

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

St. Francis was moved by the Holy Spirit to recognize the lepers of his day as his sisters and brothers—and to care for them. His compassionate response was a major step in his growth in holiness.

Pope Francis has recently insisted: “No one can pretend not to know!” about the millions of refugees and emigrants now flooding into Europe who have been compelled to flee the violence and inhuman conditions in their homelands. From Syria alone, 4.1 million have fled since 2011. They are in need of immediate humanitarian assistance. Pope Francis pleads: “Please do not abandon the victims of this crisis, even if the world’s attention were to lessen.”

The current tragedy in Europe has its counterpart closer to home on the southern border of the United States. There too, so many fleeing violence and inhuman conditions present us with what is, above all, a moral issue so often mentioned in the Bible: the call to care for the most vulnerable. Deuteronomy 15:11, for example, counsels us: “Open your hand to the poor and the needy neighbor in your land.”

In the face of such staggering human need, what should our response be? What can we do? That is a question that each of us—individually and as members of faith communities—must struggle with. Possible responses are many and varied.

Perhaps some may wish to donate to relief efforts already underway by Catholic Relief Services or Caritas’s European Refugee and Migrant Crisis targeted special fund. Others may wish to work locally with Catholic Charities in organizing services and “receiving homes” for refugees in our own communities. Others may choose to write government leaders, urging the United States to accept at least 100,000 refugees from Syria alone in the coming year. Others may want to urge Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform in our country. Congress could be asked to do more with the international community to stop the flow of weapons into the Middle East and to find a solution to the conflicts there.

There is much that we can do. Perhaps the only response that would **NOT** be acceptable is indifference or paralysis before so urgent and massive a human crisis. “In the name of Jesus, who came into the world to heal the wounds of humanity, the Church feels called to respond to evil with good by promoting an integral human development,” says Pope Francis.

And on this feast of St. Francis, the words from Pope Francis’s recent encyclical *Laudate Si* seem an apt way to conclude these thoughts: “Everything is connected... Everything is related, and we human beings are united as brothers and sisters... woven together by the love God has for each of his creatures and which also unites us in fond affection with brother sun, sister moon, brother rivers, and mother earth.”

Fraternally,

Fr. Kevin J. Mullen, O.F.M.

Provincial Minister, Holy Name Province

EAT FOR CHANGE



Make dinner a selfless act by joining us for a fundraiser to support The Bill Mehr Drop In Center. Come in to the Chipotle at **2457 Prince William Parkway** in Woodbridge on **Monday, October 12th** between **4:00pm** and **8:00pm**. Bring in the flyer (included in the bulletin), show it on your smartphone or tell the cashier you’re supporting the cause to make sure that 50% of the proceeds will be donated to The Bill Mehr Drop In Center.



St. Francis’ Cub Scout Pack 1385 will be collecting gently



used winter coats, mittens, gloves, and hats. Boxes will be located in the vestibule for you generous contributions of these items between **October 11th thru 18th**. These clothing items will be delivered to those in

need through St. Francis House.

Attitude is the difference between and ordeal and an adventure. Call **Kathy Walker at 703-221-4312 and then press 4** or email at kwalker@stfrancis.org, to have a Stephen Minister help you adjust your attitude and get you started on your adventure.



St. Francis House Corner

Thanks to the donations from all our parishioners we were able to provide food for **75** families this week. Because of the increase of families in need we are in dire need of:



- Canned Tuna
- Canned Fruit
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Spaghetti
- Small/ Medium can or plastic jars Spaghetti Sauce
- Cereal
- Hamburger Helper

For more information, please call Francia Salguero at 703-221-6344.



Angels and Goblins Wanted...Costumes that is! If you have accumulated unused/ used Halloween costumes, please consider donating them to St. Francis House this month. **Please place costumes in the container out in the vestibule.**

Boletín Semanal

Despensa de Comida de La Casa de San Francis— Agradecemos a todos nuestros parroquianos por todas sus ofrendas a la Despensa de Comida; con sus donaciones pudimos ayudar a **75** familias. En estos momentos nuestra despensa de comida esta escasa de los siguientes alimentos:

- Atún
- Fruta enlatada
- Macarrones con queso
- Espagueti
- Salsa para espaguetis
- Cereal

Muchas gracias por su apoyo constante. Para mas información por favor llamar a la **Señora Salguero al 703-221-6344.**

CLOW—Invitamos a todos los niños de 4 a 8 años de edad a participar de la Liturgia de la Palabra durante la misa en español en el Salón del Hermano Juniper. La liturgia de la Palabra para los niños se realizara el tercer y cuarto domingo del mes comenzando el domingo, septiembre 20.

Please Pray For **All those who are sick:** Donna Stoyas, Fran Phoenix, Gizzy Slocum, Jeffrey Miller, Brandon Dashtizad, Clyde Richardson, Tim McCormick, Annelies Gendron, Katherine Gonsorcik, Paul E. Tekverk, and Richard L. Laffman.

And for those recently deceased: Catherine Wilburn; William Stein (Father of Lori Coligan); Marjorie Carroll; and Charlotte D'Agostino.

Please pray for the following who are serving abroad in harm's way: Jeffrey Monken, Elizabeth L. Keegan, James Moore, Kyle McVay, Kyle Traylor, Kasey Eggie, Eustaquio Castro-Mendoza, Marc Gendron, and Darryl Saungweme.

Social Justice: Franciscan Action and Advocacy (FA&A)

Fair Trade your upcoming Halloween chocolate! Mainstream chocolate can often come from cacao plantations, **where forced child labor has been documented.** Please consider choosing ethically sourced chocolates. For example, please visit <http://shop.equalexchange.coop/organic-chocolate-minis-halloween.html>

For those who have been more than inspired by Pope Francis's new encyclical, "Laudato Si'—On Care for Our Common Home," there is interest in forming a team at the parish that will delve more deeply into the encyclical and work to sharpen its various ideas and, where it makes sense, put its appeals into action. If you are interested and/or would like more information, please contact Rob.

Upcoming FA&A meetings (open to all!): The **V.O.I.C.E.** (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) team here at the parish is meeting to work on community issues on **Sunday, October 11th, at 10 a.m.** in the **Br. Juniper Room.** Our **Anti-Human Trafficking Committee** (engaged in action, awareness and advocacy efforts in the fight against human trafficking) is meeting on **Wednesday, October 14th, at 7 p.m.** in the **Grade 6 Classroom.** Our **Care for Creation Committee** (focused on environmental work/integral ecology) is meeting on **Sunday, October 18th, at 9 a.m.** in the **Br. Juniper Room.** Our **Respect Life Committee** is meeting on **Saturday, November 21st, at 11:45 a.m.** in the **St. Catherine Room.** Our **Franciscan Action and Advocacy Council (FAAC)** is meeting on **Saturday, October 17, at 9:30 a.m.** in the **St. Catherine Room.** (FAAC meetings are only open to council members. Parishioners are encouraged, however, to submit questions or ideas for FAAC discussion or consideration.)

For more information on any of the above and/or to get involved in justice/advocacy, please visit the FA&A section on the parish website and/or contact Rob Goraieb, O.F.S. at rgoraieb@stfrancis.org or 703-221-4978, ext. 228.

Pope Francis's Encyclical:



"Climate change is a global problem with grave implications: environmental, social, economic, political and for the distribution of goods. It represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity in our day." **(Chapter 1, paragraph 25)**

—Compiled by Chelsea Miller and Adam Petrizza from our parish Care for Creation Committee



The Christian community of St. Francis of Assisi welcomes with great joy the following new members of our parish baptized in the months of August and September:

Jasmine Maria Aguilar Hernandez

Abigail Mary Aslinger

Katherine Rebecca Aslinger

Luke Wesley Baldwin

Ava Morgan Batt

Emma Nicole Breitmaier

Cataleya Cardona

Aidan Timothy James Clemente

Ronin Noel Coimbra

Naiya Robin Cruz Romero

Brock Emory Davis Simmons

Lawrence Minkyu Deschenes

Louis Minseo Deschenes

Amelia Marie Fanks

Miguel Manuel Hernandez

Joshua Maximiliano Herrera

Nathan Takeo Hill

Katherine Elizabeth Maradiaga-Shaw

Josmir Alexander Marcial Vargas

Vincent Alexandre Marquis

Thuy Trang Jacqueline Meza

Benjamin Steele Nowlin

Penelope Anne Pyryt

Alexis Francisco Rocha

Dylan Matthew Rodriguez Sotelo

Luis Henry Rodriguez

Dolph Frithiof Sagerholm

Michael Andrew Serrano

Nathalie Soriano Lopez

Samantha Jean Stegon

Azalea Caridad Trevino

Iris Jacqueline Upchurch

Nicholas Andres Vargas Rocha

Addison Bautista Viernes

Emmett Gene Wiederholt

Chase Greyson Williams

Baptismal Preparation Class—Our next class will be held on **Sunday, October 11, 2015** from **1:30p.m.—2:00p.m.** in the Br. Juniper Room. Please call the parish office to register at 703-221-4044.

Faith Formation Office

Phone: 703-221-3127 Fax: 703-221-3246
Office Hours: Monday—Thursday: **8:00 am—2:00 pm**
Friday: **Closed**

Religious Education Calendar

Welcome Back to Religious Education! Our classes began last Sunday. We still have room in all grades if you need to register your child. Also, we are in need of a few more Catechists. Please call the RE Office for more information at 703-221-3127 or email recoor@stfrncis.org.

Oct. 4	NO RE—Francis Festival
8	NO RE—Columbus Day Weekend
11	NO RE—Columbus Day Weekend
15	Thursday RE Session
18	Sunday RE Sessions I&II
22	Thursday RE Session
25	Sunday RE Sessions I&II
29	Thursday RE Session
Nov. 1	Sunday RE Sessions I&II
5	Thursday RE Session
8	Sunday RE Sessions I&II
12	Thursday RE Session

Do not be afraid of presenting Christ to someone who does not yet know him. Christ is the true answer, the most complete answer to all the questions which concern the human person and his destiny. Without Christ, the human person remains an unsolvable riddle. Therefore, have courage to present Christ! Certainly, you must do this in a way which respects each person's freedom of conscience but you must do it.

Saint John Paul II

Readings for the Week of October 4, 2015

Monday	John 1:1—2:2, 11; John 2; Luke 10:25-37
Tuesday	John 3:1-10; Luke 10:38-42
Wednesday	John 4:1-11; Luke 11:1-4
Thursday	Malachi 3:13-20b; Luke 11:5-13
Friday	Joel 1:13-15, 2:1-2; Luke 11:15-26
Saturday	Joel 4:12-21; Luke 11:27-28
Sunday	Wisdom 7:7-11; Hebrew 4:12-13; Mark 10:17-30 or 10:17-27

Votive Candles—Envelopes are provided for the candle money. Please place them in the **Catch-All** slot located in the vestibule of the church.



SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We would like to thank
Mary Kate Vasquez, DMD
for sponsoring an ad in our weekly bulletin.

Please Note: On October 4th there will be a bilingual Mass at 12:15 p.m. and there will be NO 1:45 p.m. Mass.

LUNCH BUNCH!—If you are 55+ please join us for our first Senior Brown Bag Lunch Bunch!



Seniors on the Go!

Bring a brown bag lunch and ideas for future activities including guest speakers, fun ventures or new topics you would like to share. **We will be meeting in the St. Catherine Room on Thursday, October 15th at 12:30 pm.**

Refreshments will be provided. If you have further questions or comments feel free to contact **Becky Traver** at Tandovi@aol.com or 540-699-2175.

Around the Diocese

Current high school students and their families are invited to Christendom College for Open House on Columbus Day, October 12th or November 13th, your local Catholic college of which St. John Paul II said, “You are doing a great work for the Church.” Register online at christendom.edu. Please contact Zac Inman with any questions at zinman@christendom.edu or 540-551-9232.



You CAN find Employment—Christians are Networking (CAN), a ministry of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington, assists people who are unemployed or under-employed. This is also a tremendous resource for recent college graduates who are new to the job market. CAN provides free career counseling, skills in navigating today's job market, resume reviews, practice job interviews and networking opportunities. CAN is offered at **St. Theresa Catholic Church, Ashburn; St. Philip Catholic Church, Falls Church; St. Martin de Porres Senior Center, Alexandria; and at Epiphany Middle School, Culpeper.** For details, please visit our website: www.cca.net/programs_jobs.php

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 Instagram: *stfrancischurchva*



Mass Intentions

SUNDAY,	October 4—27th Sunday In Ordinary Time
5:30 PM	†Loretta Sullivan †Craig Adams †David Teodosio †Mary Vullo †Karen Kelly Cooke
7:30 AM	Thomas Lee
9:00 AM	†Charles Hart †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik †Joanne Curtis †Seth Mitcho †Madelyn Lane
10:30 AM	Bilingual Mass
12:15 PM	†Robert Ballance †Clara Kennedy †Samuel Williamson
1:45 PM	NO MASS
5:30 PM	People of the Parish
MONDAY,	October 5—Weekday
8:45 AM	†Ted Nelson Barbara Cryan
TUESDAY,	October 6—Weekday
8:45 AM	Gretchen May †Chuck Holtzlander †Seth Mitcho †Michael Ryan
WEDNESDAY,	October 7—Our Lady of the Rosary
8:45 AM	†Thomas and †Beverly McClutchy †Dwayne E. Gonsorcik
THURSDAY,	October 8—Weekday
8:45 AM	†Andy Weber Helen Adair
FRIDAY,	October 9—Weekday
8:45 AM	†Joseph and †Julia Flood
SATURDAY,	October 10—Weekday
4:00 PM	Sacrament of Reconciliation
Mass Intentions on Sunday, October 11, 2015	
5:30 PM	†John Bengier †James Slakie †Karen Kelly Cooke
7:30 AM	People of the Parish
9:00 AM	†Everette Newman †Michael Cook †Joanne Curtis †Patricia and †Michael Ryan †Patrick J. McHugh, Sr., U.S.M.C.
10:30 AM	†Catherine and †Michael Columbo †Charlotte D'Agostino †Lynn Lehmer
12:15 PM	†Rusty and †Barbara Arcuni †Clara Kennedy
1:45 PM	Misa en español
5:30 PM	†Jane Radigan