

How does this turn affect St. Francis' future? Well, the roller keeps on rolling, slowly, deliberately, inch-by-inch. And here's where we go from here.

St. Francis Neighborhood Center stays on Whitelock Street. All the services which St. Francis provides will continue: Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, Narcotics Anonymous meetings, the St. Francis Dental Health Service, the St. Francis Mobile Dental Service, the St. Francis Bible School, the worship service on Sunday mornings, the hospital visits, the counselling, the neighborhood presence - - all have been started and nourished at great price, and will continue. St. Francis will keep serving the people of the neighborhood and the City, apart (unhappily) from the affiliation with the Jesuit Order or any local church entity. We are a Christian

Community in the Catholic Tradition. We have been this since 1963, and there's no cause to stop now.



Over the years, you have been supportive of our work here on Whitelock Street with your prayers, encouragement, and financial contributions. The work still goes on and we ask that you continue helping our community in that endeavor.

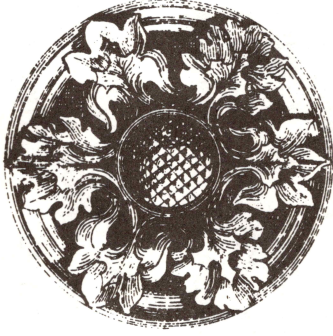


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An update: many people have written that there's been no news since Spring. Well, our Bible School this summer for about twenty-five children was again a success. I was pleased that Debbie Hill and her staff were able to bring out of our kids an untapped reservoir of talent. A neighborhood like this can be so

destructive of innate talent. It was a source of hope to see what really is there.

~~On the down side~~ On the down side, the drug situation in this area is worsening (as probably everywhere). The corner of Brookfield and Whiteclock seems to be a magnet for dealers and buyers from much of the East coast. We have been declared a "drug-free zone" which allows for special attention from law enforcement. The City, however, suffers from insufficient numbers of police. Our only weapon, nonetheless, is continued and unified pressure in the form of calls to 911.

~~On the up side~~ On the up side, our AA and NA groups have increased in size and frequency of meetings. We

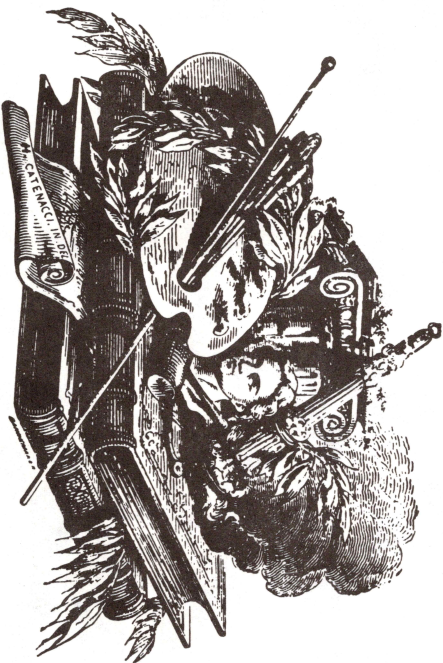


I could not find it in myself to abandon this mission and its people to whom I had promised my commitment almost twenty-five years ago. I delayed. I discussed. I telephoned. I negotiated. I prayed. I struggled. I wrote letters. I slept a disturbed sleep. All this eventuated in my decision to remain here at St. Francis. The alternative was the demise of the mission.



Dear Friends.

Over the past two or so years, the Jesuits, my staff, and myself have been engaged in strong and difficult discussion over my continued presence here on Whitelock Street. The decision was made by the Jesuits to order me assigned to New York, with no intention of allowing my return here. No one would be sent in my place. The ultimatum required me either to leave St. Francis or be dismissed from the Society of Jesus - - - no easy course in either case.



now have five meetings a week. John has more patients both in our Dental Office and in the Mobile practice. We have also been able to offer comfort, information and direction to people who are trying to live with cancer.

All this means that we are really serving people who wouldn't otherwise be served. It pleases us that St. Francis' dedication to serve those who fall through the cracks is succeeding.

Please enjoy the Fall - - - the colors and the cool weather. Keep us in your prayers. Sometimes what looks like a road-block is really a road-sign pointing to the road less taken.

Blessings & Prayers -

Fr. Tom, John,  
Ebbie & Carol



**ST FRANCIS  
NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER**



FALL 90

**St. Francis Neighborhood Center**

**936 Whitelock Street**

**Baltimore, Maryland 21217**

*Rev. Thomas Composto*

*John K. Taylor, III*

*Directors*

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