



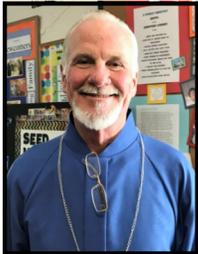
The Franciscan



Volume XLII, Issue X

St. Francis by the Lake
Canyon Lake, Texas

November 2020



Sr. Warden

Jim Kelch

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In just a short two months, three new vestry persons will be elected. They will succeed Debby Barnwell, Mike Maciejewski, and yours truly. Mike served as Jr. Warden (during the great transition into the Ministry and Outreach Center) and Debby has done a wonderful job of keeping Mike and me in line, as well as contributing sage advice for all of us. I think I can say, for all three of us, that we have enjoyed and grown in our positions.

When I joined the parish's leadership team three years ago, I had no thought of being Sr. Warden. Some have asked me what a Sr. Warden *is* or *does*. I'd like to say "it's complicated." Linda Bosenbark was Sr. Warden when I joined the vestry and her duty was to keep me in line... well, not exactly. She whispered guiding words all along the way. We helped each other.

I've had the privilege of serving as Sr. Warden for two years. Whenever I tell Fr. Gordon that "I really like it; I must be 'off' somehow," he readily agrees with me! When Fr. David and I discussed my being Sr. Warden for a second year, he explained that we were in a place, with regard to several matters, where continuity would be helpful. And so I agreed.

It is quite possible that you could be asked to step up to leadership by serving on the vestry. As I said above, we elect three persons to fill in the vacancies at the upcoming annual meeting. What does the vestry do?

Beginning with the Sr. Warden, she or he is a collaborator with the Priest. Fr. David and I talk about everything from homily topics to concerns brought up by parishioners. This year has seen challenges and we worked hard to make sure

worship occurs at least each Sunday, while ensuring all our concerns were addressed regarding safety and sanitizing; these might seem obvious but, in a year where nothing has been certain, it's been a challenge.

Along with the Rector, the Sr. Warden works with our wonderful superman Treasurer, Bob Amos—who is an invaluable consultant and all around asset to the Vestry. Besides monitoring [\(Continued on page 2\)](#)

Rector's Reflections

Fr. David Chalk

There's an ancient story called *The Boy Who Drew Cats*; it's based on a legend about the Japanese artist Sesshu Toyo who, as a young boy, liked to draw cats—cats stretching, cats yawning, cats jumping, cats eating, cats everywhere doing all kinds of things cats do. He drew them uncontrollably. It was his passion.

Because his family was large and poor, the little boy was taken to live in the temple in order to serve the village's monk as his acolyte. One day the monk called on him to help with the copying of a sacred text. The monk was pleased with the way the boy did his assignment, but on closer examination the monk discovers there were cats drawn throughout the margins and between the lines. The boy drew them uncontrollably. It was his vocation. The monk threw away the manuscript, and so the cats disappeared. During the night, the temple was destroyed. The boy had to leave.

Afraid and alone, he wandered to the next village where he took up lodging with the blacksmith. In return, he tended the blacksmith's fire, a task he did

faithfully until he discovered that a piece of charcoal makes a fine pencil. He began to draw cats on the walls of the shop, everywhere. The blacksmith returned and made the boy scrub the walls, and so the cats disappeared. In the night, the blacksmith's shop burned down.

Sadly, the boy wandered on and came to a deserted village. High on a hill was a large building. Inside he found a lit candle. The boy ran his fingers through the gray dust that covered everything and noticed that one of the lines looked like the tail of a cat. Next thing you know, there were cats everywhere. It was his calling.

He became tired and climbed into a small cabinet, closed the door and went to sleep. During the night he heard a terrible ruckus. Afraid to look out, he hears scraping, scratching, and screaming—it was awful, then more awful, and then more awful yet."

Exhausted and frightened, he fell fretfully to sleep again. When morning came all was quiet; the boy peered out from his hiding place to see there was blood everywhere. In the center of the room there was an enormous, dead rat. And then the child noticed, on the paws of the cats that he'd drawn on the walls the night before, blood was still dripping.

In this story, some interpreters see the little boy's desire for drawing cats symbolizing *finding one's own way*. Others describe it as *living into one's deepest yearnings*.

Still others suggest that *allowing one's heart to joyfully pursue God's calling allows the demons that would otherwise spell our destruction to ultimately be slain*.

This year of 2020 has been unreal and nearly other-worldly. As we move through All Hallows' Eve, All Saints' Day, and into Advent my prayer is that we—each of us, and all of us together—will pursue God's call, live into God's call, and not yield to any fear.



Treasurer's report

By [Robert Amos](#)

Email: treasure@gvtc.com

Greetings all,

I hope and pray that all of you are safe, healthy and doing well. I continue to pray for all of you and especially those who are having difficult times, are ill, or have lost a loved one. I miss seeing you. Be safe.

Overall, our finances at St. Francis by the Lake are okay. Thank you for your generous contributions. Here are our finances as of September 30, 2020.

Operations - mixed results.

Revenues: Total revenue year to date is \$193,709.66 which is less than planned by \$4,016.32.

Expenditures: Expenditures are \$210,375.33, which is lower (better) than plan by \$10,747.67.

Balance (Revenue minus Expenditures): Balance is a deficit of \$16,665.67, which is better than planned by \$5,395.33.

This does not include the Payroll Protection Plan (PPP) loan. We have applied for the PPP loan forgiveness, which will take several months for the Small Business Administration to complete.

Capital - doing well.

Capital Campaign 2020 - 2022: Total contributions are \$69,340.34. Combined balance of Capital Campaign and Capital Campaign 2020 – 2022 Fund is \$101,210.62. We are continuing making monthly principal payments of \$6,060.00 on the Frost Line of Credit.

Debt Retirement: Contributions are \$34,461.00. The Debt Retirement Fund contains a balance of \$43,673.58. We made our first annual payment of \$32,325.00, principle and interest to the Crump Foundation.

Endowment Fund - doing well.

Total in the fund is \$120,351.37 which is an increase of \$5,947.10 so far this year.

Our funds as of September 30 , 2020:

General Operating	\$	170.79
Debt Retirement	\$	43,673.58
Capital Campaign Fund	\$	101,210.62
Endowment Fund	\$	120,351.37

Debt:

Frost Bank - Line of Credit:	\$	127,258.38
Crump Foundation:	\$	427,500.00
Payroll Protection Plan Loan:	\$	35,000.00

As a reminder, you have the ability to contribute on-line. Go to our website, www.saintfrancisbythelake.org. You will see a button for electronic giving.

GIVE HERE

When you click on the button, you will be taken to a page to enter your contribution. We are able to support secure transaction on credit card, debit card, and electronic funds transfers from your bank and/or financial institution.

Of course, you can send your contributions by mail. St. Francis by the Lake, P.O. Box 2031, Canyon Lake, TX 78133

If you have any comments or questions, or if you would like to discuss a pledge or contribution, please feel free to contact me at treasure@gvtc.com.

Sr. Warden (Cont'd from page 1)

the budget, we crunch numbers and act on faith as we care for our priest and employees. The Sr. Warden also consults with the Jr. Warden regarding our facilities and campus.

The vestry constantly discuss the goals of the parish and, while we strive for efficiency and effectiveness, we pray and work appropriately in addressing the parish's business. Whereas legal and fiscal concerns are the canonical responsibilities for the Vestry as a

whole—we've signed the deed for the new MOC! *[I've never owned a MOC!]* (Some jest, but I've had to sign a lot of documents this year.) Fr. David has helped teach us that the real work of the vestry is about shared ministry. We always struggle, but constantly return to our responsibility to reach out to parishioners and partner with the priest in growth.

Being on the Vestry has been a great blessing. Being Sr. Warden has been very exciting and has helped me grow

tremendously. My hope is that each and all of us will prayerfully consider serving our wonderful parish in whatever way the Lord calls. I haven't done anywhere near a perfect job (especially keeping up with the monthly phone calls,) but I can truly say I'm giving my best, as imperfect as I am. I am proud to be your Sr. Warden and I hope whoever is elected to the three positions will have a similarly enriching experience. May God bless you as you listen for your call.



Episcopal Church Women

By [Ronnie Harper-Schwakhofer](#),

ECW President

We had a good turnout for last month's ECW meeting *via* ZOOM. David Ricker, Executive Director of Communities in School of South-Central Texas (CIS,) explained the purpose of CIS. They focus on "at risk" students, with a CIS staff person placed in schools with volunteer support. They serve over 50 schools, 7 districts, and 32,000 students.

November's ECW meeting, Nov. 12, will be IN PERSON (in the Great Hall), as well as *via* Zoom, [details will be in our *Good News*.] Maureen Schein, CRRC's Development Director, will give an update on services since moving into their new building.

We hope to have our annual Christmas Party in December: **stay tuned**. Programs for 2021 are being scheduled and updates will be shared in the *Good News* and *The Franciscan*.

Since the annual rummage sale was not held this month due to COVID-19, we encourage everyone to donate unused clothes, household goods, etc., to the Pink Elephant Resale Store in Startzville. (They give us a larger than normal percentage on items donated by us. But please tell the manager your donation is for St. Francis.) Other organizations accepting donations are CRRC, Communities in Schools, Crisis Center in NB, Family Promise in NB, and Salvation Army in NB.

Lynda Leadford is coordinating ECW's Connections Ministry which helps the Vestry and Community of Hope stay connected with parishioners. Contact Lynda at kman64@gvtc.com or (210) 508-5497, if you're interested in serving this way.

Reminder. In our efforts to continue supporting local organizations (since there are no fund raisers) your help is important. Please send your contribution to the parish office [Memo Line: ECW Donation.]

This quote from Rabbi Tzvi Freeman was found at DWTX's Women Ministries: "When you awake in the morning, learn something to inspire you, meditate upon it, then plunge forward full of light with which to illuminate the darkness."

Reminder #2. All women of St. Francis by the Lake are members of Episcopal Church Women. Stay safe and healthy!



CRRC Needs

The food pantry is in need of:

canned green beans;

stuffing mix (box or bag);

canned applesauce;

canned chicken noodle soup;

Progresso soup (our elderly would love to just open a can and heat to eat!);
and paper towels.

All contributions are appreciated.



**Reaching
up...
Reaching
out...**

**Growing Some-
thing Eternal!**

St. Francis by the Lake
P.O. Box 2031
Canyon Lake, TX 78133
(830)-964-3820

November anniversaries

Tom & Maury Meyer 11/20

November birthdays

Ken Leadford	11/2
Nick Benham	11/4
Fr. David Chalk	11/14
Frank Smith	11/14
Melissa Mitchell	11/15
Peggy Kelsey	11/16
Ronnie Harper-Schwakhofer	11/23
Diane LaCombe	11/23
Mary Barker	11/25
Chris Mitchell	11/25
Natalie White	11/26
Bob Slupik	11/27
George Black	11/28
Logan Black	11/28
Beverley Matthewson	11/28
Carol Glasby	11/30

The Franciscan

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Canyon Lake, Texas

The Rev. David Chalk, Rector

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Honduras Night
Under The Stars
Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020

The Honduras Manos Ministry invites you to an evening at the drive-in for a private screening of **A Christmas Story**.

When: Dec. 10, 2020 at Screen 1
Where: Stars and Stripes Drive-In Theater
1178 Kroesche Ln,
New Braunfels, TX 78130
Live music begins at 5:00pm
& raffle at 6:00pm followed by movie
Masks and social distancing observed

Honduras Night—“Under the Stars” Dec. 10, 2020

By [Patricia Perea](#)

The Honduras Manos* Ministry invites you to our first-ever Honduras Night “Under the Stars.” We weren't able to have our normal Honduras Night at Beto's last April, but we're hoping & planning for a SAFE and FUN event in December.

All proceeds go to the Manos Scholarship Program. (This pays for the education of 70 under-privileged students: 50 in grades 7-12, and 20 in college.) This November, five high school Seniors graduate and all of them are planning to attend college in February, 2021.

* “Manos” is short for “Manos de Dios.” This is the name of our sister parish in Danlí, Honduras. It means “Hands of God.”



Manos Scholarship High School Seniors graduating in November 2020: (left to right) Jefri, Nixia, Heydi, Dixie, and Christian

This year's event happens at the Stars & Stripes Drive-in Theater in New Braunfels. There will be **live music, three raffle prizes, and a private screening of *A Christmas Story*** (always a great movie to get into the spirit of the upcoming holy season.)

- It will cost \$25 per car (collected at the event.)
- You can bring your own food, OR purchase hamburgers, fries, hotdogs, nachos, milkshakes, etc. at the 50's Café.
- Watch from your car or bring chairs and blankets to watch under the stars next to your car.

This is a Covid-19 safe event as masks and social distancing will be observed. Cars will be spaced every other parking space.

- Raffle tickets can be purchased at the event or in advance. We've always been very grateful for your support and we hope that you'll buy raffle tickets—even if you're unable to attend. **You do not need to be present to win.** We're selling raffle tickets beginning now, until the day of the event. Tickets purchased earlier for the Beto's event will be included in this raffle drawing.

We have three great prizes:

- 1st Prize: \$500 Visa Card
- 2nd Prize: AirPods Pro
- 3rd Prize: \$300 SW Airlines Gift Card

Tickets are 1 for \$10 or 3 for \$25.

There are 3 ways to purchase raffle tickets:

- Send a PayPal payment to: treasure@gvvc.com (Please include your phone number in the note so we can send your ticket numbers,)
- Send Cash/Check to: St Francis by the Lake,
Re: Honduras raffle tickets
P.O. Box 2031, Canyon Lake, TX 78133
- Contact Patricia by email at pereasearch@gmail.com or call or text at 210-241-9258.

See you at the Stars & Stripes Drive-In Theater.



ECW needs your help

By [Ronnie Harper-Schwakhofer](#),
ECW President

Help! ECW fundraisers were cancelled this year because of COVID-19. That means we won't be raising funds to support the ministries ECW normally assists. You can help. The ministries listed below provide assistance in our communities. Some comments we've received from those we've supported include:

CRRC could not accomplish our mission without your hearts. The Meals on Wheels volunteers deliver five meals every week to 50 ["shut ins"] around the Lake.

Family Promise appreciates your partnership with us, as well as the financial support [you provide] our Shelter Program. We're building stability through case management, transitioning families to self-sufficiency, activating volunteers and the faith communities to care for our guests, and connecting families to community resources.

Homes for our Troops appreciates your support to help bring Army Sergeant Mario Lopez's forever home to reality.

Communities in Schools appreciates your support. You help students [develop] relationships... with Site Coordinators. In one case, the power of this strong relationship with the coordinator helped a student combat homelessness and get motivated to stay in school.

The Crisis Center of Comal County appreciates your support; your generosity is the key to our success. As a grass-roots, non-profit, we rely on grants and your donations. You are providing survivors with life-changing services as well as making a tremendous impact in the lives of women and children in crisis.

Here are last year's ECW contributions to local ministries:

Communities in Schools	\$200.00
Family Promise	\$950.00
CRRC's Food Bank/General Fund	\$2,150.00
DOK Backpack Ministry	\$760.00
Canyon Lake Animal Shelter	\$450.00
Crisis Center of Comal County	\$785.00
Parish Benevolence Fund	\$705.00
TOTAL	\$6,000.00

May we count on your support?

Please mail your check to the parish office, payable to "St. Francis by the Lake." Please indicate on the Memo Line: "ECW."

Thank you, in advance, for your continued support.

Thanks from Mario Daniel

Honduran Manos Scholarship Recipient
By Patricia Perea

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, here's a letter of appreciation from Mario Daniel, one of our Manos Scholarship students. Mario is 20, and enrolled in pre-med at Catholic University in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. His family lives in Danli, (two hours away by car.) In September 2018, Daniel won first place in a national oratory competition against 8,000 others. He earned a \$10,000 scholarship toward his studies, plus another \$10,000 for his high school *Instituto Pedro Nufio*, (they used the money to build a classroom in his name.)

Dear Manos de Dios Team,

Our family sends you many blessings and greetings and our hope that the Almighty will give you the gift of good health during this pandemic.

Even during these desperate times, we are able to say that God is helping us. I want to let you know how fortunate we are that no one in our family has become infected with the virus. We are following the guidelines for good hygiene. For many it has not been a good year. Personally, we have lost an aunt, and due to the pandemic, sadly we could not attend the burial. As for me, Mario, the situation has caused a drastic change in my life, because it has been a long time since I've seen my family. I am attending classes via Zoom. This is difficult because medical classes require practical partic-

ipation and virtual classes can be very challenging. I have taken advantage of the time and the opportunity to continue the fight ("la lucha") and I have adapted to the change from face to face to remote learning and I have passed all of my classes so far. Over the last two years I have passed 42 college classes. I still need 6 more years at the university, and I am thankful to God for giving me the opportunity to be a part of the Manos Scholarship Program.

I realize I am closer to my goal of becoming a doctor than when I started and with God's help and my hard work, I will reach the goals I've set for myself. Right now, I am taking 5 classes. We are on a school break, but I am also taking a Social Education Work course. The objective of this course is to help those in our community who are most in need. I've been working with a family selected by the project. I was able to obtain permanent and free consultations with a local Danli doctor for them, and also some needed food supplies. We know how difficult it is for many to go to work during the pandemic. The class teaches us how to help those most in need.

We are very grateful to the Manos Scholarship Program for the support shown to us during the difficult times we are facing. May God bestow many blessings on each and every one of you.

Sincerely,
Mario Ardon and Family

CRRC Thanksgiving needs

We have more families this year needing an extra boost that it takes to get through these hard times; they need a sense of normalcy when their reality is anything but. Some of the families we currently serve have never asked for a thing in their lives, and now they ask for food.

So in addition to food, we at CRRC are getting ready to hand them that boost! We are preparing the Thanksgiving turkey meal for them. We have a few already made but it came to a stop, because we ran out of stuffing! Along with stuffing mix, we still need canned green beans. The San Antonio Food Bank doesn't have it in their inventory at this time. So if you can help, please drop by Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with canned green beans, and boxed or bagged stuffing mix. And thank you, from the very bottom of our hearts--you are making an amazing impact on our Canyon Lake community!!

From our hearts to yours,
Camille Cooper, Resource
Program Director/Development
Director of CRRC of Canyon Lake

Thank you from Mary K. Chittenden

Dear St. Francis family,

I am so grateful to my church family! Thank you for all the love and support you gave me and Chitt over the past few years, but especially at the time of his passing. Your cards, prayers, visits, and phone calls have been such a comfort to me, and I'm very grateful for all your help.

Much love,
Mary K.



Thank you from Julie Chalk

Many thanks to our St. Francis family for your outpouring of love, cards, thoughts, calls, texts, condolences, and especially your prayers following the recent death of my father. Your support has brought us peace and comfort, and we have seen so many prayers answered during this challenging time. We remain grateful for each one of you and the care you have shown us and our family. With love and gratitude,

Julie & Fr. David Chalk
Thank you so very much!
Julie



Thanks from Mario Daniel

(See article on page 5.)



Mario Daniel & family.



Mario Daniel doing community service for college: helping a family during the pandemic.