

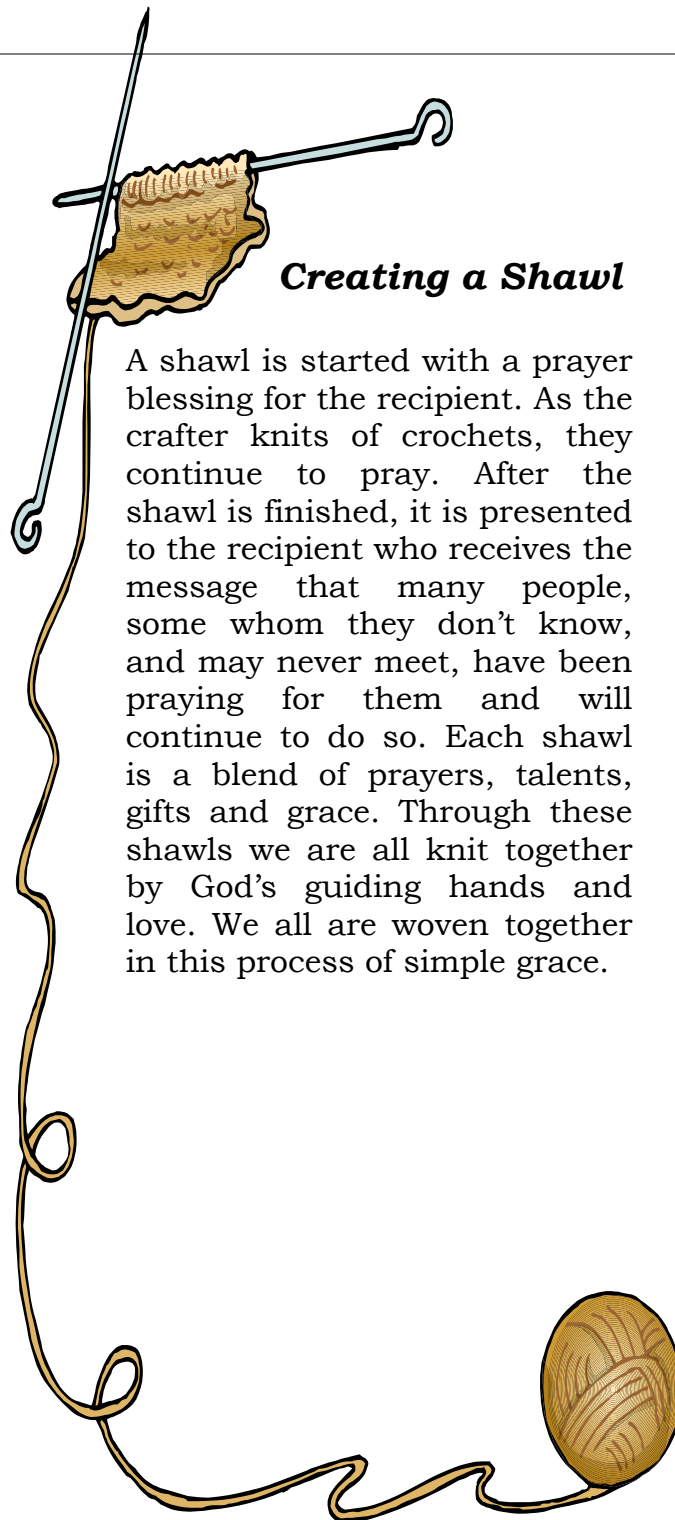
Everyday in our own individual lives, we encounter people for whom a special prayer would be of great comfort and support.

Since August 2006, over 300 shawls have been distributed. This ministry continues to grow and would welcome your participation.

If you have ever knit or crocheted it will come back to you quickly. The patterns are simple repeats. Basic instructions will be available.

If you would like more information contact  
Rose Ritter  
at (602) 943-3304 or visit or  
website at

[http://www.sfxphx.org/st\\_fran\\_parish/ministries/caring.html](http://www.sfxphx.org/st_fran_parish/ministries/caring.html)



### **Creating a Shawl**

A shawl is started with a prayer blessing for the recipient. As the crafter knits or crochets, they continue to pray. After the shawl is finished, it is presented to the recipient who receives the message that many people, some whom they don't know, and may never meet, have been praying for them and will continue to do so. Each shawl is a blend of prayers, talents, gifts and grace. Through these shawls we are all knit together by God's guiding hands and love. We all are woven together in this process of simple grace.

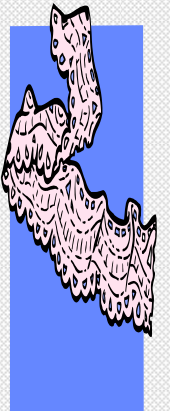
## **St. Francis Xavier Prayer Shawl Ministry**

*"Shawls ... made for centuries  
universal and embracing,  
symbolic of an inclusive,  
unconditionally loving, God.*

*They wrap, enfold,  
comfort, cover, give  
solace, mother, hug,  
shelter and beautify.*

*Those who have  
received these shawls  
have been uplifted and affirmed, as  
if given wings to fly above their  
troubles..."*

Janet Bristow -1998  
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## What is a Prayer Shawl?

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Can you touch a prayer? Can you pull it close and feel its comfort? You can if it comes in the form of a Prayer Shawl. Prayer Shawls are simple gifts of grace from God that are prayerfully and lovingly stitched by us as a reminder that God's promise is always with us.

### *Significance of Three*

The pattern for the shawls is a seed pattern of knit three, purl three. The patterns of three can be found in every religion and society.

**The three stages of life;**

Birth/life/death

**Time has three divisions:**

Past/present/future

**The human being has three parts:**

Body/mind/spirit

**Virtues often mentioned together:**

Faith/hope/love

(1 Corinthians 12)

There are three primary colors from which all other colors are created. May the rich colors used in these gifts of love serve as a reminder of the glorious colors of life with which our Creator has woven us together.

*“You created every part of me,  
knitting me in my  
Mother’s womb.  
For such handiwork,  
I praise you. Awesome this  
great wonder!”*

*Psalm 139:13-14*

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## Some uses for the shawl

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For someone who is undergoing medical procedures; as a comfort after a loss, during bereavement, prayer or meditation, marriage ceremonies, birthing, nursing a baby; as a bridal shower gift; during an illness and recovery. There are endless possibilities!

To make a shawl personal, the giver may want to choose a favorite color of the recipient. A special prayer maybe offered when the gift is presented.



### References:

- Book-Knitting into the Mystery (Susan J. Jorgensen, Susan S. Izard)
- Thanks to the First Christian Church Scottsdale (Disciples of Christ) for sharing the idea of this ministry with us.
- Prayer Shawl Ministry  
[www.shawlministry.com](http://www.shawlministry.com)