

Pet Photos with the Easter Bunny **March 2023**

The St. Francis Ministry Third Annual Pet Photos with the Easter Bunny took place March 25, 2023, at Carrollwood Village Park in Tampa, FL. Many thanks to Jose and Pamela for taking their time to bring much happiness to our ministry and to our community.



St. Francis Ministry Prayer Service in the Park **May 2023**



The annual Prayer Service in the Park was held May 20, 2023, at the Carrollwood Village Park in Tampa, FL. Leading our service was our ministry spiritual leader, Fr. Tamil. We celebrated our animals and all

Our Regular Events

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

Upcoming Calendar of Events

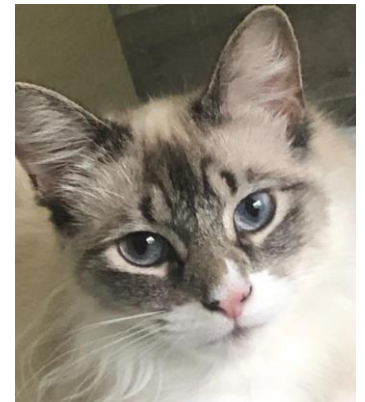
- ◆ Food for St. Paul Youth Group – Oct. 1
- ◆ Blessing of the Animals – Oct. 7, 9 AM, Santo Nino Shrine @ St. Paul's
- ◆ St. Francis Feast Day Mass – Oct. 13, 7 PM, St. Paul's Church



of God's creatures! After the service, there was time to socialize and enjoy our pets.

Pet Spotlight **"Baby"** **By Karen Probst**

Let me introduce you to my grand kitty, Baby. My son, Chris, was feeding a feral cat and noticed she was pregnant and about to give birth. He took her into his home to give birth, where she only had one kitten. He just called her Baby as he had no intention of keeping her as we have always been a dog family. Chris and I were looking for a home for her when Chris fell in love. To make a long story short, Baby is still our kitty. We love her with all our hearts. She is forever a loving part of the Probst family. 🐾



Pet Spotlight “Benjamin” By Pat Pedota

Meet Benjamin. Benjamin was introduced to me and my son, Mike after he was rescued by my son’s neighbor on Linebaugh. He was cold, shivering, and curled up in a little ball. Mike’s neighbor felt sorry for him and brought him to his house for safekeeping. Mike was hooked and, as you have guessed, decided to keep him. The veterinarian told Mike Benjamin was a whopping 1 lb. 6 oz. and full of energy.



He is now seven months old, weighs around 10 lbs., and rules the house. He has taken over the whole house with his toys, tunnels, and a cool tower. Benjamin is a joy to our whole family, and we can’t imagine life without him.

Following in the Steps of St. Francis - Created Women Survivors of Human Trafficking

The St. Francis Ministry continues to support Created Women in Tampa with donations. Created Women is an outreach organization that helps human trafficking survivors get back on their feet. They provide a variety of services to assist women in returning to a normal life. Some of their outreach programs include but are not limited to, safe housing, skills training, faith-building,



psychological counseling, and more.

Volunteers often dedicate their time and resources to help these ladies return to the workforce. Through our help, clothing, toiletries, and linens have helped many survivors with this effort.

For more information on Human Trafficking, go to:

<https://www.state.gov/humantrafficking-about-human-trafficking/>.



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 an individual. If you are interested in volunteering or have other outreach ideas for the ministry, please send an email to st-francis-ministry@stpaulchurch.com.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

June Birthdays

- 9 – Carol Breland
- 15 – Jose Puente (aka Santa Claus and Easter Bunny)
- 16 – Jackie Dremsek
- 16 – Valerie Merimee
- 20 – Mindy Ramonas

June Anniversaries

- 26 – Peg and Pat Huey

July Birthdays

- 6 – Laura Gregory
- 31 – Fr. Tim Williford

July Anniversaries:

- 4 – Val and Chris Merimee
- 19 – Becca and Alex Petrillak

August Birthdays

- 23 – Fr. Morley
- 28 – Fr. George Gyasi
- 30 – Mike Hayes

August Anniversaries

None

September Birthdays

None

September Anniversaries

- 11 – Maria and Chuck Glass

Harmony VetCare By Tina Bubb



Harmony Vet Clinic is 501(c)(3) non-profit, full-service pet clinic bringing high-quality, low-cost care to the Tampa Bay area. Harmony was created by a pair of veterinarians who offer a range of routine vaccinations, healthy pet exams, illness exams, urgent care, dentistry, and surgery.

Wendi Little is the practice manager, and she was kind enough to give Karen and Tina a tour of the facility on June 16. Wendi has worked in the veterinary industry for over 30 years. Most of her career was spent in high-volume spay and neuter clinics and she also ran a few mobile vaccine clinics. Wendi has experience fostering and feral trapping for 22 years and has only recently retired from that activity. Wendi owns 3 senior dogs and a free-roaming cat that has moved into her RV with her.



Dr. Stephanie Sabshin is a skilled surgeon with a dream to provide high-quality low-cost surgeries to animals in need. Along with her highly trained and dedicated team, she performs approximately 40 surgeries per day. From



the moment she adopted a feral cat with FIV at age 15, Dr. Sabshin knew she wanted to be a veterinarian. In 2012 her dream became a reality when she graduated from the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Sabshin went straight into private practice following vet school but felt helpless when owners couldn't afford the

best care for their pets. Her next job was the large open-admission county shelter. Even though she could provide ideal medicine and surgery for the stray animals in the shelter, she saw the need to provide care in the community BEFORE the animals were forced to enter the shelter. She never had any aspirations to open her own clinic, but realized she would need to provide the high-quality care she expected of her and her staff while maintaining the low costs of a nonprofit.



Dr. Sabshin's biggest cause is spaying and neutering animals to control the number of unwanted animals entering the shelters. She provides low-cost spay and neutering for her clients and has performed more than 35,000 surgeries. Dr. Sabshin also provides numerous other lifesaving procedures. Dr. Sabshin has 5 cats, 3 dogs, a horse, and a turtle.

Harmony is currently renting a building on Webb Road and the landlord will not renew the lease when it runs out in June of 2024. They are currently fundraising for a new building and have one year to build and open their new facility. They are currently fundraising for their new building and welcome all donations.

Harmony also has a charity fund called the Simon Fund which helps to provide medical care when owners cannot afford it. There are several requirements to qualify, including financial requirements. To qualify, applicants must contribute a portion of the cost, and the pet must have a good prognosis with treatment. This fund is not used for procedures with poor prognoses so that they make the most of their donors' contributions.

The clinic is always in need of materials such as paper towels, bleach, laundry detergent, used towels and sheets, etc. Harmony Vet Care also has a pet pantry for "pets in need" on site.

Coming in August, they are planning a move to the former Animal Coalition Center at 8501 Ladu Lane in Tampa while the new building is being constructed.

More information on Harmony Vet Care can be found at <https://harmonyvetcare.org> or by visiting their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/HarmonyVetCare>.

Mission statement: Ensure that all companion animals receive the medical care they deserve regardless of owner finances. Secondary statement: Keep pets in their homes and out of shelters.

7 Key Moments in the Life of St. Francis continued (Steps 4 - 5)

Murray Bodo, OFM
October 5, 2022

4) Francis Spends a Night in Prayer. Bernard of Quintavalle was the first brother to follow Francis and his simple way of life. A wealthy Assisian, Bernard sold all his possessions and gave the money to the poor. He was ready to throw in his lot with Francis, but first he wanted to test Francis' holiness. One evening, Bernard invited Francis to join him for supper at his home. After a pleasant meal, Bernard invited him to stay overnight.

Bernard had a bed prepared for Francis in his own room. Shortly after Francis entered the room, he threw himself down and pretended to fall asleep. A short time later, Bernard went to bed and also pretended to sleep—with snores and all. His plan was to watch Francis carefully during the night.

With Bernard secretly observing him, Francis got onto his knees and raised his hands in prayer. Then Bernard was amazed to hear Francis earnestly repeating throughout the night “My God and my all!” *The Little Flowers* of St. Francis informs us that St. Francis repeated the words while marveling at and contemplating the goodness of Almighty God (*Omnibus of Sources*, p. 1303).

Time and again, God's goodness and love amazed Francis. In a prayer from his Praises Before the Office, St. Francis suddenly begins repeating the word good, almost as if intoxicated by it: “All powerful, all holy, most high and supreme God, sovereign good, all good, every good, you who alone are good, it is to you we must give all praise, all glory, all thanks, all honor, all blessing; to you we must refer all good always. Amen.”

5) Clare Enters the Franciscan Family. The daughter of a noble Assisian family, Clare was known for her love of God and of the poor. She was attracted to the Gospel way of life preached by St. Francis. Secretly in the dark

of night, to the dismay of her wealthy family, Clare met with Francis and his small band of brothers to commit her life totally to God. There in the Portiuncula chapel, she exchanged her golden hair for a simple habit. She would soon begin a quickly growing community of contemplative women devoted to living the Gospel.

Clare remained a close friend and associate of St. Francis, even though she was committed to staying in her monastery alongside the other Poor Clare nuns, named after their foundress. St. Clare died in 1253, outliving her great friend Francis by almost 27 years. Until her death, Clare kept her ideals: a passion for prayer, a life of poverty and humility, and a generous concern for the needy.

The close bond between the Poor Clares and the Franciscan friars remains strong and joyful in our day. The Clares serve as vibrant models of intense union with God, which all Franciscans—and indeed all human beings—are meant to foster, as the Holy Spirit prompts.

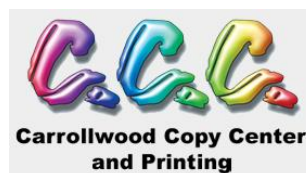
Article to be continued in the next newsletter with the final steps 6 & 7.



For more information about the St. Francis of Assisi Ministry at St. Paul's Catholic Church, email st-francis-ministry@stpaulchurch.com.

Also check out our web page at <https://stpaulchurch.com/345>.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



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