



CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

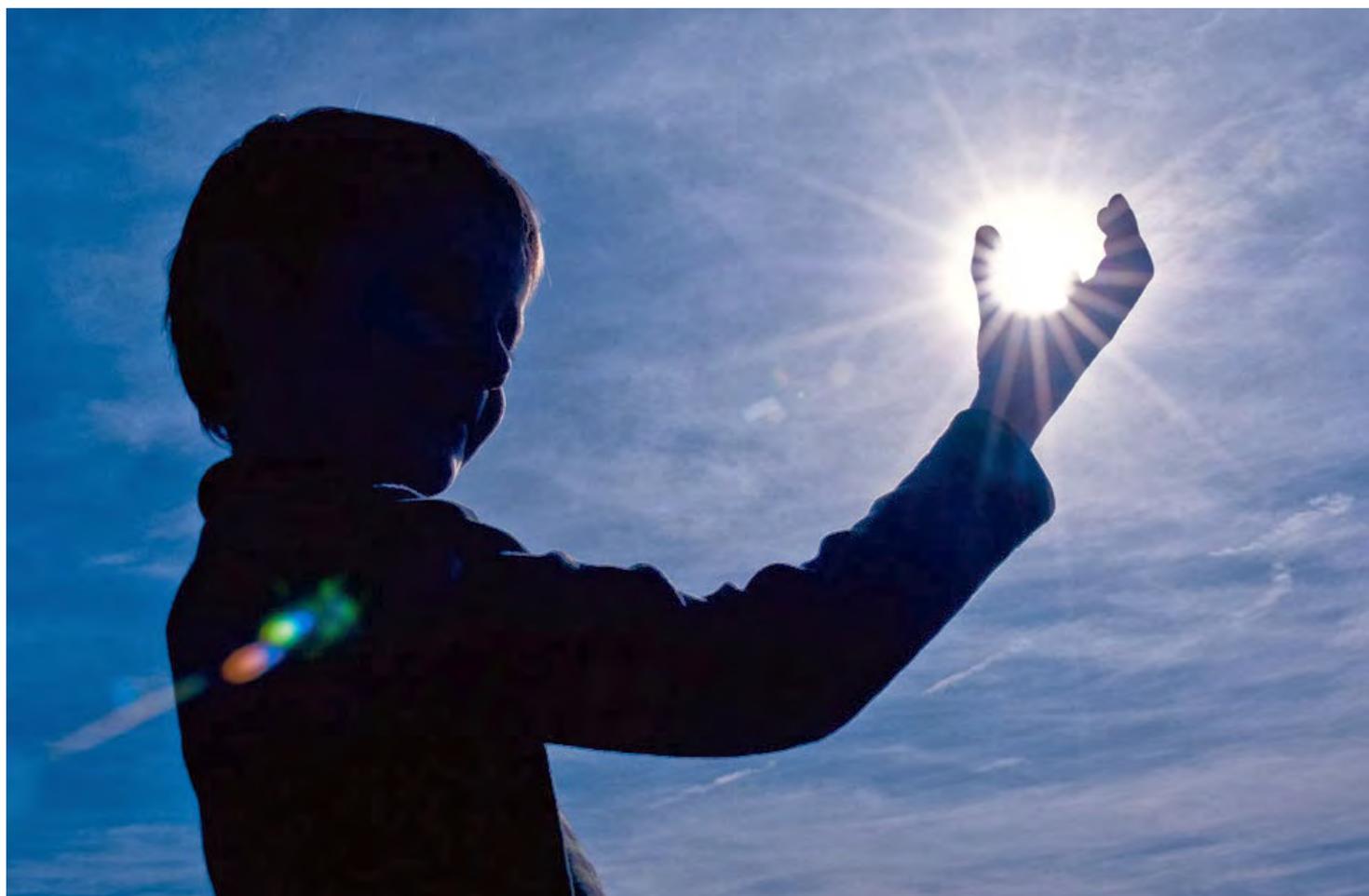
A JESUIT APOSTOLATE

West 16th Street, NYC • Phone: 212-627-2100 • Fax: 212-675-6997

Mailing Address: 55 West 15th Street, New York, NY 10011-6801

(Wheelchair Accessible 55 West 15th Street - All Masses are Handicapped Accessible)

E-Mail Address: StFrancisXavier@sfxavier.org • Website: www.sfxavier.org



Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness.
(Eph 5:9)

SPECIAL COLLECTION
to benefit the Catholic Relief Services

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 26, 2017

Eucharist

Main Church

Saturday: 12:05 pm, 5:00 pm (Vigil)

Sunday Masses: 9:00 am (Family Mass), 11:30 am, 5:00 pm

Weekday Masses: 7:45 am, 12:05 pm

(All Masses are Handicapped Accessible)

Sacraments

Please call the office for information about
Baptism, Marriages & other needs.

Sick or Hospitalized

Please notify the office of parishioners who are
ill or in the hospital so that they can be included
in our prayers or be visited.

New Parishioners

Welcome! To register, please stop by the office
and fill out a registration form or register online at
www.sfxavier.org

Staff

Rev. Robert VerEecke, S.J. (Pastor) — 204

Email: RVerееcke@sfxavier.org

Cassandra Agredo (Executive Dir. Xavier Mission) — 208

Luz Marina Díaz (Dir. of Religious Education) — 207

Stephanie Fuentes (Assistant to the Pastor) — 222

Moraima Hernandez (Plant Manager) - 201

James Martinez (Dir. of Stewardship and
Assistant for Financial Planning) - 205

Gregory Timmes (Assistant Dir. of Business) - 201

Damely Tineo (Dir. of Business) - 221

Rev. Sean Toole, S.J. (Associate Pastor) - 206
Receptionist — 201

John Uehlein (Dir. of Music Ministries) — 202

Pastoral Council

Jack Schmitt (Chair); Adel O'Regan (Vice-Chair);
Deborah Olley Murphy (Secretary); Stephen Alfieri;
Kathleen Cagnina; John Karle;

Bob Lepisko; Charles Mileski;

Catherine O'Hagan Wolfe; David Pais

PastoralCouncil@sfxavier.org

Mission Statement

The Church of St. Francis Xavier, a
Roman Catholic parish in the Jesuit
tradition, strives to be a prophetic,
welcoming community, and an
inclusive witness to the presence of
Christ Jesus in our midst. Mindful of
our utter reliance on God, and need
for God's grace, we rejoice together
in our celebration of the sacraments
and proclamation of the Gospel.

As a people of hope, we commit ourselves through
prayerful and creative discernment to respond to
God in our time by: Being a respectful community
Where seekers and their questions are welcomed,
Where injustice is challenged, Where the poor, the
alienated and the marginalized find a home,
And where people are refreshed,
reconciled and renewed.



OFFICE HOURS

Weekdays: 10:00 am to 7:30 pm

Saturday: 11:30 am to 6:00 pm

Sunday: 8:30 am to 6:00 pm

NOTE: for Bulletin Notices and Space Requests send
e-mails to sfuentes@sfxavier.org

**Deadline for bulletin copy—all copy should be in the office
by 4:00 pm on Monday afternoon.**

**Confessions are offered
Saturdays from 1:00pm-2:00pm**

**To make an appointment for
confession please call Parish Office.**

**Note: You must be a registered parishioner for a mini-
mum of six months before qualifying for a
sponsor letter to be verified as a parishioner.**

Next Weekend Presider Schedule

Saturday, April 1st

5:00pm Mass(Vigil): *Rev. Robert VerEecke, SJ*

Sunday, April 2nd

9:00am Mass: *Rev. Samuel Sawyer, SJ*

11:30am Mass: *Rev. Robert VerEecke, SJ*

5:00pm Mass: *Rev. Robert VerEecke, SJ*

PRAYER REQUESTS

Let us especially, remember those
who have asked for our prayers

*Maria Antonia Araujo, June Best, Antonio Bird,
John Bucki SJ, Philip Brassel, Alex Campbell, Normita Crystal,
Carol Davis, Florence Demopoulis, Charmaine Diehl,
Ellie DiLiberto, Margaret English, Joaquin Gager,
Victor Gaston, Monsignor Neil Graham,
Fr. Thomas Kallumady, Robert Lapides, June LeBell,
Molly Mae LeBlanc, Marian Lizzio, Albert Longo, Greg
Lugliani, Lou Mauro SJ, Kay Mazzo, John McCarthy, Ron
Miller, Nicole Minson, Marisol Miro, Kathy Mulvaney,
Leticia Mutuc, Lillian May Reilly Palmer, Campbell Phillips,
Jim Reidy, William Reilly, Vivian Roth, Dr. Michael Silane,
Bert Sisco, Rocco Scura, Alice Sharkey, Amando Solero,
Sal Talarico, Loretta Tommasulo, Gregory Turner, Rita Velez,
Carl Wassmann*

Pray for the peaceful rest of all our beloved departed
parishioners and friends, especially:

*Joan Argiro, Eleanor Bibbo, Christopher Connolly,
Anne Legano, Angel Madrid, Decio Di Nola,
Leonard Perroots*

We also remember all those who have been killed or
wounded through the violence of war. May all those who
have gone before us share the joys of eternal life.

**All prayer requests are listed for at least three consecutive
weeks. Please contact the parish office for an extension.**

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners

When I was pastor of St Ignatius I was blessed to know a young woman who was a professional singer as well as a University professor of Romance Languages. Not only did she inspire me with her beautiful voice, she also was my Spanish tutor. She enriched my life in many ways but especially in her 'teaching' me about what it means to be a person without physical sight in a "sighted" world. My friend lost her sight when she was three years old. She shared with me over the years the challenges that she faced as well and how difficult it was to hear some of the biblical passages that referred to someone without physical sight as "flawed". The association of "darkness" with "evil" and "light" with "good" was particularly painful for her. I am indebted to her for sharing her experience and enabling me to recognize my own inability to "see".

I'm thinking of her this weekend as we hear the Gospel story of the Man Born Blind. Although we know that the story is not about physical sight but rather "insight" into the identity of Jesus, it is still a challenging one to hear. It's important to remember that this story comes from John's Gospel which is written in a time when there is much antagonism between the Jewish community who have recognized Jesus as the Messiah and those who have rejected that claim. It is a brilliant piece of writing as the Man Born Blind not only gains sight but "insight" as he finds his voice and professes his faith in Jesus. At the same time it is troublesome in that it portrays the "Jews" as the enemy who are blind to the divine revelation in Jesus. It is important for us to remember that in this time Christian communities were dealing with questions of their unique identity as was the Jewish community who were coming to an understanding of their own without the Temple in Jerusalem. It's complicated! And we need to open our eyes and ears to refrain from judgment and stereotyping.

On another note, I recently received a letter from someone who called me to task for being "distracted" when I was giving out communion. They said that it had happened twice and would not come to a Mass I was celebrating again. Of course, I felt terrible to read this and needed to examine my own actions. It's true that sometimes I have so much on my mind as I'm trying to "take everything in" that I am easily distracted. Although the person who wrote me did not identify themselves, I'm hoping if they read this, they will accept my apologies. It is never easy to receive criticism but it's helpful to be reminded that we are all human and we can always improve. Another "teachable" moment!

As we continue to journey together this Lent, I hope that our eyes will be opened so that we can see Jesus who reveals the light as well as the darkness as God's creation.

In Christ

Fr. Bob

COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

The parish is looking for people who work with social media, websites and other areas of communication to come together and look at our use of media and help us to improve communications with our parishioners and others. If you have the skill and the interest, please contact *Stephanie Fuentes* at sfuentes@sfxavier.org

WHAT WONDROUS LOVE IS THIS! DANCED EVENING PRAYER FOR HOLY WEEK

Fr Bob is looking for parishioners who learned *God Beyond All Names* during his dance workshops to participate in the danced evening prayer on April 12th. There will be two rehearsals: April 8th from 1:30- 2:30 in the Xavier Keenan Commons. And April 12th in the church at 6PM before the service which begins at 7:30. For a refresher before the rehearsals go to blde.org and scroll down to Evening Prayer Service. *God Beyond All Names* is 17 mins. into the service. Please let Fr Bob know if you are interested in participating rvereecke@sfxavier.org



INTERFAITH PASSOVER SEDER

Led by Rabbis Perry and Leah Berkowitz

Sunday, April 2nd

6:30 PM – 9:30 PM ~Hurtado Hall

Price \$30

Reserve your seat by paying at the front desk or through the Eventbrite link posted on our web page www.sfxavier.org (Donate for someone who cannot afford to pay, for musicians and/or for the Xavier Interfaith Committee)

Rabbi Perry and Rabbi Leah Berkowitz are founders of East Side Synagogue that stresses a contemporary, creative and spiritual Judaism. They also lead the American Jewish Heritage Organization, a national organization that combats hatred, antisemitism, and bigotry of all kinds.



CELEBRATING WITH A

MARDI GRAS PARTY AND RETREAT

CHILDREN'S CHOIR AND ALTAR SERVERS MINISTRY



March is Women's History Month



**DOROTHY STANG, SND:
A MODERN DAY MARTYR**

Dorothy Stang was a Sister of Notre Dame de Namur who grew up in Ohio, and entered religious life hoping to serve the poor in China. Instead she was sent to Brazil, where she worked from 1966 until her assassination in 2005.

To read the rest of this article visit the St. Francis Xavier website at www.sfxavier.org under the Women's Ministry tab.

Once a week for the month of March there will be an article regarding a women in history featured in our bulletin.

A Closer Walk with Jesus & Catholic Lesbians presents

MARTHA HENNESSY

Dorothy Day's Granddaughter

Friday, April 7th

6:00 pm–9:00 pm~West Room

Dorothy Day was an activist who worked for such social causes as pacifism and women's suffrage through the prism of the Catholic church. Hear about her from the perspective of one of her grandchildren, Martha Hennessy, whose sister's Kate book, *The World Will Be Saved by Beauty*, was just released. The first thirty minutes will be to socialize and settle in and then we'll get started. Bring a beverage and/or snack to share, and contact ACloserWalkJesus@aol.com, SFXWomen@aol.com or (917) 297-6804 for more information.

Auction time! *The Honduras Companion Community Project* is trying out an online auction! First up for bids are premium Mets tickets! All proceeds go to helping a young girl attend medical school. The auction runs from 3/19-4/2. Here's the address of the auction. <https://www.32auctions.com/HCCP2017> Happy Bidding and thanks for your continued support.

ORGAN CONCERT

WITH DANIEL ROTH
ORGANIST

Tuesday, March 28th
7:00pm~Main Church

Daniel Roth is Titular Organist at St. Suplice in Paris. He has been widely acclaimed as one of the leading French organ virtuosos, and has held several prestigious positions as an artist and teacher. Daniel Roth has won several competitions, among them the Grand Prix de Chartres in 1971 for both interpretation and improvisation.



“His strong technique ... the wild character of his improvisations as well as his accomplished knowledge of harmony have rightly impressed the audience.”

A FORUM ON DEVELOPMENTS IN IMMIGRATION POLICY UNDER THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION

This joint project by the Church of St. Francis Xavier and the Migrant Center at the Church of St. Francis of Assisi aims to inform the audience on the present developments on US immigration policy.

The presenters are immigration lawyers of the Center and other experts on immigration policy. The first presentation will be a brief summary of immigration laws and the need for reform. The second presenter will focus on the Executive Orders relating to immigration, specifically the ones signed on January 25 and March 6, 2017. The last speaker will speak on the legal assistance and advocacy work of the Migrant Center

Date & Time: Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at 6:00 pm

Venue: Keenan Commons at Xavier High School

For more information and to register:
sfuentes@sfxavier.org

THE CARDINAL'S ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL 2017

This past weekend was commitment weekend. Thank you for all of your pledges. As of today we have \$6,003 in pledges to our parish goal of \$100,500. You can pledge online at www.cardinalsappeal.org. Please consider making a pledge. Thank you so much for your support of the Appeal and please pray for its success at our parish.

“ALL CREATION GROANING”

A conversation on the pain and suffering in our lives. Come, join the conversation with members of our Xavier community on an important part of our lives. The conversation is based on Dr. Elizabeth's Johnson's *Ask the Beasts*, Chapter 7 -- “All Creation Groaning”. Quotes from the chapter will be offered for discussion.

Saturday, April 1st at 2:00 pm
Mary Chapel

For more information or to reserve a place, please contact *Marie Bannister* at mariebannister1@gmail.com, 917 301 2426, or *Catherine Wolfe* at cohwolfe@gmail.com.

Sponsored by The Lay Spirituality Program

WALKING RETREAT PILGRIMAGE TO FATIMA AND SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA

May 1st to 12th

Spiritual guide: Fr. Joseph Weiss, SJ

For more information please contact
angiecruzphd@gmail.com or call 917-607-0937.

FULL OF GRACE: JOURNEYS OF LGBT

CATHOLICS a new play created by Xavier parishioner, *Robert Choiniere* will premiere **March 27** at Laguardia Performing Arts Center.

For info and tickets go to: www.fullofgraceplay.com/events.

SUGGESTED XAVIER LENTEN PRACTICE

Xavier Family: Listening to our Different Voices

“All are Welcome” has been a hallmark of the Xavier community for as long as we can remember. However, the divisiveness that erupted from the Presidential election has made it difficult to hear our diverse views without triggering a negative emotional reaction. This is regrettable as it not only tears down the fabric of our Gospel message, but also makes us lose sight of the fact that we are ONE in CHRIST. Lent offers us an opportunity for a faith community such as ours to recommit itself to the Body of Christ because we truly believe “all are welcome”.

In response to this dynamic, the Pastoral Council and the Xavier Peace and Justice Committee invite us as a community to:

- Abstain this Lent from harsh judgment of those with views other than ours in thought and word.
- Attend a 4 part series, 2 during Lent and 2 in the Easter season where we will address this divisiveness through practices that include prayer, meditation, communication skills building and respectful listening and speaking.

The dates for the gatherings are March 20 and 27 for Lent and April 17 and 24 for the Easter Season. The sessions will be held in the Xavier High School Chapel from 7:00 to 8:30pm.

We request you let us know if you wish to attend. To register or for more information email Ed Poliandro at e.poliandro@att.net, or Catherine Wolfe at cohwolfe@gmail.com or Elda Luisi at eluisi@aol.com

**CITY OF REFUGE:
24 HOUR ACTION FOR REFUGES**

MARCH 28TH-29TH

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
BIT.DO/CITY-OF-REFUGE**

CharisNYC's What Next? Retreat March 31 - April 2, 2017~Mariandale Retreat Center

- Explore the transitions that define who we are
- Take time away to reflect with other Catholic young adults
- Consider how faith can carry you through these transitions

Join young adults in their 20's and 30's in exploring the transitions of life through the lens of the Paschal Mystery. Learn how Ignatian spirituality and the Jesuit way can help you make better decisions and deepen your relationship with God. Reconnect with a vibrant community of young adults to nurture your faith.

For more information and to register visit www.charisnyc.org or email CharisRetreatNYC@gmail.com

\$260 PER PERSON (FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE)
Registration fees are non-refundable.

SYMPOSIUM: SLAVERY ON THE CROSS

April 1st~9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Lincoln Center Campus, 12th Floor Lounge

A one-day symposium which will examine the Catholic Church's role and participation in American slavery. The morning sessions will consist of two panels of academics discussing the historical and theological significance of Catholic race policy and practice (slavery and post-slavery). The afternoon session will feature John Cummings, owner and founder of Whitney Plantation and Museum, and a panel of respondents, who will discuss the Church's attempts to address past church failures. A Q&A session follows. The symposium is open to all members of the Fordham community as well as the public. RSVP required.

RSVP link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/symposium-slavery-on-the-cross-tickets-31684780030>

GUARDIAN ANGEL SCHOOL (located on Tenth Avenue between 21st – 22nd Streets) is accepting applications for grades Pre-K 3 through 8 for the 2017-18 school year. Financial assistance is available for new students entering grades K – 8. You are invited to visit the school during an upcoming Touring Tuesday open house: March 14th or April 4th from 9 – 11 am, or call the school at 212-989-8280 to schedule a visit.

Scriptures & Announced Masses

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT:

1 Sam 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Eph 5:8-14;
John 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38.

FOURTH MONDAY OF LENT:

Isa 65:17-21; John 4:43-54.

7:45AM FRANCIS YEATMAN (L)
12:05PM MARY SWEETMAN BORMAN (D)

FOURTH TUESDAY OF LENT:

Ezek 47:1-9,12; John 5:1-16.

7:45AM LEO & ANTOINETTE BUONGIORNO (D)
12:05PM ROGER McTIERNAN (D)

FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF LENT:

Isa 49:8-15; John 5:17-30.

7:45AM ALEJANDRA DECIENFUEGOS (D)
12:05PM MICHAEL LARICY (D)

FOURTH THURSDAY OF LENT:

Exod 32:7-14; John 5:31-47.

7:45AM NORA WAGNER (D)
12:05PM MARILYN JONES (D)

FOURTH FRIDAY OF LENT:

Wis 2:1a,12-22; John 7:1-2,10,25-30.

7:45AM RONNIE HURD (D)
12:05PM MATTHEW TANKO (D)

FOURTH SATURDAY OF LENT:

Jer 11:18-20; John 7:40-53.

12:05PM JOHN YAMAMOTO (D)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT:

Ezek 37:12-14; Rom 8:8-11;
John 11:3-7,17,20-27, 33b-45.

**YOU MAY RESERVE AN AVAILABLE MASS FOR
YOUR INTENTIONS BY CONTACTING THE
PARISH OFFICE AT 212-627-2100.**

THE LITURGICAL MINISTRY

The Church of St. Francis Xavier offers different opportunities for adults, young adults, adolescents, and children to participate actively in our parish life. One of these opportunities is as liturgical minister at each Mass. At the moment we need women willing to serve as Eucharist ministers. We also need men and women ministers of hospitality at every Mass. For more information on these ministries, please visit our website <https://sfxavier.org/liturgical-ministries>.

Ongoing Parish Happenings

ABILITY XAVIER: Celebrating persons with disabilities. Contact abilityxaviernewyork@gmail.com

XAVIER ADULT GROUP: Once a month we have informative meetings or attend interesting events around the city. Contact bowcol@hotmail.com

BAGA: A parish youth group (for teens) that meets monthly to promote peace and justice by performing corporal works of mercy. Contact b.a.good.apostle@gmail.com

CATHOLIC LESBIANS: Ministry since 1993, meets 2nd Friday of each month, 6 p.m., West Room, SFXWomen@aol.com, (917) 297-6804.

EMPLOYMENT SUPPORT GROUP:
Contact Katherine Cleary, krcoff5th@netzero.com

FAMILY FAITH: Catechetical ministry for parents/guardians and children pre-K through 12th grade. Meets Sundays 10:00am, Mary Chapel. Contact Luz, LMDiaz@sfxavier.org

GAY CATHOLICS: Men meet in a caring and affirming environment on the first and third Fridays, 7pm Mary Chapel. Contact sfxgsgroup@gmail.com

INTERFAITH COMMITTEE: works toward ending religious discrimination and persecution, through prayer, education and other activities. Contact Jose Ramon, joseramonperezlopez@gmail.com

SFX WOMEN: We continue to stay to address the specific concerns of women in the church. Xavier women are invited to join our ministry. Contact thewomenwhostayed@gmail.com.

LITURGICAL COMMITTEES: See website or
Contact Luz, LMDiaz@sfxavier.org

MINISTRY TO THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND: To become a volunteer or arrange visits, Contact James Fox, sumiko120@nyc.rr.com, (212) 427-5070

PEACE AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE:
Examines root causes of injustice and works towards a more just and sustainable world. Contact Tracey Tynan at xavierpeaceandjustice@gmail.com.

SPIRITUAL MINISTRIES: Offers spiritual programs, including spiritual direction. Contact Rose Alloca, allocarose@gmail.com or Marie Bannister, mariebannister1@gmail.com.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: Spiritual, Service, and Social Activities for Xavier's 20's-30's. Meets every 2nd Sunday of the month after the 5pm Young Adult's Mass, in the West Room. Contact sfxavier.youngadults@gmail.com

ZEN MEDITATION GROUP: Mondays at 7pm.
Newcomers welcome. Contact Peggy & Paul
212-260-2486, schubertnyc@gmail.com

XAVIER MISSION VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

CLOTHING ROOM: 2nd & 4th Sundays, contact
Ann Mary: xmClothingRoom@gmail.com

FOOD PROGRAMS: Every Sunday soup kitchen and
2nd Saturday food pantry, contact
Christine: xmFoodPrograms@gmail.com

L-STEP: Spring and Fall semesters,
contact J: xmLSTEP@gmail.com

SHELTER: Every night, contact Jim:
xmShelter@gmail.com