

Newsletter

January February March 2010

St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church

Every time we celebrate the Eucharist we live in faith the mystery that is fulfilled on the altar, that is, we take part in the supreme act of love that Christ accomplished with his death and Resurrection.

Pope Benedict XVI

Preschool Students Learn About Baptism

Laura Parker

Much of the religious education curriculum for our preschool youth focuses on introducing the children to Jesus, our church, prayer and special holidays. Sometimes introducing these new ideas in an enticing and interactive way makes all the difference in how much the children absorb and remember.

Recently, during our lesson on baptism, the children practiced performing a "real baptism". They took turns being Father Michael, mom and dad, godparents and church members. Each student had a turn to baptize the baby in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. They were able to identify the holy water, baptismal candle, white gown and Oil of Chrism, and how these symbols are used. While they were all excited to have their turn as the priest, they were very reverent and respectful during the "ceremony".

It was beautiful to see how eager, happy and open these children are to the teachings of our Catholic faith. It is a challenge for us all to find a way to keep this love of Christ and interest in our faith alive.



Palm Sunday Pilgrimage

Shari Prestanski, Martha Deffendall

Prayer is the subject of this year's 9th-12th grade Religious Education class curriculum. We decided that the best way to learn about anything is to experience it, so we planned a trip to visit an abbey and hear vespers. In order to make the trip happen, fundraising had to be done. The first fundraiser was

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Easter Isn't Over

During your preparations for Easter, you may have heard someone say, "All this work and it'll all be over so soon." Sorry, but they're wrong.

Easter as a celebration of the return of spring, the Easter of the Easter Bunny and colored eggs and candy, fancy hats and new spring clothes may be over by Easter Monday, not to come around again until next year.

But the true Easter, the celebration of Christ's resurrection, is never over. Easter is the reminder and the celebration of a continuing fact: Christ, who was raised from death, is alive today, tomorrow and forever. Daily he offers us and the whole world power to begin new life now.

Easter isn't over ... ever!



May 9th is Mothers Day



www.SFCtn.org

Spanish Religious Education

Maria Elena Hernandez

The Spanish religious education classes have had great outcomes. I want to congratulate Érica Gómez Rivera, Edenilson Canales, Antonio Anastasio Díaz, and Juan Quijada, from the adult classes. They recently had their first communion on March 25th.

The confirmation group had a retreat on March 27th, where I implemented all the information they learned throughout the year in just five hours. Twelve students came to the retreat. A couple of them had already attended their required retreat, but they still enjoyed the different topics and activities we had ready for them.

The kids and adults who will be doing their confirmation this month are Érica Gómez Rivera, Alex Miranda Santizo, Anadelia Luna, Angela Damian Martin, Brualia Luna, Clarrisa Luna, Daniel Trujillo Hidalgo, Edenilson Canales, Juan Francisco Juan, and Víctor Luna. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them in advance for all their hard work this year.

The kids and I are grateful for the opportunity given to us to go on the trip to Alabama. It was a unique and fulfilling experience that neither they nor I will ever forget. Thank you so much for allowing us to participate.

Movie Night - Fun for All

Martha Deffendall

St. Frances Cabrini Movie Night, hosted by the 8th Grade Confirmation Class, made its debut on Friday, February 26th, and it was a huge success. The confirmands did a wonderful job in making sure all the snacks and drinks were well supplied, and that the children in attendance were well cared for. All enjoyed watching "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs", because it is filled with laughs and a creative story line.

At the end of the movie, we played a trivia game discussing some important points of the movie, and each child who attended this event received an amply filled bag of sweets and treats. We had 30 children and 17 adults in attendance, with most asking when we'd be doing this again. Watch for postings - news of future screenings at the St. Frances Movie House will be announced at future dates and please, watch out for those flying meatballs!

Newsletter

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Thank You

On behalf of Connie Atkinson's family, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for the outpouring of kindness by members of St. Francis Cabrini at the time of my mother's passing.

Thank you to those who attended the visitation, rosary, and funeral, and to those who visited Mom during her lengthy illness. Also, thank you to those who sent cards of sympathy and those who kept her in their prayers. Special "thank you's" to Father O'Bryan, Deacon Jim, and Prissy Deffendall and choir members who participated in her comforting funeral Mass, Cathy Maggart and Nikki Gann for their helpful assistance, and the ladies who provided an enjoyable luncheon following the funeral service.

I will be forever grateful for all that was done to support my family during this very difficult time. Blessings to all.

Terry Jeanne Harris

"My Mother's Garden"

A mother is a gardener,
Planting the seeds
Of faith, truth and love
That develop into the fairest flowers
Of character, virtue and happiness
In the lives of her children.

—J. Harold Gwynne

Religious Education Visit to St. Cecilia Mother House

Cathy Maggart

Three Dominican Sisters of the St. Cecilia Community visited all the Religious Education classrooms at St. Frances Cabrini in the fall of 2009. The children begged to go see where the Sisters lived, so...on Saturday, March 20, twenty-six Religious Ed students, third grade through 8th grade, and a hand full of adults, boarded a JPII High School bus and headed to St. Cecilia Dominican Mother House, in Northwest Nashville. The Dominican Sisters have been at this location since 1860.

A few of the students had never been on a bus, so there were twice the butterflies of excitement in their stomachs. There were many “ah’s” and “oh’s” as we rode through downtown Nashville. As we passed the Titan’s Football Stadium, there was much cheerful chatter. The General Jackson was on the Cumberland River as we passed over it on the bridge. It was a great beginning to a most amazing day.

Pulling through the gates, the huge Mother House was in sight and the kids were struck with amazement. We heard, “Wow, look at that big mansion, do the Sisters live in there?” All eyes and ears were open, with many other happy remarks and questions.

The Sisters were awaiting our arrival with their tennis shoes on and their skirts bustled up. They greeted us and led us to the front lawn, of many acres, where we divided into two ball teams – one kick ball and one soccer. As the games were in progress, the kids noticed the Postulants - Sisters in Training - walking the circle drive, praying the Rosary. The Sisters then surprised the children with an opportunity to fly a kite on their beautiful grounds.

We were hot and thirsty after the games, and the Sisters lead us to a beautiful second floor porch, and we filled up on lemonade. During this time, there were many questions, such as, “Do you get to leave when you want and go to Walmart?” “Why do you have that huge rosary?” “Do you get to go to bed?” “What kind of food do you eat?” “How come all of you are dressed like twins?” There truly were nearly a million questions.

The group was then divided into two groups for a tour inside the Mother House. The beautifully arranged parlors were eye openers. The kids were introduced to relics. The old chapel was a favorite. We were lead out the main front door to a mound in the front acreage to a large Sacred Heart statue, placed there in 1910. The Sisters have a deep devotion to the Sacred Heart.

Then, we went on to the cemetery, where 210 Sisters are buried, some with beautiful white crosses. We know that fact because Evan and Logan counted them.

They saved the best till last, the new beautiful St. Cecilia Chapel. Its beauty must be seen. We had an inspirational, holy half hour and vespers (afternoon prayers) with the Sisters.

Our visit was warm hearted, and I think that all realized these Dominican Sisters are furthering the Kingdom of God through their daily walk with The Lord.

The day was filled with amazing surprises, sharing delightful and happy hours. On the bus ride back, the kids were asking, “When can we go back?” It left us adults wondering, “What is God whispering to our youth?” Our children were very well-behaved and represented St. Frances well.



Why Catholic?

Martha Deffendall

The *Why Catholic?* program has proven to be a spiritually beneficial program, and with the aid of the facilitators who have dedicated themselves to this program (and Martha's enthusiastic leadership as coordinator), it has helped our parish grow in our faith. They kept feeding our desires to explore our faith and become closer to God. There are no words to express the gratitude from all who have participated in this program toward our facilitators, only to say, "May the most gracious blessings from God come upon you!"

Also, those involved in *Why Catholic?* are very happy to share with you their thoughts and experiences while in this program: "I guess the best news about our *Why Catholic?* group is the fact that it's grown so much. We picked up some new members between sessions one and two, and our "old" group has remained intact. We really like meeting in a home. The discussions have become more and more meaningful during Session three....probably because we all know each other better. More of us have the green and red catechisms and are reading the lessons beforehand. We have a shared history, and we have lots to bring to the discussion because the study of the sacraments is a topic everybody can identify with in a specific way. Some of the earlier topics were a little cerebral. We are all excited about writing personal notes to the confirmands. This was an "action", an outgrowth of the lesson on Confirmation. Maybe it will help the kids feel more a part of the church they're growing into. We had a meal together the day of the last Session, and that was fun, too."

I had to stop leading a *Why Catholic?* group because of surgery and joined another group for the sessions I was able to attend. It was great for me because I was able to meet more St. Frances parishioners and share with them my feelings about my faith. I also received the Anointing of the Sick, so it was great to talk about that in one of the sessions and how it affected me before my surgery. Also, (we talked about) how it is so important for people going in for surgery, or even tests, to receive this comforting sacrament. This is why we are Catholic!!!!!!"

So if you hear about *Why Catholic?* signups in the future; remember you heard about the good news of *Why Catholic?* here, and how it can help you get more good news.

Jennifer Kibbey Salutatorian

Smith County newspaper article, submitted by Lindy Rankin

Jennifer Lyn Kibbey, with a GPA of 4.40, is the salutatorian of the 2010 graduating class of Smith County High School. She is the daughter of Lyn Kibbey and Robert Riley.

Jennifer is very involved in her school and community. She is on the dance team, and is secretary of the BETA club and the reporter for her 4-H club. She is an active member of the Student Council, Interact Club, Drama Club, Black and Gold Paper Staff, Spanish Club, Future Business Leaders of America, and the HOSA club. She is also on the SCTV

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Brides & Grooms to Be

Don't forget to schedule your pre-marital meetings with the pastor. Remember you are required to attend an Engaged Couples Retreat (more information below). No completion certificate, no ceremony. Don't delay!

Engaged Couples Retreat

The Diocesan Engaged Couple's Retreats continue to receive wonderful responses from both participants and married couples. The cost is \$150 per couple for the retreat and will continue to be held at Scarritt-Bennett Center. 2010 Dates are: June 12th, July 17th, August 14th, September 11th, October 16th, and November 13th.

For more information, call the Engaged Couples' Retreat Department: 615-383-6393 or 1-800-273-0256. or via web site: www.dioceseofnashville.com/encoupretreat.htm

Baptismal Class

On the first Saturday of each month at 3:00 P.M. a Baptismal Preparation class will be held at the church. In order to have a child baptized at St. Frances, both parents and godparents will need to attend one of these classes.

Please call the church office at 444-0524 to register for a class.

Pilgrimage Continued

to have a car wash; however, the weather did not agree, and it rained all week, so we had to cancel. Then, we decided to have a bake sale at the Watertown Mile Long Yard Sale. Many people at St. Frances Cabrini helped by donating items to be sold. Baked goods, toys and clothes were donated. Sean Rabe, Shari Prestanski, and many of the students spent all day at the yard sale. We made some money, but not enough to pay for the bus.

The Knights of Columbus came to our rescue and offered some of the Titans games for fundraising. Tina Lynch and Shari Prestanski worked the Jacksonville game, and we recruited many people to work the Music City Bowl. Our volunteers included two students, Olivia Looper and Ben Smith. We would like to thank our other volunteers, Buddy Trouy, Ed Baenzinger, Lindy Rankin, Denise Smith, Tina Lynch, Steve and Dottie Gillis, and Brian Tilton. It was a long night, and most of us had to work the next day, so we really appreciate everyone's time in helping us get to the abbey.

After all that hard work, we now had the money for our trip. Since we were getting a bus, the decision was made to invite both 8th grade confirmation classes, English and Spanish. Once all the students signed up, we offered any extra seats to anyone in the parish who also wanted to go.

On March 28th, twenty-six of us rode to Hanceville, Alabama, to participate in the Palm Sunday service at the *Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament*. It was a wonderful experience to visit another Catholic Church. The Lower Church, where



we had Mass, was beautiful. There were Eucharist kneelers, and many of the students were not sure what to do. Outside the Lower Church were full size photos of the Shroud of Turin that were donated to the church. After viewing the Shroud, we went to the Upper Church, where the Nuns were chanting in prayer. The monstrance was in the Upper Church as well, and it was quite the experience. It is hard to explain how it felt sitting in the church, listening to the nuns and viewing the monstrance. It was peaceful, beautiful, wonderful... actually, there are no words that can describe the experience.



The students enjoyed the visit to the *Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament* as well. The students wrote about their experience, and here are some quotes: "The monstrance I saw was HUGE! I have never seen one like it." "I enjoyed the

experience of a different church." "I think the mass was very interesting. I enjoyed it very much." "The experience was phenomenal, I will always remember it." "The architecture was gorgeous. The church was amazing."

We left the *Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament* and went to *St. Bernard Abbey* in Cullman, Alabama. When we got there, we went through the gift shop and walked through the *Ave Maria Grotto* - that was absolutely amazing! "The Grotto was gorgeous. It's amazing that a single person could do so much," said one student. Another said that "the mini's were really detailed and looked beautiful." Everyone walked through the Grotto and visited the cemetery and the chapel. After dinner, we walked to the church to experience vespers. The prayer was amazing. Everyone sat quietly and prayerfully as the monks chanted their prayers. The church had some relics at the back that we looked at on our way out. We then got back on the bus and headed back to Lebanon, Tennessee.

On the bus, students were asked about their experience and they wrote: "I really enjoyed the abbey today. The vespers were really interesting." Many said it was a great experience and "I loved



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Boy Scout Troop 302

Dan Rule

Catholic Committee on Scouting's Saint George Award

The St. George Emblem is a national recognition approved by the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. Observing the use and value of an emblem presented to adults for outstanding service to the spiritual development of Catholic youth in the Scouting Program, the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America approved the St. George Emblem in 1955. St. George, who died a martyr in the year 303, is the patron saint of knighthood and of England.

The purpose of the emblem is to recognize the recipient's outstanding contribution to the spiritual development of the Catholic youth in the program of the Boy Scouts of America. Eligible adults include those working in the Scout program under Catholic auspices, who have made a significant contribution to Scouting in the field of Catholic relationships. On Sunday, March 21st, The Catholic Committee on Scouting in the Nashville Diocese presented the St. George Medal to Scott W. Bryan. Scott is the founder and Scout Master of Troop 302, sponsored by St. Frances Cabrini Church.

Summer Camp

Troop 302 will be off to a week of summer camp on June 12, 2010. This year we are going to Camp McKee, just outside of Lexington, Kentucky.

Are You an Eagle Scout?

If you are an Eagle Scout, we would like to know. Drop us a line at dprule@gapac.com, or write to us at 511 East Oakdale Drive, Lebanon, TN 37087. Tell us when you received the honor, and what Troop you were with including number, City and State.

Recycling Cans Fund Raiser

Troop 302 has an ongoing fund raiser. We recycle aluminum cans. If you want to help us out by saving aluminum and donating it to the Troop, just contact any Leader or Scout in the Troop for more information.

New Members

Troop 302 is always looking for new members, both youth and adults. The Troop meets the first and third Mondays of each month at the church from 6:30-8:00 PM. We have an open invitation for all boys, whether they are church members or not, that are ages 11-17. We also welcome any adult who would like to come and be part of our Troop as either a Scouting Leader or a member of the Troop Committee. Even if you do not have a youth in the Troop, you are welcome to be part of the Troop.

For more information on Troop 302, please contact our Scout Master, Scott Bryan at 453-9022 or our Troop Committee Chairman, Dan Rule at 202-6335.

Kibbey Continued

crew, where she does the daily morning announcements on Channel Three.

Jennifer has been the recipient of several awards during her high school career. She was the 2010 Wendy's Heisman winner for her school. She was a UDA dance All Star for two years in a row. She is also a 4-H club All Star. She has won several essay contests, for 4-H and for school. She has placed in the top ten in a few pageants and won Miss Congeniality in Smith County in 2008. She was also the Smith County representative for the Southern Region Teen Leadership Conference planning committee.

Jennifer's favorite pastime is performing with the After School Theatre Company. During the past three years, she has taken part in three plays. She portrayed Mrs. Hannigan in *Annie*, the Wicked Witch in *The Wizard of Oz*, and Belle in *Beauty and the Beast*.

Jennifer will be attending the University of Tennessee in Knoxville in the fall. She plans on pursuing a major in Communications and a minor in Theatre Arts. She wants to become a television producer for a major studio. Congratulations, Jennifer!



The Easter Bunny Visits A Friday night fish fry.

RCIA

Deacon Jim Dixon

Congratulations to Donna Syler, who received the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter vigil. She will now be able to join us each week at mass at the table of the Lord. Donna has been attending RCIA classes each week since last September, along with her sponsor, Pat Galvin. We congratulate both of them for their long and faithful efforts on this journey.



Your faith can grow

The suspension bridge over Niagara Falls was begun by a thread attached to a kite. When the wind blew, the kite floated across the water to the other side. Workers then attached a string to the thread and pulled it across. To the string, they attached a rope and pulled it back. By this slow-but-sure method, the bridge was built.

Our faith may be just a little thread or no larger than a mustard seed, but we must act on it (see James 2:14-18). Through action, our faith will be strengthened (Colossians 1:23) as it moves us to do even greater works of faith for our Lord (2 Thessalonians 1:3). And in this slow-but-sure way, our faith can grow exceedingly (Ephesians 4:15-16).



The children prepare to sing on Palm Sunday

Pilgrimage Continued

everything about it.” “Our trip to Alabama’s *Ave Maria Grotto* was one of the most fulfilling experiences that most of us have ever had. From the monk’s everyday peaceful living, to Brother Joseph Zoettl’s art work, and the spectacular altar and tabernacle in the Upper Church - these are just some of the reasons that, as a group, we really enjoyed our day out. We were mostly impressed by the image of Jesus and of Veronica’s veil, because they were both very detailed and more accurate than we would expect. The mass was a lot different than what we are used to, but it was very interesting to learn new ways for us - a more conservative way of celebrating mass at *The Most Blessed Sacrament*. All in all, we were very pleased with the trip, and we all wish to return someday soon. Thank you all for inviting the Spanish community.”

We would like to thank all of you at St Frances Cabrini for your support and prayers as we took this wonderful trip to experience prayer. This really was the effort of the parish community working for the spiritual growth of our youth. What a wonderful investment from which all who attended will draw for the rest of our lives.



Knights Corner

Porter Robinson Council #9787

Buddy Trouy

Another calendar quarter is now being put in the history books. Many blessings were bestowed upon our council and parish. We have increased our official roster with multiple new members, including two gentlemen from our Hispanic community. We have also readmitted previously inactive members.

Due to our increased growth in membership, we have moved our council business meetings to the Kilpatrick room at Cumberland University. This location allows us to conduct council business per protocol, as stated in our constitution and by-laws. Our regular monthly business meeting is every fourth Sunday of the month at 9:00 am, and continental breakfast is served between 8:30 and 9:00. On that same Sunday, we invite the parish community to join us in recitation of the rosary in church, beginning at 7:30 am.

Our council has provided community service and made monetary donations to various groups at St. Frances Cabrini. We awarded Boy Scout Troop 302, religious education, and the youth group proceeds from working 2009 Titans games at LP Field. We continued our tradition of hosting three fish fries during Lent. We also led the Stations of the Cross on a non-fish-fry Friday. Proceeds from the final fish fry were donated to the SFC youth group, who co-sponsored the dinner.

At the request of Bishop Choby, our council has provided financial aid to John Simpson, who is a Nashville Diocese seminarian, attending seminary in Ohio. We also volunteered at the Wilson County Special Olympics swim meet in January.

Keeping in mind the mission of our founder, Father McGivney, to assist all God's holy family, the Knights will continue to grow and share the inspiration of brotherhood, both locally and internationally. If you are a practicing Catholic gentleman, with the desire and willingness to do good works for those in need, please consider the blessing of becoming a Knight.

Contact person: Buddy Trouy – Grand Knight, Council 9787 – 554-7226 cell.

Pictures below are the presentation of checks to Religious Education, Youth Group and Boy Scouts:



Hispanic Youth Group

Nelson and Merilin Gonzalez

For the past few months, the Spanish youth group, Huellas D' Cristo (Christ's Footprints or HDC), at St. Frances Cabrini has been growing. For our first meeting in August 2009, we had 8 youth members start the group. Now, I am very proud to inform that there are 40 members that come to the meetings on a regular basis, which are every Saturday at 7:00pm in the church hall.

Although we have had such a short time running, we have done many activities to help our group grow. We held a bake sale back in October to raise funds for our shirts, and we were able to purchase all the shirts we ordered during that time (25) and still have some funds left for upcoming activities. We raised \$315.50. We also had an off the premises Valentine's Day dance on Saturday, February 13th, to raise funds for the Easter retreat the youth group hosted on Saturday, March 20th. This was completely free, with breakfast and lunch provided. The retreat was called "Youth; Revive in Christ", and our goal was that, during the time of Lent, the attendees could find themselves in Christ and be able to recognize who they are and decide who they really want to be, promoting change where needed. We had a total of 14 participants, who all claimed to have had a blast and kept asking for more.

We already have fun plans for this summer, like a Mother's Day "Afternoon at the Theater" event, which will be in the hall on May 9th, with food, singing, skits, and folklore dancing, all prepared by HDC. We are also preparing for a volleyball tournament to last 3 or 4 weeks. Father Michael has graciously offered the space next to the parking lot to put up a net and play at the church premises. That way, we call more kids to come join in on the fun, without having to deal with driving to somewhere they don't know. We will keep you posted with more

Thank you to all who have helped with HDC's success.

Right to Life

Debbie Trouy

A very special thank you to everyone who participated in the "baby bottle fundraiser" for Right to Life during the month of March. Because of your selfless generosity, we raised a grand total of \$1,348.17!

Every year in January, rallies and events are held all over the country to remember the anniversary of the tragic Roe vs. Wade decision to legalize all abortion in America. I attended the rally in downtown Nashville, as I have done for the last five years. It was, as always, a powerful and moving event.

One of the speakers was an African-American minister from California, who was arrested for silently holding a sign in front of an abortion clinic! He had an amazing story to tell about how authorities in his city work to squelch the pro life message.

Another speaker told her heart-wrenching story of how her step-father forced her pregnancy to be terminated against her will when she was 8 ½ months pregnant! This happened right here in Tennessee in the 1970s, and she is just now able to talk about it (this was her first public talk), and she is now speaking out for the sanctity of all human life.

We also learned that the Grace Pregnancy Center in Nashville will soon be getting an ultrasound machine, courtesy of the Knights of Columbus. Most women/girls who have ultrasounds choose to have their babies. This will most certainly save lives!

Tennessee Right to Life, along with other pro-life organizations, work to take steps toward preserving the sanctity of ALL human life – born and unborn. This includes fighting for pro-life legislation, even if it is baby steps (no pun intended). Almost two-thirds of women who abort feel pressured by others. On March 31st Tennessee's Freedom from Coercion Act was passed by overwhelming majorities in both the state Senate and state House. Thank you to all who signed the petition. For more information on this and other news, you can visit tennesseerighttolife.org.