



MISSION STATEMENT: Grand Traverse Area Catholic Schools are dedicated to providing a Catholic education ensuring educational quality for all families willing to enter into a partnership to develop each child to his or her fullest spiritual and academic potential.

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Deadline for submissions to this newsletter is Thursday @ 11:00 a.m.

Please email information for the SF newsletter to Kathy Hunt at khunt@gtacs.org

Please email information for system-wide distribution to Cathy Nelson at cnelson@gtacs.org

Christ – Above All Things

Fruit Orders Are Coming! Note pick up time is changed to earlier time.

If you are a 5th-12th grade band member or a high school choir member and sold fruit, you may pick up your order on Friday evening between 5-8 pm and Saturday morning between 9-10:30 am on the Kohler stage in the high school. The semi arrives at 3:15 today from Florida with our 5,000 lbs. of fresh oranges and grapefruits! Thank you for your support of this annual Band Booster fundraiser. Questions please email Maureen DeYoung at mdeyoung@gtacs.org or call Cherie Domine at 620-0041.

Kiwanis Student of the Month

Congratulations to Seth Kellicut for being chosen Kiwanis Student of the Month for December.

St. Francis Students for Life News

The St. Francis Students for Life group will be taking several students to Washington D.C. for the 39th Annual March for Life on January 22nd/23rd of 2012. This march has been established to support life principles are being violated by the 1973 Roe vs. Wade Supreme court decision. The March also speaks out against current governmental policies that violate what our Constitution calls "inalienable rights". SF Students for Life will be riding a tour bus to Washington D.C. with other groups around Traverse City. The Students for Life humbly ask for your financial support on this jean-day to cover travel costs to and from the march. For more information about the March for Life, look at their website at: <http://www.marchforlife.org/content/view/16/28/>. This will be a unique opportunity for the students to translate their classroom theology into political activism with around **200,000** other Americans that stand consistently for life. The numbers keep growing.

The First March 1974 20,000

March 1975 50,000

March 1976 65,000

Marches 1977-1998 Up to 100,000
The 25th March 1998 225,000
March 1999 125,000
March 2000 100,000
March 2001 225,000
March 2002 100,000
Marches 2003 - 2007 200,000

Books raise money for Mission Trip

Some students at St. Francis High School in Traverse City have found a unique way to earn money for their annual mission trip to Zambia. They have linked up with author Paul LaPorte who recently wrote and published ***"The Heart of a Priest,"*** a biography of Father Edwin Frederick.

In July, the students will spend about 18 days in Lusaka, Zambia, at the Kasisi Children's orphanage. (www.kasisichildren.org) While they are there, the students help with caring for the children in the orphanage as well as assisting with maintenance and building projects at the facility. David Peck, Social Studies teacher at St. Francis says, "As much as they give the orphanage, the students get more out of the trip than they give. They come back with their lives changed." This is the 2nd year Mr. Peck has taken a group to Zambia. Nineteen students will be accompanied by six adults, including Fr. Robbie Deka, a Zambian native who served at Immaculate Conception parish in Traverse City.

The biography of "Father Fred" was published in September and is enjoying robust sales. In the first sixteen weeks, nearly a thousand copies have been sold. Along with writing the book, LaPorte has promised to donate all the profits to enhance the work and advance the legacy of Father Fred. "This trip is such a wonderful expression of social justice," says LaPorte, "that we cannot wait to recover our costs before we begin donating to this project."

Father Fred, who died in 2000, served as Catholic chaplain at the Traverse City State Hospital for thirty years before he started The Father Fred Foundation, now a multi-million dollar social services organization and the largest food pantry in northern Michigan.

The hardcover edition of the book sells for \$30. Also available, for \$100, is a leather bound, signed and numbered collector's edition, limited to one hundred copies. For more information or to order a copy to benefit the Zambian Mission trip please email David Peck at dpeck@qtacs.org.

Photos available are:

- Book cover
- Photos from last year's trip
- David Peck portrait
- Paul LaPorte portrait

Trip to Italy June 2012

Mrs. Betty Leuenberger AP Psych teacher here at St. Francis is escorting and chaperoning students if they would like to join her on a 8 day trip to Italy from Florence, Orvito, Rome, Vatican City, Sistine Chapel and down to Pompeii. This will be the 5th time on this trip for her. If you are interested please contact Betty at bleuenberger@qtacs.org

Missing Black Skirts

The office is missing 2 black skirts from Express that we have loaned out to girls and have not had them returned. Could you please look around and see if they might be at your home.

Upcoming:

Week of Dec. 12 – Progress Reports go out

12/15 (Thursday) Reconciliation at SF Church @ 10:00 followed by Eucharistic Training for those students signed up.

12/16 (Friday) Late Start/Jean Day to benefit March on Life (Right to Life trip to D.C.)

12/22-1/2 – Christmas Break