



# St. Francis de Sales Parish 2017 ASP TEAM



Volume 3, Issue 1

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Nov/Dec 2016

## Upcoming Meetings and Events

Mass/Meeting

12/03/2016

5:30 pm Mass

St. Francis de Sales

Meeting After Mass

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Service Project

Christian Shelter

December 8, 2016

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Advent/Christmas Banners

December 7, 13, 20

St. Francis de Sales

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ASP Advisory Board

Meeting

December 28, 2016

6:30pm Rectory

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Mass/Meeting

01/07/2017 5:30 pm Mass

St. Francis de Sales

Meeting After Mass

(Mandatory)

“ACCEPT PEOPLE RIGHT  
WHERE THEY ARE AND  
JUST THE WAY THEY ARE

## ST. FRANCIS DE SALES ASP TEAM BACK AT WORK!

After a much needed summer break, the St. Francis de Sales ASP team is once again in full swing for the 2016 –2017 school year. During the month of September, two organizational meetings were held in the Barbara & Philip Long

Parish Center. Over 60 youth and 25 adults attended to learn more about this ministry. The group has already participated in numerous activities throughout the parish. SFdS ASP provided a large number of volunteers to help with this year's Riverside Carnival.

The group meets in the Parish Center on the first Saturday of every month after attending the 5:30 pm Mass. The meetings consist of a brief discussion lead by Father Solomon on what it means to serve and how service relates to our relationship with Christ. The group then participates in various team building exercises.

On October 8, 2016, the SFdS ASP group came together to build a ramp at the home of one of our parishioners. There was a steady rain all day but that did not deter the youth

from getting the job done. On November 5, 2016 the ASP/Boy Scout Parish Yard Sale was held. It was a great success thanks to our wonderful parish family. This is one of the biggest fundraisers we have all year long.



Throughout the Advent and Christmas season, the ASP team will be hanging the banners in the church. This is a great time to get comfortable with working off of ladders!

The SFdS ASP team will continue to work hard throughout the year. It is anticipated they will build at least two additional ramps before they depart

on their mission trip in June. The team will also be serving dinner once a month to the families in the Christian Shelter. After serving dinner, they will gather all the youth in the shelter for activities, crafts and devotions. The culminating activity of the year will be when the team will travel to West Virginia in June of 2017 to work on home repairs in the Appalachia Region.

ASP is an extended family where laughter is king. Where relationships matter. And where changing the lives of families and volunteers alike is the highest priority of all. ASP encourages people to act responsibly in the face of human need and injustice. By transforming faith into ASP service, volunteers respond

by putting aside their own needs and desires to serve the needs of others. No one walks away from the ASP experience unchanged. The results are truly amazing!

Please keep the SFdS ASP team in your thoughts and prayers. This mission would not be possible without the overwhelming support from our parish.

## Why Appalachia?

### The Height of Beauty, The Depths of Poverty



-Poverty rates more than double the national average

-One in Four people lives below the poverty level

-62,500 homes are substandard

-Nearly half of all families have an annual household income below \$20,000

#### ASP MEMBER HIGHLIGHT: EMILY GUTIERREZ



This past June, our St. Francis de Sales ASP Team traveled 594 miles from Salisbury, Maryland to Salyersville, Kentucky. I was anticipating many things; new people I would be living with and long, hard work days that were ahead of us. I looked forward to waking up in the morning and attending mass. It truly amazed me how our small 10 person congregation on Monday morning grew to a semi-circle that filled the room on Friday. My team, named Spaghetti Sort, ventured to our

job site on Day 1, and were introduced to our homeowner and her great-granddaughters. Throughout the week, my team and I spent time building friendships, building a new family, and building on our faith. With daily “devos” (devotionals) and share circles, everyone connected on a closer level, relating a lot of what we do to our relationships with God. Because our home had small rooms, we all took turns doing different things. Time at the house was split between cutting drywall and playing tag with 4-year-old Kinlee. By the end of the week it not only felt good to get a lot of things done for this family, but it was also emotional to have to leave such wonderful people. On the second Saturday of the trip our St. Francis team headed back to Maryland, stopping for the night at Holy Family Catholic Church in Pearisburg, VA. That evening, after everyone attended mass, Fr. Solomon led us to share just one thing from the past few days that we were going to take with us. Coming away from an experience like that with a whole book of stories, I didn’t know how I could have just one thing to

share. Getting to bond with people, nature, and insulation were all memorable moments of my trip. After deliberating which single lesson to present to the circle, I decided to share that I am working on patience. This virtue is one that helped most of us carry on during the weeks, and even months, of ASP. That week I learned to put more trust in the Lord because He knows the route, I just have to listen to the directions. Someone very wise made me realize that I just have to leave the things that are out of my control to God and not try to work too hard. Playing with Kinlee gave me a chance to step back from the work for a little while and enjoy the time we had. At the end of the day I know that she was happy to have so many friends to play with, but she was really changing our attitudes and making us happy to have her too. Participating in Appalachia Service Project was the chance for me to give my time, my heart, and my faith to a new family of mine. Overall, my trip has immensely strengthened my faith in God and brought me closer to people who are on this journey with me.

#### Sponsors Needed

Each team member is required to obtain \$350.00 in sponsor money. If you would like to sponsor a team member in full or in part, please call the parish office or email Joe Flanagan at [jflanagan771@gmail.com](mailto:jflanagan771@gmail.com)

