

THE VERNACULAR

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

Wichita, Kansas

AUGUST 2018

Our promise: To be the kind of priests you need

Among the five promises that Fr. Labenz, Fr. Coulter and I made when we were ordained, one stands out to me above the rest: *To grow every day in the image of Christ the High Priest.*

How inadequate I feel every time I call this promise to mind! I know myself to be a weak man.

As much as I aspire to holiness, I am vividly aware of my own need for the sacrament of confession. How far I fall short of such a lofty promise!

And yet, I did promise to grow every day in the image of Christ the High Priest, as did Fr. Labenz and Fr. Coulter. And that is a promise we ask for your prayers to achieve.

In the Faith Forward visioning process, the people of St. Francis of Assisi were very clear about the desired identity for their pastor and associate priests. From the many comments provided during the process, following are the characteristics that SFA parishioners said they desire to find in their priests:

Welcoming: To smile and be glad to see people; to reach out to everyone; to interact; to treat everyone as family; to be compassionate; to be inviting to visitors; and not to be aloof, too busy, distracted or distant.

Reverent: To speak the words of consecration for reverence, to be engaging during Mass and present

during liturgies.

Visible / Present: To be present at parish events; to visit the homebound; to visit grade school, PSR, CYM, adult education and other on-campus events.

Available: To find time for people,



to respond quickly to emergencies, to have brief one-on-one conversations, to have an open-door policy, to be open to home visits

Open: To talk to everybody, to focus on people he doesn't know, to avoid favoritism, to reach out to new people, and to not walk by people without a glance.

Personable: To be joyful, to know names, to be friendly in public, to focus on the person in front of him, to speak to new persons first, to share his own interests and needs.

Grateful: To show appreciation; to say thank you to all, especially the unnoticed; and to show encouragement.

Caring: To be a good listener – people need to know the priests really care.

Patient: To never lose temper (people leave because of such wounds) and to not be in a hurry.

Prudent: To not make changes without thinking them through, to be financially prudent and thrifty.

Pastoral: To personally reach out to fallen away parishioners, to desire to make us saints, and to reach out to those in need.

Spiritual: To keep growing in faith and prayer life; and to intercede for us and make it public that he is praying for us.

Preacher: To ensure good homilies; and to give sermons that build up, not break down.

Teacher: To have more classes taught by priests.

You, as a parish, have been very articulate about what you expect in your priests. We know we can grow and improve.

Fr. Labenz, Fr. Coulter and I are committed to grow in holiness and pastoral presence to better serve you. We promised this on the day of our ordination. We will strive for it every day of our priesthood. Pray for us that we can be the kind of teachers and preachers you deserve.

– Fr. Jarrod Lies, Pastor

Adult ed leaders help others grow in faith

“Our Catholic faith can grow when we participate with others to learn about the scriptures and the beauty of our church,” Linda Shinogle said as she shared her experience in leading the Tuesday Morning Bible Study group.

This group has been meeting at St. Francis for more than 30 years! It all began as a small group in a parishioner’s home and grew to more than 40 members today. The topics studied have varied over the years, but the intent has remained the same: To grow in the knowledge of our faith and what leads us to salvation.

The group has been using FORMED.ORG in recent years to cover a variety

of topics including Jesus, Mary and St. Paul. Currently, they are working through the series from FORMED titled “Philippians.”

In the first six months of 2018, St Francis parishioners have visited FORMED.ORG more than 1,500 times.



Linda Shinogle

Photo by Pat Burns

This is a wonderful parish resource and available to all. You can go to the website and access it at no charge by using the St. Francis code of 9RMP79.

The Tuesday Morning Bible Study group is always welcome to new members. They would also encourage anyone who wants to start a small prayer group to just get started. It is easier than ever to find a few friends or neighbors, log onto FORMED.ORG to find a topic, and start learning.

As a parish, we want to thank Linda and all the group leaders of adult education who strive to share their others.

– Pat Burns,

Director of Stewardship & Finance

SFA School’s 55 teachers are ‘amazing group’

Since 1961, St. Francis of Assisi Catholic School has supported parents in creating young disciples. This year, our preschool through eighth grade school will welcome more than 625 students.

We have 55 teachers who are consummate professionals; they have chosen teaching as their vocation so that they can help

ST. FRANCIS
OF ASSISI
CATHOLIC SCHOOL



children get to heaven. Teaching is difficult, rewarding, challenging and takes a great deal of patience. Not just anyone can do it, but we have an amazing group of teachers who face each day with a smile.

We thank each one of them for the sacrifices they make to teach in a Catholic school and for holding each child entrusted to their

care dear to their hearts.

Teachers, we know you make a difference and give you a standing ovation for all you do to make St. Francis of Assisi the best place to send children for their spiritual and academic journeys. Thank you and God bless you!

– Mary Carter,

SFA School Principal

CGS catechists provide service to community

Catechists in SFA’s Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program prepare an environment and maintain order in that environment (the atrium) so that it fosters concentration, silence and contemplation in both the child and adult.

Through CGS, Christ is the only teacher. The single aim of the adult catechist – through her words – is to discreetly serve God’s Word, in accordance with Jesus’ own statement in the gospel: “My teaching is not mine but his who sent me.” (John 7:16)

The demeanor of the catechist within the atrium respects the dignity of the smallest children, to whom Jesus calls with His message

of unconditional love.

As “the useless servant” (Luke 17:10), the catechist spends hours with children proclaiming the Christian message within the atrium,



but invests much more time preparing the materials, the environment and herself to be tools used by the Holy Spirit.

Years of formation as well as dedicated time to spiritual growth and growth as a catechist require a huge sacrifice on the part of the catechists and their families, but also bear much fruit in their lives and that of the Christian community.

Service in the atrium is rewarding; it enables all involved to see our lives as “blank pages” on which we help write our part of God’s loving plan.

– Cheryl Rundle

SFA indebted to our dedicated RCIA catechists

With summer winding down, we have an opportunity to reflect more deeply on the many blessings the Lord has bestowed on RCIA. In particular, we want to call to mind, with a grateful heart, those individuals who aid in making RCIA at St. Francis the evangelizing vehicle it is today.

RCIA has two dedicated teams of catechists: Catechists for Breaking Open the Word (BOTW) and catechists for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children (RCIC).

Randy Phelps, Winston Kenton,

Noah Kluge and James Bitting of the BOTW team have dedicated their catechetical efforts around the Living Words of Jesus Christ. They meet with our candidates and catechumens most Sunday mornings, catechizing and evangelizing through scripture. RCIA is indebted to their hard work and willingness to teach and evangelize.

Marcia McAnarney and Scott Carter make up our RCIC team. They meet with our young candidates and catechumens. Their willingness to teach the children is often what

enables whole families to enter the Church together at Easter.

Marcia and Scott bring a passion and excitement about our Catholic faith that leaves a lasting impression on each child who enters their classroom.

SFA's RCIA program is indebted to all of these dedicated catechists, heavily relying on their response to be vehicles of the Holy Spirit. Please pray a prayer of thanksgiving for the many blessings the Lord has afforded us, and especially for our catechists.

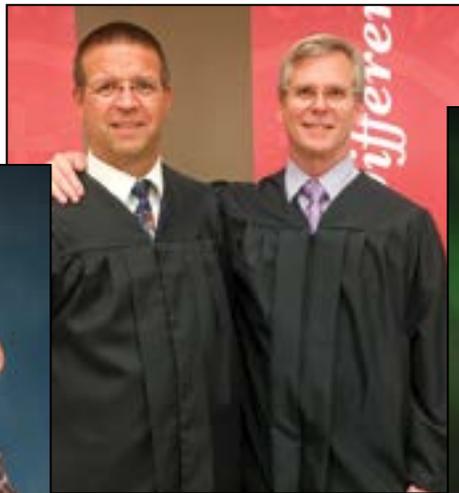
– *Jeremy Lezniak,*
RCIA Coordinator



Noah Kluge



James Bitting



Randy Phelps, Winston Kenton

Photo by Pete Iseman



Marcia McAnarney

PSR teachers spread Gospel to students

Parish School of Religion is a program at St. Francis that assists parents in the religious formation of their children. PSR serves students in grades K-8 who are not enrolled in a Catholic school.

The catechists for PSR are dedicated parishioners who generously share their faith with the children in our parish. Most of them are not formally trained educators; they have a wide variety of jobs in the community during the day.

Once a week, on Wednesday nights, they gather at our parish school to share their faith with the students in their class. Some of the catechists are young (high school seniors and college students), and some are ... well ... more experienced.

I want to personally thank each of them for the work that they do. The excitement and joy that they bring to their students is contagious.

As one catechist said, "This is just my way of helping to spread the news

of the Gospel that Jesus asked us to do. I also get to meet more people in our parish."

The willingness of these catechists to share their time and talent is a true example of stewardship. As we prepare for the beginning of another school year, I would like request prayers for each of the PSR catechists that the Holy Spirit would assist them as they continue to share their faith.

– *Joan Hampton,*
PSR Coordinator

3 teams serve new Confirmation program

This year, preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation is taking on a new format. Three teams will be working together to provide the best possible sacramental preparation our parish can offer.

Team #1 is our hospitality team, which consists of a few of our parents who will help make each night smooth and welcoming.

Team #2 is our speaker team. This team is composed of eight adults who will each teach a Confirmation class, and they will focus on the intellectual formation of our students.

Team #3 is our discipleship team. This team is composed of young adults who will serve the teens by leading and guiding discussions meant to inspire our young people to take to heart the faith they have

been given.

Approximately 20 volunteers will work together this year to serve our sophomores for confirmation preparation. I am thankful for their willingness to serve, and I am looking forward to a wonderful year!

Please pray for us as we embark on this journey of faith.

– Emily Savage,

Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

SFA young people benefit from sacrificial leadership of CYM Core Team, director

A couple of weeks ago, I received a call from one of the newly ordained priests of our diocese. He had been assigned by his pastor to youth ministry and wanted to learn more about the pedagogy and philosophy of youth ministry at St. Francis.

The very first aspect of our program that came to my mind was the zealous leadership of our youth director, Emily Savage, and the fantastic and beloved young adults who make up our CYM Core Team.

Our students here at St. Francis are blessed with superb mentors who have not only taken a vested interest in their lives, but who also keep them in their daily prayers and lead them directly to Jesus Christ.

Pope St. John Paul the Great



Emily Savage with CYM participants

captures the mission of our CYM Core Team: “The catechist,” the pope says,

“is called to point out Jesus as the Christ. Their task is to invite people to fix their gaze on Jesus and then to follow him, for Jesus alone is the Teacher, the Lord, and

the Savior. It is Christ, and not himself, whom the catechist must emphasize. Everything must be directed to Him: to his coming, to his presence, to his mystery.”

As the chaplain of CYM, I have

been both edified and inspired by the sterling witness of our CYM Core Team who constantly sacrifice and offer to our youth the very gift of themselves. The young people of St. Francis are most certainly blessed, and those blessings will continue to bear fruit in their lives for years to come!

– Fr. Andrew Labenz

BAPTISMS

Ellie Troxel, daughter of Brett and Whitney Troxel, July 8

Barrett Hamilton, son of Richard and Kelly Hamilton, July 21

Ariana Alvares, daughter of Maria Alvarez-Torres, July 22

Kolbe Winslow, son of Bryant and Sarah Winslow, July 29

FUNERALS

Bernadette Oeser, mother of Mary Galvin, July 5

Roch Dvorak, brother of Nikki Meyer, July 7

Dolores Ramirez, mother of Maria Coughlan, July 13

Rita Goodwin, mother of Bill Goodwin and Kimberly Brighton, July 14

Joseph Shinogle, son of Louise Shinogle, July 20

Frank Faltermeier, grandson of Ginny Faltermeier, July 21

Cecil Liepman, brother of Margaret Dresher and Clay Bourbonnais, son of Cecilia Bourbonnais, July 7

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.

NEW PARISHIONERS

Joseph Dockers

Brandon & Kristin Dooley, 1 child

Keith & Kristal Lang, 2 children

Aaron Pinkerton

Evangelization Team works to cultivate disciples

Our parish vision – our goal – is to invite people to become Disciples of Jesus Christ through proclamation of the Gospel and inclusion within the parish family. The new Evangelization Team of St. Francis of Assisi is blessed with the role to help cultivate our hearts to assist the Holy Spirit in using our joy of knowing Jesus to help others encounter the living Presence of Jesus.

He is alive – this is good news.

The Evangelization Team is in the process of organizing gatherings to help activate participants' baptismal missions to share this good news with the people in their daily lives.

The upcoming Wildfire retreat is one such gathering; the Discovering Christ program is another. Thank you to the Evangelization Team for their energy and witness to all who are called to be missionary disciples.

– Fr. Isaac Coulter

Stewardship Thought

“If I therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you a model to follow, so that as I have done for you, you should also do.” John 13:14-15

Minutes Are Online

Monthly meeting minutes of the Parish, Stewardship, Operation and Communications councils are available at www.stfranciswichita.com; just click on “Council Minutes” under the “Communications” tab.

Lord calls each one of us to be evangelists; Wildfire retreat Nov. 9-10 to teach us how

After Pentecost, the Holy Spirit – like the wind – sparked the apostles into action, spreading the gospel like wildfire. Just as a wildfire starts small, gaining energy as it burns until suddenly it surges into a roaring inferno – spreading far and wide, going wherever the wind drives it – so it can be with evangelization.

Evangelization doesn't have to be stressful. A “Wildfire” evangelization retreat to arm you with the knowledge needed to evangelize is scheduled Nov. 9-10 at St. Francis.

In today's secular environment, evangelization may be more important than ever. Mt 28:19 clearly states the Lord's desire for each of us to evangelize. Evangelization starts at home and spreads through the family and parish to the world. Stand up and be counted.

A wildfire starts small and is vulnerable to many things that can snuff it out. Evangelism, too, can easily be extinguished – by laziness, apprehension, lack of confidence – before it can grow.

The devil's early warning system kicks in during the infancy of evangelism. He works hard to thwart its efforts. Don't let this happen at St. Francis. We must all pray and actively participate to nullify the devil's efforts.

Watch for more information to come in the Vernacular and Parish Bulletin. Registration will soon be available through the St. Francis website, stfranciswichita.com.

– Joe Hein

Boy Scouts in Colorado



July was a fun month for SFA's Boy Scout Troop 762. Our boys spent a week at Ben Delatour Scout Ranch in Red Feather Lakes, Colo. We experienced horseback riding in the Rockies, rifle shooting, canoeing, fly fishing for trout, hiking up Monster Mountain, and so much more!

Away from electronics, free to spend time making friends, testing strengths, and enjoying the great outdoors. The highlight was ending the week with a whitewater rafting trip on the Poudre River, eight class 4 rapids provided plenty of excitement for all.

– Sandy Rongish

Teen: CYM provides life-changing experiences

St. Francis CYM is a community that offers to teens from the parish a place to grow in love of their faith, their understanding of stewardship, and in friendship with other youth. More importantly, CYM offers opportunities for youth to encounter Christ, and gives them the tools to cultivate

their faith and to take ownership of their Catholic faith as at Baptism and affirmed at Confirmation. I experienced all of this during my four years as a member of the SFA Catholic Youth Ministry.

A friend of mine said that he felt that he could never give back to CYM what it had given to him. As I prepare for college and reflect upon the impact CYM has had in my life, I understand that feeling more and more.

CYM is unique to each individual willing to experience it. Its ability to meet someone where they're at creates an environment conducive to new friendships and experiences. I have seen the most beautiful relationships form between youth who have attended Catholic school their whole life and youth who have never sat through a religion class.



Youth who would otherwise run in different social circles at school are brought together through CYM.

These experiences happen because CYM doesn't ask how much someone knows in their head but encourages youth to experience Christ's love in their hearts.

Each person is challenged to grow in their faith. Experiences like Steubenville, Prayer and Action, and Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference are unique environments that cultivate a personal encounter with Christ and catalyze a life-changing response.

Coffee and Rolls, CYM Bingo, and other CYM activities allow youth to see the beauty of a stewardship way of life firsthand by building relationships with the parish itself and all the

parishioners it houses. Being able to experience these activities with the same people helps build strong relationships, and have caused me to call St. Francis my home, and CYM my family.

I could never fully describe the extent of the impact CYM has had on my life. Because of the SFA Catholic Youth Ministry, I have a strong foundation of faith. If a youth were to ask what the greatest gift I have received from my parish would be, I think it would easily be the Wednesday nights I spent in the little room downstairs with the love and support from our priests, other youth from the parish, and everyone who believes in the impact CYM can have, and I would point them in the same direction.

— Alli Gregg

WSS offers square dance lessons In Clare Hall

The Westside Steppers Square Dance Club will be conducting square dance lessons in the basement of St. Clare Hall every Tuesday and Thursday from 7-9 p.m., Sept. 18 through Nov. 15. The instructor is Sheldon Lawrence.

Registration will be Sept. 18. Get all classes for only \$30 (cash or checks

only please), which is less than \$1 per hour.

WSS is an outreach of St. Francis of Assisi, so parishioners are always welcome. Come give it a try; the first two lessons will be free. Those with two left feet are especially encouraged; if you can walk and if you know right from left, you can square dance.

Casual attire, couples, singles and families are all welcome. No prior experience needed.

For more information, email westsidesteppers@hotmail.com, visit <http://westsidesteppers.com>, or call the club presidents Rick and Cathy Frost at 648-6772, or call Lou and Stella Saville at 722-7835.

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.

Deadlines for submitting information are the beginning of each month.

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



TEACHERS & PREACHERS



“How can people hear without someone to preach?”

Romans 10:14

Our Preachers

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Our Teachers

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