



# Parish Times

Summer Camp Special  
See Camp Ad Index Page 2

MARCH 2015

Living the Faith Together

FREE

## Religious Impact



Chuck Short

By Chuck Short

**H**appy St. Patrick's Day. A friend suggested March 17th be designated a national holiday not only to recognize our Irish heritage, but as a day to honor all immigrants past and present for their contributions to the greatness of our nation. Not a bad idea.

Congratulations to Catholic Charities for opening its breakfast program to serve the homeless and local day laborers in Langley Park. The program is modeled after the "Cup of Joe" program operating in Washington. The morning meal was launched with the help of generous donors and will be sustained through a partnership of Catholic Charities with local parishes and Catholic schools. First to serve the breakfast were students from Stone Ridge and Holy Child. Thanks to Catholic Charities for offering us another way to personally engage with our community's most vulnerable.

On March 21, Potomac Community Resources will host the Patricia Sullivan Benefit Dinner. PCR was founded by a group of Our Lady of Mercy parents with disabled

*Continued on page 8*

## A warm moment during a long, cold winter



Rev. Msgr. John Enzler

**I**s it spring yet? Winter is always a tough time of the year, but this winter has been really tough. For all of us. I know many friends who have suffered a burst pipe or slippery sidewalks. The bitter cold makes it hard to head out

anywhere and I know more than a few parents who have kids going stir-crazy when schools are closed.

At Catholic Charities, winter brings its own unique set of challenges. Our low-barrier shelters have had 86 hypothermia alerts since November 1 (and I'm sure a few more since writing this). It means temperatures are dangerously low and extra beds and even extra shelters are opened to help ensure everyone can get inside. For our staff, it means a lot of extra effort as some of our shelters stay open 24 hours a day, for as long as 35 days in a row once this winter.

We had our own burst pipe at our SHARE Food Network, which sent staff scrambling to save boxes and food and get replacement orders in.

For other families who have a place to

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"Take my hand not my life": Shrine of St. Jude Youth Group defending life at the annual March for Life in Washington, DC. See additional photo, page 30.

## Inspiring Voices at Holy Child



**I**t was an inspiring evening in the Holy Child gym as more than 200 students and parents gathered in January to hear real-life stories from a strong panel of alumnae professionals. In the second in our year-long series focusing on Holy Child's

STEAM efforts (enhancing science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics integration), the interactive "Inspiring Voices: Working Professionals Panel" was

*Continued on page 27*



Sr. Liadore, OSF, in 1950 and in 2015

## Rest in Peace, Sister Mary Liadore, OSF (1928-2015)

**S**ister Mary Liadore Tarucewitch, 86, of the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters Third Order Regular of St. Francis, died on Wednesday, February 4, 2015, at the St. Jude Convent in Rockville, Maryland, where she had resided since 2006. She was born in Boston, Massachusetts, one of six daughters of the late William and Constance Tarucewitch. She is survived by her sister, Phyllis Hart, of

*Continued on page 30*



St. Raphael Nursery School students spell out messages of Faith, Hope, and Love as part of a special project that will go up for auction at the St. Raphael Gala. See Hope and Love on page four. Photos by MJ Zafis-Garcia, St. Raphael School



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Right to Life of Montgomery County has placed ads in the Wheaton, Silver Spring and Takoma Park Metro stations for the next three months. The ads are designed to help women avoid abortion. The phone numbers are those of the Centro Tepeyac (Silver Spring) and Birthright (Wheaton) pregnancy centers. Pictured is the ad at the Wheaton Metro station.

## Join the Catholic Advocacy Center

The Church’s voice in the public square is not liberal or conservative, Republican or Democratic. It is a voice for the sacredness of all life, the dignity of every human person, and hope for our most vulnerable sisters and brothers. Join with Catholics across the state who are lending their voices to building the common good in Maryland. Get educated. Get mobilized. Get active. Learn how to make your voice heard in the public square. You can make a difference! The Maryland Catholic Conference’s Catholic Advocacy Network (CAN) is a one-stop shop advocacy page featuring a simple and quick way for you to communicate with your elected officials. Join with tens of thousands Catholics across the state who are



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## Take Action NOW!

### Ask Legislators to Vote No on Physician-Assisted Suicide

Legislation has been introduced in the Maryland General Assembly (HB 1021/SB 676) to allow doctors to legally prescribe a lethal dose of medicine to a patient who is deemed mentally competent and who has received a terminal diagnosis. The legislation, referred to by its proponents as “Death with Dignity” is unnecessary, flawed, and lacks safeguards.

#### Did You Know?

- The legislation does not require doctors to give patients a screening for depression before providing physician assisted suicide.
- Another thing to know: Patients can request physician-assisted suicide if a doctor has diagnosed them with a terminal illness and six months or less to live. Such a prognosis is

nearly impossible to accurately predict. Here’s one last thing to know: No doctor, nurse, or independent witness is present when the lethal dose is taken. People will pick up their lethal prescription at their local pharmacy. There is no requirement to notify family members that you plan on taking a lethal

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# Celebrating Sister Dorothy Stang

In January, *Our Parish Times* ran a story about Dorothy Stang, a 73-year-old Sister of Notre Dame murdered ten years ago for her work to defend the rights of farming families in Brazil, where illegal loggers and ranchers were seizing the people's land and pillaging the rainforest. Because Dorothy stood in their way, they had her killed. In this year of her tenth anniversary, people in Brazil, across the USA and beyond are gathering to celebrate her life and legacy in song, film, live dramatizations and roundtables. In the following letter, Sr. Katy Webster, one of the SNDs still working in the area where Dorothy was killed, describes how Dot's death continues to bear "much fruit" (cf. John 12: 24). For more information, visit: [www.sndohio.org/sister-dorothy](http://www.sndohio.org/sister-dorothy)

**Anapu  
Pará, Brazil  
2015**

When we, the Sisters of Notre Dame with the People of Anapu, buried Dorothy Stang 10 years ago, one of the farmers said: "We are not burying Irmã Dorothy, we are planting her." We said over and over again, almost like a mantra: "Dorothy is not being buried; she is being planted." Since she was planted, not buried, she is giving life: new plants have grown, new shoots have started, and fruits have been produced. These fruits have then sown new seeds.

When over a hundred people from the different communities of Anapu and the Land Pastoral Team met as the Committees in Defense of Anapu on January 3, part of our reflection was in preparation for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dot's assassination, and our question was: "What new shoots have grown up, what new plants and fruits have been produced?" As the discussion went along, it became clear that those who were at the meeting, who were participating, considered



**Sister Dorothy Stang, SND  
(1931-2005)**

themselves the new shoots, new plants and new fruits, and were in turn sowing new seeds. "We are the fruits, we are the seeds ... we are the seeds, we are the fruits." The cycle continues.

When thinking about these fruits, the people said, first and foremost, the fruits were that no one ran. Even though the act to murder Dorothy was brutal, and was intended to scare everyone out of the Project of Sustainable Development (PDS), Esperança, no one left. Even though it was meant to be an attack on Dorothy's twenty-three years of work among the people, the work continued. It was striking at the meeting of over a hundred people that more than half of them had come to the municipal district of Anapu after Dot was assassinated.

The people said the organization of the Committees in Defense of Anapu was a fruit that came from the assassination. This is an organization of the communities in Anapu that meets once a month, talks about the problems, and plans ways of handling the problems. Organized action has come from this meeting, such as a closing of a road into the interior so that the loggers could no longer steal the wood. Word of this action was spread from one to another-- grapevine communication. On the appointed day, people just started arriving, and blocked the road. Within a

hour seven huge trucks, all loaded with logs, had been stopped. The people called the authorities, and they came the following day. It was an amazing event.

A year later a group of twelve people maintained a blockade on the road into the PDS for nine months to prevent the illegal extraction of wood. They stayed on the road, and kept the loggers from moving out until the government built a checkpoint and put guards at it. This organization of the people to defend the forest is seen as a fruit of the life of Dot.

The fact that over the ten years since her murder, the people have systematically occupied, and held on to public lands that ranchers had stolen, saying they were the owners, is a sign of the seed growing. These occupations are slowly being turned into legal settlements with all the rights of settlers.

All the benefits to which a settlement has a right, be it in the settlements of the Projects of Sustainable Development or the traditional settlements, have come through the organization and action of the people: roads, electricity, financing, housing, schools.

In general education has advanced in Anapu. There is a high school at Centro Nazaré, where Dorothy originally lived. There is another in the Surubim. These two are modular schools: teachers come and spend a month to six weeks with a given subject and then another teacher comes for another subject. In Anapu, the secondary school is "normal": the subjects are offered with the teachers as permanent teaching staff. The people are fighting for modular secondary schools in at least two other places, if not three. The number of teachers from the communities themselves has grown tremendously. There is a second generation of educated young people working in the schools.

Another of the seeds that has given fruit is the technical assis-

*Continued on page 9*

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# There's Never a Dull Moment at St. Raphael School!

By Emma Kaibni and MJ Zafis-Garcia

## SRS: Building Catholic Leaders of the Future

With God's help, St. Raphael plants seeds for a brighter tomorrow. We congratulate eighth-grader Olivia Orr, who won fifth place in Our Lady of Good Counsel High School's incoming freshman speech competition Feb. 21. Olivia delivered her speech, titled "The Old Days vs. Modern Times," three times to different judges. Her award

includes a \$9,000 four-year scholarship and earns her a spot on the school's nationally recognized Speech and Debate Team. This is the second consecutive year that a St. Raphael School student has placed in the competition.

## What's Happening at SRS?

St. Raphael School and Nursery School students, faculty and staff celebrated Catholic Schools Week in January. From a door-decorating contest, to making sandwiches for the homeless, to appreciation days for various members of our community (parents, teachers, clergy and students), it was a fantastic way to celebrate Catholic education. The week culminated with a Family Fun Night for our preschool students and included music, entertainment, and more.

Also in January, St. Raphael Nursery School began accepting applications for the 2015-16 school year. SRNS offers so much to families. We had a strong registration season, but there are a few spaces left. Call 301-762-2143 for details if you're interested.

In February, SRS students continued their custom of bringing in canned food donations to "pay" for an out-of-uniform day. Thanks to this tradition of community outreach, we were able to fill several boxes with canned goods for the residents at Stepping Stones Shelter in Rockville. We thank our fami-

lies for participating in this effort, as well as our volunteer, Jennifer McGraw, for delivering the food.

This month was all about basketball, as our CYO and City of Rockville teams were in full swing.

Our eighth-grade CYO players fought hard to bring home a second-place trophy at the CYO co-ed tournament on Feb. 28. We are so proud of our student-athletes!

## Coming Up in March...

At press time, SRS was looking forward to hosting a professional day for the Archdiocese of

*Continued on page 8*

### St. Raphael Parish St. Raphael School

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**More St Raphael  
News on Page 37**



St. Raphael Nursery School students spell out messages of Faith, Hope, and Love as part of a special project that will go up for auction at the St. Raphael Gala. Photos by MJ Zafis-Garcia, St. Raphael School



## ST. JOHN'S SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS 2015

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### Summer Performance Training Camps

St. John's offers a seven-week summer Performance Training Camp for boys and girls entering grades 4-9. Our professional training coaches use the newly renovated Smith Weight Room (2014) and our three turf fields to take campers through a comprehensive developmental training program, enhancing their balance, strength and movement skills.

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# Catholic Schools Week Prayer Partner Service Project



Sixth grader Tess Bayles helps her second grade prayer partner Carly Dougherty fill a gift bag for a school-wide shelter project.



Sixth grader Joe Keeley helps his second grade prayer partner Jake Phillips decorate a gift bag for a school-wide shelter project

**A**fter collecting an assortment of toiletries, Mercy students decorated and filled bags for distribution at the Dorothy Day House and

other local shelters. Bag contents included shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hair brushes and combs, soap and lotion. Students filled over 100 bags.

OPT

## A Theme For Lent

In his letter to the parish for Lent, Father John asked us to consider how we can be Bread for the World: A World of Hunger." Mercy parishioners don't have to look very far to find organizations that invite participants to reach out and be "Bread for the World."

Two organizations that serve not just parish needs but open us to the work of serving the needs of the larger community were founded within the parish and continue to depend on the support of people who seek to be "Bread for the World."

The Mercy Health Clinic was a vision of parishioners dating back to the 1990's. The founders of the clinic wanted to provide opportunities for health care to the

uninsured in Montgomery County. Mercy Health Clinic now operates in Gaithersburg, Maryland providing quality health care and pharmaceuticals to eligible patients free of charge.

In addition to a small paid staff, licensed medical professionals provide patient care and the volunteers that keep the clinic running number over 150 and in addition to medical care, their services include translation and administrative work.

Volunteer support and financial donations to support the clinic are welcome and the clinic can be contacted at its website [www.mercy-healthclinic.org](http://www.mercy-healthclinic.org).

The clinic's annual fundraiser, The Heart of Mercy Gala will be held at Congressional Country Club on March 14, 2015. The Honorary Chairs are The Honorable Congressman John Delaney and

Mrs. April McClain Delaney. The Gala Chairs are Karen and Chris Donatelli.

Another organization with roots at Our Lady of Mercy that has grown to provide service beyond the parish boundaries is Potomac Community Resources. PCR serves teens and adults with developmental differences. The organization provides a myriad of activities to enrich the lives of its members and their families. The Sullivan family has devoted countless hours of service to the organization to honor the life of their daughter Patricia.

The Nineteenth Annual Patricia Sullivan Benefit Dinner for Potomac Community Resources will take place Saturday, March 21, 2015 at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center. The evening will feature cocktails, dinner, awards and dancing.

His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl, is the Honorary Benefit Chair and Michael P. Fitzgerald and Vincent C. Burke, III are the Benefit Chairs. Information about tickets and sponsorship opportunities is available at [www.pcr-inc.org](http://www.pcr-inc.org).

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## Mercy Change for Life Baby Bottle Campaign

Kindergartners Alexandra Ward, Eli Palmer, and Avery Phillips proudly display baby bottles filled with change that will be donated to the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center. The annual campaign ministers to young mothers and their families while teaching children the importance of helping others. Children (K-8) are encouraged to place bottles in a popular place at home and drop change in them while saying a brief prayer for mothers and their children.



Mercy third graders Ryan Kretz, Thomas Yavinsky, Pete Clancy, and Carson Stokes explore the area of robotics programming logic in the course Robo Challenge Contraptions, which is ideal for students who want more of a challenge. This course, offered to students in grades 3-5, starts each class with a programming challenge.

## Mercy Students Explore Robotics



Second graders Lila Horrigan and Mary Clancy enjoy Lego Robotics 1, a core class in which beginners learn to build and program Lego Robots using Lego Education's award-winning WeDo robotics and programming software.

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Ms. Joan Hosmer  
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**Gerry Burgess, OPT Editor**  
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# One Spirit, One Team

On Saturday, January 17, St. Andrew Apostle Parish in Silver Spring, Maryland hosted its first ever Day of Reflection, welcoming 300 women from throughout the Archdiocese of Washington. The morning talks were given by our pastor, Fr. Dan Leary, and guest speaker, Lisa Brenninkmeyer, founder of the women's bible study program, Walking With Purpose (WWP). Themed "Spirit and Life", this event was so popular that registration closed early because capacity had been reached. The response "was much greater than I expected when I offered to help," laughed Lisa Longacre, a long-time parishioner who took the lead on coordinating the event. Her team of more than 60 women from the parish provided a warm and welcoming atmosphere for each of the attendees.

The volunteers planned for and used the limited space and resources

available to create a comfortable atmosphere for the participants. Classrooms, including the science lab, were transformed into welcoming spaces for sharing food, fellowship, and, of course, coffee! The day began with Mass, followed by a continental breakfast, two talks, lunch, confession, adoration and healing. Talents surfaced, gifts blossomed, and virtues developed among the volunteers as each determined how best to lend a hand. All tasks, whether easy or formidable, were opportunities to extend Christ's love to each of His daughters that day.

Mary Leiboit, a parishioner and volunteer, said, "The day was an extension of what has been happening in the parish". The Lord is fostering spiritual gifts and virtues in parishioners which all came together to be a channel of His hospitality, generosity, love, joy and healing – in essence, His Spirit and life. One woman noted, "I could feel our Heavenly Father's love for me personally the moment I arrived in the parking lot. I was overwhelmed by the greeters, the signs, the gifts upon arrival, the beautiful white flowers, and the women who sacrificed their personal time."

In the afternoon, the Blessed Sacrament was exposed for Adoration and several priests were available to hear confessions. Eucharistic healing through the priesthood was offered, a



Three hundred women attend Day of Reflection at St. Andrew Apostle.

moving and possibly new experience for many. For several years, St. Andrew's has been offering Eucharistic Healing and Adoration through monthly Women's Nights of Reflection, Healing Masses, and Healing Masses for Children. Just as Lisa Brenninkmeyer and WWP connect women with Christ through Scripture, St. Andrew's is rekindling personal relationship with Christ by fostering devotion to the Holy Eucharist.

The "Spirit and Life" volunteers proved that St. Andrew's is not only a parish that offers healing but

a parish that IS healing. Theresa Comer, the parish office administrator, said, "we have never had this many volunteers help with one thing". Sound like a recipe for disaster? Not in a healing parish. For us, it was a recipe for love. As a direct fruit of the Day of Reflection, a six week Lenten WWP bible study is being offered at St. Andrew's. WWP leads women of all ages and backgrounds through Scripture to a deep, lasting and personal relationship with Christ. The program continues to give Spirit and life to the women of the parish.

OPT



Stephanie McWhirter, one of 60 happy volunteers who helped make the day a success.

## St. Andrew Apostle Parish

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## School News and Notes

Checkered flags hung from the rafters of the all-purpose room, setting the NASCAR theme for Adult Bingo Game Night January 31. Almost 200 adults from the parish and school played bingo, entertained by Tim Shelton as he called the numbers. Dinner, consisting of rosemary roasted chicken and salmon, along with amazing side dishes, was provided by the Delaney family.

In the hall outside, attendees bid on donated silent auction items including video game consoles, golf rounds at Avenel, Taylor Swift concert tickets, summer camps, autographed

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Some of St. A's youngest members receive ashes from Bishop Holley.



# Standing up for Life

By Kathleen McTighe, St. Patrick's Rockville parishioner, Senior, Rockville High School

On January 22, 2015, people from all across the United States and from all different ethnicities came together for one cause. Thousands of people, including myself were marching along the streets of Washington DC. Why? To fight for the unborn babies. To leave our footprints for those who cannot. More specifically, we were protesting the Roe v Wade decision of 1973, allowing women to obtain abortions. This was the annual march for life.

Many people were holding up various signs saying, "Pro-Life," "I regret my abortion," or "Stop Abortions." Yet, one sign that was handwritten and only held by one person was the one that stood out the most. A man was on the side of the street holding a sign that said, "I lost a child to abortion. Don't

lose your child". I felt the genuine regret that this man faced. He took the time to make his own sign with his own message to show that he wishes that his child had been born.

Do you know many people who enjoy losing? Whether it be a card game, a sport, or even a loved one. Most people, if not all would say that they really do not like to lose. However, abortions are a LOSS. Abortions are a loss of life, a loss of a precious gift from God, and a lost opportunity to love.

So why are so many people willing to lose this? Maybe because they think that it is in the best interest for the baby or the parents? Maybe because the victim was raped? Being pro-life means protecting the life of a child, because they did not do the raping, so why should they be punished. Being pro-life means protecting the lives of all people, no matter what, because everyone is perfect in God's eyes.



Members of St. Patrick and St. Raphael youth groups stand for life!

Lastly, being pro-life is supporting a child's chance to live, the protection of a woman's body and the gift of parenthood.

Phil Bosmans once said, "If a

human being is no longer safe in his mother's womb, where in the world can he be safe?" Today, according to the National Center for Health Statistics, 40% of babies are abort-

ed. Murder alone is outrageous, but the murder of innocent babies is completely inhumane. If we continue to allow abortion, we are failing as humans.

OPT

## We Love Our Catholic School!

Students at St. Patrick's School celebrated Catholic Schools Week in grand style. Themed days offered gratitude for various school groups including parents, teachers, clergy, and students. On "Hero Day" students dressed as their favorite hero. Popular heroes included members of the military, teachers, first responders, community helpers and even our very own principal! The students hosted a prayer service and participated in a school-wide Day of Service to support Meals on Wheels. Students were treated to two fun and thought-provoking assemblies. The "Improv 4 Kids" touring company brought their "on the spot" creativity and comedy to the middle school students who loved participating in improvisational skits and songs. The "Magical Math Tour" offered an interactive magic show based on math concepts to grades Pre-K through fifth grade.



High school teens from St. Patrick's and St. Raphael's tour the Grotto in Emmitsburg during Mount 2000 Eucharistic Retreat.

## Ice to Fire

By Maya Glander, Sophomore, Rockville High School

Spending the weekend sleeping on a gym floor and on a mountain in freezing temperatures may not sound very appealing at first. However, a weekend spent with other catholic teens, each with their own desire to deepen their relationship with God and even

breakdancing priests left me with an unforgettable experience.

First, Mount Saint Mary's University has a beautiful campus. The ever so intricate stained glass within the multiple chapels created such a serene, prayerful setting for the teens. Also, visiting the grotto and learning about the miracles that have occurred there I think restored or instilled even a small sense of trust and hope in God's abilities in everyone.

Continued on page 34

## Angelic Art

By Mike McHugh, Director of Youth Ministry, St. Patrick's Catholic Church

A brand new parish center... walls still pristinely white, floors still unscathed by thousands of feet, the faint smell of drywall dust still lingering in the rooms. This is the beautiful new St. Patrick Parish Center that opened in February 2014, planned by and fund-

raised for by our previous pastor, Monsignor Kevin Hart and ushered

Continued on page 34



St. Patrick's parishioners enjoy a glass of wine while following the lead of local artist and illustrator, Joan Waites.

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**More St. Patrick's News  
on Page 36**

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## St. John the Baptist 2015 Lenten Program – “Share the Cross”

By Molly DiPippo

At St. John the Baptist, an annual Lenten program called Share the Cross is fully underway. According to Cynthia Norris, SJB's Director of Social Concerns, “The Catholic Social Teaching principle lists ways in which we help those in need and build community at SJB.”

Each item on the list is labeled and placed on a cross. One wooden cross is located at the foot of the altar in the Church, and another is near the altar in the Gym.

Requested items are color coded by category of need and include: Call to Family, Community and Participation (Yellow), Care for God's Creation (Green), Dignity of Life (Orange), Human Rights and Responsibilities (Red), Preferential Option for the Poor (Blue) and Solidarity (Purple).

For Lent 2015, there are some new items that are being requested for donation. Donated items listed will be collected on March 21 and 22

in the Gym. Food donations will be collected on March 14 and 15.

For each category, suggested actions that parishioners can take are listed. For example, for Care for God's Creation, listed activities include actions related to protecting the environment such as reducing use of bottled water and planting drought-tolerant native plants in one's garden.

Dignity of Life actions include donations to support the SJB Sister Parish in Haiti, donations to support the Prison Outreach Ministry for Welcome Home Re-Entry kits for newly released prisoners, purchase of fair trade coffee, and donations of old cell phones to benefit individuals in the community at risk of domestic violence.

The non-perishable food donations collected March 14 and 15 as part of an Archdiocese of Washington drive called “Share in Hope Food Drive” will benefit the Catholic Community of Langley Park Food Pantry.

OPT

## ST RAPHAEL NEWS

Con't from page 4

Washington. More than 250 archdiocesan teachers were scheduled to join us on March 6 for the 2015 Regional Conference. Held on four dates at different locations across the archdiocese, the conference is designed to engage teachers' thinking, model teaching strategies, and enrich educators' service to children and families.

Our amazing Science Fair is March 13, and we cannot wait to see what our middle-school students have been working on since the beginning of the school year. We are excited to team up with our parishioners once again in this endeavor; we have invited those with a science background to serve as our esteemed judges for the fair.

Our All-Star Gala will be on

March 14, and you can just feel the excitement for this parish-wide sports-themed event. There are no benchwarmers at St. Raphael—our community is working together as a team to make this an outstanding evening. All are welcome to participate in the post-season online auction after the Gala; watch [www.straphaelschoolmd.org](http://www.straphaelschoolmd.org) for details.

Speaking of excitement, we are looking forward to the upcoming track season! Last year, the first St. Raphael School Track Team made its debut, and the season was a blast for the students and parent volunteers alike. Members of our track team range in age from kindergarten through eighth grade, and the team is once again led by Head Coach Amy May.

During this Lenten season, St. Raphael Nursery School continues its tradition of hosting Children's Stations of the Cross. We welcome

those with children of any age to join us 7:30 p.m. March 27 in the church at 1513 Dunster Road in Rockville.

### Peeking into April...

Our popular Girls' Night Out spring shopping boutique returns 7-10 p.m. April 22 at St. Raphael School. The evening is open to all and offers an opportunity to enjoy delicious refreshments, catch up with friends, meet new ones, and shop from a variety of sellers. Interested vendors are encouraged to call the school at 301-762-2143; openings are filling quickly.

The St. Raphael School Drama Club has been busy working on its next production, “Disney's Beauty and the Beast Jr.” There will be two performances of the spring musical—7 p.m. April 24 and 2 p.m. April 25. Break a leg, our talented thespians!

OPT

## SHORT

Con't from page 1

adult children who sought inclusive community activities for teens and young adults with disabilities. This year the fun-filled event is co-chaired by Michael Fitzgerald and Vincent Burke III of the Bank of Georgetown. The bank and these two business leaders are notably generous to many important community efforts helping vulnerable neighbors. Congratulations to County Executive Ike Leggett who will receive this year's Patricia Sullivan Leadership Award for his many years of support for programs for people with disabilities and to all other awardees.

We are inspired by St Peter's in Olney as the parish and its partner, Rosario Communities, Inc. opened a home for adults with developmental disabilities. Rosario Communities is another non-profit organization spawned by our Catholic community which began with a home on the property of St Rose of Lima. They opened a home with St John the Evangelist and now St Peter's. Providing housing for vulnerable people, especially on parish property is a fine example of a Catholic community in action.

As you journey through the Lenten season, please consider participating in Operation Rice Bowl, the annual parish sponsored effort to support food programs of Catholic Relief Services through prayer and funds. This year marks the 40th year for this mission. CRS is one of the largest international aid organizations in the World and relies upon Operation Rice Bowl contributions and prayers to support its food programs for the world's poorest people. Contact your parish to participate.

Pope Francis designated this year to honor those who have given themselves to Consecrated Life, commonly known as men and women who belong to religious orders as nuns, brothers and priests. For our reflection, I suggest we consider the service of these holy men and women to our church, parishes, schools and each of us. Begging your indulgence, I wish to use this opportunity to complete one of my “bucket list” items, that is, to raise my voice loudly in thanks to many religious who have influenced my life and faith. I pray as you read my personal list of gratitude, you may be inspired to reflect upon the impact that men and women religious have had upon your lives and act upon your memories with thanks, perhaps by remembering them in prayer and financial support in their retirement years.

So here's the list of religious men and women who have taught, healed, counseled, coached, inspired and prayed for me. I am eternally grateful to them and God for bringing them into my life.

The **Sisters of Notre Dame and Divine Providence** for my earliest education, instilling faith, and persevering with me at St Aloysius in Washington and Our Lady of Sorrows in Takoma Park; the **Maryknolls** who inspired me by their missionary work among suffering people in the world; the **Marist Brothers**, for high school and navigation through adolescent; the **Jesuits** for college and introducing me to the principles of social justice and their central role in my faith; the **Sisters of St Joseph**, especially Sr. Bernard Francis, who hired me fresh out of college as a teacher at Holy Trinity (Georgetown) and taught me the importance of dedicated teachers and for introducing me to my won-

derful bride of forty years, herself a product of the **Sisters of Visitation** high school; the **Holy Child Sisters** who taught my daughters in high school and helped form them into women of character, faith and compassion; the **Sisters of the Holy Cross** who provide medical services to the poor and uninsured in our county at Holy Cross hospitals and clinics; the **Daughters of Charity** who provide safe homes at St Ann's for young women who are parents or pregnant and have no place to turn and for ministering to the poor at Providence hospital; **Missionaries of Charity**, especially Blessed Mother Theresa, who stepped in to help us care for those with AIDS when others shunned them; the **Salesians**, who came to Montgomery county to innovatively educate and inspire low income students in their Cristo Rey high school; the **Little Sisters of the Poor** who teach me humility and grant me the privilege of helping them with their loving work among the poor elderly; Sr. Rita Ricker of the **Religious of Jesus and Mary** who demonstrated the effectiveness of a well formed parish social concerns team while at Resurrection parish and how parishes can twin with other parishes in Haiti in caring for the poor and helping them build their future; Br John, of the **Missionary Servants of Christ** who spends each day in simple service to the poor elderly; the **Franciscan Friars** who administer St Camillus parish and tirelessly assist the needy immigrant community in Langley Park; the **Carmelite Sisters**, especially, Sr. Amaya, who vigorously advocated for justice for the poor in Langley Park until her death.

Thanks to them all!

Blessed Lent and Happy Easter  
Chuck Short

OPT

## St. John the Jogger Race May 2

By Molly DiPippo

The St. John the Jogger 5K run and 1K obstacle course will take place on May 2, 2015. Now in its sixth year, the 5K course is USATF-certified and winds mainly through the nearby scenic Martin Luther King Park. The obstacle course, returning from its inaugural year in 2014, is a sepa-

rate optional event that takes place on the school field.

As the event has grown annually, new features have been added. The event kicks off with a Friday night spaghetti dinner during packet pickup. After the Saturday race, there is a post-race festival, complete with food, DJ, dancing, contests, prizes, mascots, photo booth, balloon artists, face painters, raffles, and shopping.

All registered runners will receive the free spaghetti “Carbo Load” dinner, an official race t-shirt, a swag bag with race goodies, a ticket for entry into a raffle to win prizes, and access to the post-race party. Cash awards or gift cards go to the top 3 male and female finishers. Age group awards will be given to the top two finishers in each age group.

What a great way to support the SJB School scholarship fund!

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### Ask Legislators to Support the Second Chance Act

**J**obs are the key to our economic recovery, and the ability to secure a job is crucial to many of the clients served by the Church's ministries who are struggling to achieve independence. One of the most common obstacles to obtaining employment is the presence of minor infractions on a criminal record, even when they were incurred years ago.

The Second Chance Act would make certain **nonviolent misdemeanor** convictions eligible for shielding by filing a petition after a waiting period, allowing job applicants who have had a clean record for at least three years a fair chance

to obtain employment. If a subsequent conviction occurs during the waiting period, the initial offense cannot be shielded until the subsequent offense becomes eligible for shielding.

Law enforcement and child-serving institutions required to perform background checks on employees will continue to have access to the shielded records. Misdemeanor convictions eligible for shielding include infractions such as disorderly conduct, disturbing the peace, and several other minor crimes.

The Maryland Second Chance

Act of 2015 (SB 526 / HB 244) is awaiting a vote in the House Judiciary Committee and in the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee.

Action: Contact your legislators now and ask for their support of the Maryland Second Chance Act.

To send your message, visit:

[www.votervoice.net/link/target/mdcathcon/JKWNb25cE.aspx](http://www.votervoice.net/link/target/mdcathcon/JKWNb25cE.aspx)

Source: Maryland Catholic Conference

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### Christ the King



Christ the King's priest-in-residence, Fr. Roberto Amoroso, FSCB, weathered the cold on Thursday, January 22, with "his" middle-schoolers from The Avalon School for the 2015 March for Life.

### STANG

Con't from page 3

tance in the county. The government contracted with three companies to give this assistance. Two of the three companies are a direct fruit of the work of Dot. The third company comes from a neighboring district, but is hiring technicians who are sons and daughters of our district.

All of this — technical assistance, defense of the forest, schools, electricity, roads and communication among the people of the communities — strengthens the people's resolve to stay on the land. The young people are being educated and getting jobs that keep them here.

Another of the fruits that is generating new seeds is the knowledge that there is land in Anapu for the poor, and there is a system of support for the new people coming in to find land and stay on it. People are still coming, mostly from southern Pará, Maranhão and Tocantins.

This movement among the people, the fact that new people are coming, and they go to the land and are staying on the land, irritates the ranchers. Each parcel of land that is officially declared by the judge as public land intended for Agrarian Reform, thus for the poor, is an irritation to the ranchers. We know that there is tremendous mineral wealth in our area, as well as the forest, and there are people who want that all for themselves. To the extent that the people occupy lands and become permanent on those lands, the greed of these others is thwarted. It is a courageous stand that the people take, for the ranchers and loggers insist the land and forest is theirs. The people do it in the name of life, in defense of the forest, as the continuation of the life and work of Dot, and a response to the Gospel. The work -- organized action to defend the land and the small farmer's right to be on that land in peace -- continues, involving more and more people in the organization.

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Katy Webster, SND  
January, 2015

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HR 8th graders at the annual Youth Rally and Mass for the March for Life on January 22.



Cast and Crew of Disney's High School Musical Jr.

## We're All in This Together!

By Michelle Ardillo

**S**ave the date! On April 24 and 25, at 7:00 PM, the Holy Redeemer Drama Club will present the very popular *Disney's High School Musical Jr.* as its spring musical. Directed by mid-

dle school language arts teacher Michelle Ardillo, with assistance by faculty members Danielle Trotta, Lisa Capobianco, Megan Dees, and Ashlie McGinnis, the production will also be supported by HR music teacher Kristin Brown as music director, parent Monique Bonner as choreographer, parent Joe Ryan as sound and lighting technician, and grandparent Cathleen Farr as costumer.

The huge cast of 48 seventh and eighth graders will be joined by eighth graders working behind the scenes on tech, sound, lights, and set design. Tickets for this blockbuster hit will be available at the door. "Get your head in the game" and come and see the show!

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Fourth Graders on President's Day

## Hail to the Chiefs!

By Michelle Ardillo

**O**n February 20, 2015, the Herb Young Auditorium at Holy Redeemer Catholic School was transformed into the Oval Office of the White House for the annual fourth-grade event "President's Day". Students were randomly assigned a US president to research. Parents were invited to attend the event where the students, dressed as their president, presented a report and then had lunch with their guests. A special treat this year was the surprise visit by the Washington Nationals' mascot George Washington, who took pictures with the students in their costumes! Fourth-grade teachers Debby Hannan and Mary Harper organized the event in conjunction with the fourth grade's social studies unit on leadership.

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Fourth-grade teachers Debby Hannan (left) and Mary Harper (right)

## Kindness Assembly to Build Community

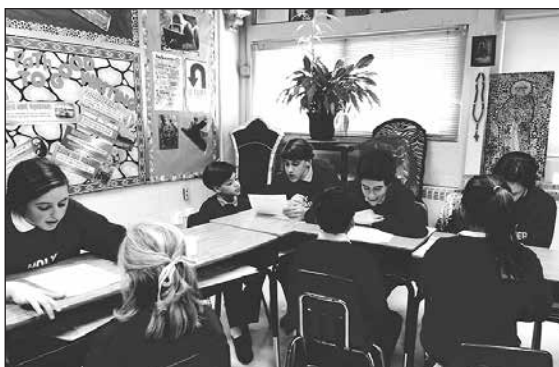
By Michelle Ardillo

**O**n February 25, the entire faculty and student body participated in an afternoon assembly called "Kindness

Builds Community", focusing on Holy Redeemer's third quarter value-themed goal of community. Grades teamed up to work on a project together. EightA students performed a skit about the parts of

speech and then helped 4A with a writing assignment featuring adjectives. EightB students worked separately with 4B students to create a board game to help them master multiplication skills.

OPT



HR 8A and 4A students participating in Kindness Builds Community activity



HR 8B and 4B students participating in Kindness Builds Community activity

## Father Daughter Dance

**O**h what a night...the young ladies and their Dad's enjoyed a fun and festive evening during the Father Daughter Dance held at Holy Redeemer Catholic School the evening of Friday, February 6.

Sporting their suits and ties and wearing their boutonnières, the dads



Second graders Cecilia Graham, Marianna Moawad and Claire Daignault raise their glasses to toast their dads!

Continued on page 16

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# Many Lenten, and Pre-Lenten, Activities at St. Francis of Assisi

By John McCarthy

**W**e anticipated lent with some traditional social events—the annual Adult Volunteer Appreciation Dinner/Dance and the traditional Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday.

A “Luau Party” was the theme of the February 7th Appreciation Dinner, where over 200 were served a delicious dinner of Hawaiian favorites, catered by Chez Yiamme Catering. Music was provided by Ultra Sound and DeeJays. A good time was had by all.

“Breakfast for Dinner” was the theme for the Shrove Tuesday event. It was much more than pancakes! The youth group, again, played an important role in the event, along with many adult volunteers. About 130 parishioners enjoyed the food and fellowship. And, the remarkable, Sylvia Jones coordinated both events. She’s our “energizer bunny”!

Lenten talks are being on Friday evenings after Stations of the Cross. The first week featured Fr. Kevin Fitzgerald, S.J., speaking on “21<sup>st</sup> Century Medicine and Human Nature: How the Catholic Tradition Can Help Everyone to Achieve True Healing.” Week two was a

*Continued on page 36*



Clockwise from top left:  
Appreciation Dinner attendees greeted by smiling ladies.  
L to R Ruth Chite, Doreen Dyer, Coordinator Sylvia Jones.

Parishioners enjoying the food and fellowship at Shrove Tuesday pancake supper

The Adopt a Seminarian tree

Scouts and leaders with Fr. John Dillon after 8AM Mass on February 8

## Spiritual Adoption Program

By Rose A. Attig

**O**n Sunday, January 11, which commemorated the Baptism of Jesus, St. Francis of Assisi Parish and its Respect for Life Ministry launched a Parish Spiritual Adoption Program. Parishioners, either individually or as a family, had the opportunity to “spiritually” adopt a child, who is newly conceived, and pledge to pray daily, for 9 months, for a baby who is in danger of abortion.

This program serves as a way to educate others about the development of the pre-born baby. Monthly updates about the baby’s development will appear in the Parish bulletin. Along with that, a new poster will be displayed, every month, depicting each state of the baby’s development. Parishioners have been asked to name “their” baby

and place a heart, bearing the baby’s name, on the display. At the end of nine months, the Parish will host a baby shower, with items donated to the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center in Gaithersburg.

The baby will be “born” on October 4, 2015, the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi.

Our prayers can make a difference between whether a baby will be born ...or aborted. Prayers can also be a form of spiritual support for both parents. The late Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen encouraged the spiritual adoption of an unborn baby. His brief, and powerful prayer is: “Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion.”

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Display for selection Spiritual Adoption of an unborn child

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## One Book One Parish – Nurturing Our Faith through Discussion and Fellowship

By Sara Becker

**I**n March of 2014, parishioners of SFA began the One Book One Parish Lenten Program. Fr. John asked parishioner Trish Olin to organize a group and lead discussion sessions on Saturday mornings. The books are chosen from [www.loyolapress.com/one-book-one-parish.htm](http://www.loyolapress.com/one-book-one-parish.htm), where details of the program and book synopsis’s can

be found.

The group started with “7 Keys to Spiritual Wellness” by Joe Paprocki. It was a wonderful book that was perfect for us as we began our journey. We moved on to “What’s Your Decision” which provided lots of useful insight toward decision making by the Ignation approach.

After these books we changed direction and decided to view and dis-

*Continued on page 36*

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# Christ the King's Mardi Gras Weekend Celebration

**M**ardi Gras weekend fell this year on St. Valentine's Day! Many party and event conflicts set to make Christ the King parishioners confused as to



Longtime Christ the King parishioners Gloria Patterson and Helen Costabile hamming it up

which to attend. But nothing carried more weight than the Arctic blasts hitting the area. That said, parishioners arrived immediately after our 5:30pm Mass (in Spanish)

Saturday February 14<sup>th</sup> ready to eat and dance and bid on 12 items donated to the event and to the benefit of the Church. But the weather got the best of the night and Mardi



Parishioner Chris Tan flanked by her granddaughters Zelda and Ada in costume for the evening

Gras ended at 8pm, not the normal midnight. Everyone made it home safely but the traffic, the accidents, just the weather were more than anyone expected. But while in the Colonial Room attendees did bid (and win), they did dance and they

did indeed eat.

Christ the King this year focused on soliciting pans of the Zippy Beef parishioners make monthly to donate to Silver Spring's

*Continued on page 37*

Above, parishioner Art Lord and his wife Sieglinde in costumes native to Germany, her country of origin

At right, parish family Juan, Adela and Sebastian Penate in their masques



At left, minister-to-the-home-bound, Renate Mordecai with Religious Education Director and Pastoral Vicar, Fr. Ettore Ferrario, FSCB

At right, the Princess (student parishioner) Ariel Ruiz!



## Ash Wednesday Soup Supper

**E**very year following the Ash Wednesday evening Mass, Christ the King parishioners gather in the Colonial Room to have a light soup supper. This year's weather made it a bit of a challenge but several dozen brave souls joined together to share pots of Minestrone Soup and Corn Chowder. The standard, traditional recipes are provided to parishioners in order to have consistency in the soups, and with the hope that no one will "add their own touch" to them!

This year Gloria Mendoza coordinated the effort, making it a welcome change to the volunteer coordinator who has had this responsibility for decades!



Left to right: parishioners Renate Mordecai, Maria Kendall, Jackie Stines and Joyce Kambura sitting down after having a taste of the two soups for the Ash Wednesday gathering

Trudging out in the bad weather and the cold night, Lent began for Christ the King as it has for most of its almost 65 years.

Photographs by parishioner and CCD assistant Maria Kendall

**OPT**



Ash Wednesday evening soup servers Renate Mordecai, Gloria Mendoza and Jackie Stines



Fr. Roberto Amoroso, FSCB with Cornelia and Andres Henriquez

## Morning of Reflection

**C**hrist the King began two years or so ago to have a Morning of Reflection gathering at the beginning of Lent and did so again this year on Saturday, February 28. The priests had done the "staff" work, that is, providing the coffee and light food such as bagels for the small group that does attend. There is time for Adoration

during the morning and something of a long Homily-like presentation by our Pastor. But this year our Pastor, Fr. Josè Maria Cortes, FSCB was on an anniversary Retreat. (He had requested a month long Retreat in order to mark 20 years as a priest.) Fr. Ettore Ferrario, FSCB, our Director of Religious Education, took up the lead. **OPT**

## Upcoming Event of Note at CTK

**L**enten Schedule: every Friday during Lent Stations of the Cross will be in the Main Church 6:30pm (English) and 7:15pm (Spanish); Confessions remain during Mass when announced, on Thursdays 8-9am and on Saturdays 3-3:45pm but added to the schedule is the additional opportunity on Wednesday evenings 6:30-8pm. On March 25<sup>th</sup> a Penance Service will be in the Main Church beginning at 6:30pm.

A Lenten Concert will be on the afternoon of Palm Sunday, March 29 at 4pm. The repertoire will consist of two Bach cantatas and different settings of two ancient hymns by Venantius Fortunatus.

- "Du Friedefürst, Herr Jesu Christ," (BWV 116), Johann Sebastian Bach
- Vexilla Regis, music by Antonio

Draghi, text by Venantius Fortunatus

- "Du wahrer Gott und Davids Sohn," (BWV 23), Johann Sebastian Bach

- Crux Fidelis, music by João IV de Portugal, text by Venantius Fortunatus **OPT**

### Christ the King

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Katie Holland,  
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**More Christ the King News  
on Page 9**



# Student Essay Winners Honored

By Mary Russell

Two St. Jane de Chantal School students, Lauren Kane and Tripp Harris, have been honored by the Goshen Mills Chapter,

National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Lauren is the Chapter's eighth-grade winner of its American History Essay Contest, and Tripp is the seventh-grade winner. The students

read their winning essays to the assembled Chapter members in February and were presented with certificates, bronze medals, and Barnes and Noble gift cards. Lauren lives in Bethesda and was accompanied by her parents, Carol and Leo Kane, and her sister, Elise, an Academy of the Holy Cross senior. Tripp is the son of Art and Shannon Harris, also of Bethesda. In a surprise announcement, the Chapter's American History Chairman, Marilyn Morrison, reported that a panel of independent judges has named Tripp as Maryland's 7th grade winner in the state-wide contest. He will be honored at an awards luncheon on March 21st during the Maryland State DAR's annual conference. His essay will now be judged along with entries by other seventh grade students from the mid-Atlantic states and the District of Columbia.

The DAR sponsors the annual essay contest nationwide, and

*Continued on page 29*



(Left to right) American History Chairman Marilyn Morrison, 8th grade English teacher, Eileen Theim, Leo Kane, Elise Kane, Lauren Kane, Carol Kane, Tripp Harris, Shannon Harris, Art Harris, and Tina Maxwell, 7th grade English teacher



Bishop Martin Amos addressed the St. Jane de Chantal congregation during the Parish Mission program.

## St. Jane de Chantal Parish Mission

February 7 through 10, St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish held a Parish Mission in preparation for entering the Lenten Season the following week. During four consecutive days, Bishop Martin Amos, from the Diocese of Davenport in Iowa, spoke about "The Main Thing Is To Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing." At all weekend masses and during the evenings of Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, Bishop Amos, in a very direct, understandable and affable way, talked about how to deepen one's relation with God during this Lent.

The message was very simple: of the 613 laws in Judaism, the most important is to Love God above all, and after that to love our neighbors as ourselves. Bishop Amos divided his presentations according to these principles, and he talked about the love, understanding and improvement of ourselves that we all need to undertake, about the love of others, and about the love of God with special emphasis in prayer. He explained the different types of prayers and how there is "no one

size fits all" when it comes to pray. Devotional life is very personal, and accordingly, each person has to find the kind that is right for him/her. What is most important is making a priority to have time for prayer everyday.

After Bishop Amos' presentations, he engaged the congregation in spirited discussions. There were also opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration and confession during the evenings.

OPT

### St. Jane de Chantal Parish

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Bethesda, MD

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Pastor

301-530-1550

**St. Jane de Chantal School**  
Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton

301-530-1221

**Susana and Mario Cerritelli,**  
OPT Editors

**More St. Jane de Chantal**  
**News on Page 36**



Members of the St. Louis de France Pastoral Council join the St. Jane Frances de Chantal Pastoral Council members for a special joint meeting.

## Pastoral Council Members Meet Peers from St. Louis de France Parish

St. Jane Frances de Chantal Pastoral Council meeting on January was different than most others. Normally, Council members take turns reporting their activities within the different groups of the Parish. This time, however, there was a joint meeting with members from St. Louis de France Pastoral Council. Together the two Parish Councils compared activities and exchanged ideas, including the development of a plan to do some special projects together.

St. Louis de France Parish serves the French speaking Catholics in the Washington, DC, area. There are about 300 families from this congregation attending masses in three different locations, one of them being St. Jane de Chantal Church. French masses are celebrated on Saturdays at 6:30 pm.

Under the leadership of the two Pastors, Fr. Samuel Giese and P. Jean-Marie Vincent, both Parish Councils considered two projects to undertake together. One is to sponsor a parish in a country suffering from political and economical stresses. A candidate could be a Maronite Catholic Rite church in Lebanon, although further

*Continued on page 29*

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Parishioners Marsha and Peter Pratt flanked by weekend assistant Fr. Juan Molina, left, and guest Fr. Andrew Small, right, at 50th anniversary dinner.

## 50th Anniversary Dinner at St. Elizabeth Parish

By Kathryn Swartz, Pastoral Associate

**S**t. Elizabeth Parish is in the midst of a year-long celebration of the parish's 50th anniversary, with at least one special event each month, as well as recognition of the

various groups within the parish that have given the parish the vibrancy it has enjoyed over the past half century: the young people at the school and religious education program and the staff and volunteers who catechize them, the Sodality and Knights of Columbus, the liturgical ministers and those who provide social outreach.

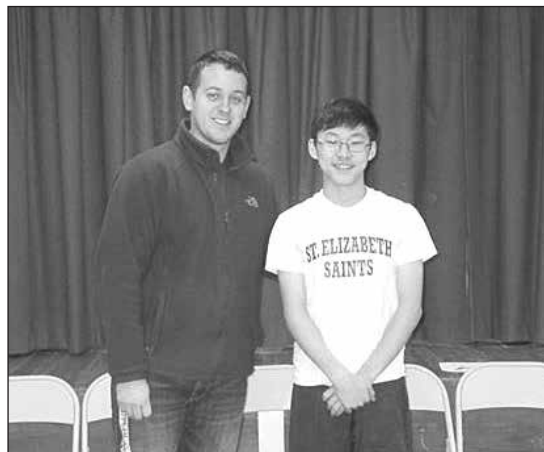
On February 7, St. Elizabeth held an anniversary Dinner Celebration with over 300 in attendance. The parish gym was transformed into a beautiful venue for drinks, a raw bar, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, dancing and a performance by St. E's parishioner Mark Phillips, a professional magician.

OPT



Parishioner and magician Mark Phillips performs sleight of hand for dinner guests, with parishioner Michelle Nash as witness.

Congratulations to the St. Elizabeth Robotics Club who advanced to the Maryland state competition to be held on February 28. The boys worked very hard as a team, not only on their robot building and programming, but also on their projects. The Techtrons Team also received the award for "Robot - Mechanical Design" which recognizes a team that designs and develops a mechanically sound robot that is durable, efficient and highly capable of performing challenge missions. Congratulations to all our students!



Congratulations to eighth-grader Nathan Kim, who won the 2015 Geography Bee for St. Elizabeth School. The Geography Bee is an annual competition testing the student's geographic awareness and skills. The students answer a variety of questions from the physical geography to map skills. Nathan will now move on to the Regional Bee and compete for a chance to qualify for the State Bee later this spring.



Congratulations, St. Elizabeth Academic Team! The St. Elizabeth School Academic Team placed SECOND in the DeMatha Challenge. Schools from across the Archdiocese of Washington and the Archdiocese of Baltimore competed in this year's competition! Hats off to team members: Meaghan Kilner, Nathan Kim, Nicole Lawson, Quinn Mahoney, and Chad Frick! Way to go! We are VERY proud of you!

## St. Elizabeth's sister parish in Haiti Classrooms for Magagnose

**A**nother 50th Anniversary project for St. Elizabeth Parish is a Lenten outreach project raising funds to build classrooms at our sister parish in Magagnose, Haiti. In the 2010 earthquake that devastated parts of the island, the small building this tiny parish on the north coast of the island, near Cap Hatien, about 60 miles from Port-Au-Prince, cracked and was subsequently condemned. Since

then, building codes in Haiti have been upgraded so that any new buildings will be more resistant to such natural disasters. The parish that St. Elizabeth sponsors has begun, with our assistance, both preschool and kindergarten classes, which do not currently have a safe place to meet.

The Organizing Committee for the 50th Anniversary, in communication with, Msgr. Mesidor, the pastor at Magagnose, suggested sponsoring the building of four new classrooms that meet these new building codes, and furnishing them for the children. A local Catholic Relief Services (CRS) office would oversee the project and hire the contractors. Our goal of \$50,000 over the course of the Lenten season would cover these costs. As we go to print, we have just over \$10,000 and hope by Easter to meet our goal to help educate the children in our little corner of Haiti. Anyone wishing to help with this project is welcome to join us. St. Elizabeth's number is 301-881-1380.

OPT



St. Elizabeth School students enjoying the snow!



St. Elizabeth School students celebrated the end of Catholic School's Week with some exciting games of volleyball between the 8th grade class and our St. Elizabeth faculty. The students were victorious winning two of the three games. A great time was had by all students and faculty!

**St. Elizabeth Parish**  
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**St. Elizabeth School Principal**  
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**Gerry Moore,**  
OPT Editor  
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An ensemble of St. Elizabeth School 5th grade students from Mrs. McMahon's Religion classes did a wonderful job presented a retelling of Henry Van Dyke's short story The Other Wise Man.



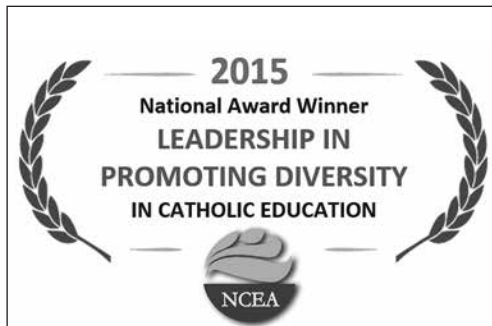
## SFIS Receives National Recognition

Each spring the National Catholic Educational Association gives out several prestigious awards at its annual convention. This year Saint Francis International School will be receiving the Sr. Catherine T. McNamee Award from the

NCEA. The McNamee Award is the NCEA's highest award given annually for leadership in promoting diversity in Catholic education.

The award recognizes SFIS' efforts to build a truly international student body. Four out of five students at Saint Francis International School are the children of immigrants from over 50 different countries. The SFIS community works hard to live out the message that everyone first sees when they come in through the school's doors: "All are Welcome!"

OPT



SFIS received the Catherine T. McNamee Award from the NCEA.



Diversity is one of the main hallmarks of Saint Francis International School.



SFIS students join hands in prayer at Ash Wednesday Mass.

## ENZLER

Con't from page 1

live, winter often stretches thin their budgets. Heating bills skyrocket or families risk sitting in the cold and getting sick. Many low-income people depend on public transportation, buses especially, to get to their jobs or to a social service provider. Senior citizens who are homebound are dependent on staff to ensure their meals are delivered no matter what.

Despite how tough this winter has been, and as we hopefully leave the bitter cold behind as March moves on, I do want to share just one quick story. For me, it was worth every cold evening when we served dinner outside at our St. Maria's Meals Dinner program. And it reminded me that these kinds of moments happen all over Catholic Charities all of the time.

On a Wednesday night late in February at our weekly St. Maria's Meals Dinner Program a volunteer drew my attention to one of our

guests who was especially in need. I went over to talk to him and asked him and his young son to come inside to talk with me.

I started a conversation with his son, who is in first grade and normally stays with his mom, but was spending time with his dad even though his dad was currently homeless. I told him I wanted to test him in either math or science and he picked math. So we started easy:

Me: What's 1+1?

Him: 2.

Me: What's 2+2?

Him: 4.

Me: What's 4+4?

Him: 8.

Me: What's 8+8?

Him: 16.

Me: What's 16+16?

He paused, and I see maybe I've stumped this bright first grader. I pull out a McDonald's gift card with \$5 on the balance. I said, "I'll tell you what. If you can tell me what 16+16 is, I'll give you this card." He looks stumped, but his Dad asks him if he'd like paper and pencil, to which he quickly nodded his head. So we set him up at the

front desk and he got to work while his Dad and I talked some more.

A minute later, he shouted out very confidently, "Thirty-two!" I asked him if he was sure. He said "I think so. I think it's 32." And then I handed him the gift card with a big smile. I looked at the paper and he had marked out two sets of 16 individual lines and counted to 32. Pretty good! His father got a little teary-eyed with pride as he watched his son so happy.

Then I said, "Maybe you and your Dad can go and get two cheeseburgers together."

A nearby staff member who saw the whole thing said, "Maybe right now you can give your dad a hug." The little boy ran over and hugged his dad and they both started to cry. Even I teared up a little.

To me, this is what we do, as followers of Christ. To borrow a phrase from a story I heard recently, we must be sure to "listen with our eyes" to those around us. We see people and we hear them and we know that maybe sometimes we are the only people who see and hear those in need.

OPT

## Saint Francis International Raises \$2,600 for the Missions

Each year in the days leading up to the start of Lent the community at Saint Francis International School holds a party called "Mission Fair." The idea behind Mission Fair is that students will learn about cultures in other parts of the world through games, songs and dances, and food and simultaneously raise money for a ministry. This unique mixture of learning, fun, and charity is a tradition started many years ago at the former St. Mark the Evangelist School in Hyattsville (one of the school communities that closed to create Saint Francis International School).

This year each grade in the school researched a different country in Africa and created games, food, and educational materials for their fellow students to use in learning about their grade's country of choice. On Mission Fair day, all 450 plus students visited the fair and purchased food, played games, and even got their faces and arms painted by eighth graders. Many parents donated food and other goodies and parent volunteers staffed the countries' booths.

This year the Mission Fair raised \$2,600, more than double what was raised at last year's Mission Fair. In recognition of the 60th anniversary of their founding of the former St. Camillus School the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur will be the recipients of this year's Mission Fair funds. Teachers and students are already planning for next year's Mission Fair.

SFIS is following up the success



An SFIS student happily shows off the face painting she got as part of Mission Fair.

of Mission Fair with a school-wide Lenten almsgiving project called "Change for Change." The SFIS Student Council is collecting donations from students throughout Lent to go to help the food pantries of St. Camillus Parish.

OPT

### St. Francis International School

[www.saintfrancisinternational.org](http://www.saintfrancisinternational.org)

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Principal

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Silver Spring, MD 20903

**St. Mark Campus**  
7501 Adelphi Road  
Hyattsville, MD 20783





Father Tim Daniel (right) offers his high opinion of the delicious offerings at St. Bart's "Soup and Stations" as St. Bart's Pastor, Father Mark Knestout (left), looks on.

## "Soup and Stations" Highlight Lent at St. Bartholomew Parish

**O**n a cold Friday night, February 23, St. Bart's held its annual Lenten "Soup and Stations" event in the Church Hall. This traditional parish event featured delicious home-made soup, baked goods, and other treats. The Church Hall was packed with parishioners and guests who ignored the cold weather for socializing and delicious food before moving upstairs to the Church for Stations of the Cross led by Deacon Julio Blanco-Eccleston. The night was cold, but the food and fellowship was warm.

OPT



Deacon Julio Blanco-Eccleston leads the Stations of the Cross at St. Bart's on Friday, February 23.

## St. Bartholomew Parish News Notes

### Casino Night

St. Bartholomew School host-

ed Casino Night at the Bethesda Country Club on the night of February 28. This event is St. Bart's School main fundraiser. The action-packed evening included professional casino gaming, dinner, and cocktails, plus a live auction.

### Snowflake Ball

St. Bartholomew School held its annual Father Daughter Snowflake Ball on a cold Saturday night, January 24, in the Church Hall. This popular annual event attracted a throng of Dads and Daughters, continuing a longstanding tradition at St. Bart's.

OPT

## St. Bart's Youth Group Stays Warm with a Busy Winter Schedule

**T**his winter the leaders of the St. Bart's Youth Group revised the group's events to include a new framework of prayer, service, crafts, and, as always, fun. The group packed food for the homeless, had a movie night, played laser tag, and went ice skating. Looking ahead, the group will organize and take part in a Lenten food drive, attend Stations of the Cross, make stations of the cross with individual shrines, go to a Ringling Brother's show, and more!! Youth from ages 10-16 are always welcome! For more information, check the St. Bart's Parish Bulletin or contact Maria Kaufmann at 32Kaufmann@cardinalmail.cua.edu.

OPT



The St. Bart's Youth Group prepares for action at Cabin John Ice Rink. Photo by Maria Kaufmann



The St. Bart's Youth Group takes a break from its busy schedule to refuel with pizza. Photo by Maria Kaufmann

### Holy Redeemer

### DANCE

*Con't from page 10*

arrived with their daughters arm in arm and hand and hand excited for the fun to begin. Our young ladies sparkled and shined in their dresses and fancy shoes! In a cloud of pink, dads and daughters danced the night away to the music provided by Unique Dreams. They also feasted

on and enjoyed a variety of amazing and sweet, delicious treats.

There was a lot of fun and laughter happening in the photo booth with dads using the different mustache props and hats and funny glasses. Thanks to the magic and creativity of our moms, Christy George and Sue Tropea and their many volunteers the night was one to remember!

OPT



Thanks to Christy George and Sue Tropea for planning a wonderful evening for the Fathers and Daughters!



Anthony Worch and his daughter Katie (2nd grade) dance the night away at the Father Daughter Dance 2015!



5A teacher Anita Woll poses with students Anna Domenech, Olivia Tropea, and Riley Bain while making Valentine's bags.

### St. Bartholomew Parish

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St. Bartholomew School  
Stephen Lamont, Principal  
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Monsignor Amey, center, and the parish priests enjoying the Gala

## A Love Story: St. Mary's Gala 2015

By Maureen Stiles

**W**hat better way to spend Valentine's Day than supporting a cause you love? Nearly 300 supporters agreed and braved the elements to attend the Annual Auction and Gala on February 14.

The weather may have been cold but the bidding was hot on such items as Taylor Swift tickets and an African Safari. The liveliest bidding wars involved the Kindergarten art project and laser tag with the middle school teachers.

The faculty and staff played cupid, delivering love letters to each table. Spreading the warmth, the school was decorated with letters from students and alumni declaring their favorite things about St. Mary's.

The evening not only showcased great auction items, but it lauded the work of volunteers as well. Mr. and Mrs. Pat Gilroy were honored as Parish Family of the year for their tireless work coordinating events

for last year's bicentennial as well as much other committee work. Also recognized were Mr. and Mrs. Matt McCormick, the school family of the year. The McCormick's five children—three graduates and 2 current students—attended St. Mary's School. As such, the family has been involved in nearly every committee, event or volunteer opportunity through the years.

As the largest fundraiser for the school, the Annual Auction and Gala relies on the support of school families and parishioners alike. By moving to an on-line bidding process and electronic catalog, those unable to attend were able to bid from afar, increasing the funds raised.

Attendees were treated to a first-hand look at the results of last year's proceeds. The newly renovated hall bathroom was a concrete example of their generosity at work.

Many thanks to all those who attended, donated, or sponsored to make this year's event such a success!

OPT



The eighth-grade class took advantage of the cold and snow with a tubing trip on February 27. The trip, a long-standing school tradition, allowed the class to pack in the memories before graduation in May. At least someone is enjoying the cold!

The JV girls were crowned champs after a close game on February 28. (The Varsity boys also emerged victorious in their division after a hard fought win.)



## Social Concerns Corner

**T**he weekend of March 14 & 15, St. Mary's will be fulfilling the Lenten promise of sacrifice with a clothing drive to benefit Interfaith and a food drive for Rockville FISH/HELP, both in conjunction with the Boy Scouts.

The parish is also collecting new men's pants of all kinds in sizes 32-38. See the St. Mary's website [www.stmarysrockville.org](http://www.stmarysrockville.org) for more information under the Social Concerns tab.

OPT

**St. Mary's Parish**  
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Pastor  
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**St. Mary's School**  
**Mrs. Debby Eisel, Principal**  
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**Maureen Stiles, Parish Editor**  
301-990-4329





Over 60 teens and adults participated in the winter retreat at Camp Wabanna.

## Youth Group Winter Retreat at Camp Wabanna

**Y**outh Groups from Mother Seton Parish, St. Elizabeth's Parish, and St. Mary's Parish in Barnesville went on a weekend retreat at the end of February to Camp Wabanna in Edgewater, Maryland. Over 60 teens and adults enjoyed being next to the frozen beauty of the Chesapeake Bay.

Youth Ministers Jill Brodrick of Mother Seton, and Brian Werth of St. Elizabeth's, led a truly an inspirational and fun-filled weekend with games, talks, and small groups. The weekend focused on redirecting our lives from "following" the things of this world, to learning how to be authentic followers of Christ.

The weekend was blessed by the presence of Fr. Jacob George, Associate Pastor of St. Elizabeth's, who celebrated Mass, led Eucharistic Adoration, and heard Confessions.



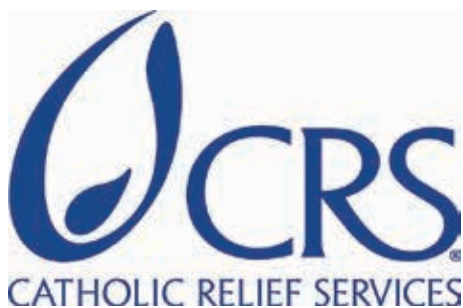
Doing a 'trust fall' means falling backward and trusting that your friends will catch you is symbolic of trusting Jesus to catch you when you fall in life.

**OPT**

## Catholic Relief Services Collection Helps 'Jesus in Disguise'

**T**he Catholic Relief Services Collection, scheduled to take place March 14-15 in many dioceses across the United States, aids more than 100 million people around the world including those affected by persecution, war and natural disasters, through the six worldwide agencies it supports. The collection's theme "Help Jesus in Disguise," provides an opportunity to echo the gospel call to assist and accompany the poor.

"The Catholic Relief Services Collection gives us a Lenten opportunity for global solidarity. We show our love of God and each other through caring for the poor and marginalized. This collection provides much-needed humanitarian aid, supports development projects that improve living conditions, and provides resources for immigrant and immigrant communities and advocacy programs," said Archbishop Dennis Schnurr of Cincinnati, chairman of the



Committee on National Collections of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). "This collection helps to alleviate suffering in incredibly meaningful ways."

Funds from last year's collection helped Catholic Relief Services (CRS) provide housing and protection for people whose lives have been disrupted by violence in Gaza, Jerusalem and the Kurdish region of Iraq. CRS has also introduced peace-building programs in South Sudan, and continues assisting in rebuilding efforts in communities struck by natural disasters in Haiti and the Philippines. CRS is a lead-

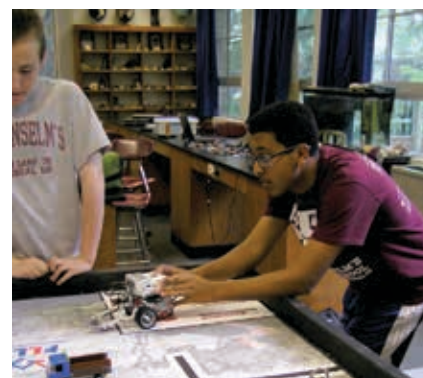
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- A special service component to our curriculum called the Greater Love Initiative & St. Bernadette House system
- Faith-based, multi-cultural community

[www.saintbernadetteschool.org](http://www.saintbernadetteschool.org)

## St. Bernadette Celebrates Catholic Schools Week



The children had fun dressed in red, white, and blue and singing patriotic songs.



Above, Student Council members (left to right) Erica Patton, Grace Miller, Gabriel Feleke, Daniel Boyle, Ben Tran and Tommy Hodgkins help give tours to prospective students at our Open House.



At right, Thank you to Miss Cooper and Miss Rogevich for a wonderful prayer service to celebrate our nation.



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## Eighth Grader Named Maryland National Geographic Bee Semifinalist

**J**ob Sarwal of St. Bernadette School is one of the semifinalists eligible to compete in the 2015 Maryland National Geographic State Bee sponsored by Google and Plum Creek. The contest will be held at Community College of Baltimore on Friday, March 27, 2015.

This is the second level of the National Geographic Bee competition, which is now in its 27th year. The School Bee was held at St. Bernadette School with fourth- through eighth-grade students throughout the state to determine each school champion. Eighth-grader William Heinle was our runner-up and seventh-grader Matthew Murphy received third place.

The School champions then took a qualifying test, which they submitted to the National Geographic Society. The National Geographic Society has invited up to 100 of the top-scoring students in each of the 50 states, District of Columbia, Department of Defense Dependents Schools and U.S. territories to compete in the state Bees.

Each state champion will receive \$100, the *National Geographic Atlas of the World*, 10th

*Continued on page 23*

**More St. Bernadette News on Page 23**



**L**eRoy Carhart is a late-term abortionist (over 20-24 weeks) whose offices are located in Executive Park Terrace on Wisteria Dr., right around the corner from Mother Seton Parish in Germantown. More than 2,200 unborn children have been aborted at Germantown Reproductive Health Services since December 2010. Many babies have been aborted over 20 weeks gestation, and some over 30 weeks! This is illegal in most states. Carhart flies to Germantown every week from Nebraska to avoid its fetal pain law banning abortions after 20 weeks and then returns home on Wednesdays, leaving his patients alone to handle complications. Carhart doesn't have privileges at Shady Grove Hospital. He's been implicated in the death of one woman in Germantown, Jennifer Morbelli, who died just about two years ago after her 33-week abortion. Four other women have been taken to the hospital after receiving treatment from Carhart. Recently, another abortionist in the area is arriving at GRHS to perform 1st and 2nd trimester abortions on Fridays.

Can you help? More than ever, we need a continuous daily prayerful presence outside of Carhart's offices. The Lenten Germantown 40 Days for Life Campaign is on until Palm Sunday, Mar. 29. One-hour of prayer is the total commitment. There is plenty of proof that when we care enough to be there for these women, or couples, who see



no other way out, hearts and minds are changed and babies saved. After speaking with sidewalk counselors over 200 mothers have decided to deliver their children! Hours are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The vigil calendar is online: <http://40daysforlife.com/germantown/>.

If you are interested in participating in the Spring 40 Days for Life Campaign, you can bring water or a chair. Park on Waters Rd., at Mother Seton Parish, or behind Giant. Stand only on public property—the sidewalk and the grassy area between the walk and the road on Wisteria Dr. Carhart's offices are not visible from where you stand because they are located in the second row of offices, directly across the parking lot from Germantown Pregnancy Choices. While there, pray for Carhart and MaryLou Carhart, the clinic workers, the pro-life sidewalk counselors, for women considering abortion, their family members, for other people praying outside abortuaries around the world, for positive media coverage, for education of the public. 40 Days for Life is about PUBLIC

#### WITNESS.

Others need to SEE who it is that cares enough to make this unusual effort and wonder why what we stand for is important.

Across the street from Carhart's office is Germantown Pregnancy Choices. They need volunteers in their office as well as sidewalk counselors. They can be reached at: [office@GermantownPregnancyChoices.com](mailto:office@GermantownPregnancyChoices.com), or call 301-916-5433. They are an alternate resource for women who are pregnant and need help and don't choose abortion. Pray that God will do amazing things during

this 9th campaign! Also, please join fellow citizens and parishioners on any Sunday from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., and on Mondays from 8:30 to 10 a.m., on the sidewalk on Wisteria Dr. Those are the times when Carhart and his patients arrive for the procedures. Visit [www.pray-forgermantown.com](http://www.pray-forgermantown.com) for more information.

In addition, if you know of someone who's been hurt by abortion, please tell them about the Silent No More Awareness Campaign, a project to educate the public that abortion is harmful emotionally, physically and spiritually to women, men and families, and not a 'fix' for a problem pregnancy. For more information, contact: [Janet@SilentNoMore.com](mailto:Janet@SilentNoMore.com), or call 888-707-6635.

Maryland Senate Bill 511 was recently introduced by 15 Senators entitled 'Women's Late-Term Pregnancy Health Act.' In

it, the language reads, "EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY, AN INDIVIDUAL MAY NOT KNOWINGLY PERFORM OR INDUCE OR ATTEMPT TO PERFORM OR INDUCE AN ABORTION ON A PREGNANT WOMAN IF THE PROBABLE GESTATIONAL AGE OF THE WOMAN'S UNBORN CHILD HAS BEEN DETERMINED BY A PHYSICIAN TO BE 20 WEEKS OR MORE. In addition, Maryland House Bill 492 was introduced by 21 Delegates entitled, 'Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act', which prohibits abortion after 20 weeks based on evidence that in unborn child is capable of feeling at 8 weeks. The hearing for this bill is scheduled for Mar. 16, at 1 p.m., in the Health and Government Operations Committee Room. Please watch for the progress of these bills and pray for their passage.

OPT

#### More Mother Seton News on Pages 19 & 22

#### Mother Seton Parish

19951 Fr. Hurley Boulevard  
Germantown, MD

**Fr. Lee Fangmeyer**  
Pastor

301-924-3838

**Joyce McCarthy**  
OPT Editor

301-718-5995

[mspbtltn@aol.com](mailto:mspbtltn@aol.com)



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## Parish Mission, March 16-18

**M**other Seton Parish will have a Lenten Mission led by Fr. Dan Leary, pastor of St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Silver Spring. He will kick off the mission by preaching at all Masses the weekend of Mar. 14/15. The theme of the mission is, 'God's Love for You.' Fr. Dan will have talks Monday through Wednesday nights, Mar. 16, 17, & 18, at 7:30 p.m.

On Monday, the talk is on Baptism: 'Putting Your God On'; Tuesday's talk is on the Sacrament of Confession: 'Freedom in Christ'; and Wednesday's talk is on the Eucharist: 'Fed with Love'. Eucharistic Adoration will be offered Tuesday and

Wednesday nights after each talk, and Confessions will be offered as well. A healing Mass will be held Wed. night at 7:30 p.m. It will take the place of the 7 p.m. Tuesday Mass.

Confessions will be offered at the regular time on Tuesday and Wednesday nights at 6 p.m., and continue through the evening. In addition, Confession will be offered during the weekend Masses, Mar. 14 & 15. If you'd like to meet with Fr. Dan ahead of time to talk or for confession, please call the Parish Office to schedule an appointment, 301-924-3838.

OPT

## 23rd Annual Black History Program

By Dorrette Paulin

**"W**e've Come This Far By Faith" was this year's theme for the 23rd Annual Black History Program at Mother Seton Parish on Sunday, February 22, sponsored by the St. Rita Society with welcome and opening prayer by our Pastor Fr. Lee Fangmeyer. Under the impending threat of ice and snow, the organizers debated whether or not to proceed with the program. The snow came, but with the promise of warmer weather in the afternoon, we forged ahead and some of our strong-minded parishioners, community members, and Gospel choirs dug out their vehicles and joined us for an afternoon of uplifting songs, poetry and oral presentations.

At the beginning of the program, there were some empty chairs but by the time Fr. Blake Evans, former Parochial Vicar of Mother Seton Parish, and current Parish Administrator of Nativity Parish in Washington, D.C., delivered his talk on faith and perseverance,



Francine Grey-Theriot is a freshman at Loyola University

program attendance had increased. Not to be outdone by their Parish Administrator, Nativity Church Gospel Choir, under direc-

*Continued on page 23*

## SPRING FEVER BINGO & SUPPER

Friday, March 27

Prizes Include Bags from Coach, Vera Bradley and Thirty-One and Jewelry from Brighton

**Location:**  
Mother Seton Parish  
19951 Fr. Hurley Blvd.  
Germantown, MD

Doors Open at 5 PM  
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Choice of Chicken or  
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Let's Celebrate Spring! All those who wear Hawaiian attire will receive an extra entry for the door prize drawings.

Disclaimer: Coach, Inc., Vera Bradley Designs, Inc., Thirty-One Gifts LLC, and Brighton Collectibles, LLC are not affiliated with this event.



## Cats at Holy Child: A Thrilling "Memory"

**T**hey were cute, cuddly, mean, and mysterious, but all in all, the cats roaming the stage in Holy Child's amazing production of the Andrew Lloyd Weber classic, CATS, were talented and entertaining. Directed by Ms. Elsbeth Fager, with technical direction by Karina Gershowitz (both Holy Child teachers and arts professionals in the music/theater community at large), this past weekend's musical played to standing room only audiences, who also enjoyed

the nearby "Jellicle Ballroom," the kid-friendly space for crafts, face painting and fun.

A special moment came on Friday, when Old Deuteronomy (Shamaria Bell) was greeted by her former classmates at HC's sister institution, the Washington School for Girls. Great work by more than three dozen cast members, and an equally talented crew, who created scintillating sets and even more stunning makeup!

OPT



## St. Bernadette

**Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest  
Second-Place  
Winner**

Congratulations to Lucas Scheider for receiving 2nd place in the Archdiocese of Washington Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Competition. He was able to attend a special Mass to receive recognition from Cardinal Wuerl.



Our students K-8 are learning about and making art to honor Pope Saint John Paul II. Junior High is participating in a contest with two other archdioceses, Baltimore and Arlington. One of the eighth-graders' drawings of Pope John Paul II was enlarged and third and fourth graders painted the drawing.

**SEMIFINALIST**

*Con't from page 20*

Edition, a medal, and a trip to Washington, D.C., to represent their state in the National Geographic Bee Championship to be held at National Geographic Society headquarters, May 11-13, 2015. The national champion will receive a \$50,000 college scholarship and lifetime membership in the Society. The national champion will also travel (along with one parent or guardian), all expenses paid, to the Galápagos Islands, where he/she will experience geography firsthand through

up-close encounters with the islands' unique wildlife and landscapes. Travel for the trip is provided by Lindblad Expeditions and National Geographic. Visit [www.national-geographic.com/geobee](http://www.national-geographic.com/geobee) for more information on the National Geographic Bee.

National Geographic Channel and Nat Geo WILD will air the 2015 National Geographic Bee Championship final round, moderated by award-winning journalist Soledad O'Brien, on Friday, May 15, at 8 p.m. The final round will be aired later on public television stations. Check local television listings for air date and time in your area.

OPT

**HISTORY**

*Con't from page 22*

torship of Jeff Corry, had us on our feet with raised hands clapping and enjoying their spirited renditions.

While some of the other choirs were unable to join us, GARBO, our unwavering local Gospel Choir with roots at Mother Seton Parish, was present and was conscripted by Joshua Sommerville, director of HIS W.I.L. Community Choir, to join him in singing some of the same songs when he participated in the program as a youngster. As luck would have it, we were also treated to two solos by Josh. At one point, Jeff directed the Nativity Choir, Josh played the keyboard and between them we had quite a

lively performance. Spirits soared and we forgot about the cold weather.

Part of our reason for not cancelling the program was the anticipation of hearing excerpts from Debra Plummer's new book, *The Ultimate Best Friend* and Francine Grey-Theriot's narration of *Sojourner's Truth "Ain't I A Woman?"* and *"The Negro Mother"* by Langston Hughes. Francine, now a freshman at Loyola University sang in Mother Seton's Youth Choir and was a regular performer in the program. Both presentations brought us to our feet. At the end of the program, everyone joined in the grand finale: *"We've Come This Far By Faith"* and the choirs and stout-hearted attendees were treated to substantial refreshments.

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Holy Cross students assemble packages of breakfast items for Catholic Charities' Cup of Joe program.

## Cup of Joe at Holy Cross

**F**aith, Scholarship, Service" are the guiding principles for the Holy Cross community. Service projects abound throughout the year,

but during Catholic Schools Week in early February, one particular school-wide event took center stage. Students and parent volunteers gathered in Lewis Hall to assemble over 500 breakfast-to-go bags for the Catholic Charities' Cup of Joe program.

Cup of Joe was established to honor the philanthropic work of the late Joe Robert, Jr. who devoted his life to support those in need through the Archdiocese of Washington and Catholic Charities. The program is the only sustainable breakfast program for Catholic Charities' five homeless shelters in the Archdiocese of Washington, which serve over one thousand men and women each night.

Holy Cross students in Second

through Eighth Grades filled breakfast bags with healthy food items such as V-8 juice, granola bars and apple sauce. Even the youngest students in Pre-K, Kindergarten and First Grade participated by decorating the bags with hearts and kind words of support.

Holy Cross Principal, Lisa Kane described the event as uplifting. "One of our school families suggested we support the Cup of Joe program, and the idea was welcomed with a great deal of enthusiasm. It was wonderful to see our students join together with such happiness to accomplish the task. I know we all felt gratified to take part in supporting this program. My hope is that it will be an ongoing event at Holy Cross."

OPT

## Holy Cross is All Heart

In February, Holy Cross students jump roped their way to raising almost \$2,000 for the annual Jump Rope for Heart event to benefit the American Heart Association. Each class jumped with their Student Buddies to add to the fun. P.E. teacher, Stephani Kolevar organized the fundraiser with the support of school parents who donated their time or provided healthy snacks and bottles of water for students to enjoy after the event. Mrs. Kolevar extends a heartfelt thanks to everyone for their participation and generosity.

OPT



Holy Cross students in Grades 3, 4 and 5 host a Math Carnival for Pre-K through Grade 2. Students applied their mathematical skills and reason to play a variety of different games.

## Math Games Multiply the Fun

The third annual Math Carnival, sponsored by students in Grades three through five, was held on January 23 at Holy Cross. The older students created all of the games and devised rules for multiple levels of play to challenge the Pre-K through Second Grade carnival participants. Manning the tables at the Carnival, the older students explained the game objectives, and guided the younger students as they added,

subtracted, multiplied or divided their way around Lewis Hall.

Words of encouragement, high-fives and enthusiasm from the older students motivated the young mathematicians as they engaged in games such as Space Travelers Array, Racing Buttons, and Make it Big. Students collected tickets from each game table, and redeemed them for prizes at the end of the carnival. It was "sum" fun!

OPT



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# Mary of Nazareth School Fifth-Grade Tax Rebellion

**O**n Monday, February 2, the fifth grade students at Mary of Nazareth School were locked out of their Social Studies classroom with the following proclamation on the door:

"Attention all fifth grade citizens! This weekend, a war was waged against our classroom when another school invaded us. I recruited soldiers, and we fought bravely for this room. After buying supplies and paying the soldiers, we are out of money. I will need to tax you for various necessities so that we can earn our riches back and be the strong kingdom we once were. All fifth grade grade citizens who do not obey will go to locker jail!"

The students were subsequently "taxed" for various requests ranging from using the classroom tissues, to getting a drink, to using the bathroom!

As the increasingly irate students began to learn about the causes of the American Revolution in their Social Studies class with teacher Erin Staples, they also began to realize the similarities between what the colonists faced and their current situation. Without realizing it, their immediate actions toward their taxes mirrored those of America's founding fathers. Just like the colonists, the students first tried to stop the taxes by writing letters and petitions. As the taxes continued, the



The fifth-grade students rebelled against their teacher, Ms. Staples, and "tarred and feathered" her with silly string.



As part of their rebellion, the fifth-grade students made signs and boards expressing their frustration with the new tax.

students emulated the boycotts of the colonists by stowing away their own tissues and water to use "tax free." In class, the students learned about other tactics the colonists used to protest. They analyzed political cartoons, recreated famous speeches, watched an effigy, and tarred and feathered paper doll stamp collectors.

Armed with knowledge and the desire to have a "tax free life" again, the students decided to take matters into their own hands. Two weeks after the tax announcement was posted on their classroom door, all 56 fifth grade

students staged an organized rebellion against their teacher. One student led his grade in a rousing speech from the top of the playground, which inspired all the students to "tar and feather" Ms. Staples with silly string! The students created an effigy of Ms. Staples, which the students all circled around to "attack" with tomatoes and other items. There was also a "no taxes rap," a petition signed by all the students, anti-tax signs, and chants. This will certainly be a lesson that these students (and their teacher!) will never forget!

OPT

## Congratulations to 2015 Geography Bee winners

Fourth Grade:  
Fifth Grade:  
Sixth Grade:  
Seventh Grade:  
Eighth Grade:

Kate Nonnenkamp and Philip Williams  
Brenden Pauline and Harrison Cerone  
Luke Schlimm and Max Filliben  
Colleen Koch and Julia Nonnenkamp  
Mariel Juwillie and Thomas Kallarakal

Congratulations to our 14U Boys Basketball Team who won their Division Championship. Team members include: Conor Fagan, Alex Garvey, Josh Gonsalves, Jack Juhring, Jim Juhring, Zach Magrogan, Eamon Murphy, Joseph Nolan, Matthew Rutland, Carson Schaefer and Coach Rutland.



## Faculty Retreat

By Fran DuVall

Our staff went down to the National Museum of Women in the Arts on Friday, February 13 to view the exhibit, "Picturing Mary: Woman, Mother, Idea." We started the day with Mass in our school's brand new chapel with Fr. Ray Fecteau, and then rode a bus

downtown. Once at the museum, we were fortunate to have a guide take us through the first part of the exhibit. The art was amazing. Each artist brought Mary to life in his own way. I could feel the passion from the paintings and sculptures. It was one of the best retreats we have had in my 12 years at Mary of Nazareth School.



Cardinal Wuerl spends time visiting with our eighth-grade students at the March for Life.

## Congratulations to 2015 Spelling Bee Winners

**C**ongratulations to all Mary of Nazareth School's Spelling Bee contestants on a fine job at our Catholic Schools Week Spelling Bees. The winner of the upper grades bee was Meghan Stone and the runner-up was Tam-Anh Tran. For the primary grades bee, the winner was Juliana Wolske and the runner-up was Annelise Allport. Best wishes for success in the next level of competition.

OPT

**Mary of Nazareth Roman Catholic School**  
14131 Seneca Road, Darnestown, Maryland 20874  
**Principal: Mr. Michael J. Friel**  
**Assistant Principal: Mrs. Rosemary Adams**  
301-869-0940 (tel)  
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**Mary of Nazareth OPT Editor: Heather Long,**  
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Mother Seton, Germantown; St. John Neumann, Gaithersburg; St. Mary's Shrine, Barnesville; St. Rose of Lima, Gaithersburg; St. Paul, Damascus; Our Lady of the Presentation, Poolesville; Our Lady of the Visitation, Darnestown.





Elise Auldridge and Cathy Berry at last year's Sodality's Brunch Celebration.

## 67th Annual Sodality Communion Brunch, May 3

St. Michael the Archangel Sodality will host the 67th Annual Sodality Communion Brunch on Sunday, May 3, immediately following the 9:30 a.m. Mass. The festive occasion is in honor of Mary Our Blessed Mother. The event will take place in the Williamsburg Room. Tickets are available now for individuals or tables of ten. This popular affair will make a thoughtful Mother's Day gift for loved ones among your family and friends. In addition, for those who have always wanted to better understand Mary and her role in God's plan of salvation the Sodality Communion Brunch would be ideal.

An inspirational guest speaker will share a pastoral message focused on Mary who is full of grace and our most loving advocate. The presentation is preceded by a delectable buffet brunch with a variety of beautifully arrayed foods. During the buffet, guests fellowship with one another in a relaxing atmosphere among familiar and new friends. Music and song

complement the program, refreshing minds and hearts. Presented during "Mary's month" of May, the 67th Annual Sodality Communion Brunch is a unique and enjoyable opportunity for all to learn more about the virtues of Mary and her singular importance in our faith as testified to in Scriptures and Church teaching.

The parish's Sodality is dedicated to the Marian way of life of prayer and service. The group gathers monthly to pray the Holy Rosary, reflect on a spiritual message, fellowship, and plan their several apostolic acts of service to the parish and the Archdiocese. Many illustrious Saints have been Sodalists, and they are important examples of how a profound love of Mary gives us the grace to become more like Jesus Christ.

Tickets are available now. Early purchase is recommended. Ticket prices are: adults \$28.00 and children 12 years and younger \$14.00. For more information please contact Cynthia Lewis at 301-585-1683 or the rectory at 301-589-1155. **OPT**

## Parish Lenten Schedule and Upcoming Events

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Stations of the Cross  
Every Friday during Lent  
7:00PM (English)  
8:15PM (Spanish)

Reconciliation (Penance)  
"The Light Is On For You"  
Wednesday evenings during Lent  
6:30PM-7:30PM  
Saturday 2:45-3:45PM.

RCIA Classes  
Wednesday Evening 7:00PM  
(English)  
Sunday 11:00AM (Spanish)

Catechesis for Adults  
Monday & Thursday 7:30PM

Landings-Safe Harbor for  
Returning Catholics  
March 15, 7:00PM

Young Adult Scriptural Reflection  
Sunday after 11:00AM Mass

Baptismal Classes, March 17 &  
24<sup>th</sup> Must call  
Parish Office to Register for  
April Baptism

Lenten Fish Fry  
Friday, March 20, 4:00PM-8:00PM

New Parishioner Orientation  
April 18 at noon!

Visit [www.st.michaelsilverspring.org](http://www.st.michaelsilverspring.org) for Mass Schedule and Events! We look forward to seeing everyone during this Lenten journey! "Make Your Hearts Firm!" (James 5:8) **OPT**

## New Health and Fitness Ministry Helps Parishioners Get Fit

After working with a personal trainer for nearly a year, St. Michael the Archangel Pastor Msgr. Eddie Tolentino experienced a tremendous improvement in his health and fitness and wanted to help parishioners do the same. Thus was born St. Michael's Health & Fitness Ministry.

Now, personal trainer and graduate of St. Michael's school, Aaron Gamble, who assisted Msgr. Tolentino to drop almost 60 pounds, leads a growing group of parishioners in weekly 90 minute training sessions on Wednesday nights in St. Michael's function room. Sessions begin with an optional weigh-in and body fat check so participants can track their weekly results. Aaron is a certified personal trainer and certified as a Holistic Lifestyle Coach, which allows him to understand how training affects your life, and how life affects your training. His ultimate goal is to help parishioners reach an optimal holistic way of life. In doing so, Aaron knows that there are six main components to achieve results, which he has shared with our ministry members who come to class each week. He has inspired the group to be committed to the ministry and accountable to each other to help create



Trainer Aaron Gamble works with participants at St. Michael's Health &amp; Fitness Ministry.

a plan which will achieve results.

Participants of all ages and fitness levels are welcomed and exercises are adapted to meet individual needs a small fee is collected from each participant to cover the trainer's time.

"Aaron has introduced me to a lot of great new exercises including dynamic stretches that can easily be done with no equipment at home", says regular participant and parishioner Pat Garcia. "I look forward to the weekly sessions and try not to miss one."

Trainer Gamble also provides information on nutrition and gen-

eral wellness and incorporates breathing exercise and aerobics into the weekly sessions. Msgr. Tolentino attends most sessions and leads participants in closing prayer and reflection.

"I am delighted to share what I have learned working with Aaron with our parish community," says Msgr. Tolentino.

St. Michael's is happy to have interested individuals from other parishes join the group. For information, contact the parish office at 301.589.1155 or [stmichaelsilverspring@gmail.com](mailto:stmichaelsilverspring@gmail.com). **OPT**

## Hand and Hand at St. Michael's – Going Fishing

The Knights of Columbus Council No. 15084 partnered with St. Michael's Cub Scouts Pack

23 towards the goal of strengthening the Pack and taking the scouts on a fishing trip.

The two groups held a meatless spaghetti dinner for the parish on Friday February 27 for \$5.00.

Much of the ingredients were donated by our neighboring WHOLE FOODS, a friend and loyal

Supporter of St. Michael's. In order to select the tastiest meatless spaghetti sauce, a group tasting was held at the parish. Scouts and parishioners chose the sauce they liked best from two "Home Made Sauces." Not a surprise to see the

spaghetti tasting results:

Scouts liked sample one: "Wow! This tastes like pizza sauce," said one happy scout! The parishioners like the sauce with more vegetables. The judges' solution: make a combination of both for the February 27 event.

Paula Lockhart, Cub Scouts Pack 23 Committee Chairperson said, "We thank the Knights and the community for supporting the Cub Scouts of Pack 23, as this fishing trip will help them develop collaboration and technical skills." In addition to the spaghetti dinner, the Knights have invited all Parishioners and friends to attend "Phantom Camp."

We all remember our own summer camp programs and fishing was

one of the best activities! Memories of fishing, creating our first fire, s'mores and long lasting friendships are part of "Phantom Camp" which will help the Scouts achieve their financial goal. Monies received will help purchase fishing gear, lunch, transportation, and lodging. To learn more about "Phantom Camp" and helping the Scouts go fishing for the first time contact Charles Hayes at 301. 589.1155, we want all of our Scouts to enjoy their first camping experience!

Thanks to all the parishioners and friends who came to the spaghetti dinner and who have given a donation to "Phantom Camp!" Interested in learning more about being a Scout at St. Michael's give us a call at 301. 589.1155. **OPT**

## ST ANDREW

*Con't from page 6*

sports memorabilia and a reserved row for First Holy Communion Mass. Proceeds from the bingo sales, auction and concessions raised a record amount for the school.

We were honored to have Bishop Martin Holley celebrate the all school Ash Wednesday Mass. This was his "second first" at St. Andrews in 2015 (he celebrated an Epiphany Mass January 4). During Mass, our talented school choir sang Jesus

Loves Me, Somebody's Knocking at Your Door and other hymns.

The annual Spirit 5k and 1k Fun Run will take place March 28. St. Andrew is blessed with being adjacent to Wheaton Regional Park and its extensive network of trails. Runners will start on the St. A ball fields, then wind through the park's paved bike trail – either pursuing a personal best time or leisurely taking in early signs of spring in the woods. Water stations, manned by volunteers will pepper the course. Timed chips have been added this year so each participant will receive

an accurate reading of their race (or stroll) time. Strollers are welcome but please leave your pets at home.

For additional information, please visit [www.standrewapostle5K.org](http://www.standrewapostle5K.org).

Runners will receive goody bags filled with donated items including water bottles and snacks. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Lilabea Foundation, a non-profit that funds pediatric brain cancer research. Founded by her family, it is named after a current St. Andrew kindergartener who is battling a brain tumor. **OPT**

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# Shea Recognized as ARC Montgomery Advocate of the Year

St. Rose Parishioner Sheila Shea has been named the ARC Montgomery Advocate of the Year. Shea received the award for her efforts to bring inclusiveness to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the St. Rose parish community.

On Sunday, March 1, Shea received the honor at ARC's annual ceremony that recognizes community, staff and volunteers for supporting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Montgomery County. The ARC Advocate of the Year award is presented to an individual who has contributed to the inclusion, dignity and welfare of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Rachel Chung, the Assistant Director for Vocational & Day Services at The Arc Montgomery County and a parishioner at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, read the award citation to Shea during its presentation. "Sheila Shea volunteers as a special needs catechist at St. Rose of Lima Parish," Chung said. "Sheila is making a real difference in the lives of people with disabilities." Here are a few examples.

- Shea inspired several teenagers to take on the role of Faith Mentor to special needs students in their own religious education classes.
- Shea developed adaptive religious education materials so all children can complete traditional rites of passage like First Communion and Confirmation.
- Shea created a "sensory tour" of the church to allow every-



Sheila Shea accepts her award at ARC Montgomery.

one an opportunity to see the inner workings of the sanctuary and to see, touch and smell the items used during Mass.

- Shea confidently affirms that all children can learn and that the path begins with respecting the gifts every student has to offer to the church.
- Shea ensures that developmental delays and special needs do not exclude anyone from nurturing their faith at St. Rose of Lima or having their spiritual needs met.
- Shea helps people without disabilities learn to welcome people with disabilities and their families, and helps them all develop meaningful relationships.

Shea was accompanied by her family and friends at ARC's award ceremony. "It was wonderful to share this special recognition with my church family," Shea said, "Especially, Jeanne Vanover, Remi Bauer, Sherry Moitoza, Christine Vocke, Father Agustin Mateo, Yvonne and Gustavo Salazar, Meghan Parker, Caitlin Shea, and Daniel Shea for coming out on such dark and stormy night....blessings." Shea continued, "As you all know we are in this together, and with the support of Mary Chute O'Meara and Peg Kolm at the Archdiocese of Washington, we can make a difference in the lives of those with visible and invisible disabilities." Shea concluded with, "Thanks to the members of St. Rose of Lima for a welcoming and authentic response



Sheila Shea and Father Mateo after she received the ARC award. Photo by Remi Bauer

to all persons and the understanding that persons with disabilities have the ability to proclaim the Gospel and to be a living witness to its truth within our community."

Shea recognizes that St. Rose of Lima is a uniquely welcoming parish to all who attend, including those with disabilities. In addition, Shea says that she is very grateful for the support of Father Mateo in ensuring that persons with disabilities have full access to their Catholic faith. Susan Joseph, a Coordinator of Religious Education at St. Rose, said, "Sheila's contributions to the St. Rose community have been profound and far reaching. In creating educational materials, preparing tailored made lessons, teaching, and ministering to our special needs students, Sheila has brought

the beauty and truth of the Catholic faith to many young people," said Joseph. "Sheila has pulled down and dismantled the barriers that often stand in the way for special education students to prepare and receive the sacraments," Joseph said adding that Sheila's efforts have fostered the understanding that special education students comprise the Body of Christ

Deborah Mark, ARC Director of Communications & Outreach, said "Sheila was a very strong nominee because she made it possible to fully incorporate people with intellectual and developmental disabilities into religious education."

OPT



Knights of Columbus at St. Rose serve pancakes to parishioners on Shrove Tuesday. The Knights made about 1200 pancakes. Photo by Joe Teter

## INSPIRING VOICES

Con't from page 1

moderated by successful technology entrepreneur, and HC parent, Lisa Kazor-Christovich, founder and CEO of Savantage Solutions.

Nine alumnae shared their career experiences, which range from a US Postal Service mechanical engineer,

Energy Department civil engineer, software executives for Microsoft, Booz Allen Hamilton, CGI, a designer and a PhD candidate in atmospheric science research. Other STEAM events have included a presentation by Julie Kantor, of Million Women Mentors, and our upcoming first "Maker Day for Young Girls," a mini-engineering afternoon of building fun for girls in grades Three through Six on March 14. Read about the entire series at [www.holychild.org/steam](http://www.holychild.org/steam).

OPT

## Around St. Rose

# The Meaning of Lent

Our Parish Times editor, Mary Zoccola, asked some parishioners about their thoughts and reflections on this Lenten Season. Here are their comments:

### Mary Smith

*A time of atonement.*

### Alison Heinhold Melley

*Reboot, reflect, get ready.*

### Alexis Adams Gerard

*Meaningful sacrifice.*

### Kay White Lamanna

*Lent, to me, is penitent – contemplating how to be a better person and asking forgiveness.*

### Meg Russell

*Lent is so many things – an opportunity to more specifically draw near to the Lord, especially in the Paschal Mystery. It is a time to ask God's specific grace to better ourselves. It is a place where we sacrifice and give up (fast and abstinence, for one), so we might know that Jesus is mired in those sacrifices with us. Lent is awesome*

*in its invitation, struggle, graces, and in its unfinishedness – death, struggle, sacrifice is never the end of the Christian story. Resurrection, life, healing, mercy – that is our story. Love is our story.*

### Terri Nuccio-Youngs

*Lent to me is a reflection period, a time for an increase in prayer and I like meaningful sacrifice also!*

### Cindy Billone Chang

*It is a humbling time for me and a time for me to center myself again...*

OPT

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# Faith: "It's Kinda Cool" High School Students Tell Confirmandi

On February 27, the St. John the Evangelist Parish Confirmation Class held its Confirmation Retreat at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Throughout the year, the High School Confirmation Team had worked with the eighth graders, meeting monthly for Prep Sessions. On retreat day, these willing and motivated leaders did some of their best work. The high school seniors openly shared their experiences during a Q&A panel entitled "Faith and Wisdom." They discussed what it means to rely on faith and God's guidance and how their faith has changed and deepened since they were confirmed. As evidenced by the following excerpts from the session, their answers provide guidance for all ages.

## Q. How do you experience God working in your life now as a senior vs. Eighth grade?

**Margaret Capizzi:** I definitely recognize God's presence more during my day, in the people I meet and in acts of kindness. I appreciate more what my friends and parents do for me. As an eighth grader, I didn't realize it was really God's presence.

**Delaney Muldoon:** My faith has changed since 8<sup>th</sup> grade; now everything is more natural, it's kind of cool. My parents don't force me to go to Church, it's way more personal now. I go because it's something that I want to do. One thing I try to do is pray throughout the day. It's easier to have short

conversations with God, like even just praising him.

## Q. How do the sacraments help you in your life?

**Maggie Matejik:** Reconciliation is one sacrament that I've grown with. As an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, I went with my class and never really felt anything special. Now it's more of a choice, because I have become more independent in my faith. I think of it as a conversation with God through my priest. I try to always go face to face with the priest, it makes it more personal. The more effort I have put into it, the more I feel the reward.

**Paul Campion:** Communion is the sacrament for me. When I was younger I went to church every week because I was supposed to go. Now I get to choose if I want to go to church. I see it as a way to re-boot for the week. For me, it's a nice way to change up the week and try to be God's presence to those around me.

## Q. After you were confirmed, did you feel different right away?

**Ryan Rippetoe:** When I really felt the effect of Confirmation was when I was injured last year. I broke my heel and had to sit out of sports. I began to feel the need to pray to my patron saint; I prayed to him every day and still do. I owe this motivation to the fact that I was confirmed. I was motivated to pray more and not give up on the rehab. My faith was deepening and I was



Peg Daly leads a Q/A session with high school seniors at this year's Confirmation retreat.

aware that the Holy Spirit was helping me.

## Q. In high school you have friends who don't practice the same faith as you do. What effect does this have on you, if any?

**Helen Whalen:** I meet a lot of people who don't practice the same faith as me. It raises the question to me of why I do believe in God. Being questioned has made me stronger in my faith; it has made me believe more in my faith. Don't be afraid to express your faith, because it strengthens you.

**Joe Aitken:** A lot of people I know don't believe in God. It doesn't hurt my faith. I feel like it strengthens my faith. It makes me organize my thoughts about what God does mean to me. It helps me realize that it's a lot better to see God as

a friend and to have him with me.

## Q. What one piece of advice would you give to the eighth graders?

**Delaney:** It may take a while to experience the gifts of the Holy Spirit working in your life. It just takes time, so don't give up, don't worry.

**Joe:** Stay open to all of the experiences that come in your life. Even negative ones, take them and use them to motivate you to learn from them.

**Maggie:** Live out your faith and keep Jesus in your life every day. Don't be afraid to show what you believe.

**Meggie:** Don't forget to praise God. We spend a lot of time asking for things and for help. It is humbling when we praise God and

thank him.

**Ryan:** Don't let anyone tell you about what you should believe. Stay strong in your faith and believe in what God has planned for you.

**Paul:** Your faith should be fun, it should be joyful. If you feel like it is burdensome, try to look at it in a new light. You will be a lot happier.

**Helen:** Live out your faith. Really think about why you practice your faith and why you receive sacraments. Take time to reflect on the reasons you do what you do.

**Margaret:** Take advantage of the sacraments. Going to Mass is only one hour a week, and you will feel so much better afterwards. It will help give you peace in doing whatever you have to do in the coming week.

OPT

## Celebrating Lent as a Parish Family

St. John the Evangelist Parish has developed a number of programs to help our parishioners deepen their Lenten experience and find ways to draw closer to Christ. The first of these is the Giving Tree – bare tree branches that have been installed in the church alcove next to a wooden cross draped in purple. Parishioners are asked to prayerfully consider what they can contribute for others in our community who are struggling to make ends meet. The contributed funds will be used by our Parish Social Concerns Ministry to assist those in our midst who need help. The Giving Tree is a visual reminder of Pope Francis's Lenten suggestion that we give up indiffer-



Rev. Joseph Calis, Pastor and Rev. Francis Aning Amoah, Parochial Vicar joyfully serve rice for our Lenten meal.

vidual willing to share a simple meal together increases the development of community. The Rice and Tea meals are an opportunity to participate in a spiritually uplifting activity and joyfully celebrate Lent as a parish family.

Another favorite Lenten tradition for many parishioners is participating in the Stations of the Cross. On March 13 at 6:30 PM, our parish will experience an enhanced version of this tradition when we are joined by The Heights Men's Chorus. These high school students will sing choral meditations and provide attendees with a prayerful evening of music contemplating Jesus' Way of the Cross. Our eighth-grade students will bring the Stations of the Cross dramatically to life on March 27 at 2:00, when they reenact the 14 events that comprise the Way of Sorrows. The devotion these students bring to the Living Stations will add impact to our contemplation of the Passion of Christ.

ence to the needs of others.

Parishioners can also gather on Wednesdays during Lent to share a meal of Rice and Tea, read the gospel together, and share reflections. The meager meal allows participants to share in the Lord's sufferings and to remember their own hunger for God. Different parish ministries have been asked to help prepare, serve, and clean up each week. While the logistical help is welcome, the presence of each indi-

vidual willing to share a simple meal together increases the development of community. The Rice and Tea meals are an opportunity to participate in a spiritually uplifting activity and joyfully celebrate Lent as a parish family.

OPT



## Praying for our RICA candidates and catechumens

Father Calis prays with the 11 men and women from our parish preparing to become Catholics. The candidates and catechumens have been accompanied on their journey of discernment by Sr. Roberta Harding, IHM and their sponsors, who are standing behind them on the altar. Among the group are four cousins who were encouraged to participate in the RICA program by their aunt, who joined the church several years ago. The Mass on February 20 was particularly moving because Theodore Edgar Cardinal McCarrick was our celebrant and he shared lessons he had learned from Pope Francis.



The Kitchen Crew: Volunteer cooks share a happy moment after preparing the Rice and Tea meal for our first gathering on February 25.

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# OLOL Students Win State-Wide Right to Life Essay Contest

Students at Our Lady of Lourdes School in Bethesda write essays for the State of Maryland Right to Life Essay Contest each year. This year, John Paul Lavallee of the eighth grade won first place in the contest, and Gabriella Capizzi of the eighth grade won second place in the contest. Congratulations to Gabriella and John Paul for your excellent work!

## First Place Essay John Paul Lavallee, Eighth Grade Student

I have many friends with autism, Down syndrome and other disabilities. Some of them would have been aborted if their parents did not respect their lives. If this happened, there would be fewer people on the planet. Many people say this is good, because large populations are too hard on the earth's resources, but I believe that the earth can sustain every person God creates. People with autism would not get a chance to write a book about their experience, or be a genius, or be a good friend if they were aborted.

Many people with Down syndrome, 9 out of 10, are aborted every year because of a genetic test that can predict this condition before birth. This is sad and evil because these babies cannot defend themselves. All of us are being deprived of a chance to love and serve most

children with Down syndrome, and to receive the love and kindness they grow up to give. This is a big problem because we live in a rich, powerful, and smart society, but this society is not generous or welcoming to any kind of life that seems weak, but is actually just different. I do not think this is smart at all. In fact, this injustice makes me angry at the people who encourage it. It shows that some people think they know better than God who are the perfect people to create.

I worry that something like this persecution could happen to people with autism if a similar genetic test is developed to predict autism. As a 14 year-old boy with autism, I know from personal experience that there are many things I can do without help. I love the world, and especially people. I love learning about the world, and spending time with my friends at Our Lady of Lourdes School. At my school, I am accepted along with everybody else. Some of us have disabilities, and some do not. None of us pretend we are perfect. I am glad to have a voice to say what I think about respecting every life. I know my voice is needed just as much as the voices of all my friends.

I like learning about new discoveries that scientists are making about autism. I hope these discoveries will help me, and many other people, some day. But, if these discover-

ies are used to kill us before birth instead of helping us grow up to share our special gifts, then I will be very sad. I will wonder what is good about science after all. It is important to talk about this problem now because we want to help people with Down Syndrome to be loved and given life, just as much as we want this for people with every disability and for people with no disabilities. To respect life means knowing that God creates life, and remembering that everyone God creates is very good. Respecting life is another way to love God. Who can live without that?

## First Place Essay Gabriella Rose Capizzi, Eighth Grade Student

Imagine a world where no one respects life. It would be a world without love, a world of human catastrophe. In such a world, people would not respect anyone, including themselves. There are many examples of times in history when societies failed to respect life and treated classes of people as if they were unworthy of dignity. In the 1930s and 1940s, Jewish people were treated without respect solely because they had Jewish blood. Their human worth and dignity was completely denied by the Nazis. The Nazis hated the Jews and blamed them for the downfall of Germany. They had

a term, "*Lebensunwertes Leben*," which translates to, "Life unworthy of life." The Nazis disrespected more than the Jewish people. They despised gypsies, gays, the physically disabled and mentally ill. Despite the human dignity of these categories of people, the Nazis judged them as undeserving of life. They persecuted these human beings and subjected them to cruel laws after removing them from society. They forced them to live like animals in ghettos surrounded by fences. They forbade contact with anyone outside of the set boundaries. These people were put in cold, dark prisons with little food and then often were sent to die in concentration camps.

Currently, people still treat other humans without respect. When someone kills someone else, they face criminal charges. When a woman wants to abort her child, however, the abortion is legal and in some conditions, encouraged. Does that mean that the unborn child is not a person? Of course not; it is a breathing, thinking human. To deny life to an unborn baby is unjust. These babies are among the most vulnerable of the vulnerable, and it is our job to respect and love them even though they cannot speak. If someone bought a new plant, he would not throw it away because it hadn't bloomed immediately. When a woman aborts, she is throwing away her child's chance to bloom.

She will never know what her child could have accomplished or how many lives could have been changed.

It doesn't take much to imagine a world where no one respects life. There have been too many times when the failure to respect life was not imaginary; it was real. The Nazis were cruel toward the Jews simply because they had Jewish blood. If you practiced Catholicism but had Jewish parents, you would still be sent to death camps. Unfortunately, there are still many people who refuse to respect life. Our society allows women to abort their unborn children because they are not considered worthy humans. Other classes of people, including the elderly, mentally disturbed, homeless, and prisoners, are cast aside and ignored as well. This is not different to how the Nazis treated the Jews. No matter how many times society tells women that abortion is not wrong, it will never be right.

OPT

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## WINNERS

Con't from page 13

it is open to students in grades five through eight. The contest is designed to encourage the knowledge and love of American history among our nation's youth. This year's assigned topic was "A Child's Journey Through Ellis Island." Students were challenged to imagine they were a boy or girl traveling through Ellis Island in 1892 and to describe the experience to a cousin who had never heard of Ellis Island. Both Lauren and Tripp wrote letters to imaginary cousins in Ireland telling about their trip and arrival on Ellis Island, including the harrowing eye examination.

OPT

## PEERS

Con't from page 13

inquires are ongoing. The second is to explore holding a combined Holy Thursday service that would bring the two parishes together in prayer.

After this formal joint meeting there was time to talk in a relaxed atmosphere with light refreshments. It was a great opportunity for St. Jane de Chantal Pastoral Council members to get to know the members of the Parish with which they share physical space and, most importantly, their faith. Thank you to Fr. Giese and P. Vincent for facilitating this meeting. The Pastoral Council looks forward to more interactions and collaborations.

OPT

## TAKE ACTION NOW

Con't from page 2

medication

### How Can You Help Today?

We need your help right away to ensure this dangerous bill does not pass.

Join your voice with the members of the Maryland Against Physician-

Assisted Suicide coalition testifying in Annapolis tomorrow. Time is running out for you to contact your Delegate and Senator and tell them why you oppose these bills.

Here are FOUR things you can do to help from now until next week:

1. Respond to this alert NOW and email your Senator and Delegates urging them to oppose HB 1021/SB 676.
2. Speak out on Twitter! Use

#NoPASMD and handle @StopPASMDMaryland.

3. Post on Facebook! Show your Facebook friends that you oppose physician-assisted suicide making this your Facebook profile picture.
4. Visit [www.StopAssistedSuicideMD.org](http://www.StopAssistedSuicideMD.org) today to learn more about the effort to defeat this legislation and to find ways that you can help including joining the coalition,

contacting your legislator, and sharing this information with your friends and family.

To send your message, visit: [www.votervoice.net/link/target/mdcathcon/48PrKfbMy.aspx](http://www.votervoice.net/link/target/mdcathcon/48PrKfbMy.aspx)

Source: Maryland Catholic Conference

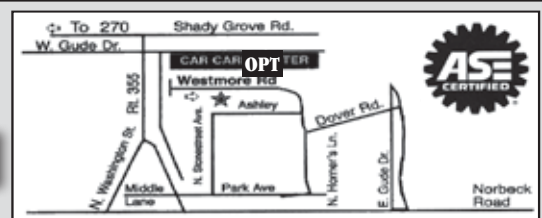
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Fr. Ken with new Sodality members, sisters Carmencita and Portia Fiesta

## Our Lady of the Wayside Sodality Welcomes New Members

In early December, Our Lady of the Wayside Sodality at the Shrine of St. Jude welcomed 13 new members at a Mass celebrated by Fr. Ken Gill.

Welcomed were Jenny De La Oliva, Carmencita and Portia Fiesta, Sherry Grimes, Zoila H. Lara, Marta Luna, Marie Ngassam, Maria G. Puentes, Elenita Rivera, Marta Custer Sanchez, Jane Thornton, Mireya Vargas, and Tirukelem

Molla (Kelem) Yeshanew.

Following Mass, a reception was held in the Thaddeus Room where fellow Sodality members had a chance to meet and greet. The Sodality is proud to welcome these new members who have been devoted to the Shrine of St. Jude through their service as Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors as well as with the RCIA Program, Legion of Mary, and Choirs.

OPT

### Reunited After 30 Years!

On Jan. 22, Fr. Patrick Lamb, while accompanying a group of young people from Reading, PA, to the March for Life in Washington, DC, stopped at the Shrine of St. Jude wishing to celebrate Mass. There, he was surprised to see Fr. Paul Lee, pastor of the Shrine of St. Jude. The two had attended Mt. St. Mary's Seminary together, graduating in 1983, but hadn't seen each other for more than 30 years. They enjoyed renewing their friendship as is apparent in their smiles seen in the photo.



Students and families representing St. Jude Regional Catholic School proudly show they are the Pro-Life Generation at the annual March for Life in Washington, DC.



Cupcakes for Life bake sale raised more than \$1,000

## Cupcake Sale Supports Pro-life Activities

For the second year in a row, the Shrine of St. Jude held a "Cupcakes for Life" bake sale to help fund a bus for parish-

ioners to attend the annual March for Life and other related events in Washington, DC. Many in the parish baked more than 1,000 cupcakes, which were beautifully decorated and very tasty. St. Jude parishioners responded enthusiastically by purchasing cupcakes or dropping donations in the cupcake jar.

A special thanks goes to St. Jude parishioner Teresa Barnes, who in late 2013 suggested that the St. Jude Pro-Life Committee sponsor a "Cupcakes for Life" fundraiser to raise money for parishioners to attend the annual march. The proceeds from both years more than covered the cost of the bus, with money left over going toward several other charitable activities.

OPT

### Shrine of St. Jude Parish

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## Shrine of St. Jude Thanks Volunteers for their Service

The staff and pastor of the Shrine of St. Jude honored more than 100 parish volunteers at a dinner on February 13. Master of Ceremonies for the evening was John Stoute, head usher, who kept order to the evening while adding the right amount of humor and entertainment.

Aside from hors d'oeuvres, a wonderful dinner, des-

sert, raffles, and great company, a DJ provided music for dancing after dinner.

Parishioners were honored for their time and service to the church and fellow parishioners in their roles as Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, Candle Sellers, and Church Decorators, or as member of the Parish Council, Choirs, Sodality, and more.

OPT



Fr. Raul DeLeon and Fr. Ken Gill, parochial vicars at the Shrine of St. Jude, enjoy a snow day at the Beacon of Christ on the Hill.

## SR. LIADORE

Con't from page 1

Hyde Park, Massachusetts.

Sister Mary Liadore entered the Bernardine Order on August 11, 1950, and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from the College of Misericordia, Dallas, Penna. She served her ministry in Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Virginia as an elementary teacher. Sister was missioned at the Shrine of St. Jude Parish three separate times, teaching first and second grades. These last seven years at St. Jude, she was "actively" retired and visited the school children, whom she loved so dearly.

Sr. Liadore was an avid sports fan, always cheering for her beloved Red Sox and Patriots. Anyone who dared to mention or cheer for another team was cajoled to see the greatness of her teams. Her teams have lost their biggest fan!

OPT



# Youth Lead Lenten Stations of the Cross

Sixteen youngsters in grades six through twelve are leading the Stations of the Cross on several occasions during Lent at the Church of the Resurrection.

Carrying 6-foot crosses from the 14 stations commemorating events in the crucifixion of Christ, the youngsters lead the parish in recitations, meditations and prayers during the devotional service.

Two of the youngsters assume the

roles of Jesus wearing the crown of thorns and the crucifer who helped Jesus carry his cross. All the youngsters proceed with their crosses to the church sanctuary where Jesus dies and is laid in the tomb in the final stations.

The youngsters first led the stations at Resurrection on February 27 and were scheduled to do so again March 27, as well as at the Riderwood seniors community that is served by the parish. A video of the ceremony also was scheduled to be shown at Riderwood during Holy Week.

At Resurrection, the ceremony is conducted in a darkened church, creating the somber mood of the night when Jesus wearily and painfully walked to his death.

The youngsters participating in the Stations of the Cross at Resurrection are: Ben Sheppard, in the role of Jesus; Alex Diaz, as the Crucifer; Molly Dallo, First Station; Joel Persaud, Second Station; Donald Iqwebuie,



Youngsters leading the Stations of the Cross at Resurrection Church end the Lenten devotional service by assembling in the sanctuary of the church.

Third Station; Mary Shawhan, Fourth Station; Will Shawhan and Mary Jade Kalou; Fifth Station; Sarah Sheppard, Sixth Station; Keni Waithaka, Seventh Station; Lucy Bandon-Bibum, Eighth Station; Abraham Ndour, Ninth Station; Gabriel Franco, Tenth Station; Wafeu Fuondjing, Eleventh Station; Laura Ndour, Twelfth Station; Sam Sheppard, Thirteenth Station; and Amiette Fuondjing, Fourteenth Station.

The Stations of the Cross are held each Friday evening at Resurrection.



Stations of the crosses are silhouetted in the church sanctuary in front of the statue of the crucified Jesus. Photos by John Small



Donald Iqwebuie leads the Third Station at the Resurrection service.

## Resurrection Hosts Archdiocesan Women's Conference

By John Small

The third Archdiocesan Women's Conference will be held at Resurrection Church on Saturday, March 21 -- partly because the parish's facilities were found to be the "perfect spot."

Titled "Gathering of the Wisdom of Women: Water to Wine," the one-day conference features keynote speeches (in both English and Spanish), mass by Cardinal Donald Wuerl, six workshops and a number of exhibits.

The workshops include presentations and discussions on domestic peace in the family, women in sacred art, the wisdom of women in everyday life, and the contributions of African-American women.

The conference, which runs from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m., is a "one-day opportunity for women to have a spiritual retreat combined with an educational and aesthetic experience," said Sharon O'Brien, a Resurrection parishioner and one of the organizers of the event.

O'Brien said the focus will be on spiritual and intellectual development, a "time for feeding one's soul," rather than on a social agenda or political issues.

The event includes a time for confessions and Eucharistic Adoration. Resurrection Pastor Scott Hahn will



Colleen Carroll Campbell -- Keynote Speaker

be one of the four priests celebrating the mass with Cardinal Wuerl.

O'Brien is a member of the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women, which held women's conferences every other year from 1958 through 2008, she said. In 2012, the archdiocese sponsored an Archdiocesan-wide conference. The first such Archdiocesan Women's Conference was in 2012 at DeMatha High School, the second was at Trinity University in Washington in 2014, and this year is the third in the series.

Because organizers of the 2015 conference were seeking a Montgomery County location, O'Brien petitioned to have it at Resurrection.



Lucia Baez Luzondo -- Keynote Speaker

"We have a perfect educational facility--a large church, rooms for large as well as small gathering," she said. "Given that they wanted to rotate the event to Montgomery County, we were a perfect spot."

The two keynote speakers are Colleen Carroll Campbell, whose topic will be "The Wisdom of the Women Saints," and Lucia Baez Luzondo, whose topic will be "The Wisdom of a Woman of God." Luzondo will give her presentation in Spanish in the morning and in English later in the day.

Campbell is an author, print and broadcast journalist and former presidential speech writer. Her books are "The New Faithful" and an award-winning spiritual memoir, "My Sisters the Saints." She has

contributed to the New York Times, Washington Post, First Things and America. She has served as executive producer and anchor of "EWTN News Nightly with Colleen Carroll Campbell" and as creator and host of EWTN's "Faith & Culture" television and radio interview show.

In 2013, Campbell anchored EWTN's coverage of the election and installation of Pope Francis. A former speechwriter for President George W. Bush, she is a lay consultant to the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Lucia Luzondo is a speaker, writer, singer-songwriter and co-founder of Renovacion Familiar Ministries, with her husband, Ricardo. In their ministry, Ricardo and Lucia offer retreats, workshops, concerts and conferences the areas of marriage and family life, evangelization and leader formation focused on Hispanics in the United States and Latin America.

Lucia and Ricardo also are directors of Hispanic outreach for MarriageBuilding USA/Construyendo Matrimonios USA, a ministry formed in 2013 to serve dioceses and parishes to become MarriageBuilding dioceses and parishes.

Maria Suarez Hamm, archdioc-

esan Director of Hispanic Family Life and Leadership Development and coordinator of the Women's Conference, expects that the event in Burtonsville could draw 300 or more women.

The women's conference follows by one week the Archdiocesan Men's Conference on March 14 at the St. John Paul II National Shrine near Catholic University. The theme of that conference is "The Biblical Vision for Men."

Resurrection Church is located at 3315 Greencastle Rd. Burtonsville, MD 20866. More information about the women's conference is available at [www.adw.org/womensconference](http://www.adw.org/womensconference) and on the back page of this issue.

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## Holy Lent And Easter Schedule 2015 at Our Lady Queen Of Poland & St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish

Stations of the Cross –Fridays at 7:00 PM

Lamentation devotions, “Gorzkie Zale”- Sundays at 11:30 AM

Thurs. March 25 through Sun. March 29  
Parish Lenten Retreat

Palm Sunday, March 29  
12 PM, Holy Mass with palms procession

Holy Thursday, April 2  
7:30 PM, Holy Mass of the Lord’s Supper

Good Friday, April 3  
3:00 PM, Stations of the Cross & Divine Mercy Chaplet  
7:30 PM, Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion

Holy Saturday, April 4  
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Easter Food & Bake Sale  
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Blessing of the Easter food baskets  
every half hour  
7:30 PM, Liturgy of the Paschal Vigil

Easter Sunday, “Wielkanoc”, April 5  
6:00 AM, Resurrection Mass with procession  
10:00 AM & 12:00 Noon, Holy Masses

Divine Mercy Sunday, April 12,  
10:00 AM & 12:00 PM, Holy Masses  
Adoration after the noon Mass  
2:30 PM, Divine Mercy Chaplet & Special Mass

Sunday, May 3, Solemnity of  
Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish Feastday  
10:00 AM & 12:00 PM, Holy Masses  
1:30 PM, Parish Picnic



The annual Easter Food Basket Blessing at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, Silver Spring, MD, will take place on Holy Saturday, April 4, 2015, from 10AM until 2PM.

## Mass in Memory of the “Unbroken Soldiers”

By Bozena Buda, ED

Even the icy weather conditions prevailing on Sunday, March 1, 2015, did not stand in the way of members of the Polish Legion of American Veterans (PLAV) S/Sgt. J. A. Jagiello Post 191, the Polish Scouting Organization ZHP Washington DC metro area, and the Polish Library in Washington DC from participating in the Mass commemorating the Polish National Day of Remembrance for the brave insurgents who continued the struggle for Polish independence and against Communism after World War II. OLQP Pastor Rev. Jan Fiedurek and Rev. Jacek Kedzior concelebrated the noon Mass.

The end of World War II did not mean the end of occupation for Poland. After the War, Poland continued to be occupied by Soviet Russia who wanted to impose Communism on the Polish people. The Communist authorities persecuted Polish patriots, many of whom had fought in the Polish



The Day of Remembrance Mass for Polish Insurgents against Communism on March 1, 2015, at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, Silver Spring, MD. The participants included: Rev. Jan Fiedurek, S.Chr., Rev. Jacek Kedzior, Ben Filipczyk, Karl Klonowski, Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, Klaudia Weidlich, Bozena Buda, and Katarzyna Marchocka.

Underground against the Nazis and survived. It was not until after the overthrow of Communism in 1989 that people in Poland could talk openly about this subject.

The “Unbroken Soldiers” insurgents, known in Polish as “Zolnierze Wykleci” and “Zolnierze Niezlomni,” included both men and women. A movie with English subtitles, entitled “Inka 1946,” was made

about them. It features a young woman insurgent named Danuta Siedzikowna who, as a 17-year old, was arrested for anti-Communist activities. She was tortured and brutally executed by the Communist authorities in 1946. Throughout her ordeals, she was “unbroken” in that she did not divulge any information about anyone else involved in the anti-Communist movement.

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Presentation of the play “Zabusia” at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish in Silver Spring, MD, on February 14, 2015. Photo courtesy of Marion Raczek and Dorota Ponikiewska

## Staging of “Zabusia” at OLQP

On Valentine’s Day 2015, parishioners and friends gathered for an enjoyable Saturday evening at Our Lady

Queen of Poland Parish Hall. They came to see a staging of “Zabusia.” The play, which portrays everyday life of vulnerable people, was written by Gabriela Zapolska in 1897. It was adapted and modified by OLQP parishioner Dorota Ponikiewska.

The cast of readers included Laura Migasiuk, Filip Golebiowski, Mirek Podloch, Anna Janiak, Jarek Trocki, Violeta Klimek, and Dorota Ponikiewska.

Marion Raczek contributed to this article.

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## JESUS IN DISGUISE

Con’t from page 19

ing provider of services and expertise in agriculture, global health and emergency response and recovery.

In addition, USCCB’s Office of International Justice and Peace (IJP) and Catholic Relief Services worked with the Church in the Central African Republic to raise awareness and advocate for those afflicted by violence and conflict. As a result of their intervention, the United States committed \$101 million for Africa Union Peacekeepers and \$30 million for humanitarian assistance. The number of African

Union Peacekeepers was increased from 1,200 to almost 6,000. Through projects like these, IJP and CRS help the Church to stop violence and seek assistance for those in need.

The Catholic Relief Services Collection funds six Catholic agencies: Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the official overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. bishops; USCCB’s Department of Migration and Refugee Services (MRS), which helps resettle refugees in the United States; USCCB’s Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church, which provides outreach and pastoral care for ethnic and cultural groups; USCCB’s

Department of Justice, Peace, and Human Development, which advocates for poor and vulnerable people and works for international justice and peace; Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), which provides legal services for immigrants; and the Holy Father’s Relief Fund, which provides assistance to suffering people around the world.

More information on the Catholic Relief Services Collection and the projects it funds can be found at [www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/catholic-relief-services-collection/](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-giving/opportunities-for-giving/catholic-relief-services-collection/)

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## SJN Continues March for Life in Germantown Nebraska Youth Group Attends Life Rally in Solidarity

By Rus Wester

Two days following the 2015 March for Life in Washington D.C., St. John Neumann parishioners were joined by a large visiting youth group from Nebraska, bused in to attend a rally on the steps of the Germantown, Maryland abortion facility where our parish has maintained a prayerful, protesting presence every week since the facility opened in 2010.

SJN parishioner, Dr. Grace Morrison, welcomed the Nebraska visitors, noting an important connection they had with Germantown. "The man who runs this abortion facility is the abortionist who was ousted from Nebraska as it rejected procedures of late-term abortions...closing him down. It's our hope and prayer that this will happen here as well."

Prayers and brief talks by rally organizers marked the 4-years of abortions at the hands of abortionist, Leroy Carhart. The event concluded with a final blessing offered



Organizer Dr. Grace Morrison welcomed the large Nebraskan contingent and Father Dave Wells offered parting thoughts to help visiting youth remain in solidarity and prayer with their new-found brothers and sisters in Maryland. Photo by Jerry Kelly

by SJN's Father Dave Wells.

"We had a large group there, many from Nebraska...300-plus," recalls Father Dave. "Standing there, pondering what thoughts I might offer the assembled group, I couldn't help but think of my (Priest-Uncle) Monsignor Tommy Wells, who was tragically killed over fourteen years ago, right behind that clinic. His was a senseless act of violence. I have since realized how much

good has come from that sacrifice of life, how God could bring so much good out of evil."

"Senseless violence continues today, in that abortion clinic, so close to where my uncle Tommy was killed. And we continue to wonder, 'God, what good could possibly come from all of this?' Just as He did with my uncle, God can and is bringing good to the front. The number of 'saves' of baby lives is remarkable, lives spared every week."

Father Dave shared another anecdote from his Uncle's life. "The week before his death, Uncle Tommy drove

to Nebraska to preach at a Priest friend's first Mass. In his homily, he told the new Priest: 'I beg you, beg you and beg you to be a man of prayer.' It was intended to be a message of hope then, and at the January 2015 Germantown Rally to end abortion. Father Dave reminded all: "We are called to be people of prayer, for that will ultimately gain us the victory."

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Over 300 Nebraska Youth Group members extended their MARCH FOR LIFE protests in Washington, DC by joining SJN parishioners for a January visit in Germantown to protest, pray and continue their fight for an end to abortion. Photo by Jerry Kelly



SJN Parishioner, Paul Abel, Jr. working on final assembly of new Stations of the Cross to complete his Eagle Scout project.

## Scouting Brings New Stations

By Susie Abel

During this Lenten Season, parishioners of St. John Neumann Catholic Community have a new opportunity to meditate upon the Passion of Christ.

For his Eagle project, Paul Abel Jr. of Troop 318 was pleased to erect new outdoor Stations of the Cross that he hopes will be a long-lasting spiritual benefit to his parish. The original wood-burned cedar Stations were established in 2004 as the project of Eagle Scout Matthew Mitchell, also of Troop 318. Over time, damaged by the elements, it became necessary for these initial Stations to be replaced.

The Eagle Scout project

allows Scouts to grow in a multitude of skills including planning, budgeting, fundraising, writing a proposal, following schedules, communicating with adults, organizing and managing several workers and very importantly, expressing thanks to fellow scouts and adult leaders with good food when the work is done.

To raise money for the project, Paul organized a bake sale in the parish center and had an illustration of his project on display, including a full-sized replica of the new stations.

From baking and buying to drilling and digging, the support of many parishioners, craftsmen and scout families made this effort a success and great team effort.

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## Six Things You Should Know About Consecrated Life

By Father Dave Wells, Chaplain, St. John Paul the Great Vocations Society

Have you heard that Pope Francis declared 2015 a Year of Consecrated Life? During this special year, the Holy Father desires to draw attention to the beautiful vocation of consecrated life so that many more young people may hear God's call to give themselves entirely to Christ and His Church, praying and working for the salvation of souls. How much do you know about conse-

crated life?

The Year of Consecrated Life began last Advent and runs through February 2, 2016.

The vocation to the consecrated life is characterized by making vows to live the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

These three virtues are called "evangelical counsels" because they are Christ's admonitions to us from the Gospels. When a young man or woman makes these vows, they are said to be living in the state

of perfection.

"Living in a state of perfection" doesn't mean that one is perfect simply by making these vows, but that the living out of the evangelical counsels is the surest way to holiness. This is seen by the sheer number of saints who lived the consecrated life.

Vocations to the consecrated life are still needed! Today God continues to call men and women to sell everything and lose their lives in order to receive true life. The men and women in consecrated life are

the true leaven of society. Their prayer and work on behalf of the world is a living flame pointing us to Christ.

You can help! Learn more about the consecrated life by reading about saints. Check out the bulletin board near the lobby water fountain; visit a convent or monastery by yourself or with your family – maybe even make a retreat there. Encourage someone to consider whether God is calling them to the consecrated life. Above all, pray for men and women in consecrated

life---take a card from the Vocations Tree in our church lobby and pray for an increase in vocations to the consecrated life.

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## St. Jane de Chantal



During the St. Jane de Chantal's Open House in January, Pre-Kindergarteners carefully follow the instructions from their teacher, Mrs. Goetcheus (left), and assistant teacher, Mrs. Cruz (right).

## Celebrating Catholic Schools Week & Open House

In January, St. Jane de Chantal School celebrated Catholic Schools Week. At the end of each of the weekend Masses, students read their personal essays describing why they love their Catholic school. Monday honored parents and Tuesday was a special Student Appreciation Day with a snow day! Students also were treat-

ed later to an afternoon of bingo with dozens of prizes. Matt Russell, a former teacher and current parent, addressed the student body. He is the Executive Director, Secondary Schools Department of the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA). The school recognized the community supporters and volunteers, and on Friday, Teacher

Appreciation Day, the entire school attended Mass to reflect their faith-filled mission.

As part of the Catholic Schools Week, St. Jane de Chantal School celebrated an Open House for present and prospective parents to highlight the enriched curriculum and fun activities of the school. Mrs. Burke's First Grade performed

"A Parade of Patriots" for visitors. Students told the story of our country and its heroes with poems, songs, and historical facts. The Pre-Kindergarten students showed off their newly learned skills with their teachers (see photo).

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## Happenings in Our Blue Ribbon School

### Storm Chasing – Learning about the Weather

Eileen Whelan, a Meteorologist from WJLA 7 On Your Side, came to St. Jane de Chantal School and gave a very informative presentation to grades K - 6 about the weather and the tools used in forecasting, including the satellites and exclusive Doppler radar from that station. The children were actively involved in the presentation as they got to go outside to see her "Storm Chaser" as it began to snow! Everyone enjoyed this in-school field trip.

### Songs Across America

The 4th graders at St. Jane de Chantal School performed "Songs Across America" during the day for the school and in the evening for families. The children sang patriotic songs such as "The Star Spangled Banner," "This Land is Your

Land," "You're a Grand Old Flag," and "It's America." The show also included civics questions and some children learned sign language for "God Bless America."

### Spelling Bee

Grades three through eight participated in the St. Jane de Chantal School Spelling Bee as part of the Scripps National Spelling Bee 2015. Each home-room determined two top spellers and those students competed on the stage in the gym in front of the entire student body. The final competitors were Meaghan Quirk (grade three), Molly Linder (grade eight), Chris Khoury (grade seven), and Jason Liu (grade five). After several rounds successfully spelling many difficult words, the winner was Jason Liu. Jason is studying now and will represent St. Jane de Chantal at the regional spelling bee.

### Father-Daughter Dance

The gym was transformed into a winter wonderland for the St. Jane de Chantal School Father-Daughter Dance. Dads looked dapper, and the daughters came dressed for the occasion with satin and pearls. The DJ read messages submitted from daughters about why they love their dads, and the distribution of prizes helped to create a magical evening.

### First Reconciliation

Second graders at St. Jane de Chantal School received the Sacrament of Reconciliation in preparation for their First Communion later in the year. There was an introductory ceremony and children's songs leading to reception of the sacrament. All of the students left with an aura of holiness and dedication to their faith.

OPT

## ICE TO FIRE

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Adoration, a highlight of this retreat for many, really gave us the time to grow and talk with God individually. The benediction during adoration also allowed everyone to have that intimate moment with God that we often lack in our noisy and busy world.

Throughout the weekend priests offered and encouraged confession. No one forced confession yet by the end of the weekend over 1,000 people had received penance. Simply realizing how many other people want to amend their wrongdoings with God and care about their relationship with Him created a very united atmosphere among the teens.

Speaking of unity, the seminarians highly encouraged participants put prayer requests in the "burning bush", a large rectangular box covered in candles. They explained they read the requests placed inside and pray for them. Having the knowledge that someone truly cared and would pray for your request created a tighter community.

In addition to thoughtful, the seminarians had substantial knowledge of the campus and acted amiably. All of the priests were very relatable and personable. They were able to give enlightening homilies yet, also astound us with their breakdancing skills.

Other fantastic parts of the retreat included the musicians who brought the crowd to life with upbeat songs but additionally evoked true emotion through Catholic ballads. The speakers also connected with this teen audience. The boy/girl talks instilled a deeper meaning of what it meant to be a child of God and how to act with Him in our hearts.

Finally, seeing so many teens wanting to deepen their Catholic faith led to such a united community. Regardless of the cold temperatures, by the end of Mount 2000 everyone was ready to set the world on fire!

OPT

## ANGELIC ART

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into reality by our current pastor, Father William Foley.

Into this new space, St. Patrick's Youth Ministry decided to try a very different style of fundraising. Tired of asking (begging) for money, selling rosaries and donuts for retreats and scholarships, we decided to instead offer something people might actually want to participate in. And thus, Angelic Art was developed. Modeled after popular wine and paint social parties in major cities, we invited adults age 21+ to come for an evening at St. Patrick's for fellowship and a little divinely ("winely") inspired painting while youth group members offered babysitting for children in the new gymnasium and youth room.

The evening was a wonderful success and our next Angelic Art is scheduled for April 24, 2015 for those looking for a fun night out!

OPT

### Kindergarten Patron Saint Balloon Launch

In the name of the Patron Saints of the St. Jane de Chantal kindergarten classes – St. Brigid, known for her generosity to the poor, and St. Francis, known for his love and care of animals – the kindergarten children released helium filled balloons to the heavens on February 11. Each balloon carried a prayer card telling whoever found it that the classes were praying for them and wishing them well. It was an "uplifting" experience to say the least to all who witnessed this send-off to the heavens!







City of Gaithersburg Mayor, Jud Ashman, visits St. Martin's 4th grade students. Photo by Logan Hsueh

## Successful Season for CYO Varsity Teams

By Therese De Leon, Eighth Grader

Spectators crowded the gym and eyes were locked on the court. People chanted, "DEFENSE! DEFENSE!" and, "I BELIEVE THAT WE WILL WIN!" It has been three years since St. Martin's varsity teams reached the championships. This year, both boys' and girls' varsity teams made it to the championships. The boys put up a fight against St. Mary's, but sadly lost. The girls played a nail-biting game and won by one point against Our Lady of Victory! Although the games had different outcomes, one thing was definite: St. Martin's School and Parish showed great support by cheering the teams on, celebrating each basket made, shot blocked, and ball

stolen.

The St. Martin's boys' varsity team played a great season with only one loss against their championship game rival, St. Mary's. Even though the boys were trailing, they were quick and aggressive on defense. To sum up the game, St. Mary's was winning by a few points in the first and second quarters. In the third quarter, St. Martin's was only two or three points away from tying up the game with St. Mary's. The final score was 50-36.

Going into the championship game, the varsity girls were nervous because the bleachers were filled with a huge crowd and they had never played Our Lady of Victory during their season games. St. Martin's took the lead in the first quarter, maintained the advantage

in the second quarter, but was letting their guard down in the third. In the fourth quarter, Our Lady of Victory made a three-point shot in the last minute, making the score 15-14. In the last few seconds, the crowd and team had accepted defeat. With ten seconds to go, St. Martin's passed the ball twice and made a lay-up shot, finalizing the score to 16-15 with three seconds remaining. When asked how she felt after the basket, Camryn Carnegie could hardly believe it was real. Before that play, she wasn't nervous because she "knew there was no time to be nervous." St. Martin's is proud of both varsity teams and hopes that next year, the teams will work just as hard to make it to the championships!

OPT

## Lenten Activities at St. Martin's Parish

**L**enten Retreats – Start your Lenten journey right. Give your soul some rest and your mind some light. Fr. Mark Brennan will lead morning for English speakers on Feb. 28 following the 9:00 am mass. Bishop Francisco González will lead the Spanish language version on March 14 starting at 8:30am.

Daily Mass at 12:15pm – Throughout the Lenten and Easter season enjoy this wonderful opportunity to grow spiritually and

become closer to God. Masses will be celebrated Mondays through Fridays, beginning on Feb. 18 and concluding on May 22.

The Light Is On For You – On Wednesdays of Lent, two priests will be in the church for confessions from 6:30pm to 8pm.

Stations of the Cross – Join us for every Friday evening in the Church for Stations of the Cross at 7 pm, followed by Evening Prayer at 8 pm. Both events are bilingual.

OPT



St. Martin's students collect food during a Lenten Food Drive for the St. Martin's Pantry. The students are a fourth of the way to their goal of 8000 cans by Good Friday. Photo by Logan Hsueh

## Welcoming New Members

By Catherine Cooksey

**D**uring the Easter Vigil, St. Martin's will welcome new members to our Catholic community. It will be the culmination of many months of discernment, education, and reflection.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program starts with a discernment retreat where participants reflect and consider what God's plan is for them. For those who choose to continue, participants attend weekly classes where they learn about Catholicism. This is supplemented by attendance at weekly mass. Catechumens and Candidates join the parish community for the Liturgy of the Word before being dismissed with the community's prayers to discuss the readings in depth. Catechumens and Candidates are also encouraged to become in service activities.

The RCIA program at St. Martin's is led by a team of dedicated volunteers. These volunteers organize the formal training of the Catechumens and Candidates and support them spiritually through the many steps it takes to reach full communion with the Church.

Deacon Bill Vita, who along with team leader, Leslie Collica, run the

English-language RCIA program, says the most rewarding part of shepherding the Catechumens and Candidates through their journey is at the Easter Vigil when he sees in the glowing faces of the newly baptized their transformation from uncertainty and darkness to light.

OPT

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St. Martin's students enjoy a show by Reptiles Alive during Catholic Schools Week. Photo by Logan Hsueh



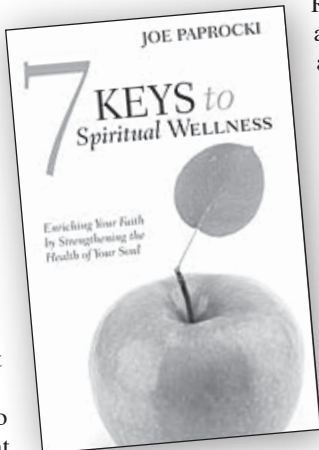
## St. Francis of Assisi

## ONE PARISH

Con't from page 11

cuss the video series, "Catholicism, The New Evangelization." From there we read Pope Francis's book, "The Joy of the Gospel, Evangelii Gaudium." Deacon Dan Finn to lead us for this special and timely book. Our Pope invites all Catholics to embark on new paths for transmission of the faith and a renewed zeal towards working to improve the plight of the poor.

We are fortunate to have someone right here in our own parish that embodies everything that Pope Francis desires in us-- Msgr. Ralph Kuehner, Father Ralph, as he likes to be called, has written

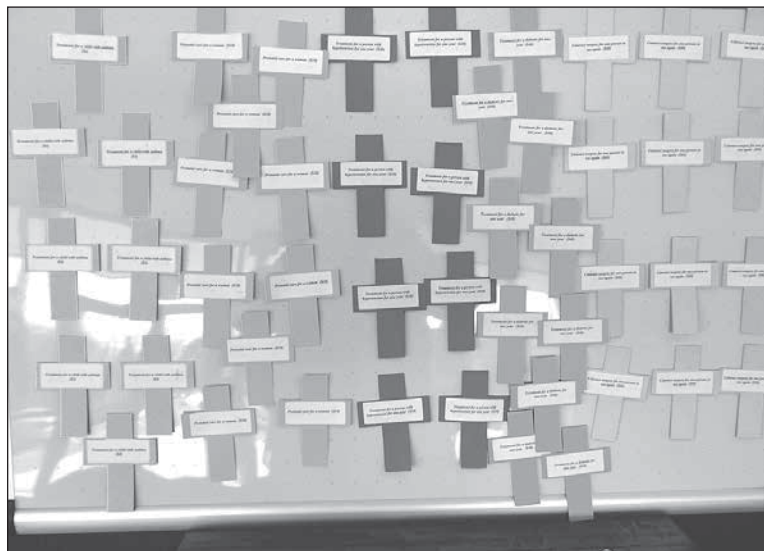


an autobiography called, "Why a Servant Church" which highlights exactly what it means to dedicate one's life to all people in need. We plan to add that book to our list and, hopefully, have the opportunity

to discuss it with Fr. Ralph, to learn more about his remarkable accomplishments.

As we enter the 2015 Lenten season, we plan to read a book by a locally known man, Deacon Clarence Enzler, "My Other Self, Conversations with Christ on Living Your Faith." We invite all interested people to join us at 8am on Saturday mornings for these energizing one hour discussion groups. It will start you off for a great weekend!

OPT



Crosses for Haiti display. Color coded for level of giving

## ACTIVITIES

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talk by Fr. Scott Hurd, on "Faith and Forgiveness in Difficult Family Situations." All are welcomed to join us on March 14, 21 and 28 for Stations at 7:00 pm, followed by an informative, faith based, talk.

"Honoring the Dignity of Life in Sickness and Death", a timely topic in light of the movement in the Maryland to legalize assisted suicide, was the topic of a Saturday morning seminar held in the parish center on February 21. It was sponsored by our Health Ministry, in cooperation with the ADW Department of Life Issues. We heard from Fr. J. Daniel Mindling (Mt. St. Mary's Seminary) on "Church Teaching on End of Life Issues," Dr. Kevin Donovan (Georgetown University Medical School) on "Navigating Sickness and Dying," and Elena Boisvert, Esq. on "Maryland Law on Life Saving Treatment." Informative booklets on the topics, published by the Maryland Catholic Conference, were available to the 35 attendees.

A repeat is planned later this year.

"Prayers for Seminarians" was initiated by our Vocations Coordinator, Dee Dee Koy, in cooperation with the Archdiocese of Washington, on February 14. A tree with cards containing pictures and bios of the seminarians, with a prayer on the back, was set-up for parishioners to select a card to pray, each day, for their "adopted" seminarian.

Speaking of adoption see the write-up on the Spiritual Adoption Program initiated by our Right to Life Ministry. Also note the article regarding the activity of the "One Book One Parish" group.

Alms giving is also an important part of our Lenten activities. Support for our Haiti medical mission through the annual "Crosses for Haiti" appeal, and the traditional Catholic Relief Services "Rice Bowl," are offered as alms giving opportunities to the poorest of the poor.

Boy Scout Sunday was held on February 8. Scouts, and leaders, were acknowledged at all the Masses.

OPT

## St. Patrick

## 100 Acts of Kindness

To celebrate the 100th day of Pre-Kindergarten, students at St. Patrick's Preschool completed 100 acts of kindness. They visited the elementary school children and teachers and distributed 100 Hershey Kisses as a way to give to others. Following this activity, the preschoolers began a Lenten journey of 40

days of kind deeds. Each day the students choose an act of kindness from a bucket and complete the action written on the card. Kind deeds include setting the table for mom and dad or making a card for someone who is sad. They recently sent get well cards to the Glen Echo EMTs who were injured in the Feb 16th crash on the Beltway. Teacher Mary Jo Glacken encourages the students to do kind deeds as a way of being "more like Jesus."



## Where in the World?

Students at St. Patrick's School participated in the first National Geographic Geography Bee in the school's history. Students in grades four-eight held preliminary classroom competitions. The top winners participated in the school-wide Geography Bee on January 29. After several rounds of questions provided by National Geographic, fifth-grader Aaron Siegle was the victor. In February, Aaron took a written test which qualified him to compete in the State Geography Bee on Friday, March 27 in Baltimore. The state bee is held in March with the national championship taking place in May. Finalists for the Geography Bee are pictured: Christian Leusch, Brendan Erickson (fourth grade); Quinn Kirchner, Aaron Siegle (seventh grade); Ezra Onyewu, Jefferson Rice (sixth grade); Dillon Haines, Rose Milano, Max Nguyen (seventh grade); and Benjamin Horwhat, Brendan Pipta and Jennifer Rossi (eighth grade).



## For the Least of Our Brothers

Throughout the month of January, fifth graders at St. Patrick's School organized a winter coat drive. This service project supported the archdiocese-wide coat drive, "Joseph's Coats of Many Colors" which strived to bring warm coats to needy men, women and children this winter. With the support of their teacher, Mrs. Nancy Mixson, the fifth graders collected 246 coats from the student body at St. Patrick's School. That's more than one coat for every child who attends the school! Fifth-grader Halisey Howard was thrilled to participate with her classmates, "It made me feel like my little deeds are making a difference in the world." Before sending the coats off for distribution, students wrote notes of encouragement and included bible verses and prayers in the pockets of the donated coats. "It was the best feeling seeing all those bags of coats and knowing that they were going to keep people warm this winter," added fifth-grader Genevieve Bond-Fink.



## St. Raphael



Congratulations to St. Raphael's eighth-grade CYO team for bringing home a hard-earned second-place trophy at the CYO co-ed tournament! Photo by Phil Aldridge

## Shrine of St. Jude

## Bulldog Bolt 5K Set for April 18

The second annual Bulldog Bolt 5K, a family-friendly race sponsored by St. Jude Regional Catholic School (SJRCs), is set to step off at 9 a.m., Saturday, April 18. The racecourse starts on the grounds of the school and then winds through the surrounding community. New this year is a 1K Fun Run and a post-race cookout, sponsored by SJRCs's Home and School Association.

Registration is now open and can be done by going to [www.stjuderockville.org](http://www.stjuderockville.org) and selecting the Bulldog Bolt link to register online. Cost of the 5K is \$30 per person before March 15 or \$35 between March 15 and April 15.



Cost of the 1K Fun Run is \$20 per person before March 15 or \$25 between March 15 and April 15. Online registration closes on April 15; however, race day registration will be available for an

additional \$5 per person, beginning at 8 a.m. Please note that race t-shirt cannot be guaranteed with raceday registration. For a nominal fee, non racers can attend the post-race cookout.

Proceeds from the event go to support SJRCs, which serves students from 3 years old through 8<sup>th</sup> grade of all religious, racial, ethnic, and income backgrounds.

For more information, go to the Bulldog Bolt link on [www.stjuderockville.org](http://www.stjuderockville.org), email [bulldog-bolt@outlook.com](mailto:bulldog-bolt@outlook.com), or call the main office at 301-946-7888. SJRCs is located at 4820 Walbridge Street in Rockville.

OPT

## Syrian Refugee Crisis at Tipping Point

*Countries in region unable to handle flow, exerting more control of borders  
Religious minorities at risk; Children disproportionately impacted  
Syrians fleeing to Europe and beyond*

The Syrian refugee crisis – now totaling nearly 4 million refugees – has reached a “tipping point,” in which countries in the region are no longer able to handle the flow of refugees across their borders, warned U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) officials who recently traveled to the Middle East.

“Without more international support, we will find Syrians fleeing extremists being turned away and forced back to danger,” said Anastasia Brown, interim executive director for USCCB’s Migration and Refugee Services (MRS). “The global community, led by Europe and the United States, needs to increase its support in order to prevent a humanitarian crisis.”

The March 6 USCCB report March, entitled “Refuge and Hope in the Time of ISIS: The Urgent

need for Protection, Humanitarian Support, and Durable Solutions in Turkey, Bulgaria, and Greece,” looks at the plight of Syrian refugees in the three countries.

The report highlights the gaps Syrians face as they attempt to find protection, with many traveling through Greece and Bulgaria on their way to Europe.

Of special note is the impact the crisis is having on children, who number as many as 2 million—half the total of Syrian refugees. Among those are unaccompanied children who, according to the delegation, have a special claim on protection.

“The number of unaccompanied children and other vulnerable children from Syria and elsewhere is rising, yet there are few protection mechanisms in place to identify and rescue them from harm,” said Nathalie Lummert, director of

Special Programs for MRS/USCCB. “What we are seeing is an exodus of the next generation in Syria, with little hope for their future.”

The delegation also expressed grave concern for the plight of religious minorities, who are targets of extremists in the region. Assyrian and Chaldean Christians, along with Yazidis, are at risk of their lives.

“Without a dramatic response to this unprecedented humanitarian challenge, we will continue to see ongoing suffering and even death in this population, especially among the most vulnerable,” Brown said.

The delegation’s report lists several recommendations to address the crisis, including increased refugee assistance and resettlement. The full report is available at [www.usccb.org/about/migration-policy/upload/Refuge-and-Hope-in-the-Time-of-ISIS.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/about/migration-policy/upload/Refuge-and-Hope-in-the-Time-of-ISIS.pdf)

OPT

## MARDI GRAS

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Shepherd's Table, a facility which clothes and feeds the homeless. The idea to ask for the casseroles that night was to encourage parishioners to attempt the recipe, to see how easily made it can be, and to taste just what it is we donate to the area

homeless. Because everything had to halt at 8pm, we had more pans of the casserole to donate than would have otherwise been expected – much to the delight of those who will welcome it some night arriving at Prospect Place, the location of the Shepherd's Table dining room. Photographs by parishioner and CCD assistant Maria Kendall.

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# NCOA to Help Thousands of Struggling Older Adults in Maryland

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) on February 25 announced an effort to improve the financial outlook for thousands of struggling older adults in Maryland. With support from

the Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Foundation, NCOA will help older adults to get personalized assessments and connect to services wherever they are — either at home on their computer and/or in their communities.

Across Maryland, roughly a quarter million adults aged 60+ live on incomes less than \$29,400 a year (250% of the Federal Poverty Level). Many of these individuals are one event—a job loss, major health expense, or accident—away from financial crisis.

NCOA is targeting this population through two mechanisms:

- **Economic CheckUp.org** is a free, online tool that helps older adults find work, cut their spending, reduce debt, and use their home equity.

- Five Economic Service Centers will work with community partners across Maryland to conduct personalized, comprehensive economic assessments and connect individuals to a variety of community

*Continued on page 39*



## NIA-led effort launches Big Data portal for Alzheimer's drug discovery

*Innovative collaboration, rapid data-sharing opens research to wider community*

A National Institute on Aging-led public-private partnership to transform and accelerate drug development achieved a significant milestone today with the launch of a new Alzheimer's Big Data portal—including delivery of the first wave of data—for use by the research community. The new data sharing and analysis resource is part of the Accelerating Medicines Partnership (AMP), an unprecedented venture bringing together NIA, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, industry and academic scientists from a variety of disciplines to translate knowledge faster and more successfully into new therapies.

The opening of the AMP-AD Knowledge Portal and release of the first wave of data will enable sharing and analyses of large and complex biomedical datasets. Researchers believe this approach will ramp up the development of predictive models of Alzheimer's disease and enable the selection of novel targets that drive the changes in molecular networks leading to the clinical signs and symptoms of the disease.

"We are determined to reduce the cost and time it takes to discover viable therapeutic targets and bring new diagnostics and effective therapies to people with Alzheimer's.

That demands a new way of doing business," said National Institutes of Health Director Francis S. Collins, M.D. "The AD initiative of AMP is one way we can revolutionize Alzheimer's research and drug development by applying the principles of open science to the use and analysis of large and complex human data."

Developed by Sage Bionetworks, a Seattle-based non-profit organization promoting open science, the portal will house several waves of Big Data to be generated over the five years of the AMP-AD Target Discovery and Preclinical Validation Project by multidisciplinary academic groups. The academic teams, in collaboration with Sage Bionetworks data scientists and industry bioinformatics and drug discovery experts, will work collectively to apply cutting-edge analytical approaches to integrate molecular and clinical data from over 2,000 postmortem brain samples.

"The enormous complexity of the human brain and the processes involved in development and progression of Alzheimer's disease have been major barriers to drug development," said NIA Director Richard J. Hodes, M.D. "Now that we are gathering the data and developing the tools needed to tackle this complexity, it is key to make them widely accessible to the research community so we can speed up the development of critically needed therapies."

Because no publication embargo is imposed on the use of the data once they are posted to the AMP-AD Knowledge Portal, it increases the transparency, reproducibility

*Continued on page 39*

### 6 Ways to Eat Well As You Get Older

- Know what a healthy plate looks like**  
See how to build a healthy plate at [ChooseMyPlate.gov](http://ChooseMyPlate.gov)
- Look for important nutrients**  
Eat enough protein, fruits and vegetables, whole grains, low-fat dairy, and Vitamin D.
- Read nutrition labels**  
Be a smart shopper! Find items that are lower in fat, added sugars, and sodium.
- Use recommended servings**  
Learn the recommended daily servings for adults aged 60+ at [heart.org](http://heart.org)
- Stay hydrated**  
Water is an important nutrient too! Drink fluids consistently throughout the day.
- Stretch your food budget**  
Get help paying for healthy food at [BenefitsCheckUp.org/getSNAP](http://BenefitsCheckUp.org/getSNAP)

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March 20 & 21  
7pm & 9pm



The Bethesda Film Fest will feature five short documentaries made by local filmmakers. The evening will include a discussion with the filmmakers after the screenings.

Friday, March 20 and Saturday, March 21 • 7pm & 9pm

Location: Imagination Stage  
4908 Auburn Avenue

Tickets are \$10 each. There are

no refunds. To purchase tickets, go to the Bethesda Urban Partnership website:

[www.bethesda.org/bethesda/film-fest-tickets](http://www.bethesda.org/bethesda/film-fest-tickets)

Bethesda Film Fest is supported in part by funding from the Montgomery County government and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County

OPT

## NCOA

Con't from page 38

resources.

Early testing of these mechanisms in Baltimore and other communities across the nation have already helped financially strapped older adults free up, on average, \$250 per month or \$3,000 per year.

"We're excited to be partnering with the Weinberg Foundation and social service agencies throughout Maryland to improve the lives of those who may be struggling, or who simply want to get a handle on their financial situation," said Ramsey Alwin, vice president of economic security at NCOA. "This effort not only boosts the financial security of thousands of Maryland seniors, but also advances NCOA's goal of improving the lives of 10 million older adults by 2020."

"By 2020, the Weinberg Foundation dreams of Making Maryland the Best Place to Grow Old," said Ellen M. Heller, Weinberg Foundation Board Chair. "Improving the economic security of Maryland's vulnerable older adults is one more step toward achieving that goal."

OPT

## BIG DATA

Con't from page 38

and translatability of basic research discoveries, according to Suzana Petanceska, Ph.D., NIA's program director leading the AMP-AD Target Discovery Project. "The era of Big Data and open science can be a game-changer in our ability to choose therapeutic targets for Alzheimer's that may lead to effective therapies tailored to diverse patients," Petanceska said.

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Source: National Institute on Aging

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# Gathering the Wisdom of Women: Water to Wine

**Saturday, March 21, 2015**

8:30 am to 3:00 pm

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## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS: 9:30 AM

### The Wisdom of the Women Saints

English

Colleen Carroll Campbell



### La Sabiduría de una Mujer de Dios

Spanish

Lucia Baez Luzondo



*Also presented in English during Workshop Session*

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[www.adw.org/womensconference](http://www.adw.org/womensconference)

## WORKSHOP PRESENTERS: 1:30 PM

## MASS: 11:15 AM

### English

#### Mary, Seat of Wisdom: Art Inspiring Faith

Dr. Jem Sullivan



#### A Woman's Worth: What Our Ancestors Knew But Today's Women Want to Forget

Gloria Purvis Scott



#### Live Peace: Teach Peace Best Practices and Tools

MJ Park



#### The Wisdom of Women in Everyday Life

Sr. Mary Elizabeth, SV



### Spanish

#### La sabiduría de la abuela en la familia

Dr. Liliana Alessandri



#### La sabiduría de una mujer de Dios con los hombres en su vida

Dr. Ricardo Luzondo



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