



Blessing of the Animals October 2, 2021

The annual Blessing of the Animals was held on October 2, 2021, in the Santo Niño Shrine with Fr. Bill and Fr. Tamil celebrating their blessings with the pets and their parents. Sponsored by the St. Francis of Assisi Ministry, the shrine was filled with all types of animals from tiny pocket pets, a tortoise to much larger puppies.



Our Regular Events

- ◆ *Weekly Eucharistic Adoration*
7PM to 8PM Tuesday evenings
- ◆ *Monthly Meeting – Second Saturday at 9AM –*
St. Michael Building @St. Paul's

Upcoming Calendar of Events

- ◆ April 15 – Pet Photos with the Easter Bunny,
Carrollwood Village Park, Shelter 1
- ◆ May 7 – Prayer Service in the Park,
Carrollwood Village Park, Shelter 6
- ◆ July 8 – Pet Remembrance Mass @St. Paul's

St. Francis of Assisi Ministry expands to Holy Family in St. Petersburg October 4, 2021

We are pleased to announce the formation of the St. Francis of Assisi Ministry at Holy Family Catholic Church in St. Petersburg established by our founding chaplain, Fr. Bob! As of the first initial meeting, the ministry has enrolled over 40 new members. The ministry has already sponsored the Blessing of the Animals and first Pet Photos with Santa. They are off to an amazing start with other events, including prayer services, retreats and outreach on the calendar.

Pet Photos with Santa in the Park

St. Francis of Assisi Ministry held their second annual Pet Photos with Santa December 4th at the Carrollwood Village Park. Pets and pet parents were met with a variety of doggie treats and candy canes for the children. This outreach attracted many park visitors passing by with their pets and/or children. It was a



beautiful sunny day, and we are grateful to Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus (aka Jose Puente and Pamela Martin) for making this a happy event.

Reaching out and Helping Others Ziggy's Legacy Rescue Brooksville, FL

Helping others help homeless animals! Ziggy's Legacy Rescue in Brooksville, Florida is a not-for-profit pet rescue and adoption center. Many of their rescues have been abused and/or neglected and are in need of medical care. They never turn anyone away and often animals are dropped off after hours and even late at night. Many times, an animal is found on the side of the road emaciated or even rescued by a good Samaritan from a dog fighting situation. In some cases, the animal has been horribly neglected.

It was a Facebook post by Mandy Figarola, the founder and owner of Ziggy's, that caught the attention of the St. Francis Ministry. Finding the rescue suddenly overwhelmed by newly dropped off dogs and newborn puppies, she had requested an enormous number of supplies.



Learning about their need, the ministry stepped up and collected an SUV full of food, bedding, toys and training pads. Three car loads later, the ministry has now established a very special bond with Mandy and Ziggy's.

It is through small rescue organizations such as Ziggy's that makes a huge difference to needy animals and for those new pet parents

wanting to adopt. For more information about Ziggy's Legacy Rescue and/or to adopt an animal go to <https://usfnewzroom.com/brooksville-woman-finds-calling-rescuing-sick-injured-animals/> and also see adoptable animals by checking out their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/AsapAnimalClinicRescue>.

Christmas Baskets for St. Vincent de Paul

St. Francis Ministry members participated in putting together gift baskets for St. Vincent de Paul. These baskets were distributed to people in need. In addition to assembling the baskets, our ministry added a few small, wrapped gifts. In total, 78 baskets were made and handed out to families for some Christmas cheer.



St. Francis Outreach Ideas Following in the footsteps of St. Francis

As we all know, St. Francis is the patron saint of animals, thus the reason for this ministry. However, many are not aware that he is also the patron saint of the poor and the environment. That said, the St. Francis Ministry is reaching out to provide our help in these areas. As a ministry, we are offering an opportunity to volunteer our services as either a group or individual. If you are interested in volunteering with us in any of the following opportunities, please send an email to st-francis-ministry@stpaulchurch.com.

- Feeding Tampa Bay Community Food Pantry
- Humane Society of Tampa Bay
- Hillsborough River Cleanup
- Metropolitan Ministries
- Habitat for Humanity
- VISTA Gardens
- Carrollwood Village Park
- Great Port Cleanup
- Best Buddies International

The Long History of Betty White's Devotion to Dogs - RIP Betty White

Woof Republic
By Nicole Moore

News has just broken that 2.5 weeks shy of her 100th birthday, the BELOVED Betty White has passed away. We are so sad as she is one of our favorites due to her devotion to pets, advocacy for homeless animals and making us laugh always. TMZ broke the news that White passed away December 31, 2021.

It is a well-known fact that Betty White was America's sweetheart. She captivated audiences with her talent, wit, and dimpled smile for almost 80 years. While we adore every aspect of the Emmy award-winning actress, here at Woof Republic we particularly love the fact that she is an outspoken animal rights activist and is especially devoted to dogs.



In a 2009 interview with *TV Guide*, Betty attributed her love of furry friends to her parents, Horace and Tess White.

“I've loved animals since I was in the womb. I was the lucky little girl who had parents who went for a walk and they'd come home with a dog or a cat. ‘He followed us home, Betty. Can we keep him?’” she said with a laugh.

Even when Betty was just first finding mainstream success, she used her platform to lovingly talk about dogs and give owners training tips. During a 1958 interview with *Radio TV Mirror*, the actress, who was then starring on the ABC series *Date With The Angels*, imparted her knowledge regarding canines. She clarified that she didn't consider herself to be a dog expert, but rather had a good understanding of their behavior from owning numerous pooches throughout her lifetime. At

the time of the interview, Betty was a pup parent to three beautiful dogs, Bandy, a Pekingese, Stormy, a St. Bernard, and Danny, a miniature poodle.

While her advice that she gave over sixty years ago is understandably a bit dated, she stated that she firmly believes that all children should grow up with a dog, but it is the parents' responsibility to train the pup. She also admitted that she liked to spoil her dogs by occasionally giving them table scraps and allowing them to sleep in her bed. Betty noted that she was aware that dog trainers frowned upon both of these choices but continued to do so because it made her dogs happy. (I find this very relatable as I too allow my dog in the bed even though I know it's not the best. She literally sleeps next to me with her head on the pillow. It's adorable).

She also encouraged her fans to consider adopting mixed-breed dogs, which was really before her time.

“Some of the most intelligent, most adorable dogs I've ever known have been just plain mutts. Sometimes, a just-plain dog is sturdier and healthier than some of the high-strung, finely bred ones. And many of the fellows here in Hollywood, who train dogs for parts in the movies, claim it's easier to train a mutt,” assured Betty.

In the early 70s, the Golden Girls star brought her dedication to animals to the small screen. She hosted and produced a short-lived talk show called *Pet Set*, where celebrities were able to show off their pets. Guests ranged from Doris Day to Vincent Price.

Betty has also prioritized the well-being of animals over her career as an actress. She refused to be in the 1997 Academy Award-nominated film *As Good as It Gets*, due to the depiction of animal abuse.

“They had this puppy dog, this adorable puppy, that at one point they dropped down a laundry chute. It landed on a pile of laundry in the story line, and I turned down the role,” explained the comedian to *Smithsonian Magazine* in 2012. “There are a lot of people in apartments who would think that was a solution. It would either be funny to do that, or it would be a solution to a barking neighbor or something like that. It certainly wouldn't always have a happy ending. So, I said as long as that scene was in the film, I wouldn't do it.”

Betty spotlighted and given financial support to numerous [animal rights charities](#), such as PAWS/LA and Morris Animal Foundation. Pit Bull lovers from all over

were also appreciative of Betty when she helped destigmatize the breed by posing with the 2013 Hero Dog of the Year, an adorable pittie called Elle.

The *Mary Tyler Moore* actress's most recent dog was an adorable Golden Retriever, named Pontiac, who she has stated has helped her feel mentally and physically younger. It's been rumored that her pup is set to inherit part of her fortune, and frankly, he deserves every penny.

White was once quoted saying, "Once someone has had the good fortune to share a true love affair with a golden retriever, one's life and one's outlook is never quite the same."

We love this icon and everything that she has done for dogs throughout her decades-long career! Here's to Betty! Thanks for the laughs!

The Human-Animal Bond throughout Time – an Excerpt

Michigan State University
College of Veterinary Medicine

Americans cherish their pets. The APPA estimates that in the United States, \$72.1 billion will be spent on pet expenditures this year (up from \$69.5 billion in 2017). These expenses include food, supplies, over-the-counter medicine, veterinary care, live animal purchases, and other services.

It is not just about spending habits. The ways in which pets interact with their owners on a daily basis show what pivotal positions they hold, and how today, people treat their pets the way they might treat another person. The New York Times reports that 70 percent of pet owners say they sometimes sleep with their pets, 65 percent buy Christmas gifts for their pets, 23 percent cook special meals for their pets, and 40 percent of married women with pets say they get more emotional support from their pets than from their spouses.

In the beginning, this bond between pets and their owners was not always so similar to the relationships humans have with each other. According to Bayer, a life science company, the human-animal bond has evolved for more than 15,000 years, and it began as a working relationship. Animals provided protection and service to people; this could have been while hunting, farming, or performing other tasks necessary for day-to-day life. Dogs would track and herd. Cats usually lived outside,

and would hunt and kill rodents that, otherwise, could spread disease and damage food or other materials.

Animals also served people during wartime. The United States Army Medical Department Journal (AMDJ) mentions cavalry horses, sentry dogs, carrier pigeons, and even mascots as common historical military roles for animals. According to AMDJ, these animals not only provided protection; they also could offer stress relief and a sense of pride to their human counterparts.

It is easy to overlook the human-animal bond as a one-way street. Pets need their owners to meet their basic needs of food, water, shelter, and welfare. But, humans can gain a different kind of wellbeing from their companion animals. Research shows that pets can lower blood pressure, reduce stress, raise blood oxytocin levels, and, in some cases, may reduce direct pain. According to Bayer, people living with dogs are 15 percent less likely to die from heart disease.

Pets also can offer benefits for other human health challenges. The elderly respond well to companion animals. According to Bayer, diseases like depression, coronary conditions, and dementia can be exacerbated by loneliness. By interacting with companion animals, elderly people can experience positive mental and physical effects. Similar results can occur in children during emotional, cognitive, social, and behavioral development.

The human-animal bond can be observed in a variety of settings. Working animals, especially, are known for their relationships with their human handlers. Emotional support, therapy, and service animals provide comfort, offer security, and perform daily tasks to help their owners through life. Animals can be an important part of the healing process for people who experience abuse or trauma including veterans who have served during wartime.

As the human-animal bond has evolved throughout time, it makes sense to think that it will continue to develop as the relationships people share with different animals also change. The health benefits of owning companion animals and interacting with different types of working animals are making major impacts in the lives of many people.

For further reading on the human-animal bond, go to <https://cvm.msu.edu/news/perspectives-magazine/perspectives-fall-2018/the-ties-that-bind-how-the-human-animal-bond-is-changing-veterinary-medicine>