



THE FRANCISCAN STAFF

The Newsletter of the people of
Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church
600 South La Cañada Drive
Green Valley AZ 85614

Vol. 60, No. 6

July/August, 2023

Our mission is to live as Christ's heart and hands in the world.

Words From Warren . . .

Dear friends,

The heat has finally come with daily temperatures over 100 degrees. All the Snowbirds have flocked to cooler places and many of our year-round residents are away visiting friends or relatives.

Summer is more than just a hot time. In the office we are gearing up for the annual audit as well as laying out the plans for key events like the Welcome Back and other fall activities.

We are also planning for a Season of Gratitude as part of our Stewardship initiatives for 2024, to tie into the month of October, and our continued diving deeper into Franciscan values. We also plan to learn more about Francis' friend and disciple Clare, whose name graces our D.O.K. Chapter.

The quiet of the summer is a perfect time to spend more time with good spiritual and biblical writers and commentators for personal growth and reflection. Listening to one's own needs and desires helps us to learn to listen more intently to other people and act on their needs. This is what we call Compassion.

Now is the time to reflect on how we respond to God, to others, and how we respond to our own needs and motivations. We need to listen to our heart and to the Holy Spirit for guidance.

In a recent daily reflection I received from SSJE (Society of St. John the Evangelist) Br. Keith Nelson said, 'I cannot assume that I know the nature of a person's need—however obvious it may seem to me—until I have done the work of listening.'

Br. Nelson continues,

'I cannot assume that I am fully aware of my own deepest needs until I have listened to the desires of my own heart, the hunger and thirst of my own body, or the questions of my own mind. And I cannot do either unless I am continuously listening to the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit guiding my steps. Jesus knew the needs of those around him because he looked deeply and listened intently.'

It won't be long before St. Francis starts getting busy as the fall approaches. Now is the time to take a step back and be good to ourselves. Do the things that bring joy to your life, possibly held off since COVID began, and, as Br. Nelson shares, take time to listen to the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit guiding our steps.

To dive deeper into the Values that guided St. Francis of Assisi, means going deeper into ourselves first. To live and reflect the life of Christ means discovering the precious gift of the Spirit within, for it is the Spirit that will allow you to see Jesus in the face of others and in yourself.

Richard Rohr, a Franciscan theologian and writer, recently wrote about freeing ourselves from our fears and anxieties which limit our Christian response to others. He calls the process Shadow Boxing:

The gift of shadowboxing is in the seeing of the shadow and its games in ourselves, which takes away

continued next page

Words From Warren, continued

much of the shadow's hidden power. No wonder Teresa of Ávila said that the mansion of true self-knowledge was the necessary first mansion on the spiritual journey. Once we have faced our own hidden or denied self, there is not much to be anxious about anymore, because there is no fear of exposure. We are no longer afraid to be seen—by ourselves or others. The game is over—and we are free. We finally are who we are, and can be who we are, without disguise or fear.

Summer can renew us in many ways and on many levels. While you are enjoying the beauty of nature or a quiet moment in your home, take time to listen to the small, still voice in you. Let the Holy Spirit lift the fog of the last few years. Come back in the fall refreshed and renewed to further the work of Jesus in our community.

On a personal note, many of you know Annette recently went back to our northern home in Ontario to prepare for our oldest son Jamieson's wedding on August 5th. Jamieson has been engaged to Samantha/Sammy for two years. They have known each other since grade 7.

A wedding shower was held on June 24th, and much still needs to be done before August 5th. At the wedding I get to marry Jamieson and Sammy! I promise to post pictures.

During the month of August, The Rev. Judy Turberg will be Celebrant and, along with Fr. Tom Neyland, Fr. Derwent Suthers, and Deacon Becky Williamson, will be sharing the pulpit. If you have a pastoral need please speak with Deacon Becky first.

Have a blessed summer.

Fr. Warren

Franciscan Focus
St. Francis and the Fifth Crusade
Francis meets the Sultan
Peace and Justice

In Part I of our Franciscan Focus, I described the events and the desperate situation that beset the Christians in the Fifth Crusade in Egypt during Francis' stay there. He decided then to make contact with the Sultan and with Cardinal Pelagio's hesitant approval he entered into the Muslim's fortifications. In Part II, Francis entered the Muslim camp and instead of being martyred was received cordially by the Sultan.

On their first meeting, Francis and the Sultan both wanted to convert the other, but each one recognized quickly
continued page 3, column 1

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Saint Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church

600 South La Cañada Drive, Green Valley AZ 85614

(520) 625-1370 – www.stfrancisgvaz.org

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THE RT. REV. JENNIFER REDDALL, D.D.

Bishop

THE VERY REV. DR. WARREN LEIBOVITCH

Rector

The Rev. Becky Williamson

Deacon

The Rev. Linda Hutson

Deacon

THE VESTRY

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Jim Ratley, Junior Warden

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Vince Remillard, Rena Robbins, Jean Ross,

Cheryl Tardy-Albin, Kristi Menix,

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Nathaniel Martinez

Sexton

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Green Valley, is to live as Christ's heart and hands
in the world.*

Senior Warden's Thoughts

These past few months I have found myself really watching the activity at my seed block—which is on my patio wall, viewable through our sliding doors. These birds and a squirrel or pack rat or two have been consuming the seed like crazy this year. We get visits by whole quail families: mom, dad new babies, older babies, and adolescents. There are cardinals, white wing and mourning doves, woodpeckers and more. Occasionally a hawk swoops by to shake up the visitors. Two young rattlers have come by to snooze in my plants and a lizard patrols the porch. It's a live "All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small. All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all."

You can't help feeling God's presence when you quietly sit near a garden. When life is taking over, try to find a quiet place and just observe nature being nature. Look out a window or sit on a porch. Look at the beautiful plants. Listen to the sounds. Watch the activity...birds, butterflies even those that crawl on the ground. We are lucky here in Green Valley to be close to so many places to see nature, like the Desert Meadows Gardens and Madera Canyon. And many of us even have a garden in our backyard.

Remember that we are one of God's creatures and our role is to care for each other and the others, and to give thanks for the beauty God has given us. Be a good Care Giver for "All things bright and Beautiful," remembering to Love One Another.

Happy Summer. Stay cool.

Blessings.

Jullie Reppenhagen, Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Notes

Summer is definitely coming with a heat wave!

1. Building and Grounds folks say we are very close to total completion of the necessary upgrades and re-rocking for this coming monsoon season (2023) at the church. Many run-off routes have been improved and the large holding pond in the front of the church has been excavated to accommodate much more water this year with better controlled run-off.

2. The partial asphalt paving in the back of the church was completed on May 3, 2023.

3. The ductless air conditioner in the kitchen has

been replaced. The old unit had a broken part and that model is now out of production along with its replacement parts. (Of course! Ha!)

4. The Parish Hall is almost completed with walls being patched and a new coat of paint.

5. The St. Francis marquee sign, in the front of the church, has been fixed so it should shine at night now.

Still in the works;

1. Columbarium brick repair.

2. More enhanced gravel cover in the front of the church.

3. Preparing for the fall clean-up including the purchase of a new electric chain saw. (Already budgeted)

Jim Ratley, Junior Warden

Becoming a YouTube Power User

Most of our services here at St. Francis in the Valley end up on our YouTube Channel, and we as a church have a growing audience at this Channel. For those that are not YouTube regulars, navigating all the content up in the 'cloud' can be challenging.

In an effort to help our congregation with this, I have begun to create a series of short videos that explain the ins and outs of navigating our channel. Each video is about 3 to 4 minutes long and concentrates on a single aspect of using the channel. For example: the first episode is an introduction to the series and gets you started. The second episode concentrates on the channel layout, and where to find the different types of content. Future episodes will dive into more of the finer points of viewing the services and lessons found on our channel.

The YouTube videos can be found in the Education Playlist of our YouTube Channel.

So in the coming weeks I plan to add more videos, and—if you follow along—maybe you will become a YouTube power user! *Tom Cadwalader*

A Gift of Flowers

If you would like to give a gift of flowers to be placed on the High Altar in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for many blessings, please call Carol Berg at 520-373-5770 and let her know of your interest. If she is not at home, just leave a message with your name and phone number and she will return your call. Flower donation is \$35.

Border Ministry

Our BORDER MINISTRY has reconnected with St. Andrew's Children's Clinic now that they have started up again after the COVID shutdown. The clinic provides cleft palate and rhinoplasty surgeries along with speech therapy, vision services, and orthopedic needs for children from Mexico. They have a new clinic in Nogales, AZ. We helped them with the purchase of some much needed tables and chairs for the clinic. The surgeries are all done in Hermosillo, Mexico, by doctors from the United States who volunteer their time and expertise.

We are still collecting food containers, but our needs have changed due to changes in Mexico. We now need only clean cottage cheese and yogurt-type sturdier containers with lids. The food that is served is hot and does better in a heavier container because folks have to carry it back to their family. Thank you for all the containers you have been donating, but please, no more pastry type or lightweight containers with air vents. Also we can no longer accept medicine bottles. The medical staff at KINO have determined medicine bottles are not reusable for medication. We appreciate all you have been doing, but as circumstances change in Mexico, we must also make some changes. As always prayers for our neighbors at the border are always appreciated! *Rena Robbins*

Music Groups at St. Francis

Our Parish Choir and Handbell Ensemble have been disbanded for the summer, but we look forward to seeing all our dedicated members again come fall—look for rehearsals to begin again in late September. The Saturday music group continues through the summer months; contact them directly for more information. New members are always welcome in all our ensembles. Our music programs contribute directly to the liturgical life of the Parish—please consider becoming a member.

Saturday Eucharist

Our next Saturday afternoon Eucharistic celebrations are scheduled for July 8 and August 12 at 4 PM in the Parish Hall.

Hearts & Hands

OUR PARISH LIBRARY: Pay a visit to the Parish Library and take in the many improvements wrought by our indefatigable Library Committee. Everything has been brought up to speed in an effort to make this wonderful Parish resource comprehensive and easy to use. The Library is always open after Sunday morning services and on weekdays during regular Parish Office hours.

BOOKS FOR CLASSROOMS: B for C needs your Buttons! The Tohono O'odham schools are collecting buttons to help the children learn math. Please bring any buttons you have that are 1/4" inch and larger to the library table and Librarian Joyce will take them to the Books for Classrooms Headquarters. This is a STEM project (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) recently added to the book program in progress.

► VALLEY ASSISTANCE: VA helps folks in need by providing bar soap, laundry and dish washing detergent, ammonia (or glass cleaner), toilet paper, tampons, sanitary pads (regular or medium, or overnight-style with wings). You can help by purchasing some of these items, bringing them to church and depositing them in the labeled, purple container in the Sexton's closet (Southwest corner of the Parish Hall).

LOCAL FOOD BANKS: We continue to collect non-perishable items for our local Food Banks. For June and July the Sahuarita facility is requesting spaghetti, spam, hash, and stew, and, for July, the Green Valley Food Bank is collecting peanut butter (no glass containers, please). Monetary donations are welcome too, simply write your check payable to St. Francis with either Sahuarita or Green Valley Food Bank in the Memo line and we'll take care of the rest. Drop your check in the Offering Basket on Sunday morning, or drop it off at the Parish Office during the week.

► DON'T FORGET: the Sahuarita Food Bank collects cardboard (cereal box style too). The receptacle is located next to Good Shepherd Church on La Cañada.

Your donations are always tax deductible and—if you are writing a check and specifying one of the

continued page 7, column 2

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Edna Dunn
- 3 Glenn Matto
- 4 Karen Packer
- 6 Carolee Castro
- 6 David Dunn
- 13 Shirley Gough
- 13 Paul Ohri
- 13 Sharon Thornby
- 14 Hal Aasen
- 14 Barbara Hook
- 14 Linda Lies
- 15 Janet DallaMura
- 17 Carol Crain
- 17 Mary Staples
- 18 Nancy Helgath
- 19 Barbara Workman
- 20 Gloria Cadwalader
- 21 James Luffman
- 22 Bill Barkley
- 22 Sandra Hammond
- 23 Finn Neimeyer
- 23 Lucy Nielsen
- 26 Janice MacLaren
- 26 Jean Schwafel
- 26 Kaye Tinney
- 27 Cheryl Tardy-Albin
- 27 Penelope Williams
- 30 Gary Chambers
- 31 Jean McEachran

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Harry & Carol Lyons
- 10 Ken & Eileen Vella
- 11 Tim Doyle & Mizzy Diamond
- 12 Cheryl Tardy-Albin & Nancy Albin
- 14 Leroy & Ceci Vaughn
- 19 Grant Neimeyer & Carrie Malone
- 19 Stan & Kathy Ravine

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 3 George Burridge
- 6 Kristi Menix
- 6 Jean Ross
- 7 Nancy Albin
- 7 John Davis
- 7 Ceci Vaughn
- 8 Harvey Eaves

- 8 Janie Hessong
- 10 Ken Barratt
- 10 Kenneth Huszar
- 10 Edith McCully
- 12 Lou Moore
- 13 Marsha Tripp
- 14 Grant Neimeyer
- 14 Pat Valandry
- 16 Dorothy Blakely
- 18 Joan Archibald
- 18 Tim Doyle
- 19 Weston Barnes
- 19 Darlene Gregory
- 19 Kenneth Nielsen
- 20 Ric Pike
- 20 Charles Tripp
- 20 Ginny Wagner
- 22 Donald Richards
- 23 David Barnes
- 24 Nancy Enzie
- 24 Jonell Kotouc
- 25 Phil Vande-Riet
- 26 David Blackburn

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Roger & Penelope Williams
- 8 Al & Brenda Quick
- 10 Nancy & Bill Symons
- 17 Stu & Marilyn Findley
- 17 Robert & Sharon Thornby
- 18 Neil Messick & Mary Hart
- 18 Robert & Katherine Vint
- 20 Hal Aasen & Lou Moore
- 20 Ed & Barbara Hook
- 23 Ben & Jan Travis
- 27 William & Nancy McGibbon
- 28 Tim & Liz Dorgan
- 31 Rolando & Paula Altamirano
- 31 Roger & Barbara Miller



PARISH MEETINGS AND EVENTS — JULY/AUGUST 2023

Tuesday, 4 July

PARISH OFFICES CLOSED

Wednesday, 5 July

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
Bible Study, 10:15 AM, PH

Saturday, 8 July

Holy Eucharist, 4 PM, PH

Tuesday, 11 July

Vestry, 4 PM, CfR

Wednesday, 12 July

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
DOK, 9:30 AM, VR
Memorials Cmte, 10 AM, SFR
Bible Study, 10:15 AM, PH

Tuesday, 18 July

Men's Group, 9 AM, CfR

Wednesday, 19 July

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

Wednesday, 26 July

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
DOK, 9:30 AM, VR
Bible Study, 10:15 AM, PH

Saturday, 28 July

Summer Movie, 5 PM, PH

Tuesday, 1 August

Men's Group, 9 AM, CfR

Wednesday, 2 August

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
Bible Study, 10:15 AM, PH

Tuesday, 8 August

Vestry, 4 PM, CfR

Wednesday, 9 August

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
DOK, 9:30 AM, VR
Memorials Cmte, 10 AM SFR
Bible Study, 10:15 AM, PH

Saturday, 12 August

Holy Eucharist, 4 PM, PH

Tuesday, 15 August

Men's Group, 9 AM, CfR

Wednesday, 16 August

Holy Eucharist , 9 AM, Chapel
Bible Study, 10:15 AM, PH

Wednesday, 23 August

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel
DOK, 9:30 AM, VR

Friday, 25 August

Summer Movie, 5 PM, PH

Wednesday, 30 August

Holy Eucharist, 9 AM, Chapel

CALENDAR LEGEND

PH - Parish Hall

VR - Vulliamy Room

CfR - Conference Room

Ctyd - Courtyard

Cpl - Chapel

SFR - Saint Francis Room

L - Library

MR2 - Meeting Room 2

Clergy

Discretionary Funds

Donations to Clergy Discretionary Funds are always needed and always welcome; these funds make it possible for us to offer assistance to people in our community who are struggling. Because of your generosity, we've been able to help people with such things as food, gas, utilities, rent, school clothing, school supplies, unexpected medical bills and even burial expenses. As we see it, it's not the clergy being able to help people in need, it's all of us, together, touching the lives of people who feel like they've hit a dead end due to adverse circumstances in life. Thank you so much for your generosity.

continued from page 5

Food Banks—the Parish isn't required to pay a diocesan assessment on your donation, and—best of all—you're helping to feed those in need. It's all part of being Christ's Heart and Hands in the world.

2023 Parish Statistics

Baptisms

Billy Paul Smith
Angel Vincent Gamon

Transfers In

Ralph & Alice Walker
Susan Burch

**New Members by
Confirmation or Reception**

o

Deaths

Rita Beil
Neil Helgath
Neil Messick
Carol Hinterthuer
Phebe Anderson
Robert Law
Carol Putnam
Cayo De Mendoza
Bonnie Kleeberg
Edward McDonald
Bart DallaMura
Sue Howell



Video Reflections

Fr. Warren provides short weekly Psalm video reflections. They are updated Thursdays on Facebook and YouTube. Past videos back to March 2020 are also available.

**RESERVING
MEETING TIME AND
SPACE AT SAINT FRANCIS**

Individuals wishing to reserve meeting space at St. Francis and/or discuss room set-ups should make those arrangements through Parish Administrator Gerald Near. It is **essential** your meeting be logged into the Master Calendar. If you need it, be sure to ask for 'set-up' and 'clean-up' time as part of your booking.

One week prior to your event please inventory the pantry next to the kitchen and let Gerald know if there are enough supplies to meet your needs. A parishioner usually shops for us twice a month. Thanks for your help and cooperation.

**GETTING YOUR EVENT
INTO**

PARISH PUBLICATIONS

Sunday Bulletin notices should be given to the Parish Administrator by NOON the Tuesday prior to the Sunday you wish the notice to appear. Notices should be in written form and sent via email whenever possible.

Franciscan Staff material should be given to the Parish Administrator NO LATER THAN the 10th of the month preceding publication.

ADDRESS CHANGES

Please let us know if your e-mail address, street address, zip code or telephone number changes. Get in touch with Deborah Harby in the Parish Financial Office to update your information for our records.

ST. FRANCIS-IN-THE-VALLEY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
600 South La Cañada Drive
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