

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church  
Holy Doors of Mercy  
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

5102 Dabney Street  
Houston, Texas 77026  
Phone: 713-672-7773  
Fax: 713-673-1913



“No one is excluded  
from God’s mercy.”

Pope Francis

The Holy Father has stated  
that in order to receive a  
Jubilee Indulgence, passage through a Holy Door  
of Mercy must be linked with:

- Receive the Sacrament of Penance (Confession).
- Attend Holy Mass.
- Reflect on God’s Mercy, e.g., pray the Jubilee Prayer ending with “Merciful Jesus, I trust in You.”
- Recite the Profession of Faith (Apostle’s Creed).
- Pray for the Holy Father and his intentions.

**Spiritual Works of Mercy**

Counsel the doubtful  
Instruct the ignorant  
Admonish sinners  
Comfort the afflicted  
Forgive offenses  
Bear wrongs patiently  
Pray for the living and the dead

**Corporal Works of Mercy**

Feed the hungry  
Give to the thirsty  
Clothe the naked  
Shelter the homeless  
Visit the sick  
Visit the imprisoned  
Bury the dead



September 1950

**St. Francis of Assisi  
Catholic Church  
History**

June 2016



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ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.

Where there is injury, pardon.

Where there is doubt, faith.

Where there is despair, hope.

Where there is darkness, light.

Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I may  
not so much seek to be consoled,

as to console; to be understood,

as to understand; to be loved,

as to love. For it is in giving

that we receive. It is in

pardonning that we are

pardoned, and It is in dying

that we are born to

Eternal Life. Amen.



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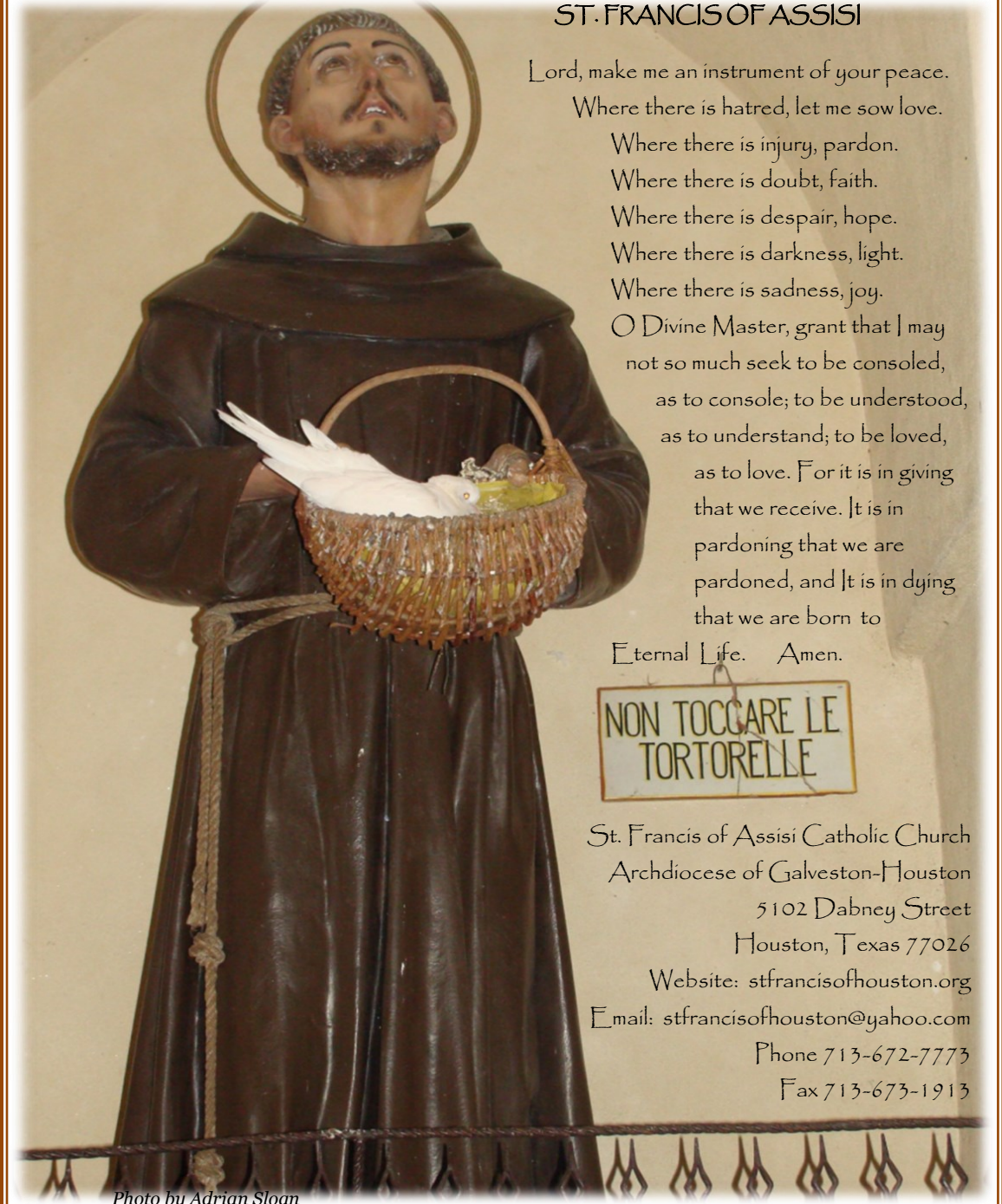
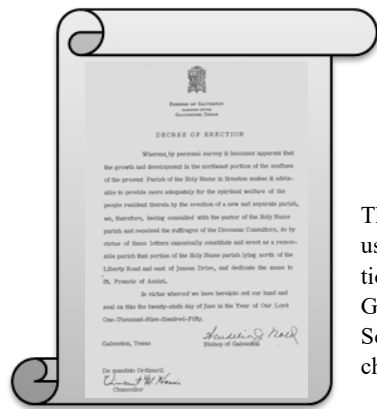


Photo by Adrian Sloan





This **Crucifix** was used in Mass celebrations at Kashmere Gardens Elementary School, while the church was being built.

**June 26, 1950** Bishop Wendelin J. Nold signed a Decree of Erection establishing **St. Francis of Assisi Parish at 5102 Dabney St., Houston, Texas 77026.** St. Francis of Assisi Church was founded in September 1950. The original congregation was 700 families of 60 percent Czech descent and 40 percent from other European backgrounds. As these families moved out of the neighborhood and Black families migrated in, the demographics of the parish slowly changed. Today, African Americans are the predominant group with Hispanics, Asians, and Caucasians as minorities.

**October 17, 1965** These

The **sanctuary lamp** above the altar was salvaged from the old St. Mary's Orphanage, Galveston, Texas, that was destroyed in the Great Hurricane of 1900. A gift from the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, legend says that a cluster of sisters and orphans were found dead huddled under the sanctuary lamp.



The Knights of Peter Claver was introduced to the Parish of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in 1981 by Knight Clarence Gallien. The Establishment of Council #231 was conducted by Texas State Deputy Larry Bell on Sunday, February 7, 1982.



**The Marian Chapel**  
The chapel dedicated to Mother and Child has representative artworks from many ethnic and racial groups. Monsignor Patrick Wells collected artwork, numbering 25 pieces, over several years. The Marian Chapel is used for daily Masses.



**The Daughters of Divine Love of Nigeria** joined the parish community to serve as teachers, ministers of the Eucharist, choir members, lectors, catechists and ministers to the infirmed.



A tapestry of "Our Mother of Africa" hangs in the northwest corner of the main sanctuary.



The **Cry Room** is dedicated to St. Joseph. Several prints of St. Joseph and Jesus are on the west wall.



Catholic Charismatic Fellowship Community is called to help "Holy Mother Church" proclaim the Good News.



The school was completed and first opened in September 1955. The following month, the convent was completed.

Following the 2001 flood, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word donated the modular building located behind the church. The north wing is the St. Vincent de Paul Food



Pantry and the south wing is the St. Josephine Bakhita Faith and Fellowship Center. A picture and sacred relic of Saint Josephine Bakhita are present.



As you enter the church, the south vestibule is the **Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi**. The walls are covered with pictures of Black saints and the founders of religious orders. The area was refurbished by the generosity of Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth D. Wells.

Priests & Principals	
1950—1970 Rev. John A. Cummings	1955—1958 Sr. Winifred Kennelly
1971—1973 Rev. Robert A. Blankenstein	1958—1962 Sr. Placidus Rouine
1974—1975 Rev. Alfred A. Greenwald	1962—1963 Sr. Consuelo Coffey
1976—1977 Rev. T. Joseph Culver	1963—1971 Sr. Corona Farrell
1978—1989 Rev. Marion L. Polker	1972—1976 Sr. Ignatius O'Brien
1989-1990 Rev. Michael Doerflein, OFM	1976—1982 Sr. Kathleen Daly
1991—1993 Rev. Thomas Miller, C.S.Sp.	1982—1987 Sr. Margaret Ann Toomey
1993—2006 Rev. Msgr. Patrick R. Wells	1987—2000 Miss Stephanie Murphy
2006 —2009 Rev. Romanus Muoneke	Aug 2000-Dec 2000 Mrs. Johnye Ridley
2009—2016 Rev. Edmund Nnadozie, MSP	2001—2011 Dr. Clarice Campbell
2016—Present Rev. Martin Eke, MSP	2011—2013 Mrs. Diane Zuccarini
	2013—2014 Mr. Martin Garza
	2014—Present Mr. Greg Gomez



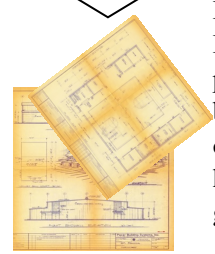
**October 5, 1952**  
Outdoor statue of St. Francis of Assisi, a gift from Mrs. George Sodden of Houston.



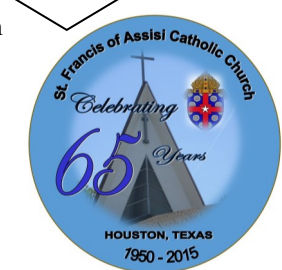
**St. Francis of Assisi School** opened under the direction of Sr. Winifred Kennelly C.C.V.I., the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word.



**October 17, 1965** Instead of a traditional style steeple, the top of the church was designed to resemble a cowl (capuche), the pointed hood worn by monks.



Father Marion Polker began plans for building the current parish hall/ gymnasium.



### Holy Doors of Mercy



December 12, 2015 November 12, 2016