



# THE CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Dear Friends,

# Welcome to our Parish Annual Report!

As you look through this year's report you will see the continuing signs of resilience as we adjust to the shift from pandemic to endemic in our response to the threat of Covid-19 which remains with us. Most of our parish ministries have returned to a new normal, continuing to serve our parishioners and respond to the needs in our world today. We engaged in extensive and substantive conversations through the Synod process in the spring and will continue to use the insights gained from those conversations to set the course for our parish life moving forward.

More and more parishioners are returning to in-person worship with us on Sunday although the overall number is a little better than half of pre-pandemic times. Some of that reflects parishioners who have permanently moved out of the area. We need to be more proactive in encouraging folks who have moved into the city to join us. We encourage those who have been away to consider returning in person.

Financially, we still are strong thanks to the dependable revenue from the rental of the former parochial school building. Because of that we are able to continue to support all of our ministries fully and to encourage greater involvement. Although the operating budget is strong, our overall financial picture has diminished because we have invested in necessary capital projects for the last couple of years. You will note that we spent almost \$1.2 million on capital expense in the last year. We completed the work on the Hurtado bathrooms, finally replaced the elevator and continued the roofing and pointing on the parochial school building and installed our beautiful new artwork. We have been able to accomplish these projects because of surplus revenue which built up over a few years to create a reserve fund. We need to rebuild those funds in order to keep up with the ongoing needs of our worship and office spaces.

Thank you. Your continued support and generosity make it possible for us to remain a vibrant, prophetic parish speaking out for and working for issues of justice and equity in our world.

Thank you for all that you do for our Xavier parish.

With prayers of gratitude,

Ken Boller, S.J. Pastor

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR IN REVIEW

# **PARISHIONERS**

5,261 households are currently registered.

262 parishioners supported the church through collection envelopes.

777 parishioners contributed online through Faith Direct.

994 parishioners contributed through Venmo.

The number of people who donated cash is unknown.

# **BAPTISMS**

79 infants were welcomed into our faith community.

# **FAMILY FAITH**

84 students and their families participated in the Family Faith Program.

# **RCIA**

1 adult was baptized, 4 adults received into full communion and Confirmed.

# **MARRIAGES**

42 couples chose Xavier as the community within which to be married.

# CARDINAL'S APPEAL

\$109,500 goal and \$68,092 was donated.

# PASTORAL COUNCIL

Patrick Egan (Chair)

Belinda Conway (co-Chair)

Andrea Foley-Murphy (Secretary)

Kristen Beckles

Cara Caponi

Joel Dabu

Karen DeMasi

Michelle Jung

John Karle

Catherine O'Hagan Wolfe











Photo: Jolene Cody

#### A LETTER FROM THE FINANCE COUNCIL

Through the gifts of time, talent and treasure, the parishioners and staff of St. Francis Xavier continue to build our parish as a community of hope and faith. As we report our financial results for Fiscal Year 2022, the Finance Council wishes to express its gratitude to the members of our community whose generosity allowed the St. Francis Xavier parish to maintain its vibrant life in challenging times. Your ongoing financial support is essential to the strength of our parish, and we are grateful to those who continue to show their commitment to our parish in this way.

The Statement of Activities summarizes our major sources of revenues and expenditures for the last two years and our budget for this fiscal year. We finished the fiscal year ending August 31, 2022 (FY 2022) with an operating surplus of \$531,510, primarily due to larger than expected Donations & Bequests. This operating surplus does not include our capital expenditure needs which were large last year. We spent \$1,191,961 in capital expenditures last year. The largest project was the essential and complex roof repair work on the 17th Street School which provides a key stream of rental revenue for our parish. Other important projects included the addition of inclusive artwork to our church representing BIPOC saints and religious leaders and the renovation of the elevator at the church that provides critical accessibility for our parish. We used our cash reserves and the operating surplus to fund these capital projects. The ongoing financial support of this community allowed us to make these critical capital investments while still maintaining the active life of the St. Francis Xavier community, a life that enriches us through the power of our coming together in worship and the work of our many and diverse ministries.

We are budgeting a \$337,408 operating surplus this year. We also are planning approximately \$200K in capital expenditures including the final work on the elevator project, repointing the 17th Street school and core capital work on the church and parish offices. We also are exploring potential renovations to Hurtado Hall to make the space more usable for our varied ministries.

We remain dependent on your generous support. Your Sunday offertory, maintenance second collection and Christmas and Easter gifts help ensure we cover our operating and capital expenditures and remain a vibrant community of faith. As we navigate these uncertain times, we ask that you consider increasing your total giving, especially for the Sunday offertory so that the parish of St. Francis Xavier can continue to be a welcoming and engaged home, a community that seeks to reflect God's love for us in our words and our actions.

We are committed to transparency and accountability so please reach out to any member of the Finance Council if you have any questions. As always, we are grateful for the generosity of the members of the parish with their time, talent and treasure.

#### The Parish Finance Council

Fr. Kenneth Boller, S.J., Pastor
Ann McGowan, Chair
Andrew Royston, CPA, Vice-Chair
Elisa Balestra
Robert Ching
Gaia Marinaccio
Jack Schmitt

#### The Parish Finance Team

Jared Savino, CPA, Xavier Parish Accountant James Martinez, Assistant for Financial Planning Jovi Villavicencio, Business Manager

# PARISH STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDING AUGUST 31ST

SUPPORT	BUDGET 2022/23	ACTUAL 2021/22	ACTUAL 2020/21	ACTUAL 2019/20
Regular Collections	\$939,200	\$828,790	\$898,503	\$962,698
Holiday Collections	\$135,000	\$150,378	\$155,691	\$162,746
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$1,074,200	\$979,168	\$1,054,194	\$1,125,444
17th Street Rental Income	\$1,399,958	\$1,371,504	\$1,332,500	\$1,300,000
Spiritual Direction Program Income	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$17,165
Donations and Bequests	\$124,000	\$275,340	\$211,120	\$230,322
Investment Income	\$2,500	(\$28,231)	\$40,821	\$34,865
Other Income <sup>a</sup>	\$134,760	\$191,933	\$150,639	\$177,135
TOTAL SUPPORT	\$2,745,418	\$2,794,713	\$2,789,274	\$2,884,931

EXPENSES	BUDGET 2022/23	ACTUAL 2021/22	ACTUAL 2020/21	ACTUAL 2019/20
Restoration Loan	\$0	\$0	\$324,959	\$556,260
Salary & Benefits <sup>b</sup>	\$864,853	\$809,373	\$711,286	\$678,028
Music Ministry	\$239,839	\$225,274	\$223,701	\$197,560
Administrative Support	\$188,900	\$165,945	\$140,713	\$127,710
Religious Education & Youth ministry	\$186,625	\$149,137	\$145,982	\$147,337
Insurance	\$104,141	\$91,530	\$97,512	\$82,878
Repairs and Maintenance	\$82,000	\$65,191	\$49,157	\$51,898
Spiritual Direction Program	\$43,500	\$44,160	\$836	\$37,560
Stewardship Program	\$30,500	\$29,633	\$28,400	\$27,333
Utilities	\$45,000	\$44,104	\$43,393	\$40,717
Other Programs	\$126,000	\$142,967	\$54,319	\$137,023
Archdiocesan Assessment <sup>c</sup>	\$252,653	\$251,887	\$260,711	\$291,507
Archdiocesan School Support	\$244,000	\$244,000	\$244,000	\$244,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,408,010	\$2,263,203	\$2,324,969	\$2,619,812
Revenue Over (Under) Expenses	\$337,408	\$531,510	\$464,305	\$265,119

Certain prior year amounts have been reclassified to conform with the current year presentation.

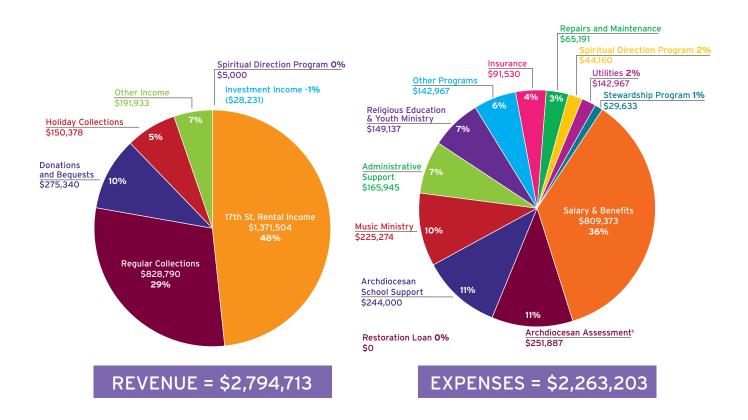
aIncludes income from votive shrines & candles, weddings, baptisms, funerals, and religious education.

bIncludes clergy & lay admin salary and benefits not included in Music, Stewardship, Religious Education & Spiritual Direction lines.

cArchdiocesan Assessment in 19/20, 20/21, and 21/22 includes \$42,423 for capital needs and contribution to Cardinal's Appeal of \$39,306 in 19/20 and \$10,000 in 20/21

	2022	2021	2020			
Capital Expenditures not included in the Statement of Activities Expenses	\$1,191,961	\$713,142	\$283,239			
AS OF AUGUST 31ST THE PARISH HAD CASH BALANCES AND INVESTMENTS AS FOLLOWS:						
Cash and Money Market Funds	\$485,379	\$969,017	\$1,061,923			
Capital Improvement Fund	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000			
AS OF AUGUST 31ST THE PARISH HAD THE FOLLOWING RECEIVABLES:						
	\$13,223	\$0	\$0			
AS OF AUGUST 31ST THE PARISH HAD THE FOLLOWING OBLIGATIONS:						
Restoration Loan	\$0	\$0	\$320,270			
Archdiocese Loan	\$131,200	\$131,200	\$131,200			
Archdiocese Invoice & Collections	\$45,091	\$0	\$15,768			
Vendors and Service Providers	\$246,053	\$245,422	\$57,540			
Parish Organizations	\$26,122	\$20,608	\$13,160			

Note: Capital Improvement Fund established in 2019 to fund future repairs at 17th St. location and church.



#### THE MUSIC MINISTRY

# A report from John Uehlein, Director of Music

Now that we are journeying from the pandemic to the endemic, the music ministry is once again in full swing. Still by singing or playing one pitch after another! The Choir, The Bell Choir, the Family Faith Choir and the Xavier Players (instruments and voices) are all experiencing their pre-pandemic rituals of regular rehearsals as well as providing music for liturgies. AMDG Thanks be to God! I would like to take this opportunity to **thank all of our music ministers** who are keeping us in musical prayer throughout the past year.

But above all, I would like to thank all of you, the people of St. Francis Xavier for your steadfast commitment to the parish. Whether you join us in person or virtually, we are grateful. It is such an inspiration to hear the sanctuary filled with the one voice of many people—all of you, the Parish of St. Francis Xavier.

As we are starting our new "school year" we have added several new voices to the choir and the Xavier Players. Since the last annual report we have added 2 sopranos, 1 alto, 1 tenor, 2 basses, a fiddle/violin player as well as a rhythm section with electric guitar and drums. **The Xavier Choir, The Family Faith Choir** and **The Xavier Players** are all back at their respective liturgies. The Bell Choir or **Xavier Campanologists** played at Christmas and Holy Week this past year and are looking forward to doing the same this year. Blessedly, our music ministers have weathered the last year of Covid ups and downs with grace and fortitude.

PAX is once again programing concerts. In the past year, we hosted Friends of the Philippines on Oct 22nd, Cantori on November 6th and 7th, Lessons and Carols on December 19th, our gala organ concert featuring Stephen Hamilton, organist with Dancers from the Brooklyn Ballet as well as the Xavier Dancers on March 18th, and The Cecilia Chorus on May 25th. Upcoming events: we are so looking forward to this year's Lessons and Carols on December 18th. Our recent organ concert with Mark Pacoe on November 11th was the first event of the year and later this year we are looking forward to the first weekend in March when we will be celebrating Mary Lou Williams with Deanna Witkowski and her jazz trio (Liturgical Press has just published an award winning biography by Deanna!) with a Saturday evening concert and then a rendition of Mary Lou Williams' Lenten Mass on Sunday morning. The award winning choir, CANTORI of New York will be singing the last week of May in music featuring Pulitzer prize winning composer David del Tredici a sometimes resident of Greenwich Village. Last but not least, I have to update folks on our annual "Parish Cabaret." Packing 85 folks into the Mary Chapel is no longer an option at this point in the pandemic/endemic. But we are imagining a musical theatrical event in the spring to be held in the church (did I hear someone mention GODSPELL?) No promises, but we are dreaming!

Our largest single expense covers our cantors and musicians. We are paying a cantor stipend every week and we pride ourselves on the quality and wealth of the cantors we are blessed with in the parish. Expenses also arise for music and materials, whether that is bell gloves or polish or choir binders or music stand lights. This year your very generous donations totaled \$9,690.55. As always, we are most grateful for your continuing support.







# FAMILY FAITH PROGRAM AND RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Director: Luz Marina Diaz, PhD











The Family Faith Program and the Rite of Christian Initiation 2021-2022 reflected the burnout of ministering during the pandemic. We had online sessions during sheltering in place and a hybrid model in 2020-2021. We returned to in-person sessions in 2021-2022 with fewer catechists; many former catechists were exhausted and asked for a break. We had to combine pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade in one class, join fourth grade and fifth grade and have a team of religious educators teaching confirmation candidates. Children's Liturgy of the Word led by Annariza Fajardo and Roseann Bonadia at the 9 am Mass returned, as well as the Family Mass on the first Sunday of the month, an opportunity to integrate children and teenagers in our liturgy as lectors and hospitality ministers. Components of the Family Faith Program, such as the Family Faith Choir led by Jackie Perez, the Ministry of Acolytes led by Gerry Moss, and in-person community services, disappeared due to the pandemic. Snacks were not yet enjoyed as a group after Mass but were given to students at the end of classes.

One of the notable events was the spiritual conversations on synodality. RCIA and the Family Faith program (including pre-kindergarten students) engaged in these conversations. It was remarkable the enthusiasm of this parish in having the conversations on synodality, the number of sessions and facilitators, as well as the training on the Ignatian three rounds of spiritual conversations method. As a religious educator and spiritual director, I gained from these conversations a desire to help coordinate future workshops on Communal Apostolic Discernment to the whole parish as an essential step before engaging in a conversational discernment process. In 2009, three Xavier parishioners, Rosa Allocca, Marie Bannister, and Sister Joan Flora, S.N.D., traveled to Rome to be part of the international workshop of "CAD (Common Apostolic Discernment) in the light of GC35" as part of a group of some eightysix persons formed by Jesuits, and lay men and women. Considering the Synod, it would be good to revisit CAD, a methodology that includes prayer and the three rounds of spiritual conversations as important components but not the only ones to engage in a discernment process.

As an act of solidarity, members of the Family Faith program and RCIA collected and sent sympathy notes to the Uvalde community after the lamentable shooting that killed at least nineteen children and two teachers at Robb Elementary School. We embraced the sadness of grieving with Uvalde and the happiness of participating in the Pride March with our sisters and brothers of Xavier LGBTQ ministries.

Something different happened with RCIA 2021-2022; we had two adults and four teenagers! Therefore, we had to proceed with two separate Christian Initiation groups, one for adults and one for teenagers, the latter led by youth minister Pablo Jimenez. For the first time in sixteen years working at Xavier, we have had a Rite of Christian Initiation for teenagers. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, an unbaptized person over seven years old must go through the Rite of Christian Initiation in order to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

The following RCIA participants received the sacraments at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 16, 2022:

Receiving the Sacraments of Initiation: Dakota Lombardi

Receiving the Sacrament of Baptism: Xavier Lombardi

Full Communion with Catholic Church: Cameron Stewart and Katherine Anderson Millner

Completing the Sacrament of Initiation: Elsa LoPresti and Ryan Parra

From the Family Faith Program, the following students received the First Holy Communion on Sunday, May 22, at the 9 am Mass celebrated by Father Ken Boller, S.J.: Anya Aniton, Angela Boyd, Rocco Golden, Frankie Golden, Olivia González, Gaelle Gouny, Abigail Hallowell, Greta Hessler, Henry Hessler, Ana Lauer, Maya Lauer, Patrick Morningstar, Mathew Naman, Saidy Peña, Macalister Simpson, and Sierra Wu.

Family Faith students who received the sacrament of Confirmation on June 5 at the 9 am Mass were Francesca Kathryn Finzi (Gabriella); Francesca Hasibe Paliotta (Philomena); Logan R Young (St. Sebastian); Samuel Julian Canzoneri (St. Francis of Assisi); Nicholas Djuravcevic (St. Michael the archangel; Annika Elizabeth DeMeo (St. Cecilia); Arthur Emile Root (Terence); Isabella C Greenberg (St. Eulalia); Daisy Catherine Hampton (Mary) Adrian Barrera (St. Francis of Assisi); and James Fulgencio Buffalano (Joseph). The Presider of the Confirmation ceremony was Bishop Gerald Walsh.

The Family Faith adult sessions were made possible by Roseann Bonadia, Michael Allocca, John (Murph) Foley-Murphy, and Ed Poliandro. Murph facilitated monthly virtual meetings for interested parents. Michael Termini helped me coordinate and facilitate catechists' meetings. Family Faith catechists in 2021-2022 were: Annariza Fajardo, Roseann Bonadia, Kristen Beckles, Pablo Jimenez, Norma Varela, Melanie Barbarie, Stephanie Dubois, Father Ricardo da Silva, S.J., Father Zach Presutti, S.J., Claire Igot, Patricia Gordon, and catechist assistants Grace Foley-Murphy, Owen Barbagallo, and Cynthia Teramura. Kerry O'Donnell was the Family Faith snack coordinator, and Elvis Mendez was the Sunday assistant for Family Faith and RCIA. Family Faith's clerical assistant was Michael Judkiewicz. The RCIA catechists were José Ramón Pérez López, Michael Allocca, Roseann Bonadia, Father Zach Presutti, S.J., Father Ken Boller, S.J., Pablo Jimenez, and Luz Marina Diaz.

The Family Faith Program and the Youth Ministry celebrated the end of 2021-2022 with a Carnival Festival on June 11 at the Xavier High School Main Gym. It included music, games, snacks, and faith painting. Robin Klueber, Regional Faith Formation Specialist of Manhattan, Region 3, and Christina Davis, Director of Youth Ministry for the Archdiocese, came to the Carnival Festival.

All the alterations in 2021-2022 made us feel the Holy Spirit more tangibly. We were able to adapt, create solutions, converse, and overcome obstacles while gaining patience, love, and compassion. We are all on a spiritual journey and becoming more united as a Body of Christ!

# MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Our parish is blessed by the ongoing work of more than 20 different ministry groups. Here are some highlights from just a few of these ministries.

**CATHOLIC LESBIANS** marched in the 30th Annual NYC Dyke March and meetings reflected the diversity of the members, especially with an influx of younger queer folks, lovingly christened "the Hatchlings." Highlights of the year include: Ann Fenalon's one-woman show, The Cross, The Sword, The Gun: Live Life Up; Jackie Starkey on lesbian feminist poets; Cato Ybarra looked at "Death Herself, an introduction to folk beliefs in Santa Muerte"; Roe Sauerzopf managed the 19th Annual Christmas Wrapping Party; Cristie Traina guided us on the Synod; "In la Cucina with Danielle Nista"; Amelia M. presented pre-Christian cultural traditions in Central and Eastern European Catholicism; Mary Hurson and Stephanie Samoy led a Maya Angelouinspired night of poetry; Paula Acuti on being "Unapologetically Us"; Jesus 2.0 by playwright Alyssa See-Theo; Natasha Avenis "In Each Friar, a General and a Conquering Army." Catholic Lesbians also partnered with The Women Who Stayed in a spiritual conversation about the overturning of Roe v. Wade.

THE EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT GROUP has been a ministry at The Church of St. Francis Xavier since the Spring of 2003. Started by our Pastor at the time, Ned Coughlin, SJ, when he saw there was a need to help the Xavier community. Over these 20 years ESG has evolved and we look forward to further enhancing our outreach. Employment Support in our ministry—sometimes it's a mini-clinic on cover letters or cold contacts, sometimes it's a general discussion of a particular knotty problem someone needs advice on how to address. Our goal is that you will gain some insight, share some fellowship and enjoy a friendly sharing session with folks looking for support. We invite those in attendance to give us ideas to help in our planning for future events—on presentations that everyone would benefit from. Please feel free to contact us by email to krcoff5th@netzero. com with any comments, questions or ideas. We are here to work with you.

**GAY CATHOLICS** is primarily a gay men's group but all are welcome to attend our meetings and events. Since the Covid pandemic we have been meeting virtually. Going forward, we will still be meeting on the first and third Fridays of the month with a hybrid meeting schedule both virtually and in-person. In 2023, the LGBT ministries will be celebrating 30 years of service to our community. For more than 20 years we have spearheaded the parish's AIDS Walk campaign. We are the only Catholic Parish that participates and we have regularly been one of the top 20 fundraising teams. So much has changed over the last two years but our commitment to welcoming everyone will never change.











**HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY** had its start in 2021 through a proposal to the Pastor and the Pastoral Council in the autumn. Once approved, a team of Pray-ers, were recruited, from personal invitation and via the Parish Bulletin. Training of the team began in January 2022 via Zoom and in-person training sessions. Together we reviewed a book, The Practice of Healing Prayer: A How-To Guide for Catholics. Ministry to the congregation began the first Sunday of Lent and continued through Lent and twice monthly in April, May, and June. The format is to pray in teams of two Pray-ers with supplicants, who are invited to come for healing prayer for physical, emotional, or spiritual healing. This occurs on selected Sundays after the 11:30 Mass usually in the church sanctuary spaces near the Mary altar. At each prayer session there has been a small but steady stream of supplicants, who all express appreciation, and report feeling heard and accompanied, with their spirits lifted. As a Pray-er team we feel privileged and blessed to be involved in this ministry. We could use more Pray-ers. For more info, contact HPM@sfxavier.org.

INTERFAITH COMMITTEE fostering interreligious dialogue among different faith communities, held a very well attended Interfaith Iftar Dinner. It was held at the end of Ramadan, the 9th month of the Muslim calendar which was marked by fasting. Christian and Muslim families met together at sundown answering the Call to Prayer, followed by blessing of the food by Fr. Ken Boller, SJ and partaking of food with spiritual conversations by guests. Christian and Muslim families mingled in each table and while eating reflected on the theme: "The Importance of Breaking Bread and Sharing with Others". Concluding prayers were led by Emre Celik, Executive Director of Peace Islands Institute, which co-sponsored the event. Members attended a meeting on Religion and Fraternity discussing Pope Francis' social encyclical Fratelli Tutti. We held a Zoom meeting entitled "We Refuse to be Enemies. How Muslim and Jews can make Peace one friendship at a time." This was a conversation between a Muslim and a Jew, who became friends and found common ground to collaborate.

#### ISEL (IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY IN EVERYDAY LIFE)

Slowly moving out of the pandemic, we continued to offer spiritual direction and the 19th Annotation Retreat to both parishioners and those outside our parish boundaries. Many met via zoom and some had in-person meetings. We had four Peer Supervision groups for our directors most meeting via zoom and one in person group. During Advent we offered a four week prayer program based on the Advent writings of Bishop Robert Barron as well as offering our Lenten Retreat using Susan Muto's book, A Feast for the Hungry Soul: Spiritual Lessons from the Church's Greatest Masters and Mystics.





















**RACIAL JUSTICE READING GROUP** is a group of parishioners who are committed to informing ourselves about the sin of racism, particularly to identify the ways in which it is manifest in ourselves, our parish, the Catholic Church, our city and the larger world. We began by reading Racial Justice and the Catholic Church by Father Bryan Massingale and engaged with him and the Black Catholic community of St. Charles Borromeo about the impact of racism on people of color who share our Catholic faith. A few years and at least 8 books later, we have developed into a ministry that strives to bring awareness to the Xavier community. We have participated in this year's Juneteenth celebration and hosted a spiritual conversation as part of Xavier's participation in the Synodal process. We led an evening service during Lent on the Stations of the Cross, contributed to discussions about the parish pledge for racial justice, engaged in letter writing campaigns to Catholic bishops, and currently are working on plans for Unconscious Bias Training for the parish. We invite you to join us as we read Undoing the Knots: Five Generations of American Anti-Blackness by Maureen H. O'Connell and discuss plans for further activities. For more information or to join our meetings email sfxbookgroup@sfxavier.org.

SACRED SPACE COMMITTEE continued to work with other Xavier ministries and members of the Xavier community to manifest the liturgy at Xavier through visual installations. This year we started by gathering folks to install a Dia de Los Muertos altar and then Season of Creation. We celebrated Advent and Christmas with an installation of colorfully decorated trees representing the figures in the nativity as well as Christians throughout the world. Lent saw an installation of dried branches that was followed by an explosion of flowers at Easter, then a dramatic installation of red candles for Pentecost. We coordinated with Xavier Outings to organizes an inter-ministerial Stations of the Cross. Sacred space committee was also very involved in the Art Committee that brought new icons to the walls of Xavier, celebrating the diversity of faith and the communion of Saints.

SHARING AND LEARNING GROUP met in person this past year to hear 2 guest speakers and tour 4 museums. We started the year with a private tour of the American Folk Art Museum. In April we toured the Poster House Museum.—the only museum in the United States dedicated to the art and history of posters. Later in the year we had a wonderful guided tour of the Center for Jewish History, our neighbors on 16th Street. We ended in June with an outstanding guided tour of The Met Cloisters Museum. A speaker from the Center for Hearing and Communication spoke to the group and explained hearing loss and tested our hearing.

We continued with our ongoing series Religion in the Movies, Part 3 featuring movies from the mid 1950s to the mid 1960s. We meet once a month usually in the afternoon and you are welcome to join us. Contact: xaviersharingandlearninggroup@gmail.com.

THE WOMEN WHO STAYED worked diligently on making the Scripture readings inclusive and continue this effort to break open the Word in meaningful new ways. We sponsored Stations of the Cross, in partnership with Catholic Lesbians, focusing on "Holy Women: Dorothy Day and Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz." We also held a spiritual conversation after the overturning of Roe v. Wade and plan on hosting these intimate discussions every six weeks until the spring of 2023, as a thoughtful, loving, tender way to find our way back from dormancy and to gauge how everyone is and how we want to move forward. The Women Who Stayed: we NURTURE | we EMPOWER | we CALL FORTH | we CELEBRATE

YOUTH MINISTRY (XYM) continues to provide a welcoming environment where almost 20 young women and men, in the ages between 14 and 18 years old, can further develop their relationship with the Lord and participate in the life of the Church. During the 2021-2022 academic year, the Youth Ministry focused on the importance of prayer in our lives as friends and disciples of Jesus. We held a "devotional fair" where everyone had a chance to learn more about different forms of prayer, like the Rosary, the Angelus and Regina Caeli, the devotions to the Sacred Heart, the Divine Mercy and the Eucharist. In response to Pope Francis' invitation to participate in the Global Synod, we held a listening session solely for the teenagers of the Church of St. Francis Xavier with an open invitation to those teenagers who had not been attending XYM sessions. Most of the teenagers continued with their involvement in liturgical ministries, participating as lectors, acolytes, and eucharistic and hospitality ministers. During Advent, Xavier Youth Ministry collaborated with Thrive For Life, organizing donated items so they could be taken to the incarcerated men in Rikers Island before Christmas.

**ZEN MEDITATION** completed its 15th year of service. During the pandemic, the group continued the meditation practice remotely. There has been a scheduled time for meditation on most Monday evenings. In addition, additional remote meditation periods were added on Friday. The ministry continues to fill a need for people of different intentions: Beginners and people with curiosity are always welcomed and introduction and instruction is always available. The group also provides a home for those interested in a continuing meditation practice as well as support for those whose primary interests are with other ministries. Well over 450 parishioners have experienced the program since its inception.





#### LITURGICAL MINISTRY

Like other ministries, the Liturgical Ministry was affected by the pandemic. In 2021-2022, we welcomed the return of liturgical ministers who were inactive since 2020, and we resumed some pre-pandemic liturgical practices—the processional entrance and recessional with all ministers and the presider, the procession of the gifts, and the gathering of Eucharistic ministers in the sanctuary during the communion rite. There are certain preventive pandemic practices that we still follow, such as the use of masks by liturgical ministers.

We also witnessed a lack of women serving in some liturgies and a lack of hospitality ministers at each liturgy, especially on Saturdays at the 5 pm Mass. Therefore, we made public the need for more women ministering in the liturgies and ministers of hospitality and we trained new participants.

We had a special bilingual liturgy to celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 11, 2021, at 6:30 pm, followed by a feast in Hurtado Hall. Fr. Sean Toole, S.J., former Associate Pastor at Xavier, was the celebrant priest. In his homily, Father Sean shared about his ministry in a rural region of Mexico and how the initiative of Xavier parishioner Alexander Xerxes Jaudines of collecting money to help his ministry helped to build the ceiling and walls of the church where Fr. Sean served.

Since February 18, 2021, the liturgical ministry has not had any workshops or spiritual retreats. Liturgical ministers have expressed the need to participate in prayerful seminars and spiritual retreats. We desire to nurture our calling as Hospitality ministers, Eucharistic ministers, Mass Coordinators, and Proclaimers of the Word. We need to deepen the spiritual dimension of each liturgical role. For example, the Hospitality ministers fulfill a crucial function in the church, which goes beyond coordinating the collection, giving parish bulletins, or accommodating someone who has arrived after Mass has begun. Hospitality means welcoming, opening the doors, helping a mother carry a stroller, smiling at those who come to Mass, and receiving each person in the church with warmth, love, and compassion. "When a guest arrives, Christ arrives." Cultivating kindness, patience, tranquility, and reacting with discretion, equanimity, and speed in the face of any contingency are human traits that we must develop as ministers of hospitality.

In the same way, Proclaiming the Word of God is a Divine Mission. It is not just about reading well but about penetrating the content of the Word of God with prayer. Workshops and spiritual retreats are essential to cultivating the required skills for the distinct roles of our liturgical ministry.

In every ministry, volunteers come and go. It also happens with the Liturgical Ministry. We are grateful for the service of past and present liturgical ministers. We pray that more parishioners feel called to serve in this so-important ministry of the church. If you feel the call, please fill out the form https://secure.rotundasoftware.com/29/enrollment/xavier.



# WAYS TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THE PARISH

There are many ways to support the dynamic ministries of the Church of St. Francis Xavier. Each method of giving ensures the future of our parish and may provide you with tax benefits. The information below will help you decide how best to support the parish.

**REGISTER** You're already a member, you just need to register! If you haven't already registered, you may do so online www.sfxavier.org or by picking up a registration form at the 15th Street reception desk.

**FAITH DIRECT** Go Green and support the parish online, even while you are away on business or pleasure. Visit our website, www.sfxavier.org and click on the DONATE NOW icon or go directly to www.faithdirect.net and enter parish code: NY406. You can decide upon your weekly offering, special collections, flower offering, one-time gifts, etc. The automatic payments will be taken monthly from your choice of credit card or checking. Plus you have online access to donor statements for tax purposes. You can also link your mobile phone number to your credit/debit card for easier giving. Text any dollar amount to (646)-681-7010 and complete the one-time registration page to enroll.

**VENMO** Find us at Username: StFrancisXavier-Church or Phone number: 646-596-5696. For new users download the Venmo mobile app to create an account.

**ENVELOPE SYSTEM** Donors who itemize their tax returns receive an income tax charitable deduction. If you make your donation by check, please make the check payable to the Church of St. Francis Xavier.

**SECURITIES** By giving appreciated securities that you have owned for more than a year, your charitable deduction is the fair market value of the securities. Such gifts provide income tax savings and eliminate the capital gains tax liability.

**GIFTS BY WILL** The parish can be remembered in your Will. Suggested wording for such bequests is: I give, devise, and bequeath to the Church of St. Francis Xavier located at 55 West 15th Street, New York, NY, the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_\_% of the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate whether real or personal) for its general charitable purposes and without restriction. Please note that under the policy of the archdiocese and the by-laws of the parish corporation, bequests to a parish cannot be restricted unless approved in advance by the archbishop in writing.

**GIFTS OF RETIREMENT PLANS** Consider naming the Church of St. Francis Xavier, 55 West 15th Street New York, NY 10011 as a beneficiary or contingent beneficiary in your retirement plan, IRA or 401(k). It's easy, requires no attorneys or fee, and is tax advantageous. Call the parish office for further information and the necessary Federal ID.

**TIME & TALENT** All of our ministries, services and Xavier Mission programs are primarily staffed by parishioners, so we encourage your participation. If you would like to offer your time and talent to Xavier Mission, please contact Cassandra Agredo, Director, Outreach Mission at 212-627-2100 x 208 or cagredo@xaviermission. org; for any of the many ministries in the parish contact the parish office at 212-627-2100.

# THE MISSION STATEMENT OF THE CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

The Church of St. Francis Xavier,

a Roman Catholic parish in the Jesuit tradition,
strives to be a prophetic, welcoming community,
and an inclusive witness to the presence of Christ Jesus in our midst.

Mindful of our utter reliance on God, and need for God's grace,
we rejoice together in our celebration of the sacraments
and proclamation of the Gospel.

As a people of hope, we commit ourselves through prayerful and creative discernment to respond to God in our time by:

Being a respectful community

Where seekers and
their questions are welcomed,
Where injustice is challenged,
Where the poor, the alienated and
the marginalized find a home,
And where people are refreshed,
reconciled and renewed.

Adopted by the Community at Prayer Rededication Weekend June 19 - 20, 2010



Our sincere thanks to Nancy Fava for her fine efforts in designing and drafting this report.

Thanks also to all those who contributed photographs.