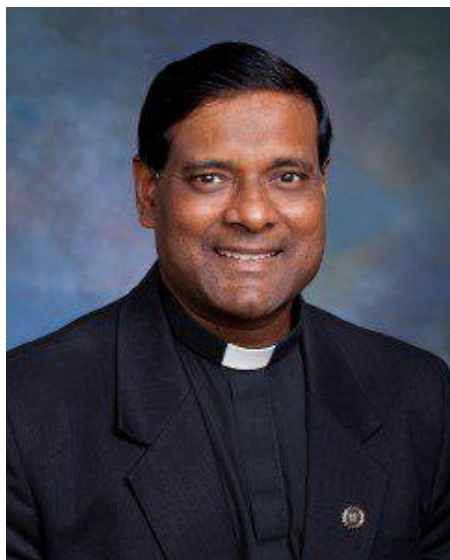


**Fr. Bob Romaine**  
**Pastor Administrator**  
**Sacred Heart – Dade City**



Congratulations to Fr. Bob, the founding chaplain of the St. Francis of Assisi Ministry on his new assignment as Parochial Administrator for Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Dade City. Fr. Bob, and parishioners

Tina Bubb and Kevin Bischoff, began the St. Francis Ministry in September 2018 with 12 members. The ministry has grown with a second chapter at Holy Family Parish, and our mission expanded from focusing on pets to following St. Francis's steps through compassion for all God's creatures. Many blessings to Fr. Bob as he ministers to his new flock of parishioners.

**Annual Prayer Service in the Park**



What a great way for the St. Francis Ministry to begin the summer by having our annual prayer

service in the park. Members gathered, with our pets, to pray and celebrate all



**Our Regular Events**

- ◆ *Weekly Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction*  
*8 PM Thursday evenings – St. Paul's Chapel*
- ◆ *Monthly Meeting – Second Saturday at 9 AM – St. Michael Building @St. Paul's*

**Upcoming Calendar of Events**

- ◆ St. Francis Feast Day and Pet Remembrance Mass, Oct. 4, 12:15 PM, St. Paul's Church
- ◆ Blessing of the Animals, Oct. 5, 9 AM, Santo Nino Shrine, St. Paul's
- ◆ Pet Photos with Santa, Dec. 7, 10 AM – 1 PM, Carrollwood Village Park, Shelter 1



of God's creatures. Filling in for Fr. Tamil, Fr. George Gyasi led us in scripture from the book of Genesis, The Story of the Creation, and the Gospel of John, The Good Shepherd. Thank you, Fr. George! And, speaking of Fr. George ...

**Fr. George Gyasi**  
**20th Anniversary in the Priesthood**

Fr. George Gyasi, friend to the St. Francis of Assisi Ministry, celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his priesthood on July 17, 2024. He spent the anniversary day in Ghana celebrating with family



and friends. The local Florida commemoration was held on Sunday, August 25 at Resurrection Parish in Riverview where Fr. George is the parochial vicar.

Before the start of the multi-lingual Mass, there was a slideshow of Fr. George's ordination and other memorable occasions with family and fellow priests. Fr. George was joined for the Mass by his pastor, Rev. Daniel Kayajan, and fellow Ghanaian priests, Fr. Augustine Twum Obour and Fr. Augustine Adjin. Fr. Augustine Adjin, a former Fr. George student, recently began an assignment as a parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Parish in Pinellas Park.

Following the Mass, a reception was held at the Boys and Girls Club adjacent to the church. The festivities included African music and dance, a presentation by Mary's Armor, and food from various cuisines. The official festivities concluded with a closing prayer by Fr. Augustine Adjin.



## Visiting the Relics Mary Help of Christian Center

On August 7, 2024, the St. Francis of Assisi Ministry was welcomed to Mary Help of Christian Center for an exposition of over 700 sacred relics. The exposition was led by Center member Ms. Carolyn Espinosa, who traced the history of relic veneration from biblical references through teachings of the early Church Fathers and culminated with proclamations by the Council of Trent. Mary Help of Christian Center has always been a haven for relic devotions and, since its inception, has included a Relic Room within the church proper. The Relic Room includes saints' relics, a portrait of the Shroud of Turin, and a relic of the true cross. The Center's relic collection was

greatly expanded two years ago when the Center was offered the 700 relics of the Salesians of Don Bosco Marian Shrine in Stony Point New York.

These newly acquired type 1 and 2 relics were identified with the saint's name and feast day and enclosed in a theca or reliquary. These relics have subsequently been housed at the Center in magnificent cabinetry built by a master craftsman Center member.

The St. Francis of Assisi members were invited to tour the relic collection and were guided through the tour with booklets containing an alphabetical listing of the saints' relics plus guidance to the relic's locations. The relics were categorized by type: Patron saints, Doctors of the Church, Popes, Martyrs, Apostles, Mary, and Joseph. The visit was a prayerful and reverential experience.



The Center is located at 6400 E. Chelsea. Tours of the sacred relics may be scheduled through Ms. Carolyn Espinosa at [relics@mhctampa.org](mailto:relics@mhctampa.org). Additional information on the exposition of relics may be found at [Treasuresofthechurch.com](http://Treasuresofthechurch.com).

## Bishop from Sivagangai Diocese in India Visits St. Paul's August 2024

Saint Paul's Church was honored and blessed by the visit of Bishop Dr. Lourdu Anandam from Sivagangai Diocese in India (Father Tamil's bishop) for a few days and on August 3, Bishop Anandam celebrated mass along with our dear Fr. Tamil and visiting priest, Fr. Martin.

Along with the Indian Community and wearing

Indian attire, out of respect for the culture, and for the bishop, three St. Francis Ministry members were invited to participate as Eucharistic Ministers. A beautiful reception followed the mass where we celebrated the bishop's birthday.



On August 6 with Fr. Tamil's approval, the St. Francis Ministry hosted a breakfast in honor of Bishop Anandam at St. Francis member, Pat Pedota's home. We thank Father Tamil and Bishop Lourdu Anandam for informing us about the Indian culture and future projects of the Sivagangai Diocese. May God bless them!

## Wedding Vows Exchanged Jose Puente & Pamela Martini

On July 13, 2024, family, friends, and members of the St. Francis Ministry witnessed and celebrated the exchange of vows by our members Jose and Pamela. Fr. Tamil officiated.



Many people know Jose and Pamela as Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny for the Ministry's Pet Photos with Santa and Pet Photos with the Easter Bunny.

We are excited to present Jose and Pamela as husband and wife. Congratulations and many happy and healthy years together!

**St. Francis recognized *"that true joy comes from serving others and that love, humility, and compassion are the keys to living a meaningful life."***

## Following in the Steps of St. Francis – Lotus Coalition

Lotus Coalition continues to sponsor street outreach supporting people living on the streets of Tampa. For more information, to donate clothing and household items, and to find out the schedule for future street outreach, contact April Arnold, Outreach Coordinator for Lotus, at [April@lotusvibe.org](mailto:April@lotusvibe.org).



## Harmony VetCare

Harmony Veterinary Care provides medical and surgical care to our community's cats and dogs in need. As a ministry, we continue to collect pet supplies for those patients and their families who are economically challenged. Please continue to donate your newspapers.

St Francis Ministry hopes to sponsor a pet in need, or a cat spay day to assist Harmony Vet Care in its mission to help animals in need and control the overpopulation of feral cats. All donations are gratefully accepted to advance this cause.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### June Birthdays

9 – Carol Breland  
15 – Jose Puente (aka Santa Claus)  
16 – Jackie Dremsek  
16 – Valerie Merimee  
20 – Mindy Ramos

### June Anniversaries

26 – Peg & Pat Huey

### July Birthdays

6 – Laura Gregory  
31 – Fr. Tim Williford

### July Anniversaries

4 – Valerie & Chris Merimee  
17 – Fr. George Gyasi - Ordination  
19 – Alex & Becca Petrilak

### August Birthdays

20 – Mike Hayes  
23 - Fr. Craig Morley  
28 - Fr. George Gyasi

### September Anniversaries

11 – Dcn. Chuck & Maria Glass

### October Birthdays

27 – Pat Pedota

### October Anniversaries

11 – Julie & Randy Molten  
20 – Linda & Mark Tarrago

### November Birthdays

18 – Roxanne Welch  
19 – Peg Huey  
23 – Val Tridico

### November Anniversaries

7 – Marlene & Dennis Barletta  
8 – Laura & John Gregory

### December Birthdays

24 – Jim Dremsek

## Beyond the Birdbath: The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi Sister Eileen Dooling, SistersofMercy.org October 4, 2022

When considering the offer to write this blog, it dawned on me how little I knew about Saint Francis: a wild youth, disowning his father and his inheritance, conversing with a wolf and surrounded by birds. There had to be more than sentimental stories to have such a Franciscan legacy and a popularity among the people. And so began my homework!

St. Bonaventure described Francis as “searching for God and finding him in all the broken places of humanity.” For Francis, holiness required an active engagement with the poorest of persons and attention to all of creation. He desired to live in close proximity to those excluded from society, but no one—rich or poor, saint or sinner—was excluded from his care.

Francis is the saint of “universal fraternity,” the brother of all. He did not believe in hierarchy or any type of superiority. His brothers vowed obedience, not to Francis, but to the Gospel way of life. Francis saw Christ in everything and everyone. All people, all creatures and all creation deserved respect because all reflected the God who made them. Our modern tendency to see humans as the center of creation would not please Francis. His *Canticle of the Creatures* makes clear the importance of all of creation—humans too, but not exclusively: “I am who I am in the eyes of God, nothing more and nothing less.”

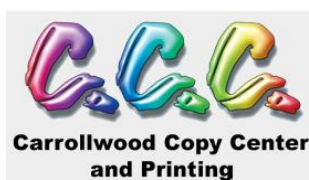
### A Story about Francis: The Three Robbers

This story was new to me! While Francis was out begging for food for the community, due to low provisions, three robbers/murderers came to the door of the monastery and asked for food. Angelo, the guardian of the community, knew who they were and sent the three away to reflect on their sins. When Francis heard that Angelo had sent them away, he immediately confronted him: “It is you who have sinned!” And Angelo was sent out to find the robbers and bring them the food for which Francis had begged. Angelo found the robbers and ate with them; all prayed for forgiveness. And, you guessed it, the three robbers joined Francis and the Franciscan community and stayed for the rest of their lives.

Francis was demanding and unyielding when anyone was left out or ignored. It was just not acceptable to pick and choose who was worthy of his service and his resources. For more information about the St. Francis of Assisi



Ministry at St. Paul’s Catholic Church check out our web page at <https://stpaulchurch.com/ministry/st-francis-of-assisi/>.



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