

THE VERNACULAR

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH



Wichita, Kansas

DECEMBER 2016

Visioning: Looking far ahead at future of parish

Visioning. There are so many ways to imagine what visioning is.

I think of the Seat of Seeing in the “Lord of the Rings,” where Frodo was able to see far beyond normal human sight with images much more vivid than normal imagination.

I also think of “Star Wars” when Luke Skywalker was flying the Tie-Fighter in the cavern on the Death Star waiting to shoot down the tiny hole to start a chain-reaction explosion. You may remember one of the voices saying what is written on the cover of this Vernacular, “Wait for it ... Wait for it ...”

Luke used the Force, a source of knowing beyond normal capacity, to see the hole and hit it.

Or I think of the recent Disney film “Finding Dory,” in which Bailey the beluga whale used echo-location to see far beyond the normal range of sight to guide Dory.

Whatever image works best for you, the point of visioning is this: to see far beyond the normal range sight for a community in order to find the best course of action to take for the future. For example, if one is lost in the wilderness, it is best to get to the top of a hill to see as far as possible to plot a route. Or, if one is driving to California, it is important to pick up a map and formulate directions before starting the road trip.



Message From
THE PASTOR

When it comes to a community, visioning is concerned with the next best steps of action to achieve a goal. When it comes to parish visioning, this goal is the mission of the Gospel: to proclaim God’s love for the Redemption of sin through the Advent of Christ so that by Confessing his name all people might receive Eternal life – G.R.A.C.E.

Where Frodo used a chair, Skywalker used the Force, a beluga whale uses echo-location, a lost person uses a hill, and a traveler uses a map, parish visioning uses dialogue to see where it needs to go. And this is exactly what I am asking of every parishioner during this parish visioning process: Will you please dialogue with me so that I can know the hopes, dreams and needs of our parish family so that we can make a plan for the future of our parish?

One of my greatest pastoral joys is to receive input and implement a vision. It is only through dialogue and conversation that I will be able to see

the needs of the parish. Visioning is an essential part of our prophetic faith.

As the prophet Habakkuk states, “For the vision is a witness for the appointed time, a testimony to the end; it will not disappoint. If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late” (Hb 2:3). Advent is a season of hopeful anticipation; a time of waiting. Let us anticipate our future. Let us discern the needs of our appointed time.

Please begin thinking now about what you hope and dream for St. Francis. We will be sending out surveys and leading group discussions in January and February to foster dialogue and receive your input. Let us plan a future full of success for the promotion of the Gospel as the St. Francis parish family.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pastor's Annual Stewardship Talk
Jan. 10 & 17, 7 p.m., Church

JCYM Bingo
Jan. 15, 2:30 p.m., Cana Hall

Leadership Training
Jan. 21, 9-11 a.m., St. Clare Hall

Boy Scout Chili Feed
Jan. 29, 11 a.m., St. Clare Hall

Committee hosts Daytime Prayer Service

On Nov. 13, 2016, the Bereavement Committee of St. Francis sponsored the eighth annual Daytime Prayer Service for the deceased. Father Josh conducted a beautiful service leading the congregation in prayers from the Liturgy of the Hours.

Families in our parish who lost an immediate family member this past year received a blessed lighted votive candle in remembrance of their loved one. The candle can be burned through the year as they pray for them.

A reception followed the prayer

service in Clare Hall.

We would like to thank all those who attended the prayer service. We hope next year more parishioners will come to remember and pray for those who have died.

– Monica Hammer

NEW PARISHIONERS

David Arteaga

Tyler and Katrina Martin

John Nichols, 5 children

Jeffery and Kristie Roth,

3 children

Ramon Wiseman, 1 child

Stewardship Thought

Christian stewardship isn't something you do; it's the way you live your entire life. It is quite literally a call to renew the face of the earth.

SFA SOCIAL SITES



If you're on any of these social sites, please take a few minutes to follow or like us:

- www.facebook.com/kssfachurch
- www.instagram.com/kssfachurch
- www.twitter.com/kssfachurch

Youth Ministry

- www.facebook.com/sfacym
- www.twitter.com/sfacym

Fr. Jarrod Lies is online!

- Follow him at twitter.com/FrJLies
- Visit www.stfranciswichita.com and click on "Fr. Jarrod's Homilies" to listen to any of his past sermons.

Spread the word!

Sunday Preschool



On Sunday, November 20, the Sunday Preschool classes had their Thanksgiving feast. They made placemats, turkey headbands, shared something they were thankful for with one another, and enjoyed a plate of snacks.



Photos by Aimee Hampel

FAITH FORWARD: Seeking closer relationship with Jesus

They set out on a journey, not really sure where they were going. They knew they had something to offer, something to give. They had many gifts to share. All that they had to guide them was a light.

They were kings, as the song says, from orient far. Bearing gifts, they traversed so far, following yonder star.

Just as the Three Kings set out on an adventure, so too our parish is setting out on a journey. The Three Kings had their hopes and dreams of finding a Messiah, a Savior. So it is in our search as a parish to find a closer relationship with Jesus.

The Three Kings brought along many gifts that they possessed. Each gift was different and varied. We bring our gifts to the table as well. We count our blessings each day for the many blessings that have come our way as a parish.

The parish visioning process or FAITH FORWARD, is not to take away from what we have done in the past. It is a chance to look forward to

see how we can best use our gifts and put them at the service of our Savior.

The Three Kings had quite a long journey. They didn't just travel but traversed so far. Our parish has travelled a long journey. We have encountered roadblocks and obstacles along the way, but we have continued to grow.



FAITH FORWARD is the opportunity to explore our strengths and challenges. The journey is an act of faith. The Three Kings did not know where this path would take them. As we listen as a parish to your hopes, dreams and concerns, we can begin to plan for our future together.

The Three Kings were relentless in pursuit of the light, the star. They followed the light wherever it led them. This too is our goal as we begin our visioning process. There is no end game or desired result that we are seeking. It is only a desire to listen and improve and to follow the Light of Christ wherever it may lead us.

The Three Kings did find Jesus.

He was lying in a manger. They came and adored Him. Ultimately, this is our goal as a parish as well. We are to seek and find the best ways possible to lead every parishioner, every person within our parish boundaries, to live a life closer to Jesus.

The Three Kings laid their gifts at the feet of Jesus. We bring forward all our gifts as well. We are to bring good news and glad tidings to all.

O come let us adore Him. May you have a blessed and joy-filled Christmas Season. May our new year be happy and bright. May our FAITH FORWARD efforts yield a bountiful harvest as we renew our parish in 2017.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

– Pat Burns, Director of Stewardship & Finance

FUNERALS

Paul R. Shinogle, husband of Louise Shinogle, father of Linda Shinogle, Robert Shinogle, Joe Shinogle, Jane Anderson and Mary Cohen, on Nov. 3.

Anna Jacobs, mother of Paula Canfield and Karen Burkhart, on Nov. 8.

G. Vicente Suarez, husband of Kirsten Suarez, father of Aksel Suarez and Anne-Marie Leeuwenburg, on Nov. 17.

Pearlie M. Thomas, wife of Edward Thomas Sr., mother of Sheanne Thomas, Vondila Thomas and Edward Thomas, Jr., on Nov. 18.

Teresa M. Deeds, mother of Bob Deeds Jr., Tom Deeds, Jan Utter, on Nov. 22.

Isabella Mathenia, daughter of Gabriela Mathenia, granddaughter of Barbara Outhouse, great granddaughter of Rosa Soria, on Nov. 22.

Gertrude Hitschmann, aunt of Larry Krier, John Krier, Danny Krier and Bernard Kaiser, on Nov. 23.

Jarrold J. Fisher, husband of Julie, father of Collette, McKenna, Chase and Dalton, on Nov. 28.

BAPTISMS

Blakely Ann, daughter of Adam and Katherine McDaniel, on Nov. 5

Isabelle Jean, daughter of Patrick and Jessica Hannon, IV, on Nov. 5

Jonathan Michael, son of Joshua and Sara Radell, on Nov. 6

Madeleine Clara, daughter of Matthew and Katelynn Powell, on Nov. 12

Easton Anthony, son of Marcos and Jennifer Mosqueda, on Nov. 19

Jaxon McCade, son of Rory O'Donnell and Christi Wohler, on Nov. 19

Rowan Charles, son of Blake Rollins and Kaitlin Porter, on Nov. 20

Cathryn Hein, daughter of Robert and Susan Hein, on Nov. 26

Avery Thomas, son of Aaron Palacio and Alexandria Para, on Nov. 26

Clara Ann, daughter of Luke and Danielle Meyer, on Nov. 27

FAITH FORWARD

COME TO THE TABLE



The Plan

St. Francis is beginning the 6-month process of developing a 5-year action plan driven on dialogue and communication with every parishioner concerning the hopes, dreams and needs of our parish. This plan, known as Faith Forward, will be a collaborative effort between a newly formed team to guide the process, the standing parish committees, the pastor, and the lay faithful of the parish. Faith Forward is a plan that will improve several functional areas of the parish including hospitality, life of prayer, formation, service, buildings, and finances.

Purpose

The purpose of the Faith Forward process is to transform our parish into the fullest potential that God intends for it.



Faith Forward is a trademarked process of the Dellasega Group. The Dellasega Group, founded by Joe Dellasega, is a coaching and consulting group with the mission of helping leaders gain clarity and vision for their organizations. Joe and his team will be leading us through the 6-month process.

Strategic Planning Team

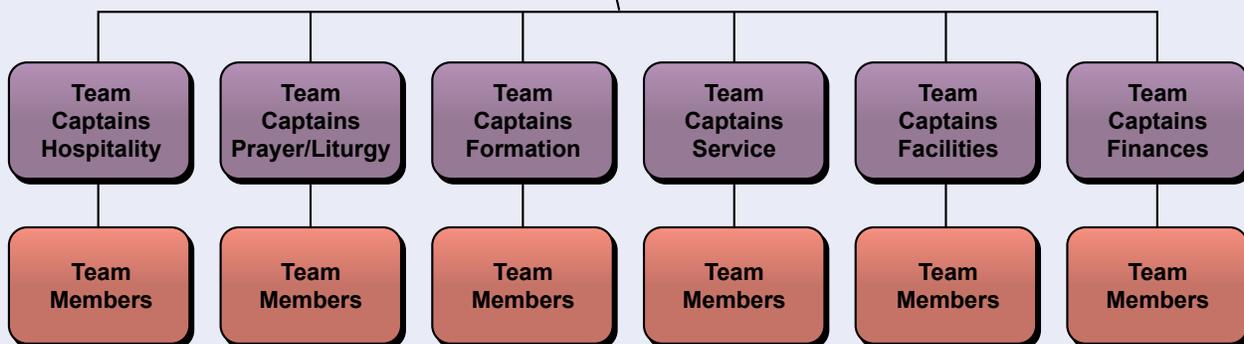
*Fr. Jarrod Lies
Fr. Josh Evans
Fr. Dan Duling
Alyssa Standridge
Laura Feldkamp
Mike Kuckelman
Charles Mersmann
Pat Burns
Angie Lubbers*

Co-Chairs

*Becky Smith
Stu Meether*

FAITH FORWARD *Leadership Team*

Captains and Team Members to be announced in the bulletin



Your Role

Developing this Faith Forward plan for the parish will require a tremendous amount of energy and talent from members of the parish. While the leadership team and parish committees will guide the process, there are some specific ways that all parishioners are called to help.

1. **Pray.** The guidance of the Holy Spirit is necessary for the success of Faith Forward. Pray for his intercession as your Mass intention, while you pray your rosary, while in adoration, or before you go to bed. As a parish we will pray together - a prayer has been developed specifically to ask for guidance in the process that will be prayed together after each Sunday mass.
2. **Provide Input.** The perspective of every parish-

ioner is valuable in understanding how we can strengthen our parish family. As such it is important that you communicate your thoughts throughout the process. Specifically, a short survey will be distributed to the parish in January during mass, and a longer, more in-depth survey will be available online during this same timeframe. As part of an ongoing conversation, catch the parish leaders to share your thoughts throughout the entire process.

3. **Take Part In Faith Forward Sunday.** Faith Forward Sunday event is January 29th. On this special day all parishioners are invited to come and share your dreams and aspirations for the parish. This will help the leadership team develop a clear understanding of the hopes, dreams, and needs of our parish. Stay tuned for more details on Faith Forward Sunday!

Fr. Kapaun Veterans Day Mass



Top two photos by Colleen Farran



Top left: As pictured in last month's Vernacular, the 5:30 p.m. Mass on Veterans Day was held outside, with the hood of a JEEP serving as altar. Top right: Jarrad Condrey of our parish, who served in the U.S. Military, was one of the veterans in attendance at the Mass.

The Mass – which took place in the field south of the back parking lot – was in honor of Fr. Kapaun and was a reenactment of the way he would have said Mass on the battlefields as a U.S. Army chaplain. See more photos on page 7.

Photos by Aaron Crisler





Photos by Aaron Crisler

The Vernacular

This monthly newsletter is published by and for the parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Parish. It is mailed to each registered parish household by the end of each month.

To submit articles, photos or story ideas, send them via email to sfavernacular@gmail.com. Photos must be high-resolution print quality images.

Contacts for the Vernacular are news editor Lanette Belton, 722-3952, and copy editor Ann Walden, 249-2430. Travis Kelly, 729-9445, is the Communications Commission coordinator.

Deadlines for submitting information are the beginning of each month.

New volunteers – especially reporters, photographers and layout editors – are always welcome.



Wait for it...

For the vision awaits its appointed time

Habakkuk 2:3

Visioning
- page 1 -

Faith Forward
- page 3 -

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www.stfranciswichita.com

The logo for 'The Vernacular' features a stylized cross with an open book at its base, set against a background of a church steeple and a sunset sky. The text 'THE VERNACULAR' is in a large, serif font, with 'St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church' and the website URL below it.