

# THE GOOD NEWS

## St. Francis Church, Peoria/Dunlap, IL

### MARCH , 2010

#### **Answering God's Call In Life**

Presenting Steve and Ann Wiegand from Morton IL., " A Couple's Ministry in Kenya, Africa," Sunday March 14, 2:30 pm at St. Francis Church. There will be a slide presentation portraying their ministry of reaching men, women and children through a World Sports Ministry. There will be appetizers and fellowship following the presentation. African jewelry will be for sale, proceeds to help the program.

Come and hear the stories of renewed hope in a poor country, and their personal testimony and experiences of their walk with God through this ministry. Please join us for mass at 5:00 pm. The nursery will be open. Anyone wishing to help provide snacks, please see Debbie Welch.

#### **Green Auction**

Friends, don't forget our Green Auction coming up on March 21<sup>st</sup> after 10:00 am mass. We have had a lot of fun with this for several years. If you aren't familiar with it, just buy something Irish or green and wrap it up in green. The better and more unique the wrapping the more money we usually get. I think Bob Cannon paid pretty good money for a couple of green apples one year. It can be a nice gift, or silly / gag gift. The Social Committee will be providing snacks. If anyone else would like to bring something feel free to do so. So put on your green and let's all be Irish and have some fun!

#### **Free Money for Saint Francis**

That's right free money. I know you're saying so what's the catch, what do I have to do. Well there is

one thing that you'd need to do and that's participate in the St Francis Scrip Program.

What is scrip? It's a fundraising tool where you simply do your regular shopping with gift cards from America's favorite retailers. With each purchase, St. Francis earns cash rebates that can quickly add up .

If you're a creature of habit like I am you do a lot of the same thing every month, I eat, fill my car with gas, get medicine, eat out once again usually at a select group of restraints, and unfortunately partake of fast food more than is good for me. Then there are things like projects for the house, some people like books. others go to the movies. Some like to shop for clothes others prefer to shop on line.

Well if you can plan and pay for those expenses in advance via scrip program, St Francis will reap the rewards and it doesn't cost you a cent. Lets assume typical monthly basic expenses for a family. Food - \$300 - St Francis could earn a minimum \$6 Fast Food - \$40 - St Francis could earn minimum of \$2.40 Gas - \$100 - St Francis could earn minimum of \$2 Eat Out at Restraint - \$60- St Francis could earn minimum of \$4.80 That's \$15.20 per family with no additional cost to the family.

Now lets look at just some other typical purchases where we have opportunity to make even more.

Books - Barnes & Noble or Borders we'd make 9%

Clothing - Many major clothing chains 4-10%

Candy - Fannie May - 25%

Go to Show - 7%

Medicine/Drugs - CVS Walgreens - 6%

Home Improvement - Lowes , Home Depot - 4%

On Line shopping - Amazon - 4%

OK so what's stopping you? Add another habit (a good one). Plan your month in advance and purchase scrip.

If we had 10 families with just basic purchases above that would generate around \$150 per month for St.Francis.

It's free money, you'll spend it anyway, this way church gets the benefit of your purchases. The sky is the limit on how much we can earn - it's just up to you.

Scrip orders are taken on the 2nd Sunday of the month with delivery of cards the following week. Here are the dates for the next 3 scrip Sundays:

**March 14, May 9<sup>th</sup> and April 11<sup>th</sup>.**

Don't forget about purchasing gift cards for birthdays, anniversaries and graduations. A list of the participating retailers can be found at [www.glscrip.com](http://www.glscrip.com) either alphabetically by retailer name or by category.

If you have any questions or need additional information, contact me, Gary Diemer.

Home - 309-266-9529;

Email:

[gdiemer@comcast.net](mailto:gdiemer@comcast.net).

### **Mission & Outreach “Reporting For Duty”**

We are each given talents or “gifts” from God; we have a variety of gifts that make us unique and different from one another. I believe we are all familiar with Paul’s teaching in Romans 12:6, where Paul speaks of the gifts, their uses and purpose. As individuals, we should offer praise to God and ask his guidance on how to execute our talents/gifts daily.

One talent that I believe we all share is that of prayer. We don’t have to know how to teach to pray, or how to heal the sick to pray. Prayer can move mountains, close gaps in the budget ... amazing things will begin to take shape if we are diligent and delighted in prayer.

So, we are asking each of you to join us with your gift of prayer the first Sunday each month as part of the 5pm mass as we pray for God’s will for St. Francis and for those outside of our church family. We all know someone that needs prayer. “Where two or more are gathered in my name, I will be in the midst of them” The Lord is waiting for us to ask so that he may provide, please, join us in asking. We are collectively trying to pin a day and time for meetings that will fit the needs of us all.

### **March is Macaroni Month**

Bring a box of a macaroni. It can be Mac & cheese, spaghetti, Hamburger Helper...any boxed macaroni. At the end of March we will donate the Macaroni items to the Rescue Ministries.

### **We are still collecting medical items for the small churches in the Dominican Republic.**

### **My Utmost for His Highest By Deacon Ron**

I have a quandary, it is Matthew 24:34-36 (American Standard Version) <sup>34</sup> Verily I say unto you, this generation shall not pass away, till all these things are accomplished. <sup>35</sup> Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. <sup>36</sup> But of that day and hour knoweth no one, not even the angels of heaven, neither the Son, but the Father only. Hold up, wait just a minute, Jesus just said “I do not know.” He has to be telling the truth or He cannot be without sin. No one has been able to stump Christ, they have not been able to catch Him with a loaded question and a relatively straight forward question, when will you come back and His answer is I do not know... Well Mr. Chambers gave me a bit to think about with this statement “Have you been asking God what He is going to do? He will never tell you. God does not tell you what he is going to do; He reveals to you who He is.”

As I ponder Scripture and the words of Oswald I must admit some frustration and also I am somewhat excited too. Have you ever asked for the right six numbers and when you did not get them you feel let down, I have. We serve a God that is in control and He knows what is best for you and me. I will say that Julie and I have gone through some lean times however we always seem to have enough not any extra but enough. I believe that God reveals Himself to us in small doses so we can recognize that He is still in charge. As for my quandary, how boring would it be for Christ to know when God the Father was going to say **go get them son**. God is not going to have Christ marking off His calendar and checking His watch for the exact time. If God has some surprises even for Jesus what do

you imagine He might have in store for you and me?

P.S. I have thought about Father John's sermon about the need for spiritual fire trucks. I will assure you that Father never shares his thoughts about his sermon's before he shares them with you. For the week prior to his sermon I believe God revealed a phrase to me. I shared this phrase with most of you at the annual meeting. Allow me to share the phrase with you again or for the first time. Most all of us understand the idea of CPR and how when used CPR can save a life. How then can we use CPR on our Church? We cannot, however we can use PPR (**Pressurized Prayer Resuscitation**). When you think of St. Francis, its clergy and or any member of our Church in any way, please apply some PPR, and then ask God to amplify the Holy Spirit among us and breathe new vigor into us all.

### **A Kite of Prayer By Candice Hogden**

Remember this song? "Let's go fly a kite, up to the highest height.

Let's go fly a kite and send it soaring.

Up through the atmosphere,  
up where the air is clear.

Oh, let's go fly a kite."

I hope you guessed it but if not, this song is from the musical *Mary Poppins*. This is one of my favorite musicals. There is something magical to this show with an air of joy that brings smiles to my face.

One day these lyrics popped into my head and went round and round in my mind. This led to my thoughts that prayers are like a kite which we send soaring through the air like incense to the highest height of our father's throne where the pristine air is clear, pure, light with an aroma of incensed spiritual joy. I simmered on those thoughts with another smile to my face.

I thought of the prayers I was praying and no matter what the content they would float through the air with an aroma of incense to my Father's ears. In Psalm 141 verse 2 it says, "Let my prayer be counted as incense before thee, and the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice!" This verse inspires me. There is also a reverence to prayer being associated with incense. Incense burned is a pleasing aroma that cleanses the altar area where the Priests conduct mass. It also permeates our clothes, our hair on an individual level and permeates the whole Sanctuary where the body of Christ meets to pray, praise and worship Him.

We definitely want our prayers to soar with a sweet aroma to reach our Father's throne. But what if we are not praying? What if our Father is not seeing our prayers soar to him? What if he is longing for us to talk to him, to pray to Him. What if he is waiting for those sweet sounds of prayer to reach him in the heavens and they just aren't coming? Our Father is grieved. Jesus full of compassion for us surely weeps. He wept before. See John 11:35.

So, why don't we pray as we ought to? Sometimes we get stuck in our thinking, the intellect, and just don't pray. Thoughts enter that prayer doesn't work anyway or it takes too much time. Maybe some don't think they know how to pray. Maybe we want others to do it especially the priest. Maybe there are thoughts that you are not worthy enough to pray. Maybe it is being lazy or too busy. The excuses are really endless. But the Lord wants us to pray. He taught his disciples to pray when they said, "Lord, teach us to pray (Luke 11:1). He then taught to them to pray the Our Father. (Matthew 6:9 gives the Lord's Prayer as we know it.) The word prayer means according

to Webster: "an appeal, request, petition, plea, entreaty. There are many kinds of prayer: short to the point prayers; long prayers; spiritual protection prayers; healing prayers; deliverance prayers; glimpses of a prayer; adoration prayers; requesting prayers; morning , noon and evening prayers; and bedtime prayers. As you can see this list is endless also. Is it a coincidence that the kind of prayers and the excuses of prayer are endless? Ponder that.

So, lets visualize a scenario of prayer and praise. You wake up in the morning and decide to not entertain any excuses to pray. You say "I will pray with the Lord's help". You go to the garage and dust off your kite. You get your kite ready with a long string. You go out to the wide outdoors and run with your kite with a renewed hope to pray to your Father in Heaven. You pray the prayers from your heart in which ever kind it is to be and you watch as your kite of prayers take flight. Your hands lifted high to God as the reel of string rolls upward. The tail of your will with the Holy Spirit's guidance brings your prayers through the air. The Holy Spirit wind takes it higher and higher through the smog of life and into the clean pristine air to your Father's throne. There at the highest of heights he takes in the sweet aroma of your prayers, your inner most thoughts and feelings and he is pleased. You have done as he has taught in Philippians 4:4b-6. "But in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made know to God" He is pleased you wanted to commune with Him. As you take the time to commune with him regularly and

frequently then and only then can he reveal the spiritual mysteries and revelation. For St Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 3:1-3 "But I Brethren could not address you as spiritual men but as men of the flesh, as babes in Christ. I fed you with milk, not solid food; for you were not ready for it; and even yet you are not ready, for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh, and behaving like ordinary men?" He doesn't want his relationship with you to be a casual one. He desires a deep intimate relationship with you alone. And if you are wondering if God answers prayer. Yes he does, but not according to our ways. One example of answered prayer is in Luke 1. Zechariah was serving as priest before God. And in verse 9-12a,13 "according to the custom of the priesthood, it fell to him by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense and the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense, And there appeared to him an angel of the lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him but the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah for your prayer is heard and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son and you shall call his name John."

So, what do you say? Do you want to fly a kite of prayer? Come on , let's go fly a kite. Let's do it!!!

(P.S. get your kites ready for in March we will have kites of prayer soaring at 3 Sisters Park, Chillicothe. It may be short notice. For we do need wind.)

**How To contact Us:**

Snail Mail: 12200 N. Brentfield Drive, Dunlap, IL 61525

**Emergencies: 309-264-7489**

Email: [office@saintfrancischurch.net](mailto:office@saintfrancischurch.net)

Office Phone: 309-243-2404 Fax: 309-243-2404 (Call to FAX)

Fr. John Spencer: 309-274-3952

Fr. Louis Mahue: 309-691-6125

Deacon Ron Neilson: 309-633-2311