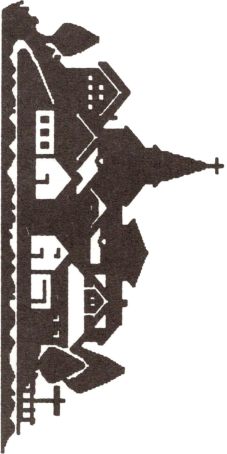


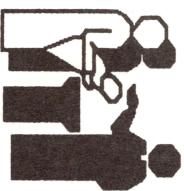
tion, we offered selected, more salutary alternatives to the city. Bishop Ricard, three Council members, the President of the City Council, and the Planning Board encouraged our efforts; so we are moving to develop and implement plans.

We are firm in the conviction that any change must preserve the necessities of life for the working people of our neighborhood whose travel alternatives are limited. Our large senior population fits here.

Another development for the Center, strongly encouraged by Bishop Ricard, is



the intensifying of collaboration among members of the St. Francis Community. By the end of the century, there will be half as many active priests as there are today. Christian communities will need new models for leadership.



St. Francis is such a model. The responsibility for the directions of service, and the means to do it are no longer solely John's and mine. Others have undertaken the work necessary to continue the life of the Center. The future is on the way.

Time-Lines:

Sarah was seven in August. Rachel was five in July. Jenny was seven in July. The Center is 25 this year. It was started in 1963. I am 50 years old. I was started in 1938. I am 20 years a priest: vintage, 1968.

Reflecting Corner:

One of the things we reflect on here at St. Francis is the notion of "Mitzvah," which is often interpreted as "blessing." It really has an added note: that the blessing touches both the blessing and the blessed. It has hooks in both directions.

I was called to baptize a hydrocephalic baby, with heart defects and other spinal anomalies. This baby is totally helpless. Relies on his mother and father, tubes, drip regulators, IV's, nurses, doctors, and other ancillaries. (One of these least . . .?) He's merely a week in the world. Three weeks a preemie. And yet, I came away with such a sense of peace. I didn't look for it. I just came away with it. And all for reaching out to



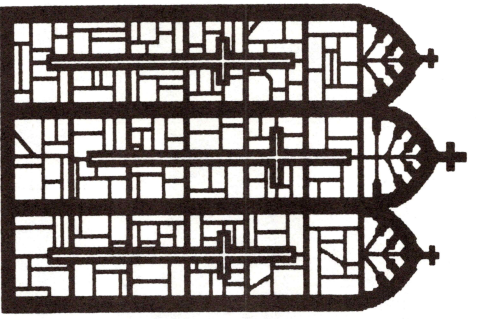
Our Summer School this summer was top-flight. Deborah Hill, John Enoch and Dave Baker were the prime runners, with many volunteers from the neighborhood to assist. We had over fifty children for five hours a day, five days a week, for five weeks. (Try 555. Who knows? Send 10%.)



John and Dr. Rita Kurek, his associate, have been spending many hours with the St. Francis Mobile Dental Service. Baltimore's homebound have realized the value of our service and have been calling for it more and more.

A super exciting new direction for the Center is its involvement in neighborhood planning. The city, in a spurt of creative demolition, elected to erase sections of Whitelock Street. With high Judeo-Christian and Sicilian motiva-

What's New:



Well, St. Francis is at it again. We didn't write a brochure in the Spring because we were inundated with work. There were classes, preparations for the Summer Bible School, an increase in business for John, and new developments for the Center.

First, we'd like to thank all of you who sent gifts to us in the Spring and early Summer, and wondered what happened to the news from here. No, aliens did not cart us off in a Chrichton-Sphere. We're here and grateful for your gifts and concern.

My Death and Dying classes led to the writing of a long article in *The Italian Times* (a *Time*-style magazine published here in Baltimore) on what happens when it nears the time to turn up one's clogs. **(Rave reviews with a movie contract offer.)** I can send you a copy of the magazine, if you'd like.

a little creature whose only attribute is existence. . . .

No logic here. This little baby with no reputation, no money, no power, and only the most tenuous hold on life reached my spirit. How different from the chase for what the world holds dear. How surprising where success resides.



We hope your summer was pleasant. Our prayers for peace and success during the coming Fall season, with a special New Year prayer for our Jewish brothers and sisters.

Fr. Tom & Mary

Paul & Ann : Deb

ST FRANCIS NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER



FALL 88

St. Francis Neighborhood Center

936 Whitelock Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21217

Rev. Thomas Composto, SJ John K. Taylor, III

Directors

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