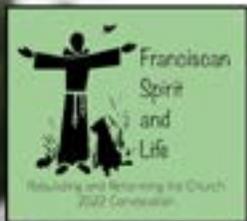


October 9, 2022

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Register Today on Realm. Only 90 spots Left!



“The Friars are coming!”

See page 5

Join us Saturday, Oct. 22 at 8:30am to 1:30pm for a Franciscan Convocation

Registration Fee: \$10 | [Click Here](#)



Fr. Steve



Fr. Bill



Fr. Jim



Fr. Dan



Fr. Ray



Fr. Julian

The convocation will conclude with lunch with the Friars (for registered participants only)

Fresh Veggies & Going Solar



See page 12

**Our Mission Statement**

Inspired by our patron, Francis of Assisi, we seek to proclaim the reign of God by growing in Holiness through our experience of Christ in word, sacrament, and one another, offering Hope to those who hunger for human dignity, and extending Hospitality to all.



**FrancisFest 2022 Highlights**

See pages 7 and 8



**The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi**

11401 Leesville Road, Raleigh, NC 27613 919-847-8205 [www.stfrancisraleigh.org](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org)



**BEING FRANCISCAN:** One of my pledges as the first diocesan pastor of St. Francis after the conclusion of the Franciscan friars' leadership of the parish for 33 years was to retain our Franciscan identity. This was made easy for me since our parish remains under the patronage of St. Francis of Assisi.

COVID-19 made this challenging because of the limitations we faced dealing with a pandemic. As we lived through and have emerged from it, I have been pondering how to keep the vision of our holy patron intact. Some of that vision was easy to see. Allow me to mention just three ways. Our peace and justice ministry continues to do what it has always done: respond to the needs of others, especially those on the margins. My hat goes off to Trevor Thompson, Becky Cawley, and now, Tim Fasano, as well as the legions of parishioners who have maintained our peace and justice ministry, something St. Francis would be proud of. Theirs has been a ministry I happily endorse and support. Our inclusive embrace of all without exception has been another constant in my two years as pastor. Finally, maintaining our Franciscan values at The Franciscan School has been another constant.

As we emerge from the pandemic, one custom has restarted. It was great to resume Francifest last weekend. I had a great time interacting with many parishioners, junior, senior, and in-between walking through the various venues and just having a fun time being a parish family. We are also celebrating an annual Franciscan Convocation, a yearly opportunity to hear from an expert on some dimension of the Franciscan tradition. This year's speaker will stimulate your imagination and motivate us to lean into our identity as a Franciscan parish. As an additional feature to the convocation, we will finally have an opportunity to express our appreciation to the Franciscan friars who staffed the parish for 33 years. It just seems right that we honor these men, and through them, those unable to join us for their leadership and inspiration.

New initiatives are also taking place. We inaugurated our new San Damiano processional cross last weekend, a labor of love by an iconographer from Richmond that was funded through the generosity of many parishioners. It will have a prominent place in our liturgical life. In early 2023, Fr. Steve Kluge will be back to offer the first in an annual day of spiritual renewal through a Franciscan lens.

Finally, we are exploring the possibility of creating a Franciscan Garden between Clare Hall and the church on the land that we had to clear because of increasingly dangerous pine trees threatening one of our buildings. When completed, it will provide a beautiful space for people to congregate and educate people on the Franciscans whose names adorn our building but who remain largely unknown to many of our parishioners. We will be able to learn who these important women and men are in the Franciscan tradition because there will be plaques naming them and describing something about their importance. We will seek to move ahead with final approval from the Parish Finance Council on October 11. If they approve, work on this project will begin as soon as we receive final clearance from the diocese, a standard procedure for any projects of this size.

St. Francis: pray for us.

*Fr. Michael*

[For a complete list of SFA contacts](#)  
[Group Opportunities,](#)  
[Volunteer Opportunities](#)  
[and Ministries, click here.](#)

MAY THEY REST IN  
 PEACE AND PERPETUAL  
 LIGHT SHINE UPON  
 THEM:

**+Joe Munroe**

Husband of Karen Munroe

**+Janet Brown Abbott**

Sister of Jackie Weisenberger

### Weekly Envelope Schedule

October 9 Weekly

October 16 Weekly

October 23 Weekly

October 23 Propagation of the Faith

October 30 Weekly

November 1 All Saints Day

November 2 All Souls Day

Through Faith Direct you can support our parish using an electronic funds transfer from either a bank account or credit/debit card. To access, start here:



You can mail your contribution to us at:

**St Francis Of Assisi**  
**11401 Leesville Road**  
**Raleigh, NC 27613**

You can give online through:



<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/faith-direct/>



**Text-to-Give: 919-629-1199**

**Additional Online Giving Methods:**  
[www.stfrancisraleigh.org/treasure/](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/treasure/)

# PRAYER REQUESTS FOR OCTOBER 8 TO OCTOBER 16



## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday October 8, 2022  
Saturday, 5:30  
+Frances Mary Slobodzian  
Requested by Stephanie Slobodzian

Sunday October 9, 2022  
Sunday, 7:15  
+Jackson Eck  
Requested by Thomas, Karen, and Sara Eck

Sunday, 9:00  
+Kyrie Jespersen  
Requested By Michael Kozak

Sunday, 11:45  
+Frances Gingerella  
Requested by Donna Gingerella

Sunday, 5:30  
For the Parishioners of St. Francis

Monday October 10, 9am  
+Tomas Garcia  
Requested by Ambrosia

Tuesday October 11, 9am  
+Fernando Bernal  
Requested by Lucila Bernal

Wednesday October 12, 9am  
+Angelina LoScalzo  
Requested by Mary Beth and Phil LoScalzo

Thursday October 13, 9am

+Mary Jo Stapleton  
Requested by Eamonn Kelly and Family

Friday October 14, 9am  
+Irvin Thronson  
Requested by Joann Thronson

Saturday October 15, 2022  
Saturday, 5:30  
+Brian Barbee  
Requested by Kathleen Owen

Sunday October 16, 2022  
Sunday, 7:15  
+Don Calnan  
Requested by Frankie Lugiano

Sunday, 9:00  
+Diane Kozak  
Requested by Michael Kozak

Sunday, 11:45  
+Eugene Francis Alexandre  
Requested by The Givens Family

Sunday, 5:30  
For the Parishioners of St. Francis

## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

+Felizardo Gomes  
Requested by Maria and Steve Nicholas  
Remembrance

Recent Deaths  
+Joe Munroe  
Husband of Karen Munroe  
Remembrance

+Janet Brown Abbott  
Sister of Jackie Weisenberger  
Remembrance



**Daily Mass** at 9:00am is held in the chapel on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. The Wednesday Daily Mass is held in the church.



### Weekly Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation for individuals is celebrated most Saturdays of the year between 4:00-4:45pm in the main church. There are normally two priests present. We recommend that you arrive well before 4:45pm so we may accommodate you.

## Mass Intentions

One of the spiritual works of mercy is to pray for the living and the dead. Requesting a Mass is a most wonderful way to exercise this spiritual work of mercy. Our register for Mass intentions for 2023 is open. You may make your request(s) by going to our website (<https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/mass-intention-prayers/>) or by calling the parish office at 919-847-8205 during normal business hours M-F.

# At a Glance

This week's events are shown in red.

**October 13**

## **Documentary – The Gathering**

Viewing & Discussion

A Prelude to October 23

Death Row Exonoree Tells His Story

<https://bit.ly/WitnesstoInnocenceSFA>

**October 15**

## **Yoga and Breakfast**

9:00-11:00am in Clare Fellowship Hall

Women's Ministry - Contact

[beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org)

**October 15**

## **Wedding Anniversary Mass**

10:00am Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral.

Celebrated by Bishop Zarama.

Questions: 984-900-3184

<https://raldioc.configio.com/wam2022>

**October 16**

## **Why Faith**

Election 2022 What does the Catholic

Church say about voting and citizenship

10:15-11:15am or 6:45-7:45pm in

Founders Rm.

**October 18**

## **Solarize**

A Triangle webinar, 7:00- 8:00. An op-

portunity to learn about multiple incen-

tives now available for the installation of

rooftop solar. <https://docs.google.com/>

[document/d/1-H1mA\\_Vnvq0d4nEKB-vQqogBcJwzW6uV41zZ4w2CMjqw/edit#mptomkelly](https://document/d/1-H1mA_Vnvq0d4nEKB-vQqogBcJwzW6uV41zZ4w2CMjqw/edit#mptomkelly)

**October 22**

## **Franciscan Spirit and Life: Repairing and Reforming the Church Convocation**

Saturday, Oct 22, 8:30am to 1:30pm

More information to come.

Registration opens on September 16

via Realm. Questions, contact [Kathy.](mailto:Kathy.Sales@stfrancisraleigh.org)

[Sales@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Sales@stfrancisraleigh.org)

**October 23**

## **Coffee and Donuts with the Friars**

Following 9:00am Mass. From 10:00-

11:00am in Clare Fellowship Hall

**October 23**

## **Death Row Exonoree Tells His Story**

The 100th exonoree from Arizona's death

row to bring his story to St. Francis of

Assisi via a live Zoom event on Sunday,

October 23rd, from 3:00 to 4:30 pm.

<https://bit.ly/WitnesstoInnocenceSFA>.

Questions: [prayerfulheart3@gmail.com](mailto:prayerfulheart3@gmail.com).

**October 30**

## **Crop Hunger Walk**

[https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/](https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/st-francis-of-assisi-catholic-church)

[team/st-francis-of-assisi-catholic-church](https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/team/st-francis-of-assisi-catholic-church)



The Assisi Café is now open in the Community Center, Monday-Friday 8:30am-10:30am!

Come grab a hot cup of coffee and a delicious muffin after Mass. This is a great opportunity to socialize with fellow parishioners. We hope to see you there!



Scammers are at it again sending malicious emails to parishioners. You will NEVER get a solicitation email from staff, our pastor, or bishop asking for "a favor", or for emergency help in the form of money. Please do not open or click on them - simply trash them.

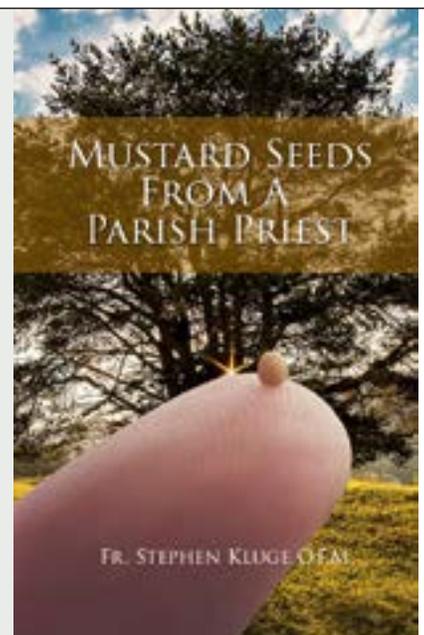


Fr. Kluge's new book is now available.

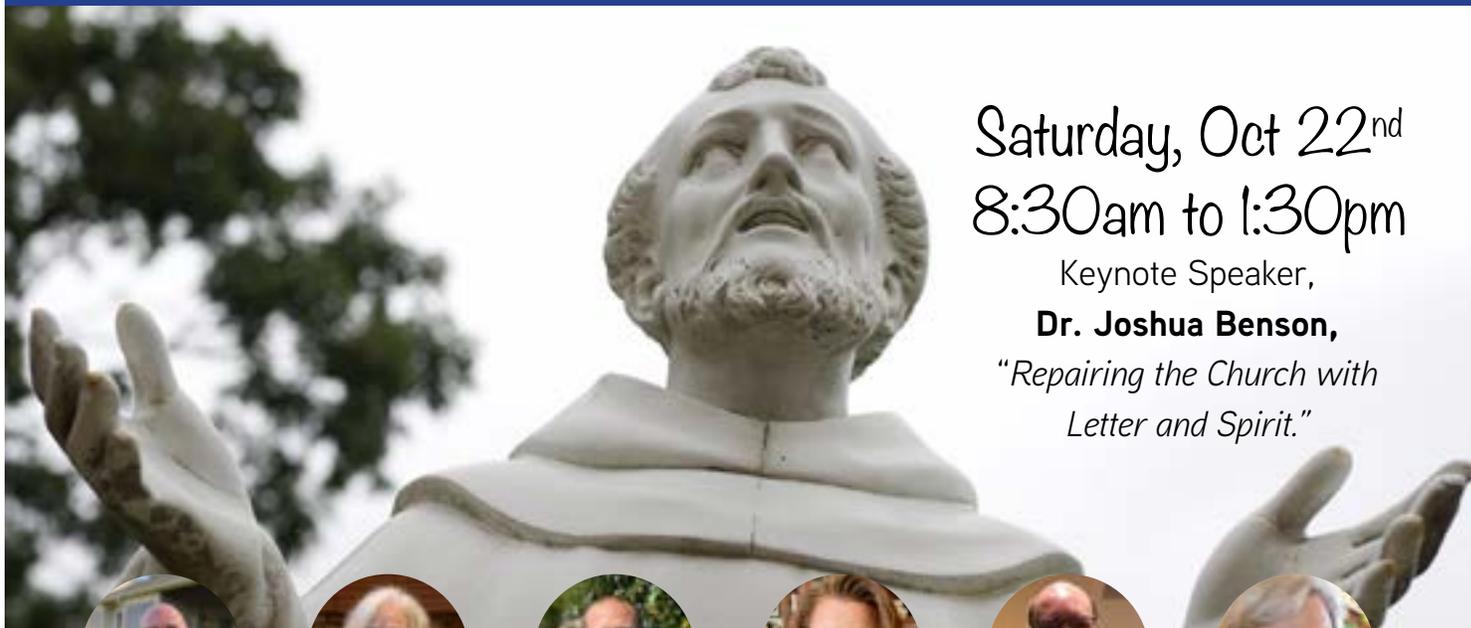
It features richly sharp witty one-liners that merit contemplation.

[Click here for more information or to order your copy.](#)

Proceeds from the sale of this and all of Fr. Kluge's books go to :  
Franciscan Monastery of St Clare in Chesterfield, NJ.



# Register Today on Realm. Only 90 spots Left!



Saturday, Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>  
8:30am to 1:30pm

Keynote Speaker,  
**Dr. Joshua Benson,**  
"Repairing the Church with  
Letter and Spirit."



Fr. Jim



Kathleen



Trevor



Jennifer



Chuck



Gladys



Jim



Jeanne



Becky



Lauren



Tim

## Session 1

- 1. Helping Children to Find Their Place in the Sun:** Promoting Strong Social and Emotional Development in Children *with Lauren Wacenske*
- 2. Go Tell It on a Mountain:** The Liturgical Year According to Matthew's Gospel *with Jim Wahl*
- 3. "Praise be You, My Lord:"** A Franciscan Spirituality for Living in Relationship with God's Creation *with Trevor Thompson*
- 4. The House of God:** A Church Tour *with Chuck Small*
- 5. How to Pray with your Kids and Family** *with Jeanne Lewin*
- 6. Can a 12th Century Mystic Still be Relevant Today?** *with Gladys Whitehouse*

## Session 2

- 1. The Laity:** Ordinary Circumstances, Extraordinary Mission *with Jennifer Fiduccia*
- 2. Go In Peace, Glorifying the Lord by Your Life:** How the Eucharist Leads to Service and Advocacy *with Becky Cawley*
- 3. Eucharistic Theology** through a Franciscan Lens: *with Fr. Jim Sabak*
- 4. The House of God:** A Church Tour *with Chuck Small*
- 5. The Mindful Catholic:** Finding God One Moment at a Time *with Kathleen Owen*
- 6. Prayer in the Franciscan Tradition** *with Tim Fasano*



**Dr. Joshua Benson** publishes and teaches on the history of medieval theology, with a special focus on Franciscan figures. He received his MA from the Franciscan Institute and his PhD from St. Louis University and where he focused his research on St. Bonaventure. He has served as the Associate Director of Historical and Systematic Theology at the Catholic University of America since 2008. He is a married man and the father of six children.

**Registration Fee: \$10 | [Click Here to Register](#)**

# THINKING ABOUT THE PRIESTHOOD?

Discernment is a process of drawing closer to Jesus, learning about the priesthood, and praying intensely about the Lord's will for your life.



**The monthly priesthood discernment group** meeting is a great opportunity to meet other guys who are in discernment and learn about the process. The meetings are led by Father Jim Magee on the 2nd Saturday of each

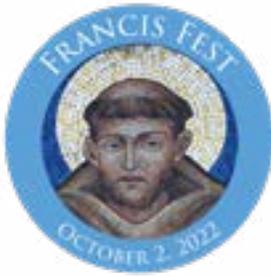
month from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Catholic Center at 7200 Stonehenge Dr. Raleigh, NC 27613. To learn more visit [ncpriest.org](http://ncpriest.org) or contact Father Jim at:

 **(252) 417 0096**  
 **[vocations@raldioc.org](mailto:vocations@raldioc.org)**



you know what to do :-)

Learn more about vocations to the priesthood at [ncpriest.org](http://ncpriest.org)



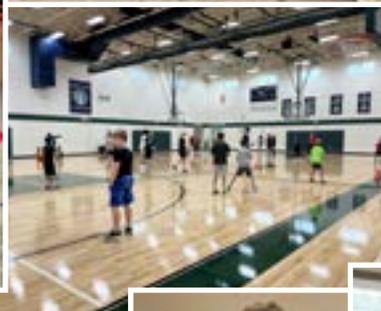
# FrancisFest 2022

Ashley Watson, Coordinator  
of Community Programs

What better way to celebrate our Patron Saint then as a community at FrancisFest! I am so thankful that we were able to have this event as the last one was back in 2019. The week leading up to FrancisFest there was a lot of uncertainty around the weather, but I had faith we could enact the rain plan to make this day happen for our community. As I walked around that day my bucket was filled seeing the joy and laughter on faces young and old as they participated in the different activities all while just enjoying being together as a community. From little ones doing crafts or laughing at Happy Dan to teenagers painting faces and spraying hair color to the grandmas and grandpas seeing the delight in their grandchildren as they came flying down the inflatable slide there was an opportunity for everyone. It's always fun to see not only the familiar faces I've grown to know over the years but also all the new faces who maybe were experiencing this event for the first time.

This event takes a lot of planning and preparation and I want to offer my dearest gratitude for the team that helped plan this day and make it all possible. From helping plan activities to making shopping lists to figuring out what food trucks and beer/wines to have at the event. I'd also like to extend my appreciation to the 200+ volunteers that signed up for shifts the day of the event to help run the different activities we offer. These volunteers were middle and high school students as well as adults and without them we couldn't have pulled off such a fun day!

My biggest thank you is to the Community of St. Francis of Assisi for coming out and joining us to celebrate our wonderful parish that I have called home for 34 years now. I can't wait to start planning for next year!







2023 Mass Intentions

Open



October 1st, the Mass Intention calendar for 2023 will open. Payment is required at time of submitting. You can pay either cash, check or using Faith Direct. Click [HERE](#) for form.



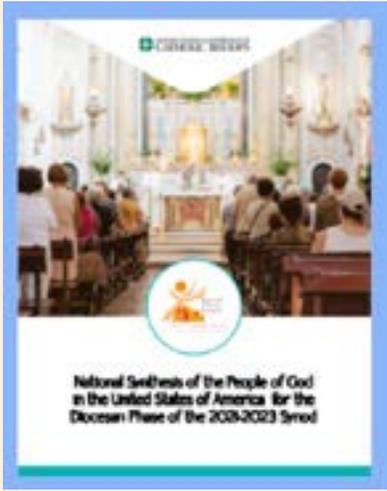
[Click image above to view the Synod Summary Report: Parish Level Takeaways The Catholic Community of St. Francis of Assisi](#)

# Women's Ministry Yoga & Breakfast

15  
OCT

Join the Women's Ministry for a beginners Yoga class followed by breakfast October 15 from 9:00am to 11:00am in Fellowship Hall

Register on [Realm](#)  
Cost is \$3 for breakfast and teacher stipend  
Contact: [beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org)



[Click here to view the National Synthesis of the People of God in the United States of America for the Diocesan Phase of the 2021-2023 Synod](#)





### **Corporal Works of Mercy “Bury the Dead” Outside Volunteer Opportunity**

Funerals provide an opportunity to support those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Perhaps one of our lesser-known ministries at St. Francis is serving as a columbarium attendant. The columbarium attendant offers quiet, behind the scenes assistance by preparing the columbarium niche to receive cremated remains after a funeral liturgy. This includes setting up, opening and cleaning the niche, respectfully standing watch during the time the niche is open, and replacing the niche cover after the service. Those who serve must be physically able to remove, lift, and replace the granite niche cover, which weighs approximately 60 pounds.

Services are typically Tuesday thru Saturday and take approximately 1 to 1 ½ hours of time. Columbarium attendants can serve as their schedule allows. For more information, please contact Trish Adamkowski 919-847-8205 x 236 or [trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org).

### **Strength and Yoga Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:00am-9:00am DVD Guided Classes**

Classes run from mid-September through May in the Cupertino Room at the Community Center. For more information please visit: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/fitness-classes-and-programs-2/> or contact [Ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Ashley.watson@stfrancisraleigh.org).

# **A New JustFaith Program: Faith and Immigration Justice**



*Love the stranger then, for you were once strangers in Egypt.* (Deut 10:19)

Would you like to join a JustFaith virtual study group focused on immigration?

We at St. Francis are one of the first communities to offer this new “[Faith and Immigration Justice](#)” program. It’s an opportunity for our parish to build on the three spectacularly successful racial justice programs in which more than a hundred parishioners participated over the past three years. It also seems a fitting way to reflect on the challenge of “Building the Future with Migrants and Refugees”, the theme of [National Migration Week](#) (Sep 20-25, 2022) sponsored by the U.S. Catholic Bishops, and the [World Day of Migrants and Refugees](#) (Sep 25, 2022), sponsored by the Holy See.

Depending on interest, we expect to organize one or more groups that meet online Wednesday evenings at 7pm (beginning Oct 26), and one or more that meet online Thursday afternoons at 3pm (beginning Oct 27). The groups will meet for eight weeks, with a break scheduled for Thanksgiving week. Sign up at [bit.ly/ImmigrationSFA2022a](https://bit.ly/ImmigrationSFA2022a).

There’s no registration fee; the cost of books is about \$28/person.

The Faith and Immigration Justice program, like other JustFaith initiatives, aims to encourage healthy conversation; equip participants to advocate for just, effective, and compassionate policies; and prepare participants to extend hospitality toward their neighbors. Its immigration-specific goals include discerning “how our faith calls us to respond to the immigration debate,” and examining the nuances of immigration policy and the citizenship process in this country.

If you’d like to receive occasional emails about this and other parish news and activities related to immigration, consider joining the parish “Immigration Allies” Realm group (login to Realm, then search for “immigration”; or contact Trevor Thompson directly at [Trevor.Thompson@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Trevor.Thompson@stfrancisraleigh.org)). You needn’t worry about meetings or commitments; the allies group is nothing more than an email list that allows you to keep your finger on the pulse.

**SUNDAY, OCT. 16TH**

# Forming Consciences



for

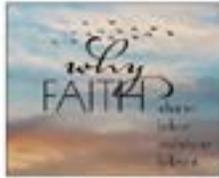
# Faithful Citizenship

**10:15AM -11:15AM OR 6:45PM-7:45PM | FOUNDERS RM**

"Why Faith: what we believe and why we believe it." Next session: December 4th.

**“Election 2022:**  
 What does the Catholic Church  
 say about  
**Voting and**  
**Citizenship?”**

presented by Trevor Thompson and Tim Fasano



## Blessing of the Animals



# Join our Fall CSA Membership for Fresh Veggies and Register for Upcoming Info Session about Going Solar

Interested in supporting farmers of color and caring for the Earth? Ready to bite into some local, tasty, healthy Fall produce? If you are, it is time to get ready for the Fall CSA! The CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) at St. Francis partners with RAFI. RAFI-USA is currently signing up farmers of color, who sustainably farm and care for their crops without the use of pesticides and herbicides, to bring farm fresh produce to families in churches who sign up to participate. Currently, St. Francis of Assisi is being served by Brown Family Farms, in Henderson, NC.

By joining the Farm and Faith Partnership Project Community Supported Agriculture subscription (CSA) you will support local farmers of color and sustainable and/or organic farming methods. We have an exciting opportunity to join with other churches in Wake County to bring a Fall CSA to interested families at St. Francis. Subscribing to a CSA shares in both the risks and rewards of a farmer and their farm produce. The subscription fee is paid up front to the farmer. Subscribers share the risks of the farming and the rewards of receiving a weekly box of sustainably and organically grown produce for 8 weeks during the Fall season. This effort is coordinated by the Rural Advancement Foundation International: rafiusa.org. RAFI-USA "challenges the root causes of unjust food systems, supporting and advocating for economically, racially, and ecologically just farm communities".

Please consider joining me in subscribing to this effort, to provide fresh produce to our families while supporting farmers of color, caring for Earth, our common home, and taking a step to add more justice to our food system.



**SOLARIZE THE TRIANGLE**  
**Info Session**

**INTERFAITH CREATION CARE OF THE TRIANGLE**

**Learn more about going solar for your home or faith community**

Please join Solarize the Triangle campaign organizers and Interfaith Creation Care of the Triangle for a free, virtual, informational event that will cover:

- An overview of Solarize the Triangle's group-purchase bulk-discount program
- How to take advantage of all the incentives for solar available to residents, nonprofits, and businesses
- Info about the benefits of solar and batteries and how to enroll for a free assessment

Learn more about Solarize the Triangle at [solarizethetriangle.com](http://solarizethetriangle.com)!

Scan this code to register on **zoom**

**October 18, 2022**  
**7:00 PM - 8:00 PM**  
**Q&A to follow**

**Or register here**  
<https://www.interfaithcreationcare.org>

The deadline to sign up is October 17th. The first week of delivery will be October 22nd. You will receive a box of fresh, delicious produce, every Saturday, for 8 weeks. The price of a full share is \$250, a half share is \$125. You will need to come to St. Francis on Saturday mornings (9am - 10am) to pick up your produce. You will also have the option to

purchase farm fresh eggs every week from Lakay Farm.

Here is the link to sign up: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc0NLa-9I1U\\_knGslOcYWGfRxsYpiOK\\_2oOsB-4wacYZDXscRcg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc0NLa-9I1U_knGslOcYWGfRxsYpiOK_2oOsB-4wacYZDXscRcg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact parishioner Elizabeth Kearse, [eskearse@gmail.com](mailto:eskearse@gmail.com).

# EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Dawn Smith, Principal

## It's Not How You Start... It's How You Finish!



*“For just as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though many are one body, so it is with Christ.” (1 Corinthians 12:12)*

You often hear in various sports that “There is no I in team.” Some may reply jokingly that there is a “me.” The intent behind this phrase is a reminder that the things we are trying to achieve are often bigger than ourselves. In addition, it is always harder for one person to go at it alone. It takes effort on everyone’s part for the whole to be successful. By its nature, teamwork brings people together, and to get things done, they must rely on one another.

A few weeks ago, I took a detour as I was headed home and arrived in time to see the final race of our cross-country team at Dorothea Dix Park. As I walked over, the boys were lining up to begin their race. This race involved two laps around a designated route in the park so that they were running about 1.7 miles total. The boys began as one pack, but within a few yards, it was evident that some were going to take the lead. Within a few minutes, you started to see the leaders of the pack crossing the finish line. There

were cheers along the way and as they finished, students gathered to cheer on their teammates that followed.

At one point, it seemed as if everyone was finished and teams were beginning to take down tents and gather belongings so that they could listen for the announcement of the awards. It was at this moment that one of the coaches turned to a few TFS students and informed them that one of their teammates was still out there. The team motto is no one runs alone. I looked around and I could not see a runner out there. The students took off, found their teammate and finished as a collective whole. I would be lying if I said that I did not get a little teary at that moment - to see them come together without any prompting and truly finish as a team.

That afternoon I witnessed first-hand and unscripted the benefits of a Catholic School education. We believe in a holistic approach to teaching resulting

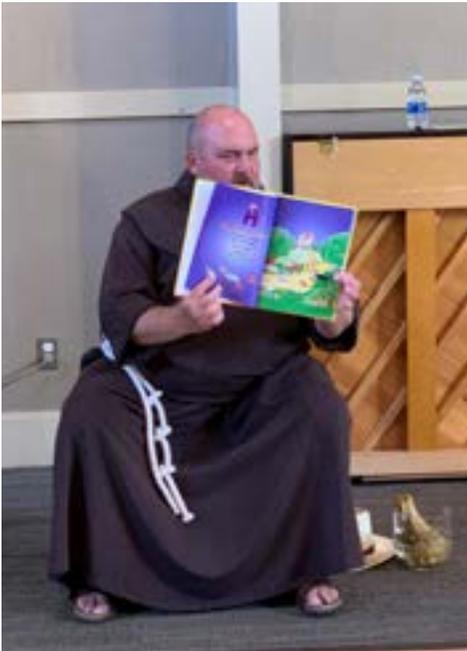
in a well-rounded education. Catholic schools impart a lifelong spiritual commitment evidenced by a student’s civic responsibility, discipline and humility. Middle school students, by definition, are egocentric and crave independence. You cannot teach empathy, humility and compassion. I truly witnessed all of this that beautiful afternoon and I could not be prouder to say that those are my students. There they were, teaching us all a lesson on it is not how you start, it’s how you finish.

As you explore school options for your child’s education next year, I welcome you to become a part of The Franciscan School. We have several virtual information sessions coming up in the next few months. More information regarding our school and the admissions timeline can be found on our [website](#) or contact Principal Dawn Smith at [dawn.smith@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:dawn.smith@stfrancisraleigh.org).

# EDUCATION MINISTRIES

Heidi Hobler, Preschool Director

## Celebrating St. Francis & His Love for All Creatures



The stuffed “pets” that our preschoolers brought to school this week to have blessed by Fr. Jim & Fr. Alex certainly came in all shapes and sizes! There were stuffed snakes (that were bigger than their owners!), teddy bears, elephants, llamas, puppies and even a few dinosaurs! All had been carefully packed in school bags to travel to preschool to be part of our version of an animal blessing in celebration of our patron saint, Francis.

Before the blessing, Fr. Alex & Fr. Jim shared the story of the hungry wolf terrorizing the villagers of Gubbio, and then encountering a caring and kind Francis. It is truly a beloved story at preschool! The students held their stuffed animals closely as they listened to how Francis befriended Gubbio and encouraged the scared townspeople to care for him once they learned that he was mean because he was just hungry. When it was time for the blessing, each student eagerly held their “pet” up in the air to receive a sprinkling of holy water. Not only did our

students get to listen to this story, but they were also able to see a small part of it depicted on our beautiful mosaic hanging outside of preschool. You may remember that the mosaic was dedicated last November in honor of the preschool’s 30th anniversary. It artfully captures the display of friendship between St. Francis and Gubbio.

It will come as no surprise that we purposefully plan other activities in the month of October to coincide with the celebration of St. Francis’ feast day. By doing so, we are able to emphasize in many ways that God invites us to be caretakers of all of His creation. We are able to further emphasize with our children how St. Francis followed God in many ways, including taking special care of animals. This week, our pre-

schoolers began searching for acorns on our campus and in their neighborhoods. We are collecting them to donate to the pigs who reside at Saving Grace, a local agency for homeless pets. Our students will also soon be making dog biscuits for the SPCA. Most of our children have a pet or at least understand what it is like to take care of an animal. These two acts of service help our preschoolers participate in taking care of an animal as St. Francis did while providing them with an easily relatable experience.

As the month continues, I encourage you to look for ways to help a child in your life celebrate St. Francis and bear witness to his faithful following of God. With something as simple as filling a dish of acorns for the squirrels, sprinkling seeds for the birds, or just taking a dog for a walk, you can help a young person follow Francis’ example!

To learn more about the wonderful opportunities that we provide, please visit our website at [www.preschoolatstfrancis.com](http://www.preschoolatstfrancis.com).

# RESPECT LIFE MONTH: WITNESS TO INNOCENCE

## A Death Row Exonoree Tells His Story

Nancy J Jones, Parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi



### A Prelude to this Event: October 13 Documentary – The Gathering Viewing & Discussion

As a prelude to our October 23rd event, we will host a viewing and discussion of the documentary called *The Gathering* that tells briefly the story of Witness to Innocence, the largest organization of death row exonorees in the United States. The documentary is the filming of their annual meeting of exonorees; watch as 16 men and women share what their lives used to be prior to wrongful conviction and incarceration and how their struggles, of a different kind, continue after their release from death row. You'll see them pull strength from one another's experiences.

This virtual event will be on Oct. 13, from 7 to 8 pm on Zoom as we watch the 20-minute film and then spend some time reflecting on what we learned and what we already may or may not know about the death penalty. The hope is to prepare you to hear more fully our exonoree's story on October 23rd and to have time to formulate the questions that you'll want to ask him at the end of his presentation on the 23rd. If you have any questions, send them to Nancy Jones at [prayerfulheart3@gmail.com](mailto:prayerfulheart3@gmail.com). Please use the same sign-up <https://bit.ly/Witness-toInnocenceSFA> for this event as well.

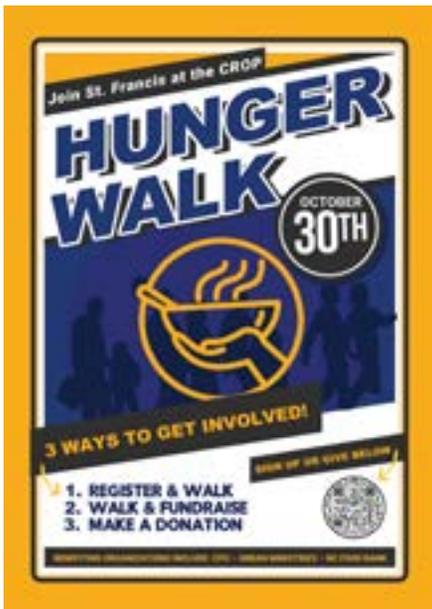
Every October, the Catholic Church puts a spotlight on all the ways human life is neglected and threatened and our call to celebrate and respect the dignity of all. In light of this, the Office of Justice and Peace, in partnership with national organization Witness to Innocence, will host a unique event where we will have the opportunity to hear the story from an individual who was an exonoree from Arizona's death row.

There are a number of reasons why some Catholics have come to the conclusion that capital punishment – taking a life to punish someone for taking another's life – is no longer a viable solution to the problem of murder in our state. Some of these rational reasons include the cost of incarcerating someone on death row far exceeds the cost of someone living in the general population of a prison; the inherent evil of willfully ending another person's life while others sit by to witness it; capital punishment is not a deterrent to any crime; we now have maximum-security prisons that will safely keep away from society those who committed the worst of crimes; and some wonder

how many put to death may have been innocent.

As of August 2022, there are now 190 men and women exonerated from death rows around our nation. They all have stories to tell, and some have been written down and published (*The Sun Does Shine* and *Just Mercy* to name two) or made into films and documentaries. And yet some exonorees are willing to relive the horrors – of being innocent while arrested, charged, tried, and then sentenced to death – by telling their stories orally.

In this latter way, we are blessed to have the 100th exonoree from Arizona's death row to bring his story to us at St. Francis of Assisi via a live Zoom event on Sunday, October 23rd, from 3:00 to 4:30 pm. If you would like to hear his life-changing story and what he's also been doing since released from prison, sign-up here: <https://bit.ly/WitnessToInnocenceSFA>. If you have any questions, send them to me at [prayerfulheart3@gmail.com](mailto:prayerfulheart3@gmail.com). Please note that this event will not be recorded.



Hello St. Francis! We are less than one month from the annual CROP Hunger Walk. This walk is one of many taking place all over the country to raise awareness of and support responses to hunger and poverty in our own community and throughout the world.

Church World Service (CWS), the organization that sponsors this walk, does incredible work throughout the world not only responding to emergency needs, but helping develop necessary infrastructure to provide communities the ability to become self-sustaining. Whether it is providing education on proper care of livestock, teaching more sustainable

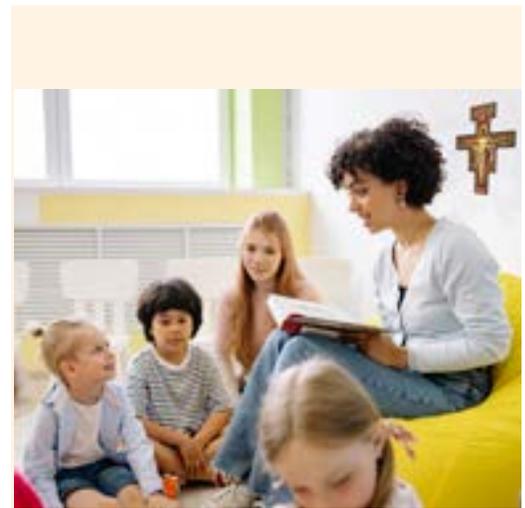
and effective farming practices, or simply providing a source of water filtration, CWS supports individuals experiencing the greatest harms of poverty.

But CWS is not the only organization that benefits from this walk. Here in our own community of Wake County organizations like Catholic Parish Outreach (CPO) and Urban Ministries also benefit from your support of the CROP Hunger Walk. CPO is one of the largest providers of food to individuals experiencing food insecurity in Wake County. Individuals are able to receive a week's worth of groceries each month as a support for when their already low-income runs out. Urban Ministries supports our community members by providing food and nutritional support as well as access to medical care, emergency housing, and social support that aims to improve overall quality of life.

These are but a few of the agencies that will benefit from your support of the CROP Hunger Walk. So we invite you to join us in one of three ways: [Register for free to join our team and just walk, walk and fundraise, or support us with you donation. Please click here.](#)

Help us to join our voice to the voices of so many others throughout our community in speaking up for the most vulnerable among us.

**Men's Prayer Breakfast** - The Men's Prayer Breakfast is set to resume meeting on every 1st and 3rd Mondays from 7 to 8 am beginning on 9/19. We plan to meet in the Padua Room and we will resume serving Breakfast Burritos and Coffee for \$2.50. We will be discussing the final book from the Bridges Series by Thomas Merton. If you never read Thomas Merton don't be intimidated. Each chapter we discuss is only 4 pages and it is easy reading but insightful. It is Book # 8 in the series "Bridges for contemplative living with Thomas Merton". The book is titled "Seeing That Paradise Begins Now" and is available from Amazon for \$5.95. If interested please respond to Richard Szulewski (919) 349-7422 / [richszul@gmail.com](mailto:richszul@gmail.com) or Deacon Steve at (732) 213-0104 / [stephenwandrews@outlook.com](mailto:stephenwandrews@outlook.com).



## The Return of Children's Liturgy of the Word!

Children's Liturgy of the Word, or CLOW, is an opportunity for children, ages 5 to 7, kindergarten to the date of their First Eucharist, to celebrate the Liturgy of the Word in an age appropriate way. We celebrate CLOW at the 9:00am Mass on weeks that we do not have Crosswalk Faith Formation. Children will be invited to process out after the opening prayer, and will return to their families before the Liturgy of the Eucharist. This program will kick off on October 9th at the 9:00am Mass.



**TFS**

THE FRANCISIAN SCHOOL

Do you know TFS alumni doing great things? Click [here](#) to nominate them to be featured in a story for the school website and social media!

# Oak City Cares



Homelessness and hunger continue to be experienced by a growing number of people in the Raleigh area. Oak City Cares is a multi-services center working against this issue by connecting members of our community to the resources they most need (such as housing, food, etc.) St. Francis has the honor of providing a simple breakfast to the guests of Oak City Cares on the 2nd Saturday of every other month, and the 4th Sunday of each month. As the issue of homelessness continues to affect more individuals, we've grown from feeding 100 to 150 at each meal. Our presence is needed now more than ever!

Won't you help us alleviate their hunger? There are two easy ways. You can donate food, dropping it off at the parish, or join us in serving the meal at Oak City Cares in downtown Raleigh. Just click on the links to sign up!

<https://bit.ly/breakfastatOCCOctober23-2022>

Questions? Contact Ann Lassiter at [aclassiter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aclassiter@sbcglobal.net) or 501-258-4607

Thank you for any help you can provide!



"Coffee with Clay"  
in the Assisi Café

Join Monsignor Clay for  
coffee and conversation from  
9:30-10:30am, after Daily Mass.



October 20th  
November 3rd  
December 1st  
December 15th

## **Families Looking for Adventure, Fun and Leadership Development in the outdoors? Join Scouts BSA!**

St. Francis has multiple options for children interested in Scouting:

Pack 352 – Boys and Girls ages K-5th

Troop 352 - Boys ages 11+ (or 10 and in 5th grade)

Troop 219 - Girls ages 11+ (or 10 and in 5th grade)

Venture Crew 722 - Boys or Girls ages 14+ focused on high adventure activities like rock climbing, whitewater rafting, hiking, etc.

You do not have to be a member of the church to join! Please contact the following individuals if interested:

Cub Scouts Pack 352

Luis Suau – [ljsuau@gmail.com](mailto:ljsuau@gmail.com)

Boys Troop 352

Rob Sadler - [rsadlernc@gmail.com](mailto:rsadlernc@gmail.com)

Girls Troop 219

Christina Cash gator [cash96@gmail.com](mailto:cash96@gmail.com)

Venture Crew 722

Jim Erlinger - [jimerlinger@gmail.com](mailto:jimerlinger@gmail.com)

# Employment Opportunities

## THE FRANCISCAN SCHOOL

### **Social Studies Teacher – Full Time** ([See more here](#))

The Franciscan School is seeking a qualified and passionate history/social studies teacher to join our middle school faculty. Preferred candidates will have previous experience teaching middle school social studies in an innovative way utilizing a variety of classroom technology. If you are interested in joining a dynamic educational environment working with dedicated professionals to provide an academically challenging experience for our students, please send a cover letter, that includes your educational philosophy, and resume to: [tfsresume@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:tfsresume@stfrancisraleigh.org).

### **Part-time Music Teacher (16 Hours – T, W, Th)**

The Franciscan School is seeking an energetic individual to share a love of music teaching our students in grades 3, 4 and 5. If you are interested in joining a dynamic educational environment working with dedicated professionals to provide an academically challenging and faith-filled experience for our students, please send a cover letter and resume to: [tfsresume@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:tfsresume@stfrancisraleigh.org).

### **Afterschool Program Staff – Part Time**

The Franciscan School is seeking energetic candidates with a positive attitude and love of children to work in our Bridges Afterschool Program. Hours and days of the week are flexible, Monday thru Friday 3pm – 6pm. Bridges staff are responsible for the supervision and well-being of students in our program. Candidates must be at least 18 years of age and successfully complete the Diocesan background check. To apply, please send resume and cover letter to [tfsresume@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:tfsresume@stfrancisraleigh.org) or contact [Trish.Adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Trish.Adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org) to obtain an application.

## ST. FRANCIS PARISH

### **Part-time Community Center Staff (Evenings and Weekends)**

Our community center offers programs and events that strengthen the communal aspects of our parish in light of our mission to be “one family living in community”. These part time evening and weekend positions support operations by ensuring a safe, clean, controlled environment for participants. A high school diploma or equivalent is required and the applicant must possess, or be able to obtain, Red Cross or American Heart Association CPR Certification with First Aid training, and Diocese of Raleigh Safe Child training. For a complete job description, questions, or to submit a resume, please email Ashley Watson, [Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org).

## Register for Cross Step



Cross Step (formerly known as Play N' Pray) is the newest addition to St. Francis' Crosses Faith Formation programs. Our mission is to the development of faith of children, ages one-and-walking through four. The children come to us in Clare Hall during the 9:00 am Sunday Mass. Using Pflaum Gospel Weeklie's SEEDS curriculum, the children learn about the weekly Gospel and participate in fun, interactive activities that focus on Catholic doctrine and traditions. Let us help your children to take their first STEPS on their walk with God!

Interested families can register their children for the 2022-2023 year in REALM. Please contact [Andrea.Javier@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Andrea.Javier@stfrancisraleigh.org) for more information.

### **Interested in sharing your faith with young children in a fun-filled and loving environment?**

The Cross Step program is currently seeking part-time employees to lead our Parish's preschool-aged faith formation classes for the upcoming 2022-2023 year. Our classes occur during the 9:00 am Sunday Mass and consist of playing, praying, sharing a short Gospel-based lesson that is provided in advance, and participating in a related arts-and-craft activity. No teaching experience is necessary, just the desire to have fun and share God's Word. Sharing a couple hours of your time on Sundays can forever transform a child's faith-journey!

Please contact [Andrea.Javier@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Andrea.Javier@stfrancisraleigh.org)

# Making All The Difference



Kathleen Owen, St. Francis Parishioner

During my time on staff at St. Francis, one of my most powerful 'tools' was our Stephen Ministry. For those of you who aren't familiar with this ministry, let me share some information with you. Stephen Ministry was created in 1975 by a Methodist pastor and psychologist, Kenneth Haugk, PhD. He realized that his faith community needed more pastoral care than he himself could offer. He looked around and tapped the folks who were already being present for those in need – the 'people' people.

He established training that teaches principles and skills that equip the minister in providing high-quality, Christ-centered emotional and spiritual care to others, gives the minister new insight into the thoughts, feelings, and actions of people who are hurting, equips the minister with relational and caring skills you can apply to all aspects of your life, helps deepen your faith as the Holy Spirit fashions you into a Christ-centered caregiver.

So when someone would come to me to talk about something in their life that was causing distress, I could always offer Stephen Ministry. After the loss of a loved one, after a serious diagnosis, after the divorce, after any number of difficult situations, people would find comfort in having an hour each week with their Stephen Minister. During that hour, they could start to unpack the hurtful situation in a safe, non-judgmental space with someone who was not taking sides, or telling them what they should do. The minister prays for the person, listens to the person, asks questions to help clarify the situation, and is present for the person. It makes all the difference.

I have seen people transformed through the support of a Stephen Minister. Just not having to carry the burden of the situation all by themselves gives people hope, peace and, in many instances, refreshes their faith – in God, in themselves and in the goodness of others.

So why am I telling you all this? Because for the past thirty years, the St. Francis Stephen Ministry has been in high demand. Usually we get a couple of referrals each week to the ministry of people reaching out for support. It seems that during the pandemic, people have gotten too comfortable staying by themselves and they are not reaching out for support. What we do know is that the stresses of daily life haven't changed. With inflation, families are feeling more pressure to find ways to economize. And I'm sure you can agree that there's no less stress today that there was three years ago!

So if you or someone you care about is living with a hurtful or stressful situation, please consider suggesting a Stephen Minister. You can learn more about the program at [www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org) and you can always contact Beth Gaudette for more information. Her phone number is 919-847-8205x241 and email is [beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:beth.gaudette@stfrancisraleigh.org). Just know that there is help available that is free and effective. Let's work through this together!



## Society of St. Vincent de Paul

By Sharon Winzeler

In today's Gospel we hear that only one of those healed returned to glorify God and to give thanks to God. It is true that when we have a grateful heart we know that everything is a gift from God.

To give thanks for all that God has given to you, have you considered answering the call to help serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

SVdP is a volunteer lay Catholic organization that aspires to live the Gospel life. They are looking for people to help either by contacting those in need or behind the scenes.

SVdP at St. Francis of Assisi provides hope, compassion, referrals, and short-term financial help for families in the area. Most of the cases are the working poor—families who can pay their bills until they get an unexpected situation—a funeral, a car needing service, a sickness. Any of those situations could make them need help with rent or utilities.

A recent example is a with three children ages 11, 14, and 15 requested rental assistance. The husband had lost his job and was unemployed for a few weeks before starting a new one. He and his family had just moved from a moldy apartment to a rental house but the time out of work put them behind in rent. Since he and his wife are now working and received a donation from SVdP and other sources, they were able to catch up with their payments and are on track to sustainability.

If you are someone who doesn't feel comfortable working directly with people in need but really want to help, we could use someone to keep our resource sheets up to date. This is an important part of our mission that can be done from your own computer and impact the lives of others.

If you would like to volunteer, contact Cathy Smith at [smithtcr@gmail.com](mailto:smithtcr@gmail.com).

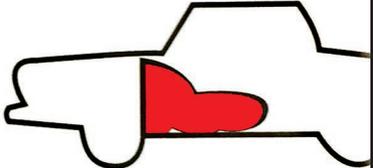
**Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**October 9, 2022**

If we have died with [Christ Jesus] we shall also live with him;  
 if we persevere we shall also reign with him.

— 2 Timothy 2:11–12a

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