

Old St. Joe's Faith Food & Friends Newsletter

ISSUE FIVE 2015

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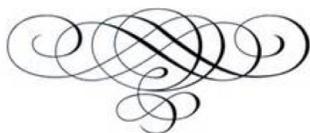
With HOPE in God's goodness we meet as a group of men who share common problems, pain, sorrows, joys, and successes. Many of us share problems in addiction, homelessness, poverty, mental or emotional disorders and spiritual emptiness. We desire holistic healing of our bodies, minds and spirits. We pray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

WE HAVE HOPE

Friends at Faith, Food & Friends

When Mary asked me to write a piece for the newsletter about "Friends" at FF&F, I reflected on the 15+ years that I have volunteered with the Outreach organization now known as Food, Faith & Friends. I was both surprised and consoled by the length and the richness of many of the relationships that developed through this service commitment into friendships. These friendships exist with other volunteers and with clients. The volunteers get to know each other over time in casual conversation while having soup or coffee before the meal or while preparing the food, cleaning up or doing any of the chores that make up this wonderful ministry.

With the clients I have had the rich experience of sharing my spiritual journeys during Saturday spirituality sessions and at Father Dan's monthly program. There is an intimacy that exists when we all talk openly about issues in our lives. These hours spent in service provide consolation for the nightly Examen, in response to the question, "Where did I find God in my life today?" - John Trumbore



Focus on Friends Dr. Charlie Reed

What made you want to volunteer at FF&F?

Having been a parishioner at OSJ for about 15 years, I have long recognized that the FF&F program was one of the most significant programs sponsored by the parish. However, my very busy life as a physician and teacher made it difficult for me to make a commitment. When the retirement phase of my life arrived I finally had the time and so I made the commitment. It would provide me with the opportunity to continue to provide a service for others and hopefully make a positive difference in their lives and mine.

How long have you been volunteering?

I am now in my second year.

What inspires you about the program?

First of all, the men who come to our program – their sincere appreciation, their acceptance of me into their lives, and the various degrees of faith and optimism they display in my interactions with them. Their "diversity" is awesome – at all levels – ethnic, racial, age, background, hopes for the future, etc. I am also deeply inspired by my fellow volunteers – their commitment, their enthusiasm, their fellowship. (continued...)



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

Thursday Programs:

(1 PM unless otherwise noted.)
April 9th Fr. Dan's Discussion Group
April 16th Penn Hospital Presentation

Saturday Prayer Groups:

April 11th - Carolyn
April 18th - John & Cynthia
April 25th - Fr. Dougherty

Focus on Friends (Continued...)

How has it affected your life, thinking, or spirituality?

It has been very positive for me. It gives me the opportunity to hopefully make a difference for the better in the lives of others and at the same time make a positive difference in my own life. It gives me many opportunities to see the face of God in every person and my conversations frequently remind me that for all of us, both “the men” and the volunteers, that “every saint has a past and every sinner has a future”.

-Charles Reed 4/2/15

Useful Information for Veterans

Patricia Crooms and “A.J.” Alfred Jones of the Veterans Multi-Service center visited FF&F in March to talk about the services the Center can provide: transportation to medical and legal appointments, temporary financial assistance, an automotive technology-training program, and subsidized housing programs. Their drop in center, The Perimeter is located on 4th street and no appointment is necessary. The center’s website is www.vmceneter.org. Patricia and A.J.’s phone number is 215-923-2600 Ext. 187. See Mary for further information.

Gospel Reflections

-Fr. Edward Dougherty S.J.

Reflection on the cleansing of the Temple in John’s Gospel 2:13-25

In John’s Gospel, Jesus says to the Pharisees: “Destroy this temple and I will raise it up.” Christ in his body, the Church, still suffers today, still dies and still rises. When we believers fear to speak the truth, do not proclaim the Lord’s year of favor, do not care for or about one another, then we destroy the temple and wound the body of Christ. But when believers unite themselves to Jesus proclaiming the good news, when we defend truth a

nd justice, when we care for the sick, visit the imprisoned, feed the hungry, then the body of Christ is raised from the dead, and we believers, like Jesus, raise up the Temple that has been destroyed, raise up the body of Christ. Jesus proclaimed: “The Kingdom of God is at hand!” We still pray: “Our Father, your kingdom come.”

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

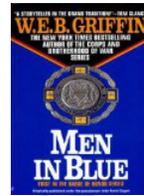
The Artisans’ Corner



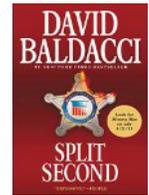
“Walk Alone” by, Billy

The Book Corner

Looking for something to read? The bookshelves in the corner of Barbelin Hall are filled with books that are available for FF&F guests.



Take a book, read it, then bring it back and pass it on. Be sure to give us a review and let us know how many stars (out of five) you’d give it. Need help in choosing? Ask Joe Duros. He maintains the collection and his



recommendations never disappoint.



“Rain-check” by, Billy



“Progress” by, Billy

The Last Word

Hello friends. I pray that everything is well. Have you ever heard the phrase “pay it forward?” When someone tells you “good morning” or “have a good day,” pass it on. Try it. It feels good. My name is Mark and this is the last word.



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