



**“Why Were You in Rome?”** As many of you know by now, I was in Rome back in June and while there had the good fortune to meet Pope Francis. People have been asking, “Why were you in Rome?” Good question.

I have been part of a bilateral commission for international ecumenical dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) since 2013. The seven Catholic members of this commission are appointed by the Vatican’s Dicastery (Department) for Promoting Christian Unity. The 14 members come from all over the world. The dicastery has been involved with ecumenical dialogue with every major Christian body since the early 1970’s as a result of the ecumenical advances brought about by Vatican II (1962-1965). The goal of all these dialogues is to build bridges toward one another with the eventual hope being full visible unity. This admittedly is a long process but we are making progress.

Members are selected for a six-year term based on the knowledge, skills, and experience they bring to the table on a particular topic the commission selects at the end of their previous phase of dialogue. In 2019, my first appointment concluded and the group selected the topic of the role of the Holy Spirit in ministry as the focus of the current phase. In 2021, I was appointed to a second term. Each June, the commission meets for a week of intense discussions around a particular component of the topic. Our first session in this series was in 2022 and we met in Kentucky, the place where the Disciples denomination got started. It was decided that in 2023 we would meet in Rome, the center of the Catholic Church. This was the reason I was in Rome last month. Next year we will meet in Puerto Rico.

Pope Francis has made ecumenism a key priority in 2023 and an opportunity became available for our group to meet with him in private audience since we were meeting in Rome. It was a memorable meeting. He was gracious, relaxed, humorous, and down-to-earth, emphasizing the importance of our work as a manifestation of the Holy Spirit. Each member of the commission had about 30 seconds to speak personally with the Pope. He was engaged in what everyone said and put everyone at ease when it became each person’s turn to speak with him. I thanked him for his vision for the Church. It was an experience I’ll never forget.

Fr. Michael



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**Registration for the Diocese of Raleigh’s Eucharistic Congress to be held on Saturday, October 21, 2023, at the Raleigh Convention Center is now open. [Click here.](#)**

We give thanks to the Lord and to all those who helped form the foundation of our Catholic faith in North Carolina. There is no charge to attend the Eucharistic Congress, but pre-registration is required. Please download the 2023 DOR Eucharistic Congress app from the App Store or Google Play Store. By signing up and logging into the mobile app, you are automatically registered for general event admission and can choose individual sessions to attend.

**Bishop’s Annual Appeal:** [Click on the link](#) Thank you for your generosity.

**BAA totals for our Parish as of Thursday, June 15, as reported by the Diocese:**

	2023 Campaign (6/15/23)		2022 Campaign (6/30/22)	
Goal:	\$473,565		\$509,088	
Pledge Total:	\$471,991	99.5%	\$459,567	90.3%
Received Total:	\$448,368	94.7%	\$435,917	85.6%
Participating Families:	1129	20.5%	1100	21.6%
Total Families:	5,500		5,100	
<b>To-Go:</b>	<b>\$2,574</b>			

A click away If you are receiving a paper copy, visit the parish website at [www.stfrancisraleigh.org](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org).

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[KBL series](#) / [Bulletins](#) / [Employment Opportunities](#) / [St. Francis TV](#) / [Giving](#)  
[Staff](#) / [Parishioner Business Ads](#) / [Ask Chris](#) / [Franciscan School](#) / [Preschool](#) /



**July 15/16 Franciscan Garden Campaign**

[Click here](#) for a special video message from Fr. Michael about our Franciscan Garden. [\(Click here to donate\)](#)



**Camp Francis**

**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](mailto:Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org), 919-847-8205x444 [Registration](#)

**July 15-July 30: Back-to-School Supplies Drive:**

Please drop your supplies in the bins in the Stewardship Center in the church. For more information on how to volunteer, donate financially, or to view the supply list visit [click here](#).

**July 16 - Welcoming Fr. James Singarayar, HGN**

We will welcome our new priest, Fr. James, after 9 am Mass. Please join us and the Knights of Columbus in Clare Fellowship Hall and welcome/introduce yourself to Fr. James and enjoy some coffee and donuts. Contact Chris Damico, [chris.damico@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:chris.damico@stfrancisraleigh.org).

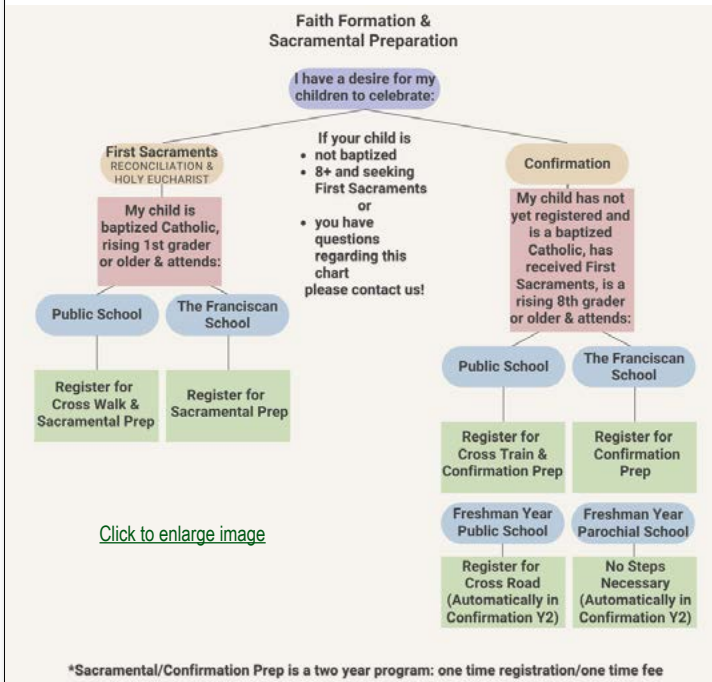


**A Franciscan Story Continues**

St. Francis of Assisi’s founding was parishioner-driven, and even though our first pastor was a Jesuit, St. Francis and the Franciscan Mission have been the moving forces in our parish since its inception. Even the naming of the parish seemed to be a divine event. [Read more](#)

# Register for Faith Formation and Sacramental Preparation

## Our deadline is quickly approaching: **August 1, 2023**



Are you ready to register? Your next steps are:

- 1) Make sure you are a registered parishioner. If you aren't, you can [register here](#).
- 2) Once you are a registered parishioner, you will be sent an invitation via email to REALM, our parish software.
- 3) Once you have a REALM login setup, you can register via REALM for:

[Cross Step \(Pre-K\)](#)  
[Cross Walk \(by grade\)](#)  
[Cross Train \(by grade\)](#)  
[Cross Road \(by grade\)](#)  
[First Sacraments 2023-2025](#)  
[Confirmation 2023-2025](#)

Questions contact Jeanne Lewin, Director of Faith Formation  
[jeanne.lewin@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:jeanne.lewin@stfrancisraleigh.org)

### July 16 - Migrant Ministry Fiestas

Our Migrant Ministry needs your help offering hope and extending hospitality to the men who have left their homes and families to work on our NC farms. Every month we throw a fiesta to celebrate and break bread together. Become a part of the party in any way you can! Contact MaryLou Holloway, [mlholly10@gmail.com](mailto:mlholly10@gmail.com). [Register here](#)

### July 22 - Women's Ministry Yoga & Breakfast, 9:00am, in Clare Fellowship Hall

Join the SFA Women's Ministry for a morning of yoga, breakfast and community! This event will begin with 45 minutes of beginner yoga followed by a prayerful meditation. Afterwards, we'll build community by sharing food & fellowship! [Register in Realm](#). Fee: \$5.00. Need help with registration? Contact Janie Hebert, [janie.hebert@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:janie.hebert@stfrancisraleigh.org), 919-847-8205.

### August 23 - RCIA Inquiry Session, Founders Room, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Interested in Exploring a Possible Call to be a Catholic? Consider Joining our Inquiry Sessions held in Anthony Hall Founders Room, down the hall from the church bathrooms. Begin your faith journey in our community. Contact Jeanne M. Lewin, [jeanne.lewin@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:jeanne.lewin@stfrancisraleigh.org)  
 Link: [www.stfrancisraleigh.org/rcia](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/rcia)

### Parishioner Owned Businesses Ad Page

Support our local parishioner-owned businesses  
 To advertise email: [diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org)  
 Link: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/parishioner-businesses/>

## ST. FRANCIS TV EPISODE 31



### 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". Sister Iliia Delio will be joining us as our keynote speaker for the day. Registration will open on Realm in September. Contact Kathy Sales, [kathy.sales@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:kathy.sales@stfrancisraleigh.org).

### Employment Opportunities

Preschool Lead Teacher (2yo), Coordinator of Liturgy and Sacraments, Coordinator of Middle School Formation, Director of Pastoral Care. Substitute Teachers for the 23-24 school year.  
 See our website: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>  
 Contact Trish Adamkowski, [trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org)

If you can't access information through the hyperlink because you do not use the internet, please call the office to get information. (919) 847-8205