



Special Graduation Issue

MAY 2017

Living the Faith Together

FREE

## Love From the Heart



Chuck Short

By Chuck Short

**A**s we approach summer break, I take this time each year and hope you will join me in thanking parish clergy, staff and volunteers who contribute all year in sustaining meaningful faith and community life in our parishes. Whether

*Continued on page 35*

## Thank You for Answering the Call



Fr. Enzler

By Fr. Enzler

**W**e're now speeding rapidly toward summer. We can see it in the trees and flowers, we can feel it in the temperatures, and one look at the calendar

tells us that Memorial Day is only two weeks away with the end of school a couple of weeks after that. We'll soon be in the sea-

*Continued on page 18*



Lower School Avalon students playing their clarinets perform for the Avalon-Brookwood gala, *A Black Tie Knight*, on March 25, 2017.

## 14th Annual Spring Gala Sets Records

By Ellen Clifford

The celebration of the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary, the 383rd birthday of Maryland, and The Avalon School and Brookwood School *Spring Gala*, all coincided on March 25, to make it a night to remember.

*Continued on page 18*

## Learning Outside of the Classroom



Our Lady of Mercy eighth graders enjoying their Outdoor Ed adventure at Black Rock Retreat along with their pastor, principal and several teachers. Back Row (L-R): Patrick Sharp (teacher), Frank English (teacher, Asst. Principal), Fr. Bill Byrne (Pastor), Josie Finnell (student), Deborah Thomas (Principal), Erin Pawlowicz (teacher).

**O**ur Lady of Mercy eighth graders were the first to participate in a new middle school tradition: two days and two nights of outdoor education! This was an exciting addition to the middle school curriculum, which includes a one-day outing for sixth grade, and a single overnight excursion for seventh graders. The students and staff experienced the 100-acre outdoor classroom of the beautiful Black Rock Retreat in Quarryville, Pennsylvania. Survival skills, geocaching, creation exploration sessions, and camp games are a few of the activities they took part in. Father Bill and Father Chris visited Black Rock and held mass for the students, adding to this memorable experience!

OPT

## St. John's Dedicates Three New School Facilities Closes Out \$7.5 Million Campaign

**O**n May 5, St. John's College High School held a dedication ceremony for the school's three new student-centered facilities, which included a special blessing from His Eminence Cardinal Donald Wuerl, archbishop of Washington. Over the last two years, the primary school building has expanded by more than 40,000 square feet through the new Donatelli Center for the Visual and Performing Arts, Cap Mona Family Student Center and Gletner Courtyard.

More than 250 members of the St. John's community walked the halls of the new buildings Friday night, exploring the new spaces and learning about how these facilities are already enriching the educational experience for St. John's students. At the dedication ceremony, St. John's President Jeff Mancabelli thanked seven of the campaign's lead donors for their support, including Lou '52 and Ann Donatelli, Vincent "Cap" Mona '61, Bob Donohoe

'66 and the Donohoe family, Tom '65 and Karen Frana, Tom '84 and Karen Gletner, John Peak '63 and John '73 and Beth

*Continued on page 3*



## Celebrating Sr. Roberta's Golden Jubilee

**W**ith joy and thanksgiving, the Community of St. John the Evangelist Parish and the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart honored Sr. Roberta Harding, IHM, with a special Mass and Parish celebration on the occasion of her 50th Jubilee of Religious Profession on Sunday, April 23. During the Mass, Sr. Roberta and the other IHM Sisters renewed their religious vows. Volunteers prepared a lovely luncheon reception and parishioners lined up to express their gratitude to Sr. Roberta and to give her a hug.

The staff and children of the parish school had surprised Sr. Roberta with a special assembly in her honor earlier. Highlights

*Continued on page 60*



Sr. Roberta pauses to share a smile with the reception attendees prior to cutting her cake.





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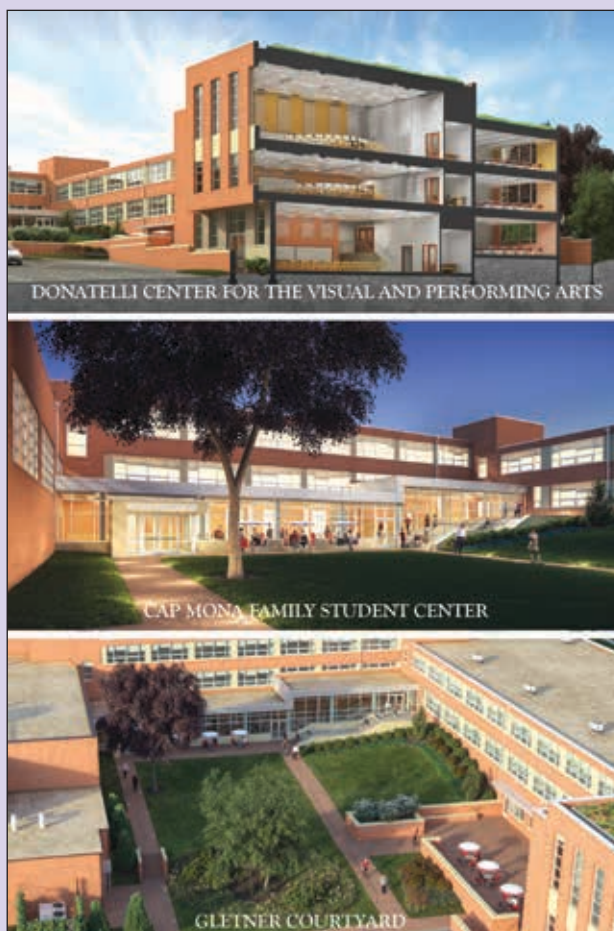
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## Cardinal Dolan Calls Pro-Abortion DNC Pledge Extreme, Disturbing, Intolerant

Cardinal Timothy Dolan, chair of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities, reacted to the announcement by the Democratic National Committee's chair pledging support only for pro-abortion candidates. Calling the pledge "very disturbing," Cardinal Dolan urged party members to "challenge their leadership to recant this intolerant position."

Cardinal Dolan's full statement follows:

"The recent pledge by the Democratic National Committee chair to support only candidates who embrace the radical unrestricted abortion license is very disturbing. The Democratic Party platform already endorses abortion throughout the nine months of pregnancy, even forcing taxpayers to fund it; and now the DNC says that to be a Democrat—indeed to be an American—requires supporting



Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Cardinal Archbishop of New York

that extreme agenda.

True solidarity with pregnant women and their children transcends all party lines. Abortion doesn't empower women. Indeed, women deserve better than abortion.

In the name of diversity and inclusion, pro-life and pro-'choice' Democrats, alike, should challenge their leadership to recant this intolerant position."

OPT

## The Catholic Communication Campaign, May 27-28

### Helping to Spread the Gospel Message

The Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) collection is an annual national appeal to support evangelization through the internet, television, radio, and print publications. This year's collection will be taken up in many dioceses the weekend of May 27-28.

"At its core, this collection is a way for all of us to be evangelizers," said Bishop Joseph J. Tyson of Yakima, Washington, chairman of the Committee on Communications' Subcommittee on the Catholic Communication Campaign. "The



message of the Church is one of hope and mercy—that God walks with us and does not leave us to face our suffering alone. With the collection, this is the message that we share."

The Catholic Communication Campaign supports projects in the United States and in developing countries where the local Church lacks resources to spread the Gospel message.

Projects include providing access to the daily Mass readings on the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' website, with a reach of 7.4 million page views per month. The CCC collection also shares the travels and daily ministry of Pope Francis through its support of Catholic News Services' Rome bureau.

In addition, the Catholic Research Resources Alliance is preserving Catholic history in the U.S. thanks to a CCC grant to digitize more than 87,000 pages of Catholic news content that will be available online free to researchers and educators. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a CCC grant is enabling Radio Maria to expand to the Diocese of Goma to further the evangelization mission of the Church.

Fifty percent of funds collected remain in each diocese to support local Catholic communication projects.

Shareable resources for the collection are available online. More information about the Catholic Communication Campaign is available at [www.usccb.org/cc](http://www.usccb.org/cc).

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# Justice and Advocacy Council of Montgomery County reports active year as voice of local Catholics

By Ann Barbagallo

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Maryland Catholic Conference bring the Church's voice to the public square by educating Catholics about public policy issues of concern. They also advocate for Church positions on social justice, the needs of the poor and vulnerable, and the life of the Church in society before members of Congress and the Maryland General Assembly.

At the local level, the Justice and Advocacy Council of Montgomery County (J&A Council) functions as an advocacy voice of the Archdiocese of Washington.

The J&A Council of Montgomery County has been a voice for local Catholics for more than a dozen years. Every parish in the County is encouraged to participate. Currently Cathy Couch from St. Elizabeth, Rockville and I from St. Paul, Damascus serve as Co-Chairs. We work with other members representing many of the parishes in Montgomery County.

Catholic social teaching guides J&A efforts

Our advocacy efforts are based on Catholic social teaching. Some of these principles of the Church's social teaching include the sacredness of life, the dignity of the human person, and the responsibility to care for others. They also include a preferential option for



Ann Barbagallo (l) and Cathy Couch (r) are co-chairs of the Justice and Advocacy Council of Montgomery County.

the poor and vulnerable as well as the call to act in solidarity with one another, recognizing that we are all part of one human family.

Pope Francis, from the very beginning of his pontificate, has called upon us to remember the poor, the vulnerable and the voiceless. There are numerous examples of his call for justice, including the following from 2013:

"A way has to be found to enable everyone to benefit from the fruits of the earth, and not simply to close the gap between the affluent and those who must be satisfied with the crumbs falling from the table, but above all to satisfy the demands of justice, fairness and respect for every human being." (Pope

Francis, Address to the Food and Agricultural Organization, 6/20/13) J&A efforts this year

Each year our Justice and Advocacy Council decides on a few specific areas to focus our efforts. We are also open to new areas of concern that develop during the year. Some examples of our J&A Council's activities during this past year include:

We met individually with the County Council members or their staff in the fall of 2016. Our purpose was to find out which of the upcoming issues or their priorities might impact the poor and vulnerable. We also urged council members to be sensitive to the needs of the less fortunate.

We had a similar meeting with County Executive Ike Leggett and his Special Assistant Chuck Short in February 2017.

J&A members participated in Lobby Night in Annapolis. We spoke with several State officials about legislation on physician-assisted suicide. We also supported BOOST (scholarship assistance toward attending nonpublic schools), the Healthy Families Working Act (allows workers to earn paid sick and safe days), and the Trust Act (clarifies and sets parameters for State and local participation in Federal immigration enforcement efforts).

Members testified at the November 1 County Council hearing on Bill 39-16 that requires reg-

istration of vacant property. This was seen as a measure to increase the availability of affordable housing and to reduce the opportunity for harm to take place in empty houses. The bill was passed by unanimous approval.

We testified at all five of the County Executive's FY 2017 regional budget forums in January 2017 to support funding for the poor, vulnerable and disabled.

We also testified at the April 5 County Council budget hearing to voice our support for County Executive's budget proposal that

would increase funding for affordable housing, Landlord-Tenant Affairs, housing inspections, services for "New Americans," English literacy programs, and increased payments for developmental disability direct care workers.

The J&A Council meets bi-monthly at Holy Redeemer Parish, Kensington. New members (volunteers) are always welcome! Our next meeting is May 24 from 7:30 pm to 9 pm. If you are interested, please contact Cathy Couch at 301-933-6120 or Ann Barbagallo at 301-482-1022.

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## DEDICATION

Con't from page 1

Veihmeyer.

"St. John's is very fortunate to have so many people committed to our success," Mancabelli said. "As a Lasallian school, we continually strive to build a community that remains focused on the needs of our students. The facilities that you see today speak directly to our mission of providing places for our students to come together, to learn, to pray, to socialize and to unlock their talents."

Cardinal Wuerl gave the invocation and blessing, and then took the time to walk through each new facility, individually blessing the new spaces.

"In today's society with all of its challenges, St. John's follows in the beautiful tradition of the Brothers of St. John Baptist de La Salle and has kept alive the spirit and dedication to the cause of Catholic education," Archbishop Wuerl said.

The dedication ceremony was the official ending to the school's Campaign for Arts, Mission and Ministry, which launched in October 2014. Over the past 2.5 years, more than 350 alumni, parents and friends of the school came together to raise over \$7.5 million in cash and pledges. The school also received more than \$1.5 mil-



St. John's Principal Chris Themistos (left), Cardinal Donald Wuerl and St. John's President Jeff Mancabelli after the dedication ceremony.

lion in estate pledges through the campaign.

The Donatelli Center for the Visual and Performing Arts has revolutionized St. John's arts programs, as well as responding directly to the needs of the more than 500 students in the arts. In 2015, the school's visual arts facilities were upgraded and reconstructed, resulting in two light-filled studios, a student workroom, faculty offices and an expanded outdoor patio space. Construction on the new 15,000-square-foot performing arts wing was completed in August 2016, adding three acoustically designed performance classrooms, individual practice rooms

and enough storage space to accommodate every ensemble. The space also includes three academic classrooms and a new elevator.

"The dedication of the Donatelli Center for the Visual and Performing Arts was a great success. It was our pleasure to play a role in its creation," said Lou Donatelli '52. "The building is dedicated to my parents and to the arts, and it will be enjoyed by students for years to come."

The 8,200-square-foot Cap Mona Family Student Center opened this winter, and it has already become the new heart of the campus. Appropriately, the center serves

Continued on page 59



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## Pilgrimage to St. John Paul II National Shrine

Last month a group of St. Raphael Sodality members visited the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, DC. They began their journey with a short film depicting the Pope's life, and then toured the interactive exhibit presenting his early life through his final days as Pope.

A highlight of the day was visiting the lovely Luminous Mysteries Chapel. Beautiful mosaics fill the chapel walls and depict the

Luminous Mysteries, which Pope John Paul II added to the Rosary in 2002. The chapel provides an inspiring space for prayer and reflection, and also houses a first-class blood relic of St. John Paul II, available daily for veneration.

The group's awesome experience concluded with Mass in the Redemptor Hominis Church which displays salvation history with stunning mosaics.

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*Congratulations,  
Class of 2017!*

### Nick Aldridge

Gonzaga College High School

### Kaitlyn Alexander

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart

### Sofia Amaya

Academy of the Holy Cross

### Aggie Baum

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### Hannah Williams

Academy of the Holy Cross

### Tim Wilson

St. John's College High School

## We are St. Raphael – Hear us Roar!

By Nina Cardillo

The African jungle came alive on St. Raphael School's stage in the theatrical performance of "The Lion King Jr." Dazzling us with colorful costumes and set design and delighting us with spirited singing and choreography, the middle school students shined in this year's play under the directorship of Music Teacher Rebecca Maurer. A variety of talents blended together to make the show so successful, including world-language

*Continued on page 5*

### St. Raphael Parish St. Raphael School

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St. Raphael School's production of "The Lion King Jr." delighted audiences, including a sold-out performance on opening night. Photo by Tom Carrington

## ST RAPHAEL

*Con't from page 4*

support from Art Teacher and South African native Yolanda Prinsloo, who helped refine the pronunciation of lyrics sung in Xhosa, Zulu, Setswana, and Swahili. We are proud of the hard work and team work that students, teachers, and parent volunteers displayed in front of and behind the scenes to make this year's school musical a real class act!

### Messengers of Mercy

Even before the theme was announced for the annual Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County essay contest, first-place winner Molly May, an SRS eighth-grader, had a plan in mind. She knew what she needed to write about. In October 2014, Molly's two older brothers and three other boys were waiting for help to arrive after their car ran out of gas when it was struck by another car. The accident tragically took the life of one of the boys, 17-year-old Dominik Pettey. Molly says this terrible incident was a "spiritual eye-opener" for her broth-

*Continued on page 48*

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**Paul Flanagan**  
Washington, DC  
*University of Toronto*



**Noah Fuller**  
Ffx. Station, VA  
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*Union College*



**John Kalhorn**  
Rockville, MD  
*Providence College*



**Brendan Kane**  
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Silver Spring, MD  
*University of Southern California*



**Andre LeVan**  
Great Falls, VA  
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*University of Virginia*



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*Purdue University*



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*University of Southern California*



**Micah Shenk-Evans**  
Cheverly, MD  
*University of Maryland (College Park)*



**Ronald Slimp**  
Washington, DC  
*Rice University*



**Caleb Somborac**  
Bowie, MD  
*Oberlin College*



**Spencer Stingley**  
Silver Spring, MD  
*Loyola New Orleans*



**John Walker**  
Falls Church, VA  
*Marquette University*



**Dengyi Wang**  
Rockville, MD  
*Whitman College*



**Clement Williams**  
Silver Spring, MD  
*Davidson College*



**Yujing Yan**  
Rockville, MD  
*University of California (Los Angeles)*

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# They Brought Honor to Us All - *Mulan Jr.* at Holy Redeemer

By Michelle Ardillo

The Holy Redeemer Drama Club took a trip to ancient China to perform *Mulan Jr.* with an afternoon matinee and an evening performance on April 7 and an evening performance on April 8. Large audiences for all three performances produced peals of laughter and much applause for the school's spring musical.

Choreography added much to the production, under the talented and creative "feet" of former parent Monique Bonner, who taught Tai Chi and other martial arts moves to the cast of 43 seventh and eighth graders. Costumes designed and acquired by HR grandparent Cathleen Farr and HR parent Ellen MacCartee, mother of eighth-grader Abby MacCartee who embodied the character of Mushu from the top of her ponytail to the tip of her green dragon's tail, lent much to the authentic Chinese mood of the



Cast, Crew, and Production Team of *Mulan Jr.*

production. Also contributing to the aesthetics of the production was the use of props and accessories such as beautiful fans sent from Korea by relatives of eighth-grader

Clara Henne, who portrayed the title character with both strength and grace, and colorful parasols donated by choreographer Monique Bonner. With over forty musical

numbers and musical cues, *Mulan Jr.* is nearly an operetta, and students worked for nine weeks learning the challenging songs, along with their blocking, dances, and lines. HR

parent Elizabeth Rembold, mother of eighth-grader Nora Rembold who was one of the Fa Family Ancestors, headed up set design, painting the

*Continued on page 28*

## HR Middle School Students Perform the Living Stations of the Cross

By Michelle Ardillo

Holy Redeemer middle school students performed the Living Stations of the Cross for the school community on Holy Thursday and again on Good Friday for the parish. Moderators for this school activity include kindergarten teacher Mrs. Pam Hurley, who is also the moderator for the Religious Life Committee, and middle school science teacher Ms. Danielle Trotta,



Jesus carries his cross, as Holy Redeemer 6th and 8th graders participating in HR's Living Stations of the Cross



Jesus on the cross during HR's Living Stations of the Cross

with music provided by the HR Young Voices under the direction of Mr. Peter Smith, HR music teacher. Drama Club moderator Mrs. Michelle Ardillo assisted with props and costumes.

The narrators for this year's Living Stations were seventh-

grader Bridget Trebon and sixth-grader Maggie Foxman. Students acting out the Living Stations were eighth-graders Ryan Magnino, Joc Baldacci, and Jorgie Garayta; and sixth-graders Julia Vaughan, Olivia Vaughan, Kathleen Brown, Rachel Styslinger, and Cole Remington.

Sixth-grader Anthony Molina played the part of Jesus.

Throughout the season of Lent, HR students attended the Stations of the Cross, but watching the students perform the Living Stations of the Cross helps to give students and the HR school community a

more visual representation of this ancient Catholic prayer marking the "way of the cross". Student actors provide a tableau or "still frame" of each station, while narrators explain the station and lead the school in a prayerful reflection.

OPT

### Holy Redeemer Parish

9705 Summit Avenue  
Kensington, MD

**Rev. Mark Hughes**

**Pastor**

301-942-2333

**Holy Redeemer School**

**Mrs. Colleen Ryan,**

**Principal**

301-942-3701

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## Holy Redeemer Celebrating the Sacraments

On Saturday, April 30, sixty-four second graders received their First Holy Communion. Dressed in white dresses and blue blazers, the children anxiously awaited the moment when they could receive Our Lord themselves. After months of preparation, including a short retreat, the children were ready to receive this very special sacrament. Then they were off to the school auditorium where they were guests at a reception hosted by the first grade families.

Then twelve days later, on Thursday, May 11, The Most Reverend Mario Dorsonville came to the parish to confer the sacra-

*Continued on page 32*



HR's 2017 First Communicants

**More Holy Redeemer News on Page 60**





**Sean Daniel August**

Georgetown Preparatory School

*"Don't do they. Do you."*

—Russell Westbrook



**Connor Joseph Bain**

St. John's College High School

*"Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened."*

—Dr. Seuss



**Jocquin Baldacci**

Our Lady of Good Counsel High School

*"You see things; you say, 'Why?' But I dream things that never were; and I say 'Why not?'"*

—George Bernard Shaw



**Genevieve Katherine Bonavia**

Our Lady of Good Counsel High School

*"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."*

—Eleanor Roosevelt



**Sean Xavier Caughey**

Walter Johnson High School

*"Free time is the enemy of progress."*

—Casey Neistat



**Elizabeth Lee Clarke**

The Academy of the Holy Cross

*"Be nice to everyone, always smile, and appreciate things because it could all be gone tomorrow."*

—Ed Sheeran



**Sean Eric Clements**

Our Lady of Good Counsel High School

*"A creative man is motivated by the desire to achieve, not by the desire to beat others."*

—Ayn Rand



**Nicholas David Crane**

Georgetown Preparatory School

*"I think the thing to do is enjoy the ride while you're on it."*

—Johnny Depp



**Sallee Trimble D'Albora**

The Academy of the Holy Cross

*"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."*

—Eleanor Roosevelt

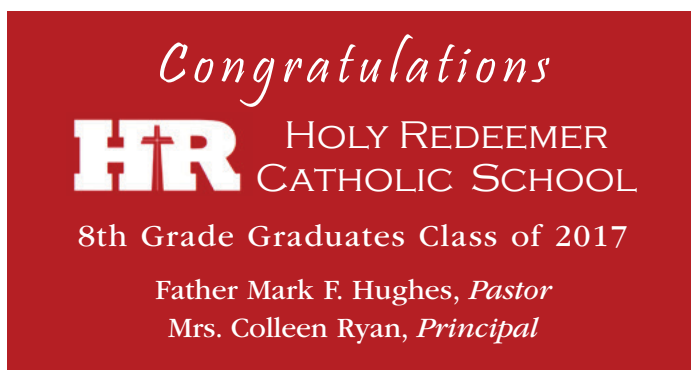


**Elizabeth Katherine Dunn**

Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School

*"How am I ever gonna get to be old and wise if I ain't ever young and crazy?"*

—Frankie Ballard



**Clare Marie Foley**

The Academy of the Holy Cross

*"No matter what happens in life, be good to people. Being good to people is a wonderful legacy to leave behind."*

—Taylor Swift



**Jorge Alberto Garayta, IV**

Georgetown Preparatory School

*"If not us, then who? If not now, then when?"*

—John E. Lewis



**Kendal Elizabeth Gilday**

Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School

*"Don't walk in front of me — I may not follow; don't walk behind — I may not lead; walk beside me and just be my friend."*

—Albert Camus



**John Murphy Gonella**

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School

*"Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."*

—Will Rogers



**Matthew Ryan Gribble**

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School

*"If you don't have confidence, you'll always find a way not to win."*

—Carl Lewis



**Clara Sarang Henne**

Our Lady of Good Counsel High School

*"All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."*

—J.R.R. Tolkien



**Jessica Anne Kolevar**

St. John's College High School

*"Art is the desire of a man to express himself, to record the reactions of his personality to the world he lives in."*

—Amy Lowell



**Annabelle Ellen MacCartee**

The Academy of the Holy Cross

*"If there ever comes a day when we can't be together, keep me in your heart. I'll stay there forever."*

—A. A. Milne



**Carolina Elisa Maduro-Garcia**

Our Lady of Good Counsel High School

*"To succeed in life, you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone and a funny bone."*

—Reba McEntire



**Ryan Robert Magnino**

St. John's College High School

*"Hard work beats talent when talent fails to work hard."*

—Kevin Durant



**Michael Thomas Monahan**

St. John's College High School

*"Always the stairs, never the escalator."*

—Casey Neistat



**Margaret Erin Morin**

St. John's College High School

*"Beginnings are usually scary, and endings are usually sad, but it's everything in between that makes it all worth living."*

—Bob Marley



**Mollie Elizabeth Morin**

St. John's College High School

*"The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it."*

—Michelangelo Buonarroti



**Molly Maria Murphy**

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart

*"Imperfection is beauty, madness is genius and it's better to be absolutely ridiculous than absolutely boring."*

—Marilyn Monroe



**Natalie Rose Peoples**

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart

*"The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page."*

—Saint Augustine



**Virginia Anne Quinn**

Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School

*"Do small things with great love."*

—Saint Teresa of Calcutta



**Kelsey Christine Rafferty**

Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School

*"Happy girls are the prettiest."*

—Audrey Hepburn



**Tatyana Elizabeth Ramirez**

Walter Johnson High School

*"How lucky I am to have something which makes saying goodbye so hard."*

—A. A. Milne



**Nora Caroline Rembold**

Connelly School of the Holy Child

*"Why fit in when you were born to stand out?"*

—Dr. Seuss



**Blaise Thomas Ryan**

St. John's College High School

*"There's a certain line between jokes and music and poetry that's a bit blurred in my mind."*

—Bo Burnham



**Marina Victoria Schlegel**

The Academy of the Holy Cross

*"Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened."*

—Dr. Seuss



**Matthew James Seiler**

Gonzaga College High School

*"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present."*

—Bill Keane



**Chloe Elizabeth Strachan**

Walter Johnson High School

*"Genius is one percent inspiration and ninety-nine percent perspiration."*

—Thomas A. Edison



**Scott Leo Styslinger**

Our Lady of Good Counsel High School

*"Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened."*

—Dr. Seuss



**Megan Grady Toner**

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart

*"There are moments when you fall to the ground. But you are stronger than you feel you are now. You don't always have to speak so loud, no. Just be as you are."*

—Mike Posner



**Grace Marie Winters**

The Academy of the Holy Cross

*"Behind you, all your memories. Before you, all your dreams. Around you, all who love you. Within you, all you need."*

—Unknown



## Online Auction Events are a Huge Hit at Lourdes

Every year, the biggest hits of our Silent Auction are the variety of teacher-led events. The middle school boys wait all year for their Camping Trip with Mr. Long and Mr. Dwyer, and the eighth-grade girls relish their Manicures and Ice Cream with Mrs. McGann, Mrs. Stallsmith, and Ms. McGann—at their principal's house, no less! Students love to escape their classrooms on a spring afternoon, with the younger children heading to Ice Cream in the Park at nearby Lynnbrook Park, and the older students going on a Scavenger Hunt all over downtown Bethesda! Children from all grades get excited for a Pancake Breakfast, missing first period to enjoy the most important meal of the day with their teachers, or spending the afternoon at a Tie Dye & Popsicle Party. Of course, the most coveted item of all is the opportunity to be Principal for a Day!

In addition to our traditional events, the newer offerings did

not disappoint! Students in Grades Three-Eight had a chance to hike Sugarloaf Mountain, children in the Little Group through third grade had a special Saturday Soccer Clinic, children in Grades Two-Six had a chance to go Duck Pin Bowling, children of all ages had an opportunity to attend an All Fired Up pottery workshop, and children in grades 1-4 got to spend a winter afternoon out of class and in a Baking Extravaganza! A handful of lucky children got to attend the middle school's dress rehearsals for Alice in Wonderland, and two more received a walk-on role for one night of the play!

Although most of these events are a joy for the children, parents are not left out of the fun! Any ladies of Lourdes are invited to a Girls Night Out, hosted by Kelly McMahon for all of the mothers, and the dads head to a Poker Night hosted by the Polmateers. The Hessicks graciously hosted an adults-only March Madness night to kick off the tournament! Parents are always ready to bid on the best seats in the house at our Christmas Pageant, Graduation, and both nights of the play, with the lucky winners receiving front row seats.

We are so thankful to the families and friends who bid on these exciting events and opportunities for their children, and to the faculty and staff who put them on!

OPT

### Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

7500 Pearl Street  
Bethesda, MD

**Msgr. Edward Filardi, Pastor**  
301-654-1287

**Patricia Kilroy McGann**  
Principal  
301-654-5376

## Ninth Annual Lions' Roar Kate Truax 5K

Kate Truax taught at Our Lady of Lourdes School from August of 2005 until she was taken to Heaven in December of 2013. Kate was a beloved teacher, colleague and friend. Her courage during chemotherapy, a bone marrow transplant and debilitating illness inspired her students and all who loved her. Kate loved field trips, 5K runs, reading, and fun of any kind. The Lions' Roar Kate Truax 5K is held each year in Kate's honor. She continues to inspire us to be better, to care more, and to appreciate all that we have.

The excitement for the 9th Annual Lions' Roar Kate Truax



Younger students prepare to run the 1K Fun Run.



Terrence McGann, II takes a ride on Leo the Lion.

5K began to build slowly in the weeks before our Easter vacation. When Leo the Lion arrived at school, things became far more interesting! Dr. Peter Cocarro, Lourdes alumnus and grandfather of Ben in fifth grade, arrived at our door with a life-sized Steif Lion. Leo had arrived!

When we returned from Easter vacation, tickets for the class raffle baskets were selling like hotcakes. The grownups were very interested in a trip to just about anywhere in the world - for seven nights. The children

loved the Lego basket and the Craft Basket. There were so many baskets, though, that it was hard to decide where to put your tickets! Registration kicked up a notch and the eighth grade was the first class to have 100% of the class signed up. They were rewarded with an ice cream sundae party.

Friday night the crowd at the carb-loading spaghetti dinner was enormous. The weather was perfect, so there was a big crowd outside on the deck. Saturday morn-

*Continued on page 32*



## OUR LADY OF LOURDES SCHOOL Congratulations Class of 2017 Graduates

Patricia McGann, *Principal* • Rev. Msgr. Edward Filardi, *Pastor*

7500 Pearl Street  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
301-654-5376



**Quincy Allen**  
Maret

*"The greatest pleasure in life is accomplishing things people thought you couldn't do."*



**Emily Aumiller**  
The Academy of the Holy Cross

*"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I remember, involve me and I learn."*



**Sophia Bierma**  
Connolly School of the Holy Child

*"The whole world is a series of miracles, but we are so used to them that we call them ordinary things."*



**Jeremiah Bruce**  
Georgetown Preparatory High School

*"In order to be successful, you have to want it more than you want to breathe."*



**Juliana Capizzi**  
Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School

*"If you can fill the unforgiving minute with sixty seconds' worth of distance run, yours is the Earth and everything that's in it."*



**Olivia Cristillo**  
St. John's College High School

*"We do not need magic to change the world, we carry all the power we need inside ourselves already."*



**Sofia Donohue**  
Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School

*"She is clothed in strength and dignity and she laughs without fear of the future."*



**Luke Evans**  
Our Lady of Good Counsel

*"A smooth sea never made a skilled sailor."*



**Lily Giblin**  
The Academy of the Holy Cross

*"The final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands."*



**James Gnecco**  
Gonzaga College High School

*"Pray not for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men."*



**Xavier Grobbel**  
St. John's College High School

*"Making a million friends is not a miracle. The miracle is to make such a friend who will stand with you when millions are against you."*



**Freya Hansen**  
Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School

*"What lies behind us and what lies before us are timely matters compared to what lies within us."*



**Saoirse Healy**  
St. John's College High School

*"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."*



**Xavier Long**  
Georgetown Preparatory School

*"The world is not dangerous because of those who do harm but because of those who look at it without doing anything."*



**Melat Mesfin**  
Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School

*"All our dreams can come true if we have enough courage to pursue them."*



**Kathryn Myers**  
The Academy of the Holy Cross

*"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style."*



**Janine Olshefski**  
Bishop O'Connell High School

*"Your mistakes do not define you."*



**Agustin Orrego**  
St. John's College High School

*"Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you."*



**Lucy Polmateer**  
The Academy of the Holy Cross

*"If you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you dream it, you can become it."*



**Colby Roth**  
Connolly School of the Holy Child

*"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the little voice at the end of the day that says I'll try again tomorrow."*



**Glenn Smithson**  
DeMatha High School

*"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."*



**Joseph Sparmo**  
Our Lady of Good Counsel

*"It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are."*



**Elizabeth Thomas**  
St. John's College High School

*"Education is the key to unlocking the world, a passport to freedom."*



**Isabel Velasquez**  
Connolly School of the Holy Child

*"Don't be afraid to take a big step, you can't cross a gap in two small jumps."*



**Michael Walsh**  
The Heights School

*"In a big family the first child is like the first pancake. If it's not perfect, that's ok, there are a lot more coming along."*





# The Academy of the HOLY CROSS

ONCE A HOLY CROSS GIRL  
ALWAYS A HOLY CROSS GIRL!



## Congratulations CLASS OF 2017

Cassidy Julia Accardi  
Tierney Durkan Acosta  
Rebecca Marie Arce  
Hope Elizabeth Bacigalupo  
Bernadette Catherine Badamo  
Maeve Catherine Ballantine  
Sarah Juliet Banaszewski  
Deirdre Marie Belson  
Madison Margerie Boyd  
Alexis Lane Brugger  
Nia Zahra Brumme  
Elizabeth Lillian Bruno  
Rosina Concetta Calandra  
Keilah Ann Callahan  
Gianna Alexa Carmona  
Caroline Marie Case  
Jennifer Nicole Case  
Isabelle Charlotte Cassidy  
Anna Thompson Cecere  
Alessandra Maria Checchia  
Nora Reese Child  
Melissa Carole Coaxum  
Megan Rose Conley  
Olivia Margaret Corcoran  
Kelly Elizabeth Corkery  
Sophia Christine Crecca  
Maureen Elizabeth Dailey  
Madison Claire DiNino  
Carmen Francesca DiPippo  
Margaret Sarah Dwyer

Savannah Rose Easton  
Allison Ann Edwards  
Jessica Marie Falcinelli  
Emma Katherine Falkenstein  
Zhou Fang  
Heather Ann Fitzgerald  
Faith Renee Frayman  
Sophia Lourdes Garcia-Zafis  
Elizabeth Jenkins Girard  
Cristina Isabel Gomes  
Karen Gordon  
Gabriela Loren Guerrero  
Emily Nina Halm  
Coral Victoria Hauser  
Erin Alexandra Hicks  
Kelly Anne Horning  
Elizabeth Rose Johnston  
Madison Marie Ling Kelly  
Katherine Elizabeth Kemp  
Alexandra Grace Kennedy  
Jacqueline Michelle Kerlin  
Anna Lee King  
Caroline Ashleigh Kircher  
Emily Marie Kopp  
Hannah Larson Kreischer  
Brenna Rose Kueter  
Wenhui Liu  
Maeve Karol Lunden  
Margaret Ann Maloney  
Emily Ann Matejik

Tess Parker McCaffrey  
Jean Marie McConville  
Grace Harris McCrery  
Evangeline Grace McNabb  
Brittany Miranda Menjivar  
Dorothy Jan Mesmer  
Samantha Hawman Micklos  
Mikaela Monique Mooney  
Amy Noelle Mortensen  
Caroline Grace Murphy  
Kira Julianne Myers  
Stephanie Marie Nasou  
Nhi Quynh Nguyen  
Lauren Marie Therese O'Leary  
Annabelle Rose O'Reilly  
Amber Marina Onyekwere  
Isabella Marisol Orgel  
Elizabeth Marie Parker  
Lizanne Marie Passaro  
Alexandra Dae Pasta  
Kristin Elise Peaks  
Claire Marie Pecoraro  
Reann Louise Philogene  
Kaylyn Dwyer Policastri  
Yue Qiu  
Stephanie Maria Raimundo  
Darian Alysandra Ramirez  
Madeline Sophie Ratnavale  
Julianna Rose Renzi  
Theresa Joan Rogers

Natalie Davis Ruhlmann  
Haley Christine Rupp  
Emily Dowd Ryan  
Mary Elizabeth Schech  
Emily Nicole Schlosser  
Lillian Theresa Schmidt  
Maya Amgad Shehata  
Mary Delaney Shook  
Kellie Elizabeth Simons  
Carly Jacqueline Sinay  
Samantha O'Neil Sinay  
Jessica Andrea Forbes Snowden  
Euthymia Dafni Stratakis  
Hannah Bryn Strzelec  
Grace Eleanor Szemraj  
Grace FitzPatrick Tarbrake  
Margareth Shane Tchoufa  
Ingrid Litton Torp  
Julia Anh Urban  
Alexis Nicole Von Utter  
Natalie Frances Walsh  
Leiyuan Wang  
Aimee Michelle Weber  
Brittany Marie Weston  
Zoe Jane Westrick  
Chengyu Wu  
Zhonglan Yang  
Sabrina Ashley Yescas  
Boheng Zhang

**\$10,000,000 in College Scholarship Awards**  
**13 International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme Candidates**  
**6 NCAA Division I Athletes**  
**119 Women of Courage, Compassion and Scholarship!**





Fr. Rick Kramer of the Archdiocese of Washington Family Life Office leads a team of interested parish marriage prep facilitators through the program "Transformed in Love."

## Marriage Preparation

Ten couples from St. Elizabeth parish participated in a facilitator training session for those involved in *Marriage Preparation* on March 10 and 11. Fr. Rick Kramer from the Archdiocesan Office of Family Life came to the parish to lead the training in the *Transformed in Love* program, developed by the Archdiocese of Boston. These parish couples are experienced in Marriage Prep trainings, as well as by their own marriages, ranging in years from 11 through 65; however, they had not previously had as trainers a single resource to use that covers all topics, provides a workbook for each of the participating couples, and

encourages the facilitator-couples to be an active part of a team approach providing the preparation. Their enthusiastic dedication to working with young couples who plan to receive the sacrament in the Church is much appreciated by our parish at large, and especially by those planning to marry, who look to the facilitators for their witness and experience, freely shared during these important sessions.

This first, newly revamped, marriage preparation at St. Elizabeth's will be offered on July 22 and 29. Any interested couples may participate and will find registration information on the parish website: [StElizabethChurchMD.org](http://StElizabethChurchMD.org).

OPT

### St. Elizabeth Parish

917 Montrose Road  
Rockville, MD

**Msgr. J. Wilfrid Parent**  
Pastor

301-881-1380

**St. Elizabeth School Principal**  
**Vincent P. Spadoni**

301-881-1824

**Gerry Moore,**  
OPT Editor  
202-887-6475

### UCR Twilight Walk Bohrer Park

4:00PM Saturday, June 17



Event will be held rain or shine. Come prepared. (next to Gaithersburg HS) 506 S. Frederick Ave. Gaithersburg

Register at [www.ucresources.org](http://www.ucresources.org)

## Welcome New Catholics

St. Elizabeth Parish joyfully received 10 souls into the Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil just passed: Albert Bishop, Iris Garcia-Pak, brothers Philippe and Alexandre Tchokokam, Vanessa Kock, Braden Fogarty, Dylan Sheldon, Yurany Encisco, Christina Meneses and Lauren Souther.

Albert, Iris and brothers Philippe and Alexandre, were not previously baptized and therefore were baptized on this occasion. Vanessa, Brayden and Dylan, previously baptized in another Christian faith, made a profession of faith in the Catholic Church and thus were received into the Church. Yurany, Cristina and Lauren, having been baptized Catholic as children, were simply completing their sacraments of initiation. All 10 individuals were prepared through the Rite of



Msgr. Bill Parent, pastor, confers the Sacrament of Confirmation on ten individuals during the Easter Vigil at St. Elizabeth's.

Christian Initiation and received the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation this evening, so are now fully initiated Catholics.

OPT



Beauty and the Beast, Jr. was a HUGE HIT at St. Elizabeth School! Thank you to the cast and crew and a special thanks to Mrs. O'Neill and Mr. Crimans!



St. Elizabeth School First Graders enjoyed inviting their Dads to join them for a delicious donut and a great musical performance!

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## Jesse Manibusan inspires and uplifts at St. Elizabeth's

Confirmation students at St. Elizabeth Parish held their annual retreat on March 4, led by popular entertainer and songwriter, Jesse Manibusan. A composer whose music is published by Oregon Catholic Press, Jesse takes his songs on the road throughout the year as he engages young and old alike in increasing their understanding of their own faith and helping them open their hearts to God.

Through his songs, as well as scripture, prayer, slide presentations, stories and his own keen sense of humor,



Jesse Manibusan was a hit with the students with his slide show and music.

Continued on page 38

More St. Elizabeth News on Page 38





**John Bartlett**

*Our Lady of Good Counsel High School*



**Danielle Buckley**

*St Joseph Academy St Augustine, FL.*



**Raphael Caicedo-Borja**

*Our Lady of Good Counsel High School*



**Emma Calis**

*Connelly School of the Holy Child*



**Joseph Costello**

*Gonzaga College High School*



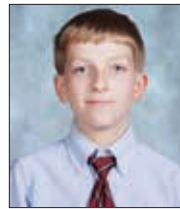
**Emma Deitz**

*Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart*



**Olivia Deoudes**

*Our Lady of Good Counsel High School*



**John Elliott**

*Our Lady of Good Counsel High School*



**Catherine Fox**

*Our Lady of Good Counsel High School*



**Margaret Fox**

*Quince Orchard High School*



**George Frisbie-Zhang**

*Our Lady of Good Counsel High School*



**Luke Garner**

*Gonzaga College High School*



**Alexandra Gibeault**

*Our Lady of Good Counsel High School*



**Joseph Giuliani**

*Gonzaga College High School*



**Jack Goehrung**

*Our Lady of Good Counsel High School*



**Juliana Gonzalez-Valencia**

*Walter Johnson High School*



**Caroline Hannapel**

*Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School*



**Margaret Hillman**

*Elizabeth Seton High School*



**Mary Ibanez**

*St. John's College High School*

## St. Elizabeth Catholic School

### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2017

**Mr. Vincent P. Spadoni** *Principal*

**Rev. Msgr. J. Wilfrid Parent** *Pastor*



**Cole Johnson**

*Poolesville High School Global Ecology Magnet*



**Anna Johnson**

*St. John's College High School*



**Jackson Kendrick**

*St. John's College High School*



**Raymond Kim**

*St. Anselm's Abbey School*



**Anabel Kirvan**

*Academy of the Holy Cross*



**Madison Kraft**

*Richard Montgomery High School*



**Albert Lacaze**

*Winston Churchill High School*



**Isabella Larson**

*Academy of the Holy Cross*



**Alicia Lawson**

*Rockville High School*



**Holden Leighton**

*St. John's College High School*



**Grace Lill**

*Our Lady of Good Counsel High School*



**Jaime Lu**

*Our Lady of Good Counsel High School*



**Madeline Lunacek**

*Academy of the Holy Cross*



**Victoria Macdonald**

*Academy of the Holy Cross*



**Christina May**

*Walter Johnson High School*



**Kennedy McArthur**

*Poolesville High School*



**Mary Clare McDonough**

*St. John's College High School*



**Caroline Meyer**

*Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School*



**Madison Mills**

*Our Lady of Good Counsel High School*



**Anna Moore**

*Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart*



**Joseph Murray**

*Sherwood High School*



**Brendan O'Boyle**

*Gonzaga College High School*



**Eamonn Offutt**

*Our Lady of Good Counsel High School*



**John Orcev**

*St. John's College High School*



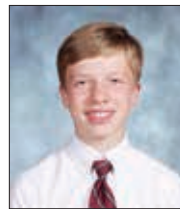
**Grace Ann Ostuni**

*Brookwood School*



**Sarkis Pakhchanian**

*Gonzaga College High School*



**Josiah Palma**

*Greenbrier Christian Academy*



**Lilja Palttala**

*Quince Orchard High School*



**Anna Paulson**

*Our Lady of Good Counsel High School*



**Isabel Pazmino**

*Paul VI Catholic High School*



**Alexander Peries**

*Our Lady of Good Counsel High School*



**Theodore Pollack**

*St. John's College High School*



**Emily Quast**

*St. John's College High School*



**Kathryn Ramminger**

*Connelly School of the Holy Child*



**Dean Ray**

*St. John's College High School*



**Brandon Rieke**

*St. John's College High School*



**Mikhaela Rubio**

*Our Lady of Good Counsel High School*



**Jordan Ryan**

*Gonzaga College High School*



**Gabriel Salazar**

*St. John's College High School*



**James Stauffer**

*Our Lady of Good Counsel High School*



**Brett Tulip**

*St. John's College High School*



**Adriana Varea**

*Our Lady of Good Counsel High School*



**Benjamin Williams**

*St. John's College High School*



**Caroline Worch**

*Connelly School of the Holy Child*



**Matthew Worch**

*Our Lady of Good Counsel High School*



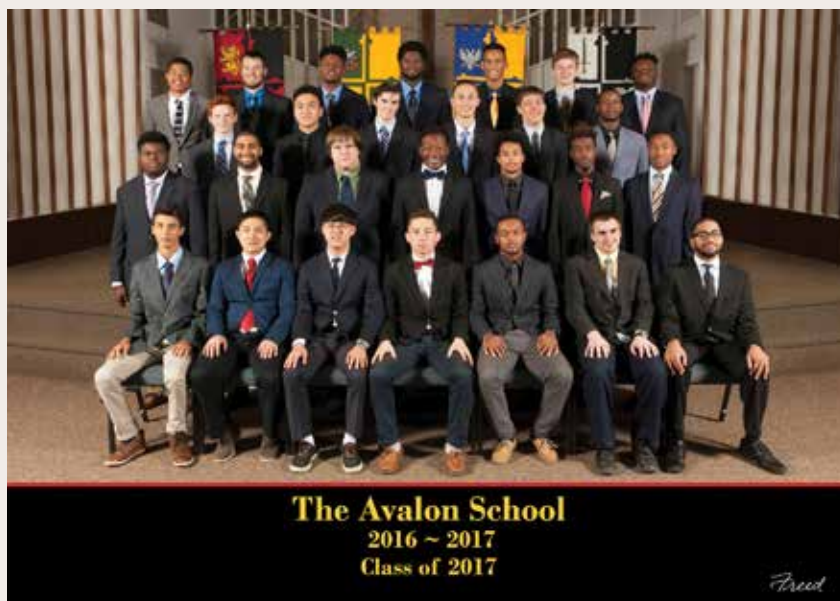


#### COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

American University ♦ Alfred State University ♦ Catholic University of America ♦ Central Connecticut State University ♦ Christendom College ♦ Coker College ♦ Davidson University ♦ Delaware State University ♦ Duke University ♦ East Stroudsburg University ♦ Elon University ♦ Frostberg University ♦ Gannon University ♦ Garden City Community College ♦ Gettysburg College ♦ George Mason University ♦ Goucher College ♦ Hamilton College ♦ Hampton University ♦ Hobart College ♦ Howard University ♦ Iona College ♦ Juniata College ♦ McDaniel College ♦ Monmouth ♦ Montgomery College ♦ Morehouse College ♦ North Carolina A& T University ♦ North Carolina Central University ♦ Ohio State University, Columbus ♦ Penn State ♦ Philadelphia University ♦ Purdue University ♦ Rutgers ♦ Saint Mary's College of Maryland ♦ Salisbury University ♦ Salve Regina University ♦ SUNY, Alfred State College of Technology ♦ SUNY, Stonybrook ♦ SUNY, Binghamton ♦ Susquehanna University ♦ Texas Christian University ♦ Toledo ♦ Towson State University ♦ University of Arizona ♦ University of California, Davis ♦ University of California, Santa Barbara ♦ University of California, Santa Cruz ♦ University of California, San Diego ♦ University of Connecticut ♦ University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign ♦ University of Dallas ♦ University of Maryland, Baltimore County ♦ University of Maryland, College Park ♦ University of Memphis ♦ University of Virginia ♦ University of Washington, Seattle ♦ Virginia Tech ♦ Washington College ♦ West Virginia Wesleyan College ♦ Westminster College ♦ Williams College

#### AVALON'S GRADUATES

Joseph Davis Barnes	Tyler Wade Martin	Zefang Wei
Matthew Nicholas Bonatti	Daniel Gilbert Mastromarino	JiaJie Zhu
Taylor Rajah Byrd	Michael James McPherson	
Pablo Joseph Calvetti	Axel Fely Nyembwe	
Filippo Cappiello	Idris Muhammad Patterson	
Kristan David Curry	Foncho Alfanzo Prado	
Tully Michael Ervin	Emmanuel Thomas Reid	
Shanhu Gao	Corey Christopher Rumfola	
Tarik Taggert Harris	Isaac Rivoli Stamatiades	
Minsung Kim	Mason Nathaniel Standard	
Jaylen Christian Leonard	Caleb Joseph Still	
Shangze Li	Mack Hugh Sullivan	
Lev Lubega	Thomas Andrew Sullivan	
Brendan Connor Manley	George Mitchell Taylor	
Jared Rafe Manley	Dennis Alexi Umana Castro	



## Congratulations CLASS OF 2017



#### COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale ♦ Ave Maria University ♦ Belmont Abbey College ♦ Benedictine College ♦ Boston College ♦ Bridgewater College ♦ Catholic University of America ♦ Christendom College ♦ DeSales University ♦ Duquesne University ♦ Florida International University ♦ Fordham University ♦ George Mason University ♦ Guilford College ♦ Hawaii Pacific University ♦ High Point University ♦ Hood College ♦ Lees McRae College ♦ Lindenwood College ♦ Loyola University Maryland ♦ Loyola University New Orleans ♦ Manhattan College ♦ Marymount University ♦ Michigan State University ♦ Mount St. Mary's College ♦ Penn State ♦ Providence College ♦ Robert Morris University ♦ Salisbury University ♦ Salve Regina College ♦ St. Francis University ♦ St. John's College ♦ St. Mary's College of Maryland ♦ SUNY--Albany ♦ Stetson University ♦ Towson University ♦ University of Dallas ♦ University of Massachusetts, Boston ♦ University of Maryland, Baltimore County ♦ University of Maryland, College Park ♦ University of Pittsburgh ♦ University of Richmond ♦ University of Tennessee ♦ University of West Virginia ♦ Virginia Tech ♦ This list represents college acceptances for the classes of 2016 and 2017



#### BROOKEWOOD'S GRADUATES

Veronica Maria Brown	Kathleen E Hoath
Laura Aracely Campos	Yanyu Jia
Bridget Maureen Cole	McKenzie Jo Kurtz
Meagan Elizabeth Collins	Teresa Michela Kushner
Rachele Contini	Svetlana Ann Mack
Meaghan Veronica Croarkin	Carol Marlene Minott
Patricia Ann Davern	Ayomide Ogunsakin
Mary Madison England	Anahita Shirvanian
Federica Giunta	Caroline Isabel Shorb
	Mary Teresa Wilson





# CLASS OF 2017 GRADUATES

## St. Bartholomew School

Reverend Mark D. Knestout, **Pastor** • Mr. Stephen Lamont, **Principal**



**Lucca  
Alliali**

LYCÉE ROCHAMBEAU -  
FRENCH INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL

*"Identity is a prison  
you can never escape, but  
the way to redeem your past  
is not to run from it, but to  
try to understand it, and use  
it as a foundation to grow."*

Jay Z

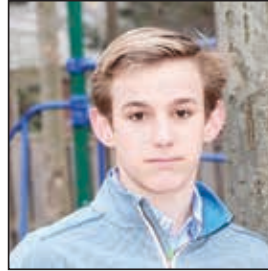


**Gavin Charles  
Chesen**

GONZAGA  
HIGH SCHOOL

*"Some people  
dream of success  
while others  
wake up and  
work hard at it."*

Eminem



**Donald Francis  
Cox III**

GEORGETOWN  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

*"Some people want it  
to happen, some wish it  
would happen, and  
others make it happen."*

Michael Jordan



**Sarah Claire  
Culkin**

OUR LADY OF  
GOOD COUNSEL

*"Every race is an  
opportunity to measure  
yourself against your  
own potential."*

Anonymous

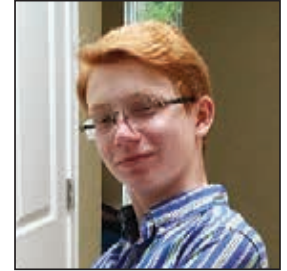


**Colby James  
Davis**

OUR LADY OF  
GOOD COUNSEL

*"A man's worth  
is no greater than  
his ambitions."*

Marcus Aurelius



**Ryan  
Fausnaugh**

WALT WHITMAN  
HIGH SCHOOL

*"True peace is not  
merely the absence  
of tension: it is the  
presence of justice."*

M.L.King JR.



**Caroline Marie  
Freese**

ACADEMY OF  
THE HOLY CROSS

*"We need more kindness,  
more compassion, more  
joy, and more laughter.  
I definitely want to  
contribute to that."*

Ellen DeGeneres

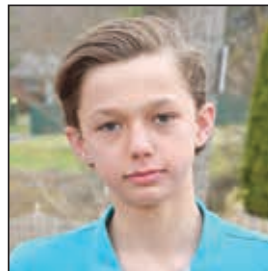


**Linxiao  
Gu**

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE  
HIGH SCHOOL

*"Time is money,  
and it is impossible  
to use money  
to buy time."*

Anonymous

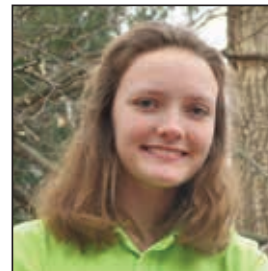


**Daniel Patrick  
Henry**

OUR LADY OF  
GOOD COUNSEL

*"When life gives  
you lemons,  
make lemonade."*

Joan Collins



**Claudia Jane  
Hull**

WALT WHITMAN  
HIGH SCHOOL

*"Spend a little more time  
trying to make something  
of yourself and a little  
less time trying  
to impress people."*

The Breakfast Club

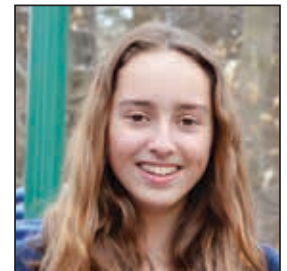


**Gabrielle Olivia  
Joe**

OUR LADY OF  
GOOD COUNSEL

*"Wins & losses come a  
dime a dozen, but effort?  
Nobody can judge that,  
because effort is between  
you and you."*

Ray Lewis



**Margaret Maria  
Loughran**

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE  
HIGH SCHOOL

*"The best angle in which  
to approach any problem  
is the try-angle."*

Anonymous



**Sofia Caroline  
Morra**

STONE RIDGE SCHOOL OF  
THE SACRED HEART

*"You must do  
the things you think  
you cannot do."*

Eleanor Roosevelt



**Christopher  
Place**

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE  
HIGH SCHOOL

*"Men in general  
are quick to believe  
that which they  
wish to be true."*

Julius Caesar



**Grace  
Schwenker**

CONNELLY SCHOOL OF  
THE HOLY CHILD

*"She believed  
she could,  
so she did."*

R.S. Grey

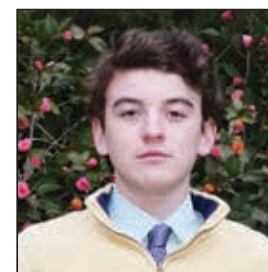


**Carter Sinclair  
Selden**

GONZAGA  
HIGH SCHOOL

*"The weak can  
never forgive.  
Forgiveness is the  
attribute of the strong."*

Gandhi



**Charles Nicholas  
Triandafilou**

GEORGETOWN  
PREPARATORY SCHOOL

*Your time is limited, so don't  
waste it living someone else's  
life. Don't be trapped by  
dogma — which is liv-  
ing with the results of other  
people's thinking. Don't let  
the noise of others' opinions  
drown out your own inner  
voice. And most important,  
have the courage to follow  
your heart and intuition. They  
somehow already know what  
you truly want to become.  
Everything else is secondary.*

Steve Jobs



**Sarah  
Wardour**

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE  
HIGH SCHOOL

*"It's time to stop  
letting doubts take over.  
Let your dreams  
take over instead."*

Anonymous



# St. Bernadette School Bids a Warm Farewell to Principal Cheri Wood

By Kate Doyle Rodgers

After ten years at the helm, sharing enormous vision and innovation, delivering excellent outcomes, St. Bernadette School Principal, Cheri Wood is stepping down at the end of this school year. On July 1, Mrs. Wood will return to her native California to become the Head of School at Cornelia Connelly School of the Holy Child Jesus, in Anaheim, California.

Cheri Wood arrived at St.

Bernadette School in the fall of 2007 with her young family by her side enrolled as new students at SBS. Her daughter Steffaney, then in sixth grade, will begin her senior year at Davidson College in September. Her son, Zack, a National Merit Finalist this year, will graduate from Georgetown Prep and enroll at Cornell University this fall. With these personal milestones coupled with the opportunity to realize a professional dream of leading an all-girls school environment made the timing of this decision right but not without bittersweet emotion. Cheri Wood shares, "I will miss the creativity, long-term love, dedication and spirit of the faculty and staff. The genuine warmth of the students is uplifting and noteworthy and the strength and passion of the school community is rare and incredibly special. To have been enveloped in this environment for the last ten years is remarkable and has left a lasting imprint on me." Her administrative team agrees. Ted Ewanciw, SBS Assistant Principal, reflects, "I most appreciate how she empowers everyone from staff to student to become great. She finds



Cheri Wood

their strengths and puts them in a position to flourish as most clearly

noted by the success our students meet when they go on to high school."

The school has transformed into a high performing, 21st Century learning institute under her guidance and collaboration. She has brought about changes both large and small from increased academic rigor assisted by a digital 1:1 device initiative, research-based philosophies such as Responsive Classroom, encouraged compassion through the school-developed social outreach initiative called Greater Love and the school community building House system. SBS Grade Four teacher, Virginia Cooper, contributes, "As a result of Cheri's love for J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series coupled with her continuous market research for best practices, Mrs. Wood brought to

life the House System. The school-wide community enjoys the sense of sportsmanship, fair play, and school spirit generated by this program as they vie each year for the St. Bernadette House Cup."

Finally, school parent, Lou Welanetz offers, "Mrs. Wood's judgment, ability and perseverance helped grow St. Bernadette into the great school that it is. She has set a high bar for her successor. We will miss her." It is with heartfelt gratitude and love that we thank Cheri Wood for her countless contributions to St. Bernadette School. We offer our sincere well wishes for her continued success with her future endeavors. She played a valued and impressive role in the shaping of our mission and is a cherished chapter of our rich school history.

OPT

## St. Bernadette Parish

70 University Blvd., East  
Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Msgr. K.  
Bartholomew Smith  
Pastor  
301-593-0357

St. Bernadette School  
Mrs. Cheri Wood, Principal  
301-593-5611

Kate Doyle Rodgers, OPT Editor  
301-593-5611

## The Buzz from the Hive

# Service: Key Component to the St. Bernadette School Mission

By Gavin Weddington, Grade Seven and Bryson Hill, Grade Seven, St. Bernadette School Student Council Commissioners of Publicity

Our school is very involved when it comes to service. Name an issue and we have likely collaborated to support it in the past. Whether it is a diaper drive for new mothers in need, to pet supplies or lending support to those in need right in our school community. Created to support our passion for service is



a St. Bernadette School developed program called Greater Love. Greater Love is a unique SBS program that fosters our commitment to social out-

reach while focusing on teamwork and faith. Our students are not the only ones helping out our SBS community. Parents are a big part of our community and our dedication to teaching compassion through supporting those in need. For example, they volunteer to chaperone on field trips. If SBS was a machine, our families are the oil that keeps it running properly. Service is very important because God told us that we must always love and serve others. Jesus said "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

OPT

## Easter Reception Welcomes All to St. Bernadette

By Jasmine Kuzner, SBS Parent and Parishioner

Our St. Bernadette community hosted a large, sunlit "Easter on the Lawn" in celebration of our Risen Lord on Easter Sunday, April 16. "Easter on the Lawn" at St. Bernadette is an event that culminates Holy Week and the rich, parish traditions and Sacred Liturgy that we participate in and celebrate together during the Triduum.

Unique to our parish "Easter on the Lawn" is a characteristic of St. Bernadette's that is, interestingly enough,



Continued on page 32 2017 St. Bernadette Easter Egg Hunt

## St. Bernadette Parish and School Lenten Food Drive

St. Bernadette Parish and School were honored to donate 280 bags (approximately 4,400 pounds of non-perishable food) during the 2017 Lenten Food Drive to The Capital Food Bank - Southern Maryland Food Bank through the Archdiocese of Washington Catholic Charities organized by The Parish Social Concerns Committee. Please contact Daina Scheider at familysg@yahoo.com or 301-593-5273 to join us in our mission to support those less fortunate.



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Sports  
Service: Hands Project  
Prayer


**Registration Begins April 1st, 2017!**  
**For (rising) Kindergartners to 5th graders**  
**July 10th thru July 14th, 2017**  
**Mon - Fri 9am til 12:15pm**  
Registration Deadline: Friday, June 9th, 2017  
\$50/camper | \$90/two siblings | \$120/three or more siblings!  
Cost covers tuition\*, daily snack, and a T-Shirt!

\*Please contact Neil Sloan, DRE, at 301-593-5104 if you would like to discuss tuition assistance.

**Contact Us:**  
70 University Blvd. East  
Silver Spring, MD 20901  
ph: 301-593-5104  
email: campsoubirous@gmail.com  
web: www.silverpringcatholic.com

Grades 6-12 can volunteer as Youth Leaders!  
(Volunteer Service and fun Youth Ministry programming for middle school and high school.)

**Like us on Facebook!**  
<https://www.facebook.com/SaintBernadetteSilverSpring>





# St. Bernadette School - Class of 2017



Christian Baldwin  
*Gonzaga*



Nicole Bergeron  
*Blair*



James Carroll  
*DeMatha*



Alexa Coleman  
*Oneness*



Jacklyn Dang  
*Blake*



Shannon Dempsey  
*St. John's*



Anna DeVore  
*St. John's*



Christopher Doherty  
*Gonzaga*



Molly Downs  
*St. John's*



Joanne Draddy  
*Visitation*



Sophie Friel  
*St. John's*



Thomas Golladay  
*DeMatha*



Thomas Harrison  
*DeMatha*



Ryan Holt  
*DeMatha*



Rose Humphreys  
*Blair*



Sam Ingram  
*St. John's*



Emily Jacobs  
*Holy Cross*



Rowland Kamara  
*DeMatha*



Abena Kyei  
*Blair*



Allison Lawson  
*Holy Cross*



Robert Libcke  
*DeMatha*



Connor McCormick  
*St. John's*



Thomas Mesafint  
*DeMatha*



Dave Nicolas  
*DeMatha*



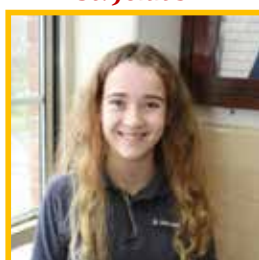
Kishana Nyoh  
*Holy Child*



Nina Otero  
*Friendly*



Olivia Ott  
*Visitation*



Sarah Pretzfelder  
*Northwood*



Yoel Ramos  
*DeMatha*



Aela Riley  
*St. John's*



Madeline Sawyer  
*Holy Cross*



Catalina Scheider Galiñanes  
*Oakcrest*



Allison Sippel  
*St. John's*



Grace Stanton  
*Visitation*



Samson Sudan  
*DeMatha*



John Talbott  
*St. John's*



Matthew Thomas  
*Gonzaga*



Arnold Tran  
*St. John's*



Scott Tran  
*DeMatha*



John Warnick  
*St. John's*



Charlotte Whittier  
*Holy Cross*



Emma Young  
*Elizabeth Seton*

80 University Boulevard East  
Silver Spring, MD 20901  
301.593.5611



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

#BeeOurs

#SBSalumni



## ENZLER

Con't from page 1

in the season of vacations, camps, trips to the pool and an overall slower pace (we hope anyway!).

As we get ready for the summer, I would like to offer both my thanks and a heartfelt pat on the back to all of you in Montgomery County. I am thankful for so many who have become partners with Catholic Charities and the work we do. It's been a wonderful year as we have found more ways to serve more people, and I hope to serve them better. We couldn't have done it without you, and we have been particularly blessed this past year by a huge number of volunteers from our local parishes and schools.

We've received more help in virtually all areas. Here are just a few examples:

- Working at our McCarrick Center in Wheaton, assisting with medical and dental services or with direct services to families in need.
- Helping at the Dorothy Day Place and Chase House, shelters for those who are homeless and need the Lord's care to mend the brokenness of their lives.
- Stepping forward with some of our partners, such as Bethesda Cares and Mercy Health Clinic, showing what the spirit of volunteerism can do.
- Working with people with disabilities through Potomac Community Resources or our own Kennedy School.

Together, we are all partners on so many initiatives that make a big difference in our community. I would like to offer a special word of gratitude to all who have found ways to support us in our work:

Thank you to the pastors, who say "yes" to so many every day, particularly those who come to their doors asking for help.

Thank you to social concerns ministers and their social ministry teams, who keep the principles of social justice paramount in the hearts and lives of our parishioners all throughout the year.

Thank you to parents and those at our schools who try to make sure that our young people not only learn the teachings of the Church in the classroom and practice them on Sundays but also live them out each

and every day. The gift and example of our young people is so inspiring to all of us, and that is a result of parents working with the gifted leaders, religion teachers and social ministers at our schools.

Thank you to all who volunteer as mentors, companions and coaches to someone in need. Knowing that you care truly makes a difference to those you are helping, probably more than you know.

Thank you to all who willingly participate in our holiday programs to provide Thanksgiving meals, gifts at Christmas, coats and shoes for the homeless, and so many other efforts. You not only help meet the day-to-day needs of those less fortunate, you also help them feel loved and give them the dignity they deserve.

I have been so moved by the increased willingness to help, and I can't wait to see what next year brings and what more we can accomplish together.

I hope you enjoy your summer and take time to refresh yourself in mind, body and spirit. At the same time, let's stay mindful of the needs of the poor, particularly immigrants and refugees right now. Our parish activities slow down and our calendars may be a little less full, but let's not take a vacation from our commitment and care for those most in need. They still need us just as much in the summer.

To those who are graduating this year, from kindergarten all the way through graduate school, savor your accomplishment and enjoy this important time for you and your loved ones. Your "commencement" means that you are commencing in a brand new period of your lives, and I pray that it will include the care and service of those who need our love and concern.

So again, thank you to all who teamed up with Catholic Charities to make this such a spectacular year. The work we do together simply couldn't happen without your support, leadership, contributions and care. We are Jesus to those we serve, and they are Jesus to us. May it always be so.

OPT

## GALA

Con't from page 1

A record breaking 330 parents, friends, and supporters gathered at the William F. Bolger Center in Potomac for an al fresco cocktail reception preceding a sit-down dinner, live auction and a student/faculty show. The schools' president, Mr. Richard B. McPherson, presided over the auction of nine items, the highlight of which was two orchestra tickets to the Pulitzer Prize-winning Broadway show, Hamilton, that brought a winning bid of \$5,000.

A record setting 250 students from Avalon and Brookewood then performed a musical revue featuring Broadway tunes with fresh lyrics that reflected the adventures (and misadventures) at the schools, under the able direction of Avalon teacher Harris Moriarty and Brookewood teacher Clair Finnegan and music director Eric Lewis.

The evening concluded with a Paddles-Up appeal to the audience, which raised additional funds for the schools' scholarship program.

Each year, six months of planning for The Spring Gala: A Black Tie Knight is coordinated and carried out by the talented and dedicated faculties and parents' associations of The Avalon School and Brookewood School and a host of volunteers. We are delighted to have this opportunity to publicly thank them for their tireless support on behalf of our schools.

OPT



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# ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2017

Ayomiposi Bayode Adewakun\*  
Kylie Caroline Alvarez Hincapie  
Diego Joaquin Amaya  
Amber Nicole Amos\*  
Thomas McKay Antonucci\*  
Nicholas Perry Aram  
Natalie Marie Nunes Aresta-Katz\*†  
David Cameron Coleman Ayers\*†  
Justin Bradley Baba\*  
John Patrick Bailey\*†  
Kehmoh Mohamed Bangura  
Joseph Daniel Barry\*  
Madison Gabrielle Battle  
Hugh Joseph Beins  
Sophia Patricia Bellamah  
Quienten Vernon Bennett  
Danielle Sara Nicole Bens\*  
Kyle Robert Benton\*  
Niya Simone Beverley  
Yazmine Danielle Blake  
Peter Alexander Bonos  
Sophia Alexandra Braschnewitz  
Ryan Alexander Brennan  
Alec Daniel Bromley  
Sydney Michelle Brookshire\*†  
Hannah Destiny Brown\*  
Christopher Cooper Brunk\*†  
Lloyd Alvin Bryan, Jr.  
Trevor Anthony Buonomo\*  
Breandan Filor Burke\*  
Maraya Elaine Burks\*  
Matthew C. Cahill-Welsh  
Benjamin Bradley Calaman  
Kyle Thomas Calcutt  
Gloria Mercedes Candamo  
Cesar Canedo-Arguelles  
William Kenneth Carter  
Patrick John Cassidy  
Patrick Kyle Castillo\*  
Antoinette Rose Centanni\*  
Tai Madison Charles\*  
Elizabeth Diane Chiaromonte  
Luke Alexander Childs  
Nicholas Robert Chow\*†  
Lauryn Nicole Collins\*  
Jessica Zoe Colvin\*  
Nolan Michael Connolly  
Jabari Malik Cook\*  
Elliot Martin Cornfeld  
Peter Reagan Costigan  
Cooper Dean Coviello\*  
Katherine Anne Cozzens  
Gabrielle Annalise Crawford  
Michael Joseph Culklin  
Jack Paul Curtis\*  
John Emmanuel Esequ Dagdag\*†  
Yonathan Daniel  
Brandon Gary Samba Davis\*  
Christopher William Davis  
Luke Harrison Davis  
Hannah Meyers Deffinbaugh  
Gregory T. Del Aguila  
Shelby Gingras Denton\*  
Raven Sage Des Jardins\*†  
Madeleine Margaret Deye\*†  
Daniel Carmen DiCocco, Jr. \*†  
Grace Elizabeth Droege\*  
Elizabeth Noel Duffy  
Kennedy Nicole Edmonds  
Camryn Victoria Edwards\*  
Theo Eigen-Zucchi  
Donovan Julian Everett

Zack Richard Ferentinos  
Andrew Charles Ferguson\*†  
Cassandra Marie Fernandez\*  
Sarah Isabella Finelli  
John M. Fitzgerald  
Alberto Antonio Flores\*  
James Anthony Fookes\*  
Holman Carroll Fox  
Eric Lamount Freeman, Jr.  
Gabriela Garay  
Richard Tarrant Gardella  
Katherine Ann Gardner\*  
Melvin Gatewood\*  
Eyouel Konu Gebreyes  
Kailyn Aloni Geter  
Emily Anne Goodwin\*  
Madison Elizabeth Speed Grant\*  
Maira Taylor Greaney\*†  
Connor McMahon Griffin  
Liam Conor Guihen  
Koryn Janae Guile\*  
Melchizedec John Gunawan\*  
Shanen Emmanuel Haigler  
Demani Jerome Hansford\*  
Lauren Sherrice Harris\*  
Eric Lamarr Harrison, Jr.  
Brian Rogers Hennessy  
Jazmine Herbert  
Jake James Heskett  
Sohan Cameron Hess\*  
Alexandra Kent Heyl\*†  
Michael Alexander Hickmon  
Kasim Ajani Hill  
Colin Patterson Hinton  
Elaine Joyce Hipolito-Magsalin  
Jordan Weber Hodgen  
Leana Elizabeth Hohman\*†  
Mica Cathi House\*  
Stanley Hubbard III  
Bruce Thomas Hudson  
Griffin William Hyde  
Emanuel Mahmoud Hylton  
Sean Manning Hymel  
Beauchamp Charles Johnson  
Ethan Joseph Johnson  
Kyle Christopher Johnson\*  
Tyree Joe'l Johnson  
Cecelia Louise Kane  
Michael Thebo Kane  
Jonah Paul Kemp  
Thomas McMullen Kerns  
John Dalton Kiracofe\*  
Alexander Thomas Koritsas\*  
Eddy Lionel Koundjou Yem  
Kevin John Kuhn  
Connor Deasy Lamble\*†  
Eric Christopher Lane  
Ntfokoto Siphmandla Langa  
Joseph Christopher LaPietra  
Leora Frances Lawlah  
Edward Preston Delaney Lee  
Alex Peter Leiberg  
Gabriel Joseph Levine\*  
Emory John Linder III  
Emily Barbara Lindsay\*†  
Viola Marie Lohsen\*†  
Hannah Katherine London\*†  
Griffin Thomas Long  
Ty Wetherill Love-Baker  
Patrick Doyle MacDonald  
Michael Anthony Macheras\*†  
Jonathan Julius Mack

Joseph Andrew Macklin  
Margarete Estelle MacPherson  
Samuel Alexander Majano  
Nicholas Donald Mancabelli  
Natalie Jewell Marcos\*  
Anthony Gino Marinucci  
Leonardo Mateo Marshall\*  
Paige DeSeguin Martin  
Patrick Brendan McConville  
Asia Taru McCray  
Darryl Louvornal McDaniel  
Darian Alexander McGhee\*  
Graham Sanderson Millar\*  
Julia Marie Miller\*†  
Charlee B. Mize\*  
Chidera Kingsley Mmayie  
Reese Michael Mona\*  
Avery Alexander Monroe\*  
Hanna Haugan Moore  
Joseph Michael Moore  
Kerlin Giselle Morales\*  
Jailyn Mikaela Morris\*  
Widad Katrina Mukhar  
Caitlin Alexis Munar\*  
Margaret Mary Murray\*  
Tyler Hamilton Myers  
Carla Marie Neustadt  
Mary Flanigan Norris\*  
Rachel Nicole Novosel\*  
Eric Michael O'Brien  
Kassian Charles O'Keefe  
Leland Robert Emil O'Keefe  
Thomas Eduardo Ostria\*†  
Anthony Joseph Ostuni\*†  
Temple Gloria-Marie Palacio  
Ronnie Enrique Palacios  
Jacob Andrew Pecilunas  
Christopher Stephen Peranich  
Jacob Scott Petersen  
Kyleigh Elise Petersen\*  
Jack Barrington Peterson\*  
Jordan James Phillips  
Sophia Anna Poulos  
Brian Paul Quast\*  
Lucas Daniel Quilter  
Ian Marc Rafiuddin\*  
Diego Roberto Ramirez\*  
Marvin Enrique Ramos  
Yash Sushil Rane\*  
Katherine Maria Rangoussis\*†  
Kyle Thomas Reagan\*†  
Beth Ellen Rendely\*†  
Catherine Elaine Rindal\*  
Yvonne Chantel Rivas\*  
Nicholas Michael Rivera\*  
Chase Lawson Rivers  
Jackson Quinn Roberts  
Karina Alejandra Rodriguez  
Alexandra Marie Rogers\*  
Kaela Marie Ruggeri  
Justin Thomas Ryan  
Isabela Klara Sayle\*  
Katherine Rose Schmucker\*  
Gabriella Nicole Schuhmacher\*  
Nicole Anna Shaffer\*  
Gregory Patrick Anthony Sharp  
Jack Anthony Sheehan  
Michael Leland Shenk  
Aisha Marie Sheppard  
Claudia C. Silva\*  
Abigail Grace Sligh  
Alyssa Mary Smith\*

Arik Capers Smith  
Tiarnan Shewmaker Smith\*†  
Frances Leondre Somerville\*  
Tatiana Melissa Soria-Aponte\*  
Cameron Domigue Spence  
Julianna Marie Spicer  
Rebecca Charlotte Spritzer\*†  
Logan Joanne Staton  
Nikolas Shabazz Steed  
Robert Keiler Stewart  
Adam Arthur Stroberg\*  
Dorothy Elizabeth Sullivan  
James Thomas Sullivan  
Eleni Sophia Tavarides  
Nia Elyse Taylor  
Colleen Grace Terry  
John Steven Thal-Larsen  
Shelby Gwendolyn Thomas  
Tashya Luise Thomas  
Alison Mackenzie Thompson\*†  
Francis James Touhey  
Eleanor Hale Trotter  
Lidia Stephany Trujillo  
Alexander Francis Vassallo  
Ashley Yvonne Ventura  
Nilxon Joel Ventura  
Ryan Elijah Vessels  
Ian Mathias Vinkler\*†  
Yuvraj Singh Walia\*  
Kyle Andrew Wallace  
Emily April Walls\*  
Kofi Nigel Wardlow  
Olivia Benton Ware\*  
Nicholas Joseph Warner\*†  
Morgan Rene Waters\*  
Lauren Maria Elisabeth Weigand\*  
Katherine Joy Weinsheimer\*†  
Jennifer Elaine Wendell\*  
Steven Marshall Wentz  
Zachary Thomas Wentz  
Lauren Rose West  
Brendan Patrick Whitty  
Kirk Douglas Williams II  
Madlyn Kathryn Wills\*  
Matthew Joseph Wilson  
Sydney Lauren Windsor  
Georgena Louise Witt  
Ann Michael Woll  
Ricci Elijah Bernal Yator\*  
David Joseph Young\*  
Leila Zaki  
Nicolas Jordan Zimmerman

† De La Salle Scholar

\* National Honor Society

*The Class of 2017  
earned more than  
\$30 million  
in scholarships.  
Congratulations!*



## AMAZING ALUMNI

The foundation we provide enables our students to go on to accomplish great things.

### Delaney Coppola '12

Delaney, a freshman at St. Joseph's University, was honored recently for a paper she authored on the topic of Forensics. The work was chosen as a winner in the First Year Writing Contest in the category of Thesis Driven Research. Delaney graduated from Holy Cross High School in 2016 and is pursuing Forensics with a minor in English.

OPT



Bishop Dorsonville anointed St. Mary's 65 Confirmandi on Saturday, April 29. The candidates were well prepared to participate in the Bishop's homily which he conducted amongst the congregants.

St. Mary's extends its thanks to Bishop Dorsonville and congratulations to all that were Confirmed including the St. Mary's 8<sup>th</sup> grade students pictured here.



The first weekend in May is a busy one at St. Mary's. On Friday, we welcome our grandparents to celebrate Mass with students and visit classrooms. Saturday, our second-grade class and CCD receive the sacrament of First Communion. And on Sunday, we pay homage to our Blessed Mother at the May Crowning. Pictured here are our candidates for First Communion.

### St. Mary's Parish

520 Veirs Mill Road  
Rockville, MD

Msgr. Robert Amey,  
Pastor  
301-424-5550

### St. Mary's School

Mrs. Debby Eisel, Principal  
301-762-4179

Maureen Stiles, Parish Editor  
301-990-4329

More St. Mary News on Page 38

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**St. Mary School**  
Rockville, MD  
**Congratulations !**  
**Class of 2017**



Students accepted to the following  
high schools:

Academy of the Holy Cross   Gonzaga College HS  
Georgetown Visitation Preparatory HS  
Magruder HS   Our Lady of Good Counsel  
Poolesville High School   Rockville HS  
Richard Montgomery HS   Seoul Foreign HS  
St. Paul's School for Girls   Thomas Johnson HS



# HOLY CHILD

## CLASS of 2017

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14 Lifers • 5 served abroad • 10 singers • 18 from Holy Child Middle School • 3 dancers • 1 ice dancer • 11 on the stage • 10 behind the scenes • 2 daughters of alums • 8 sisters of alums • 6 artists • 3,000+ service hours • 8 field hockey players • 1 cross country runner • 1 soccer player • 3 tennis players • 5 volleyball players • 3 basketball players • 8 swimmers • 3 equestrians • 2 golfers • 3 lacrosse players • 1 softball player • 30 athletes • 63% completes 1 or more AP classes • 3 athletes signed to play in college • 6 yearbook editors • + much more.

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# St. Patrick School News



## On Top of the World

Congratulations to St. Patrick's School seventh-grader Aaron Siegle who finished seventh overall in the Maryland Geography Bee, and finished first among all seventh graders competing. Approximately 100 students compete in the

Maryland Geography Bee, with the winner advancing to the National Geographic Bee in May. (Aaron is pictured in the front row, far right of photo). Photo by Jeff Faberman

## Bags of Plenty

Students in fourth grade and kindergarten completed a service project during Lent. Led by their teachers, Marianne Bonanno and Cathy Medlock, students made an average of 200 lunches each week for six weeks, resulting in more than 1200 bagged lunches! The lunches were donated to the Men's Emergency Shelter in Rockville. The other grades in the school supported the project with weekly donations of fruit and decorating the lunch bags. Lunch bags were decorated with messages like "I am praying for you" "Lots of Love" "Jesus Loves You". St. Patrick's School Principal, Christie Anne Short was very proud of the students' generosity and commitment to the project. She commented, "It was an amazing display of what children can do to serve others. I think our children felt very proud of their generosity and very happy to know that the simple kind gesture of their artwork and an encouraging word really does have the power to lift another's spirits."



## Mind Over Matter

A total of six teams from St. Patrick's School attended the MD State / DC Regional Odyssey of the Mind Tournament in March. There were four teams participating in the Grades Three-Five Division and included students members Porter Bagdon, Giovanna Calvo, Vince Calvo, Aislin Cribbin, Megan Depman, Joseph Fangmeyer, Maria Farren, Abiy Girum, Hannah Girum, Hannah Jaeger, Aeden Madigan, Olivia Marinucci, Charlie Myers, Liam Myers, Stella Park, Clement Radich, Morgan Shannon, Daniel Stone, Livia Urban, and Joshua



Wadja. Two teams participated in the Grades Six-Eight Division including team members Alex Gaspar, Stefanie Hickey, Liam Kren, Lucas Le, Christian Leusch, Michael Long, Azure Onyewu, Rafi Rubino, Namika Sekamanya, and Sarah Siegle. Pictured are the two teams which won first place in their respective divisions. Odyssey of the Mind offers opportunities to utilize creative problem-solving and critical thinking skills to solve



## Library Theater Debut

The third-grade play "A Mixed-Up Fairy Tale" was the culmination of a yearlong "Library Theater" program, a feature of the regular Library curriculum. Students experienced the art of storytelling, performance, and drama basics in a workshop this past fall. Then for 8 weeks this spring, led by Mrs. Swanda and Mrs. Guarini, third-grade students prepared their roles in this 20 minute play which required memorization of lines, costuming, and stage blocking. We are very proud of the cast of this first "Library Theater" play and look forward to many more productions!

## Game On

It has become a beloved annual tradition at St. Patrick's School: the Eighth-grade v. Faculty Basketball Game. This year's contest, held on May 5, was a night of great fun and competition. There were halftime relay races for students in grades three-five, a shooting competition for students in grade six and our own seventh-grade class led the packed stands in cheers. Dozens of alumni also joined in the fun! In the end, the teachers won the game by 1 point!



## Author! Author!

Students at St. Patrick's Catholic School were recently treated to visits by two children's authors. Montgomery County author Chieu Ahn Urban welcomed the spring season with the Pre-K class. She read her latest children's book, *Color Wonder Hooray for Spring!* She also created puppet characters from the story and completed a color mixing experiment with the students.

Kate Hannigan visited the middle school students. Her latest work, *The Detective's Assistant*, was named a 2017-2018 Black Eyed Susan Winner (best books for children as selected by Maryland teachers and students). Ms. Hannigan gave a lively presentation on the writing process, resilience, researching an historical fiction novel, and creativity.



### St. Patrick's Parish

4101 Norbeck Road  
Rockville, MD

Rev. William E. Foley  
Pastor  
301-924-2284

St. Patrick's School  
Ms. Christie Anne Short,  
Principal

301-929-9672

Parish Editor  
New Volunteer Needed  
Contact rectory to apply





  
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♥ Congratulations  
 and best wishes to  
 the **Class of 2017**

**I AM  
 A STONE  
 RIDGE  
 GIRL.**



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 to serve with faith,  
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# *Congratulations to Georgetown Prep's Class of 2017*



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## CONGRATULATES THE CLASS OF 2017!



*Be who you are and be it well. —St. Francis de Sales*



# Interview with Fr. Samuel Giese, Part One

## Retirement from DC National Guard

**F**r. Samuel Giese retired from the National Guard on March 18, 2017 at a special ceremony held in the DC Armory. Attendance at the ceremony included over 40 parishioners from St. Jane de Chantal Church. The Parish is planning to hold a reception in June to celebrate this event. To mark the occasion, Carol Ramirez from the Pastoral Council and the OPT Editor sat down with Fr. Giese to reflect on his vocation as priest with two areas of responsibility – his army career and role as Pastor, and to discuss how he successfully managed both. Excerpts from the interview will be featured in two parts, the first part in this issue and the second part in the August issue of OPT.

### • Why did you choose the military and specifically the Army?

When I was in the seminary I participated in the Chaplain Candidate program for the Air Force Reserve, and I was two summers in the Air Force. For the Army, I was invited by the Executive Officer of an Army Reserve Unit, and it appealed to me because in the Army everyone seemed integrated in the same mission. All the different units work together for the same mission. I joined the Army Reserve in 1990, and in 1993 I switched

to the Maryland Army National Guard. There I joined the Light Infantry Battalion as its Chaplain. This is the unit that was part of the 29th division that landed at Omaha Beach on D-day during World War II. During the 50th anniversary celebration, I was able to meet some of the people involved in that mission as they shared their war experiences and stories with current members.

### • Tell us about your deployments.

I was activated on two occasions.



Major General Errol Schwartz (left) presents Fr. Giese with a medal during the ceremony held in the DC Armory on March 18th to mark his retirement from the DC National Guard.



Lieutenant General Nadja West congratulates Fr. Giese on his retirement and service in the DC National Guard as Major General Errol Schwartz looks on.

The first time in the Hospital unit of the Army Reserve at Walter Reed during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm. The second time during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2005. I was deployed to a base camp in the desert between Najaf and Karbala. I circulated between different camp sites to say mass and provide other services. I was the only chaplain for about 1,000 to 1,500 people, and we had to worship in a small tent that could only accommodate about 100 people. I had to say several masses every Sunday and do services for the Protestant fellows as well, which I called General Christian Worship

services. They complained that my usual 15 minutes sermons were way too short for them, so they asked me to make them longer and longer!!

### • What aspect of army life did you enjoy the most?

The best part of that experience is that you form very tight bonds with the people there, after sharing intense experiences. You get to see people at their most courageous and most selfless times. These intense experiences they were living through drew them closer to God in most cases.

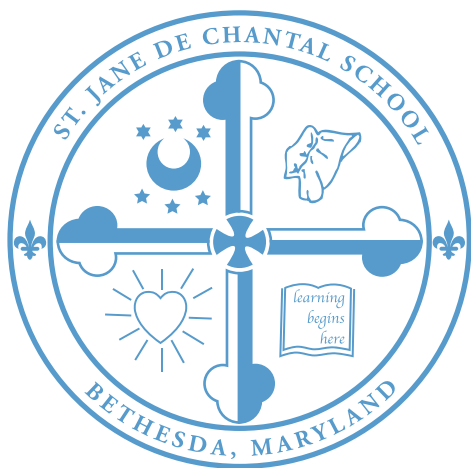
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**St. Jane de Chantal Parish**  
9601 Old Georgetown Road  
Bethesda, MD

**Fr. Samuel C. Giese**  
Pastor  
301-530-1550

**St. Jane de Chantal School**  
Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton  
301-530-1221

**Susana and Mario Cerritelli,**  
OPT Editors



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# St. Patrick's Day Full of Celebrations and Learning at St. Jane de Chantal

St. Patrick's Day was filled with a variety of celebrations at the St. Jane de Chantal School. With an Irish parade and walk to support Diabetes, Irish

dancing, and an Irish sing-along for the whole school, there was certainly a lot of Irish spirit! Students learning about the life of St. Patrick and about the country of Ireland.

• In addition, two students held a school fundraiser, a diabetes parade walk, to help improve diabetes care and research that could one day eliminate the disease. Sixth-grader Ryan O'Keefe and seventh-grader Joanna Pagedas led the 14th Walk for Diabetes at St. Jane de Chantal school. Both Ryan and Joanna have Type 1 diabetes, and they enjoy teaching fellow students about diabetes and letting them know how important it is to have their support.

The walk began with a school assembly to educate students, teacher, and parents about diabetes. Classroom parties were full of green and orange clad students. The tricky kindergarten students had their Leprechaun traps ready to catch a little green man. Unfortunately, the leprechauns got away, but they did leave behind some gold, which added to all the other exciting and rewarding activities of the day!



A fun-filled St. Patrick's Day diabetes parade and fundraiser walk was held on the grounds of St. Jane de Chantal School to help support diabetes research and to raise public awareness about the disease.



During the Lenten season, Fr. Giese led parishioners in special Lenten Bible study sessions that took place in the St. Jane de Chantal Church.

## Exploring the Bible with Fr. Giese

Every Tuesday during Lent, Fr. Giese led parishioners on a journey through the Bible. As Fr. Giese promised, the series offered something to everyone. For those who knew little about the Bible, it was the perfect occasion to find out what it is all about. For those already familiar with the Bible, it was an opportunity to find new avenues to explore. Each session began with a talk by Fr. Giese, followed by group discussions. It was a great moment for Parishioners to grow deeper in knowledge and love of God through the Word of God.

OPT

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# ST. JANE DE CHANTAL SCHOOL



**Isabella Ammerman**  
Stone Ridge

*Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass but learning to dance in the rain.*



**Jackie Carr**  
St. John's

*Take every chance you get in life, because some things only happen once.*



**TJ Celeste**  
Georgetown Prep

*The more I practice, the luckier I get.*



**Riley Clark**  
Holy Child

*And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.*



**Matthew Corcoran**  
Walter Johnson

*Success is not final; failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts.*



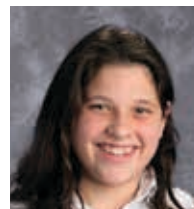
**Frankie D'Antonio**  
St. John's

*Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened.*



**Maggie D'Antonio**  
St. John's

*A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.*



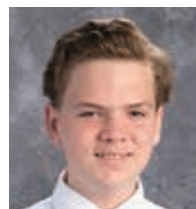
**Mia D'Antonio**  
St. John's

*Start every day with a smile.*



**Robert Dimond**  
Gonzaga

*Good times become good memories, and bad times become good lessons.*



**Jack Dolan**  
Georgetown Prep

*You'll never know if you don't go. You'll never shine if you don't glow.*



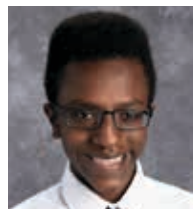
**Jade Fanning**  
Stone Ridge

*Life is too short. Do what makes you happy, be with those who make you smile, and love life.*



**Maddie Fernandez**  
Walter Johnson

*Life is like riding a bicycle: To keep your balance, you must keep moving.*



**Addisu Hadigan**  
Gonzaga

*Give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime.*



**Quinn Hoffman**  
Gonzaga

*Success doesn't just come and find you. You have to go out and get it.*



**Isaac Jung**  
Good Counsel

*To do something correctly, do it yourself.*



**Kristopher Kalset**  
Winston Churchill

*Good times become good memories, and bad times become good lessons.*



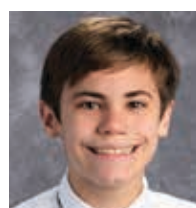
**Colleen Kincaid**  
Good Counsel

*A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new.*



**Meaghan Kincaid**  
Good Counsel

*Nothing is impossible. The word itself says, "I'm possible!"*



**Gellert Kish**  
Georgetown Prep

*It doesn't matter how fast you finish your work. It's how well you do it.*



**Daniela Lock**  
Holy Cross

*Dance like nobody's watching.*



**Jonas Long**  
DeMatha

*Computers are incredibly fast, accurate, and stupid; humans are incredibly slow, inaccurate, and brilliant. Together they are powerful beyond imagination.*



**Lauren Long**  
Stone Ridge

*Sometimes it is the people that no one imagines anything of who do the things no one can imagine.*



**Ryan Lynch**  
Gonzaga

*Shoot for the moon and, even if you miss, you'll land among the stars.*



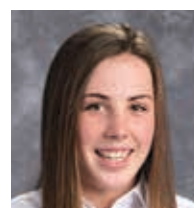
**Nicholas Mariano**  
Gonzaga

*Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.*



**Molly McLoughlin**  
St. John's

*In the end, we only regret the chances we didn't take.*



**Grace Merola**  
Winston Churchill

*Accept what is, let go of what was, and have faith in what will be.*



**Chianna Meza-Cuadra**  
Holy Cross

*It is better to walk alone than with a crowd going in the wrong direction.*



## HAPPENINGS IN OUR BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

### Space Station de Chantal

The St. Jane de Chantal School's fourth grade participated in Space Station de Chantal. With the help of some wonderful parent volunteers, students made models of Mars Rovers out of candy, made paper rockets, tried astronaut ice cream, created constellations in a can, and made moon craters. The 4th graders really enjoyed and learned from all of the hands on experiments that were provided. The St. Jane de Chantal School community was thankful to all of the parents who volunteered to help on this "out of this world" activity.

### SumDog Math Competition Winners

St. Jane de Chantal School took the county-wide Sumdog math competition by storm! SumDog is an online resource for students to practice their math skills in a fun interactive setting. Competitions take place several times a year for all registered schools in the county, including, public, private,

and parochial schools. St. Jane took seven of the top ten spots in the overall competition, with the second grade placing first, fifth grade placing second, and eighth grade placing third. Other St. Jane teams in the top ten included first grade, sixth grade, fourth grade, and seventh grade. Congratulations to all those students who participated!

### De Chantal DASH

Congratulations to the hundreds of runners who came out to do the 3rd St. Jane de Chantal DASH! This family friendly 5K and 1 mile fun walk event was held to raise funds for technology improvements in the school. Eamon Smith, an eighth grade student at St. Jane de Chantal, was the winner of the DASH followed by Matthew Pottker, a de Chantal alum. The DASH event was sponsored and supported by the St. Jane de Chantal community and its many volunteers. A special thank you to Kelly Jana who oversaw the management

and organization of the entire event.

### CBN Scholarship Winners

In an effort to promote Catholic values in the youth of today that will one day be our community leaders, the Catholic Business Network (CBN) of Montgomery County sponsors scholarships to 8th graders entering Catholic high schools in the fall. Students submitted essays answering the following questions: "In your view, what is mercy? From your own experience, where have you experienced or witnessed extraordinary mercy?" Twelve scholarships are awarded by CBN country-wide, and this year the St. Jane de Chantal School community is very proud that its students earned three of them. Addisu Hadigan, Lourdes Russell, and Ryan Lynch were the honored recipients of the scholarships, and they were recognized by the CBN at their April awards breakfast.

OPT

## MULAN JR

Con't from page 8

Chinese symbols for each Ancestor on flats which were later reversed for the village scene at the shops of the dressmaker, groomer, and hairdresser. HR teacher Michelle Ardillo served as director for the large production, greatly aided by HR teachers Danielle Trotta, Lisa Capobianco, and Ashlie McGinnis. HR music teacher Peter Smith contributed by teaching the songs to the large ensemble.

Behind the scenes, an army of parent volunteers provided tech week meals, concessions and box office support, sold ads for the program which they designed and printed, and much more, all under the guidance of HR parent Theresa Magnino, mother of eighth-grader Ryan Magnino who wore several "hats" throughout the production, including that of Shan-Yu the leader of the Huns. The backstage and pre-production tech crew of seven seventh and eighth graders worked tirelessly under the supervision of eighth-grader Molly Murphy, whose organization and multi-tasking skills are top-notch.

Eighth graders in the cast

included Abby MacCartee, Blaise Ryan, Carolina Maduro-Garcia, Chloe Strachan, Clare Foley, Ellie Dunn, Ginger Quinn, Grace Winters, Jorgie Garayta, Kelsey Rafferty, Kendal Gilday, Lizzy Clarke, Marina Schlegel, Megan Toner, Maggie Morin, Natalie Peoples, Nora Rembold, Ryan Magnino, Sallee D'Albora, Scott Styling, Sean Caghey, and Tatyana Ramirez. Seventh graders in the cast included Brennan Flynn, Bridget Trebon, Claire Morin, Donnie Carmody, Ella Turgeon, Ellie Bowman, Gabby Ramirez, Katie Monahan, KK Morin, Maggie Gormly, Maraki Theodras, Nicky Waits-Cabrales, Olivia Tropea, Owen Kirvan, Paige D'Albora, Rafael Rodriguez, Tess Boone, Theresa Lucas, Therese Osborn, and Tim Walsh. Tech crew included eighth-graders Molly Murphy, Sean August, Sean Clements, Jessica Kolevar, and John Gonella, and seventh-graders James Smith and Beck Weltler.

The closing night performance ended with a successful striking of the set and a final prayer before heading to a cast party. The cast and crew of *Mulan Jr.* did indeed bring honor to us all at Holy Redeemer!

OPT

# Congratulations to Our 8th Grade Graduates

## CLASS of 2017



**Olivia Michael**  
Walter Johnson

*Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference.*



**Liam O'Connell**  
St. Mary's (Annapolis)

*Be so good they can't ignore you.*



**Burke Pablo**  
Gonzaga

*We have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now.*



**Katrina Penney**  
Visitation

*Live today like there is no tomorrow.*



**Carlos Prieto**  
Humanitas Bilingual School (Madrid)

*No matter how high a mountain is, there is always a way to the top.*



**Jack Rhea**  
Gonzaga

*Hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard.*



**Chloe Rickerby**  
Holy Cross

*Life is like the ocean. It can be calm or still, rough or rigid, but in the end it is always beautiful.*



**Elena Rubio**  
St. John's

*Let your smile change the world, but don't let the world change your smile.*



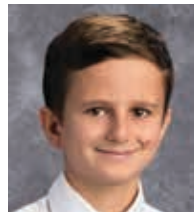
**Lourdes Russell**  
Stone Ridge

*Do not go where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.*



**Jayson Sella**  
St. Anselm's

*Don't worry about failures. Worry about the chances you miss when you don't even try.*



**Conor Shaheen**  
Gonzaga

*The best revenge is a massive success.*



**Timmy Shaheen**  
Gonzaga

*Fear has two meanings: Forget everything and run, or face everything and rise.*



**Rayan Sissoko**  
Walter Johnson

*Never say never, because limits, like fears, are often just an illusion.*



**Grace Skibbie**  
Holy Child

*All that glitters is not gold.*



**Eamon Smith**  
Gonzaga

*Only you can shape and mold your life. No one can do it for you.*



**Maeve Smith**  
Holy Cross

*And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years.*



**Ciara Switzer**  
Holy Cross

*Mistakes are proof that you're trying.*



**Emmanuel Talavera**  
Archbishop Carroll

*The greatest pleasure in life is doing what people say that you cannot do.*



**Tommy Thompson**  
St. John's

*If you're going to be thinking anything, you might as well think big.*



**Rose Tierney**  
Holy Cross

*To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people just exist.*



**Kendall Tippins**  
Holy Cross

*No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.*



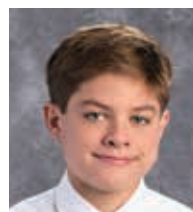
**Hannah Toth**  
Holy Cross

*The goal isn't to live forever. The goal is to create something that will.*



**Isabel Western**  
Visitation

*Life begins at the end of your comfort zone.*



**Zach Whittier**  
Georgetown Prep

*The truth is, you don't know what is going to happen tomorrow. Life is a crazy ride, and nothing is guaranteed.*



# THE WOODS ACADEMY

## Congratulates the Class of 2017



### **The Class of 2017 has been accepted to the following High Schools:**

Academy of the Holy Cross • Connelly School of the Holy Child  
DeMatha High School • Georgetown Preparatory School  
Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School • Gonzaga College High School  
Holton-Arms School • Our Lady of Good Counsel High School  
St. Andrew's Episcopal School • St. John's College High School  
Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart • The Madeira School

**The Class of 2017 has been awarded \$320,000 in merit scholarships.**





Mary of Nazareth Science teacher, Ms. Jennifer Massey, receives the Golden Apple Award for excellence in teaching and commitment to Catholic education.

## MoN Science Teacher Receives Golden Apple Award

Mary of Nazareth is proud to celebrate Middle School Science teacher, Jennifer Massey, for her recognition as a 2017 Golden Apple Award recipient. The Golden Apple Award is presented annually to 10 teachers from schools in the Archdiocese

of Washington, honoring nominees for their excellence in teaching and commitment to Catholic education. Teachers may be nominated by their colleagues, parents, and students. Ms. Massey was nominated by Mary of Nazareth parents, Karen

*Continued on page 32*

## School Community Celebrates Patroness, Mary, at May Crowning

Each year the Mary of Nazareth School community honors Mary, our patroness, with a Mass and May Crowning. In gratitude for her many graces and the intercession of our Blessed Mother, the eighth-grade students crown Mary and make an offering of flowers. This year's May crowners were eighth grade students, Katherine Carter and Brendan Snocker. Each individual grade also honors Mary with a classroom May Crowning and prayer service.

OPT



MoN Class of 2017 pictured with Mary following May Crowning Mass



Face of America participants line Mary of Nazareth's drive as they make their way from the Pentagon to Gettysburg.

## MoN Hosts Rest Stop Along Bike Tour in Support of Veterans

2017 marks the fifth year that Mary of Nazareth School has hosted a rest stop on its campus for the Face of America bike

tour. "Face of America" consists of a 110 mile ride from the Pentagon to Gettysburg, and is one of the largest annual non-competitive bicycle rides in the Washington, D.C. region. Participants ride together to honor US troops, and inspire injured veterans. Mary of Nazareth students and families welcomed riders to the school's 190+ acre campus, cheering them on, and handing them refreshments.

Mary of Nazareth Athletic Director and veteran, Rich Huelbig, said of the event, "Our community is honored give back to our veterans, and excited to champion them to the finish line." The event, created and organized by World T.E.A.M. Sports, celebrates its seventeenth race this year. Race day events were organized by Mary of Nazareth's Social Concerns Committee, which works during the academic year to provide classroom instruction and volunteer opportunities that raise students' awareness of their responsibility to act as good stewards within their communities.

OPT

## MoN Students Celebrate the Arts at Annual Poetry Slam

At the culmination of National Poetry Month, Mary of Nazareth annually holds a school-wide Poetry Slam to celebrate and recognize the significance of the arts in education. Students are given the opportunity to express their creativity by composing original poems centered around a dedicated theme. This year's theme, joy, coincides with the school's virtue of April. Students are given the freedom to explore the art of poetry at their own discretion.

Two students are selected from each homeroom to share their poems at the Poetry Slam. In recognition of the unique connection between poetry and music, this year's event included a special performance by Mary of Nazareth's Glee Club. Members

performed two songs, one of which was entirely written and composed by seventh grade student, Rebekkah Vandegrift. Glee Club performers included:

Mercy Asamoah, Seventh  
Stefi Duque, Seventh

Fiona O'Connell, Seventh  
Rebekkah Vandegrift, Seventh  
Emma Filliben, Sixth  
Kate Nonnenkamp, Sixth  
Alexa Sofia, Sixth  
Meghan Stone, Sixth

OPT



Students gather at annual Poetry Slam to share original work in celebration of the arts

## Mary of Nazareth Band Earns Superior Rating

Congratulations to the Mary of Nazareth Band on their designation of "Superior" at Spring adjudication this year.



### 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)

301-869-0942 (fax)

#### Mary of Nazareth

OPT Editor: Beth O'Connell,  
boconnell@maryofnazareth.org

#### Website:

www.maryofnazareth.org

Affiliated with the following parishes:  
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.





Juan Abreu



Hayley Abromavage



Shalom Adewi



Jacqueline Alberero



Fouad Ayoub



James Bailey



Lindsay Barrow



Nicholas Boesch



Gabriela Cam



Katherine Carter



Erik Carvajal



Alex Castro-Conroy



Antonio Checchia



Elizabeth Clarke



Daniel De Lude



Nhat-Khang Do



Isabella Espinosa



Viktor Fedotov



Max Filliben



Ellie Gaunoux



Jacqueline Gilmore



Gates Griffin



Chase Grossnickel



Jonathan Hofmann



Gabrielle Lara



Tahany Laurin



Emma LeVaca



Kylie Ly



Liam McCarthy



Maeve McIntyre



Liam Melley



Zachary Merkle



Dylan Olmsted



Stephen Orsini



Laura-Rose Osei



James Owan



Nicholas Palmer



Braden Pickett



Ileana Plummer



Daniel Rascher



Taylor Rohde



Ryan Rosia



Ashley Sandhu



Charles Saunders



William Scherer



Luke Schlimm



Makayla  
Schuhmacher



Julie Seminara



Brendan Shea



Brendan Snocker



Vincent Stefanelli



Delia Teter



Margaret Titus



Jack Tucker



Kayla Waldron



Julia Wells



Pierce Wexler



Ava Zamora

**Congratulations  
Mary of Nazareth  
Class of 2017**



## RECEPTION

*Con't from page 16*

our most mundane: our desire as a group to give charitably of our time, talent, and treasure, and to give it well. Under the happy leadership of our school's Home and School Association, members of our women's Sodality, men's Holy Name group and parishioners at large came together to prepare three Easter receptions for those who attended our three Easter Sunday Masses. Beautiful, homemade treats, freshly brewed coffee and jelly jars of flowers filled several tables that were set-up by volun-

teers early Easter morning. Our annual Easter egg-hunt, for children 10 and under, was enjoyed by many with thanks to our Scout troops who met earlier in the week to stuff over 3,000 eggs. Parishioners, new and old, some visiting and some returning, lingered well into the afternoon and enjoyed each other in faith and fellowship.

"Easter on the Lawn" is just one of many well-loved traditions and events at St. Bernadette's. Please visit our Website or follow our Facebook Page at: [www.facebook.com/SaintBernadetteSilverSpring/](http://www.facebook.com/SaintBernadetteSilverSpring/) to join us for holy Mass or to learn more about our happenings!

OPT

## GOLDEN APPLE

*Con't from page 30*

Stohr and Bob Nonnenkamp, along with their children Julia and Kate Nonnenkamp.

With 14 years of teaching experience, Ms. Massey says that her goal as an educator is for, "students to leave my classroom better people than when they started." She not only helps to shape the character of her students, but also their understanding of the world that surrounds them. A self-proclaimed lifelong learner, Ms. Massey challenges herself to delve into the concepts within her Science curriculum

so that she may effectively engage students with hands-on-lessons and 21<sup>st</sup> Century technology. Ms. Massey shares that a central part of her instruction in the Science lab involves guiding students in process-oriented learning. Within this framework her role, "shifts from instructor to facilitator," and allows students to see value in their work as content is built into the problem-solving process.

The impact of Ms. Massey's teaching style can be seen by the purpose-driven experiments her students conducted in this year's Science Fair. Two winning projects included engineering a hula hoop which lights up using the Faraday

Effect and replicating models of Ancient Rice Terraces to inform modern day irrigation. According to Ms. Massey, these projects stood out specifically for their application of science concepts to real-world problems with, "innovation and creative design." With her leadership, technology has become a top priority at Mary of Nazareth. She hopes to watch the continued growth of technology as the school's five-year plan is implemented and, "would love to see a 1:1 program for students."

When asked what role Mary of Nazareth has taken in her life, Ms. Massey shares, "I often thought God brought me to a Catholic school because He wanted me to positively influence the lives of children. While I still believe, this is true, I've realized that God brought me to a Catholic school because He wanted to use these people to help me be a better person ... I am the person I am today because of my interactions with others, my faith, and my experiences at Mary of Nazareth School."

OPT

## 5K

*Con't from page 10*

ing the weather was perfect, and Leo greeted everyone as they came in to get their chips and their Carolina blue shirts. Race bags, also donated by Dr. Cocarro, contained frisbees, wrist bands and chapsticks along with Runners' World Magazines.

Kate's mom, Carla, her sister Sarah, and a group of her friends from college joined us again this year for the event. John Andrews, father of Cecilia and Gemma, won the 5K easily and was rewarded with \$200 and a great big trophy. After the race, children enjoyed the deejay's games and a moon bounce. There was breakfast food, and then a fabulous lunch that included quesadilla, hot dogs, and gourmet tapas from Guardados. Over 600 people enjoyed a beautiful day together. As Monsignor Fiardi led us in prayer, he reminded us that our school is a community of love with its foundation in faith, and that we believe Kate is with God, and was watching over all of us on that wonderful day.

OPT

## SACRAMENTS

*Con't from page 8*

ment of Confirmation on 89 parish eighth graders. Donning red gowns, the students stood proudly before the Bishop as he laid hands on each one, anointing their foreheads with chrism. After much preparation, including service projects, interviewing their sponsors and researching their Saint, these eighth graders were ready to stand up for their faith. The most popular Saint name chosen this year was St. Francis of Assisi, taken by both boys and girls, followed closely by Elizabeth Ann Seton.

We pray that God will continue to bless these students and may the reception of these sacraments bring them all closer to God's.

OPT



## CONGRATULATIONS TO

## Blessed Sacrament's Class of 2017

(from the bottom left) Bebhinn Crowley, Sophia Eckart, Cole Anderson, Will Keating, Patrick Williams, Kevin Mulheron, Patrick Joyce, Hatton Feldman, Caroline Stanton, Tess Deerin, Katie Micklos, Katie Gallagher, Xavier Woolridge, Jack Larkin, Axel Keppler, Jake Feffer, Nick Graham, Sean McCarthy, Anthony Richitt, Alex Pardo, John Knight, Luke Coughlan, Gavin Brady, Matthew McGovern, Gabriel Ossi, Gavin Bond, Simon Vaccaro, Zoe Alexander, Olivia Goodwin, Mary Kate Hogan, Lala Murphy, Julia Baechli, Charlie Neill, Hank Hyatte, David Oluigbo, Brendan Babbington, Tatum Cullen, Hope Hillegass, Grace Goodwin, Catherine MacKinnon, Mary Katherine Dean, Clare Comstock, Caroline Veith, Rafy Carter, Mollie Lively, Olivia Joaquin, Olivia Ernst, Claire Duffy, Maeve Murray, Lily Kevorkian, Fiona Schulz, Lila McKenney, Clare McGuffin, Catherine Miller, Cassie Fredell, Hathaway Packard, Tommy Jacobs (not pictured)

Blessed Sacrament School, 5841 Chevy Chase Parkway, NW, Washington, DC 20015



## Holy Cross Students Awarded in MC Science Fair

**A**s a follow-up to Holy Cross' impressive 2017 Middle School Science Fair, seven of its 62 middle school students went on to compete in the Montgomery County Science Fair, sponsored by *ScienceMONTGOMERY*, on Saturday, March 18, 2017. For these seven students, it was yet another chance to show off their creative projects again, and maybe walk away with an award recognizing their impressive efforts. These dedicated students and their projects offered the judges and those visiting the Montgomery County Science Fair a glimpse into the future through a group of young minds that are beginning to take shape!

Holy Cross believes that its own Middle School Science Fair as well as the Montgomery County Science Fair allows students to develop both science and social skills due to the presentations of their projects to the science fair judges. All students entered in

*Continued on page 37*



Montgomery County Science Fair winners pictured in the front row, left to right are Diego Lopez, Carter Rodia, Donhee Cui; and back row, Katie Zalewski, Mykel Bailey, and Middle School Science Teacher, Mrs. Shari Conner.

## A Wax Museum and Maryland Counties Projects Share the Spotlight

**C**elebrities of all sorts were featured at the annual Holy Cross Wax Museum on Wednesday, May 3rd. Fifth Grade students donned costumes to share



**We Love Lillie!** Fifth-grade student Lillie Weaver donned a red wig to become Lucille Ball at the Holy Cross Wax Museum.



**Fourth-Grader Sebastian Thomas** shares information about Prince George's County in Maryland with a visitor to the event on May 3.

the life stories of such distinguished people as Harriet Tubman, Frank

Sinatra, Cleopatra, Amelia Earhart,

*Continued on page 37*

## Holy Cross Eighth Grade Visits Gettysburg National Military Park

**O**n Tuesday, April 4, 2017, Holy Cross' eighth-grade students spent the day visiting the Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP). The GNMP protects and interprets the landscape of the 1863 Battle of Gettysburg during the American Civil War. Located in Gettysburg, PA, the GNMP properties include most of the original Gettysburg Battlefield, many of the battle's support areas during the battle, and several other non-battle areas associated with the battle's "aftermath and commemoration," including the Gettysburg National Cemetery.

The students and chaperones enjoyed visiting the *Gettysburg Museum of the Civil War* and Visitor Center where they viewed many of the GNMP's 43,000 relics of the Battle of Gettysburg and learned about the personalities who served in the Civil War, interactive exhibits, and multi-media presentations covering the conflict from beginning to end. The center also hosts the film, "A New Birth of Freedom," narrated by Morgan Freeman as shown in the fully restored Gettysburg Cyclorama, which depicts the final fury of the Battle of Gettysburg – "Pickett's Charge." The students also seemed to enjoy visiting the gift shop where they purchased souvenirs and many of them also devoured boxes of the

fresh fudge sold at the gift shop.

In the afternoon, the students learned about and reenacted the finale of the Battle of Gettysburg known as "Pickett's Charge." Pickett's Charge took place on July 3, 1863, the third and final day of battle, and it involved an infantry assault of approximately 15,000 Confederate soldiers against Union Major General George Meade's troops' position along Cemetery Ridge, manned by some 6,500 Federals. This assault took the nine brigades of Confederate soldiers over 3/4 of a mile of open ground susceptible to cannon fire the entire time. The ill-fated assault was a turning point in the Civil War and this Union victory was important in ending General Robert E. Lee's final and most ambitious invasion of the North. This battle was often referred to as the "High Water Mark of the Rebellion."

Holy Cross eighth-grade students and chaperones learned that Gettysburg was the Civil War's bloodiest battle, and was also the inspiration for President Abraham Lincoln's world famous "Gettysburg Address." Total casualties (killed, wounded, captured, and missing) during the three days of fighting were 23,000 for the Union army and approximately 28,000 for the Confederate army.

OPT

### Holy Cross Parish

4900 Strathmore Avenue, Garrett Park, MD

**Fr. Robert Buchmeier, Pastor**  
301-942-1020

**Holy Cross School**  
**Lisa Maio Kane, Principal**  
301-949-0053

**Lurana Hogan, Parish Editor**  
l.hogan@hcross.org



Tara-Mary Anders  
St. John's



Layla Arthur  
St. John's



Jabir Augustin  
Georgetown Prep



Evan Blakely  
Gonzaga



Sophia Bucany  
St. John's



Kyle Butcher  
Good Counsel



Leon Carson  
DeMatha



Lynn Clough  
Holy Cross



Brendan Condron  
Georgetown Prep



Joseph DePaul  
Good Counsel



Megan Flannery  
Good Counsel



Patrick Fogarty  
Gonzaga



Abigail Greenhalgh  
Visitation



Jan Haro  
St. John's



Mohammad Kirmani  
Gonzaga



Darian LeBlanc Jr.  
Good Counsel



Anne Paxton  
Visitation



Erin Rhodes  
St. John's



Carter Rodia  
DeMatha



Henry Roud  
Gonzaga



Nicoletta Sideris  
Good Counsel



Clare Striegel  
Holy Cross



Jennifer Tartaglia  
Holy Cross



Greyson Thrower  
Archbishop Carroll



Samuel Wallace  
Georgetown Prep



Alexander Wong Simpson  
Walter Johnson

*Free*  
**SPRIT**





# Mother of God School

Congratulates the Graduating Class of 2017

				
<b>Bethel Addis</b> Walt Whitman High School	<b>Ewura Akoto</b> St. John's Catholic Prep	<b>Leah Brown</b> Oakcrest School	<b>Sheldon Douglas</b> Our Lady of Good Counsel	<b>Angelina James</b> Mount De Sales Academy
				
<b>Natalie Kinnear</b> Clarksburg High School	<b>Marianne Murphy</b> Our Lady of Good Counsel		<b>Michael Murphy</b> Our Lady of Good Counsel	<b>Aldair Quispe</b> Our Lady of Good Counsel

"Mother of God School prepares students who, grounded in sound academics and strong faith, go forth bearing Christ to the world in their personal and professional lives."



**Evie Barnes**  
Holy Cross



**Emelia Bohi**  
Stone Ridge



**Marybeth Cantwell**  
Stone Ridge



**Sol Conde**  
Colegio Aldeafuente



**Ally Connors**  
Stone Ridge



**Mikayla Day**  
Holy Cross



**Arthur Ferridge**  
Gonzaga



**Taylor Gerth**  
Visitation

*Love of Learning Faith in God Service for Others*



**Natalia Giacchino**  
Holy Cross



**Lydia Hamilton**  
Holy Cross



**Maura Hannon**  
Visitation



*Graduating Class  
of 2017*



**Aidan Hembruff**  
St. John's



**Liam Jones**  
The Heights



**Johnny Keon**  
Georgetown Prep



**Emma Kirby**  
Visitation



**Connor McGarrity**  
Gonzaga



**Colleen McGreal**  
St. John's



**Elizabeth Mudlaff**  
Holy Child



**Brigid Mulligan**  
Visitation



**Caroline Munter**  
Visitation



**Casey Norris**  
St. John's



**Mackenzie Peacock**  
St. John's



**Isabel Pinnell**  
Visitation



**Nicole Rangoussis**  
St. John's



**Lizzie Rusnak**  
Visitation



**Duncan Ryan**  
St. John's



**Maeve Sullivan**  
Stone Ridge



**Elise Terry**  
St. John's



## SHORT

Con't from page 1

and community life in our parishes. Whether in schools, sports, liturgy, social concerns, administrative matters or other acts of service, parish life is only as vital as parishioners make it. So, thank you reverend clergy and deacons for spiritual guidance and sacramental service and to those who have given us inspiring music, ceremony, and worship space. Thank you to parish council and school board members for wise counsel. Our parishes are more compassionate thanks to the many volunteer ministries caring for the poor, the elderly, sick, and vulnerable. New Catholics are better informed, newly-weds better prepared and confirmed Catholic more aflame thanks to nurturing volunteers in these ministries. We are grateful to school and religious education staff and volunteers who foster our children's faith and academic growth, preparing them as future Catholic leaders, and to those who lead our diverse athletic and parish social activities. Thanks to those who steadfastly volunteer for justice in our community. Our buildings and grounds are beautiful and safe because of diligent maintenance and landscape staff. And all coordinated by dedicated, remarkably multi-tasking rectory staff. We are deeply grateful.

May is National Foster Care Month. It's also the month of our shared Mother, Mary. I recently attended a celebration in honor of foster and adoptive children and parents sponsored by the Center for Adoption Support and Education (C.A.S.E.). One of the featured speakers was a foster care and adoption mother, Marjorie Margolis. Ancient ones like me will remember her for her reporting on Channel Four news in the 1970s. She was recognized with several awards for her stories about Korean orphans. As she spoke at the event, she named so many children she adopted into her home that I lost track of the number! I remember well, however, a touching conversation she had with Holly, her oldest. When asked by Holly if she loved her as much as her "natural children", Marjorie responded, "My dear daughter, my love for you began in my heart, not below it". Without diminishing her affection for her natural children, she tenderly affirmed the loving choice she made to become Holly's mother.

A few days later I attended the annual St Ann's Center for Children and Families gala. Their guest speaker, former Maryland Lt. Governor Michael Steele, inspired us as he described his own adoption. He spoke of the two choices responsible for his life. The first by his natural mother to proceed with her pregnancy; the second by his adoptive mother to give him her heart and home. He's grateful to both for their life-sustaining choices.

Thankfully there are many advocates for children needing a home. Notably, leaders of the world's major religions, Moses,

Mohammed and Jesus, were all adopted, (Jesus by St Joseph). It's no surprise their teachings universally mandate care for orphans as among their most defining tenets. While we have fewer orphans in the US today, tragically the world continues to be a lonely and frightening place for millions of children. More than 32,000 living within 700 miles of our border in Haiti alone. An unconscionable number of children never find a loving and safe home because they are not adopted. I believe there is enough love in the world for these children, but leaders have made it too difficult to bring more of them into secure families. The God of Moses, Mohammed and Jesus will no doubt harshly judge the institutions that make the process of adoption needlessly

political, expensive, difficult and lengthy for many loving families to navigate. Eliminating these barriers to love should be among our highest goals.

This region urgently needs foster parents. Several thousand children, about 400 in Montgomery County, require foster homes each year. Because of the shortage of foster parents, many will be moved from one home to another several times and siblings separated before they find a lasting home. Moving from home to home, they carry only one bag, the anguish of trauma. To heal, they need mental health counseling and a secure home with sustaining doses of love. Foster parents, with the help of government and non-profit organizations, commit themselves to caring for these children,

assuring that healing services are provided.

The nurturing love of foster and adoptive parents for their children begins in their hearts with the most fundamental Christian choice.

Engaging in foster care and adoption projects are relevant and loving ministries for Catholic parishes. Parishes may help recruit potential adoptive and foster parents; support current foster and adoptive parents and their children, especially if they live in the parish; advocate for changes in local and national policies to facilitate more adoptions and stable foster care; contribute time, talent and treasure to organizations that provide adoption and foster care services; assist foster care families with the services and resources needed to help their children heal;

sponsor information sessions about local and international child welfare needs. For more information and ways to get involved try these sites:

**Montgomery County Child Welfare:** [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/CYF/CYFBecomeFosterParent-p396.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/CYF/CYFBecomeFosterParent-p396.html)

**St Ann's Center for Children and Families:** [www.stanns.org](http://www.stanns.org)

**CASE:** <http://adoptionsupport.org/>

**Catholic Charities:** [www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/PAS?](http://www.catholiccharitiesdc.org/PAS?)

God Bless,  
Chuck Short

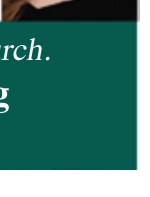


## College Acceptances

### Oakcrest Class of 2017

Alfred University  
American University  
Aquinas College  
Ave Maria University  
Benedictine College  
Boston College (2)  
Boston University(2)  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Clemson University  
College of William and Mary (5)  
Columbia University  
DeSales University (2)  
Drexel University  
Duquesne University  
Emory University  
Fordham University (5)  
Franciscan University of Steubenville (5)  
George Mason University (6)  
Georgetown University (3)  
Hillsdale College  
Howard University  
James Madison University (2)  
Johns Hopkins University  
Longwood University  
Louisiana State University  
Loyola Marymount University  
Loyola University Maryland  
Lynchburg College  
Marymount University (2)  
Mount St. Mary's University (3)  
New York University  
North Carolina State University  
Northeast Catholic College  
Northeastern University (3)

Pace University  
Pennsylvania State University (2)  
Princeton University  
Providence College  
Purdue University  
Roanoke College (3)  
Saint Vincent College  
Salve Regina University  
Savannah College of Art and Design  
St. John's College (2)  
St. John's University  
The Catholic University of America (15)  
The George Washington University  
The Ohio State University  
The Peabody Institute of The Johns Hopkins University  
Towson University  
Tufts University  
United States Coast Guard Academy  
Universidad de Navarra (2)  
University of Alabama  
University of California, Davis  
University of Cincinnati  
University of Dallas (4)  
University of Mary Washington (3)  
University of Maryland, College Park (5)  
University of Michigan  
University of Nebraska, Lincoln (2)  
University of Notre Dame (4)  
University of South Carolina  
University of St. Andrews  
University of Virginia (4)  
Villanova University  
Virginia Commonwealth University (7)  
Virginia Tech (6)



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# Lent at St. John Neumann...

**A**s we moved through the Lenten Season, our parish said farewell to Parochial Vicar,

Fr. Dave Wells, who went on to his new assignment at St. Raphael parish. Guest Priest, Rev. Hugh Gillespie came to lead a four-day parish mission culminating with parish consecration to the Immaculate Heart of

Mary. Simultaneously, we welcomed a visit from the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima.

This Lent was a very special time for the youth of our parish. On the lighter side, families enjoyed a magnificent day of pure fun with their children at the annual Knights of Columbus Easter Egg Hunt at Neumann

House. Nurturing the children's faith as we approached Easter Sunday, Youth Minister, Gina Niño de Nightingale designed and staffed a remarkable Youth Group program for children of all ages, with hands-on learning about the meaning of Easter and the Sacraments.

As to spreading the Good News during

Paschal time, Easter 2017 will be remembered as one of the greatest number of first-time Sacrament recipients in recent parish history. A happy group of thirty adults and children received Sacraments of Initiation, bringing them into full communion with the church.

OPT



The Knights of Columbus Easter Egg Hunt delighted children of all ages during the annual event staged at the Neumann House. Photos by Jerry Kelly

## Hopping Down the Bunny Trail

**T**he week before Easter the Knights of Columbus again staged their annual Parish Easter Egg Hunt for the youngsters and oldsters of SJN, bringing a lot of smiles and fun visiting with the Easter Bunny, their families and friends. Neumann House was a perfect venue for this spring

event. Refreshments were great, turnout was terrific and the weather couldn't have been better for hunting the coveted eggs.

All were mesmerized as they filled their baskets with a share of the over 700 colorful eggs containing chocolate and other fancy confections. We have many to thank for making this day

possible: Thank you God, Father Joe, Marlene Shoemaker, KofC members Tom Firestone, Mike Donnellan, Brian Hiles, Ron Bauer, Dan Cipra, Larry Doyle, Ed Sullivan, Steve Rhodes, Jerry Kelley and Grand Knight, Gary Guy. Spring has arrived!

OPT

## Our Lady of Fatima Visits SJN

By Rus Wester

**A** hundred years ago the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal. She left them with a very strong request from heaven. Our Lady said that God wished to establish a world devotion to Her Immaculate Heart. She also offered revelations of future world events that could be avoided if we did penance, prayed and fulfilled devotional activities honoring her Immaculate Heart.

Lucia, the last of the children, was with us until 2005, continuing to let the world know of God's wishes, as heard from the Blessed Mother. But in the early 1900s, mass media looked a little different from what we use today to "spread the word."

It took an unprecedented, public miracle to confirm the importance of "heaven's request". More than 70,000 people witnessed the Miracle of the Sun that instantly brought awareness worldwide for the heavenly mission of Our Lady, and the prophecies that accompanied her appearances.

Thirty years later, a Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima was created. In this statue she has continuously traveled the world since 1947, to remind us of Our Lady's visit in Portugal...why it is she came...the request for reparation for sins and devotion God asked for Her Immaculate Heart.

Our parish was again blessed to welcome this traveling Virgin



The International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima is currently on a two-year Fatima Centennial US Tour for Peace, marking the 100th Anniversary of the apparitions at Fatima.

Statue as we worked toward our parish Consecration in preparation for celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Fatima apparitions.

To learn more about the importance of Our Lady's appearances at Fatima: <http://www.fatima.org/whyfatima.asp>

To learn more about Our Lady's three requests – penance, prayer and devotion to her Immaculate Heart: [www.rosary-center.org/fatimams.htm#devotion](http://www.rosary-center.org/fatimams.htm#devotion)

OPT

## 30 SJN Parishioners Receive Easter Sacraments

**R**ecceiving one or more of the EASTER SACRAMENTS in 2017: Jorge Castro, Oscar Cruz, Kelvin Galván, Dennis Galván, Angie Galván, Alba Máquez, Nancy Panduro, Mayra Calle, Gladys Canales, José Escobedo, Fernando Galván, Liliana Galván, Jenny Marino, José Moreno, Jessica Perdomo, Ramón Siguenza, Magaly García, María Valenzuela, Ahouefa Edorh, Dorothy Johnson, Guy Miller, Nicholas Suarez, Janie Gramling, Karla Taffo, Karina Tania Gjoni, Christian Gjoni,



From left to right: Dorothy Johnson, Ahouefa (Martine) Edorh, Guy Miller, Janie Gramling, Karla Taffo, and Nicholas Suarez were among the thirty parishioners receiving Easter Sacraments at the Easter Vigil Mass. More great news from Karla and Nicholas – they were married at SJN on April 22.

Dzidudu Jack Agbeve, Nenonene Agbeve, J. Rolando Pineta, Wisdom Agbeve, Jojo Ornella

OPT

## Sometimes Easter Sacraments Include Matrimony

By Yolanda Caraballo

**T**he month of April was especially joyful and spiritually fulfilling for the Galván family. Festivities began with the marriage of Fernando and Liliana, then

Continued on page 59



Fernando & Liliana Galván married on April 1st, 2017 and their children Kelvin, Dennis and Angie received and completed as a family their Sacraments of Initiation at the SJN Easter Vigil Mass.

**St. John Neumann Parish**  
9000 Warfield Road  
Gaithersburg, MD 20882  
**Fr. Joseph Rogers,**  
Pastor  
**Sylvia Granados-Maready,**  
OPT Editor



## PROJECT

Con't from page 33

Admiral Grace Hopper, and George Washington Carver. Fifth Grade teacher, Miss Corri Deegan said, "I was impressed with the eclectic range of biographies that my class selected for this year's event. My students taught me about a lot of important and interesting people!"

Sharing the spotlight, were Fourth Grade students who displayed tri-fold presentation boards which highlighted important facts about each of the counties in Maryland. Students impressed visitors to the event with their knowledge. The annual project requires each student to visit an assigned county, so many also shared personal photo albums or scrapbooks that documented their trip. "The students always have fun with this project," said Mrs. Patty Holt. "They should be proud of the research they conducted, the knowledge they were able to share, and the creativity they demonstrated with their presentation boards."

OPT

## SCIENCE FAIR

Con't from page 33

the Montgomery County Science Fair must be sponsored by an adult scientist. At Holy Cross, this responsibility goes to their highly-dedicated science teacher, Mrs. Shari Connor.

Mrs. Connor stated that, "I am so proud of all these kids, for all of the work they have done on their experiments, and for their families helping to make it all happen!"

On Sunday, March 19, 2016, the following list of students representing Holy Cross were recognized as winners at the Montgomery County Science Fair:

## Division Winners

## Sixth Grade

*Honorable Mention*  
Done Cui: Biology

## Seventh Grade

*Second Place*  
Katie Zalewski: Behavioral Sciences  
*Third Place*  
Mykel Bailey: Engineering  
*Honorable Mention*  
Diego Lopez: Engineering

## 8th Grade

*Honorable Mention*  
Carter Rodia: Biology

## Community Awards

**Rockville Science Center Award  
for Middle School Projects  
Demonstrating Excellence in the  
Communication of Science.**

## Seventh Grade

*Third Place*  
Katie Zalewski: Behavioral Sciences

OPT

## Beauty Queen Joins Poor Clares

**E**smeralda Solís Gonzáles – a young Mexican woman who was crowned last year as a beauty queen in her native town – stunned the world when she announced that she had joined the Poor Clare Missionaries of the Blessed Sacrament.

The story of the twenty-year old Gonzáles went viral on social media in April over a post on the Miss Mexico Facebook page.

Born April 12, 1997 in Valle de Guadalupe, Jalisco State, to a Catholic family, Esmeralda now resides at the convent of the Poor Clare Missionaries



Photo courtesy of Esmeralda Gutierrez.

of the Blessed Sacrament of Cuernavaca in Morelos State, after leaving her career as a nutritionist.

The young postulant met the Poor Clare Missionaries some five years ago at 14, when her concern for a religious vocation was awakened through vocational days, missions and camps."

Barely a month after the process of discernment concluded in March, she gave her first yes to her vocation on the Feast of the Annunciation.

OPT



# Congratulations

## CLASS of 2017

Dominic Joseph Abela  
Ikenna Chukwumeka Achufusi  
Alejandro Andrés Algarra  
Peter Anthony Apostolaros  
Francois Junior Balumueene  
Austin Joseph Brown  
Damien Michael Burgess  
Danial Lewis Burton  
Peter Andrew Cermak  
Marco Gerard Christiani  
Thomas Antonio Clement  
Ryan Christopher Conway  
Alexander Francis Dell'Acqua  
Ian McAuley Edwards Denis  
Alexander Robert Di Maria  
Christian Thomas Esherick  
Joseph Peter Friddle  
William Martin Goyette  
John Francis Hlavin  
Christopher Michael Houlihan

Esfandiar Halati Kamrad  
Nicholas Edward Karpinski  
Spencer Hagen Kelly  
Joseph John Kilmer  
Clayton Cady Kiyonaga  
Yuri Alexander Klinkenbergh  
Grant Lee LaChat  
John Edward LeeHoffman  
Benjamin Francis Livaudais  
Henry James Lowry  
Alexandre Mahoubi  
Henry Jose Mazariegos  
Gregory Fall McCarthy  
John Bernard McClorey  
Steven Patrick McCreary  
Matthew Joseph McDonald  
Joseph Dominic McHale  
Neiko Rostam MehrRostami  
George Alan Messenger

Walter Rigg Mohler III  
Thomas Charles Moynihan  
Isaiah Sebastian Naegele  
Matthew Francis Nava  
Patrick Michael Nugent  
Liam Joseph O'Neill  
Marcus Eudell Peterson  
Gabriel Patrick Ridout  
Sean Patrick Brendan Rowan  
Joshua Randall Sainvilier  
Peter Kenneth Santorum  
John Christie Scalia  
Van Joseph Schuler  
Felipe Tomás Segura  
Sergio Michael Summitt  
Matthew Alexander Tanner  
Sheldon Jarell Whitaker  
Griffin Hayes Woofter  
Alexander In Sup Yoon  
Matthew Joseph Zischkau

## COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

The following list is representative of the wide variety of colleges and universities where Heights students have been accepted over the past three years:

Ave Maria University ■ Baylor University ■ Boston College ■ Bowdoin College ■ Bucknell University ■ University of California at Berkeley ■ University of California, Los Angeles ■ Carnegie Mellon University (Carnegie Institute of Technology) ■ Case Western Reserve University ■ Catholic University of America ■ University of Chicago ■ College of Charleston ■ The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina ■ Clemson University ■ Claremont McKenna College ■ Colgate University ■ Columbia University ■ Cornell University ■ University of Dallas ■ Dartmouth College ■ Davidson College ■ Denison University ■ Dickinson College ■ Fordham University ■ George Mason University ■ The George Washington University ■ Georgetown University ■ Georgia Institute of Technology ■ Gettysburg College ■ Harvard University ■ University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign ■ James Madison University ■ Johns Hopkins University ■ The Juilliard School ■ Loyola University Maryland ■ Marymount University ■ University of Mary Washington ■ University of Maryland, College Park ■ Miami University, Oxford ■ University of Michigan ■ Mount St. Mary's University ■ University of Navarre ■ New York University ■ The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill ■ Northwestern University ■ University of Notre Dame ■ University of Pennsylvania ■ Pennsylvania State University, University Park ■ Pepperdine University ■ Princeton University ■ Providence College ■ Rice University ■ University of Southern California ■ St. Joseph's University ■ Texas A&M University ■ Tulane University ■ University of Vermont ■ Villanova University ■ Virginia Military Institute ■ Virginia Tech ■ University of Virginia ■ Wake Forest University ■ Washington and Lee University ■ Wesleyan University ■ College of William and Mary

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Disney came alive at St. Mary's as the classic production Beauty and the Beast came to the stage the first week of April. Students in grades fifth-eighth not only performed but learned how to work the professional sound and light equipment generously provided by First Light Productions (Watson family). Nearly 6 months of hard work paid off as the cast and crew wowed audiences at every performance! St Mary's content summary



The weather was perfect for the annual Mustang Marathon on May 8. The event allows students to get pledges and then run laps to earn money for the school. The marathon is a much-anticipated event because it combines fitness, fun and fundraising.

### St. Elizabeth



St. Patrick's Day was a ball at St. Elizabeth School!



Oh what a night! St. Elizabeth School parents and staff had a blast at our 2017 Gala!



Thanks to our beautiful St. Elizabeth School Gala Chairs, Colleen Schrier and Tiffany Albina! What an incredible evening, Ladies!

## MANIBUSAN

*Con't from page 12*

Jesse led our 100 students in a day of exploring the bond of our faith and how Confirmation tightens that bond. Ringing cries of 'Who is the Church?' – WE ARE!' 'Where is the Church? – RIGHT HERE!' 'And? – EVERYWHERE!' were heard throughout the day, as Jesse

spoke to them of their place in the Church, their individual importance to the Church, and that there is room for everyone in it. The energy exhibited by our students was contagious and exhilarating. These 100 enthusiastic teens all received the Sacrament of Confirmation on April 1, with Washington Auxiliary Bishop Dorsonville presiding.

OPT

Multicultural Day was an informative and entertaining day for all the St. Elizabeth School students! Thank you to all the parents that took part to make the day so memorable.



Congratulations to our St. Elizabeth school Catholic Business Network Essay Contest winners: Holden Leighton, Kennedy McArthur, Adriana Varea, and Jack Orcev!



Thanks, Ms. Sherman and Mrs. Laux, for hosting our St. Elizabeth School's Junior Kindergarten parents today for "Pastries for Parents!" What a fun way to start our day!



## Avalon and Brookwood communities make pilgrimage to honor Our Lady of Fatima

**P**ilgrims pour into the Shrine of St. Mary's in Barnesville on Saturday evening in honor of the 100th anniversary of the first appearance of Our Lady of Fatima to three children in Portugal.

The rain largely held off, and a cool, cloudy day made for comfortable walking conditions for the 10th annual pilgrimage organized by the Avalon and Brookwood Schools. Approximately 350 people joined in at one point or another for the 21-mile pilgrimage, with many completing the entire journey.

The day began with a mass at the Avalon School in Gaithersburg, during which several children received their first Holy Communion. At four stops, including Our Lady of the Visitation in Darnestown and Our Lady of the Presentation in Poolesville, pilgrims prayed the four mysteries of the rosary. One of the Blessed Mother's requests in her apparitions was for people to pray the rosary.

In 1958, Pope Pius XII asked that every diocese dedicate one parish to Our Lady of Fatima. The following



year, Archbishop Patrick O'Boyle chose St. Mary's as the official Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima for the Archdiocese of Washington. The shrine is home to a piece of stone from the area where the Blessed Mother appeared to the children.

Also on May 13, Pope Francis canonized two of the children, Jacinta and Francisco, who died as children. Saints Jacinta and Francisco are the Church's two youngest non-martyred canonized.

For this 100th anniversary year, Pope Francis has granted a plenary indulgence opportunity available through November 26.

OPT

## Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Mariners and People of the Sea

**T**he National Day of Prayer and Remembrance for Mariners and People of the Sea will be celebrated on May 22. The day is observed in conjunction with National Maritime Day in the United States of America, which has been celebrated since 1933 to honor those who serve as merchant mariners and to recognize the benefits of the maritime industry.

Bishop J. Kevin Boland, bishop emeritus of Savannah, Georgia, and Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) promoter, is encouraging dioceses to mark the national day by remembering the men and women of the sea in homilies and by including special petitions during Mass. When Mass is celebrated on May 22, the text for the Votive Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of the Sea, is also encouraged.

Bishop Kevin Boland, bishop emeritus of Savannah, Georgia, and Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) promoter, will celebrate a Mass in observance of Maritime Day on Saturday, May 20, at 12:10 p.m., in the Crypt Church at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. The Mass is

sponsored by the AOS national office and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church.

Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) is a worldwide Catholic maritime ministry that reaches out to seafarers, fishers, their families, port personnel and all who work or travel on the high seas, regardless of race, color or creed. The maritime ministry shows the Church's care and concern to seafarers who are often away from home for many months because of the nature of their work and lifestyle. A network of AOS port offices and Catholic chaplains provides spiritual and practical assistance that accommodate a seafarer's unique lifestyle and needs.

In the United States, AOS is present in 53 maritime ports in 26 states, and in 48 dioceses. Priest chaplains, deacons, religious and lay people extend hospitality by providing a "home away from home" for seafarers. AOS has 10 Stella Maris centers, and over 100 chaplains and pastoral teams, including priests, religious, deacons and lay ecclesial ministers providing many services including: Mass, communion, confes-

sion and other sacraments, assistance to seafarers in distress, ship visits, transportation to visit business centers, a place to relax while on the port, computers with internet connection at the center, cell phones and phone cards as well as facilitating seafarers' access to services that others provide.

In his profound love of the sea and ministry to the people of the sea, Bishop Boland says, "the needs of the invisible and silent merchant mariner, fisherman, seafarer spouse and retired seafarer to quality pastoral care are as needed as an inner-city community needs a pastor who is a good community organizer, or a new subdivision needs a new parish...the Catholic Church's ministry to the people of the sea is not a marginal ministry, but is an essential ministry of the Church." He encourages dioceses with maritime personnel to ensure that there is an active, viable Apostleship of the Sea ministry, and to ensure that AOS port chaplains and pastoral agents have the proper training and support for this ministry.

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## Sip, Shop, and Support St. Michael the Archangel Parish

**S**ave the date! Enjoy a fun early summer Sunday afternoon with your family at St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church's first annual Wine-tasting and Shopping Fundraiser event. This special event will feature a selection of wines offered by the renowned Olney Winery and will take place on Sunday, June 11, from 1PM to 4PM at St. Michael's Parish located at 805 Wayne Avenue in Downtown Silver Spring.

The following merchants will also be on hand offering select merchandise: Premier Designs Jewelry, Pampered Chef, Gold Canyon, LipSense, Honey & Lace, Tupperware, the St. Michael's Crafts Ministry, and more. Children are welcome, and we will have plenty of engaging and fun activities and food available for them.

The event registration fee is \$25 (\$35 at the door) and includes five tastings, appetizers, and soft drinks. \$13 of the registration fee and \$10 of every bottle of wine sold will be donated to support much-needed capital improvement projects at St. Michael's Parish. In addition, participating merchants will donate 10% of all proceeds to the Parish. There is no charge for children 13 years of age and younger. Tickets for only shopping and entertainment will cost \$13.

For more information and to reg-

ister for this event, please email St. Michael's Parish at smacc.fundraiser@gmail.com.

The Olney Winery brings the world of wine to Maryland. Its initial concept came from the musings of a small group of close-knit family members and friends while sitting on Winery President Joe McCall's front porch in nearby Silver Spring. Its first Tasting Room opened in Olney in September 2012, and its wines are now available in 400 Maryland locations. The Olney Winery employs the unique business model of sourcing its grape product from suppliers and vineyards all over the world to ferment over 34 different varietals of award-winning wines locally. All of its popular fruit infused wines, as well as its Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Viognier, are made from high-quality California grapes. Internationally, the Winery crafts a delicious Chilean Malbec and Merlot, a South African Chenin Blanc, a New Zealand Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc, a German Muller-Thurgau, an Australian Shiraz, and from Italy its Montepulciano, Sangiovese, and Super Tuscan. All Olney Winery wines are made by its talented winemaking team either at its Olney Tasting Room or its nearby Winery Production Facility.

OPT



Cub Pack 23 gathers for a group photo after the Annual Lenten Fish Fry fundraiser.

## Cub Pack 23 Lenten Fish Fry

**T**he parishioners of Saint Michael the Archangel Catholic Church really turned out for Pack 23's Annual Lenten Fish Fry fundraiser. Around 300 tickets were sold during the three weeks prior to the event. The Cub Scouts and their parents sold to friends and family as well as at all the Sunday masses. We also received four ticket donations that we passed on to homeless people, of whom at least two showed up. They enjoyed their meals, and one of the gentlemen asked about Bible study meetings at St. Michael's.

An early tally from our Treasurer has confirmed that the event was a success. The major contributors to our success were the Cub Scout families who pitched in by donat-

ing their time working at the event, as well as making the tartar sauce, fried rice, plantains, and potato salad.

All the drinks were donated and the Knights of Columbus, represented by Jim Robertson, were kind enough to make the cakes for the event. Since we had more people show up than in previous years, we ran out of salad and dessert, but sent out someone to buy more of each, which got us through the rest of the night.

The profits from this event will go toward lowering the cost of trips, activities, and supplies for the scouts and their parents as well as helping lower income families with their registration fees.

OPT

## "Living the Spirit" Confirmation Retreat Prepares Youth for Christian Life

**S**aint Michael the Archangel Catholic Church welcomed over thirty young people to join in "Living the Spirit" at a confirmation retreat on March 25th. Young people explored the challenges and promises of the sacrament of Confirmation, learning to appreciate the gifts of the spirit and how they are manifested in our daily lives.

Youth leaders from Saint Michael the Archangel provided guidance so that our youth were encouraged to say "Yes!" to their faith and to continue doing the work that the Lord has in store for them. While the day mixed education, icebreakers, and presentations, acceptance of the Lord's plan was kept in the heart and focus of the program.

Witness testimony from young adults showed the gathered youth how the Spirit can work in our daily lives and what being a Christian and a Catholic can truly mean in the world outside of the Church walls. Leaders shared their experiences of coming to know the Spirit and the forgiveness of the Lord.

The day ended with reflection on the gifts and fruits of



Youth from St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church participate in a team building activity.



Youth learned to support each other through trust activities during the day-long retreat.



Young adult leaders offered witness to their experiences with Christ for the youth.

the Holy Spirit and final preparations for confirmation. Youth

received help with their Letters to the Bishop, petitioning for their confirmation, and learned what to expect when they speak with the Bishop.

It was a wonderful day of fellowship for youth and adults, uncovering the wisdom, understanding, knowledge, right judgment, courage, reverence, wonder, and awe that come with seeing the future of our Church grow before us.

OPT

## Sodality Kicks Off Summer with Special Events

**T**he Sodality at Saint Michael the Archangel Catholic Church is ending its season with two special events. The season's final event will be the Annual Day of Recollection to be held at the Washington Retreat House on Saturday, May 27, 2017, beginning at 9 AM. Retreat Director Janis Clarke is a Catholic singer, international speaker, and songwriter who will focus on the Blessed Mother, the Holy Spirit, and the Message of Fatima.

Father Carter Griffin, Vice-Rector of St. John Paul II Seminary

and Director of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Washington, will hear confessions and celebrate Mass during the Retreat. For further information or to register, please call 301-593-7231 or 301-325-2674. The cost is \$35 per person and includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

In early May, the Sodality sponsored its 69th Annual Communion Brunch. Mass was offered by The Most Reverend Mario Dorsonville, Auxillary Bishop of Washington. Father Mark Baron, Novice Master of the Marians of the Immaculate

Conception, was the guest speaker and spoke about the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of her appearances.

OPT

### St. Michael's Parish

805 Wayne Avenue  
Silver Spring, MD

**Rev. Msgr. Eddie Tolentino,**  
Pastor

301-589-1155

**Edwin Méndez,**  
OPT Editor

301-589-1155

More St. Michael News on Page 44





We SMASHED our record! Through the incredible generosity of our students and their families, 14,079 food items were donated during our Lenten Food Drive. A special thank you to Vice-Principal Morelli and our Student Council for encouraging, organizing, counting, moving, and stacking food for the past 40 days! Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School



Above, Seventh-grader Ian Javelosa was recognized for receiving the AAA National School Safety Patrol Lifesaver Award! This distinguished award is the highest honor given to members of the School Safety Patrol and recipients are chosen for having saved the life of a person in imminent danger while on patrol duty. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School



At left, Congratulations to these SMS students, winners and honor mentions of City of Gaithersburg Government, Character Counts essay contest! They did a great job writing about their Adult Heroes. Photo courtesy of Jim McNulty

**More St. Martin of Tours News  
on Page 47**

## St. Martin's Parish News and Notes

• **New Website!** – St. Martin of Tours Parish launched its new website this spring. The website's content is available in English and Spanish and is compatible with mobile devices. Check it out at [www.stmartinsweb.org](http://www.stmartinsweb.org).

• **Parish Field Mass and Picnic** – The parish will celebrate mass on Sunday, June 4 at 12pm under a big tent on Fr. Meyer Field. Following the mass, parishioners are invited to stay for delicious food and enjoy an afternoon of community, fun, and games for young and old. Don't miss this special parish celebration!

OPT

### St. Martin of Tours Parish

201 South Frederick Ave.  
Gaithersburg, MD

**Fr. Richard Gancayco**  
Pastor

301-990-3203

**St. Martin School**  
**Anthony Sahadi**  
Principal

301-990-2441

**Catherine Cooksey**  
Parish Editor  
240-477-8706  
[www.smsmd.org](http://www.smsmd.org)

# St. Martin's Catholic School



## Class of 2017

**Bethesda-Chevy Chase**  
Bianca Sanchez Delgado

**Covenant Life**  
Lindsey Bruno

**Clarksburg**  
Patricia Guillen  
Ashley Kharbanda  
Frederick Stamper

**Gaithersburg**  
Erika Ryan  
Nathalya Lozano  
Elizabeth McMillin

**Georgetown Prep**  
Aaron Milton  
Myles Reid

**Lake Norman**  
Jack Garner

**Our Lady of Good Counsel**  
Nicole Fernandez  
Kaitlyn Matsko  
Kristofer Orantes  
Juan David Silva Guerra

**Poolesville**  
Sarah Lehrman

**Quince Orchard**  
Grace DiMartini

**St. John's Catholic Prep**  
Sara Blanco  
Camila Hoyos  
Skyla Sarmiento

**The Avalon**  
Noah Azomme  
Duga Gang  
Kingsley Layne  
Charles Martins  
**Undecided**  
Sujjal D'sa



**Principal: Anthony Sahadi**

**Pastor: Fr. Richard Gancayco**

**115 S. Frederick Ave. Gaithersburg, MD 20877**

**[www.smsmd.org](http://www.smsmd.org)**

**Phone: 301-990-2441**





Most Rev. Bishop Mario Dorsonville conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation of 88 young people of the Shrine of St. Jude on March 25. Pictured with the Confirmandi are Bishop Dorsonville, Fr. Paul Lee, pastor, and Fr. Bob Kosty, senior priest. Photo by Tom Roach



#### Shrine of St. Jude Sodality Sponsors Parish Anniversary Breakfast

Three Shrine of St. Jude couples celebrating 25+ years of marriage this year attended a very special Anniversary Mass on Sunday, April 23. Afterwards, Our Lady of the Wayside Sodality treated them to a delicious breakfast in Madigan Hall where Fr. Bob Kosty joined them and wished them many blessings for many more years together. Pictured from left to right at the Anniversary Mass are Steve and Anne Quillen, married 25 years, and John and Carolyn Naughton, married 60 years. Not pictured are Rafael and Oliva Orellana, married 40 years. Photo by Tom Roach

#### SJRCS at Maryland Advocacy Day

On March 2, the St. Jude seventh grade traveled to Annapolis to join a host of other non-public schools to advocate for support from the state's lawmakers. St. Jude – as well as many other Catholic schools – benefits from the Nonpublic Aging Schools Grant, Nonpublic Textbook

Program, and the MD BOOST scholarship. During the visit, the seventh graders were fortunate enough to be greeted by Governor Larry Hogan, who gladly agreed to take a selfie with the students. Pictured with Governor Hogan are Maggie Young, Nagomi Myers, Angelica Braswell, Mateo David, James Weiksner, Nico Abreu, and Mr. Glenn Benjamin, principal of St. Jude Regional Catholic School.



## Welcome to the Lord's Table!

**O**n Saturday, May 6, the Shrine of St. Jude celebrated the 130 young people who took another step in their Christian Initiation with the Sacrament of the Eucharist. We welcome these young people to the Table of the Lord. Photos by Tom Roach.

Gemma Barish, a second grader at St. Jude Regional Catholic School, is pictured with Fr. Paul Lee after receiving the Eucharist for the first time at the Shrine of St. Jude on Saturday, May 6.



Fr. Paul Lee, pastor, Fr. Bob Kosty, senior priest, and Deacon Nick Scholz, all from the Shrine of St. Jude, are pictured with a group of First Communicants on Saturday, May 6.

Fr. Shaun Foggo and Deacon Nick Scholz pictured with some of the First Communicants on Saturday, May 6.





# My Life as a New Missionary in Austria

By Christine Saab, Shrine of St. Jude

Growing up in the Catholic faith, I would hear the term "The Universal Church" all the time, but I never fully understood the depth of the meaning. Since joining the Sts. Cyril and Methodius Center for Evangelization (CMC) in Gaming, Austria, this past January, I feel a personal connection to the rest of the Catholics in the world and have been immersed in the culture of the Eastern Rite. The CMC envisions the renewal of faith and the building of life – especially in Central and Eastern Europe – through sound theological and spiritual formation of young people. The commitment is a year a half, with a semester of training and a year of mission. The CMC provides formation and training to new missionaries to support the work of evangelization in places where Communism persecuted so many Christians.

The first part of the program was solid formation with several classes: Teaching English as a Foreign Language, Scripture, Catechetical Mystagogy, Apologetics, and Evangelization. The other missionary and I also lead a Bible Study each week and have the opportunity for daily Mass, weekly confession, and community prayer. The community is an integral part of the training because we live alongside 14 different students from Indonesia, Slovakia, Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, China, Georgia, and Kosovo. We go on hikes, weekend trips, watch movies, and have game nights. Each one of them is here on scholarship to the Language and Catechetical Institute to learn English, and many are here to learn the faith so that they can help their own Church communities in sharing the faith. I hear personal accounts of what it's like to not be able to profess one's faith freely, and how the aftermath of Communism has led to broken families and no hope. Learning English gives young people more opportunities in their countries, and more resources when it comes to learning about Catholicism. I was so blessed to watch the students grow in confidence in both English and their faith.

After some formation, missionaries are sent on short-term missions. The first mission site was

*Continued on page 59*



Christine (far right) along with fellow missionaries Joe, Milana, and Kolbe planning the layout of their Catechesis talk at a school for the deaf and the mute in Albania.



Christine (center) with the young people of Lezhe, Albania, who gave her and other missionaries a tour of the town and showed them pilgrimage sites.



Principal: Mr. Benjamin

Pastor: Father Lee

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES OF 2017!



**We are . . . St. Jude!**



**Karen Barrios**  
*Richard Montgomery High School*



**Mikayla Basso**  
*Clarksburg High School*



**Aaron Belmonte**  
*St. John's College High School*



**Caroline Bloodgood**  
*The Academy of the Holy Cross*



**Chloe Coursey**  
*Our Lady of Good Counsel High School*



**Bianca David**  
*The Academy of the Holy Cross*



**John Gibbins**  
*St. John's College High School*



**Yonathan Gonzalez-Villatoro**  
*Our Lady of Good Counsel High School*



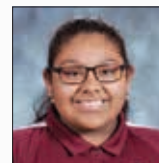
**Michael Jorda**  
*Our Lady of Good Counsel High School*



**Matthew Junghans**  
*St. John's College High School*



**Karina Lagrana**  
*The Academy of the Holy Cross*



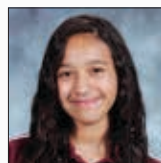
**Alexandra Lemus**  
*Rockville High School*



**Miyoko Liotta**  
*Our Lady of Good Counsel High School*



**Brian Nakamura**  
*St. John's College High School*



**Alyssa Navarra**  
*St. John's College High School*



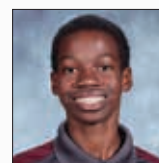
**Lydia Quinteros**  
*The Academy of the Holy Cross*



**Carlos Ramirez**  
*St. John's College High School*



**Mary Sheetz**  
*The Academy of the Holy Cross*



**Joshua Simpson**  
*St. John's College High School*



**Rosemary Sui**  
*The Academy of the Holy Cross*



**Colin Kai Valcarcel**  
*St. John's College High School*



**Antonio Vincent**  
*Archbishop McCarthy*



**Angella Vizcarra**  
*Don Bosco High School*



**Cecilia Walker**  
*Richard Montgomery High School*



**Christine Welton**  
*The Academy of the Holy Cross*



**Tynesha Williams**  
*Wheaton High School*

### Shrine of St. Jude Parish

12701 Veirs Mill Road  
Rockville, MD

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301-946-8200

**St. Jude Regional Catholic School**  
**Mr. Glenn Benjamin, Principal**  
301-946-7888

**Maureen Martin,**  
OPT Editor  
MaureenCMartin@verizon.net

[www.StJudeRockville.org](http://www.StJudeRockville.org) • [MainOffice@StJudeRockville.org](mailto:MainOffice@StJudeRockville.org)



## Prayer Buddies Encourage First Communicants

Although the first Friday in May was chilly, wet and gloomy outside, inside Saint Andrew's, the All - Purpose room was warm, cozy and filled with happy sounds as the second graders, a day before making their First Communion, met their "prayer buddies." For a second year the class reached out to the parish Seniors Group to be their prayer buddies. The student and his/her buddy stayed in contact via notes: students described what he/she was learning in sacramental preparation and the seniors wrote back with words of encouragement and assurance of prayerful support. Students



God Bless Saint A's First Communicants, Class of 2017



Happy Buddies smile for the camera

were invited to the seniors' monthly breakfast where the Buddies met each other in person. The students sang to the seniors, enjoyed donuts and juice and were given Communion gifts to remember the relationship they share.

On May 6, they received their First Holy Communion in a beautifully reverent ceremony. In song, the children prayed to become a "Sanctuary" for the Eucharist. Following Mass, Father Leary and Monsignor Hart conferred a blessed scapular on each Communicant. It was another unforgettable step in their sacramental journey.

### Fruits of Our Labor

Members of the Saint Andrew's Mission Team at Jacobs Ladder, Moneague, Jamaica, April 22-29 are shown with residents in front of one of the recently completed new homes. Another team made the trip May 6-15. With generous support from the parish community and much "sweat labor" from team members, the parish continues to support Mustard Seed Communities in their mission to provide adequate housing and sustainable agriculture to those with physical and mental challenges.



### Happy Easter Baskets

Thank you to the Student Government Association of Saint Andrew Apostle School who led the effort to gather donated toys, games and coloring activities and fill sixty - three Easter Baskets which were delivered and distributed to the patients at University of Maryland Children's Hospital.



## School News and Parish Notes

- Congratulations to the young men and women of the parish who were Confirmed by Cardinal Donald Wuerl May 12.
- Thursday, May 18, at 7:00 pm the parish will host a Blue Mass in honor of all First Responders, living and deceased, who have dedicated their lives to serving our communities. All are welcome to join us in the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist as we show our appreciation and pray for their protection through the intercession of St. Michael.
- Congratulations and God Bless our Eighth Graders who will graduate June 9.

OPT

### St. Michael

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner



Parishioners enjoy the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner at St. Michael the Archangel Church.



The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner was offered as a thank you to parishioners for supporting the Knights of Columbus.



The Knights served pancakes, sausage, fruit, juices and a special apple cream cheese focaccia.

### St. Andrew Apostle Parish

11600 Kemp Mill Road  
Silver Spring, MD

**Rev. Daniel P. Leary,**  
Pastor

301-649-3700 ext. 311

**St. Andrew Apostle School**  
**Susan M. Sheehan, Principal**  
301-649-3555

**Back to School issue  
prints August 23**





At left, first communicants after Mass.

Bottom left, Mother and child lead the responsorial psalm

Bottom right, Communicants presenting the gifts to Fr. Calis



## First Communion

**T**hirty-two children received First Communion at the Noon Mass on Sunday, May 7. The children dressed in their finest clothes brought joy to the hearts of all present. In addition to receiving the sacrament, the children were active participants in the Mass. One child and her mother sang the responsorial song and four children brought up the gifts.

OPT

## Activities at SJN School to Inspire Young Minds

**M**any of the students at St. John the Evangelist School participated in our annual Poetry Night. From first through eighth grades, students recited poetry they have written or a poem that has long been a favorite or a newly discovered poem that caught their imaginations. On occasion, parents and other parishioners also contribute their talents. At the end of the evening, the students feel a sense of accomplishment and leave with a new appreciation of this form of expression.

Another opportunity for students to showcase their knowledge comes on History Day. Yearly, our fourth through eighth graders research an historical topic of their choice.

They prepare displays, some with hands-on activities, and make an oral presentation. On History Day, all of the other classes take turns going from display to display learning about important topics in U.S. History. Topics have included the Underground Railroad, the Silk Road, Women's Rights, and Chinese philosophy.

Later this month, our first and second graders get a chance to see their newly-acquired knowledge up close and personal. They have been studying the national monuments—what they look like and what they symbolize. Their bus tour will take them around the District of Columbia, making the pages they studied come alive.

OPT

**Have a great summer!**

**Back to School issue prints August 23**

**St. John the Evangelist Parish**

10103 Georgia Ave.  
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301-681-7663

**Rev. Joseph Calis**  
Pastor

**St. John the Evangelist School**  
Mrs. Margaret Durney,  
Principal

301-681-7656

**Monica M. Bradford, OPT Editor**  
bradfordsm2@comcast.net

**More St. John the Evangelist News on Page XX**



G. Andrade  
St. John's College HS



P. Bruckwick  
Gonzaga HS



E. Calcutt  
St. John's College HS



S. DeVol  
Gonzaga HS



S. Hagos  
Academy Of The Holy Cross



T. Hathway  
Georgetown Prep



## St. John the Evangelist CLASS OF 2017

**We Congratulate You!**

Rev. Joseph Calis, Pastor  
Mrs. Margaret Durney, Principal  
Miss Emily Pacconi, Eighth Grade Teacher  
Faculty, Staff, Parents & Students



C. Hathway  
Georgetown Visitation



E. Lalley  
St. John's College HS



R. McGovern  
Good Counsel HS



Coletha Digital



M. Mockridge  
Academy Of The Holy Cross



B. Mulholland  
Georgetown Visitation



P. C. Nandawula  
Don Bosco Christo Rey HS



Y. Negash  
Kennedy HS



M. Pineda  
Blake HS



Y. Tadesse  
St. John's College HS



B. Tichy  
Gonzaga HS



M. Torp  
Academy Of The Holy Cross



M. Wartack  
Good Counsel HS



## St. John the Baptist Sister Parish Project, Baradères, Haiti

**S**t. John the Baptist Catholic Church began a relationship with our brothers and sisters of St. Pierre parish in Baradères, Haiti in 1994. As a part of the Global Solidarity mandate in Catholic Social Teachings, SJB parishioners have sought to assist in supporting improved health, hygiene, and education in Baradères. The quality of life and future directions have significantly improved by this relationship. The educational achievements in remote Baradères have attracted the attention of the Ministry for Education in Miragoane and Port-au-Prince, the Prime Minister, and even the Papal Nuncio.

Over these past 23 years, the population of Baradères has grown from 30,000 to over 55,000. Baradères, once known as the bread basket of Haiti, went from being a thriving town in its prime to a desolate town plagued with malnutrition in children and the elderly, highly polluted water sources, and minimal medical resources. Because the road to Baradères is extremely difficult and

hazardous to travel, few Non-Governmental Relief organizations come to its aid. Today, there are fewer malnourished children and elderly, clean water sources, good hygiene practices, medical and dental resources, and a thriving high school located in the main area of Baradères. Less than 1% of high school students receive post-secondary education. The students at the secondary school, Collège St. Jean Baptiste (CSJB), are amazing. The national exam pass rate for students is 22%; CSJB students pass rate is 93 to 100%!

Parishioners often ask what happens to the CSJB student after graduation. From time to time we get an email or a note from them telling us of their progress and always thanking us for their high-quality education. During the 20th anniversary celebration, three CSJB graduates came to SJB for the festivities. One of them, Chandeaur Belanston, was a third-year seminarian at the time. We received word that he was ordained a deacon April 13, 2017. He sends the following letter.

OPT



Chandeaur Belanston is ordained to the diaconate.

## Celebration of sharing: a demonstration of faith, hope and love

By Rev. Mr. Chandeaur Belanston

**G**reetings to all of you!

Over twenty years ago, life was sadly difficult in Baradères. One of the biggest difficulties people in Baradères faced was very inadequate or no education opportunities. There was only one high school in the community and it could only accommodate approximately 20% of the students who came from the elementary schools. To continue after the 6th grade most children had to go elsewhere, often in Port-au-Prince where life is by far more expensive. (Imagine your 7th grader having to travel to New York to complete middle and high school.) Because of this, many students didn't continue after elementary school. For these students, the sky was always cloudy, the shadow of doubt hovered over their minds; it was difficult to foresee tomorrow on the misty horizon.

I and others witnessed this firsthand. We had doubts about our education after elementary school, until October 1999, when the Collège St. Jean Baptiste (CSJB) was opened with the support of Saint John's parishioners. It was like a beacon of light in the night of our anxieties; a breeze which allowed us to hold release our breath. Joyfully and proudly, we attended this high school, which we knew from the beginning, was going to be one of the best high schools in Haiti. Like the psalmist who praises the Lord for his favors, we also praise the Lord for his favors.



Deacon Chandeaur Belanston

We are very grateful to the parishioners of St. John who were and continue to be the instruments of God's love. We thank you all, especially the pioneers, the current and future supporters of this relationship of sharing. The time we spent at Collège Saint Jean Baptiste is engraved on our hearts and in our minds. In this school, we were well educated. In addition to this school, thanks to St. John's parishioners a lot of other projects have been

realized in Baradères. Seriously, you don't know what you have done for the community of Baradères; you have changed our lives. God knows and time will tell.

Truly, what the St. John parishioners did was an act of faith, hope and love. Through your love, we know that we are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be. All of this inspired us. By showing your faith, your hope and your love, you have evangelized, for evangelization is not only the proclamation of the Gospel but it is life changing.

I am happy to tell you that I was ordained a deacon on Thursday, April 13. Thank you for who you are for me. Thank you for the road we've traveled and will travel together. Happy Easter to SJB's clergy, to you, to the Sister Parish Project members, to the students of SJB, and to all the parishioners!

OPT



Chandeaur Belanston with his family.

**St. John the Baptist Parish**  
12319 New Hampshire Ave.  
Silver Spring, MD  
**Rev. Y. David Brault,**  
Pastor  
301-622-1122  
**Brian Blomquist,**  
Principal  
301-622-3076

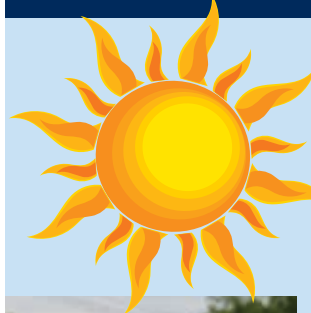
### More good CSJB alumni news!

**S**ome students have to travel out of Haiti to continue their education or vocational advancement. Even though they leave Baradères, their families and hearts remain. Some send money to support their families when possible.

One of our alumni, Pierre Richard Pierre, through his own pluck and very concerted efforts, has successfully settled into and is gainfully employed in New York City. He has a work permit and, amazingly, expects to get a green card soon. He attributes it to God's grace and the positive attitude that SJB instilled in him. He's looking forward for the opportunity to come down for a visit, to meet everyone and express his gratitude for the education he received at CSJB.

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### OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL HIGH SCHOOL



## 2017 Summer Programs

### ATHLETICS

Baseball	Soccer (boys)
Basketball	Soccer (co-ed)
Field Hockey	Softball
Football	Volleyball
Lacrosse	



### EXPLORE SCIENCE CAMP

Robotics	Programming
Drone Racers	Lab Science
STEM	



### FALCON SUMMER ARTS

Children's Choir & Art
Digital Video Production
Jazz Band
Musical Theatre Training Program



OUR LADY  
of  
GOOD COUNSEL  
HIGH SCHOOL

Learn more at  
**olgchs.org/camps**



## St. Martin of Tours



At top left: Congratulations to Fr. Gancayco on his Installation as Pastor! It was a beautiful Mass celebrated by His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl this past Saturday. It was followed by a wonderful reception. Our prayers for Fr. Gancayco will continue and we hope that the Lord will grant him all the help that he may need as he leads our parish. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School



Above, Freddie Stamper, Anne Cooksey, and Gabriel Amores represented St. Martin's School in the Archdiocese Honors Band. St. Martin's School has a successful band program consisting of both beginner and advanced bands. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School



At top right: Congratulations to 4th grader Enzo Bunag on being named a state of Maryland Semi-Finalist in the Mayor's Essay Contest sponsored by the Maryland Municipal League. There were well over 2,000 entrants, writing about their vision for a community center that would be inclusive of the many groups in our municipality. Well done Enzo! Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School



At bottom right, Ben Ramos of Boy Scout Troop 926 poses with Scout Master John Adzema and Charter Organization Representative Bill Redmond following completion of Ben's promotion to Eagle Scout. Two other scouts, John Paul Adzema and Daniel Collazo, were also promoted to Eagle Scout in the past year. Photo courtesy of the Ramos family



Christopher  
Aparicio



Alison  
Barry



Griffin  
Bossie



Ryan  
Brathwaite



Madeline  
Breeden



Aidan  
Brown



Ashley  
Campagnari



Nicole  
Campos-Vasquez



Damien  
Chu



Anna  
Cooper



Gabriel  
Diaz

2016-2017  
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND  
GRADE EIGHT



Victor  
Diokno



Aronke  
Fashina



Vincent  
Hall



John  
Hechinger



Principal  
Mr. Blomquist



Teacher  
Mrs. Morris



Teacher  
Mrs. Jenkins



Michael  
Hippchen



Paige  
Iser



Thomas  
Jenkins



Megan  
Kalita



Benjamin  
Mabie



Brady  
Mabie



Shola  
Oladotun



William  
Palmer



Christopher  
Park



Timothy  
Quinn



Christina  
Rivera



Tony  
Sigg



Felipe  
Tassara



Paul  
Thrasybule



Melanie  
Young



Katelyn  
Zelaya



## ST RAPHAEL

Con't from page 5

ers, and that Catholic schooling and turning to God was a saving grace during those difficult days for her and her family. It was after the accident that Molly first met the Pettey family—Magdalena and Patrick and their two other children (St. Bartholomew parishioners). Anticipating the meeting to be a sad event, Molly was amazed to see the Petteys smiling through their grief and speaking words of forgiveness toward the driver of the car that took the life of their son. Molly says the Pettey family's immense faith and mercy were the inspiration of her CBN essay and believed that this story of forgiveness needed to be heard. When the theme of essay contest was announced—the Catholic Church's Year of Mercy—it was clear that God had the same plan.

In her essay, Molly described numerous ways that the Petteys demonstrated incredible love and mercy. From immediately saying, "I forgive you," to the driver, to vouching for her not to be dishonorably discharged from the army and criminally charged by the state, the Pettey family wanted to help, not hurt, the person who caused the accident. Molly says in her essay, "This miraculous story of mercy changed my life and reminds me every day to be a more forgiving person." Molly's essay also earned her a scholarship toward next year's



**Molly May, first-place winner of CBN's annual essay contest, wrote about witnessing mercy firsthand.**

tuition at The Academy of Holy Cross, where she especially looks forward to developing reading and writing skills through language arts classes and learning more about Jesus in religion.

The Pettey family continues to spread the message of mercy by giving talks in Catholic churches and schools, and in the week after Divine Mercy Sunday, Magda Pettey visited SRS. She spoke to the middle-school students and encouraged them to persevere in doing good and in seeking the Lord's mercy and extending it to others. She shared that, like Molly, Dominik also won first place in CBN essay contest. In his essay, Dominik wrote about his Confirmation saint, St. John Bosco, and striving to emulate the saint's virtues of selflessness and charity by working to positively influence

the youth—a mission that seems to be continuously fulfilled as young lives are inspired and changed through the generous gift of mercy.

### Fond Farewell and Warm Welcome

After serving as pastor of St. Raphael Catholic Church for the last eight years—celebrating countless Masses and enriching our parish and school community with the sacraments and presence of Christ—Fr. James Meyers began his retirement after a final Mass this past March, concelebrated by our new pastor, Fr. Michael Salah. A standing ovation resounded the thanks from our hearts and expressed the fondness of our farewell from the many parishioners and families in attendance. At the reception held in the school building, the hallways decorated with well-wishing banners from the children spoke words of affection and appreciation for Fr. Meyers' stewardship. In recognition of the many stories that have been incorporated into Father's homilies over the years, Caitlin Stonesifer's third-grade class compiled a "Little Jimmy Meyers" memory book, where each student shared a story from their imagination of Fr. Meyers as a young boy. Many of these tales taught a lesson, as Fr. Meyers often reminded to "fight the good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith" (from 2 Timothy 4:7).

The St. Raphael community also extended wishes of gratitude and goodbyes to Fr. Francisco Aguirre,

our parochial vicar of almost three years, who now serves as administrator at St. Catherine Labouré in Wheaton. We are thankful for Fr. Francisco's service in the Lord and the abundant birthday blessings at SRS Morning Prayer. At the same time, we warmly welcomed Fr. Michael Salah from St. Catherine Labouré to St. Raphael, formally installed as pastor on the 100th anniversary of Fatima (May 13) by Cardinal Donald Wuerl. And, from St. John Neumann in Gaithersburg, we gladly greeted Fr. Dave Wells as our new parochial vicar. Grateful to God for all of our priests, we are St. Raphael, and we are blessed!

### The Joy of Spring

Spring is a time of rebirth and, for many children receiving sacraments, a time of spiritual renewal. The first weekend in May marked a joyful milestone for 95 children across St. Raphael parish who received the sacrament of First Holy Communion. An additional 116 were anointed and sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit at a Confirmation Mass celebrated by Bishop Mario Dorsonville. Thanks to all of the teachers, catechists, priests, and parents who helped prepare the children for this special moment in their faith journey!

And at SRS, spring is a time for friends, fun, and fundraising at SpringFest, where the school courtyard becomes a backyard bash with live music, delicious food trucks, silent and live auctions, and a corn-

hole competition. Many volunteers, sponsors, and participants made this night of community building possible. Spring also is a time for family, as SRS celebrated mothers with a Mass and light brunch. This tradition invites the school moms to spend a memorable morning with their children relishing the joy of motherhood. During Mass, we also crowned Our Blessed Mother, honoring Our Lady, Queen of May.

### Last but not Least

**May 23: St. Raphael Nursery School Picnic and Basket Raffle** closes out the nursery school year with a family picnic and popular basket raffle—tickets are now available for these fun-filled baskets, and proceeds benefit the preschool.

**May 25: Eighth Grade Graduation** and congratulations to 22 SRS Angels who will spread their wings and fly—we wish our graduates all the best in their studies and future endeavors!

**June 5: Father's Day Prayer Service** honors fatherhood with a prayer service and reception for SRS dads and their children.

**June 8: Field Day** continues our tradition of starting and ending every year with a party

**June 9: Closing School Mass** celebrates the end of the school year and start of summer break!

For more information about our school, visit our website at [www.straphaelschoolmd.org](http://www.straphaelschoolmd.org). Have a blessed and safe summer!

OPT

*I am a thinker, an athlete, an artist.*

## SUMMER AT HOLY CROSS

**Co-Ed Summer Enrichment** *Grades 7-8*  
**High School Placement Test Prep (HSPT) Course**  
June 19 - 23

*Morning Session:*  
8:30 am - 12 pm

*Afternoon Session:*  
1 pm - 4:30 pm

**Girls Robotics Camp**  
*Grades 6-8*

*Session 1:* July 10 - 14

*Session 2:* July 17 - 21  
8:30 am - 3:30 pm

**Girls Summer Sports Camps** *Grades 4-10*

Basketball, Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Volleyball

*Session 1:* June 19 - 23 • 9 am - 3 pm

*Session 2:* June 26 - 30 • 9 am - 3 pm

**Girls Soccer Camp with Coach Mastro** *Grades 7-12*

August 7 - 11 • 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

**Co-Ed Summer Stock Performing Arts** *Grades 6-11*

June 19 - 30 • 9 am - 3 pm

*Classes in:* Musical Theatre Dance, Musical Theatre Singing, Improvisation, Filmmaking, Acting

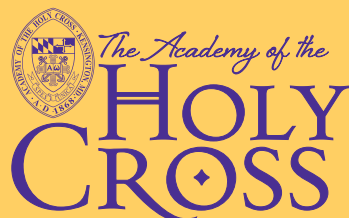
*Final Performance:* **Shrek The Musical JR.** \* Friday, June 30 at 7 pm

Based on the DreamWorks Animation Motion Picture and the Book by William Steig Book and Lyrics by David Lindsay-Abaire • Music by Jeanine Tesori • Originally produced on Broadway by DreamWorks Theatricals and Neal Street Productions • Original Production Directed by Jason Moore and Rob Ashford • "I'm a Believer" by Neil Diamond

\**Shrek The Musical JR.* is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.MTIShows.com](http://www.MTIShows.com)



**SHREK**  
THE MUSICAL JR.



All-Girls, Grades 9-12  
4920 Strathmore Ave, Kensington MD

[WWW.ACADEMYOFTHEHOLYCROSS.ORG](http://WWW.ACADEMYOFTHEHOLYCROSS.ORG)

For more information  
call 301-942-2100



## Small Group Instruction Makes a Big Difference for Students at St. Bart's

**R**esearch indicates better academic performance is the greatest benefit of small class sizes. With an impressive 9:1 student to teacher ratio coupled with a team of highly qualified educators, each student at Saint Bartholomew Catholic School receives the individualized support and challenges

they need to stay engaged and to reach their fullest potential. "What most people don't know is that our teachers meet every single day to review student progress; to identify what is working, what's not, and to plan accordingly," says Mrs. Digges, a middle school English and Reading teacher at St. Bart's.

Maintaining small class sizes (18 students in Pre-K to fourth grades and 23 in fifth to eighth grades), affords teachers more time to create lesson plans inclusive of all learning styles and to further break down flexible learning groups of three to five students. "Our kids come in at

*Continued on page 55*

## Hispanic Ministry Flourishes at St. Bartholomew Parish

**S**t. Bartholomew Parish, nestled in the heart of suburban Bethesda, is home to a vibrant Hispanic Ministry. The St. Bart's Hispanic Ministry has been serving Spanish-speaking local residents for decades. By 1984, Mass in Spanish was being celebrated regularly at St. Bart's. The Hispanic Ministry was organized in the mid-1990s. The current Coordinator of the ministry at St. Bart's, Hernan Oyarzabal, told OPT that, in the last 12 years, the ministry has grown and now includes a large volunteer



St. Bart's Fr. Tim Daniel greets children at St. Bart's Spanish Mass on Palm Sunday.

support group, leading to an average attendance of 180 parishioners at the 6:00 p.m. Spanish Mass every Sunday. Mr. Oyarzabal told OPT, "The Hispanic Ministry is a diverse and tightly bound group that includes numerous individuals from local diplomatic and multinational organizations and other groups."

The St. Bart's Hispanic Ministry is an integral part of the larger parish and the Spanish Mass, except for the language, is "exactly the same" as St. Bart's English

*Continued on page 59*

## Parish Hosts Father-Daughter Cherry Blossom Ball

*By Susan Hunt Freese*

**O**n Saturday, April 8, the Saint Bartholomew Parish Hall was transformed into a sparkling pink and white wonderland for the 14th annual Father Daughter Dance. Approximately 150 Dads, Granddads, and Daughters ages five to 15 danced the night away to DJ Bud Hall's great mix of music. They enjoyed a buffet of treats and had special portraits taken by photographer Duane Heaton.

The Ball has been a beloved tradition at Saint Bart's since 2003 when Nancy Travis proposed the idea of having a dance for the Parish girls and their fathers or special person. For the first thirteen years, the dance was held in January or February and was called the Snowflake Ball. Nancy taught countless Moms to decorate using



Crowd of Dads, Granddads, and Daughters packs the dance floor at St. Bart's Annual Father Daughter Dance. Photo by Frank Maguire.

white lights, tulle, glittering snowflakes, sheets, fake snow and white Christmas trees to create a magical scene. In 2016, the Snowflake Ball was snowed out and had to be post-

poned to April when it became the Cherry Blossom Ball. Organizers hope parish families will enjoy this special event for years to come.

**OPT**

## Spring Zing for High Energy St. Bart's Youth Group

**T**he St. Bart's Youth Group has been going strong this Spring, with activities including Mini Golf, service activities, SkyZone Trampoline Park, and Movie Night. St. Bart's Middle School Youth Group are sixth, seventh, and eighth graders interested in serving their neighbor, playing together, and getting to know Our Lord Jesus Christ. All are welcome! If you would like to learn more, please email John & Maria Archer at 32kaufmann@cua.edu.

**OPT**



St. Bart's Youth Group members take a break from the action at Skyzone Trampoline Park. Photo courtesy of Maria Archer

## St. Bart's Presents The Lion King

**D**isney's wildly popular musical, *The Lion King*, roared to life on the St. Bartholomew stage during the first weekend of May. After months of preparation, students sang, danced, and delighted the audience in an immersive production that included a hand-painted African Sunset backdrop. The musical tells the story of an orphaned lion betrayed by his uncle. It features popular songs like *The Circle of Life*, *Hakuna Matata*, and *I Just Can't Wait to be King*.

"The energetic music and the popularity of Disney make this a really exciting production for the students," said Musical Director Daniel Villar. The play was performed by fifth through eighth graders, with support from the fourth-grade chorus and a large crew of student artists and designers. **OPT**



Above, Angel Bryant as Rafiki, singing the *The Circle of Life*

Below, Sydney Schwenker sings and dances while playing Young Simba



## Kids vs. Adults on the St. Bart's Basketball Court

**T**here's nothing like a little competition to get a school excited, especially if there is a chance for kids to trounce adults. The annual eighth graders vs. teachers and parents basketball game packed the St. Bartholomew gymnasium on a recent Friday night. The lead



All eyes on the basket, as St. Bart's students take on parents and teachers

exchanged hands a couple of times, with eighth grade ending up on top.

"It was a good chance for teachers and their students, but especially parents and their children, to bond in friendly competition," said Father Tim Daniel. It was also a chance to showcase some real skills. Father Tim and eighth-grader Charlie Triandafilou both made half court shots during a halftime contest, leading Pastor Mark Knestout to make good on a promise to give a day off of school if two people succeeded in the challenge. Father Tim commented, "Although I did play basketball growing up, perhaps my guardian angel helped guide the shot so that the children could have

an extra day off from school."

**OPT**

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**More St. Bartholomew**  
**News on Page XX**





Women listen to presenters at the Women's Conference. This year's theme is "Occasions of Grace: Encountering God's Grace in Day to Day Family Life"

## Conference Enriches Women's Lives

In 1958, women of the Archdiocese of Washington formed a Council that serves as part of the National Council of Catholic Women, a group that was started in 1920 to support women's efforts to deepen their spirituality, develop leadership skills, and to encourage community service activities. They meet at least five times a year and their signature event is the Women's Conference scheduled this year for Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> beginning with registration at 7:30 and closing with the Rosary at 3:30. It will be held in the Pryzbyla Center on the campus of Catholic University of America, 620 Michigan Ave., N.E., Washington, DC. Admission is \$40.00 and more information is available at <http://adw.org/event/2017-archdiocese-washington-womens-conference/>

The theme of this year's Conference is "Occasions of Grace: Encountering God's Grace in Day

to Day Family Life". Resurrection Parish was the host of the conference in 2015 and Parishioner Sharon A. O'Brien is now President of the Archdiocese's Council of Catholic Women (ACCW).

As Conference planning member, Dr. O'Brien shared that the Conference highlight will be the internationally acclaimed keynoter and singer, ValLimar Jansen. She said, "ValLimar has an exceptional gift of making the Bible stories of our youth come alive with song and drama. Join us! You will want to experience her performance. It will deepen your understanding of oft-told Bible stories."

Other speakers include, Reverend William Byrne with the topic, *Encountering Grace in the Realities of Life*, Christina Lamas (en español) with *Encountering Grace in the Heart of Family Life*, and Michael Carotta with *Unexpected Occasions of Grace*.

OPT

## Eagle Scout Project Encourages Devotion

Only 5% of Boy Scouts advance to Eagle Scout. The Church communities that have them in their midst, benefit from the positive role model of being a Scouts - values of good citizenship, hard work, and self-reliance. Here at Resurrection we are blessed to have benefitted from the Eagle Scout Project that Vinnie Maltagliati undertook to create outdoor Stations of the Cross on the wide expanse of grounds in the shadow of the Church building. The newly constructed Stations of the Cross were blessed on Good Friday, April 14, 2017 with almost three hundred people praying on the beautiful grounds of the Parish. Vinnie held the holy water as Pastor Father Jeff Defayette led the people from Station to Station on the lawn, praying each accompanying prayer and then reading a separate prayer of blessing. The names of those who donated money and their intentions were also read aloud. Donors were Gwen Wilhelm, Deacon David and Arceli Sully, Susan and Tim



Parishioners praying at the new outdoor Stations of the Cross created by Boy Scout Vinnie Maltagliati

Quinn, Margaret Lliteras, Helene and David Stever, Kathy and Scout Ford, Terry Bork, Elaine and Bill Auld, Sally DeSavage, Dennis Sayre, Irene Mangus (Grandmother of Vinnie), Tomas and Sharon Sobotka, and Gary Mangus (Uncle of Vinnie).

Vinnie began the project in 2015 at the suggestion of Religious Education and Youth Ministry Director, Helene Stever. Parishioners who heard about the

project quickly donated money for materials. Beautifully colored metal tableaux of each station were fixed into stained wooden frames built by Vinnie and his Scout Troop #1444. Plaques with the names and intentions of the donors were placed below. With the help from adults Bill Auld and Paul Mangus, the large crosses fashioned from timbers were placed into holes dug with machines and cement was laid to secure them into place. The finishing touches were small solar lights at the foot of each cross illuminating the face of each station.

Vinnie is a rising Junior at Paint Branch High School and besides being very involved with Scouting, he is active in the Youth Ministry at Resurrection and is an Altar Server. He hopes to study engineering or psychology after high school but for now will continue to strive in Scouts, leading and mentoring the 100 members of his troop. Vinnie has created for his Parish family an immeasurable gift, enriching their spiritual lives for years to come.

OPT



Kelly and Richard Maltagliati proudly flank their Eagle Scout Vinnie Maltagliati

## Confirmation at Resurrection



Above, Resurrection Parish Confirmation Catechists Surround Bishop Higgins and Pastor Fr. Jeff Defayette



At right, Bishop Higgins searches for wisdom and knowledge from Resurrection Confirmation candidates.

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Parishioners at St. Francis took part in small groups, which met at church or in peoples' homes, to discuss Matthew Kelly's book, *Rediscover Jesus*.

## Book Brings Together Parishioners to Discuss Their Relationship with Christ

By Melissa Egan

For approximately 60 parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Lenten reflections did not center on giving up chocolate, wine or Starbucks this year, but taking the time to delve into a purple-covered book. The book, *Rediscover Jesus*, was the centerpiece of a new Lenten experiment, in which parishioners read and discussed the book by Matthew Kelly during weekly meetings over the 40 days of Lent. Eight groups of parishioners at St. Francis took part in the small groups, which met at church or in people's homes.

Anthony Bosnick, social concerns minister at St. Francis of Assisi, said the Archdiocese of Washington notified par-

ishes last year that it could provide them with free copies of *Rediscovering Jesus*, whose Australian author is an international speaker and business consultant. Kelly also founded The Dynamic Catholic Institute, a Cincinnati, OH-based non-profit organization whose mission is to re-energize the U.S. Catholic Church by developing resources inspiring people to rediscover their faith.

"We knew that Matthew Kelly's books are written in a popular style and he has a good reputation among those who have used them," said Bosnick, who requested 250 for St. Francis parishioners. "We found that to be true from our experience

*Continued on page 59*

## Dr. Ralph Martin discusses 'Challenging Times' for Catholics at Parish Mission

By Melissa Egan

In a wide-ranging lecture spanning two days, Dr. Ralph Martin argued that Catholics should strive for holiness everyday through prayer and rejecting sin – a journey made more challenging by a media-saturated culture and people's reluctance to change their lives. Martin, the president of Renewal Ministries, spoke March 24 and 25 at the Lenten Parish Mission at St. Francis of Assisi Church. With a theme of "Living as a Catholic during Challenging Times," Martin reinforced the ongoing quest for salvation that all Christians seek against the contemporary cultural landscape that is particularly hostile to Catholics.

Yet, his message to the more than 200 attendees remained largely positive. "Jesus doesn't want us to be paralyzed by fear," Martin said. "He wants us to feel privileged and invited to participate with him in the salvation of souls."

Interspersing his talk with personal anecdotes, quotes



Dr. Ralph Martin, the president of Renewal Ministries, spoke March 24 and 25 at the Lenten Parish Mission at St. Francis of Assisi Church.

need to objectively know His word."

In speaking about mercy, Martin relayed the Biblical stories of the prodigal son and the woman who was caught in adultery. While highlighting the forgiveness the father bestowed on his son and the compassion Jesus showed the woman, Martin pointed out that Jesus did expect repentance and a change in life. "It's a very grave thing to squander the grace of God," Martin said. "The Lord is merciful and patient, but if you keep rejecting the grace of God, you might find yourself in that darkness

*Continued on page 59*

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## New Digital Tools Provide Enhanced Ways to Engage with Infrequent, Active Catholics Alike

By Melissa Egan

The 21st Century has arrived at St. Francis of Assisi and it is hanging in the Gathering Space, displaying on tablets and pinging from smartphones. Over the past two months, the parish has rolled out two new communications vehicles — a redesigned web site and a digital information monitor — to provide a stronger parish identity to the public and improve communications with parishioners. While the parish has not yet gathered hard data on the impact of the tools, the anecdotal response from parishioners appears positive.

St. Francis of Assisi Fr. John Dillon was an early advocate of the "new media" communications tools, saying the church must present information through e-mail, texting, and digital tools, as well as through more traditional forms, to fulfill its mission. "Many people make extensive use of social media for communication," Fr. John said. "We need to plug into that if we are going to be a source of information for them to rely upon. When people have a question, we want them to find out the answer easily and simply."

The redesign of the web site came about after the parish's Build Up Our Church Committee — a working group of parishioners that convened in 2014 to identify ways to make a good parish great — identified an enhanced web site as a means to strengthen the faith community. A smaller subcommittee of parishioners with information technology expertise began meeting to develop the rede-

sign requirements. But the process kickstarted when Fr. Dillon decided in January 2017 to work with eCatholic, a web design, development and hosting firm based in College Station, TX. eCatholic provides customizable web templates and extensive customer support to help Catholic parishes build web sites. With the diligent efforts of a small group of parishioners and clergy, St. Francis launched the redesigned web site on March 27.

In the case of the information monitor, St. Francis applied for and received a \$4,000 archdiocesan grant, some of which was used to pay the cost of the information monitor and accompanying technological tools. It went live March 18. A newly hired part-time communications coordinator loads content on the information monitor each week, including new announcements, upcoming events and breaking alerts. Parishioners can also view photos of recent events on the information monitor.

Fr. John said parishioners have told him they like the information monitor and redesigned web site, commenting on the latter tool's appealing look and ease of navigation. On a personal note, Fr. John said he believes these tools — along with Flocknote, a texting and e-mail application that St. Francis recently began using — will help the parish engage with infrequent and inactive Catholics, as well as those who no longer practice their faith.

"I think the increased use of these vehicles will certainly strengthen the parish," he said.

OPT

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# A Joyful Celebration

By Gregory Locraft and Gerry Burgess

Our Lady of Mercy celebrated the Fiftieth Jubilee of Father Raymond Kemp's ordination to the priesthood during and after the 12:30 Mass on April, 30. Father Kemp has been remarkably loyal to Mercy, celebrating Sunday Mass here, for over two decades.

The celebration was joyful and faith filled. Father Kemp's sister, Sr. Carroll Ann Kemp, SNJM and his brother Paul Kemp were in attendance along with many other members of his family. Father Kemp was raised in a faith filled home where his parents attended daily Mass at St. Michael's in Silver Spring and by the fifth grade he knew that he wanted to become a priest. He attended high school at DeMatha and Gonzaga, where he graduated in 1959. He began his seminary education at St. Charles College in Catonsville, MD and transferred to St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, MD where he was awarded an AB degree in 1963 and an STL degree in 1967. The late Father Don Worch was a classmate of Father Kemp in the seminary.

After his ordination by Archbishop Patrick O'Boyle on May 6, 1967, his extensive service to the Archdiocese of Washington began with a summer assignment as a counselor at Camp St. Florence and was followed by assignment in Washington at St. Augustine Parish where he eventually served as Pastor. He also served as Pastor of Holy Comforter- St. Cyprian Parish. In 1981 Cardinal Hickey assigned him to be Secretary of Parish Life. In 1982 he became a Senior Fellow of the Woodstock Theological Society where he concentrated on two major programs, "Faith in the City" and "Preaching the Just Word."

In the past, he has served the city of Washington as a member of DC's Elected Board of Education, and was on the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of

Columbia. He was also a founder of the 14<sup>th</sup> and U Street Coalition and was on the Board of Directors of the DC Central Kitchen.

Today he serves on the DC Mayor's Interfaith Council, the DC Special Olympics Board of Directors, and is a DC Community Fellow in the Georgetown University Center for Social Justice. He is also Special Assistant to the President of Georgetown University as well as an Adjunct Professor of Theology who teaches "The Church and the Poor" and "Struggle and Transcendence". He is a thesis advisor for Peace and Justice Studies and American Studies.

When the celebration of the Jubilee Mass began, Father Kemp noted that there was an empty chair on the altar. It was a beautiful gesture meant to include Father Don in the ceremony and it felt as though Father Don was with us in spirit.

Mercy's former pastor, Monsignor Bill English offered some very moving words about Father Kemp and Father Worch. He spoke about "the high extrovert" (Father Kemp) and the "high introvert" (Father Worch). Monsignor's words painted a clear portrait of two very different people. He said, "Both Father Don and Father Ray are called Father because God has chosen to use them as our spiritual father. God has given them different gifts and then God used these gifts to love us and help us grow in openness to God and to our brothers and sisters everywhere. God has used both of them through their shared priesthood to serve us and the larger church."

After the Mass, the celebration continued in the school gym, where the members of the Hospitality and Sodality committees did a fantastic job creating a very attractive setting for the delicious luncheon which featured many different kinds of sandwiches, orzo, and salad. There was a choice of three cakes including Father Kemp's favorite, carrot cake.

OPT

## Mrs. Green Selected as 2016 MEGGY Award Recipient

Maryland Educators of Gifted Students has selected Mercy's own Mrs. Green as the honored recipient of the 2016 MEGGY Award for her distinguished performance in the category "Learning Environment Opportunities/Programming for Demonstrating Academic and

Creative Talent."

This award recognizes exemplary commitment and contribution to the field of gifted and talented education, and to highly able students in the state of Maryland. Here is what makes this award truly special: Mrs. Green was nominated by a former Mercy parent, with supporting letters of commendation from many other parents whose children were the beneficiaries of her outstanding efforts over a period of many years.

Mrs. Green has been relentless in her work to create an environment of academic excellence for all students who pass through the doors of Mercy. And her passion for creating the Extensions Program has enabled students of all ages to benefit from a long list of challenging and creative extra-curricular programs.

OPT

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Fun competition at Mercy's annual Special Olympics basketball game!

## Spring Happenings

Grandparents' and Special Visitors' Day offered grandparents, relatives and special guests a chance to share part of their loved ones' school day. The annual event, which was held on Friday, May 5, featured classroom visits with the children, a concert by students and a school Mass.

The 2017 Annual Party held on March 10 was a big success! Proceeds from the event, including

live and silent auction, sponsorships, and ticket sales totaled over \$54,000!

Our eighth-grade Special Olympics basketball game held on March 30 raised over \$1,000 for Special Olympics of Montgomery County. All of the athletes brought their enthusiasm and fought hard in a competitive game!

OPT

## Congratulations Class of 2017!

We are sad to say goodbye to our very special class of eighth graders, but know that they are well-prepared for the next phase of their lives as they enter high school. For the third year in a row, 100% of Mercy's high-school bound students have been accepted to their first-choice high school. This is a significant accomplishment and a reflection of the hard work and commitment of the students and the staff.

OPT

## School Ends and SCAMP Begins

SCAMP (Summer Camp at Mercy Parish) will take place during the week of June 19 to 23. This day camp has been a part of Mercy's summer events for nearly thirty years. Campers are children age five to nine from parishes in Southeast Washington DC. The program is an important part of the summer for the many counselors who volunteer. They make sure that the campers get plenty of one on one attention and that they have fun at camp.

OPT

## Mercy's Student Council: Learning to be Leaders

Each week, the Mercy Student Council attends a meeting hosted by the school Executive Committee. During the meetings, the students select projects, plan all aspects of each project, and determine the best way to execute the event. This is a valuable, hands-on learning experience in leadership. They have walked the journey from brainstorming to execution and handled the challenges in-between. The students are empowered to do all of the work, with only guidance from teachers and staff. In addition to the eighth-grade dance, the Student Council has taken on the following projects:

Planning the spirit events for Catholic Schools Week and work-

ing with Mrs. Green to incorporate their ideas into the schedule of events.

Writing thank you letters to our Annual Fund donors, showing an active role in expressing gratitude to all those who support Mercy.

Working with the MPTO President to recruit numbers for the Giant A+ program. The students spoke to members of Walking with Purpose and Election Day voters, helping to grow participation in the program by 33%!

At Mercy, being a Student Council member is more than having a title. It is having responsibility to support the Mercy school mission and develop true leadership skills along the way.

OPT

## Mercy Athletes on the Track and in the Pool

Mercy's 2017 CYO Track & Field team is off and running! Our 33 athletes had outstanding results in the first three meets of the season. In the most recent meet on April 9 at Walter Johnson HS, sixteen Mercy students placed in the top five in their

events, and the team came home with thirteen first-place finishes!

The Mercy Swim team saw several records fall in the 17th annual Middle School Swimming Championships at Holton-Arms on Jan. 28. The Mercy team, the largest

Continued on page 63



Mercy fifth-grade students celebrate International Day

## International Day

Mercy's fifth-grade class celebrated International Day in a big way this year!

After spending weeks researching the history, geography, and culture of other countries, the students transformed the school cafeteria into a "Hall of Nations". They displayed their knowledge on tri-fold boards, dressed in the traditional clothing of their countries, and presented interesting facts about their country to parents and fellow students. After the event, the students sat down and enjoyed a meal of traditional dishes from all of the countries they had studied. A feast they truly earned!

OPT



## *“Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” — Matt. 28:19*

One of the main roles of Catholic schools in the United States has been to provide parents with a strong partner to help them prepare their children well for the sacraments. Traditionally, when we think of Catholic schools we imagine 2<sup>nd</sup> graders making their First Holy Communion and middle school students being Confirmed. This year at Saint Francis International School, 36 students have made their First Confession and received the Eucharist for the first time and stu-



Franciscan Chris Posch, pastor of St. Camillus Church, baptizes an SFIS student at a school mass.

dents in 8<sup>th</sup> grade will be Confirmed on May 20<sup>th</sup> at St. Camillus Church.

At Saint Francis International, over the last seven years the school has also become actively involved in helping parents prepare their children for the sacrament of Baptism. Sometimes, parents ask the school for help with Pre-K or Kindergarten students who weren't Baptized for any number of reasons when they were infants. Other times, students in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade or higher will come to their parents or their teach-

ers and express their own desire to be Baptized; this is how the first Baptism in the school community occurred. Over the last few years, about 50 SFIS students have been Baptized at school masses.

This year, the SFIS community was thrilled to have its largest group ever as 13 children were Baptized at the first school mass during the season of Easter. This important work of welcoming children deeper into our faith and helping parents prepare their children to receive the Lord's grace is the most fundamental ministry that any Catholic community do!

OPT

## Seeking understanding beyond the walls of our Church

Saint Francis International School has a lot of unique elements. One of those elements has to do with religion within the school community and how the school deals with religion beyond the school community. This year, we have seen Pope Francis travel to Sweden to pray with the leaders of

the Lutheran Church and to Egypt to pray with leaders of the Coptic Orthodox Church. While the vast majority of members of the SFIS community are Catholic, there is a significant presence of Protestant and Orthodox Christians (about 20%) among the students and staff.

This diversity means that during Lent, the SFIS nutrition program not only worries about making sure students can follow Catholic fasting and abstinence practices at breakfast and lunch, but also that Ethiopian Orthodox students can pursue their own, often stricter, Lenten fasts. It also means SFIS is blessed to have numerous faculty and staff members who are Lutherans and not only bring their spirituality to the community, but also bring the wisdom, experience, and professional training of the Lutheran parochial school system. This ecumenical diversity enhances SFIS and is a practical step towards Jesus' prayer "that all may be one!" (John 17:21).

SFIS is also taking concrete steps to reach across more complicated religious lines. During Lent this year, Passover and Holy Week overlapped, so SFIS made an effort to make connections with the Jewish



SFIS students visit a Jewish cemetery to make connections between Christians and Jews.



SFIS 5<sup>th</sup> graders made a pilgrimage to the Oblate Sisters of Providence motherhouse to learn about vocations and to pray at the tomb of Servant of God Mother Mary Lange.



The SFIS choir provided the music ministry for Cardinal Wuerl's Easter TV Mass from the National Shrine on DCW50 and CatholicTV.org this year.

community. Over the last few months, Jewish cemeteries across the US have been hit with vandalism, so the 7<sup>th</sup> grade students from Saint Francis International took a walking field trip to a Jewish cemetery near their campus. Students spent time meditating on the tradi-

tional Stations of the Cross, which end with Jesus being buried in a Jewish tomb, and the next day the students walked to Mt. Lebanon Cemetery and heard presentations about various religions' burial practices and about the connections between the Jewish Passover and the events of the Christian Holy Week and the Resurrection. On the way back from the cemetery the SFIS 7<sup>th</sup> graders cleaned up garbage along Adelphi Road and New Hampshire Avenue.

On Holy Thursday, a long time Jewish friend of SFIS, Jane Pinczuk of the Music in Me Foundation International, with the help of donations from ShopRite of White Oak Supermarket and RCL Benziger Publishers prepared and led the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in a traditional family Passover seder meal. As the students, many of whom were preparing for First Communion and Confirmation, participated in the Jewish rituals connections were made with elements of the Catholic faith as well as with the theme of "freedom."

Later this spring, SFIS hopes to have students learn about St.

Francis of Assisi's meeting with the Sultan of Egypt 800 years ago alongside students from a nearby Muslim school. This summer, Saint Francis International School will partner with St. Camillus Church and the Little Friends for Peace to offer a weeklong Peace Camp that will bring together children from the parish and school communities along with children from neighboring Protestant and Muslim communities to learn about finding peace in themselves and building peace in their families, classrooms, and neighborhoods!

OPT

### St. Francis International School

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

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# Confirmation and First Communion at Mother Seton Parish



First Communicants with Fr. Lee, Fr. Santiago, deacons and catechists.



Bishop Kneestout with Confirmandi.



First Communicant's participation during homily.



Bishop Kneestout anoints student at Mother Seton Parish.



Receiving Holy Communion.

By Dominique Seraphin

**O**n April 28, Mother Seton Parish was proud to have 100 students received the sacrament of Confirmation. The students spent the year preparing by praying, attending class and had two wonderful retreat experiences. Bishop Barry Kneestout presided over the Confirmation Mass and

asked the students a variety of questions on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, their readiness to become true followers of Christ and even why they chose their particular saint names. Our parish community prays that these young people will truly allow the gifts of the Holy Spirit to set their hearts on fire for love of Him.

On May 6, Mother Seton Parish was proud

to have 130 students received the sacrament of Holy Communion. The students spent the year preparing by praying, attending class having a reconciliation retreat and a Holy Communion retreat. We had two Masses for First Communion, one Mass at 10:00am and a bilingual Mass at 2:00pm, both Masses included students from Mary of Nazareth School, and our religious education pro-

gram. First Communicants participated in the Mass by being lectors, reading the prayers of the faithful and bringing the gifts. Our pastor, Fr. Lee Fangmeyer presided over both Masses and preached directly to the children during the homily, we pray that our first communicants remain close to the Eucharistic heart of Jesus.

OPT

## Daughters of Mary Breakfast

By Joan Gerard

**T**he Sodality sponsored, Daughters of Mary Breakfast, was held on April 30 at the Holiday Inn, Gaithersburg. This annual event is held each year to honor Mary, Our Blessed Mother. Andrea Roane, Channel 9 noon News Anchor and Health Reporter was the guest speaker this year. She spoke about her Catholic upbringing and told the story of her becoming a reporter. She also shared

important information on breast cancer awareness.

The 170 women and children in attendance also entertained by Rock Creek Dance Academy Students under the direction of owner Christina Prete. Christina choreographed and danced with her students to the song "Ave Maria."

OPT



Above, Christina Prete and Rock Creek Dance Academy students dancing to "Ave Maria".



At left, Mother Seton Sodality with Andrea Roane

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## CTK Parishioner on Kojo

Christ the King parishioner Liz Matory participated on a panel for WAMU's "The Kojo Nnamdi Show" taped at the Silver Spring Library Tuesday, May 9, then aired on Thursday, May 11, from 12-1 pm (the radio show's regularly scheduled broadcast time).

Initially it was to be an audience/town halls but developed into a panel with local political "stars" along with the

town-hall audience. Liz Matory is a former Congressional candidate for Maryland District 8 (2016 primary) and candidate for the Maryland General Assembly to be a Delegate from Legislative District 18 (2014 primary). She was joined by Jonathan Jayes Green, a Democrat community organizer and co-creator of UndocuBlack, and Armando Trull,



Liz Matory speaking before the audience.

WAMU's reporter for race and ethnicity.

The panel participated as a community conversation on how national debates on illegal immigration are affecting our local communities. This topic was to be one that brings out a lot of different opinions which WAMU worked to make sure would highlight the event as one of political and ideological diversity. The panel members

were ones that have discussed illegal immigration and sanctuary city issues for this region from all political perspectives, a conversation developed to have in order to truly challenge the WAMU audience. WAMU is found at 88.5FM and is the American University Radio, and is Washington DC's NPR station.

OPT

## Notice the New Location

By Katie Holland, Parish Editor

Now that Planned Parenthood has moved out of Silver Spring, the prayer group that formed each Saturday (for its closure) gathers each Saturday now with the Proverbs 24 group at Holy Name Church

in Washington, DC with Fr. Bill Carloni and Msgr. Charles Pope. The local contact is Teresa Yao. Everyone is welcome.

OPT

### Upcoming Events

- The Parish First Holy Communion Mass will be held 10am on Saturday June 17.
- Confirmation will be 7pm Friday June 23.

## INSTRUCTION

Con't from page 49

varying reading levels and with many different learning needs and styles. Our teachers work incredibly hard to get to know each individual student's strengths and areas for growth, to design a plan for their success, and work to help them achieve, whether they come in below grade level or above. I'm proud of our students, who embrace the learning opportunities before them, and work to make huge gains not only in reading and math, but also in critical skills such as executive functioning, organization, and problem solving," says Mr. Lamont, school principal.

"Our son struggled with ADHD and learning disabilities in reading, writing, and math prior to coming to St. Bart's. They really embraced his learning differences and have bent over backwards to make sure he's get-

ting the EXTRA help he needs. Thanks to St. Bart's learning support programs, in less than two years of going to school here he's thriving and excelling in all subjects," exclaimed a current parent.

Another benefit of small class sizes? "A school like ours really gives children greater opportunities to express ideas and to take on leadership roles which they may otherwise not have in a larger setting. We really try to cultivate self-advocacy and confidence," says former St. Bart's parent and current fourth grade teacher Julia Constable-Allen.

If you know a child who could benefit from small class sizes, encourage them to check out Catholic schools. We are grateful for the leadership from the Archdiocese of Washington schools office, our clergy, teachers, and parents who have produced another successful year of Catholic school graduates.

OPT



Eucharist Ministers for the homebound, Art Lord and Chris Tan.

## Homebound

By Katie Holland, Parish Editor with Chris Tan

Two parishioners share the responsibility for distribution of Communion to those in area nursing facilities. On the first Friday of each month, Art Lord and Chris Tan attend the morning Mass at Christ the King followed by Eucharistic Adoration and then wind their way to Fox Chase Nursing and Rehab Center on East West Highway in Silver Spring. They bring Holy Communion to the Catholic residents. They go into each resident's room, read Scripture, pray, and then give the Eucharist. The joy of the residents at receiving this

spiritual help is evident.

Chris believes that the nursing facility is a treasure of the Parish. The residents unite their sufferings to those of Christ. And they all promise to pray for the Parish. Sometimes residents who are not Catholic, ask for a visit. Art and Chris chat with them and say some prayers. The staff will often stop to chat as well. This ministry may seem to be difficult because those visited are often in painful situations; but, in reality, it is full of joy. Art and Chris hope that more parishioners will consider this sharing in this ministry.

OPT

## Dinner Dance

The Lord Is My Shepherd Prayer Group will be holding a Spring fundraiser dance with dinner on Saturday May 27. It will be in the Msgr. John J. Dressel Colonial Room from 6:30pm until midnight at \$15 per person, with music by DJ Yo.

OPT

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Our Parish Times



# To Participate is to Win!

**P**articipate for the competition, participate for the exercise, participate for the camaraderie! For men and women ages 50 and above online registration is underway for the 2017 Maryland Senior Olympics at: <http://www.mdseniorolympics.org/registration.html>.

## 2017 MSO Event Schedule

May 18-19	Billiards, Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center, Silver Spring
June 17	Disc Golf, Druid Hill Park Disc Golf Course, Baltimore
July 29	Table Tennis, Potomac Community Center, Potomac
Aug. 12-13	Track & Field, Howard County Community College, Columbia
Aug. 19	Pickleball (singles), men and women, Meadowbrook, Ellicott City
Aug. 25-27	Pickleball (doubles), men and women, City of Bowie Gym, Bowie
Aug. 26	Volleyball, men and women, Meadowbrook, Ellicott City
Aug. 28-29	Bowling, Brunswick Normandy Lanes, Ellicott City
Sep. 2—5k	Run, Kentlands/Lakelands 5k, Gaithersburg
Sep. 6-7	Racquetball, Severna Park Racquet and Fitness Club, Millersville
Sep. 9	Badminton, North Potomac Community Center, Rockville
Sep. 7-10	Softball, Olney Manor Regional Park, Olney
Sep. 9	Horseshoes, Maryvale Park, Frederick
Sep. 9	Lawn Bowling, Leisure World, Silver Spring
Sep. 10	Shuffleboard, Leisure World, Silver Spring
Sep. 14-15	Tennis, Olney Manor Regional Park, Olney
Sep. 16	Swimming, Germantown Indoor Swim Center, Boyds
Sep. 16-17	Basketball, White Oak Community Center, Silver Spring
Sep. 17	10k Run, Sinai Race For Our Kids, Baltimore
Sep. 24	Archery, Genesee Valley Outdoor Learning Center, Parkton
Sep. 29-30	Bocce, Schweinhaut Senior Center, Silver Spring
Sep. 30-Oct. 1	Croquet, Ginger Cove in Annapolis and West River Wickets
Oct. 2	Golf, Laytonsville Golf Course, Gaithersburg



Employees celebrated Holy Cross Hospital's quality award

## Holy Cross Hospital Ranks High for Clinical Excellence and Patient Safety

*Among the Top 5 Percent of Hospitals in the Nation*

**H**oly Cross Hospital announced that it has received the Healthgrades 2017 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence, a designation that recognizes the hospital's superior performance in delivering safe, comprehensive, and consistent quality care across the broadest range of conditions and procedures.

This distinction places Holy Cross Hospital in the top 5 percent of hospitals for clinical excellence in the nation. Holy Cross Hospital was one of only six hospitals in the state of Maryland, and the only hospital in Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and the District of Columbia to receive this award.

"I am pleased that Holy Cross Hospital has been recognized as one of the top-quality hospitals in the nation," said Norvell Coots, MD,

president and CEO, Holy Cross Health. "This recognition reflects the dedication and commitment of our excellent staff and physicians to providing high-quality and safe health care services for all, while upholding our mission commitment to be the most trusted provider of health care services."

Healthgrades also awarded Holy Cross Hospital the Patient Safety Excellence Award for three years in a row – 2014, 2015 and 2016. The patient safety award recognizes hospitals that have prevented the occurrence of serious, potentially avoidable complications for patients during their hospital stays.

"Holy Cross Hospital has a daily commitment to high-quality, patient-focused care for our community," said Judith Rogers, president, Holy Cross Hospital. "We are proud to have earned this honor and recognition for our culture of quality and safety, and we are even prouder of all the doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and all other employees who are committed to consistently delivering excellent care for our patients."

OPT

**Select homes available**

## Maplewood PARK PLACE

**Declare Your Independence!**

**Self-Governance Means You Make the Decisions**

You will notice the difference at Maplewood Park Place because it is managed distinctly different than other communities. Maplewood is self-governed, run for residents, by the residents. Working hand in hand with a premiere management firm, the board is able to focus on the community's success from the only perspective that matters ... the residents.

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Unlike most communities, Maplewood residents own their own homes. In addition, there are several tax and financial benefits that you won't find anywhere else. With a wide selection of residences, which you can customize to suit your style, you'll find it easy to bring your treasured belongings with you — including your beloved pets!

Best of all Maplewood Park Place allows you to declare your independence by giving you the freedom to enjoy life and let our professional and caring staff take care of the details. Enjoy Maplewood's full calendar of lively events and social activities, as well as fine dining, indoor swimming & fitness center, workshop, on-site medical clinic — just to name a few of our services. Plus, on-site assisted living and skilled nursing — if and when you need it.

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## CFPB Takes Action Against Reverse Mortgage Companies

*Three Companies Cited for Deceptive Advertising*

In December, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) took action against three reverse mortgage companies for deceptive advertisements, including claiming that consumers could not lose their homes. The CFPB is ordering American Advisors Group, Reverse Mortgage Solutions, and Aegean Financial to cease deceptive advertising practices, implement systems to ensure they are complying with all laws, and pay penalties.

"These companies tricked consumers into believing they could not lose their homes with a reverse mortgage," said CFPB Director Richard Cordray. "All mortgage brokers and lenders need to abide by federal advertising disclosure requirements in promoting their products."

A reverse mortgage is a special type of home loan that allows homeowners who are 62 or older to access the equity they have built up in their homes and defer payment of the loan until they pass away, sell, or move out. The loan proceeds are gener-



ally provided to the borrowers as lump-sum payments, monthly payments, or as lines of credit. Homeowners remain responsible for payment of taxes, insurance and home maintenance, among other obligations.

Here is what CFPB wants you to know about reverse mortgages:

- It's a home loan, not a government benefit: there are fees and compounding interest. Just because it isn't paid monthly doesn't mean it won't be eventually repaid, just like other loans.
- The ads don't tell the whole story: they don't mention the fact that it is possible to lose

your home through foreclosure.

• A reverse mortgage doesn't take the place of a good financial plan: without a financial plan, consumers can outlive their money. Tapping into a home's equity too soon could mean running out of money a lot sooner than you thought.

Here's another reason CFPB is concerned: the number of reverse mortgages is likely to grow in the years ahead as Baby Boomers look to their homes in a desperate attempt to generate retirement income. CFPB cites studies showing 41% of Americans nearing retirement have no retirement savings but a majority – 74% – own homes with substantial equity.

The Mortgage Acts and Practices Advertising Rule prohibits misleading claims in mortgage advertising. In addition, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act prohibits institutions from engaging in deceptive acts or practices, including with regard to advertising of consumer financial products or services.

OPT

## Dementia-Friendly America Initiative

Montgomery County is expanding efforts to strengthen the respect, support and empowerment offered to individuals and families living with dementia. Last December, BrightFocus Foundation, a Clarksburg-

based nonprofit supporting Alzheimer's research, welcomed Montgomery County to help create a national network of communities called Dementia Friendly America. Since then, the County has strengthened its efforts – some of these may even become models for other communities. At the Dementia Friendly launch, County Executive Ike Leggett highlighted how the initiative is making Montgomery County an even more supportive and empowering community for people and their families who are experiencing dementia.

Through the work of over 35 national, leading organizations, the Dementia Friendly America initiative is catalyzing a movement to more effectively support and serve

those across America who are living with dementia and their family and friend care partners. The lead organizations represent all sectors of community and are collectively leveraging their national reach to activate their local affiliates, members and branches to convene, participate in and support dementia friendly community efforts at a local level.

BrightFocus Foundation, supports research worldwide to end Alzheimer's research, macular degeneration and glaucoma, and provides public awareness to families impacted by the diseases. The foundation is part of a broad coalition of nonprofit and business leaders that launched Dementia Friendly America, a national movement to create communities that better recognize, understand, and serve those Americans who are living with dementia.



OPT



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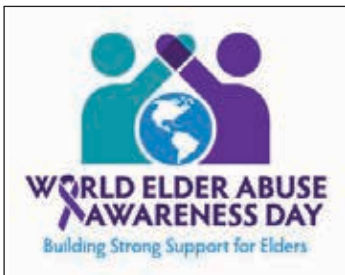


A FIVE STAR SENIOR  
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## World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is June 15

Each year, hundreds of thousands of older persons are abused, neglected, and exploited. In addition, elders throughout the United States lose an estimated \$2.6 billion or more annually due to elder financial abuse and exploitation, funds that could have been used to pay for basic needs such as housing, food, and medical care. Unfortunately, no one is immune to abuse, neglect, and exploitation. It occurs in every demographic, and can happen to anyone – a family member, a neighbor, even you. Yet it is estimated that only about one in



five of those crimes are ever discovered.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) was launched on June 15, 2006 by the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the World Health Organization at the United Nations. The purpose of WEAAD is to provide an opportunity for communities around the world to promote a better understanding of abuse and neglect of older persons by raising awareness of the cultural, social, economic and demographic processes affecting elder abuse and neglect.

WEAAD serves as a call-to-action for individuals, organizations, and communities to raise awareness about elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

With such a complex issue, there is only one way we can address it: united together. The Administration for Community Living (ACL), partnered with the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA), encourages individuals and organizations across our nation, states, and local communities to take a stand and to raise public awareness about elder abuse. Your voice can speak out against ageism, combat isolation, and bolster education efforts one person and community at a time.

Find the Tools & Tips you need to get started at: <https://aoa.acl.gov/>

OPT



## Age Out Loud! May is Older Americans Month

More than ever before, older Americans are working longer, trying new things, and engaging in their communities. They're taking charge, striving for wellness, focusing on independence, and advocating for themselves and others. What it means to age has changed, and Older Americans Month is a perfect opportunity to recognize and celebrate what getting older looks like today.



The Older Americans Month 2017 theme – Age Out Loud – was designed by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) to give aging a new voice, one that reflects what today's older adults have to say.

Amplify the many voices of older Americans and raise awareness of vital aging issues across the country during OAM 2017. Join ACL in promoting activities, inclusion, and wellness for older Americans in Montgomery County.

To find ideas and resources to help you bring older adults together with others in the community to learn, socialize, and celebrate in honor of Older Americans Month and the 2017 theme, Age Out Loud, visit: <https://oam.acl.gov/>.

OPT

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



**UCR Twilight Walk**  
**Bohrer Park**  
4:00PM Saturday, June 17



Event will be held rain or shine. Come prepared. (next to Gaithersburg HS) 506 S. Frederick Ave. Gaithersburg

Register at [www.ucresources.org](http://www.ucresources.org)



## DEDICATION

Con't from page 3

as the home of the new Lasallian Center for Mission and Ministry, just as the spiritual development of our students is the core of a Lasallian education. Also located in the Mona Center is the new Gene Morrill Blackbox Theater, a flexible performance space that will support our theater program and provide a venue for recitals, lectures and small concerts. In addition, the center includes the Ned Veihmeyer Student Lounge, named in honor of a 1939 graduate, and the Borger Promenade, a glass-enclosed walkway that links the new space to the main academic wing.

“Over the past 100 years, the school administration, teachers, coaches and Cadet Corps instructors all made positive impressions on me and 12 other family members, helping to make us the men



Guests mingled in the Borger Promenade, located inside the Cap Mona Family Student Center.

and women our parents were very proud to tell all were products of St. John's College High School,” said Cap Mona '61.

The Gletner Courtyard, which opened this spring, is a 17,500-square-foot renovated green

space that offers additional outdoor locations for academic use and for students to gather in fellowship. Located just outside the Mona Center, the courtyard also connects to the academic wing and the Donatelli Center, intertwining the new and existing parts of campus.

“I have been truly blessed with the ability to support institutions I feel made a difference in my life and the lives of countless others, past and present,” said Tom Gletner '84. “SJC provided a solid education, reinforced my family's traditional values, introduced an extra dose of discipline and strengthened my character. I am thrilled to support the mission that benefits so many other students and families.”

## MARTIN

Con't from page 51

from which it's very hard to come back.”

In discussing growing in holiness, Martin quoted St. Pope John Paul II, who spoke of “reconnecting with the spiritual wisdom of the Church.” A person's transformation through his or her spiritual journey is dependent on the grace of God, necessary, painful at times, but also, well worth the effort.

For people to grow in holiness, they should establish a routine of daily prayer, be attentive to the

Lord, and turn away from sins, large and small, Martin said.

For parishioner Gary Palmer, Martin's talks offered new insights that he doesn't usually consider on a day-to-day basis. “By effectively bringing in the saints and their experiences in how they reacted to things during their day makes it easier to react in a churchly manner to what does happen to you during the day,” Palmer said.

See videos of Dr. Martin's talks on the St. Francis of Assisi web site, [www.sfadw.org](http://www.sfadw.org), under Our Community → Explore Our Faith → Lenten Mission 2017.

OPT

## MATRIMONY

Con't from page 36

a concluding preparation for first-time Sacraments for most in the family as they all came into full communion with the church.

“RCIA every day brings spiritual enrichment because I was ignorant of the Sacraments of the church,” said Fernando. “I was spiritually empty and was looking to be filled with GOD, but did not know how... until I found SJN who embraced us

and our family.”

Liliana says that her life has changed dramatically because she is knowledgeable of the Holy Eucharist and is fortified with [our Lord's] body and blood. She now has the Holy Spirit, which has clarified her mind and heart...allowing her a life of peace and happiness which leads her to a blessed life together with her family.

The Galváns were five of thirty parishioners who received Sacraments of Initiation at our Easter Vigil Mass.

OPT



St. John's Swing Band performed in the Mullikin-Welch Band Room on the top floor of the Donatelli Center for the Visual and Performing Arts.

OPT

## MINISTRY

Con't from page 49

Masses. The catechesis for the preparation of the sacraments and the liturgy of the word for children strictly follow the guidelines set by the Archdiocese and are coordinated with English-speaking formation in the Parish. Mr. Oyarzabal advised, “The community as a whole is well structured, highly participative and motivated to evangelize. Social

programs, various prayer groups, and ministries exemplify the search, dedication, and commitment to living and spreading the Word.”

St. Bart's Fr. Tim Daniel told OPT that he has been very happy to celebrate Mass for the Spanish Mass “6:00 p.m. community” since last August. He noted St. Bart's participation in the Archdiocesan V Encuentro program, which is a national program of consultation among Spanish-speaking Catholic parishioners. St. Bart's has partici-

pated by running a Lenten retreat entitled “Encountering Christ,” and will continue with three other talks this month. Fr. Daniel will be giving a talk on evangelization and another on the spiritual life, while Celia Rivas, a Senior Paralegal from Catholic Charities, will present on advocacy for immigrants. His Excellency Bishop Mario Dorsonville will celebrate Mass for St. Bart's on May 21 with time for socializing and empanadas afterwards.

OPT

## BOOK

Con't from page 51

with them this Lent.”

Each small group that met had a facilitator, host and participants. The book, which is divided into 40 two-to three-page chapters, is written in an engaging, familiar style and provides readers with a point, verse, question and prayer upon which they can reflect. Participants also used a study guide adapted from other sources by the parish's Adult Faith Formation team, which helped guide discussions.

Bosnick said that anecdotal comments he has received from other participants have been very positive. “In the group I was in.....we found the small group very helpful in helping us remain faithful to a Lenten spiritual discipline, and participants felt that meeting people and sharing faith was a very positive experience,” Bosnick said.

OPT

## MISSIONARY

Con't from page 43

more of a cultural immersion and an opportunity to experience one Gypsy community in Slovakia. The other missionary and myself stayed with a Greek Catholic Priest and his family, and got to see his evangelization work with the Gypsies. In March, we sent a team to Lezhe, Albania, to teach English, give Catechism lessons, and to give a youth retreat on Chastity. Three hundred young people attended the retreat by invitation, which meant there were so many more youth eager to hear about Jesus! There were also 10-day mission trips in April in collaboration with the Franciscan University Students studying abroad. There are mission sties in Slovakia, Romania, and Hungary, but there are doors opening in other places like Albania.

These short-term missions help me to see the need to restore the Church in Eastern Europe even more, and help me see that these young people are thirsting for the richness of the faith.

With formation concluding in May, I feel completely inspired to share what I've learned. Bishops have started to invite us to mission sites, so it should be exciting to see where the Lord sends me next. None of this would have been possible without the many prayers and financial support from all my friends and family back home. Thank you for being a part of this journey with me!

If you would like more information, apply to be a missionary, or donate to the program, please check out <https://lciaustria.org/sts-cyril-methodius-center-evangelization/> and feel free to email me with any questions ([cesaah@email.msmary.edu](mailto:cesaah@email.msmary.edu)).

OPT

Saturday, June 17  
4:00 pm

UCR Twilight Walk  
Bohrer Park



Event will be held rain or shine. Come prepared.

(next to Gaithersburg HS)  
506 S. Frederick Ave.  
Gaithersburg

Register at [www.ucresources.org](http://www.ucresources.org)

QUESTION  
a b o r t i o n <sup>SM</sup>

Abortion rights activists promised us a world of equality and reduced poverty.  
A world where every child would be wanted.

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even more of the burden has shifted to women.

Question abortion. No law can make the wrong choice right.

Refuse to Choose® • Women Deserve Better®



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## Maryland Catholic Bishops Issue Statement on Human Trafficking

The Catholic bishops in Maryland issued a joint statement on human trafficking, and announced that the Catholic Church in Maryland will be sponsoring a series of information sessions throughout the state to address the issue. Human trafficking is often referred to as modern day slavery. Every year, thousands of men, women, and children fall into the hands of traffickers.

The statement from the Most. Rev. William E. Lori, Archbishop of Baltimore, Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, and the Most. Rev. W. Francis Malooly,

Bishop of Wilmington can be found at: <http://bit.ly/2oBLaRL>

The Maryland Catholic Conference represents all three dioceses with territory in the state – the Archdiocese of Baltimore (Central and Western Maryland), the Archdiocese of Washington (Montgomery and Prince George's counties and Southern Maryland), and the Diocese of Wilmington (Eastern Shore).

The Maryland Catholic Conference, the Maryland Human Trafficking Task Force, the Catholic Hospitals of Maryland, and Catholic Charities of Maryland's

(Arch)dioceses teamed up to sponsor the information sessions, in both English and Spanish.

In Montgomery County, information sessions will be held at:

St. John Neumann Mission Church, Annapolis

May 20, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (English)

May 27, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. (Spanish)

Saint Camillus, Silver Spring

May 21, 2:00-4:00 p.m. (Spanish)

May 24, 7:00-9:00 p.m. (English)

OPT

## Holy Redeemer



HR Class of 2017 Class Gift Presentation

## Class of 2017 Class Gift

HR's Class of 2017 will soon be graduating and heading off to High School. At our May Crowning on Friday, May 5, they unveiled their class gift—an inscription of "Hail Mary, full of Grace" on our Mary statue located in front of the school. Many parish-

ioners and neighbors stop by our statue each day to honor Mary, our Blessed Mother and this gift will be appreciated for many years to come.

You can watch the presentation by clicking this link <https://youtu.be/t22stzNwely>.

OPT

## St. John the Evangelist



### Easter Vigil

After months of preparation, two Catechumens and their sponsors receive applause after their Baptism from family and parishioners.



### Living Stations

The Eighth Grade class helped parishioners in their Lenten preparations by enacting the Stations of the Cross on March 31.

## SR. ROBERTA

Con't from page 1

of the assembly included the Third and Fourth Grade class singing a tribute to Sr. Roberta to the tune of "You are My Sunshine." Sisters received many creative gifts including a blanket with a photo of the staff and students in the shape of the number 50. The children also inserted a number of in-side jokes about penguins which Sr. Roberta is rumored to like.

Sr. Roberta has been a mainstay of our parish for over twenty-three years as Pastoral Associate and Director of Religious Studies. Sr. Roberta prepares the youth of our parish for First Communion



Sr. Roberta is presented with a blanket made by Miss Pacconi, a teacher at the school. The image on the blanket is that of the faculty, staff and children in the shape of the number 50.

and Confirmation while also pre-

paring adults to join the Church through our RCIA program. As a member of our liturgy committee, Sr. Roberta works closely with Fr. Calis to ensure that all of our liturgies are meaningful, prayerful experiences for all parishioners. She works well with our volunteer leaders and ensures that our parish offers a strong religious education for all of our children.

Sr. Roberta is also a welcome presence in our parish school where she greets the children every day and has developed special connections with the children, especially the Junior Kindergarten students. For these and so many other reasons, we are all blessed to have her in our lives.

OPT



Sr. Roberta with Sr. Doreen and the Kindergarten class at an assembly in her honor.

## Another "Space"-tacular Arts Festival Took Flight This Year

By Sharon Kennedy

April showers bring May flowers and HR's annual Joy in Our HeART Arts Festival.

This year Holy Redeemer found itself amongst the stars with two action packed days of space themed arts, crafts, and activities. From astronaut training to building lunar rovers, we did it all!

Festivities were kicked off with an all school Mass, where the second graders eagerly received communion for the first time in front of the whole school just days after their First Holy Communion. Talk about joy in their hearts! At the end of Mass, the Sisters of Our Lord and Mary of Matara spoke of their work and new mission in Brazil. These wonderful Sisters also gave their time during sessions by making rosaries with the lower grades and even cooking up some chicken noodle soup for the "adolescent" soul with the middle schoolers.

Innovative planning by the Arts Festival Committee allowed students from PreK to eighth grade to choose from a wide variety of projects ranging from puppet-making, cooking, nebulae in jars, to building robots, painting mandala stones, making rosaries, and creating murals.

Each day ended with whole school jam sessions. On Wednesday recording artist Marie Miller visited. She led sessions for both the fourth grade and the middle school when she discussed her own journey of faith through music, and even entertained them with a few of her songs, prayers, and reflections. Thursday's school day was wonder-



Rosary Making with Sister

fully concluded by the talented HR alum Sean Gaiser, of GIGS studio right here in Kensington and current HR GIGS students. They sang and played guitar. And wow! The talent at Holy Redeemer is stratospheric!

Thursday's Gallery Night wrapped up all of the festivities. HR families met back up at the school and enjoyed food from a few local food trucks, live music provided by Sean and his GIGS musicians, while perusing the Herb Young Auditorium, admiring all of the artwork created by the amazingly talented students. After a delicious dinner, families could enjoy baked goods sold by the fourth grade who were selling items in support of the Sisters of Our Lord and Mary of Matara's mission in Brazil.

The Holy Redeemer Arts festival would not be possible were it not for the dedicated volunteers, we salute you Kathleen Neary, Ann Turgeon, Elizabeth Rembold, Cristina Morris, Lisa Capobianco and the small army of parents and community members.

OPT





Above, OLQP Polish Saturday School students made their annual beautiful handcrafted palms for the annual Palm Sunday procession at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish. The palms are decorated with flowers and grasses and are a fundraiser for the school. The students dressed in traditional Polish outfits for the occasion.

OLQP Parishioners and Veterans Marian Mols (left) and Karl Klonowski (right), with Polish Saturday School students, kept watch at the tomb of Jesus on Holy Saturday, April 15, inside the church. Mr. Mols is a decorated veteran, having fought in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944 in his native Poland.



At left, OLQP parishioners and Polish Scouting Organization-ZHP members Daniela and Artyom (front row), and Daniel and Jakub (back row) with Scout Leader Bozenna Buda carried the wreath to lay at the Katyn Memorial in Baltimore, Maryland, on April 30, during the 17th Katyn Remembrance Day. The annual event is organized by the National Katyn Memorial Foundation ([www.KatynBaltimore.org](http://www.KatynBaltimore.org)), which is "dedicated to the preservation, education and continued remembrance of the Katyn Forest Massacre of 1940 ...so that future generations may learn from this tragic event."

Below, on Sunday, May 7, the St. Maximilian Kolbe Chapter of the Knights of Columbus, Veterans, altar servers, and members of Polish Scouting Organization-ZHP gathered outside the church at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish in Silver Spring, after the commemorative Mass celebrating the Parish Feast Day and the Third of May Constitution. The Mass was celebrated by OLQP Pastor Rev. Jerzy Frydrych (next to flag) and visiting missionary priests from Papua-New Guinea, Fr. Robert (l) and Fr. Damien (r).



Rev. Jerzy Frydrych, Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, blessed baskets of food for Easter on Holy Saturday, April 15, outside the church. This is an annual tradition at OLQP.



Our Lady Queen of Poland & St. Maximilian Kolbe parishioners joined the Easter Sunday procession on April 16. OLQP Pastor Rev. Jerzy Frydrych carried the Blessed Sacrament under the canopy (at left).



On Saturday, May 6, the Washington, DC, Chapter of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation hosted their 3rd Annual Saint John Paul II Lecture and Luncheon at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, DC. Rev. Krzysztof Wieliczko, PhD, of the John Paul II Foundation in Rome, celebrated the Mass and gave a talk on "Saint John Paul II and His Lessons for Us in the 21st Century." Pictured at a gathering afterwards are (r to l): Rev. Jerzy Frydrych, Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish who is also Chaplain of the Washington, DC, Chapter of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation; Bozenna Buda, President of the Chapter; Rev. Wieliczko; Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, Board Member and Event Chairperson; Mrs. Sandra Zachariasiewicz, Board Member and wife of the late Walter Zachariasiewicz who was the Chapter founder.



OLQP Polish School students temporarily left their classrooms on a warm Saturday and, accompanied by parents and teachers, went on a traditional Polish outing, carrying "Marzanna," to celebrate the arrival of Spring.

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# Celebrating Sacraments of Initiation



Reception of First Communion at the Adaptive Religious Education Celebration. Photo by Erin and Pat Lynch



Neophytes and Candidates prepare to receive Confirmation. Photo by Rongsong Jih



The Adaptive Religious Education reception following Mass. Photo by Erin & Pat Lynch



Fr. Justin Huber gives the Baptismal candle to the newly baptized. Photo by Rongsong Jih



Fr. Justin Huber baptizing one of our new members. Photo by Christine Jeffrey



Reception of Confirmation at the Easter Vigil. Photo by Rongsong Jih

**A**lleluia! Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! These words resounded throughout St. Rose of Lima church at the end of the Easter Vigil. The joyfulness of our celebration was enhanced by the reception of the sacraments during the Vigil. At the Easter Vigil

on April 15, 12 adults and teens received Baptism, Confirmation, and First Eucharist, 4 adults were received into the Catholic Church and 14 Roman Catholics completed their Initiation.

We continue to celebrate in the Easter season. On April 28, seven members of our Adaptive Religious Education Program received First Eucharist and 7 received Confirmation. Over 100 students received their First Communion at celebrations on May 6 and May 14. During this Easter season, we have been blessed with many Baptisms.

We are also preparing for seven adults and over 80 teens to receive the sacrament of Confirmation on June 4 and June 2, respectively.



Celebration of First Communion on May 6. Photo by Gustavo Salazar

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## St. Bartholomew

# MOONSHOT! Father Tim Daniel's Half-Court Shot Wins Day Off

By Barb Henry

One of the biggest traditions and most entertaining events of the year at St. Bartholomew is the annual Eighth Grade Vs. Parents/Faculty Basketball Game. This year did not disappoint the crowd! The eighth graders took the court wearing t-shirts decorated at school the previous week. The parents took the court ready to take them on. Two of St. Bart's alumnae, Jack Chesen and Riley Place, took time out to come back and coach the eighth-grade team! The game started out with the 8th grade scoring first – Gavin Chesen made it look easy as he loped up the court and scored the first shot. Although the parents gave it a good try, the eighth-graders were just too much for them. Youth has its advantages! Gavin remained the high scorer for the eighth grade with over 20 points scored.



St. Bart's Eighth Graders Victorious over Parents. Photo Courtesy of Barb Henry.

At half-time, all the St. Bartholomew students who were there participated in a competition to see which House could get the most baskets! Then came the 8th grade challenge. If the eighth-graders could make 2 half-court shots, the entire school would win a day off! Charlie Triandafilou stepped up, aimed, and made the first shot from half-court. The entire crowd went crazy!!!! Each eighth grader tried their best to make a shot. Many came close. As the crowd of students began to think that the holiday wouldn't happen, a few faculty members stepped up to help. Father Tim was the last hope and made his half-court shot which secured a day off for the whole school! This annual event is one of the highlights of 8th grade and this year proved to be one to remember. It's one of the many great traditions at St. Bartholomew's.

OPT

## St. Francis of Assisi



Adults and youth at St. Francis of Assisi Church face off during the Hoops for Haiti fundraiser on April 8 at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School in Olney. The friendly basketball game between the adults and youth raised money for the parish's Haiti Ministry, which helps support St. Paul's Parish in Leon, Haiti.

## ATHLETES

Con't from page 52

school team in recent years, fielded a team of 11 swimmers to compete against 29 other teams and some 350 swimmers from as far away as Annapolis and Richmond competing. Eighth-grader David Fitch smashed the 50-freestyle record set by a Mater Dei swimmer in 2005! The Mercy girl's team placed 10th out of 16 teams, with the boys taking 11th out of 18 teams!

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Mercy Swim Team Makes a Big Splash at the Middle School Championships

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