

Faith Weavers of St. Mary
Winter/Spring 2020 Newsletter
www.faithweavers.org

Mission Statement

We are a faith community formed to support one another in working to build the kingdom of God through service to others in all aspects of our lives. We are committed to creating an environment open to new expressions of growth and maturity by expanding our vision of ourselves, our church, and our world, and through our commitment to social justice.

Contents

Upcoming Events1
 Community News.....1
 In Memoriam2
 Faith Weavers on Facebook.....4
 The Village Cooperative4
 Friends of El Salvador.....5
 Faith Weavers Altar Servers.....6
 Charitable Contributions in 20196
 Financial Review.....10

Date	Time	Activity
March 8	4 p.m.	Mass with Fr. Fred Thelen
April 19	4 p.m.	Prayer service with Joe Frankenfield
May 17	4 p.m.	Mass with Fr. Bert Gohm
June 14	4 p.m.	Mass with Fr. Richard Jozwiak

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for the following services. All of these services will be at St. Vincent DePaul Parish in Shepherd starting at 4 p.m.

March 8, 2020, Fr. Fred Thelen will celebrate mass with us. Shepherd Pie and Irish Stew will be prepared for our Irish celebration dinner. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

April 19, 2020, Joe Frankenfield will lead us in a prayer service. We will have a ham and cheesy potato meal. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

May 17, 2020, Fr. Bert Gohm will celebrate mass with us. We will honor mothers and graduates with a brunch following the prayer service. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

June 14, 2020, Fr. Richard Jozwiak will celebrate mass with us. We will recognize retirees and honor men in our community at this service. We will have BBQ Spare Ribs and chicken with rice dinner. **Please bring a dish to pass.**

Please invite a friend to attend one of our services. A simple invitation may be a great gift to a friend.

Community News

The Zimmermans are expecting their first baby. Josh and Maira are looking forward to their little girl’s arrival on March 13th. Her name will be Elise.

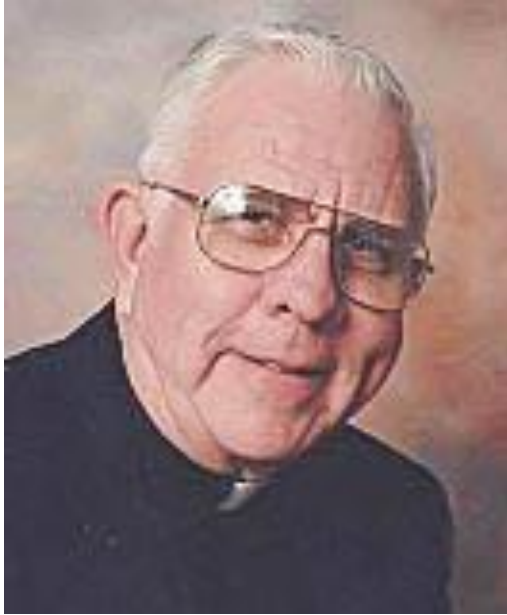
Fr. Fred Thelen will be celebrating mass with us at the March 8th service. Fr. Fred is a retired priest from the Lansing Diocese where he pastored at the Cristo Rey Parish. He spent much of his career serving the Hispanic community in Lansing, and ministering to immigrants from Central and South America.

Sacred Heart Parish in Mt. Pleasant will be sponsoring a “Second Thursday” speaker series in March. All are welcome to attend these sessions. Here is a list of the presentations:

- On March 12th Bishop Gruss will present a Lenten reflection on developing your spiritual life. This will be in Sacred Heart’s church from 7 to 8 p.m.
- On March 26th Fr. Bob Byrne is scheduled to speak in Sacred Heart’s church from 7 to 8 p.m. The topic is forthcoming.

St. Vincent’s will have a Taize prayer service on March 22nd at 5:00 pm with soup supper to follow. Taize is a prayer service that give you an opportunity to “rest in God.” There is prayer, song, and silence. All designed to focus your attention on God’s presence within you.

In Memoriam



Fr. Joseph Schabel

Fr. Joe passed away on December 25, 2019 after sustaining an injury in a fall.

Christmas joy was tempered this year by the untimely death of our dear friend, Fr. Joe Schabel. Fr. Joe had presided at Faith Weavers' services for many years, and was last with us in October 2019.

Fr. Joe immediately endeared himself to our group with his warm smile, gentle manner, and message of social justice. He was known throughout the Diocese of Saginaw as an advocate for the poor.

He had a particular outreach to the Mexican American community through his work with the Mexican American Council in Saginaw. The Council runs a series of programs designed to weave a web of support for the Mexican American community. These programs include a loan assistance program to help people in financial crisis, and a Christmas Store to help low-income families buy necessities during the Christmas Season, a project Faith Weaves financially supported.

We will all miss Fr. Joe and the example of Christian service he gave us.



Mary Ann Monte

A remembrance by Morgan Monte

Mary Ann Monte passed away on June 9, 2019 after a year-long battle with pancreatic cancer.

Mary Ann was involved in Faith Weavers from its inception, serving on both the Steering Committee and Board of Directors until moving to Arizona in 2012. She was a past member of the bell choir at Blessed Trinity in Frankenmuth and while growing up, played the organ at Mass.

Two of her favorite things to watch were Rachel Maddow and Hallmark Christmas movies. She supported many organizations such as the Human Rights Campaign and was proud to "live blue in a red state."

Mary Ann taught special education and regular education as well as students preparing to be special education teachers, and she was loved by her students from elementary school to college. She instilled acceptance and kindness by example and engaged in many volunteer projects throughout the years as well as devoting extra time and attention to her students.

Mary Ann is missed by her husband, Rick, daughter, Morgan, dog, Elly, father, Edward, five siblings and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.



FRANCES MARIE WELGS
A remembrance by Pat Welgs

Our sister, Franny, passed away on October 6, 2019. No matter her chronological age, she always maintained a childlike innocence and wonder. Franny lived in the now, not worrying about yesterday or tomorrow, doing her best in the minute she was in. She worked like the rest of us, but in a workshop, sorting and alphabetizing records. She volunteered at the local library and loved every minute of her life.

We loved Franny and teased her mercilessly, but she gave as good as she got. Each of us wanted to be her favorite so we would ply her with treats and trips, movies, and bowling, and Pina coladas. Then say, "I'm your favorite, aren't I?" Franny would say "we – ell ---" She loved us all equally and unconditionally as she did everyone. We basked in that love. How blessed were we.



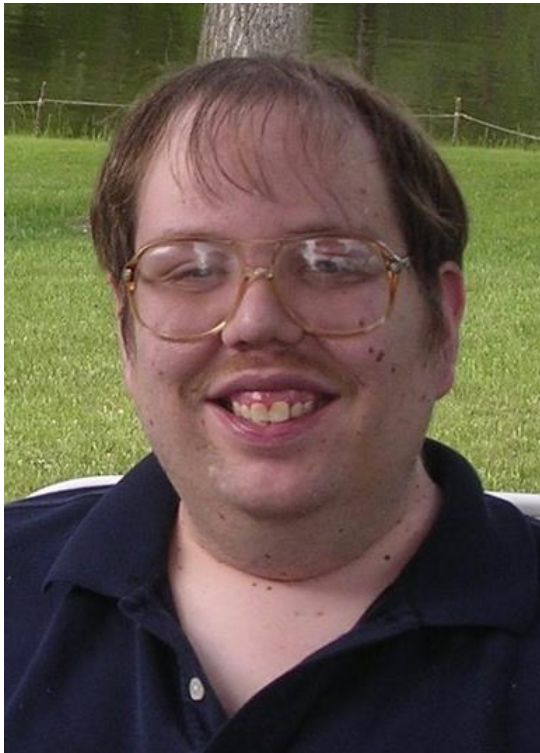
Mary Eileen Franzel
A remembrance by Mary Nichol

Mary Eileen Franzel , known to her friends as Eileen, was a wonderful person and gentle spirit. Eileen died on June 24, 2019 and will be remembered for her warmth, positive attitude, and kindness to all.

Living each day with a joyful demeanor, Eileen always loved a party, sharing Friday fish suppers with her daughters, and enjoying a beer with her grandsons. She also found the Christmas season to be especially joyous. For more than 65 years she dressed up as Santa Claus on Christmas morning to the delight of her family and grandchildren.

In addition to making precious memories with loving family, Eileen spent her life surrounded by dear friends, and was an active member of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in Ubly. She maintained these close relationships, even throughout her final days.

Mary Eileen became involved with Faith Weavers through the People Helping People Committee. Committee members visited Mary Eileen while she was in the Medical Care Facility recuperating from an illness. She and her daughter, Mary Nichol, became active in Faith Weavers by attending our monthly prayer services. Eileen quickly endeared herself to members in our community.



Steven Moreau

Steve Moreau passed away on October 9, 2019. Steve was a member of our community for many years. He and his parents, Dick and Diana, brother, Rick, and sister, Mary, were members of St. Mary's University Parish for many years. He was preceded in death by Rick and Mary. They suffered from an illness that slowly deteriorated their health.

Steve remained in our community when we formed Faith Weavers of St. Mary. He enjoyed coming to the monthly prayer services and socialized with us at the meal following the worship services.

Steve was a loyal member of the Central Michigan Concert Band for about two decades. He consistently participated in the band rehearsals and performances while playing a variety of parts in the percussion section. Playing in the band seemed to be a very important part of his life. Steve recognized the value of performing and entertaining an audience and always focused on playing his part correctly. His fellow musicians recognized his commitment to performing music to entertain an audience. Our faith affirms he is now enjoys the fullness of life and is probably playing in his heavenly band.

Faith Weavers on Facebook

Help us grow our Facebook group! Search "Faith Weavers of St. Mary" and request to join. Benefits include connection with other Faith Weavers and keeping track of events. Expansion to discussions and other uses are being considered, and suggestions are always welcome! #Facebook #FaithWeaversofStMary

The Village Cooperative

The Village Cooperative conducts programs to help the people in Kenya, Guatemala, and India. This year Faith Weavers provided its initial grant to support their work.

Karen Lee discovered the Village Cooperative on her trip to Kenya where it was raising money to purchase textbooks for the school in Manga Maweni, Kenya. In the school of 150 students from nursery school to 8th grade there were no textbooks for students. In fact, teachers did not have textbooks to prepare lessons for students. The grant of \$1,000 was provided to buy textbooks.

Along with the support of schools in Kenya, the Village Cooperative has programs to support medical clinics, and youth enrichment, and economic development. In Guatemala they provide food and supplies for the young and the elderly, and help victims of natural disasters by providing household goods and construction supplies. In India their programs promote economic development.

Friends of El Salvador

by Tom Moore

The Friends of El Salvador Committee met recently with 13 members present or connected from afar through technology. The group reviewed current activities and finances, noting the success of the fall fundraising campaign, and proceeded to discuss and evaluate funding requests and prospective future initiatives for benefiting the rural poor in El Salvador's San Vicente region, the Committee's long-time area of focus.

Emerging priorities for grant-making in 2020 are to: support construction of more concrete-block latrines to upgrade sanitation, especially in communities near Miramar, our sister community; fund two facilities projects at the nearby Guajoyo School to improve learning conditions and aid the nutritional program for children; and provide funds for the community of Llano Grande Segundo and probably also the community of Miramar to strengthen well-water access, efficiency, and security by installing water tanks. In addition the Committee decided to fund a new university-level scholarship for a rural student through Project El Salvador, which is a non-profit organization based in Denver, CO.

Five members will journey to El Salvador on behalf of the Committee for a visit March 8-12. They are: Robert Knapp, Jana Pisani, Mike Pisani, Kim Summers, and Tom Moore. They'll take news and greetings from Faith Weavers to many friends in Miramar. They'll visit Flor de Fuego and Granzaso, which are close to Miramar, as well the Guajoyo School and the community of Llano Grande Segundo to examine recently funded projects and gather information for this year's final grant decision making. What's more, they're planning to meet with the two current recipients of the Committee's college scholarships, Ruth Nohemy and Heriberto Cruz.

The visit team looks forward on return to reporting to the Committee and Faith Weavers on new developments and issues and on prospects for continuing to partner with rural residents to improve living conditions in their communities.



Guajoyo School Children Pledging Allegiance to the Salvadoran Flag



A Guajoyo School classroom building



The President of the Llano Grande Community in a multi-purpose pavilion funded by the Committee

Join the Friends of El Salvador

Are you interested in participating in the Friends of El Salvador Committee? If so, contact Tom Moore (773-3250, moore1tj@cmich.edu).

Faith Weavers Altar Servers

By Val Helinski



Left to right: Collin, Evan, and Ethan Helinski

Collin and Ethan Helinski have helped as altar servers at Faith Weavers masses. Evan received his training about a year ago, and we are looking forward to him serving at a Faith Weavers gathering in the near future.

Collin Helinski (age 14) has been serving for a number of years at St. Vincent de Paul parish. He was trained by parish members and later enjoyed training younger servers, including his brothers. However, he currently prefers to lector versus altar serving. Collin's past-times include sports and video games. He plays soccer, basketball, track and cross country. He says he likes all his school subjects equally. Collin plays the tenor saxophone in band and occasionally plays at mass and Faith Weavers gatherings. Collin is also a good cook and helps at home preparing meals.

Ethan (age 11) has been serving for about 2 years. Ethan says his interests include basketball, football, baseball, Duke Blue Devils, high school basketball players, and college basketball. His hobbies include playing baseball, basketball, football, baking, and video games. Ethan's favorite subject in school is Math and he plays the trumpet in the 6th grade school band.

Evan (age 8) is in the 3rd grade. He began altar serving 1 year ago after he made his First Eucharist. He had been patiently waiting for this day and the chance to serve with his brothers. He says his favorite parts of serving are processing in and being one of the firsts to receive Communion. Evan enjoys soccer, history, and playing four-square at recess. This year he is also on the

Mt. Pleasant Drillers baseball team for the first time. Evan loves math and participates in a special after-school math program. He says his favorite food is Macaroni and Cheese.

Charitable Contributions in 2019

In 2019 your generosity has supported grants of \$72,360 to local and international charitable organizations. This money has come from your monthly donations, income from the Faith Weavers Endowment Fund, and a grant from the Blessed Sacrament Parish in Midland for Friends of El Salvador outreach.

\$33,620 (46%) of Faith Weavers grants went to local charities. They are: Christian Counseling Services, Christmas Outreach, Connections that Count, Community Compassion Network, Midland County CFOA and Rehab, Central Michigan District Health Department (KISS program), the Goodrow Fund, Hidden Harvest, Isabella County Soup Kitchen, the Mexican American Council, Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health, the St. Vincent DePaul Parish, the William and Janet Strickler Center, and the Stitch and Prayer Group.

\$38,740 (54%) went to national and international charities. These grants supported Wings of Mercy to transport people to receive medical treatment, Global Compassion for a water-well, and The Village Cooperative to provide textbooks to schools in Kenya. Also included in these grants was \$29,740 to the people of El Salvador through the Friends of El Salvador Committee.

Do you know of an organization that would benefit from a grant? Please contact Karen Lee at grandmakaren68@gmail.com or call (989) 772-6349 on how the charity can request funds. Alternatively,

visit our website at www.faithweavers.org and click on the Community Outreach tab for a description of the charities we have supported and information on how to submit a grant request.

Memories



Josh Zimmerman practices with choir members



Eileen Jennings thanking Faith Weavers for our support for Christmas Outreach



Choir praying though song at our services



The Remembrance Service in November



Choir praying though song at our services



Morgan Monte being recognized for becoming a lay minister in the Diocese of Saginaw



The Saginaw Blessing sung at our service



Fr. Joe celebrating Eucharist with us



Rose Sanborn reading the scriptures at our service



Fr. Joe Schabel celebrating mass with us



Fr. Joe celebrating Eucharist with us



Jim Hornak thanking members for supporting the Coat Project at Christmas Outreach



Tom Moore thanking Faith Weavers for supporting our outreach to communities in El Salvador



Val Helinski cantoring singing a psalm



Jerry and Mike leading, "On That Holy Mountain" at our December service



Martha Goncer reading the scriptures



Joshua Lukens leading the psalm



Joe Frankenfield reflecting on the readings

Financial Review

Donations received in 2019 were \$58,808. This amount was divided between \$13,705 designated for the Friends of El Salvador, and \$37,103 available for Faith Weavers use.

This year's Faith Weavers gave \$72,360 in grants to charitable organizations. The Faith Weavers Foundation provided \$23,000 towards these grants, and the Friends of El Salvador gave \$29,740 in grants to communities in El Salvador. The remaining \$19,620 in grants was supported by your donations.

Overall, charitable giving was the main use of our money with 89% of what we spent going to charitable grants. Seven percent went to conducting our worship services, and 4% for administrative costs.

The Endowment Fund benefited from the stock market advance in 2019. The Endowment's portfolio

return was 21.73%. We had dividend income of \$12,067 and paid grants of \$23,000. Even though our charitable grants exceeded our dividend income, the market appreciation of \$32,502 increased our fund balance by \$21,528.

The Endowment Fund has a permanent fund balance of \$180,184 that represents donations that will remain in the fund to generate income. The non-permanent portion of \$39,625 is available to give out in grants.

Faith Weavers have a cash balance of \$74,175. This consists of \$42,015 reserved for the Friends of El Salvador and \$32,160 available for Faith Weavers activities. The ending cash balance is unusually high, and we plan on increasing charitable grants in 2020 to reduce this balance.

Faith Weavers of St. Mary Statement of Financial Activity For the Year Ending December 31, 2019	Faith Weavers of St. Mary	Endowment Fund	Combined
Donations	\$50,808		\$50,808
Program Revenue	412		412
Dividends and Interest	18	12,067	12,085
Other Income	103		103
Total	51,341	12,067	63,408
Expenditures			
Charitable Giving	49,360	23,000	72,360
Monthly Services	5,331		5,331
Programs	481		481
Administration	3,073	40	3,113
Total Expenses	58,245	23,040	81,285
Revenues over (under) expenditures	(6,904)	(10,973)	(17,877)
Increase (decrease) in Market Value		32,502	32,502
Increase (decrease) in fund balances	(6,904)	21,529	14,625
Beginning Fund Balance	81,079	219,807	300,886
Ending Fund Balance	74,175	241,336	315,511
Restricted and Unrestricted Fund Balance			
Reserve for Friends of El Salvador	42,015		42,015
Permanent Funds		181,986	181,986
Unrestricted Funds	32,160	59,350	91,510
Ending Fund Balance	\$74,175	\$241,336	\$315,511