



The Franciscan Garden, Phase II: On Friday, registered parishioners with whom we have a working email received a Constant Contact from us about the finishing touches to the Franciscan Garden which Bishop Luis dedicated last January and an invitation to join me in completing this project. The garden was envisioned to be a place of gathering, calm, and prayer right in the heart of our campus, and indeed it is.


But it was envisioned to be even more than that.

I pledged when I arrived that our Franciscan identity would remain intact, despite the departure of the Franciscan friars, because we remain under the patronage of St. Francis of Assisi. One component of retaining our identity is knowing the story of the Franciscans whose names adorn our buildings and rooms. As I have engaged parishioners about these various Franciscans, I have discovered that we could do a better job of knowing these famous men and women as a way for us to retain and strengthen our Franciscan identity. I convened a committee of parishioners and staff (Fr. Jim, Sharon Winzeler, Ellen Ferrone, Gladys Whitehouse, Marc Kieilty, and Rob Neppel) to explore how we could realize this goal. We decided that a recent promotional video developed by Fr. Jim to help the TFS community become more familiar with the Franciscans associated with the buildings they use might serve as a framework for creating art in the garden to both educate about and appreciate these important people.

We identified nine Franciscans and began looking at possible artistic ways to bring them to life on our campus. The result is nine images in various media of art. The two most important will be Sts. Francis and Clare. St. Francis will be a bronze statue sitting on a log with animals to his left. A space to his right on the log will remain open so children can sit beside him, something that would undoubtedly please St. Francis. St. Clare will be a life-size mosaic capturing the best knowledge we have about her. She will be holding a staff with a cross at the top, a symbol of wisdom. Seven other Franciscans will be featured with bronze plaques with their dates of birth-death, a facial profile, and a brief biography.

It is our hope that the Franciscan Garden will also be an educational site where our children, youth, and adults can become more acquainted with these important Franciscans who all, in their own way, embodied the values of Francis and made an indelible mark on our world, just as we are called to do. For further information about supporting this project, please use the various prompts to make a donation. [\(Click here or on image to donate\)](#)

Fr. Michael

A click away  If you are receiving a paper copy, visit the parish website at www.stfrancisraleigh.org

[Website](#) / [Realm](#) / [St. Francis Serves](#) / [Prayer Request](#) / [Listing of Prayers of the Faithful](#)
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June 17/18 Franciscan Garden Campaign Kick Off [Click here](#) for



a special video message from Fr. Michael about our Franciscan Garden.

June 17, 24, 26, 27 - TFS Parking Lot Closed

The TFS parking lot will be closed and inaccessible on Saturdays, June 17 and 24, and on Monday June 26 and Tuesday, June 27.

June 18 - Migrant Ministry

Last weekend Migrant Ministry delivered welcome bags to the men supported by our ministry! "What a hit those bags were," says MaryLou, "I truly felt like I was handing each of the men a million dollars." Migrant Ministry has needs as soon as June 18th! [Learn more by clicking here!](#) Contact MaryLou Holloway, mlholly10@gmail.com

Camp Francis

June 19-23, July 10-14, July 17-21, July 24-28

Camp Francis has opportunities in athletics, technologies, arts and enrichment areas! Half-day or full-day camps based on age for the 2023-2024 school year. (Rising K-Rising 12th grade)

Contact Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org
 919-847-8205x444 [Registration](#)

June 22 - Mary Magdalene in the Gospel of John: A Case of Textual Suppression? Founders Room, 7:00pm

Please join us as Dr. Elizabeth Schrader Polczer shares her research on the earliest manuscripts of the Gospel of John, illuminating possible efforts to diminish Mary Magdalene's significance as a disciple of Jesus. Wine and charcuterie will be served. Cost: \$10.00 **Non-parishioners** [register here](#)

Parishioners register through [Realm](#).

Contact: Janie.Hebert@stfrancisraleigh.org,
 919-847-8205x237. For more information, [click here](#).



Remembrance and Witness

Honoring struggle and progress is essential, lest we forget. This is one reason we invoke the phrase "Never forget" concerning the horror of the Holocaust. This belief is one of the inspirations that led to a pilgrimage in March 2023. Trever Thompson, former Director of the St. Francis Office of Justice and Peace, shared, "We had 35 people on the bus, members of St. Francis of Assisi, the Baptist Grove Baptist Church, and Lincoln Park Holiness Church, the latter two churches are black congregations we've partnered with for many years." But where were they headed? To the heart of the Civil Rights movement. [Read more](#)



GROWING IN HOLINESS
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[Click here for a walkthrough on how to use our new service site, St. Francis Serves.](#)
Click here for [mobile training](#) on St Francis Serves
Contact Tim Fasano at tim.fasano@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Bishop's Annual Appeal: [Click here](#) to strengthen the vulnerable, our faith, our youth, our vocations and HIS Presence. Thank you for your generosity.

June 26-30 - Mission Mercy, High School Youth Summer Service Opportunity 9:00am-6:00pm
High School Youth are invited to a week-long mission experience, serving families in need right here in Raleigh. Youth will serve as camp counselors for this camp, as well as have time for unpacking their experience, fellowship with other youth, and worship opportunities after the camp concludes for the day. Contact Tim Hetzel: tim.hetzel@stfrancisraleigh.org Register through Realm. Register through [Realm](#).

July 27-30 Recovering Our Soul Connections
A retreat for women who have been sexually abused.
Contact: soulconnection366@gmail.com

October 28 - The Heart of Matter: Encountering Christ in all Creation | 2023 Convocation, 8:30am
Save the Date! Join us on Saturday, October 28, 2023 for the 3rd annual Franciscan Spirit and Life Convocation "The Heart of Matter: Encountering Christ in all Creation". Sr. Ilia Delio, O.S.F., PhD. will be joining us as our keynote speaker. Registration will open on Realm in September. Contact Kathy Sales, kathy.sales@stfrancisraleigh.org.

2023-2024 Cross Step (Preschool-Aged Faith Formation)
Registration Open in Realm through September 10
Cross Step provides weekly liturgical lessons during the 9:00am Mass for preschool-aged children, ages one (and walking) through age five, who are not enrolled in kindergarten. [More information](#)
Contact andrea.javier@stfrancisraleigh.org [Registration link](#)

Employment Opportunities
The Franciscan School for the 2023-2024 Academic Year: Teacher (Gr. 4), Instructional Teaching Assistants. The Church has immediate openings for: Coordinator of Liturgy and Sacraments, Coordinator Middle School Formation, and Director, Pastoral Care. Preschool: Lead Teacher (2yo)
See our website: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>
Contact Trish Adamkowski, trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org

Parishioner Owned Businesses Ad Page
Support our local parishioner-owned businesses
To advertise email: diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org
Link: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/parishioner-businesses/>



Goodbye Thanks for Farewell Reception and Amazing Year

What a sendoff! Thank you all! Your appreciation and support mean a lot. I truly appreciate all your beautiful and heartfelt messages, gifts, wishes and wonderful sendoff presents. Thanks for everything, and thanks for making my experience in this church memorable.

I have felt respected, appreciated and loved by many in this parish from the littlest kid to the oldest person and all of them I will carry in my heart.

I want to honor each person that has crossed my path during the last year. My journey here was worthwhile. I learned and gained a lot from you.

After three years of not being a pastor, your support has always been very helpful to me. I have learned a lot from all the people I had the opportunity to interact with. The diversity of Saint Francis makes of it a special church where everyone is "truly welcome." Now I go back to take full responsibilities in my Parish, Holy Family in Elizabeth City with great confidence and many wonderful teachings.

TFS is a refreshing hope for the future and I can but thank God for the hard work and love everyone puts in acquiring the goals of the school and most especially teach our new generation how to be like Jesus. I will miss seeing, celebrating, singing and laughing with our kids; I just pray the Lord may continue blessing them and their families so they can be examples of truthfulness, faithfulness, hopefulness and charity in a world in need of witnesses (modern disciples). Thanks "kids" for making many of my Wednesdays the happiest days of weeks.

I will still be with you until June 26th but as the clock runs forward to the day of my departure know that many of you will forever be in my heart.

I am going to miss you all.

Goodbye to you. Wishing you all an amazing future.

Blessings

Padre Alex