

September/October 2013



the

connecting the community of st. francis xavier catholic church

# Navigator

## Moving from fear to trust

### A letter from our pastor

One of the earliest things that we teach our children is how to pray. These prayers might be the Sign of the Cross, grace before meals or bedtime prayers, or the Our Father, Hail Mary or Glory Be. They teach us to focus on the One who created us and that we are precious in the Father's eyes and that he cares for us and wants to hear from us.

Photo by Jennifer Webb



Father Tony Sejba pauses outside church before Mass.

As we get older, we learn to pray the Mass, the Rosary, the Stations of the Cross, the Creed and Act of Contrition. We are taught to praise God, to thank him for the blessings of life and love, to say we are sorry and to ask for help. In effect, prayer helps us develop a relationship with the Trinity.

As we grow a little older, we learn that prayer is not only our talking to God, but also our listening to God's response, through sacred Scripture, preaching, the sacraments – especially the Eucharist and Penance, other people and our experiences. The conversation develops as we open ourselves to greater docility to the Holy Spirit, who helps us to pray and listen to the will of God. With greater direction from the Spirit, we move from fear to trust, from selfishness to self-giving, from having it "our way" to his way. Ultimately, our conversion to be more like Jesus happens through prayer in the context of the Christian community.

This year's stewardship theme is "Sharing our Gifts." Spending time with the Lord in prayer helps us to help answer the question about how we are to share our gifts with others. How do I give the gift of who I am back to God and to those who need me? Prayer allows



us to meet God in the depth of our person, in our hearts – to engage in a loving conversation about how we are to think and speak and conduct ourselves.

Going to that place can be scary if we doubt that He has our best interests at heart. We may not go there because we are unsure if He can love us as we are. We may not want to see who we have become. Or we may be afraid that He may ask too much of us too quickly. But, as the Holy Father assured the young people of the world gathered at Rio for World Youth Day, we are the apple of the Father's eye. He is most tender and gentle with his children.

Please take some time to look over the stewardship commitment card here in the Navigator to pray over which ways the Lord is calling you to share your time with him to better give of yourself.

**Trust** 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  
All Saints Day Holy Day of Obligation – 5 p.m. Oct. 31; 7:30 & 9:15 a.m., noon & 7 p.m. Nov. 1



# Trust

*continued from page 1*

As we conclude the Year of Faith this fall, we have for you a number of wonderful opportunities to listen to others share the story of their life of faith. Dr. Richard B. Fratianna from the MetroHealth Medical Center's burn unit will be sharing his journey of faith on Sept. 18 in the church. Father Tom McCarthy, OSA, will be presenting a three-day parish mission on the sacraments in October. Jason Evert will be here to present the beautiful teaching of chastity to our middle and high school students and their parents.

And I will be closing the Year of Faith in Rome, during my sabbatical from Sept. 9 through Nov. 26. I will take classes in preaching, Paul's letter, theology and pastoral leadership. The time away will also allow me to visit the Holy Land for 10 days at the end of October; it has been one of my dreams to visit where the Lord spent his time on earth. This trip will afford me many opportunities to pray at the holy sites in Rome, Assisi, Jerusalem, Bethlehem and other destinations on weekend trips. I want you to know that I will be praying for you and offering Mass for you. Please keep me in your prayers, that I might use the time well for rejuvenation, rest and renewal so that I may return even more ready and willing to give of myself in service here at St. Francis Xavier.

*F. Tony*

# 6 Ways to Renew

*By Jennifer Webb*

**P**rayer is one of the most powerful tools we have in our human toolbox, because it connects us in a life-giving relationship with the Almighty. We have opportunities daily to begin or renew this relationship, bringing us ever closer to the Lord throughout our day.



However, no matter how good our intentions might be, it's easy to fall out of the habit of prayer. It seems that there always are other responsibilities that threaten to take precedence. There's a temptation to put it off.

Perhaps it's time for a fresh look at some of the many opportunities we have here at St. Francis Xavier Parish for personal and communal prayer. Try something today to start a new habit or invigorate an old one. God will take our little "mustard seeds" of effort and grow something beautiful!

## Daily Mass

In addition to the five weekend Masses, our priests celebrate Mass at 7:30 a.m. Mondays through Saturdays, and at 7 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays. During the school year, Mass is celebrated most Tuesdays at 9:15 a.m. for students, but all are welcome to participate.

Susan Orians, a nurse, comes to daily Mass when she can before work. She admits it's not always easy to carve out the time. "Sometimes I fight the Spirit's call," she says with a laugh. "Especially when it's warm in bed. But I get up."



Others notice a difference in her attitude, Susan says. "They say I'm a much happier person when I go to Mass first," she says. "It does put some peace in your heart and starts your day off right."

Paul Taylor started coming to daily Mass after being inspired by his Christ Renews His Parish renewal experience about 10 years ago. He had retired, and says he was used to getting up early after decades of work.

Barb Evans says she had to stop coming to daily Mass when she returned to work, but during vacation this week she was happy to come every day. "It's a nice way to start the day," she says. "It seems like the day goes better when I do this. I say 'thank you' and count our blessings."

## Rosary

Immediately after the morning Mass, Margaret Wolfe begins to pray aloud, offering the rosary for the intentions of the Holy Father and other needs. Soon she is joined by the voices of others in the pews who have remained to pray to the Blessed Mother. It's Saturday, the day Margaret leads the prayers, and the others finish the second halves of the Our Fathers and Hail Marys.



# Your Prayer Life

"It's been such a blessing in my life. And, I think, a blessing for our parish," Margaret says. "I think when we're all there gathered around the Blessed Mother, and we take turns saying the rosary, I think we get special blessings for our parish."

Margaret, who has been in the parish nearly all of her 77 years, says she enjoys giving her first hour to God. When she worked as a bookkeeper, she attended Mass on Saturdays, but started coming daily when she retired. "Then you're all ready to take on the day and its challenges."



(New and younger prayer leaders are needed for this ministry. Contact one of the prayer leaders if you can help.)

The mother of six, who is one of a handful of parishioners who pray the rosary with residents at area nursing homes, encourages parents to start with just a decade each night with their children. "She's the shortest line to her Son," Margaret says. "The dividends are so rich."

## Adoration

Each First Friday after the 7 p.m. Mass, parishioners are invited to adore

the Blessed Sacrament through the night, concluding just before the 7:30 a.m. Saturday morning Mass. Each hour is a mix of parishioners leading prayers aloud and time for silent prayer. (The early morning hours from midnight through 6 a.m. are particularly in need of more adorers.)

This summer, a daytime opportunity for adoration was added, on the third Saturday of the month after the 7:30 a.m. Mass. Calling it a "Holy Half-Hour for Life," worshipers offer prayers with the special intention to end abortion and support life.

"We take turns leading rosary reflections," says Kathy Smith. "Then we head to Planned Parenthood (on Medina Road) and pray there for an hour. The Holy Half-Hour is a real blessing. We can ask God to change hearts."

## Pilgrim Virgin Statue

For more than 50 years, SFX parishioners have shared a Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima statue of the Blessed Mother, which travels in a duffel bag weekly between homes. People sign up, often a year or more in advance, to host the 3-foot statue and commit to daily prayer and reflection. Many report blessings and peace within their homes, which they attribute to this special time of prayer.

Dates for 2013 are filled, but some slots are available in 2014. To sign up, call Judy Friedrich at 330-725-4265.

## Praying with the sick

A conversion experience five years ago prompted Barbara Grygier to start attending daily Mass, but she didn't stop

there. She trained to bring the Eucharist to Catholics in Medina Hospital, then felt called to do the same at Hospice of Medina County.



"I enjoy that immensely," Barbara says. "It's such a beautiful ministry to share the faith with the elderly and shut-ins, and see how much they appreciate you bringing Jesus to them."

Becoming involved in this ministry required her to step out of her comfort zone, she says, but Barbara says she feels so uplifted by it. "He gives you what you need when you need it," she says.

## Parish Mission

In October, our parish will host Father Thomas R. McCarthy, OSA, who will present a three-day mission focused on the sacraments.



Father Tom, a native of Chicago, is the vocation director for the Midwest Province of the Augustinian Order, and the chaplain and chairman of the board of directors of St. Rita of Cascia High School. He has served at the Chicago high school since 1994, first as teacher and later as principal and president.

He will talk on Monday, Oct. 7; Tuesday, Oct. 8; and Wednesday, Oct. 9, about the sacraments of initiation, healing, matrimony and holy orders. He poses – and answers – such questions as: "Why did Jesus like to party so much?" And, "what do bowling shoes have to do with Confirmation?"

Join us in the church to hear his inspiring talks, with fellowship to follow each evening.





# Prayer means listening *and* asking

By Father John Lee

Let me tell you a story. A little boy went to Giant Eagle with his mom. While his mom was buying some food, the boy grabbed some candy and shouted, "Mom, I want to have this candy." But his mom did not pay attention to him and kept selecting food. The boy raised his voice: "Mom, buy this candy for me." Turning to the boy, the mom said, "No, you already bought some candy yesterday." The boy did not give up and said, "Mom, if you buy this candy, I will finish my homework by today." But the mom replied, "Today I will not buy any candy for you. Do not ask any more."

Finally the boy cried. Watching her son crying, the mom approached him and said, "Today is not a candy day. Today is a brownie day. I bought some brownies for you." The boy stopped crying and smiled, saying to his mom, "Thank you. I love brownies."

easy to pray. So Jesus introduced a perfect example of the prayer, which is the Lord's Prayer. When we recite the Lord's Prayer, we seek God's will and His plan first. "Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come." In order to discern what God wants us to do, we have to listen first. And then we ask what we need. "Give us each day our daily bread." So praying is not just asking for what we need. Praying is not only asking and speaking to God, but also listening and discerning God's will. Praying is first listening and then speaking, which is communication – both directions, not one direction.

Thus, when we pray in private silence, we have to be careful about talking and asking. We first listen to God. But, interestingly, when we pray together at Mass, the opposite situation happens. We just listen to the messages of the Lord and do not faithfully respond. We listen to the readings, homily and Eucharistic Prayer. After listening, we have to joyfully and sincerely give praise and thanks to God. As I said, praying is not one direction, but both directions. Give your faithful and thankful response to God by actively singing the responsorial psalm, sincerely reciting the creed and joyfully singing the hymns. We are encouraged to have active, conscious and full participation in the liturgy.

In the Gospel story, a friend kept asking his friend to give him some bread. So, he received some loaves of bread. In the celebration of the Mass, Jesus gives us life-giving bread, the Eucharist. Even though we do not as eagerly ask Jesus as the friend in the Gospel, Jesus always gives us the best gift, His Precious Body and Blood. We believe that Jesus becomes the Bread and strengthens us. So, when you receive Holy Communion, please express your belief with faith, by saying loudly, "Amen." Again, Mass is not one direction, but both directions. When the priest says, "The Body of Christ," Jesus says to us, "This is my Body. I became bread for you. Do you believe?" We have to respond, "Yes, Lord! We truly believe that." Please, say "Amen" faithfully with a loud voice.

St. Augustine says that praying is breathing for our spirit. Just as our physical body needs to breathe to survive, our souls also need spiritual breath. Take a deep breath when you start to pray, and feel the presence of the Lord. And then try to find God's plan before asking about our own plan.

Maybe God will say to us: "Today is not the day for candy. Today is a brownie day."



Photo by Jennifer Webb

Father Lee blesses a rosary for Emily Wuensch.

In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches us how to pray. He says, "Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." When we faithfully pray, God will hear our cries and answers our prayers. This is our faith and the teaching of Jesus. However, we have to keep in mind that God will answer our prayers in the way He wants, not the way we want. God's way is much better than our way. Even though God does not seem to listen to our petitions, let us keep praying. Maybe God wants to give us brownies instead of candy.

As followers of Jesus, we need to pray. But still it is not



# Renewal taught me how to pray

By Diane Olesinski

I attended my first Christ Renews His Parish women's renewal in October 2007. My husband, David, had attended the men's renewal six months earlier and I wanted what he came home with: a new inner peace, deepened faith and a renewed sense of commitment to me, our two daughters and God. I had put off renewal for several years. I had been asked many times but it never seemed to be the right time. Something was really calling me that year so I decided to attend.

Walking through those doors on that Saturday morning was quite scary. Not an emotion I expected to have. But I was about to spend the next 30-plus hours with women I had never met, and I had no idea what was going to happen. I can't articulate in words what emotions I had that weekend but I can say that it changed my life. To be more accurate, God changed my life.

Before renewal, my prayer life was sporadic at best. I prayed, but really only in church and at night. Being a busy mom, if I got in an "Our Father" or "Hail Mary" before I feel asleep, I felt like I was doing good. I was always told that the angels will finish your prayers if you fall asleep while praying. Well, they must have been really tired of all the prayers they had to finish for me!

During one part of my renewal weekend, Deacon Joe brought out his picture of "Brother Jesus." I have always loved this picture of Jesus. To me it captures all the love that Jesus represents and all that love is reflected in his eyes. After Deacon Joe took out this picture, he said "Just talk to Him." Pretty simple concept, yet extremely powerful.



The 2013 Christ Renews His Parish Women's Renewal Team invites all women of the parish to join them Oct. 19-20 for renewal.

It was life-changing for me. From that moment on, I looked at prayer in a whole new light. I was building a relationship. Prayer wasn't a couple of memorized lines before I went to bed; it was many conversations throughout the day, telling Jesus all my thoughts, and then listening for his response. Mother Teresa said, "Don't look at praying as you picking up a phone and God answering. Look at praying as a phone that is always ringing and God is always on the other end."

Renewal wasn't anything like I thought it would be. I didn't have to drink any Kool-Aid, I never felt "less" spiritual than anyone else or judged, and it took me off guard that I immediately felt loved, nurtured and supported as a woman. Everyone was in a different place in their lives, yet we all respected and admired each other for who we are and where we were on our spiritual journey. We didn't point out differences; we embraced our commonalities. It wasn't judgmental at all, it was the opposite. When I finally let go of all the things I was "worried renewal would

be like," I was then open to say to God: "Reveal Your Glory in My Life." (That was the theme for my weekend.)

I left renewal with everything that I had hoped for and then some. I had a new inner peace, stronger faith and a deeper commitment to my husband, daughters, friends and parish. But I also left with something I wasn't expecting. I had a new relationship with Jesus. In four words, Deacon Joe taught me a whole new way to pray to God.

"Just talk to Him."

I am completely blessed to be the co-spiritual director for the 2013 CRHP Women's Renewal under the leadership of Deacon Joe. Kelly Cerio is our wonderful lay director, and we have a group of amazing women. The theme this year is "All Things Possible" and will take place Oct. 19-20. More information can be found in the rectory or by talking with any member of our team.

Is He calling you?





## Chastity speaker coming to SFX



**L**ife Teen and Edge ministries are pleased to welcome internationally renowned chastity speaker Jason Evert to

St. Francis Xavier Church on Nov. 13.

Evert is a best-selling author of more than 10 books, including “Theology of the Body for Teens” and “How to Find Your Soulmate without Losing Your Soul.” He leads an international alliance of young people to promote chastity in more than 40 countries. He has traveled to five continents to bring the message of chastity to more than 1 million teens in the past 15 years.

Evert earned a master’s degree in theology, as well as undergraduate degrees in counseling and theology, from Franciscan University of Steubenville.

In his highly popular chastity seminar, “Romance without Regret,” he provides compelling and uplifting reasons for embracing the virtue of chastity.

Evert will make two presentations in the church:

**6 p.m. Parent Talk**  
**“Raising Pure Families”**

**7:30 p.m. Teen Talk**  
**“Romance without Regret”**

Refreshments will be offered in the church basement for teens during the parent talk. Parents are encouraged to attend both talks.

The evening will end with 30 minutes of adoration, music and benediction, and will conclude by 9:15 p.m.

# Sharing Our Gifts to build the Kingdom

By Jennifer Webb, Stewardship Committee Chairwoman

**F**or each of my five children, I think, the best day of the whole year is his or her birthday. Why? “Presents!” they exclaim with great joy. They have to share every other day of the year with someone else, but the day of their birth is uniquely theirs. And they know the wrapped gifts that await on the table after birthday cake are only for them.

But we don’t have to wait for our birthdays for God’s gifts. He gives them to us every day, sometimes wrapped in neat little envelopes from the boss or beneath the earth in our garden. Sometimes they’re a bit concealed inside those we encounter, or as taken for granted as the air.

When we acknowledge that every good thing we have comes from God – from the ability to smile at a stranger to the skills to prepare a marketing strategy – we are flooded with gratitude. And we know that God gives us these gifts to be

shared with those around us, because that’s when their beauty really shines.

The Stewardship Committee here at St. Francis Xavier Parish selected “Sharing Our Gifts” as our theme for this year’s renewal campaign after considering how everything is a gift from God. When we joyfully share those gifts in the parish, we complement each other for the good of the Kingdom.

*“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”* (1 Peter 4:10)

We invite you to look over the Commitment Card (at right), which was streamlined slightly and updated from last year. Pray about where God is calling you to give your time in prayer. Where does He want you to lend your talents in ministry? How can you use your treasure – your financial resources – to benefit the parish?

Visit the Ministry Fair on Oct. 6 and explore the variety of ministries available here. Then, detach and bring your Commitment Card with you to Mass on Oct. 19-20. We’ll fill them out in the pew if you haven’t done so already. (One per adult; extras are available at [www.stfrancisxavier.org](http://www.stfrancisxavier.org) and at the church entrances.) The cards will be collected and presented before God at the altar.

Give us several weeks to process this information. If you join a new ministry, your ministry leader will welcome you to the group and tell you more. If you are adjusting your gift of treasure, a member of the rectory staff will be in touch.

We look forward to opening the gifts you share!







## Annual Stewardship Commitment 2014

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 | stfrancisxavier.info



**"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 and way to reach you?** \_\_\_\_\_

A ministry leader will contact you if you checked interest in a ministry, spiritual enrichment or school committee.

### Step One: Commit Your TIME to GOD

#### 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 2013-2014 Parish Ministry Catalog on our parish website,  
[www.stfrancisxavier.info](http://www.stfrancisxavier.info), 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**

#### Small Christian Communities:

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

Please return to Mass on Oct. 19 & 20; return by mail or drop off at rectory.

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

I = Interested in Joining    A = Actively Involved

Please see the 2013-2014 Parish Ministry Catalog on our parish website,  
[www.stfranciscxavier.info](http://www.stfranciscxavier.info), for detailed information on these ministries.

### Liturgy & Worship

- I    A
- ☐ ☐ Adult Choir
  - ☐ ☐ Art & Environment
  - ☐ ☐ Cantor
  - ☐ ☐ Children's Choir Aide
  - ☐ ☐ Children's Liturgy of the Word
  - ☐ ☐ Cleaning Angels (sacristans)
  - ☐ ☐ Instrumentalist in Music Ministry
  - ☐ ☐ Liturgy Commission
  - ☐ ☐ Reader
  - ☐ ☐ Resurrection Choir
  - ☐ ☐ Spring Cleaning of Church
  - ☐ ☐ 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 (Drivers)
  - ☐ ☐ 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
  - ☐ ☐ 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
- ☐ 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

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

Household Name \_\_\_\_\_





# Scouts policy doesn't violate Church teaching

By Jennifer Webb

**T**he Boy Scouts of America made headlines last spring when it announced it would not deny youth membership “on the basis of sexual orientation or preference alone,” sending a current of concern rippling through its ranks.

But after careful consideration, discernment and consultation with priests and bishops, SFX parishioner and Cub Scout leader Edward Martin – who serves as the National Catholic Committee on Scouting’s national chairman – says that the policy is not in conflict with Catholic teaching.

Ed, who is an Eagle Scout and has been involved with Scouting for more than 30 years, says the resolution “appeared to respect (Catholic) teachings” and that the Boy Scouts remains “a viable form of youth ministry with the Catholic youth of our nation.”

Ed admits he was troubled initially about where the change in the BSA youth membership standard could lead. However, he notes that the Catechism of the Catholic Church upholds the dignity of all human beings created by God, including individuals who disclose a same-sex attraction.

He also notes that the BSA affirmed that “any sexual conduct, whether homosexual or heterosexual, by youth of Scouting age is contrary to the virtues of Scouting.” BSA also confirmed the importance of “duty to God” and “reverence” as primary parts of the Scout oath.

Under the resolution, a youth who has expressed a same-sex attraction may

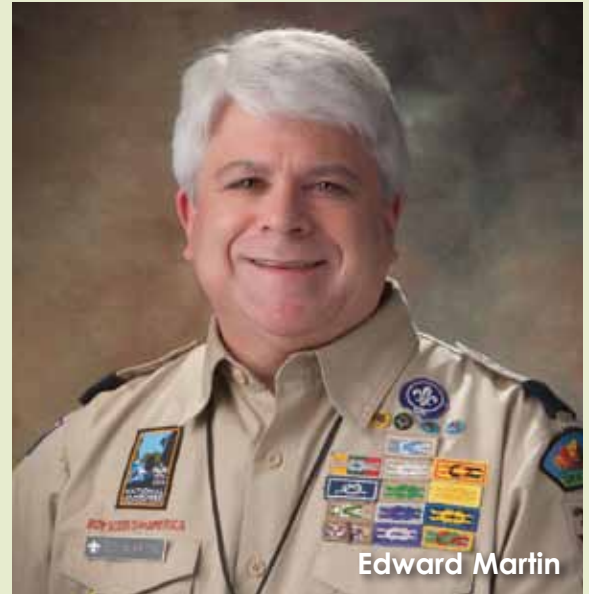
continue to receive a rank award or religious emblem, and he should not be afraid of being expelled by the Scouting organization for disclosing his orientation.

BSA is expected to provide more details on the application of this resolution before it is implemented Jan. 1.

The debate thrust Ed into a national spotlight only a month after taking the helm of the national organization. He joined the NCCS in 1986 when he became chair of the Catholic Committee for the Diocese of Columbus. In 1988, he married Stephanie and they have six children; he serves as a Cub Scout den leader for his youngest son.

In addition to his Eagle Scout Award, he has received BSA’s Wood Badge and Silver Beaver awards, and the St. George and Silver St. George awards from the NCCS. Prior to serving as the NCCS national chairman, he served about 25 years in various leadership positions on its executive board as a committee chair (Vocations, Training, Finance), as a region chair (Ohio and Michigan) and as a vice chair (four terms).

Here at SFX, Ed also serves as a lector and member of Knights of Columbus Council 4168. He has completed coursework required for certification in Youth Ministry Specialization from the Diocese of Cleveland.



Edward Martin

He says that the change in the Boy Scouts’ policy now allows youth to receive counseling, if needed.

A few parishes nationwide have discontinued their involvement with BSA, but St. Francis Xavier will continue to charter Troop 506 and Cub Scouts Pack 3506.

Boys Scouts offers “a program of youth ministry (with) all the characteristics the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops says a program of Catholic youth ministry should have,” Ed says. “It’s one of the reasons that Catholic organizations do support Scouting, because it helps to develop youth in their faith formation process.”

“Nothing’s really changed other than we’re allowing youth who had these feelings to disclose it and give them the opportunity to get help. That’s our Catholic teaching at work,” Ed says. “Until that situation changes, people should still feel open to supporting Scouting. There’s no better program out there, from my standpoint.”



# More students greet staff, new principal

By Jennifer Webb

**T**he number fluctuated daily in the weeks leading up to the start of the 2013-14 school year, but St. Francis Xavier School opened its doors and hearts to welcome 502 students.

That's 22 more students than were enrolled last year, and 63 more than the year before.

Adding the 63 preschoolers in the Little Sailors Preschool brings the grand total this year to 565.

"It's exciting that we're so full," says Bibiana Seislove,

who begins her tenure as principal after the retirement this summer of Sister Sandra Bevec, who had held that post for 24 years.

Accommodating that many students meant adding a third second grade and hiring a teacher, Amy

Evrard. Mrs. Evrard, the mother of three SFX students and a frequent substitute teacher last year, returns to the SFX classroom full time after being away for 10 years. She had taught second grade at SFX for three years before the birth of her children.

Adding a class meant finding space – so a large, second-floor room with a window that had been used for storage by Sue Rohe-Brooks, the director of religious education, was cleared out for use as the music room, where Pat McDermott will give instruction for members of the band. The room where Mrs. McDermott had given lessons is now a third-grade classroom.

Also joining the staff is Belinda Meier, the new auxiliary secretary for the Learning Center. That's the new name for the set of mobile units just outside the east doors of the school, where students receive state-funded help with speech, reading and other subjects, and the office of the school psychologist.

And, aide Patty Cathcart moved this year from kindergarten to second grade. Diane Supan, a longtime parishioner who most recently was on the parish maintenance staff, was hired as a kindergarten aide.

This year, Mrs. Seislove wants to put special attention on "respect" as a theme for the year. By that, she means respect for God and our faith, respect for self and respect for others.

"I'm pretty confident that this is a building full of respectful students," she says. The theme invites students to think about their actions in a new light and to consider:

## Enrollment (grades K-8)

2011-12	439
2012-13	480
2013-14	502



SFX students on their first day of school, ready and eager to start the new year. Teachers will emphasize the need for "respect" for God, self and others.



Children were excited to return to school Aug. 19. Their last day will be June 2.

“Would I be proud to say I did this?”

“It’s about choices,” Mrs. Seislove explains. “You have to make choices today that you can live with tomorrow.”

An attitude of respect should permeate the halls of St. Francis Xavier School, she says.

“I want you to know, when you walk into this building, that you are walking into a Catholic school, where we are learning about faith and treating others with respect,” Mrs. Seislove explains. Teachers will infuse their curriculum with lessons on respect, not just in religion class but also in such classes as science. “That’s the beautiful part of a Catholic school – we can learn about God in any class subject.”

While she isn’t planning to make major changes to the school, she and Assistant Principal Judy Podrasky have begun updating the handbook; for example, they are examining the discipline policy for fifth-graders. “I believe fifth-graders can be held accountable or could serve an after-school detention for making a poor choice,” Mrs. Seislove says. Previously, detentions were given to sixth-graders and older.

Over the summer, the maintenance staff worked hard to paint walls and polish floors to prepare for the students’ return Aug. 19. Mirroring the Medina City Schools calendar, their last day is June 2, with “early release” days (dismissal one hour earlier, at 2:05 p.m.) the last three days of school.

Mrs. Seislove, a Browns fan, noted that although her office was painted yellow (from off-white), it is not “Steelers yellow,” as Sister Sandy – a Steelers fan – had suggested.

“Everyone has come back with renewed energy and spirit,” Mrs. Seislove says. “We’re excited.”

## Uniform inspection

Kathy Metzger and Dreama Kellner might not wear a plaid jumper or monogrammed polo shirt, but the St. Francis Xavier School secretaries have a uniform all their own.

Mrs. Metzger and Mrs. Kellner dress in the identical outfit – same shirt, pants, even shoes and earrings – every day to work.

Unlike the students’ uniforms, the colors and styles they wear change from day to day. They have tops to remember certain people – like the flamingo shirts they bought in honor of Father Russ Rauscher, who was transferred here from Parma, which once was locally famous for the number of plastic pink flamingoes in residential yards.

Mrs. Metzger, who marks her 25th year working at the school, said she and Mrs. Kellner, who has been here 12 years, randomly started dressing alike. Over the years, they have picked up matching shirts when they were on vacation. Last year was the first time they deliberately started dressing alike every day.

Do they ever forget and wear the wrong thing? “Oh yeah, I have to send her home (to change) all the time!” Mrs. Metzger says with a laugh.

Regardless of their attire, these friends and co-workers – the first faces seen by visitors to the school – help ensure the school runs smoothly, says Bibiana Seislove, the new principal: “These ladies have been wonderful showing me the ropes.”



Photo by Jennifer Webb

Kathy Metzger (left) and Dreama Kellner are the friendly SFX school secretaries.



## St. Francis Xavier

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## Calendar of Events

### Sept. 9

Fr. Tony leaves for 11-week sabbatical in Rome. God bless him!

### Sept. 11

Cub Scout Pack 3506 pack night  
6:30 to 8 p.m.,  
Church basement

### Sept. 15

Life Teen Fall Kick-Off,  
6:30 to 8:15 p.m.,  
Xavier Room

### Sept. 16

Mass at Emeritus at Medina  
All are invited!  
10:30 a.m.,  
100 High Point Drive

### Sept. 18

Dr. Richard Fratianne, burn unit founder and prominent Catholic, speaks about his life and faith  
7 p.m., Church  
Refreshments follow

### Sept. 22

Eucharistic Procession to the Square immediately after 5:30 p.m. Mass.  
All parishioners are invited to join us for this inspiring profession of faith!

### Oct. 4

Blessing of the Animals  
All are welcome to bring their pets. 2 p.m., outside SFX school

### Oct. 6

Ministry Fair  
after morning Masses  
Browse parish ministry booths to see where God is calling you this year.

### Oct. 7-9

Parish Mission  
Come be inspired by Fr. Tom McCarthy, OSA  
7 p.m., Church

### Oct. 19-20

Women's Renewal  
Pray for the women of our parish!

### Commitment Sunday Oct. 19-20

Please bring your completed Commitment Card to Mass on Oct. 19 & 20; return by mail or drop off at rectory.

### Oct. 25

Confirmation  
7 p.m., Church, followed by reception in Church basement

### Oct. 31-Nov. 1

All Saints Day, a Holy Day of Obligation  
Masses: 5 p.m.  
Thursday, 7:30 & 9:15 a.m., noon and 7 p.m. Friday

### Nov. 4-10

Operation HOMES  
Randel House

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 [jenniferwebb@zoominternet.net](mailto:jenniferwebb@zoominternet.net).