

Faith Weavers of St. Mary *July 2008 Newsletter*

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS

Gatherings at St. Vincent DePaul Parish at 4:00 pm.

September 14th – Joe Frankenfield will lead the scripture/prayer service. We will celebrate Mary Lois and Francis Molson’s 50th wedding anniversary at this service. The theme for the social following this service is a wedding feast (naturally). **All the food will be provided, so you don’t need to bring anything for this meal.** Please come and celebrate this special day with Mary Lois, Francis and their family. If you plan to attend, please return the enclosed post card so we can plan the amount of food to prepare. The Molsons ask that you do not bring a gift for them. Your presence is present enough.

- ❖ October 12th – Prayer service
- ❖ November 9th -- Prayer service
- ❖ December 14th -- Christmas Celebration -- Fr. Julius Spleet will celebrate mass.

We are trying to schedule our gatherings on the second Sunday of each month so you can schedule these services into your monthly routine.

August 27th -- Wares Fair, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Kelly/Shorts Stadium, CMU

October 11th – Octoberfest celebration at Jerry Morey’s Hunting Camp. Bring a dish to pass. More information and directions to come.

November 8-14 – Friends of El Salvador Delegation to visit Miramar, Milagro de Dios, and San Carlos. See information on this trip under the Friends of El Salvador section of this newsletter.

Date	Time	Activity
August 27 th	6 – 8 pm	Faith Weavers at the CMU Wares Fair @ Kelly Shorts Stadium
September 14 th	4 pm	Prayer Service lead by Joe Frankenfield celebrating the Molson’s 50 th Wedding Anniversary @ St. Vincent
October 11 th	4 pm	Octoberfest celebration @ Jerry’s Hunting Camp
12 th	4 pm	Prayer Service @ St. Vincent
November 9 th	4 pm	Prayer Service @ St. Vincent
November 8 th – 14 th	N/A	El Salvador Trip
December 14 th	4 pm	Christmas Celebration lead by Fr. Spleet @ St. Vincent

A WEBSITE FOR FAITH WEAVERS

The communication committee would like to create a website for Faith Weavers. Do you have an interest in helping with this project? We are looking for people to give us content for the site and/or help in developing the website. Pictures, calendar events, links to other sites, and any information to be shared with the group would be great things to pass along to Joshua at jelukens@gmail.com.

Please let us know if you would like to help with this project or if you know of someone with expertise in this area.

THANKS TO FR. ROB HOWE

Our faith community is sad to see Fr. Rob leave St. Vincent DePaul Parish, but wish him well in his new assignment at Sacred Heart Parish in Bad Axe.

We are grateful for the help and support Fr. Rob has given us over the past two years. He graciously offered the worship space and parish hall at St. Vincent DePaul Parish for our monthly prayer services and social gathering. He offered encouragement as we formed our community and he showed us true Christian compassion.

Faith Weavers have made a \$500.00 donation to the Goodrow Fund in recognition of Fr. Rob's goodwill towards us. Thank you Fr. Rob. You will always be in our prayers.

SERVICE AND JUSTICE ACTIVITIES

Through the efforts of members of the Service and Justice Committee and in cooperation with Listening Ear, we have established an adopt-a-family program. We are currently helping a local family with money for basic living expenses. Listening Ear works with the family to identify specific needs that we can pay for. This is a new program for our area, and Listening Ear would like to use it as a model to gain funding for other needy families.

We have also made contributions totaling \$3,600 to the Goodrow Fund, Wings of Mercy, Listening Ear, the Association for Interfaith Ministries and the American Cancer Society.

FAITH WEAVERS ENDOWMENT FUND

The Faith Weavers of St. Mary has established the Faith Weaver's Endowment Fund. The initial funding for this endowment of \$181,277.46 came from a portion of the St. Mary's University Parish Endowment Fund that was transferred to Faith Weavers of St. Mary. The principal of the endowment remains permanently within the fund. Income from this permanent investment will be donated to charitable organizations.

This fund is designed to continue the charitable works begun with the St. Mary's University Parish Endowment. The Board of Trustees for the new Faith Weavers

Endowment has been established to oversee the Fund's activities and make distributions to worthy causes.

Contact one of the members of the Social Justice Committee, Anne Casey, Jane Leroux-Evans, Barb Frankenfield, Karen Lee, and Morgan Monte, if you have suggestions for charitable giving from this fund. The social justice committee will do the initial screening of potential recipients and make recommendations to the Trustees for distributions.

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 2008

Here is the financial report for Faith Weavers of St. Mary for the first six months of 2008.

Donations	\$ 6,511
Grants and Gifts	\$ 6,359
Professional fees	\$ 950
Other Expenses	\$ <u>1,676</u>
Total Expenses	\$ <u>8,985</u>
Expenses over Donations	\$ 2,474
Beginning Cash Balance	\$ <u>9,880</u>
Ending Cash Balance	\$ 7,406

You continue to support Faith Weavers of St. Mary with your generous donations at our monthly prayer services. We have decreased our cash balance by about \$2,500 due to our charitable contributions. These contributions are within our planned giving program for 2008. We expect donations in the second half of 2008 will replenish these monies. We hope to maintain a cash balance large enough to fund one year's operating and charitable activities. We want to use your contributions to support charitable works and not amass a large cash balance, but we believe it is prudent to maintain a one-year reserve.

The money you give to Faith Weavers of St. Mary is only a partial picture of your support for our community. Many people donate hours of time and their talents to plan and implement our activities.

Thank you for your financial support for Faith Weavers of St. Mary.

FAITH WEAVERS JOINS THE MICHIGAN NONPROFIT ASSOCIATION

The Michigan Nonprofit Association was incorporated in 1990 to increase the capacity of Michigan nonprofit organizations to serve, strengthen, and transform communities. It provides a support system for nonprofits throughout the state.

Faith Weavers of St. Mary is now an established small faith community with legal status as a nonprofit charitable corporation, chartered by the State of Michigan and given 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service. Joining the Michigan Nonprofit Association is another step in becoming a mature organization. We are now a part of the nonprofit community within the State of Michigan, and we will support other nonprofits and receive support from them through this Association.

FRIENDS OF EL SALVADOR

The Friends of El Salvador formally affiliated with Faith Weavers of St. Mary this year. The Friends of El Salvador and Faith Weavers have common roots in St. Mary's University Parish and there is overlapping membership and support between these two groups. The Friends of El Salvador continues to function as it has for the past two years, but now it is a committee within Faith Weavers.

Here is a summary of outreach activities conducted by the Friends of El Salvador committee:

In January we contributed \$1,000 to SHARE (the Salvadoran Humanitarian Aid, Research, and Education Foundation) as a "partnering gift" for general support. The Foundation is the primary, U.S.-based, nation-focused organization providing and coordinating assistance activities for improvement of social and economic conditions in El Salvador. We have been partnering with SHARE for almost a dozen years.

This year we provided \$9,050 of financial support for twenty-six rural-Salvadoran high school students in the San Vicente region for the 2008 academic (calendar) year. The scholarship support we've made available this year, and the past few

years, has been greatly appreciated and is aiding students to stay in school, develop job skills, and become among the few high school graduates of the San Vicente rural region.

Toward the end of March, we took on a new project involving assistance in building of latrines (outhouses) in Milagro de Dios, a greatly needful community of 365 people some of us visited in 2006. The village has had no sanitary facilities whatever. We sent \$3,000 for the purchase of materials to build the first set of the thirty-seven outhouses needed. Community members contributed the labor and seventeen outhouses were completed by early June. Clearly this accomplishment is a major benefit for the health and living conditions of the community. At the end of June we contributed an added \$3,588 to ensure completion of the remaining twenty outhouses.

At the beginning of June, we sent \$1,000 to Miramar, our rural sister parish since 1997. The money was used to purchase agricultural supplies such as seeds and fertilizers. The costs for these supplies have skyrocketed in El Salvador just as they have all over the world. We've offered the community leadership, known as the Directiva, the option of making outright purchases or including our gift as part of a revolving loan program we began in 2006.

In order to maintain and continue to develop our relationships in El Salvador, we're planning a business-oriented delegation trip in the fall. It's tentatively scheduled for November 8-14. We'll visit Miramar, where of course we have many friends and we will visit the community of Milagro de Dios. We also plan to meet some of the students receiving our scholarships in San Carlos.

You'll hear more about our trip plans and, later, the experiences of our travelers in coming months.

Thank you to Jeff Angera, Todd Galgoci, and all who contributed for a great Summer "Tornado" Picnic, and thank God for the good weather!

AN INVITATION TO GET INVOLVED

Faith Weavers of St. Mary is an all-volunteer organization. We exist because of the generosity of many people who dedicate their time and talents to running our community. **Thanks to all of you!** Your dedication keeps this community together to support one another and serve the needs of our communities, local, national, and international.

You are invited to join any of our committees. Your time and talents are valuable commodities and you will feel well rewarded if you use your gifts to support our community activities. Please contact Dave Karmon if you want to volunteer.

Here is an overview of our organization:

Board of Directors has the legal authority to operate Faith Weavers of St. Mary. It meets on an “as needed” basis to make decisions to organize and operate our community. For example, in the past Directors have authorized the committee structure for Faith Weavers, authorized legal documents to be filed, and authorized the establishment of the Faith Weaver’s Endowment Fund.

Faith Weavers Endowment Fund, Board of Trustees has legal responsibilities for the activities of the Endowment Fund. It has the responsibility to oversee investment policies and make distributions to charitable organizations.

Friends of El Salvador continues the social justice and charitable outreach to the people of El Salvador. This committee has functioned independently over the past two years, but is now an integral part of Faith Weavers.

Steering Committee is responsible for the programs offered by Faith Weavers of St. Mary. It meets monthly to plan the prayer services and social gatherings. It is the committee that oversees all the activities of our faith community.

Social Committee prepares the main dishes for our social gathering after the monthly prayer services and organizes the set-up and clean up after the meal. It also helps plan other social gatherings like our annual “Tornado Picnic.”

Social Justice Committee identifies and evaluates organizations to be recipients of our donation program. The committee members find local, state, national, and international organizations to receive gifts. During the past year they have focused on needs within our local community. They will now add the national and international component to charitable outreach by screening applicants for the Faith Weaver’s Endowment Fund donations.

Student Outreach coordinates with Rev. Charlie Farnum of the Wesley Center, to plan and implement student outreach activities. We have formed a joint Program Planning Committee with members at the Wesley Center. This committee organizes student participation in community outreach activities. By serving others we hope students will bond together and help one another find the place religion plays in their life choices.

Communication Committee develops and maintains the communication channels within our community and with people outside our group. It is currently working on a brochure describing Faith Weavers of St. Mary. The committee would like to establish a website for Faith Weavers of St. Mary and expand our presence on Facebook. Facebook is a interaction website used extensively by students to form online communities.

LIFE EVENTS WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY

Ethan James Helinski was born on June 20th. Parents, Valerie, John, and brother, Collin, are anxious to introduce him to our community.

Ben and Jen Abler are expecting a new baby this fall.

Mary Lois and Francis Molson are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary this fall. See the information on our September 14th gathering for more information on this celebration. RSVP postcards are included in the envelope with this newsletter. Please return as soon as possible.

Please let us know if there are events in your life that you would like to share with the community.