth Ministry

**Y**outh ministry has always been so close to my heart.

When I was a teenager my father suddenly passed away in his sleep; it was the worst day of my life. What resulted was a scattered life. I was confused, lost and deeply hurt. I was angry at God.

But soon after, I miraculously found an unexpected hope and comfort – I found a place to pray and grow, and an atmosphere where I could be released from my sorrows and fears. This haven was the St. Charles Parish youth group in Parma.

And youth ministry offers all of these things in the most demanding and significant stages of human formation – the teen years.

Both Sue Rohe-Brooks and I can tell you countless stories of conversion as a result of Life Teen. For the past 20 years at St. Francis Xavier, Life Teen has been giving teens an incredible number of opportunities to come to Jesus and to find a place of peace and understanding in the storms of their lives.

We are so blessed here at St. Francis Xavier to have such a ministry, I hope you know that. We have a ministry that produces foundations of faith, friends, marriages, hope, memories, bonds of charity, and so many more blessings. It is really a gift, a precious treasure, that has been passed down and nurtured by so many dedicated volunteers. Also, without question, we honor the strength and resolve of Sue Rohe-Brooks, our youth minister emeritus and our director of religious education (DRE) who began Life Teen so many years ago. We love you, Sue, and we appreciate your dedication to Life Teen.

Sue and I can tell you that the secret ingredient to any successful youth group is engagement and the dedication of volunteers and teens. Parishes that have dynamic youth groups have parishioners, pastoral staff and teens that want it. It is very simple: The success of any ministry comes down to engagement and stewardship.

Leadership is not passive but active. Christ is calling us to be the laborers of His harvest. He is saying, Get up! Use the gifts I gave you and GO make a difference! The more parents, teens and

## COMING EVENTS:

Sept. 7	Kickoff
Sept. 14	Exalt Night of praise and worship
Sept. 21	Life Night
Sept. 22	Justin Fatica of Hard as Nails Ministry
Sept. 24	Issue Night
Nov. 7-9	Fall Retreat at Camp Cheerful

parishioners heed this call, the stronger WE become! Gandhi so perfectly stated, “Be the change that you want to see in the world!”

Moving forward, our team is excited about continuing to serve the needs of our young people and families through Life Teen. Please continue to support us and keep us in your prayers. If you feel called to be part of this great ministry, we urge you to contact us.

Sue and I want to thank all the dedicated volunteers who have made Life Teen so great over the years, all those who have given their treasure, time and talent to such a pivotal, critical ministry of the Church. We ask God to grant us peace and success for many more years.

“I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!”

An early group of Life Teen core members.

Because of the dedication of so many volunteers and staff members, I found a place of peace and comfort. Through that youth group I was given opportunities to increase my faith and find peace again, and make amends with my Savior. I can honestly say that I am the man I am today because of their dedication to that ministry. I thank every single one of them.

I honestly do believe that youth ministry is one of the most vital and critical ministries in a parish and is often overlooked and under-appreciated.

Youth ministry gives so much to our young people in many different ways: vocations, peace, truth, charity, service, faith, friendship, mentorship, and more.



Thirty-eight teens made the 2014 spring retreat at Camp Cheerful.





# Growing in faith, step by step

It was a very busy summer here at the parish and school in the buildings and across the grounds. I am pleased that we were finally able to complete the parking lot. Over three summers we put into the lot 2,000 yards of concrete at a cost of about \$750,000 in order to make our parking lot and playground much safer for all who park and walk across it. I am so grateful to all who have stepped up to advise, work on, supervise and pay for all that has been done.

All of the improvements and repairs have been made so that the far more important work of ministry might happen here. We are disciples of the

Lord Jesus. He invites us to follow him and to learn from him. We do our part to cultivate a relationship with him in daily prayer, Sunday Eucharist and the generous sharing of our gifts in the various ministries and activities that allow us to serve the need of the people of not only our parish, but, also as a parish, serve the people of the wider community, especially the poor, the young, the sick and the dying. I am so very appreciative of so many giving of themselves on a regular basis to make all of that possible.

I would invite you to consider how the Lord is inviting you to follow him more closely, how to learn from him and

join with other members of the parish community in helping to advance the reign of God.

Please take the time to review and pray with your family about how God is calling each of you to take a step in faith.

Again, thank you for all you do. Know that more good can be done if each of us takes one more step closer to the Lord in prayer and service.

*Fr. Tony*

Fr. Tony

## Stewardship Renewal: Let's Get to Work

*By Jennifer Webb, director of ministry and communication*

Don't you love autumn? After the feeling of a less structured, carefree summer, autumn is a time to refocus our attention on the tasks at hand. What is the work we intend to accomplish? What tools and resources do we need to meet our goals?

It's a natural time to take stock of our activities and decide how we will approach the year. That's why our parish Stewardship Committee decided to move our Stewardship renewal activities to September. As you're thinking about the opportunities of the year ahead, think also about your commitments to your parish and community. Where are you being asked to serve? Where might God be calling you to devote a little more time in prayer and study? How might you reassess your financial blessings and see where you can invest a little more – how about even \$1 or \$5 more? – in God?

When we consider the blessings God has bestowed on us, and the way he has filled our lives with goodness, how can we not be filled with gratitude? We show our appreciation for

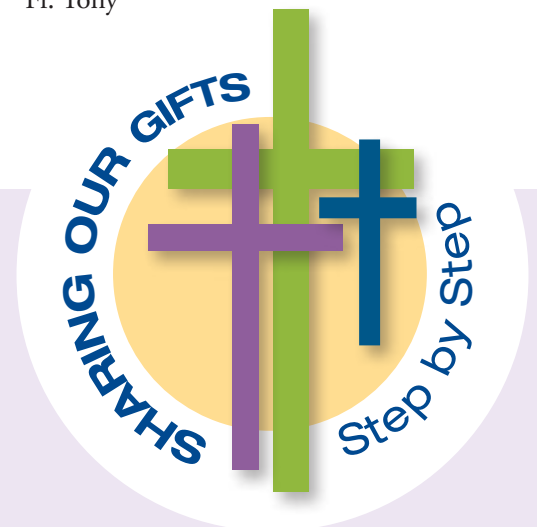
those blessings by sharing them with

others – in our families, parish, community and world. Like the stewards entrusted with the master's riches, we use what we are given to reap even greater benefits for our God.

We needn't feel overwhelmed by the opportunities that lie before us. God asks only that we share what we have – and when we all do that, we find that your gifts complement mine. In school parlance, it's group project time. Together, we can accomplish great things!

On the pages that follow you'll find commitment cards – one for adults and, this year, one for children (ages 7 to 17), one form per person. You can find additional forms on our parish website, [sfxmedina.com](http://sfxmedina.com), at church, SFX School, PSR or the parish office. Pray, consider, fill out and return to Mass the weekend of Sept. 20-21. Or, drop them off at the rectory or return to your teacher at any time.

Let's all sharpen our pencils and get to work.





## Annual Stewardship Commitment 2014–2015

Take 3 simple steps to make God a priority in your life.

Step 1: Commit your Time to God

Step 2: Commit your Talents in Service to Others

Step 3: Commit your Treasure to Support our Parish and its Mission

### St. Francis Xavier Parish

606 E. Washington St. | Medina, OH 44256

330-725-4968 | sfxmedina.com



**“My parish, St. Francis Xavier, is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is.”**

**First & Last Name** Each adult should complete a **separate** card. Select one member to complete the treasure commitment.

**Mailing Address**

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Work Phone

Email

**Best time to reach you?** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes, I would like to receive a weekly parish e-newsletter.

## Step One: TIME

### PRIMARY COMMITMENT TO GOD

- I will love the Lord my God with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all my mind.
- I will love my neighbor as myself.
- I will attend Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days.
- I will attend Reconciliation at least once each year.
- I will spend time each day in personal prayer.

### ADDITIONAL WAYS TO SPEND TIME WITH GOD

- I will attend weekday Mass.
- I will attend Holy Week Services.
- I will spend time in Eucharistic Adoration.
- I will attend Stations of the Cross.
- I will read the Bible or Sunday Scriptures each week.
- I will pray before meals and bedtime.

## SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT and EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

I = Interested in Joining    A = Actively Involved

Please see the 2014-2015 Parish Ministry Catalog or visit our parish website, [sfxmedina.com](http://sfxmedina.com), for detailed information on these spiritual opportunities.

I    A

- ☐ ☐ 8 a.m. Rosary Prayer after Weekday Mass
- ☐ ☐ Eucharistic Adoration
- ☐ ☐ Women of Grace Bible Study
- ☐ ☐ Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola
- ☐ ☐ RCIA Team or Sponsor
- ☐ ☐ Prayer Warriors by Email

I    A

- ☐ ☐ Walk with Mary
- ☐ ☐ Avilas
- ☐ ☐ May Crowning
- ☐ ☐ Men's Renewal (Spring)
- ☐ ☐ Women's Renewal (Fall)
- ☐ ☐ Men's Fellowship

I    A

- ☐ ☐ Women's Bible Study
- ☐ ☐ Men's Bible Study
- ☐ ☐ Lenten Faith Sharing
- ☐ ☐ Young Adult (ages 20s and 30s) Bible Study

Please bring to Mass on Sept. 20-21, return by mail or drop off at the parish office.

## Step Two: Commit your TALENTS in Service to Others

I = Interested in Joining A = Actively Involved

Please see the 2014-2015 Parish Ministry Catalog or visit our parish website, [sfxmedina.com](http://sfxmedina.com), for detailed information on these ministry opportunities.

### Liturgy & Worship

- I A
- ☐ ☐ Adult Choir
  - ☐ ☐ Art & Environment
  - ☐ ☐ Cantor
  - ☐ ☐ Children's Choir Aide
  - ☐ ☐ Children's Liturgy of the Word
  - ☐ ☐ Cleaning Angels (sacristans)
  - ☐ ☐ Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion
  - ☐ ☐ Instrumentalist in Music Ministry
  - ☐ ☐ Liturgy Commission
  - ☐ ☐ Reader
  - ☐ ☐ Resurrection Choir
  - ☐ ☐ Spring Cleaning of Church (on Thursday, March 26)
  - ☐ ☐ Usher/Minister of Hospitality

### Parish & Family Life

- I A
- ☐ ☐ Boy Scouts (Leader)
  - ☐ ☐ Cub Scouts (Leader)
  - ☐ ☐ Girl Scouts, Brownies, Daisies (Leader)
  - ☐ ☐ Co-Ed Softball League
  - ☐ ☐ CYO Coach
  - ☐ ☐ Hospitality Sunday
  - ☐ ☐ Knights of Columbus

- ☐ ☐ Lending Library
- ☐ ☐ Marriage Ministry
- ☐ ☐ Moms & Tots
- ☐ ☐ Pre-Cana
- ☐ ☐ Seniors Club
- ☐ ☐ Special Events (Parish Celebrations)
- ☐ ☐ Stitching Stewards

### Social Justice

- I A
- ☐ ☐ Battered Women's Shelter
  - ☐ ☐ Birthcare of Medina County
  - ☐ ☐ Employment Network: SFXENG
  - ☐ ☐ Funeral Luncheons
  - ☐ ☐ Giving Tree
  - ☐ ☐ Jail Ministry
  - ☐ ☐ Operation HOMES
  - ☐ ☐ Respect Life
  - ☐ ☐ Rosary Leader at Nursing Homes
  - ☐ ☐ St. Vincent de Paul Society

### Education\*

- I A
- ☐ ☐ Confirmation Catechist
  - ☐ ☐ Edge Program Facilitator
  - ☐ ☐ Life Teen Core Leaders
  - ☐ ☐ Life Teen Support

- ☐ ☐ Parent Teacher Club (SFX School)
- ☐ ☐ PSR Elementary on Thursday and/or Saturday
- ☐ ☐ PSR Inclusive Ministry
- ☐ ☐ PSR Preschool on Sunday (Catechist/Aide/Staff)
- ☐ ☐ SFX Classroom Volunteer
- ☐ ☐ SFX School Library Aide
- ☐ ☐ SFX School Playground/Lunch Aide
- ☐ ☐ Vacation Bible School

\*Please note that the Cleveland Diocese requires all adults who interact with children more than 4 hours per month to complete VIRTUS training and a background check.

### Fundraising

- I A
- ☐ ☐ Bingo
  - ☐ ☐ Sell Gift Cards
  - ☐ ☐ SFX Charity Golf Benefit

### Parish Operations

- I A
- ☐ ☐ Buildings and Grounds
  - ☐ ☐ Information Technology
  - ☐ ☐ New Parishioner Welcome Ministry
  - ☐ ☐ Office Volunteers
  - ☐ ☐ Parish Gardens

### My TALENTS to share are:

- ☐ Baking
- ☐ Brick Pointing
- ☐ Child Care
- ☐ Clerical
- ☐ Construction
- ☐ Cook/Serve Food
- ☐ Counseling
- ☐ Decorating
- ☐ Drama
- ☐ Electrician
- ☐ Event Planning
- ☐ Experienced Plumbing
- ☐ Finance
- ☐ Graphics
- ☐ Health Care Professional
- ☐ Housecleaning
- ☐ Landscape Design
- ☐ Learning Disabled
- ☐ Listening
- ☐ Mailings
- ☐ Marketing
- ☐ Organization
- ☐ Phone Calling
- ☐ Photography
- ☐ Prayer Support from Home
- ☐ Recruiting Others
- ☐ Sewing
- ☐ Teaching
- ☐ Tutoring
- ☐ Video Editing
- ☐ Word Processing
- ☐ Writing
- ☐ Other

## Step Three: Commit Your TREASURE to Support our Parish and its Mission

Contact me about directing a gift to the SFX Endowment Funds:

- \_\_\_ Church Endowment Fund – Facility and landscape maintenance, repairs and renovations
- \_\_\_ School Endowment Fund – Tuition assistance, teacher training, equipment and classroom improvements
- \_\_\_ I'm interested in making a planned gift. Please send me information about bequests and estate planning.
- \_\_\_ I'm interested in making a memorial or honorary gift to remember a loved one or special event (birthday, wedding, anniversary, etc.).

Every year we have the opportunity to reflect on and re-evaluate our giving in light of our commitment to our faith. This chart provides guidance to help you discern the level of your gift.

### WEEKLY AMOUNT OF GIFT

Income	10%	5%	3%	1%
\$30,000 (\$15/hr)	\$58	\$29	\$17	\$6
\$50,000 (\$25/hr)	\$96	\$48	\$29	\$10
\$70,000 (\$35/hr)	\$135	\$67	\$40	\$14
\$100,000 (\$50/hr)	\$192	\$96	\$58	\$19
\$150,000 (\$72/hr)	\$288	\$144	\$87	\$29
\$200,000 (\$96/hr)	\$385	\$192	\$115	\$38

## PARISH FAMILY COMMITMENT

In gratitude for what I/we have received from God, I/we intend to give:

\$\_\_\_\_\_ weekly \$\_\_\_\_\_ monthly \$\_\_\_\_\_ yearly

My/our method of donation will be:

\_\_\_ Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) \_\_\_ Envelopes

OR \_\_\_ weekly offertory envelopes

\_\_\_ Please contact me to revise my level of giving.

Household Name (please print)



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**St. Francis Xavier Parish**

606 E. Washington St. | Medina, OH 44256

330-726-4968 | [sfxmedina.com](http://sfxmedina.com)

**SEX  
YOUTH**

**“My parish, St. Francis Xavier, is composed of people like me. I help make it what it is.”**

**First & Last Name** Each youth, ages 7 to 17, should complete a separate card.

**Mailing Address**

Home Phone

Cell Phone

Email

**Best time to reach you?** \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Yes, I would like to receive a weekly parish e-newsletter.

### Step One: TIME

#### PRIMARY COMMITMENT TO GOD

- I will love the Lord my God with all my heart, with all my soul, and with all my mind.
- I will love my neighbor as myself.
- I will attend Mass on all Sundays and Holy Days.
- I will attend Reconciliation at least once each year.
- I will spend time each day in personal prayer.

#### ADDITIONAL WAYS TO SPEND TIME WITH GOD

- I will attend weekday Mass.
- I will attend Holy Week services.
- I will spend time in Eucharistic Adoration.
- I will attend Stations of the Cross.
- I will read the Bible or Sunday Scriptures each week.
- I will pray before meals and bedtime.

## SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT and EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

I = Interested in Joining    A = Actively Involved

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**I    A**

☐ ☐ 8 a.m. rosary on weekdays

☐ ☐ Avilas

☐ ☐ Cardboard City (Grade 9+)

☐ ☐ Catholic Heart Work Camp (Grade 9+)

☐ ☐ Exalt Eucharistic Adoration (Grade 9+)

**I    A**

☐ ☐ Fall Retreat (Grade 9+)

☐ ☐ Franciscan University  
Youth Conference (Grade 9+)

☐ ☐ Life Night Inspire (Grade 9+)

☐ ☐ Life Night Connect (Grade 9+)

**I    A**

☐ ☐ Prayer Warriors by email

☐ ☐ Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults  
\_\_\_\_ Peer Mentor (Age 7+, with parent)  
\_\_\_\_ Sponsor (Age 16+, confirmed)

☐ ☐ Spring Retreat (Grade 9+)

☐ ☐ Tolle Lege Summer Institute (Grade 11+)

**Please bring to Mass on Sept. 20-21 or return to your teacher or the parish office.**

## Step Two: Commit your TALENTS in Service to Others

I = Interested in Joining    A = Actively Involved

Please see the 2014-2015 Parish Ministry Catalog or visit our parish website, [sfxmedina.com](http://sfxmedina.com), for detailed information on these ministry opportunities.

### Liturgy & Worship

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| I                        | A   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Altar Server (Grade 6+)                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Art & Environment                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Cantor (Grade 8+)                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Choir (Grade 2+)                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Liturgy of the Word Aide          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Instrumentalist in Music Ministry (Grade 7+) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning Angels                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Usher/Ministry of Hospitality (Age 14+)      |

### Parish & Family Life

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| I                        | A   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Boy Scouts                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Cub Scouts                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Girl Scouts, Brownies, Daisies       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> CYO Sports                           |
|                          | ___ Athlete (Grade 3+)  |
|                          | ___ Assistant Coach (Age 16+)                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality Sunday Baker             |
|                          | ___ Baker   |
|                          | ___ Server  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Events (Parish Celebrations) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Stitching Stewards                   |

### Social Justice

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| I                        | A   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Battered Women's Shelter (Age 12+) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Birthcare (Age 14+)                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Funeral Luncheons                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Giving Tree (donor)                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Respect Life                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> St. Vincent de Paul Society        |
|                          | ___ Donor   |
|                          | ___ Auxiliary Teen Member (Age 16+)                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Rosary Leader at Nursing Homes     |

### Education

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| I                        | A  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Teen (Grade 9+)        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> The Edge (Grades 6-8)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> PSR Elementary (Grades 1-5) |
|                          | ___ Student  |
|                          | ___ Aide (Grade 9+)                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Edge Summer Camp            |
|                          | ___ Camper (Grades 7 & 8)                            |
|                          | ___ Counselor (Grades 11 & 12)                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Vacation Bible School       |
|                          | ___ Student  |
|                          | ___ Volunteer (Grade 8+)                             |

### Parish Operations

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| I                        | A   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Buildings and Grounds (Age 14+)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> New Parishioner Welcome Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Gardens                   |

### My TALENTS to share are:

- ☐ Baking
- ☐ Child Care
- ☐ Clerical
- ☐ Construction
- ☐ Cook/Serve Food
- ☐ Counseling
- ☐ Decorating
- ☐ Drama
- ☐ Event Planning
- ☐ Finance
- ☐ Graphics
- ☐ Learning Disabled
- ☐ Listening
- ☐ Mailings
- ☐ Marketing
- ☐ Organization
- ☐ Phone Calling
- ☐ Photography
- ☐ Recruiting Others
- ☐ Sewing
- ☐ Teaching
- ☐ Tutoring
- ☐ Video Editing
- ☐ Word Processing
- ☐ Writing
- ☐ Other

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## Step Three: Commit Your TREASURE to Support our Parish and its Mission

Every Catholic is invited to share in the mission of the Church by giving money to support its work.

☐ I will talk with my parents and give some of my treasure to the Church.

Please bring to Mass on Sept. 20-21 or return to your teacher or the parish office.





# The Holy Spirit is calling YOU!

**Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.**

**Proverbs 3:3**

**M**y name is Vicky Nann, and I've been a member of St. Francis Xavier Church since 2012. For the last several years I had been thinking about participating in my parish's women's renewal, but the time never seemed right. Then, last summer, when word went out that registration was open for the 2013 SFX Christ Renews His Parish Women's Renewal, without knowing exactly why, I decided that it was time.

I wasn't sure what to expect at a renewal. Although I consider myself a good Catholic, I am not particularly emotional about my faith. I participate at Mass as a reader, and was a catechist at my former parishes when my kids were little – and was also an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist (although I didn't feel particularly extraordinary). What would I “get out of” going to the SFX women's renewal? I had no idea, but something told me, “Go.”

The Holy Spirit works in amazing ways. I immediately felt welcome in a special group within our parish community. How peaceful and yet energizing it was to be with other women who shared my faith! We prayed together, had small group discussions, listened to the previous year's renewalists tell of their faith journeys, had an opportunity for private reconciliation, celebrated Mass... and on Saturday night, joined the fun of a grown-up girls' pajama party. Moreover, on both days we enjoyed delicious meals prepared for us by past SFX renewal teams. What a treat!

Everyone's experience is different. I realized I had attended because I wanted to feel more connected within the St. Francis Xavier faith community. Maybe that's your reason. Or maybe you're like I was, and you don't have a reason (yet). Here are comments from some of my fellow renewal team members who are organizing this year's women's renewal:

*Making the decision to go on the women's renewal was the BEST thing I could have done for myself AND my family. It was a peaceful time for me to re-evaluate my priorities, and it helped me find the support (my new sisters in Christ) that I needed to grow and nurture my relationship with God. It was better than I expected! And there were no dishes or laundry to do ALL WEEKEND! –Emily*

*The biggest surprise for me was the immediate sense of community. It started the moment we walked through the door on Saturday morning. That sense of community deepened as we spent more time together that weekend. My experience was proof that things work out exactly when they're supposed to. –Maria*



The 2014 Women's Renewal Team's theme is “Make Me New.”

*I met so many wonderful, spiritual women. The weekend met all my expectations and more. Renewal 2013 was one of the most wonderful experiences in my life. The Holy Spirit was present and touched me deeply. I would urge any woman who has not experienced Renewal to make it a priority in her life. –Carolyn*

*Renewal was for me more than a personal spiritual journey. It opened up a means for connecting with others. Through Renewal, the Body of Christ is strengthened, and we begin to see more clearly the path of our faith journey. –Joan*

*I came to Renewal last year feeling like I was broken into a million pieces while facing one of the most difficult times of my life. The peace, reflection and love poured out that weekend was indescribable. By renewing my commitment to my relationship with God, I have not only felt freedom and peace, but have been so blessed by the abundance of His grace. It is amazing what God is doing with my life and how happy I have become today! –Linda*

I urge you to join the women of St. Francis Xavier for what will surely be an opportunity to grow in faith and deepen your connection to the community.

**Please contact me, Vicky Nann, at 440-940-6266 or [vicky@vickynann.com](mailto:vicky@vickynann.com), or Mary Ellen Rife at 330-952-1632 or for more information.**

The 2014 Women's Renewal weekend is Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 18 and 19, and will be held at St. Francis Xavier in Medina. It is open to all registered female parishioners ages 18 and over. We begin on Saturday morning at 8:30 and conclude on Sunday afternoon at 4:30. Please join us! The Holy Spirit is calling.



## Justin Fatica to speak

Life Teen is pleased to bring Justin Fatica to speak at St. Francis Xavier Church at 7 p.m. Monday, Sept. 22. All are invited to join the students preparing for confirmation, who will attend as part of their formation.

Justin is the executive director of Hard as Nails Ministry, which was founded in 2002 to help youth and young adults recognize the power of God's love for them. Speakers within the organization work to help young people develop a strong relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church to overcome the materialism of our culture.



"At Hard as Nails Ministry, we believe that everyone should know that they are amazing, not for what they have done, but for who they are, God's kid. This recognition of who they are (their baptismal calling) is the first step in neutralizing all of the cliques, bullying and separation, because they will all realize how important they are," the organization's website states. "We are determined to help youth and young adults know the power of God's love by sharing their story, sympathizing with others, seeking help, and stepping outside their comfort zone."

Photo supplied by Hard as Nails Ministry

## Drive benefits Battered Women's Shelter

By Angela Sass

The Christmas in July Donation Drive for the Battered Women's Shelter was a tremendous success thanks to the generosity of St. Francis Xavier parishioners. We filled two and a half pickup trucks with donations and collected \$690 in cash contributions. Your donations will directly impact the more than 1,600 Medina County domestic violence victims served each year by the Battered Women's Shelter.

Domestic violence is widespread and has no demographic boundaries. Abuse can occur in many forms – sexual, physical, verbal and emotional. Everyone knows a victim of domestic violence. The Battered Women's Shelter provides short- and long-term protective shelter, hotline services/support, advocacy and education in an effort to break the cycle of abuse, empower victims and help promote peace in every family.

A new ministry has been established at St. Francis Xavier to work closely with the Battered Women's Shelter of Summit and Medina County. The Christmas in July Donation Drive is the first of many upcoming initiatives sponsored by this ministry. Thank you for your generosity.

For more information about our ministry, contact Monica Russell at 330-721-9160 or [mk1650@yahoo.com](mailto:mk1650@yahoo.com).



Parishioners generously stocked the shelter's shelves during the parish's first Christmas in July donation drive.

### WHAT WAS COLLECTED?

583 toiletry & cleaning items including:  
248 double rolls of toilet paper,  
100 rolls of paper towels, 94 boxes of tissues, 13 jugs of laundry soap, 14 toothbrushes, 6 bags of diapers and 20 packages of wipes

655 food items including: 76 cans of fruit/vegetables, 32 jars of spaghetti sauce, 27 boxes of pasta, 27 jars of peanut butter, 51 cans of tuna fish, 45 boxes of cereal, 33 cans of lunch meals

6 large bags/boxes of toys, crayons, coloring books, squirt guns, jump ropes, bubbles, chalk, kites, hula hoops, etc.

107 clothing items including:  
14 pairs of flip flops, 45 pairs of underwear, 47 pairs of socks

1 bed pillow

Photo by Angela Sass





# Come see the Pope!

By Jim Petros

**E**ach Saturday morning at Eat 'n' Park, a group of men of the parish get together to discuss challenges in their lives and to study scripture.

These men step out of their comfort zone to try and make their community more aware of the need to help others.

Their theme is to "embrace discomfort," putting themselves into positions that they normally don't face, in a desire to make their community a better place to live. They do this to honor His desire to accomplish the goal of love for all.

It's not all prayer and scripture, but a bonding between men, trying to make their lives a little better, and be closer to God.

Recently, Deacon Paul Kipfstuhl, who leads the group, thinking way outside the box, decided that it would be a great idea to invite His Holiness to our little gathering. The group even offered to chip in and pay for his breakfast!

So, a letter was drafted, reviewed by the group and Father Tony, and sent on to Vatican City. After about two months they received a reply, a beautiful picture of the Holy Father. So now THE Holy Father sits in a picture frame at Eat 'n' Park with them. They also told the pope that he has to buy breakfast each week that he doesn't show up. So far no response to that.

These men have been meeting for the last two years. Their discussion goes from cement to lighthouses, from favorite restaurants to golf, from haircuts to Father Thom's homily. You

never know what topic comes up. For example, they might discuss why someone gave up his allegiance to the Browns, the meaning behind a Steelers tattoo, what a pelican and Holy Communion have in common, Father Thom's fascination with lighthouses, and what impact God can have in their daily lives.

They have developed a close relationship with each other that goes beyond Saturday mornings. They know that they can count on each other at any time. It's a feeling that makes their lives just a little bit better.

So, what's the bottom line? Well, these men would like to see some new faces, and are opening this up to other men of our parish. Even if you are not comfortable participating in the scripture discussion, you can just pass, listen, learn, or say "ditto" to what the guy to your right said.

In a world that desperately needs more men to stand up for those less

fortunate, they are attempting to show others, that it is not "others," but "we" who need to step forward.

They do realize that they are only a drop in the ocean, but maybe, through their prayers they can create a small wave, and recruit other men. Only He knows what they can accomplish.

So they ask you to "embrace discomfort," to get up on Saturday morning and come to Eat 'n' Park. Visit with them (and Pam, who has been our waitress since we started meeting two years ago), and know that He is with us. Through His guidance we can become better men.

Come join us – and the Pope – for breakfast this Saturday!

For more information, email me at [embracesaturday@aol.com](mailto:embracesaturday@aol.com)



Bob Pryatel, Phil Zarara, Dave Selby, Pope Francis, Howard Duta, Brian Cerio and Deacon Paul Kipfstuhl gathered on a recent Saturday for breakfast and spiritual growth.

## St. Francis Xavier

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## Change Service Requested

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# Calendar of Events

### Sept. 7

Hospitality Sunday  
& Ministry Fair

After 8, 10 & noon Masses,  
Church Basement

Life Teen kicks off  
its 20th year at SFX

5:30 p.m. Mass; all teens  
invited to stay for Life Night

### Sept. 11

Thursday night PSR begins;  
books are blessed

### Sept. 13

Saturday morning PSR begins;  
books are blessed

### Sept. 20-21

Stewardship Commitment  
Weekend

Please bring your completed  
commitment cards to Mass!  
More copies are available at  
the church & parish office.

### Sept. 22

Justin Fatica of Hard as Nails  
Ministry speaks  
7 p.m., Church

### Sept. 24

The Edge (PSR for grades 6-8)  
kicks off

### Oct. 4

Blessing of the Pets  
10:30 a.m., parish grounds

### Oct. 5

Hospitality Sunday –  
food and fellowship!  
After the 8 & 10 a.m. and  
noon Masses,  
Church Basement

Baptism Class  
1:30 p.m., Xavier Room

### Oct. 6-13

SFX hosts Operation HOMES  
Randel House

### Oct. 11

Parish Halloween Parrty  
3 to 4:30 p.m., gym  
Pirate-themed games, food,  
trick-or-treat and costume  
contest. See bulletin for details.

The Navigator newsletter is brought to you by the Stewardship Committee of St. Francis Xavier Parish.

Want to help? Have feedback? Contact Jennifer Webb at [jwebb@stfrancisxavier.info](mailto:jwebb@stfrancisxavier.info).