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# *The Canticle of St. Francis*

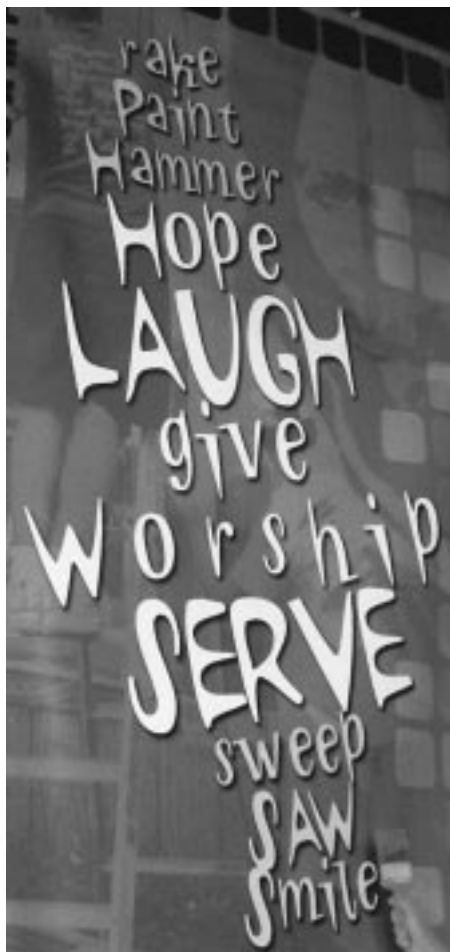
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## **Lazy Days of Summer?**

### **... Not for the Youth of St. Francis!**

A group of our high school youth headed to Catholic Heart Workcamp in Dayton, OH, July 19-25. These teens painted homes, repaired shelters, cleaned, scraped, and generally did anything and everything they were asked to do. They exemplified what it is to serve others. At night they returned to the school that was hosting us (not air conditioned!), showered in the locker rooms and headed to the evening programs that included prayer, games, music,



Frank, Jacob and Jack play cards with a new friend, Scott from Minnesota.



Abby & Lauren arrange themselves in the chemistry class room the girls slept in all week.



The group gets a quick picture before heading off to Kings Island.

and presentations by the Catholic Heart staff. They survived nearly 90 degree weather during the day and the sweltering auditorium in the evening. After the week of work, the group headed to Kings Island to spend a day playing before driving home.

It was a great experience for all as new friends were made and new challenges met.

## Mark Your Calendar!

*Opportunities that You won't want to miss!*

September 3 & 17: **Open Gym** - Singles & YAACHT Club, 7PM-first & third Friday.

September 8: **Bereavement Support Group** 2nd Wednesday of each month, 7PM in the parish offices

Sept. 12: **Parish Picnic** at St. Francis, 12:15 to 4:00pm

Sept. 13 & 27: **Unemployment Support Group** in parish offices on: 2nd Monday at 2:00 p.m., & 4th Monday at 6:30 p.m.

Sept 16, Oct 21, Nov 18: **Budgeting Strategies** group by SVdP - details in the Forum.

Sept. 18/19: **Time & Talent Ministry Fair** after all masses

Friday, Sept. 24: **Middle School YES Fall Kick-Off Party**. Contact Rita Zyber at 821-2133.

September 26 begins **PreK - 8 Grade Religious Ed classes**. Call the office 821-2130.

September 29-Oct. 1: Altar Society Fall **Rummage Sale** in PAC.

October 3: **RENEW Small Groups** begin. Call 821-2125/

October 3: **CROP Walk** begins at St Francis of Assisi Church.

October 9: **Mass & Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick** at 5PM

October 9: **Singles' Potluck Social**, 6:30PM in PAC.

Sunday, Oct. 10: **M.S. - Y.E.S. event "Message in the Music"**. Contact Rita Zyber at 821-2133.

Sun, Oct 10: **Bake Sale** fund-raiser for *Habitat for Humanity - Catholic House*

October 17/18: **First Reconciliation** meeting for parents & children.

October: **Help harvest the Peace & Justice Sustainable Garden** to support the hungry at Perry Nursery School.

October 17: **LIFE CHAIN**.

October 18-24: **Homeless Family Shelter** at Alpha House, Ann Arbor.

October 29-31: **High School Youth Fall Retreat**, call 821-2126.

November 6: Beyond, "Honey I'm Home" - **A Day for Married Couples**. Call 821-2125.



## Parish Library Continues to Take Shape

Since its grand opening this past February, the parish library has been open every weekend. Hundreds of books and videos have been borrowed by parishioners. The library committee has worked diligently to add new materials and maintain the present collection. This summer work bees were held to clean the materials, set up new shelves and to catalogue more books, movies and cassette tapes. During the next few months new items will be added to the shelves with emphasis on expanding the children's area and the cassette tape section.

Stop in and see the library when you come to the Sunday Liturgy. The Parish Library is located near the stained-glass window of St. Francis in the gathering area at the back of the church.



Parish Library Volunteers Bruce Moln, Cleo Mellen, Jeff Wawrzaszek and Ann Moln pause from their work to savor the satisfaction of a job well done after adding the new bookshelves to the library.



Adult Formation & Education Office:  
Charline List 821-2125 <cllist@catholicweb.com>

## Summer Sizzlers Engage Adults

### Saint Paul and Fr. James: *What a Combination!*

Early summer is a time when many folks look toward sunny evening times for relaxing, exercising, and enjoying the beauty of the all-too-short season. But this past June more than 100 people chose to spend three precious evenings with Father James Conlon as he took them through *The Journeys of St. Paul*.

Each of Father James' weekly presentations was underpinned with great notes, interactive with the attendees, and peppered with humor. The notes participants received were clearly written and substantive in content with many Scriptural references. Each set of notes also included copies of great artistic representations of the events of Saint Paul's life. The sessions were recorded for inclusion into the parish library.

We have not seen the last of Father James who had now become the Director of Bethany House in DeWitt. Father James will be presenting a series on the Gospel of St. Matthew in the fall. Information on dates and times will be posted in the weekly parish bulletin.



Father James Conlon holds the group's attention as he responds to a question posed by one of the participants at the series on St. Paul.

### They Weren't Your Regular "Summer Movies"



We go to movies to be entertained, rarely to be challenged. However, we often come away deeply affected in one way or another by what we saw on the big screen. Movies can be an influence for good. They can also desensitize us to pain, suffering, death and vulgarity. A lot is in how we view and review what has taken place. That was the premise for our summer movie series called **Lights, Camera, Faith!**

Six movies were selected based on the messages they contained. Some of the movies were well known while others were of lesser renown. Themes included racism, sacrifice, family unity, Christ-figures, Eucharist, relationship to Scripture, and more. Those who attended the series found the movies well done, thought-provoking and challenging. Many asked if the series would continue. They were encouraged to call others together in their homes and follow a similar process of preparation and discussion by using the reference books entitled, Lights, Camera...Faith! that will soon be available in the library. Over 150 movies are highlighted in the three book series. Most of the movies are available at the local video store.

The books in the Lights, Camera...Faith! series were written by a nun and a priest who have extensive training in media, education and theology. In these books that contain suggested movies for every week of the liturgical year, "...*The drama of popular culture is used as a bridge to connect us with the drama of the Mass—the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus,*" according to Michael J. Daley of the St. Anthony Messenger Press. The next time you are wondering what movie you'll be renting, look to Lights, Camera...Faith! in our parish library for ideas that may surprise and inspire you.

## WELCOME FR. KUSI!

*We are pleased to welcome Fr. Kusitino Cobona (he likes to go by Fr. Kusi!) as Parochial Vicar here at St. Francis. Below you will find a little of his background which I have asked Fr. Kusi to write for us. Please make him feel at home here at St. Francis. ~ Fr. Jim McDougall, Pastor*



### *A Note from Fr. Kusi*

Everybody must be asking who is the new Parochial Vicar? I would like to share with you about who I am, where I come from and a little information about my background.

Fiji is a country consisting of three hundred islands under the sun. Our temperatures run from 70 - 80 degrees the whole year round. It lies East of Australia and North East of New Zealand. It has a population of over 800,000; half of which are Indians who were brought in as slaves in our sugar cane plantations. We were colonized by the British since 1874 and we became an independent nation in 1970.

The Methodist Church is the largest Christian Religion in Fiji. Hinduism and Islam are the big non-Christian religions. The French Marist Congregation brought the Roman Catholic faith to our islands and today we have about 80,000 Catholics in the Archdiocese of Suva, Fiji. We have 27 Diocesan priests and over 100 Religious priests helping us serve the 34 parishes within the Archdiocese.

I was born on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1956 and was named after the great St. Augustine-(Okusitino). Kusitino Cobona is my full name and back home I'm always called Fr. Kusi. I am the oldest of two other brothers and two sisters. They are all married with children, so I have 15 nephews and nieces altogether. My Dad passed away in 1997 but Mum is still very much alive and well at the age of 73. I am so blessed to have been brought up in a very devout Catholic family whose lives were always centered round the Eucharist and family prayers.

We were all educated at our parish elementary school where Religious Education, English and Math were the main subjects taught, and discipline too. I went on to College from 1971- 76. During my final year at College, I was inspired by a good friend of mine to enter the seminary. I studied in our seminary in Fiji from 1977- 84. On December 1<sup>st</sup>, 1984, three of us, who were all cousins, got ordained together in our home parish. So this year on

December 1<sup>st</sup> we will look forward to celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ordination into the priesthood. It will be a time to praise the Lord and to celebrate God's love for each one of us!

Since ordination I have served in three parishes as an Associate Pastor and served as Pastor in three other parishes. I was also engaged in conducting Parish Renewal Weekends in other parishes and helped re-model parish structures in the spirit of Vatican II and based on the Early Church, as we can find in the Acts of the Apostles. I was so excited when I came to St. Francis and learn that you have got what we are after in Fiji. I really look forward to learning from you, walking with you and sharing with you my own gifts and talents so we can enrich one another in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi.

This is my fifth visit to Michigan, so you know that I have fallen in love with this place and especially its people. Each time I come for a visit I end up in a new parish. This is my first time to come to Ann Arbor and I'm so glad to be assigned here at St. Francis. I am well aware of the many challenges that lie ahead and yet I also believe that with a welcoming and loving community to support you, each challenge can become a blessing and an opportunity to grow.

I would like to thank Fr. Jim McDougall and Fr. James Conlon for their warm welcome and for introducing me into the system and in the way things are done here at St. Francis. I hope that in the near future it will become my way of life too and serve you as a faithful Parochial Vicar just like what Fr. James had been with you. It will be difficult for me to fit into the shoes of Fr. James but he gave me one good piece of advice and that is to bring my own shoes and not to worry about fitting into his. I guess that is what I will do. I sincerely hope that we will come to know one another better as we work and journey together in building up this Vineyard of the Lord in the Parish of St. Francis of Assisi. Thank you and God bless you all!  
~ Fr. Kusi