



DOCUMENT ON HUMAN DIGNITY FROM POPE FRANCIS, PART III:

On March 25th, the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith issued a declaration on human dignity entitled, *Dignitas Infinita*.

It was signed by Pope Francis, so it enters our Church's ordinary teaching. If you would like to read the document, please use this link to the Vatican website:

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2024/04/08/240408c.html>

Last week I attempted to explain why the final section of this document might engender frustration and disagreement, focusing on how one's philosophical worldview impacts one's understanding of the nature of knowledge, reality, and existence. I illustrated how two philosophical worldviews come into conflict when interpreting this document by noting that the Church's philosophical worldview is theocentric (God-centered) whereas contemporary Western society's philosophical worldview is nearly always anthropocentric (person-centered). What does this mean? It raises the question of who or what is the source of ultimate truth: God or ourselves? Theology or experience? While contemporary Catholic theology accepts the importance of the individual as a thinking, rational person capable of knowing truth and the importance of personal experience, these are not the sources of ultimate truth when teaching at the doctrinal level (although the Church does acknowledge that, under certain circumstances and after serious investigation and discernment, someone may take exception to a doctrine).

The issues tackled in the final section of this document encompass a wide spectrum. Some of them are more likely than others to engender passion and commitment whether it be on the conservative or liberal side. Some examples would include: increased poverty, the travail of migrants, and the horror of war, the tragedy of abortion, the growing acceptance of euthanasia, gender theory, and sex change. Some topics are more universally embraced by both sides: growth of violence in society, sexual abuse, violence against women, human trafficking, and the marginalization of those with disabilities.

Depending on one's philosophical worldview, any number of examples used in this document will meet with a multiplicity of perspectives. All the issues presented are complex, defying simple answers. That it took five years for this document to reach promulgation is a testimony to this complexity and the care that was taken to address the topics in a way that was theologically and pastorally sound in order to receive the approval of Pope Francis. Theology, science, and human experience were all taken into consideration in the creation of this document.

I am sure the examples presented in the final portion of this document will continue to be debated for many years to come. As they are taken up into debate, it will be important to remember that all involved in the discussion are of infinite dignity. Without this essential grounding, we miss the most important teaching of *Dignitas Infinita*.

-Fr. Michael

May 11-12 & May 18-19 Memorial Day Mass - Roll Call for Deceased Veterans

The Knights of Columbus will be collecting names for an Honor Roll of deceased veterans before and after Mass. Please share the names of your loved ones who served in the military and have since passed. Veterans will be remembered at the Memorial Day Mass, May 27, at 9:00am [Register here](#). Contact Mike Wrzesien, wrzesien1963@gmail.com.

May 16 - Daily Mass Coffee Connections!

Join us Thursday, May 16 at 9:45am for Coffee after daily Mass in Padua. It will be a time to visit with fellow parishioners to celebrate as we continue to walk this journey of faith together as a community dedicated to our Franciscan heritage. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

May 18 - The 26th Annual NC March for Life

12:30-3:50pm. Join other pro-life groups and individuals for the NC Right to Life Rally & March for Life this May! The youth rally begins at 12:45pm, then the main rally at 1:30pm, followed by the march afterwards. The starting location is Halifax Mall, the grassy area behind the NC General Assembly Building. [Click here for more info](#). Contact info@ncrtl.org.

2023-2024 Fiscal Year Offertory Status

	April Total	Year to Date	Budget Goal
	\$361,123.90	\$3,519,079.90	\$4,196,509.05
Growth %		2.2%	4.0%
Current estimated 6/30/24 budget deficit:			\$69,769.43

Interesting Financial Factoid: Did you know that we have 5,399 registered families in the Parish? Of that, 49.8% participate in donating towards Offertory.

Please note we have Text-To-Give and QR Code options for people who would like to make a one-time donation to the Church. Your support is appreciated by the ministries that serve our community. Thank You. [Please Click Here to Give](#)



Scan the QR code to give

Text-to-Give: From your smartphone screen, create a new message. Click the "To:" field and enter 919-629-1199. Enter the dollar amount then tap the link to complete your gift. Register your credit/debit card.

To learn about all our giving options, [click here](#).

A click away If you are receiving a paper copy, visit the parish website at www.stfrancisraleigh.org

[Website](#) / [Realm](#) / [St. Francis Serves](#) / [Prayer Request](#) / [Listing of Prayers of the Faithful](#)
[KBL series](#) / [Bulletins](#) / [Employment Opportunities](#) / [St. Francis TV](#) / [Giving](#) / [Feed the Need](#)
[Staff](#) / [Parishioner Business Ads](#) / [Franciscan School](#) / [Preschool](#) / [All Ministries](#)



May 18-19 Wear Red on Pentecost weekend!

All are invited to wear RED at all Masses on Pentecost weekend as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit! Contact Kathy Sales, kathy.sales@stfrancisraleigh.org.

May 18 - Corral Riding Academy Saturday on the Farm

9:30am-12:00pm. CORRAL Riding Academy is a faith-motivated nonprofit serving adolescent girls in high-risk situations through a long-term, holistic program of equine therapy and education. Join us for hands-on projects to support the Kildaire campus, learn more about CORRAL's mission and programs! Families welcome! [Register here](#). Contact Donna Schwede, donna.schwede@gmail.com.

May 19 - Always God's Children

3:30-5:00pm. A confidential setting for those who identify as LGBTQ+, along with family and friends. This gathering provides a safe place to pray together, share our experiences, and talk over our concerns. Contact Stacey Shine at Stacey.Shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

May 28 - Journey with Jesus in Mark

Join us for "Journey with Jesus in Mark," a Discipleship Study of Mark's Gospel to encounter Jesus, experience his love, and hear his call to follow him by practicing the discipleship habits reading and praying with Scripture. Tuesdays, starting May 28-July 23 at [morning session \(10-11:30am\)](#) or [evening session \(7-8:30pm\)](#). Contact Jay Landry jay.landry@stfrancisraleigh.org.

May 30 - Music Ministry Concert 7:00-8:30pm

Join us in the church as we celebrate another great year of liturgical music at St. Francis. Featuring our children and adult choirs. Contact jim.wahl@stfrancisraleigh.org.

June 1- July 28: Summer Men's 18+ Adult Basketball League

This is open to Men age 18 or older. Registration is TEAM BASED. Players will form their own teams and submit a team registration. There will also be the ability to register as a free agent. Games will be held on Saturdays and Sundays in June and July. [Info and registration](#). Contact Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org.

June 2 and 5 - Lector Formation and Training

All lectors and those interested in becoming a lector are strongly encouraged to attend one of the upcoming formation and re-training sessions held on [Sunday, June 2](#) from 10:15a-12:15p or [Wednesday, June 5](#) from 6:30p-8:30p. Registration via Realm: Sunday, June 2nd or Wednesday, June 5th. Please contact Kathy Sales, kathy.sales@stfrancisraleigh.org. 919-847-8205x488

June 3-July 25: Youth Volleyball League Registration.

Registration Closes May 17 for Coed League for children of all skill levels - rising 3rd graders through rising 9th graders. Teams have an hour practice on Mon. or Wed. Games are held on Thurs. nights. For more Information and to Register: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/athletics/> Contact: Mary.Arleth@stfrancisraleigh.org.

Parishioner Owned Businesses Ad Page

Support our local parishioner-owned businesses
To advertise email: diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org
Link: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/parishioner-businesses/>

June 6 - Women's Ministry Happy Hour at Zinc House

6:30-8:30pm. Women's Ministry Summer Happy Hour Thursday June 6th, 6:30-8:30pm at ZincHouse Winery & Brewery (6225 Wake Forest Hwy, Durham). We'll provide light fare, fellowship and fun! Beverages and an on site food truck for purchase. We'll scope a spot, weather and space dependent; find us at the green balloons. [Register here](#).

June 6 - Daily Mass Coffee Connections!

Join us Thursday, June 6 at 9:45am for Coffee after daily Mass in Padua. It will be a time to visit with fellow parishioners to celebrate as we continue to walk this journey of faith together as a community dedicated to our Franciscan heritage. Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

June 9 - Fr. Jim's 25th Anniversary

Fr. Jim's 25th Anniversary: Join us on Sunday, June 9 between 10am-11:45am in Clare Fellowship Hall to celebrate Fr. Jim's 25th Anniversary of his ordination. If you would like to volunteer to bring food, please scan the QR code or [link here](#). Contact stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.

June 10-14, June 17-21, July 8-12, July 15-19, July 22-26

Camp Francis is our popular summer camp, and has lots of cool opportunities in athletics, technologies, arts and various enrichment areas! Camps are half day or full day based on age for the 2024-2025 school year. (Rising K-Rising 8th grade) Contact Ashley Watson, Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org Contact Phone 919-847-8205 ext. 444
Registration Link: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/camp-francis/>

Camp Francis Explorers Counselors in Training

An opportunity for teens (rising 9th-12th grade) interested in developing leadership skills and working with children. They will work with other C.I.T.s and Camp Staff. They are to look at themselves as role models for the campers they will be working with. For information and to apply. Contact Ashley Watson, Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org.

June 17 - 21 Mercy Camp

8:00am-3:00pm . Rising 6th – 9th graders! Come join us for Mercy Camp!

July 8 - 12 Mission Mercy

8:30am-9:00pm. Rising 10th graders through College Freshmen! Join us for Mission Mercy!

For more information and to register for Mercy Camp or Mission Mercy visit: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/service-camps/>
Contact Becky Cawley, becky.cawley@stfrancisraleigh.org.

New Ministry Interest We are looking to create a new ministry involving our special need members in our community and their families. This ministry would give them meaningful opportunities for socialization through prayerful interaction and service within the community. If interested please contact Scott Pias at scotttail@icloud.com or 337-526-6420.

Employment Opportunities:

[Preschool Teacher Assistant \(Part-time\) – two-year old classrooms](#)
[Preschool Before and After school program workers](#)
[Middle School Formation Coordinator](#) See our website: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>
Contact Trish Adamkowski, trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org

If you can't access information through the hyperlink because you do not use the internet, please call the office to get information. (919) 847-8205

Monsignor Clay's Retirement Reception

Join us as we say good-bye to Father Michael at a Reception in his Honor following Mass on Saturday, May 18th at 6:30pm and Sunday, May 19th at 10:10am in Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to volunteer to bring food, please scan the QR Code.

If you would like to offer Fr. Michael a monetary gift in gratitude for his service as our pastor and to assist him with expenses related to his transition to retirement, please make checks payable to "Michael Clay."

For more information please contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org



2024

SAVE THE DATE
BACCALAUREATE MASS
FOR ALL
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI
SUNDAY JUNE 2, 2024
5:30 PM MASS

MEET IN THE GATHERING
SPACE TO JOIN THE
PROCESSION WEARING
YOUR CAP AND GOWN

Funerals at St. Francis

Would you like to be notified in advance of upcoming funerals at St. Francis? If so, please contact Joan Port, joankport@gmail.com and include "Funeral Notices" in the subject line.



Click to view - 1 min.

We Need You

There are a number of ways to become involved and help support our celebration of the Mass.

As liturgy is the "work of the people," we are in need of liturgical ministers in all areas.

[Click here for the Interest Form or scan the QR Code](#)



Lector Training

Sunday, June 2nd 10:15am - 12:15pm in Founders
Wednesday, June 5th 6:30pm - 8:30pm in Fellowship

Please fill out the Interest Form before attending the training. Thank you!

WEDDING
COORDINATOR

CROSS BEARER
(AGES 14+ YEARS)

EUCHARIST
MINISTER

HOSPITALITY
MINISTER
(GREAT FAMILY OPTION)

ADULT AND
YOUTH LECTOR
(AGES 13+ YEARS)

MASS
COORDINATOR

TECHNICAL
MINISTER



**Explore all the
Volunteer Opportunities
at St. Francis through
St. Francis Serves**

[Click here for volunteer ministry and service, St. Francis Serves.](#)

Contact Dina DaRe at


dina.dare@stfrancisraleigh.org

[Need help getting started? Click here.](#)

Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregiver Support Group

Are you exhausted and mentally drained?

You are NOT alone! We are a group of caregivers on the same journey at different levels. Our meetings are a safe place to cry, laugh and to support each other. We meet the first Wed of every month at 1:00pm in the Padua Room. Contact Kathleen Boate, kboate@msn.com.

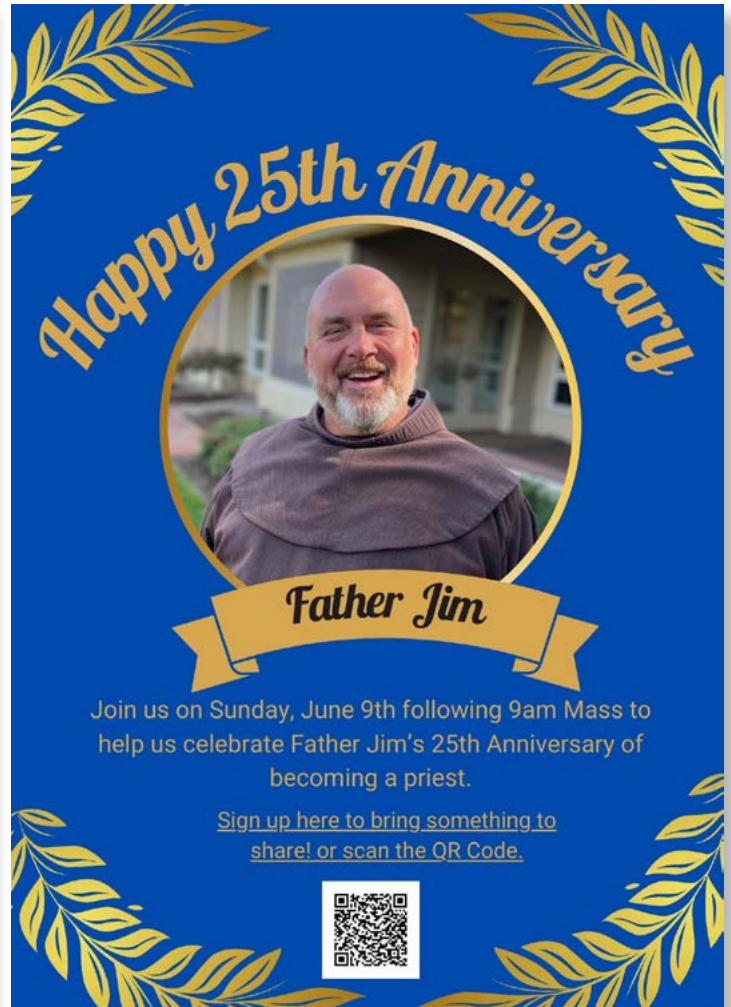


JOURNEY WITH JESUS IN MARK
 You are the beloved of God!
 Join us to encounter Jesus in Mark, experience his love, and grow in the discipleship habit of reading & praying with Scripture.

St. Francis of Assisi Church invites you to journey with Jesus in Mark through Scripture, prayer, video and discussion. Come when you can!

Bring friends and Bibles! Register in Realm: [Morning Session](#) or [Evening Session](#)
 Questions? Reach out to Jay Landry: jay.landry@stfrancisraleigh.org
 (919)847-8205 x239

The same session is offered:
 Tuesdays
 10-11:30 am
 or
 7:00-8:30pm
 May 28 through July 23
 in Fellowship Hall



Happy 25th Anniversary

Father Jim

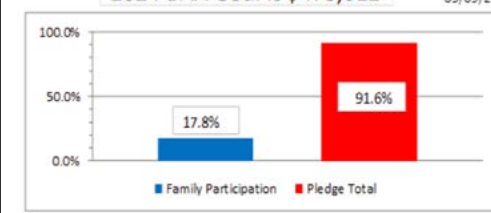
Join us on Sunday, June 9th following 9am Mass to help us celebrate Father Jim's 25th Anniversary of becoming a priest.

[Sign up here to bring something to share!](#) or scan the QR Code.

Bishop's Annual Appeal

	2024 Campaign (5/9/24)		2023 Campaign (5/4/23)	
Goal:	\$473,612		\$473,565	
Pledge Total:	\$433,982	91.6%	\$406,223	85.3%
Received Total:	\$392,3840	82.8%	\$367,690	77.6%
Participating Families:	963	17.8%	1000	18.2%
Total Families:	5,400		5,500	
To-Go:	\$39,630	TYT we are ahead on giving but falling behind on participation.		

2024 BAA Goal is \$473,612 Data as of 05/09/24



40% of donations above our goal are returned to St. Francis to support our ministries

Go to givetobaa.org and follow the prompts to make a one-time donation, set up a pledge or become a SUSTAINER with a recurring gift. Make sure to select Saint Francis of Assisi as your parish affiliation. [Click here to give](#). Contact Stacey Shine, stacey.shine@stfrancisraleigh.org.



Society of St. Vincent dePaul
 In need of Assistance?
 Call: (919) 534-4842
 Leave a message and a Caller Intake Specialist will contact you shortly.

St. Vincent dePaul Assistance Cards
 Cards are available for hand-out to those in need on our campus at the Church Reception Desk. We ask each parishioner to take one card, offering them only on our campus. Each card offers the SVdP intake-line phone number. Thank you for helping connect our community to needed resources!



[Click Here for Stories from the St. Vincent de Paul Society](#)
 Contact Sharon Winzeler, swinzeler@gmail.com