

Old St. Joe's Faith Food & Friends Newsletter

ISSUE SEVEN 2015

MMXV: # VII

With HOPE in God's goodness we meet as a group of men who share common problems, pain, sorrows, joys, and successes. Many of us share problems in addiction, homelessness, poverty, mental or emotional disorders and spiritual emptiness. We desire holistic healing of our bodies, minds and spirits. We pray that this will be the first step in turning our lives around.

WE HAVE HOPE

A Time to Plant



Joe Duross Plants in the garden.

Lettuce, and spinach are almost ready for harvest and cucumbers shoots are sprouting in the Faith Food and Friends garden. Tomatoes and herbs have been planted and eggplant will not be far behind. These fresh vegetables will supplement the meals served at FF&F all summer long and well into September.

The garden project was started four years ago by then coordinator Christine Jaeger. Current volunteer Jean-Marie Zippo quickly became involved and continues to oversee the garden today. FF&F petitioned the Nation Park Service to establish an organic garden in the open space at Fourth and Walnut next to the Church courtyard. Permission was granted, the plot was staked out and dug and seeds were planted.

The garden is tended and watered

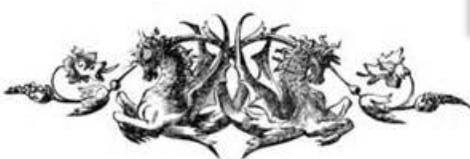
by FF&F guests. This year, when 70 bags of organic topsoil were delivered outside the fence on 4th street, the men formed a bucket brigade to move it inside close to the garden. The topsoil was dug in by volunteers and will help amend the soil for this year's crop to be the best ever.

So if you're feeling the need to give back to the earth and do a little weeding or watering, see Joe or Mary. Hoes and hoses will be provided!

Volunteer Appreciation Day

On Saturday June 6th, the tables will be turned and FF&F guests will be cooking and serving a meal for the people who cook and serve us all year long. This act of appreciate is something we've wanted to do for sometime now. If you would like to participate in this day of giving back by helping out in the kitchen or serving, please see Mary or Monty.

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no hot meal served that day. Bag lunches will be available for those FF&F guests who cannot participate.



What's Happening:

- **Meals are served every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday at Noon.**
- Numbers are given out at 11:00 A.M.
- Doors open at 11:30 A.M.
- **No one** will be admitted after Noon

Tuesday Movies:

(1 PM unless otherwise noted)

June 9th - TBA

June 23rd - Elizabeth (1998)

Thursday Programs:

(1 PM unless otherwise noted)

June 11th - Fr. Dan's Discussion Group

June 18th - Penn Hospital Presentation

Saturday Prayer Groups:

June 6th Closed - Volunteer Appreciation Day - see related article to participate

June 13th Cynthia

June 20th Carolyn

June 27th Fr. Dougherty

Gospel Reflections

-Fr. Edward Dougherty S.J.

Reflection on the temptation of Jesus in Mark's Gospel 1:12-15

Sometime carefully read Mark's gospel. Note how often Jesus is alone, deserted; and at the end completely so. Note how he is attacked – first by demons, then by scribes and Pharisees, then his family, then his home town people. At first crowds welcome him; in the end they call for his death.

Even his disciples abandon him – all run away. He dies alone. It seems that his Father abandons him. Even after the resurrection when the angels tell the women that Jesus has risen, the women leave the tomb in fear and trembling. They tell no one because they are afraid.

When tested, Jesus showed that he was truly the Son of God; he obeyed his Father. He was obedient even unto death.

Fr. Ed is in residence at Old St. Joseph's church and leads one of FF&F's Saturday Prayer Groups.

Focus on Friends

How long have you been attending FF&F? What made you want to enter the door?

I have been attending Faith, Food, and Friends for approximately three years. Melvin, a fellow veteran invited me to this place.



What inspires you about FF&F?

The inspiration is for a few reasons: it's clean, it's well organized, the bathrooms are nice, and the food and drink are good; for starters.

How has FF&F affected your life?

This program has affected my life, my thinking, and my spirituality in a positive way!

Why do you keep returning to FF&F?

I continue to return for the same reasons Faith Food and Friends inspirers me! The place is clean. It's very well organized. The bathrooms are clean and inviting. And the food is great!

-James D. Jecks

The Artisans' Corner

The Artisans' Corner

The tumult ended almost instantly; as a vortex wind was attempting to stack a pine onto a walnut, the gale suddenly died out causing the pine tree, to come crashing to the ground with a resounding thud – branches snapping with the impact – roots reaching helplessly sky-bound. The rain continued to drizzle for a while, extinguishing the old oak. The shadows grew faint, now, as the tree guttered out; made faint – nearly invisible – by the great slab of grey that was the sky: homogenized and endless. It wasn't long until the clouds began to break apart; sunlight refracting off the residual misting rain, to paint spectrums and fractured rainbows in strange patterns on the space between land and sky. By the time the rain ceased and the clouds rolled away, it was late afternoon and the sun hung low and red – blood-shot – just above the west edge of the earth. With the return of the sun, the shadows of evening grew, again, dark and long; but instead of fleeing as before, now they stood behind their casters and watched as the night fell, the planet turned, and color and light seeped from the world.

(Excerpt from "An Autumn Storm")

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Progress at 12th & Market

Please email any photography, drawings, poetry, prose or otherwise creative expressions for consideration in future publications to osjfaithnewsletter@gmail.com attention [Billy](#).

The Last Word

Hello friends. You know the way we watch TV is the way God watches us. Have a good show! June 21st is the start of summer- be safe. My name is Mark and this is the last word.

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