

Saint Francis Solanus



JULY 2015

“Strengthen the Spirit of God in Your Home” *Honoring the Lord’s Day With David and Roberta Hirstius*

Roberta was working the switchboard at St. Xavier University in Chicago when David brought her a grape soda. When they were married in 2002, they toasted with grape soda at their wedding.

Shortly thereafter, they moved to Quincy for David to begin his medical residency, and they began attending St. Francis Solanus.

“It is the closest church, and we like an older looking church like St. Francis, which is over 150 years old,” Roberta Hirstius says. “Before our son was born, I didn’t feel much of an opportunity to get involved. But once he started preschool, we got to know people, and it snowballed from there.”

The arrival of their son Evan, 11, transformed Roberta and David’s lives. They felt the need to live their faith in a very real way.

“One of the things that I needed to think about was what we could

do to make sure that our family was a place of refuge and strength in the world,” David Hirstius says. “It’s not about attending church once a week. There has to be more of a practice in the home.”

At the time, David was studying the Jewish roots of Christianity and began reading about how the Jews keep the Sabbath.

“For the Jews, the Sabbath is all about the home,” David says. “They have a particular saying that is, ‘By keeping the Sabbath, the Sabbath has kept us and kept our families together.’”

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* shares about honoring the Lord’s Day (2168-2195), a tradition seen throughout the Bible – from Genesis, where God rests on the seventh day, to the Ten Commandments. St. Pope John Paul II also wrote the apostolic letter *Dies Domini*, which discusses keeping Sunday holy.



The Hirstius family – (from left) Evan, Roberta and David

Ten years ago, the Hirstius family began an intentional keeping of the Sabbath, or honoring of the Lord’s Day. They haven’t missed a Sunday since, even when traveling.

“If I could bottle this, give it to families and say, ‘This is how you keep your family together,’ I would give the bottle to everyone for free,” Roberta says. “The fruits have been

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The Family That Plays and Prays Together

A Look Back on Our Annual Parish Picnic

You may have heard the phrase “the family that plays together, stays together.” Or, common in Catholic circles, “the family that prays together, stays together.” We believe that both are true. And as the family of God at St. Francis Solanus Parish, we enjoyed the opportunity for families to share in both at our annual Parish Picnic!

And while our picnic, which took place on June 13, had all the typical makings of summer fun – food, games, and awesome music – it also had something more. St. Francis parishioners had an opportunity to grow in their relationship with God and His family, the Church.

The picnic began with the celebration of Mass as a community, providing a powerful reminder of the most important reason we come together. Following Mass, parishioners were given the chance to spend time having fun with the people we pray with each week.

“It’s an opportunity to get to know everybody better in a different setting – a more laid-back setting,” says Karl Venvertloh, who has been attending the picnic since he was a child and, with his wife Shelly, has served on the Picnic Committee for the past two years.

“The people really make the picnic, we’ve got good food and music and games, but the smiling faces of the people make all the hard work worthwhile,” says Dennis Holbrook, who, with the other men of the Holy Name Society, is responsible for the outdoor food.

The Parish Picnic served to foster a sense of community among the parish in several ways, both through getting to spend time with parishioners you might not always see, as well as meeting new people.

“On a weekend, we’ll have five Masses, and you don’t always see the same people because everybody attends different Masses,” Dennis says. “But on that day, you get to see



“We all come together to support the parish in our own way. God has given each of us talents, and we use the talents we are blessed with to help make the picnic a success.”

– Ryan Klauser

all the parishioners come out, and that’s what really makes it so special – seeing people from our parish that I haven’t spoken to in a while, seeing the people that used to just bring their kids and now bring their grandkids with them.”

“St. Francis is such a welcoming parish, but through the picnic, we have made some wonderful new friendships,” says Jayna Klauser, who just completed her second year, serving as a Picnic Committee Chairperson.

“My faith is strengthened when I really get to know my fellow parishioners,” Dennis adds. “By

working hard together and raising money for the parish, we grow, not only in friendship, but also community.”

For those who served at the picnic, they’ve also found it to be a chance to build camaraderie with fellow parishioners, working together for a common goal of supporting the parish.

“It makes us a stronger community,” Jayna says. “When everyone is working toward a common goal, it deepens a bond between us.”

“We all come together to support the parish in our own way,” says Ryan Klauser, Jayna’s husband, who has also served on the Picnic Committee for the past two years. “God has given each of us talents, and we use the talents we are blessed with to help make the picnic a success.”

“To see the enjoyment that people have at the picnic, the enthusiasm people have in wanting to help, it shows how much they love the parish, love the Church and the people in the community,” Karl says.

So, while you’re out enjoying the rest of your summer, don’t forget to thank God for the gift of your family at St. Francis – and maybe give them a call to plan some more fun in the sun!

A Letter From Our Pastor

We Provide the Gifts, God Performs the Miracles

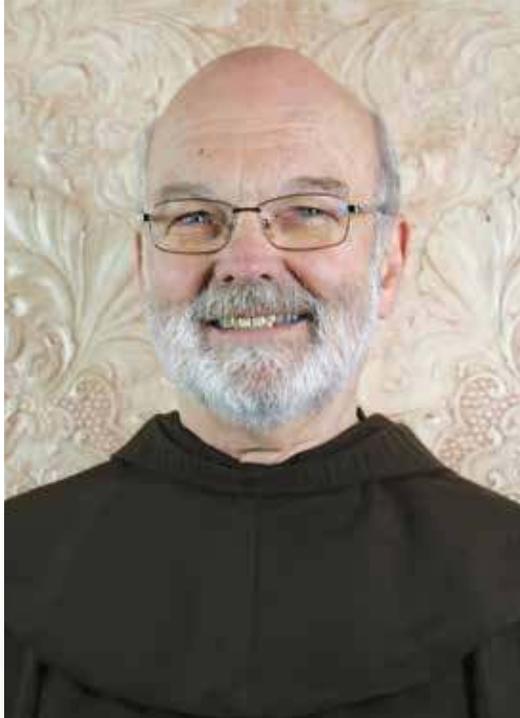
Dear Parishioners,

It is human nature to try to neatly place things into categories. If we categorize the miracles performed by Christ, the two largest groupings might fall under the headings “Healing” and “Feeding.”

This is exactly what we are about here at St. Francis Solanus. At the base of all our liturgies is the Eucharist, when we come together in communion with the Lord and with one another to be both fed and healed. Even one of Christ’s most famous miracles – the Feeding of the Multitude – involved both healing and feeding from a spiritual and a literal perspective.

The reason the large crowd gathered was because Jesus’ reputation as a healer had spread and grown. He felt compassion for that crowd, which is another way of saying He loved them and felt sorry that they were hungry due to their willingness to sit and be with Him for so long. Recognizing it was late in the day and that many of them had not eaten, Jesus literally fed them – but that day, He didn’t stop with physical nourishment. He also fed them spiritually with His words, and simultaneously, healed their wounded hearts by preaching a message of hope and forgiveness in the midst of a dark and hardened world.

The narrative of Christ taking a small amount of food and using it to feed thousands is familiar to all of us. It is reported in all four Gospels. However, I would like to highlight one aspect of that miracle. It all started



with one boy who was willing to share what little he had. Because the boy made the gift of his fishes and loaves, the Lord took it and multiplied it many times over, nourishing so many more people than what that little bit initially could.

Isn’t that what we as a parish are called to do? We make gifts of our time, our talent, and our treasure as good stewards – but nevertheless, it is God who takes those gifts and performs miracles with them. Our goal is to give what we have so that Christ might use it, multiplying it to feed, to heal and draw a multitude of people closer to Him.

The reality is that without the gifts, there can be no miracles, and without miracles, we are a hungry and broken people. Christ has come to renew, nourish, fulfill, and restore – and that, brothers and sisters, is what Christianity is all about.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Don, O.F.M." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Fr. Don Blaeser, O.F.M.
Pastor



Acts

The Spread of the Kingdom



Acts is a story of hope. It's the story of how a few Christians, empowered by the Holy Spirit, were chosen to bring Christ and the Good News to the ends of the earth. They taught as Christ did. They performed miracles as he did. Some even gave their lives for him. They faced secular forces, internal strife, hostile crowds, and despite all of this, they brought the kingdom of God to a broken world and the love of God to the hearts of men. Acts will enrich your faith and rekindle your love for Christ as you live the lives of his first disciples.

Taught by Jeff Cavins, Renowned Catholic Bible Teacher!

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|---|---|
| 1- <i>Introduction to Acts of the Apostles</i> | 11- Acts 11-12: <i>The Church in Antioch</i> |
| 2- Acts 1: <i>Prelude to Power</i> | 12- Acts 13-14: <i>Paul's 1st Missionary Journey</i> |
| 3- Acts 2: <i>The Power of Pentecost</i> | 13- Acts 15-16: <i>The Jerusalem Council/Paul's 2nd Journey</i> |
| 4- Acts 3: <i>The Miraculous Power of Jesus' Name</i> | 14- Acts 17: <i>Converts and Conflicts: Turning the World Upside Down</i> |
| 5- Acts 4:1-31: <i>The Church Acts with Boldness</i> | 15- Acts 18: <i>Ministry in Corinth; 3rd Missionary Journey</i> |
| 6- Acts 4:32-5:42: <i>Problems Within; Persecutions Without</i> | 16- Acts 19: <i>Ministry in Ephesus</i> |
| 7- Acts 6-7; <i>The First Christian Martyr</i> | 17- Acts 20-21: <i>Paul Heads for Jerusalem</i> |
| 8- Acts 8: <i>Kingdom Borders Expand</i> | 18- Acts 22:1-25:12: <i>Paul Makes His Defense</i> |
| 9- Acts 9: <i>The Persecutor Becomes the Preacher</i> | 19- Acts 25:13-28:31: <i>Paul's Final Defense and Witness in Rome</i> |
| 10- Acts 10: <i>St. Peter's Un-Kosher Picnic</i> | 20- <i>Conclusion</i> |

Dates / Times	Registration
Wednesdays - 1pm-3pm OR 6:30pm-8:30pm Dates - September 2nd, 2015 to March 16th, 2016	Forms can be placed in the weekly collection or mailed to the rectory office. Registration Deadline - August 17th, 2015
Location	For More Information
St. Francis Solanus - Parish Center 1721 College Ave. Quincy, IL 62301	Brad Kendrick - Coordinator / Facilitator Email - bdken11.1@gmail.com Cell - (217) 430-2593

Acts Registration Form

20-part study. Each session will be approx. 2 hrs.

Price per person: \$ 30.00

Checks payable to: St. Francis Solanus
1721 College Ave.
Quincy, IL 62301

Name	_____
Address	_____
City	_____ State _____
Zip	_____ Phone _____
Email	_____
Parish	_____

Circle which session you will be attending: 1 - 3pm Session 6:30 - 8:30pm Session

“Strengthen the Spirit of God in Your Home”

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tremendous. Strengthen the spirit of God in your home, and then you can go out and be God’s hands and do stewardship.”

Every Sunday, David, Roberta and Evan wake up and meet in the center of their home to light the Sabbath candle. Roberta, “the queen of the home,” says a blessing to invite in the Sabbath. Then, David, “the priest of the home,” makes the sign of the cross in oil on each member of the family.

“On Sundays, we have our meals in the dining room on the good china with the wedding silverware,” Roberta says. “You are inviting the Holy Spirit into your home, so it is a special day.”

After attending Mass together, the Hirstius family has a big meal in the middle of the day. The meal includes a special dessert and bread that Roberta bakes called *challah*, or Sabbath bread, the delectable result of trying numerous *challah* bread recipes!

“The blessing that we use to start the meal is the blessing that the Jews use on the Sabbath,” David says. “We also have a *kiddush* cup, or Cup of Blessing. Each person says what they are thankful for and then passes the cup.”

The rest of the day is spent focused on family togetherness. They share in activities like playing games, riding bikes, going for ice cream, and simply enjoying their family.

David and Roberta are straightforward about the fruits they have received from honoring the Lord’s Day – it saved their marriage and continues to center their lives.

“What we do helps prevent compartmentalizing,” David says. “It is easy to compartmentalize the Church and God, but your life has to be transformed. The fruit of the Eucharist for me is that I go home, and my home is also my church.”

David and Roberta have found ways to practice stewardship in their community, and they enjoy participating in a Bible study at St. Francis. Roberta also volunteers at the school and on the Parish Picnic Committee.

The “tradition” of enjoying grape soda on their wedding anniversary is a small, though meaningful example of how David and Roberta embrace ritual. Through honoring the Lord’s Day, tradition and ritual become sustaining and centering for them and their family.

David and Roberta would encourage members of the faith community to find consistent and meaningful practices to sustain their own families!

“We are the Body of Christ, and just as living out certain rituals and observances at home solidifies my faith, it also strengthens me to know that others are living out the faith,” David says.

Roberta Hirstius has generously shared her recipe for Sunday blessing bread. The recipe is included below:

2 1/2 cups warm water (110 degrees F)
1 tablespoon active dry yeast
1/2 cup honey
4 tablespoons vegetable oil
2 eggs
1 tablespoon salt
8 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
1/2 cup gold or dark raisins (optional)

Note: The above ingredients make two very large loaves. Halve the ingredients to make one large loaf for a smaller family.

1. In a large bowl, sprinkle yeast over barely warm water. Beat in honey, oil, two eggs, and salt. Add the flour one cup at a time, beating after each addition. Add raisins, if using. Graduate to kneading with hands as dough thickens. Knead until smooth and elastic and no longer sticky, adding flour as needed. Cover with a damp clean cloth and let rise for 1 1/2 hours or until dough has doubled in bulk.
2. Punch down the risen dough and turn out onto floured board. Divide in half and knead each half for five minutes or so, adding flour as needed to keep from getting sticky. Divide each half into thirds and roll into long snake about 1 1/2 inches in diameter. Pinch the ends of the three snakes together firmly and braid from middle. Grease two baking trays and place finished braid on each. Cover with towel and let rise about one hour.
3. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.
4. Beat the remaining egg and brush a generous amount over each braid.
5. Bake at 375 degrees F for about 40 minutes. Bread should have a nice hollow sound when thumped on the bottom. Cool on a rack for at least one hour before slicing. Enjoy with your family!

“The Apostle of Peru and Argentina”

St. Francis Solanus

Today, St. Francis Solanus is remembered as the “Wonder Worker of the New World,” and we occupiers of a digital age might feel distanced from this fearless missionary and healer.

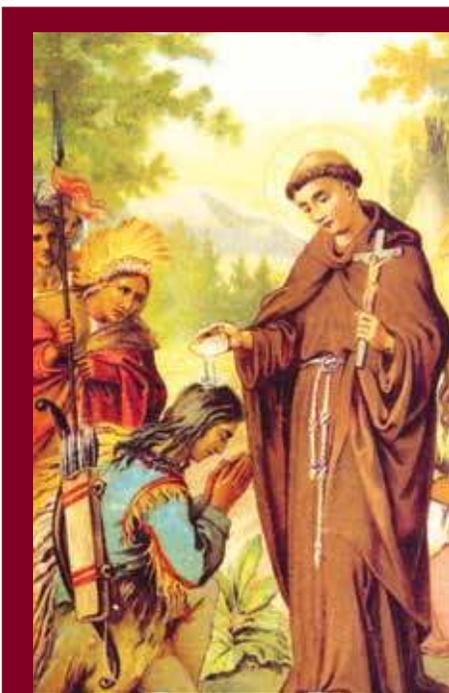
Yet, his story shares details of his humanity. He fostered a talent for music. He learned languages to nurture hospitality. He was close to his mother. He desired to bring Christ to, and be Christ for, others each day.

As we look again at his narrative, St. Francis Solanus and the virtues and habits of his daily life seem clearly relevant to us today, over 400 years later.

In 1549, individuals of local nobility and renowned piety, Mateo Sanchez Solano and Anna Ximenes, welcomed their son into their home in Montilla near Cordoba, Spain. One story shares that his mother consecrated her son to St. Francis of Assisi while still in her womb.

This consecration might account for St. Francis’ proclivity to the Franciscan spirituality, for he entered the Franciscan order at Montilla and then studied in seminary at Seville. He spent the first 40 years of his life living and working locally in Andalucía, a region of Southern Spain. St. Francis first felt drawn to North Africa, desiring to achieve martyrdom there. But his vision would shift to the American missions.

During his years in Spain, St. Francis first gained the reputation of a wonder-worker and healer, a reputation later fortified by hundreds of witnesses who gave testimony to his works. While many accounts exist of his tending the sick and even nursing victims of the plague, St. Francis also



“O powerful St. Francis Solanus, you who explored and evangelized in the wilds of South America, please assist me in the wilds of this world and obtain for me, through our Lord Jesus Christ, the grace I ask of you. Amen.”

Offer up your petition and say one Hail Mary in honor of St. Francis Solanus.

found time to return to his hometown and quietly care for his mother after the passing of his father.

In 1589, St. Francis sailed from Spain to the New World aboard a slave ship. Several accounts tell of the devastating hurricane this 16th century ship encountered. The storm would eventually split the ship in two! Yet, while the captain and the crew abandoned the frigate, St. Francis selflessly gave up his place in the lifeboat and stayed with the slaves to baptize and comfort them until their rescue.

Upon beginning his work in South America, St. Francis braved hitherto nearly unexplored regions of present day Argentina and Paraguay. When he had studied philosophy and theology in seminary, St. Francis also pursued music and now played the violin for the native people. He also diligently learned

multiple challenging native languages and dialects to communicate with others in their own language.

St. Francis predicted his own death, which occurred in 1610 in Lima, Peru. In that same year, while preaching in Trujillo, Peru, he foretold the calamities that would occur in that city, which was nearly destroyed by an earthquake nine years later.

Pope Benedict XIII canonized the “Apostle of Peru and Argentina” in 1726. St. Francis’ feast is kept throughout the Franciscan Order on July 24 and in the United States on July 14. He is the Patron of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Peru.

Our vocations might not bring us across unexplored shores, but let us endeavor to model St. Francis’ strength, selflessness and devotion to the Gospel as we pursue our own paths to sainthood in our current age.

Ministry Helps to Lead Catholics Back Home

As we've heard many times in the Gospel, Jesus is the Good Shepherd – not only does He look after his flock, but He also constantly seeks His lost sheep. As Catholics, we are called to follow Jesus' example and extend our compassion to those who have fallen away from our faith. Here at St. Francis Solanus, the Catholics Returning Home Ministry serves to welcome people back to the Church, hear and address their concerns, and show them that above all, our faith is based in love.

"You can more explain what Catholics Coming Home is all about by saying what it's not," says Deacon Wayne Zimmerman. "It's not RCIA, it's not Bible study, it's not catechism class. It is a six-session program to welcome folks back home, if they want to come back to the Catholic Church. We're there to listen and there to answer their questions – but the main thing is that we're there to invite and welcome."

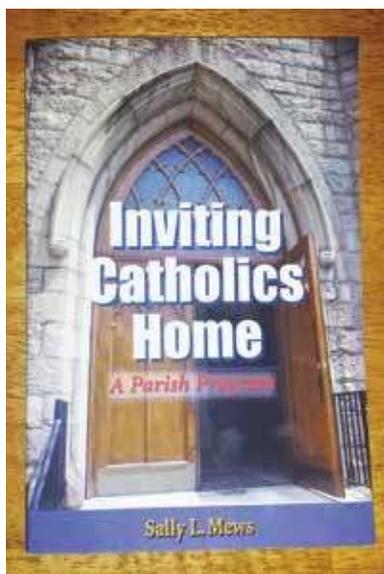
The ministry first started in 2009, shortly after Deacon Wayne was first ordained. He met with then-pastor Fr. Kurt Hartrich, O.F.M., who asked him to start a program for Catholics who wanted to return to the Church. After doing some research, Deacon Wayne found Sally Mews' *Inviting Catholics Home* program and was excited to get it started at the parish. Although Fr. Kurt was transferred soon after, Deacon Wayne was encouraged to continue developing the program by current pastor, Fr. Don Blaeser, O.F.M.

The ministry puts the word out to others in several different ways – they always have an ad in the parish bulletin, and often put ads in the local newspaper. A couple of years ago, Deacon Wayne visited a local radio show, hosted by a friend, to speak about the ministry. Catholics Returning Home also relies often on word of mouth.

"The way people hear about it has always been much varied," Deacon Wayne says. "I've had a father influence his son and daughter-in-law to come. I've heard of people who have read the bulletin on a certain day, people who have heard about it on the radio – I've heard everything!"

The program is a six-week course that reintroduces its "returnees" to the life of the Church. The program is moderated by Deacon Wayne and led by a team of dedicated parishioners.

"If you ask 10 people why they left the Church, there



could be 10 different reasons why – if you ask 10 different people why they came back, there could be 10 different reasons for that, too," Deacon Wayne says. "Folks all come here with different stories, so we keep the topics very basic. And that is why we have our team members – they are all very different, and it's amazing how, when someone tells their story, there will likely be someone on the team who can relate to that."

Apart from a basic reintroduction to the Church in general, the program facilitates open, confidential discussion; gives returnees a "refresher" on the Mass and sacraments such as Reconciliation; and discusses what the Church believes and

why. The ministry's team also works to understand and relate to each person's unique experience, to try to provide reassurance and quell any fears.

"One quality the team members have to have is a realization of the shortcomings of some members of the Church, and to understand how individuals in the Church may have hurt them," Deacon Wayne says. "But they also have a tremendous love for the Church, and love for Jesus Christ. These laypersons all have their stories to tell, and the connection that people have with the team is amazing. We now do have one woman on our team who has gone through the program. That's kind of our goal, to have everyone on the team have gone through the program. We're not there yet, but we hope it can happen naturally over time."

After the session ends, the team works to connect the returnees with other programs at the parish, depending on their individual faith journeys. Each returnee is encouraged to continue to let faith grow in their lives. And although the sessions are not regularly scheduled, be sure to keep an eye out in the bulletin to find out when the next one will commence – usually, sessions begin after Christmas and Easter.

"It is sometimes a sporadic program, but the power of the Holy Spirit really plays a role," Deacon Wayne says. "Sometimes, one team member will call me and say, 'I think we really need to do it again' – and then everything works out the way it needs to."

For more information about Catholics Returning Home, please contact the parish office at 217-222-2898.

St. Francis Solanus

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Dedication Event

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND THE

Dedication of the St. Francis Solanus Parish Center

ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH.

Bishop Paprocki will be the principal celebrant of Mass at **4:30 p.m.**

Immediately after the Mass, Bishop Paprocki will bless the Parish Center, and this will be followed by a "picnic dinner" at **6:15 p.m.**

Details of the dinner will be forthcoming soon.

Please return the reply message at the right if you plan to attend the dinner.

I/WE WILL ATTEND THE

Dedication Dinner

AT 6:15 P.M.

Name: _____

attending: _____

RSVP by August 1, 2015
(Detach and drop in the offertory or mail
to the parish office.)

Liturgy Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m. | **Sunday:** 6:30, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Mass: M, T, W, Th, F, 6:30 a.m. | M, T, W, Th, F, S, 8:00 a.m. | W, F, 8:35 a.m. during school year

Confessions: Saturdays 8:30 a.m., 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Holy Days of Obligation: Vigil 5:30 p.m.; Holy Day: 6:30 a.m.; 8:35 a.m. on school days; 8:00 a.m. during summer; 5:30 p.m.