



Inner City Families In-Need *Enjoy Camp*

~ Thanks to St. Francis

St. Francis Parish and our St. Vincent de Paul Society supports Holy Family Ministries Summer Camp every year with both, money for camp and with volunteers. This year camp was August 7-14 at Camp Aldersgate, Carrollton, Ohio.

The camp provides inner city families-in-need with an opportunity to grow in faith and the love of Jesus while getting away from the oppressive heat and crowded conditions of New York City.

This is a great way to spread the love of Jesus by communicating and forming friendships with inner-city families.

Holy Family Ministries is an organization of Catholic volunteers serving families in need, committed to providing an opportunity to grow in faith in a recreational camp environment. See more photos at: www.stfrancisa2.com/holyfamilycamp

St. Francis' Sustainable Garden Project:

Seeds have been sown, figuratively and literally, and the harvest is almost ready to be taken in. Although most of us only think about this project during the exciting times of planting and harvest, this project keeps many dedicated volunteers busy for most of the year.

The Sustainable Garden Project consists of an area in the parish rectory yard (as well as special raised gardens at Perry Nursery School in Ann Arbor on Packard Rd.). It was set up four years ago (started & blessed in June 2000,) by our Parish Peace & Justice Committee, to help educate people about sustainable gardening, as well as to help provide food for Perry Nursery School families and other local agencies that may not get fresh produce any other way.

Watch the Forum for events dates and times. All interested are welcome. Learn more about this project at: stfrancisa2.com/socialministry/garden.htm & Perry Nursery School at: www.perrynursery.org
 Questions Contact: Tracy Nagy (734 971-2464)
tnagy123@hotmail.com



Social Ministry

St. Francis Parish Helps the Poor!
 [Call Scott Wright 821-2121]



According to Robert Fetzer, Executive Director of Wellness House, the official estimate of groceries delivered from St. Francis was close to 800 bags of food; the average weight of each bag was 13.5

pounds. It may not have felt like it because there were so many volunteers, but our calculations tell us St. Francis hauled in just over FIVE TONS of excellent food!

We repackaged the foods into grocery bags to make the equivalent of one of our food boxes, about 35 pounds of non-perishable food with the same balance of meats, vegetables, et cetera. When we opened for business in July, we distributed only food gleaned by St. Francis!

By the end of the month, 228 households had received over 8,400 pounds of groceries, and 120 persons received extra supplemental or emergency food in 20 pound increments – approximately 2,400 pounds!

We can't thank you all enough for this remarkable bounty of food, support and love. Kathi and Steve Tobey were champs, and all the volunteers real troopers. Food Drive 2004 was nothing short of a heroic response.



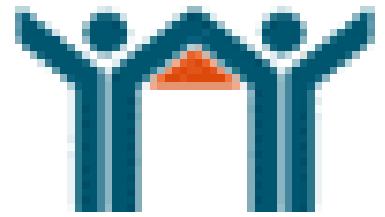
Groceries Help People with HIV and AIDS



Above: The spectacular food drive from St. Francis Parish to benefit HIV/AIDS clients that are assisted through the Wellness House of Michigan, in Detroit



The First ACCESSIBLE Habitat for Humanity House



This year, Habitat for Humanity of Huron Valley (HFHHV) assigned us (Catholic House group including St. Francis Parish) the task of building the first ACCESSIBLE Habitat House in Washtenaw County. To help us with this task we have partnered with the Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living and Eisenhower Center to bring this job to fruition, to help us raise funds for this project and to help spread the news to

the community about the need for more affordable, accessible housing.



This 2004 Catholic Habitat House, is located at 65 Westover Street, Ann Arbor. For more photos visit www.stfrancisa2.com/habitat



*Do you know someone interested in discovering the
Catholic way of life?*



R.C.I.A. - Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults

Throughout the Christian Initiation process of conversion we have the opportunity to share prayer, rituals and faith experiences: encourage questions, reach out to others through service, and seek to challenge those participating through various forums which examine Catholic teachings, the lives of the saints and our mission as Catholic Christians as followers of Jesus Christ.

Having completed their sacramental initiation into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, our newly initiated adults, youth and children of catechetical age continue their journey as neophytes for the coming year. Asked to comment on what the RCIA journey has meant to them, some of our neophytes replied:

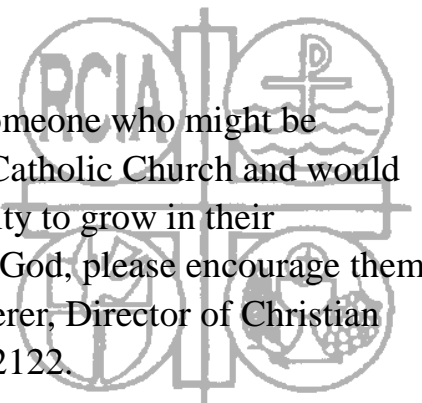
This journey has brought me closer to God. It has made me a much more spiritual person. I think of others more often and strive to see God in the people I meet and am around everyday. I try to love and be forgiving as God is toward me. I never focused on these things before going through RCIA. I am excited about God and Church and realize this is only a beginning point in my spiritual journey.

I've found a new driving force for living thanks to my newfound faith in God. I've learned to give up control and pray for some answers. I try to find Jesus everyday and that allows me to enjoy my family more and see how blessed I truly am. I feel like I belong to one, big, happy family at St. Francis.



RCIA has allowed me to meet others who are going through the process, and who have the same questions and concerns as me. I've also been able to meet and interact with individuals already strong in their Catholic faith, and who I consider mentors and advisors. The process as a whole afforded me the opportunity to take my faith to a new level – to more deeply explore my beliefs and my relationship with God.

If you know of someone who might be interested in the Catholic Church and would like the opportunity to grow in their relationship with God, please encourage them to call Pattie Scherer, Director of Christian Initiation at 821-2122.



Middle School Youth

Middle School values

Come join the Y.E.S. events!

There's a place at St. Francis where we talk about issues such as commercialism, peer pressure and bullying. The Y.E.S. youth ministry group provides a forum for students in Middle School to have fun, learn more about the Catholic faith, and to discuss the things they face in school and in the community.

Y.E.S., which stands for Youth Enjoying the Spirit, is ready to kick off another year in September. Monthly events are open to students in grades 6-8 from all area schools. Students are welcome to bring a friend, and they'll have the chance to meet new friends, too.

The **Fall Kick Off Party** will be held on:

Friday, September 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the school music room. Join us for pizza, games, discussion and a few surprises.

This year, we want to encourage middle schoolers to get more involved in planning and leading some of these events. We welcome your input and ideas. This is *your* group and we want it to reflect your creative efforts. Send me your great ideas! Contact Rita Zyber at 821-2133 or rzyber@stfrancisa2.org



Above: At a recent Y.E.S. event, students do an exercise to help them experience what it's like to have a disability



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