

## Saying “Yes” to God Congratulations to “Chuck” Glass Diocese of St. Petersburg

The Cathedral of St. Jude the Apostle was filled with joy on Saturday, October 14, 2023, as people came together to celebrate the ordination of eight new deacons for the Diocese of St. Petersburg. Among those men were two of our St. Paul parishioners, William Stephen, and one of our St. Francis ministry members, Charles Glass. The process of becoming a deacon is long and extensive.



Deacon Chuck

There is a five-year process of intense study. “Chuck” has been active in various ministries at St. Paul Parish including our St. Francis of Assisi Ministry. We congratulate Chuck and his wife Maria and their entire family. We also offer congratulations to Dr. Bill Stephan and his wife Joy.

Thank you, Chuck *and* Bill for your “yes” to God.



### 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

- ◆ Pet Photos with the Easter Bunny – Mar. 16,  
2 PM – 4 PM, Shelter 7, Carrollwood Village  
Park
- ◆ Prayer Service in the Park – May 11<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM –  
1 PM, Shelter 6, Carrollwood Village Park



## Celebrating the Feast of St. Francis St. Paul Preschool

Fr. Tamil and St. Francis members sponsored story time with the young children of the preschool program at St.



Paul’s. Six ministry members and our two service dogs, Bella and Kadir, assisted Fr Tamil in the program for 2, 3, and 4-year-olds.

## Western Night in the Pumpkin Patch October 2024

This year’s annual St. Paul Pumpkin Patch to raise money for the Youth Ministry provided a variety of

activities, one of which was Western Night co-sponsored by the Apostles of the Eucharist and the St. Francis Ministry. Everyone dressed in their Western hats and shirts and danced their way into the Square-Dancing ring. Later we danced our way to the food trucks, played a few games, made stick horses, and some of us even ended up in the pumpkin patch jail.



## Blessing of the Animals

“Lions & Tigers & Bears, oh my!” ... Well, not quite like that but certainly there were dogs and cats and rabbits and birds and, I believe I saw a lizard – “Oh My!” An overwhelming turnout at the St. Paul Santo Niño Shrine and many blessings to over 300 pets from our own Fr. Tamil! As usual, it was a beautiful celebration, and the animals received a blessed medal of Saint Francis.



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

Lotus Coalition sponsored their second outreach providing support to people living on the streets of Tampa. Spearheaded by April Arnold, Outreach Coordinator for Lotus, who started a mission to help those who don't have or have very little.



Thanks to St. Francis members for coming out and helping with food and distribution of goods to those who stopped by. Thanks also to Station House BBQ for providing the food and Boost Mobile for letting April set



up this much-needed outreach! Over 85 people stopped by for a hot meal, a toiletry bag, clothing, and good conversation. Everyone who stopped by was very appreciative! A very humbling experience!



## Harmony VetCare By Joanne Castillo

Harmony Veterinary Care provides medical and surgical care to our community's cats and dogs in need.

Soon after Harmony opened its doors, they were presented with a dog that had a severely infected broken leg due to being hit by a car. The owner did not have the funds to afford the extensive care and surgery the dog desperately needed, nor could the owner provide critical post-op care for the recovery of their dog. So... the

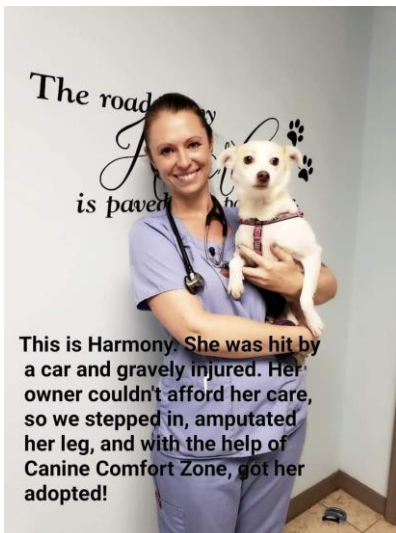


owner relinquished their pet to Harmony so that the surgical and medical staff could care for the dog.

The Harmony Vet Care Clinic took responsibility and scheduled surgery to amputate the left rear leg. Then the long-term rehabilitation started for the extensive healing of the skin wound.

A Harmony Manager took the dog home with her and cared for the dog's wounds for over 3 months.

Finally, the dog was healed and a rescue group, Canine Comfort Zone, stepped up and found the dog its forever home and loving family.



This is Harmony. She was hit by a car and gravely injured. Her owner couldn't afford her care, so we stepped in, amputated her leg, and with the help of Canine Comfort Zone, got her adopted!

Dr. Stephanie Sabshin, Owner, and Surgeon of Harmony Vet Care.

This dog took the name of HARMONY and is now happily living with her new family traveling across the country in the family's recreational vehicle. Harmony returns yearly for her vaccines when she visits Florida.

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.

## 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](mailto:st-francis-ministry@stpaulchurch.com).

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### March Birthdays

- 1 – Fr. Bob Romaine
- 3 – Tina Bubb
- 7 – Pamela Martini
- 9 – Dawn Ellis and Linda Tarrago
- 18 – Becca Petrilak
- 20 – Fr. Izzie Hernandez
- 23 – Fr. Tamil Selvam
- 24 – Fr. Bill Swengros

### March Anniversaries

- 3 – Jan and John Hoyt
- 17 – Jackie and Jim Dremsek

### April Birthdays

- 8 – Patti Cash
  - 14 – Karen Probst
  - 20 – Alex Petrilak
  - 25 – Rosanne Stone
- ### April Anniversaries
- 16 – Liza and Michael Valancius

### May Birthdays

- 6 – Chuck Glass
  - 11 – Monica Bencomo
  - 14 – Fr. Peter Okojie
- ### May Anniversaries
- 1 – Fr. Tamil Ordination
  - 12 – Tina and Sam Bubb
  - 15 – Fr. Bob Ordination
    - Fr. Izzie Ordination
  - 18 – Fr. Bill Ordination
  - 19 – Fr. Morley Ordination
  - 22 – Karen and John Probst

## 7 Key Moments in the Life of St. Francis continued (Steps 6 - 7)

Murray Bodo, OFM  
October 5, 2022

**6) Francis Receives the Stigmata.** Today the Chapel of the Stigmata sits on the same sheer precipice where St. Francis stood two years before his death. There he was swept up into the mystery of God's overwhelming love for him and for humanity.

St. Bonaventure, an early Franciscan leader and theologian, in his *Life of St. Francis*, describes Francis as being more inflamed than usual with the love of God as he began a special time of solitary prayer on Mount La Verna in September 1224. "Francis' unquenchable fire of love for the good Jesus," Bonaventure writes, "was fanned into such a blaze of flames that many waters could not quench so powerful a love" (see Song of Songs 8:6-7).

St. Bonaventure goes on: "While Francis was praying on the mountainside, he saw a Seraph, with six fiery and shining wings, descend from the height of heaven. And when in swift flight the Seraph had reached a spot in the air near the man of God, there appeared between the wings the figure of a man crucified, with his hands and feet extended in the form of a cross and fastened to a cross. Two of the wings were lifted above his head, two were extended for flight and two covered his whole body.

"When Francis saw this, he was overwhelmed, and his heart was flooded with a mixture of joy and sorrow. He rejoiced because of the gracious way Christ looked upon him under the appearance of a seraph, but the fact that he was fastened to a cross pierced his soul with a sword of compassionate sorrow (Luke 2:35)." When the vision disappeared, writes Bonaventure, "imprinted on his body were markings that were no less marvelous." These markings were the stigmata—the five wounds of Christ.

What did St. Francis experience? The simple servant of God had suddenly understood in a flash the unimaginable love of God, a love that holds nothing back from us—not even God's only son. Many religious thinkers see this as the secret of St. Francis' spirituality, namely, Francis' profound appreciation for the overflowing love of God!

**7) The Death of St. Francis.** When Francis of Assisi's days on earth were growing short, according to Thomas of Celano, his first biographer, the saint instructed his brothers, "When I am dying, lay me naked on the ground

. . . and let me lie there after I am dead for the length of time it takes to walk one mile unhurriedly" (*Second Life of St. Francis of Assisi, Vol. 1, CLXIII, Omnibus of Sources*).

Francis' brothers honored his request. They reverently placed his body on the ground and let it lie there for some 30 minutes. Not long before he took his last breath, Francis invited all creatures to praise God, as the saint had so often done in his [Canticle of Brother Sun](#) (also known as the Canticle of the Creatures). Yes, Francis wanted to exhort all his "brother" and "sister" creatures to praise and love God.

The gesture of Francis lying naked on Mother Earth strikingly reveals how comfortable Francis had become with the whole world of creation, including his human body. Like Adam before the fall, Francis was not ashamed of his nakedness. Francis had become keenly aware that Jesus, in his incarnation, had entered our world and transformed the earth (and the human form) through his saving presence among us. St. Francis had come to believe that both the earth and his body—through the incarnation of Christ—had become profoundly good.

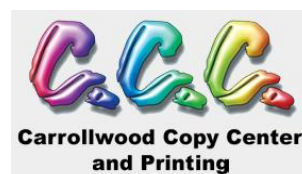
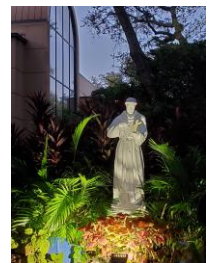
St. Francis often said to his followers, "What a man is before God, that he is and no more."



***If we do not forgive perfectly, Lord, make us forgive perfectly, so that we may really love our enemies for love of you, and pray fervently to you for them, returning no one evil for evil, anxious only to serve everybody in you.***

~ St. Francis of Assisi

For more information about the St. Francis of Assisi Ministry at St. Paul's Catholic Church, email [st-francis-ministry@stpaulchurch.com](mailto:st-francis-ministry@stpaulchurch.com). Also, check out our web page at <https://stpaulchurch.com/345>.



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Tampa, FL 33618  
813-962-8770