



Parish Times

Summer Camp Special
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MARCH 2014

Living the Faith Together

FREE

Lenten Kindness

By Chuck Short



Chuck Short

I'm watching yet another snowfall blanket our area, a quiet, gentle scene inspiring for playful reflection. However, from the perspective of my "day job" in County government, what I perceive are not gentle, white snowflakes floating whimsically to earth, but rather millions of green dollar signs being plowed from the County's treasury! Pretty unromantic, huh? Truth is it costs about **one million dollars per inch** of snow to cope with this peaceful scene. So, twenty inches of snow equals twenty million dollars less available for needed community services. Unlike the sustaining white manna that fell from heaven to feed Moses and the Israelites in the desert, these white flakes diminish resources for food and other necessities to aid the needy in our community. Because snow must be removed from parish parking lots, it reduces parish resources available for ministries as well.

On the brighter side, welcome to our Montgomery County parish family to Fr. William Foley, new pastor at St. Patrick's in Rockville. I disclose my appreciation for Fr. Foley who took a risk as then-pastor at Our Lady of Victory in Washington many years ago to accept our blind child into his school. Thanks

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St. Jane de Chantal kindergarteners celebrated their class patron saint by releasing white balloons to the heavens in January. Kindergarten students say special prayers to St. Brigid, known for her generosity to the poor, and St. Francis, known for his love and care of animals. The children released helium filled balloons the day before the feast day of St. Brigid; each one carried a card telling whoever found it that the classes were praying for them and wishing them well. It was an "uplifting" experience, to say the least.

St. John the Baptist Youth Group Reaches Out



Member of St. John the Baptist youth group at Whitetail Ski Resort.

By Jack Murphy, Student Reporter and Youth Leader

Recently, the youth group at St. John the Baptist went to Whitetail Ski Resort for a day on the slopes. With over 50 teens attending and great conditions the day was a fun event for the experienced and inexperienced snow boarders and skiers alike. This most recent youth community building trip helped to strengthen ties among many of the teens at the parish.

From baseball games, trips to Washington, DC, talks about relationships, and about our role in Syria, a lot has been done in the past few months to bring new teens into our church community. These events help everyone to keep in touch with their relationship with God and keep the Spirit alive in their everyday life. As a group, we hope for more teens to attend the events in the future, keeping in mind that "There is always a place for you at St. John's" – especially in our youth group.

OPT



ISL A Basketball Champions: From left (front row), Jessica Johnston, Mary Claire Byrne, Talley Britt, headmistress Maureen Appel, one of the hundreds of fans, Colby Evans, Jori Contee-Staten, Marley Burgess; (back row), JV coach Gillian Bastow, Anna Jorgensen, Alex Hacopian, Coach Jamie Ricca Ready – with brothers and fellow coaches Keith and J.D. Ricca, Lilly Paro, Jen Gribble, Kayla Wood, Meg Schulz, Sarah Strachan, Caroline Rowe.

Holy Child Wins ISLA Basketball Championship

The gym was large and so was the crowd, as Varsity beat Maret to win the ISL A Tournament at Sidwell on Sunday, February 23. Coming off of home court wins against Potomac and Flint Hill, Holy Child battled in a close game against the "Fighting Frogs," who were energized from their upset of league co-leader Episcopal.

The Tigers, with balanced team play, were led by sophomore guard Lilly Paro's

16 points and senior captain Talley Britt, whose ball handling and 9 points helped seal the win. The team's loss to Episcopal early in the season gave way to a 20-game winning streak; their final season record is 23-3.

Although they lose four top-notch seniors, the talent of the returning team members (including several freshmen) should serve them well as they move up to the ISL AA division for the 2014-15 season.

OPT

Let the Healing Power of Service Help...You



Rev. Msgr. John Enzler

Last week, I had the chance to hear about a man in our Behavioral Health Program who, after more than a decade of battling both bi-polar disorder and substance abuse, was finally seeing his life take off. He had gotten married, he is a new father to a young

son and is well on his way to medical school. To be certain, he's a very gifted young man and he made the most of more than 10 years of help from Catholic Charities staff and family support in learning to control his mental health.

What I found most amazing is he attributes the moment he finally started to see hope and energy to when he began serving others. He was part of organizing a client support network, writing a monthly newsletter and engaging his mind. He remarked about how clear and focused his thinking finally was.

March 5 was Ash Wednesday and it marked the beginning of our annual Lenten journey preparing for the great gift of the Lord's resurrection. The Church suggests we try to do three things during Lent: pray, fast and

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2014-2015 CBN-MC Essay Scholarship Recipients

The Board of Directors of the Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County released the names of the recipients of the 2014-2015 Essay Scholarship competition.

The following students will be recognized at the CBN-MC Scholarship Awards Luncheon on Friday, March 28 at the Bethesda Marriott on Pooks Hill Road.

- \$2,500 Matt Edwards, St. Elizabeth's School
Brigid English, St. Jude's School
- \$1,500 Atim Bedell, St. Francis International School
Sydney Bruno, St. Patrick's School
Jovan Kouakou, St. Raphael's School
Nick Lynch, St. Jane de Chantal School
Katherine May, St. Elizabeth's School
Dominique Melo, St. Mary's School
Samantha Miller, St. Jane de Chantal School
Nicole Romano, St. Andrew Apostle School
Gabriella Sebastian, Our Lady of Lourdes School
- \$750 Amaiya Dowdell, St. John the Baptist School
Kyle Jensen, St. Mary's School
Lucy Reardon, St. John the Evangelist School
Manav Talreja, St. Elizabeth's School

To be eligible, students had to be residents of Montgomery County who will be entering a Washington Metropolitan Area Catholic High School as a freshman in the fall of 2014. Contestants wrote essays of no more than 500 words citing concrete examples of where they saw holiness and sanctity in their lives based on the following statement by Pope Francis:

"I see the sanctity of God's people, this daily sanctity . . . I see the holiness in the patience of the people of God: a woman who is raising children, a man who works to bring home the bread, the sick, the elderly priests who have so many wounds but have a smile on their faces because they served the Lord, the sisters who work hard and live a hidden sanctity. This is for me the common sanctity."

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Increase in Vocations Drives Seminary Expansion

Blessed John Paul II Seminary just opened in the fall of 2011 and now a new wing, D'Aniello Hall, has already been added. With the seminary already at capacity after only three years, D'Aniello Hall will allow more young men to discern a vocation to the priesthood. The new wing, which contains 20 new student rooms, enlarged classroom space, a new common room, an exercise facility, quarters for two faculty members and a large library and reading room, was made possible by a generous donation from Daniel and Gayle D'Aniello.

"We are blessed to have seen a great increase in younger vocations, and we are grateful that this new space allows us to accommodate even more young men to discern God's call to the priesthood," said

Monsignor Robert Panke, rector of the Blessed John Paul II Seminary and the Director of Formation for seminarians of the archdiocese.

Currently 81 men are studying for the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Washington, including 40 in college and pre-theology studies.

The nucleus of the new library will be the Haydock collection. Father Kenneth Haydock, a priest in the Archdiocese of Seattle, recently donated his personal library, numbering approximately 10,000 volumes of theology and philosophy, to the seminary. The Catholic University of America's Department of Library and Information Science will be involved in organizing the library.

Blessed John Paul II Seminary is an institution of the Archdiocese of Washington established to pre-

pare college-age men and young adults for entrance into major seminary and eventual ordination to the Catholic priesthood. The seminary is located near The Catholic University of America at 145 Taylor St. N.E. in Washington, D.C.

With the expansion, the seminary will now have space for 50 men who attend classes at The Catholic University of America while receiving their priestly formation at the seminary. Those pursuing an undergraduate degree enroll in a normal schedule of classes with a major in philosophy while those who already hold an undergraduate degree undertake a special non-degree program for two years with an emphasis in philosophy and ancient languages. Before ordination, they will complete an additional four years of theology studies.

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Bishops to Remember Fallen Migrants at U.S.-Mexico Border

Highlight Human Consequences of Broken Immigration System

Immigration reform needed to end suffering, redeem the nation

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Migration, joined by bishops on the border, will travel to Nogales, Arizona, March 30-April 1 to tour the U.S.-Mexico border and celebrate Mass on behalf of the close to 6,000 migrants who have died in the U.S. desert since 1998.

The purpose of the trip is to highlight the human suffering caused by a broken immigration system, an aspect of the national immigration debate which is often ignored.

"What we fail to remember in this debate is the human aspect of immigration — that immigration is primarily about human beings, not economic or social issues," said Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, auxil-

Continued on page 7

Eighteenth Annual Patricia Sullivan Benefit for Potomac Community Resources, Inc.

Potomac Community Resources, Inc., the award-winning nonprofit organization serving teens and adults who have developmental differences that is based at Our Lady of Mercy Parish, will hold its 18th Annual Patricia Sullivan Benefit on Saturday evening, March 15. The annual dinner raises awareness and funds to support PCR's programs, and honors volunteers and staff and community leaders for their work improving the quality of life of individuals with developmental differences.

The event, which includes a reception, dinner and dancing, will be held at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. Sandra Andreas McMurtrie, Joan Burggraf Riley and Joan Tynan Sullivan are



Katie Zhao



Maureen Appel



Kimberly Beer

serving as Benefit Chairs. For more information and to purchase tickets please visit www.pcr-inc.org.

The 2014 Patricia Sullivan Leadership Award is being presented to His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl, S.T.D. In the words of the award citation, he is being

recognized for the commitment, generous support, encouragement and personal and pastoral leadership in promoting opportunities for individuals with developmental differences that he has brought to his work as Archbishop of Washington. Maureen Appel, the Headmistress

of Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, will receive the Visionary Award at the dinner. Under Maureen's leadership, Holy Child has developed a highly successful partnership with PCR. Each year, Holy Child hosts PCR's Halloween, Holiday and Winter Beach parties, and scores of Holy Child students serve as volunteers at PCR. The PCR - Holy Child

collaboration in the activities of the school's chapter of Best Buddies International is PCR's longest and most successful community collaboration partnership.

The Outstanding Youth Volunteer Award will be presented to Katie Zhao, to honor her four years of dedicated volunteer service to PCR's NoteAbles music program.

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Project "Sol Sister" Raises Funds for Center in Brazil

On Friday, February 21, The Academy of the Holy Cross community raised over \$1,000 for the Project Sol Center in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The center is operated by the Academy's sponsoring order, the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, and provides a safe haven for children ages 6-18 who live in the poorest section of the city.

Eleventh grade students at the Academy, who are International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Candidates, coordinated the fundraising project. Several weeks prior to the event, the students gave a presentation at an all-school assembly to help educate the community about the conditions in Sao Paulo, the work of the Sisters there, and what the Academy can do to help. They called the fundraiser "Project Sol Sister." The fundraiser included an out-of-uniform "tag" day and bagel breakfast. Students were encouraged to wear the colors of the Brazilian flag (green, yellow and blue) on the tag day. Ize's Deli donated dozens of bagels for the event. "Hey Soul Sister" by Train played from speakers as students arrived in their tag day wear.

Sao Paulo has a critically poor



IB Students from The Academy of the Holy Cross with CAS (Creativity, Action, Service) coordinator Joanne Cooke (center). The students organized "Project Sol Sister" to support the Project Sol Center in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

section of the city where people live in shanty housing known as favelas. Favelas have no plumbing, sanitation or electricity and usually are areas of high crime and drug trafficking. The Center offers athletic programs, classes in the fine and performing arts, and peacemaking to the impoverished children of this community.

As Diploma Candidates, the IB students are required to complete 150 hours of "Creativity, Action,

Service" (CAS). CAS involves students in a range of activities alongside their academic studies and enhances the students' personal and interpersonal development through experiential learning and journeys of self-discovery. CAS is one element of the IB Diploma Core, which also includes the Theory of Knowledge course and an extended essay, written on a topic of global significance.

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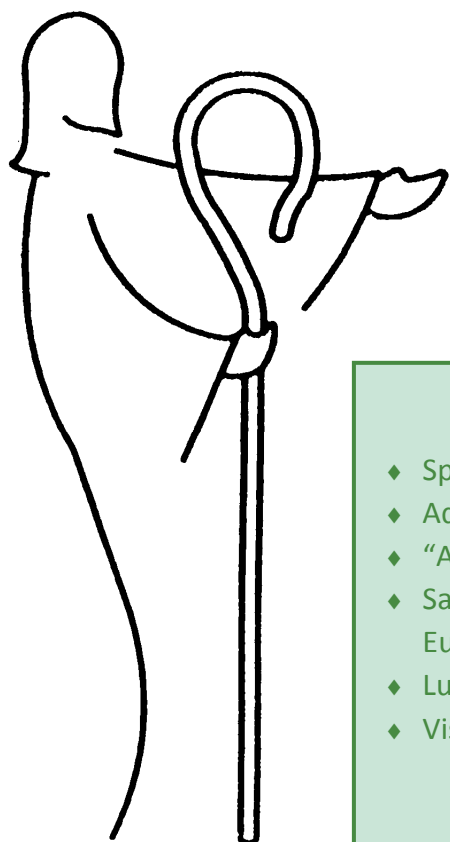
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Sixth graders show a few of the hundreds of donated coats and the award presented to them for leading the charge on the Catholic Charities Coats of Many Colors drive.

Coats of Many Colors Drive – Thank you!

The sixth graders are incredibly pleased and appreciative to all who helped them meet and surpass their goal of collecting and sharing over 200 coats with men, women, and children in the DC area. In collaboration with Catholic Charities, hundreds will find warmth and love throughout the remainder of this cold winter because of the St. Patrick's community.

The coats were delivered Saturday, February 8, in the morning and were shared in the community by Saturday afternoon. We are all very proud of the sixth-grade class at St. Patrick's School for leading their schoolmates to serve those in need.

OPT

Success for Seventh Grade

St. Patrick's is proud of seven of our seventh-grade girls who have been accepted into the Montgomery College STEM program. The program had only 30 spots available to middle school girls throughout Montgomery County, and our girls have proudly earned this wonderful opportunity to shine and share their great knowledge.



Our seven seventh-grade stars! Representing St. Patrick's School in the Montgomery College STEM program are Maura, Hannah, Erica, Faith, Lauren, Claire, & Sophia.

OPT

These eighth and second graders are having too much fun during their buddy read time



Accepting Applications for the 2014-2015 School Year

There are a few spots still available for the kindergarten and new pre-kindergarten (4+) program for the 2014-2015 school year. If you missed one of our open houses, but are interested in learning more about our programs, Miss Short, principal, is happy to schedule an appointment to share information and tour the school. Please call the school to make an appointment (301) 929-9672.

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St. Patrick's Parish
4101 Norbeck Road
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Ms. Christie Anne Short,
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Catholic Schools Week 2014

Students and teachers at St. Patrick's School celebrate National Catholic Schools Week with a lot of fun and excitement this year! The children enjoyed a Book Club Assembly to tie in with the annual Read-a-Thon. The assembly included eighth grader Leo Fangmeyer spraying silly string on his fifth-grade teacher (and good sport!), Mrs. Mixson. The children ended their day with cookies and milk and school wide reading time that brought older students together with their younger buddies.



Mass production by ALL students to provide Valentines for the Homeless Children's Playtime Project

In keeping with the Catholic Schools Week theme of Faith, Knowledge, and

Service, the whole student body gathered Tuesday afternoon to combine their efforts in preparing Valentine's Day kits for the



Seventh graders lead the prayer service that helped to bring Catholic Schools Week 2014 to a close at St. Patrick's School.

Homeless Children's Playtime Project. The children at Playtime Project received loom bracelets from a loom-a-thon that was held as well as Valentines so that they could share with their classmates this Valentine's Day. We concluded the week by celebrating Friday afternoon with a beautiful prayer service recognizing and celebrating all we have been given, including the gift of a Catholic education.

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Children put their heads together to answer questions at St. Jane's annual Catholic Trivia Night, earning prizes, enjoying pizza, and having a great time while learning more about their faith.

Nothing Trivial about Catholic Trivia Night

More than 70 adults and children attended St. Jane de Chantal's Catholic Trivia Night in early February, continuing a tradition that's known as much for its laughter and fun as its learning.

The evening kicked off with a pizza dinner before participants divided themselves into 12 teams, including one of just children, for the big competition. Categories ranged from Bible knowledge to entertainment and history, with age-appropriate questions mixed in for younger participants and coveted prizes awarded at the end of the night. Emcees Art Harris and Jerry Pitts stole the show with their great

question-asking and commentary. Scored were tallied by teams at the end of each category (honor system, of course--cheating would have landed on each participant's conscience).

This year's winners were the Tenant family, closely followed by the Gradowski, Caulfield, and Matejik team. Several children got 10 out of 11 answers correct and each one received a prize for participating. Pastor Rev. Samuel Giese stopped by to answer a few questions and stump the crowd with one of his own. It was a fun evening of learning and socializing.

OPT

St. Jane Teens Enjoy Retreat

By Emma Eder

What do teens do on the weekends? Many go to the mall, participate in sports tournaments, or have piano practice. How about encountering God with approximately 1,600 other teens?

Members of St. Jane de Chantal's parish youth ministry recently attended Mount2000, a three-day, two-night Catholic retreat held at Mount St. Mary's University. We participated in Mass once each day, clapping and swaying to catchy music from the live Ben Walther Band. The homilists ranged from a priest to a seminarian to a bishop, and I can honestly say I have never heard such engaging, captivating, and charismatic homilies.

Homilists were not the only preachers, though. Leah Darrow, a previous America's Next Top Model contestant, talked about identifying – and only settling for – real love. She also gave a sepa-

rate talk to the girls about dressing modestly. The boys received a talk called "Chosen" from Jon Leonetti. He later spoke to us all about encountering Christ and the importance and relevance of the saints.

There were many opportunities for encountering Christ on this retreat. Confessions were offered all weekend, and by the end the priests had heard 1,301—wow! Lectio Divina also played an important role. We learned how to pray and meditate with Holy Scripture, twice with the entire group and once in smaller groups. The arguably most powerful and emotional moment came Saturday night during the Eucharistic procession and Benediction. As I knelt and stared at the monstrance that was making its rounds around the room, the realization that I was about two feet from God hit me full force. To say that I was moved would be an understatement.

From rosaries to a concert of Christian music to adoration to visiting the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, we saw Christ all around us. The final talk by Sr. Mary Brigid urged us to go out into the world and be witnesses to what we had experienced. I left feeling inspired and empowered with the notion that I could carry God with me everywhere I go. I wanted to show everyone, through my love, that I am a follower of Christ. As one of speakers mentioned, youth are not only the future of the Church; we are the present.

OPT

St. Jane de Chantal Students Stay Busy

The old saying is that there's never a dull moment, and that's proven true every month at St. Jane de Chantal School, where every week seems to bring a new opportunity to learn, contribute, and have fun.

Catholic Schools Week offered something for everyone--students celebrated with no homework on student appreciation day, teachers enjoyed lunches brought by parents on teacher appreciation day, and parents and friends popped in for visits during the always-popular open house. It all culminated with a school Mass celebrated by Rev. Samuel Giese, pastor, and Rev. Mark Cusick, parochial vicar, with participation by the school choir and Chimes handbell ensemble.

Students and their families survived and thrived in this year's science fair, which packed the gymnasium with projects that ranged from kindergarten's 100-day displays all the way up to those by seventh and eighth graders who seem ready for medical school already. After a rigorous two days of judging, winners were named:

First place: Courtney Fanning, grade seven

Second place: Matthew Cauley and Stephen Jasinski (tie), grade seven

Third place: Maggie Valaik, grade eight

It hasn't all been hard work around school lately. Before Seattle met Denver in the Super Bowl, the school held its own competition, with middle schoolers forming football teams and facing off during recess before the big championship game in the gym. The sixth grade faced off against the eighth grade, with the older students taking the game by one touchdown.

And while the world watched the Olympics from Sochi, Russia, students participated in their own opening ceremonies at school; each homeroom represented a different country and dressed up their uniforms in those countries'



First grade students put on a patriotic show for parents and friends during January's open house, showing off their outstanding reading skills and celebrating the U.S.A. through stories they acted out.

colors before presenting historic facts and passing the torch around. It was a great way to directly participate in this year's Olympic Games.

Fourth graders celebrated the United States in their annual Patriotic Show, delighting family and friends with a nighttime celebration of American history and culture through song, fun facts, and a little dancing. They designed and made tie-dye shirts for the show and shared facts about every president from George Washington to Barack Obama. The highlight, as always, was a spirited rendition of "Fifty Nifty United States."

Fourth grade wasn't the only class to celebrate its country: the first grade performed its Parade of Patriots program during January's school open house. They showed off stellar reading skills and shared the story of America through rhymes, songs, and poems, with fabulous costumes completing the show.

Kindergarten celebrated Valentine's Day (albeit a bit late thanks to snow-related school closures) with its annual Valentine's Day Ball. Dressed in their Sunday best, boys and girls showed off their impeccable manners during a meal together, and then demonstrated very refined dancing during the traditional waltz before enjoying some more rock and roll-style boogying to the beat. A

highlight of the kindergarten year, this year's ball was fantastic.

Other students put their heads together to find fun and significant ways to contribute to their communities. Room 9, a fifth grade homeroom, organized several family restaurant and shopping events that raised more than \$1,500 for the school's biennial Gala, which will fund a kitchen and cafeteria renovation for the school. The homeroom's 29 students then teamed up to raise \$2,200 for the American Heart Association through Hoops for Heart; several groups of students organized their own fundraising businesses and a class bake sale, along with asking friends and relatives to help this year's effort. The school contributed more than \$11,000 to that effort in February. It's a great lesson in giving and being part of a greater community.

Finally, yellow buses pulled up to the school for several field trips. The seventh grade toured the Udvar Hazy Air and Space Museum at Dulles, riding on flight simulators and planning a virtual trip to Mars. Soon after, the eighth grade attended a performance of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater at the Kennedy Center.

Never a dull moment at St. Jane de Chantal, but that's just the way we like it!

OPT



Boy Scout Troop 461 and Cub Scout Pack 461, chartered at St. Jane de Chantal, along with several Girl Scout troops from the parish, celebrated Scout Sunday with a Mass in February. Scouts who earned religious medals and honors during the preceding year were honored, and Troop 461's drum and bugle corps offered a stand-up patriotic start to the celebration. Here, corps members prepare for their march to the altar before Mass. Scouting is an active, positive, and vibrant part of life at St. Jane de Chantal, with more than 50 boys in Troop 461 alone.

St. Jane de Chantal Parish

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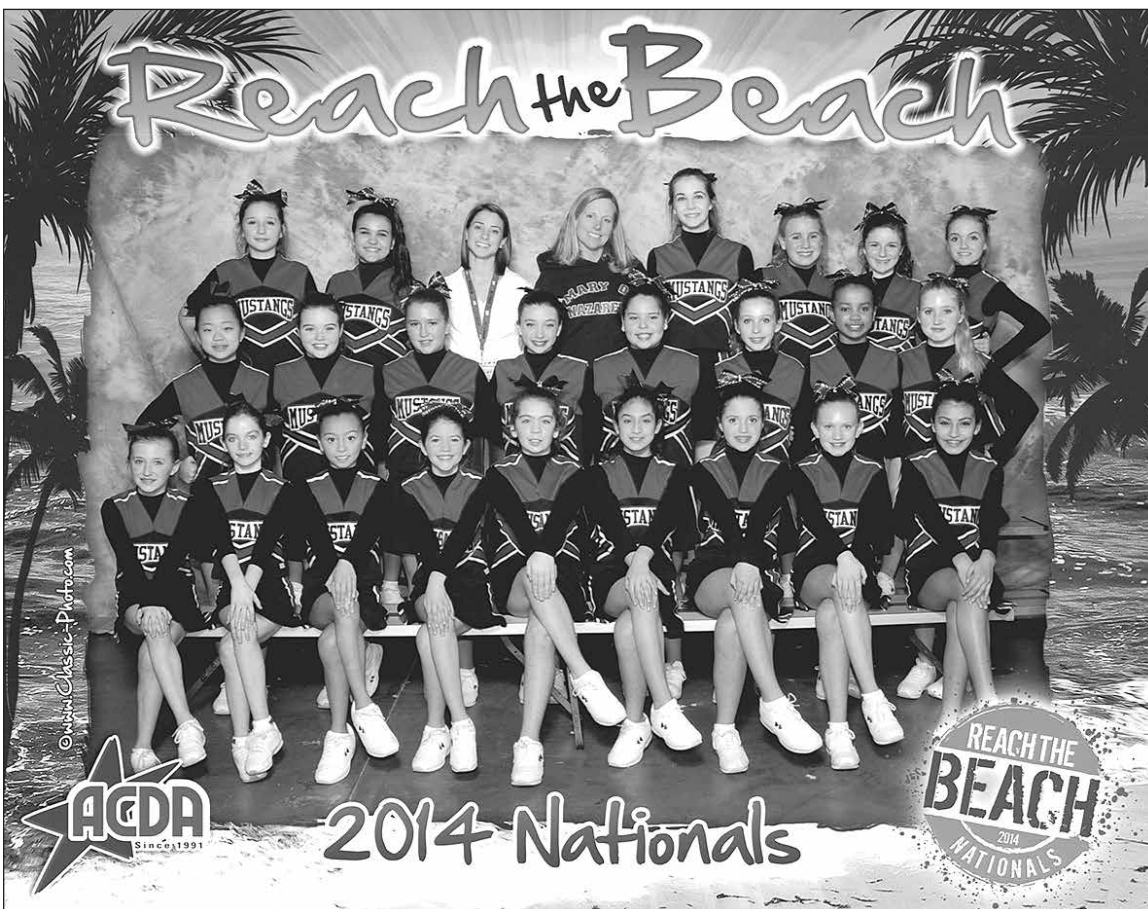
2014 CYO Girls Basketball Champions

Top row (L to R) – Coach Koch, Maggie Koch, Saige Perin, Lauren McDonald, Lexi Opdenaker, Corinne Davis, Teagan McCarthy, Coach Puglisi; Bottom row (L to R) – Allie Puglisi, Eva Sanchez, Victoria Delia



2014 CYO Boys Basketball Champions

Top row (L to R) Coach Greg Mahn, Frank McCourt, Jackson Koutsos, Mezzie Offram, Zachary Zeranski, AJ Zamora, Skip McIntyre, Coach John Reing; Bottom row (L to R) Brian Murphy, Cameron Latham, Patrick Mahn, Kyle Reing, Dominic Nolan, Anthony Sofia



2014 Reach the Beach National Cheerleading Champions

Top Row – (L to R) Claire Rogers, Brianna Valenzuela, Coach Ashley, Coach Sweeney, Emma Carpentier, Hannah Breton, Brigit Rogers, Carley Sweeney; Middle Row – (L to R) Regina Choi, Emma LeVaca, AJ Duda, Kendall Kley, Makayla Schuhmacher, Micah Flanner, Jackie Gilmore, Athena Armstrong; Bottom Row – (L to R) Claire Cerone, Coryn Pulliam, Ileana Plummer, Lindsay Barrow, Elizabeth Clarke, Alejandra Almeida, Hayley Abromavage, Kristin Puglisi, Joyceling Querello

MIGRANTS

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iary bishop of Seattle and chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration. "Those who have died – and those deported each day – have the same value and innate God-given dignity as all persons, yet we ignore their suffering and their deaths."

The trip follows the example of Pope Francis, who, in his first trip outside of Rome, traveled to the Italian island of Lampedusa to remember African migrants who died attempting to reach Europe. During that trip, Pope Francis spoke about the "globalization of indifference" toward migrants and decried

the "throwaway culture" that disposes of human beings in the pursuit of wealth.

"The U.S.-Mexico border is our Lampedusa," Bishop Elizondo said. "Migrants in this hemisphere try to reach it, but often die in the attempt."

Bishop Elizondo continued: "We exhibit our own indifference when we minimize or ignore this suffering and death, as if these people are not worth our attention. It degrades us as a nation."

"Hopefully by highlighting the harsh impact the system has on our fellow human beings, our elected officials will be moved to reform it," Bishop Elizondo said.

OPT

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Presentation, Poolesville; Our Lady of the
Visitation, Darnestown.



Mr. Aleksei Brizhik, the father of Luka (grade 6), Tessa (grade 4) and Milla (grade 2) gave a fantastic and informative presentation for the students at Mary of Nazareth School. Mr. Brizhik described the process he went through to be selected as a "Torch Runner" for the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. Mr. Brizhik is originally from Russia and felt honored to be a part of this year's Olympic Festivities. The Torch presentation was especially meaningful to the fourth and the fifth graders who are researching and learning about all of the Olympiads as part of their Project Based Learning module.

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Knights and Horses and Jousting, Oh My!

By Michelle Ardillo

On Friday, February 21, 2014, the Seventh-Grade Class of Holy Redeemer School stepped back in time to visit Medieval Times Castle in Baltimore for a jousting tournament and medieval feast. The forty-three seventh graders traveled by "royal bus" to the castle with Principal Colleen Ryan, literature teacher Michelle Ardillo and social studies teacher Megan Dees. Upon arriving at the castle, the students had time in the castle lobby to visit the gift shop while observing the royal

court in their medieval finery. Some of the class was assigned to the Green Knight's section while the rest of the class was assigned to the Red and Yellow Knight's section. Everyone cheered valiantly for their knight, albeit there was no victory in either section.

Students supped upon traditional foods served during medieval times and to their unanimous surprise, ate with their hands! Students were able to see knights, squires, and beautiful horses re-enacting the things they will study in literature class while reading Karen

Cushman's *Catherine, Called Birdy* as well as their Middle Ages unit in social studies. Aside from the excellent feast, the students thoroughly enjoyed the jousting, hand to hand combat on the ground, other games of skill played by the knights, and the beauty of the well-trained horses and falcon.

The students reflected on the trip to Medieval Times in an essay the following week, noting how the field trip reinforced what they had been learning in both literature and social studies while having a really good time at the show!

OPT



Seventh grade girls cheering for the Green Knight at Medieval Times

Holy Redeemer Second Graders Receive Sacrament of Penance

By Michelle Ardillo

On Saturday, March 1, 2014, at 10:00 AM, a total of 100 second grade students from Holy Redeemer Parish received the Sacrament of Penance. The 42 second graders who attend Holy Redeemer Catholic School were joined by the 58 second graders enrolled in Holy Redeemer's religious education



Sacrament of Penance Project, Meghan George in 2A

program.

In the weeks leading up to receiving the Sacrament of Penance, students in both the day school and the religious education program worked on projects to help them prepare. Teachers preparing the students for the Sacrament of Penance include Mrs. Ellen Borda and Mrs. Magda Mooers from the day school and Mrs. Mary Ruth Yao and Mrs. Susan Brady from the religious education program.

OPT

Former Holy Redeemer Art Teacher Exhibits Work

By Michelle Ardillo

On Friday, February 7, 2014, former art teacher Mary DelBianco exhibited two of her sculptures in the "Tokens and Sentiments" art show held at the "Urban by Design" Gallery in Rockville, Maryland. The theme of the February show was chosen to coincide with the Valentine's season. The art show was part of the Capitol Arts Network.



Close-up showing detail of "Fall of Lucifer"

show billed as "a unique, real-world take on love and romance that is not necessarily the greeting-card version of the story." HeartSong also wrote, "This

DelBianco, current computer teacher at Holy Redeemer, exhibited two pieces which were wood-fired porcelain "wings" mounted on pieces of elm. In promotional material for the exhibit, Capitol Arts Network Executive Director Judith HeartSong wrote that the show included offerings by artists from across the National Capital region in a



HR Teacher Mary DelBianco alongside her sculptures

month, the artists have been encouraged to think outside the box with florals, designs, poetry and more to offer their real-life version of a Valentine in this modern age."

OPT

Breakfast in a Bag and a Cup of Joe

By Michelle Ardillo

On January 28, 2014, Holy Redeemer ended classes early to work on a service project as a part of The Archdiocese of Washington's Catholic Schools



Kevin O'Brien of Catholic Charities speaking about Cup of Joe Project at HR assembly.



HR Librarian Ann Enkiri with students working on Cup of Joe Project

Week. Coordinated by HR administrative assistant and parent Dana D'Avella, lower grade students decorated brown paper lunch bags for the middle school students to pack with non-perishable breakfast items. The bags were then loaded into crates and given to the Cup

of Joe Project, a part of Catholic Charities.

The Cup of Joe Project works with volunteer groups to assemble "breakfast-to-go" bags for the men and women staying in overnight emergency shelters run by Catholic

Continued on page 23

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& school parent



ENZLER

Con't from page 1

give alms. Many Christians try to emphasize their relationship with the Lord through a more focused prayer-life throughout the 40 days. By long tradition, others give something up or maybe do something extra as a way of reminding themselves of the importance of God in their life. And still others find a way to share their resources with those less fortunate by donating to various causes.

There's a reason Jesus built his ministry around service and compassion. There's a reason Pope Francis has made service a central focal point of his papacy. Service is a conduit to making that connection to each other that reminds us we are all God's children and we all have the Lord within us.

We need that interaction, to step away from our walls and our distractions, and be reminded that we all are called to give back as part of our faith. Lent is the annual reminder to us to keep it simple, and think of others before ourselves.

Every year, I give up watching television. The biggest sacrifice for me is missing out on many beloved sporting events – the Masters, March Madness, Opening Day of baseball. Is this a huge sacrifice? Of course not! But it reminds me daily during Lent to refocus, to dedicate that extra time to prayer or service, and to be mindful of how I can be doing more.

Of course, Pope Francis recently reminded us service should never be limited to just one time of year: *"In order to make sure that no one lacks bread, water, clothing, housing, work, health,"* concluded the Pope, *"we must all recognize that we are children of the Father who is in heaven, and then brothers and sisters, and we behave accordingly."*

Lent isn't supposed to be about picking up good habits. It's a season to remind us that service and love for your brothers and sisters requires constant dedication – we can always do more, Pope Francis urges us.

This area has so many opportunities to give back – we are very blessed as a community. At Catholic Charities, I see everyday how volunteers make the difference and I see how volunteers walk away with a cup overflowing.

I've been thinking a lot about our clients recently, especially that young man I started this column talking about. The healing power of service and of giving back is one of the greatest gifts Christ gave to us.

This Lent, join me in committing to give just a little more than you were prepared to offer. Let's see how it heals our community and how it heals us.

OPT

**It pays to
advertise in
Our Parish Times**

St. Patrick



Just a tiny portion of the HUGE map of South America that was brought in for Geo Week to allow for all to participate in "feet on" learning!

Geo Week

Geo Week was back at St. Patrick's! This year we featured National Geographic's Giant Traveling Map of South America. Every student had multiple opportunities for interactive learning using the 26 x 35 ft. map. Global awareness and mapping skills were brought to life as students climbed Machu Picchu, toured the Amazon River basin, and observed the animals of the Galapagos Islands.

Students ended the week with a Geo Bee. Students in grades 5-8 competed against each other in our Geo Bee while younger students cheered on their buddies and took part in some activities as well.

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Church of the Resurrection Holds First Ecumenical Service

The Church of the Resurrection held its first-ever ecumenical service Sunday, January 19, with six ministers from five congregations and four different denominations in the Colesville area of Silver Spring participating.

The "Service of Christian Unity" included readings, prayers, blessings, hymns, a sermon, an affirmation of faith, and a sharing of the sign of peace, but not the celebration of the Eucharist.

Participating in the service were the Rev. Scott Hahn, pastor of Resurrection Church; the Rev. Todd Jones, pastor of Colesville Baptist Church; the Rev. Allen Stewart, interim pastor of Colesville United Methodist Church; the Rev. Y. David Brault, pastor of St. John the Baptist Catholic Community; the Rev. Anne Dwiggins, pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church; and the Rev. Scott Hahn of Resurrection Church. Photo by John Small



Taking part in Resurrection Church's first ecumenical service were, from left, Deacon John Cermak and the Rev. Y. David Brault of St. John the Baptist Catholic Community; the Rev. Todd Jones of Colesville Baptist Church (at podium); the Rev. Allen Stewart of Colesville United Methodist Church; the Rev. Anne Dwiggins of St. Stephen Lutheran Church; and the Rev. Scott Hahn of Resurrection Church. Photo by John Small

St. Stephen Lutheran Church; and Deacon John Cermak of St. John's.

In his sermon, Fr. Brault said the service was "an opportunity to reflect on the bond we have with Jesus Christ."

Noting that 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council's "Decree on Ecumenism" issued Nov. 21, 1964, Fr. Brault said "there can be no ecumenism without a change of heart."

He also said the ecumenical service was "an extension of our charity" and a reflection of "the love that radiated from the Upper Room."

Between the Scripture reading, the words of Psalm 133 were read, with the participants responding: "Unity, unity, Lord, we pray for unity."

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has a history of more than

100 years in which Christians around the world have taken part in prayer for unity. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has a history of over 100 years, in which Christians around the world have taken part in an octave of prayer for visible Christian unity. By annually observing the WPCU, Christians move toward the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper "that they all may be one." (cf. John 17:21) The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has a history of over 100 years, in which Christians around the world have taken part in an octave of prayer for visible Christian unity. By annually observing the WPCU, Christians move toward the fulfillment of Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper "that they all may be one." (cf. John 17:21) - USCCB

OPT

Joe Weisgerber Honored for Many, Many Years of Church Service

By John Small

Joe Weisgerber has served his church, his country and his volunteer fire department for almost his entire adult life – and at age 89 he's not stopping yet.

A member of Resurrection Church and a Riderwood resident since 2000, he has received many honors over the years for his unceasing work, but none that he cherishes more than the "Manifesting the Kingdom" award he received from the Washington Archdiocese

on Jan. 5.

"That one made me very, very proud. I've received over 50 awards, but never got one that got to me like this," he said of the award presented by Cardinal Donald Wuerl at ceremonies attended by more than 1,000 people at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

He was among some 200 recipients of the award in the archdiocese this year for "those who have served the church in an exceptional manner revealing the presence of Jesus Christ."

Weisgerber, who started in his service to the church as an altar boy more than 75 years ago at St. Aloysius Catholic Church on Capitol Hill, continues his work today as head usher for the Catholic community at Riderwood and as an assistant to staff at the Resurrection main office, helping to count collec-



Joseph (Joe) Weisgerber proudly holds his "Manifesting the Kingdom" award in the sanctuary of Resurrection Church. He received the award for "exceptional service" to the church at several parishes in the Washington area.

tions, among other tasks.

Not only that, he's still an active member of the Hillendale Volunteer Fire Department, where he has served for 61 YEARS. "But I quit climbing the ladder and riding in the front seat at age 70," he laughs.

His service to country included

a combined 40 years in the U.S. Navy as a fighter pilot and intelligence officer on active duty and in the Reserves, from which he did not retire until age 60.

In his early years in the Navy during World War II, he flew the famous gull-winged Corsair off the aircraft carrier Ranger and other carriers. He says he flew in a "Hot Shots" squadron that was a forerunner to formation of the famous Navy "Blue Angels" aerial team.

After his active duty Navy service, Weisgerber worked for the Veterans Administration for several years, then went on to a 40-year career at the General Services Administration (GSA) – working in Washington, New York and Philadelphia.

Even when working in other cities, he kept his home in the Washington area, living in the Oak View and

Wheaton areas of Silver Spring before moving to Riderwood. Over the years, he helped to establish St. Camillus Parish and St. Andrew's Parish, where he was president of the Parish Council and head usher. Meanwhile, he and his wife (now deceased) were raising a family of six children.

At Riderwood, he was one of the first to move in. For the first four years, Catholics living there car-pooled to Resurrection and later had a shuttle bus to attend Mass. Weisgerber says Fr. Bob Keffer (now retired) later started saying mass in the cafeteria, before an interdenominational chapel was built.

Weisgerber helped in the planning of the chapel in 2004 and later in coordination of it use by members of all faiths, including an estimated 800 Catholics among the 2,700 current residents. "We have eight or nine groups or denominations using the chapel, and never have had an argument with any of the other religions," he proudly

Continued on page 32

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Resurrection Group Makes Annual Trip to Haiti in 'Twinning' Mission

By John Small

Five members of Resurrection Church, including Pastor Scott Hahn, made the annual trip Feb. 11-18 to Haiti to provide continuing assistance for the church's "twin parish" in Gros Morne.

Since 2002, Resurrection parishioners have been involved in a Catholic ministry in northern Haiti, helping to build two mission churches and an elementary school in remote areas of the sprawling Our Lady of the Light parish in Gros Morne, which itself is a four-hour trip from Port au Prince.

Sister Rita Ricker (R.J.M.),



Visiting youngsters at the parish school in Larat, Haiti, were the Resurrection group (from left) Chris Alex, Darlene Newman, Sister Rita, Father Hahn, and Paul Meola (far right). Guy-Marie Garcon (second from right) works for the parish in Haiti.

Continued on page 32

Fun with Science and Technology

By John Patrick Nora, Eighth Grader

Do you want to learn while having fun? Well, then come join engineering and robotics club! The engineering club moderator is Mr. Kramer, father of Pre-K student Jacob Kramer. Know that Mr. Kramer puts a lot of time into this. This is why engineering club takes place on specific Mondays from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Engineering club is only for sixth grade through eighth grade. Mr. Kramer wanted to share cool engineering topics such as rockets, dams and levees, filtration systems, and bridges and buildings with students at St. Martin's. "Engineering club is a chance to have fun while learning math and science," says Matthew Cain, eighth-grade student participant. This is a chance for your child to learn and have a good time. Why not join when you can?

Another club that is just as fun as engineering club is the robotics club. Moderators for robotics club are Mrs. Cain (senior) and Mrs. Cain (junior). They wanted to have kids build robots, and also learn how to program them. Robotics club is for eighth grade only. In robotics club, you build robots and even program them to move or do other things! Know that you don't always have to follow an instruction packet to build a robot correctly. You can also experiment and test other theories that you might have. Some participants of robotics club say that it is the best club at the school! If you want your child to learn about programming, why not do it the fun way and program robots? "It's so fun that they're willing to stay until 5:00 p.m.," says moderator Mrs. Cain (senior). These clubs are just two examples of the fun at St. Martin's.

OPT



Luis Garay Percussion World Ensemble presented an amazing concert for the St. Martin's students during Catholic Schools Week. This multicultural ensemble is comprised of world class percussionists specializing in the exhilarating rhythms of the Americas and Africa. The students thoroughly enjoyed the show and learned about many different types of percussion instruments. Thanks to the Washington Performing Arts Society for providing the program. Photo by Logan Hsueh

The second graders of St. Martin's gather in front of the altar following their First Reconciliation. Photo by Ximena Payen



A New Verse in St. Martin's Song

By Matthew Cain, Eighth Grader

In January we welcomed a new music teacher to St. Martin's School, Miss Basil. Miss Basil first became interested in music by singing in the children's choir at her church and playing the clarinet, and these are her favorite parts about music. Miss Basil has been teaching music for a total of four years, and her transition to St. Martin's School has gone very smoothly.

Already the students have been growing a fondness for Miss Basil. Eighth grade student John Nora says, "She knows when we can have fun and when we need to be serious. She also plays music when we work, which is pretty cool. She's also very nice and seems like she wants the best for us." These are excellent qualities for a teacher, and Mrs. Basil displays them very well. Kaley Bell, another eighth grade student, says that she "is very involved with the students. She also lets us sing a lot and that's really great. She likes to incorporate fun into the lessons."

For years, St. Martin's has had spring and winter musicals that all of the classes participate in, and Mrs. Basil plans to continue

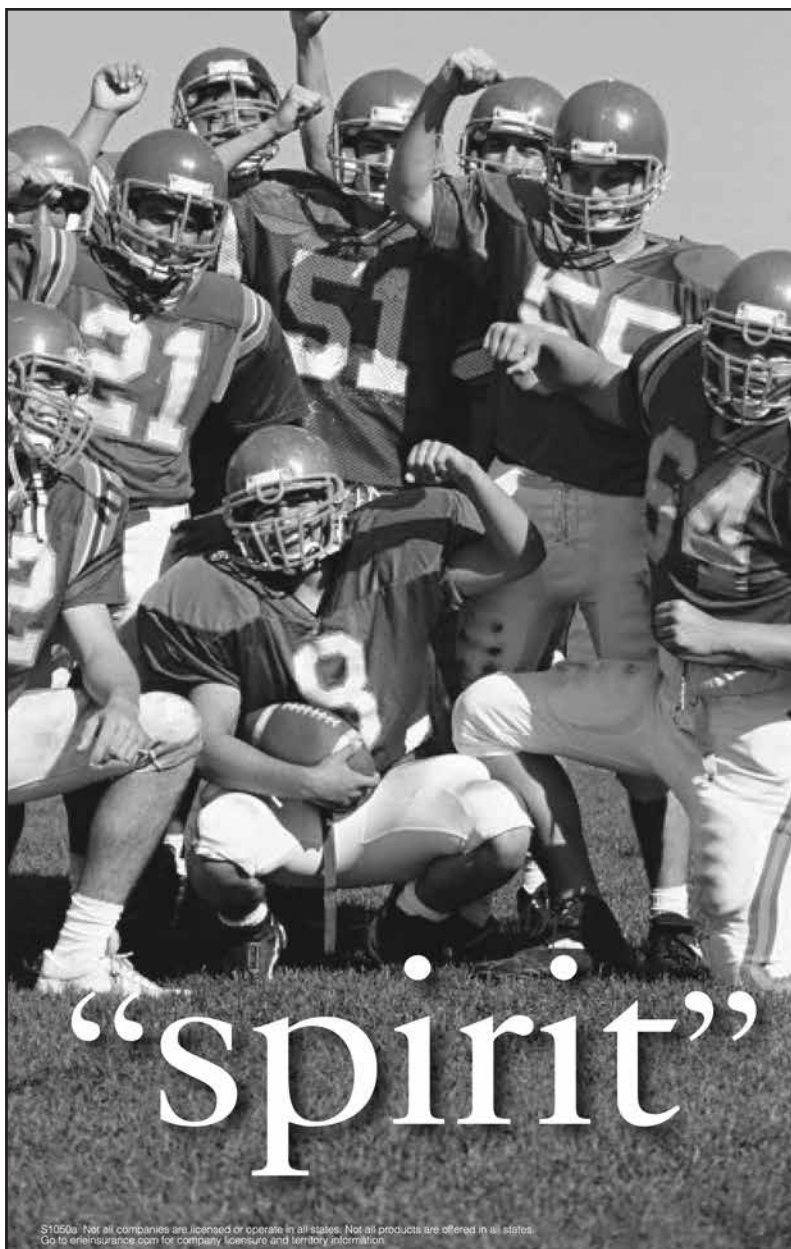
both of these St. Martin's tradition. However, she also has some plans of her own to bring to St. Martin's. She says, "I have orchestrated a choir with wonderful singers in it. I would also like to start a string program that will meet after school."

Mrs. Basil has already found her home in the St. Martin's community, and everybody can look forward to a great end of the 2013-2014 school year with her as the music teacher.

OPT



St. Martin's prepares for the annual St. Patrick's Dinner, Dance, and Auction. Volunteers transform the gym into a beautifully decorated venue, perfect for a fun, adult-only evening. The event has been a fixture on the parish calendar for more than 20 years and serves as the school's largest single-event fundraisers. Photo by Maria-Rose Cain



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**More St. Martin of Tours
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SJB's Eddie Iannone with his dad, Jim Iannone. Eddie won first place for 13-year old boys at the Knights of Columbus State Free Throw Competition.

St. John's Continues Ministry to Feed the Hungry

For many years, St. John's community has supported the St. Camillus Food Pantry. This takes place on a regular basis throughout the year. We collect food donations for our own pantry and volunteers collect, sort, and transport the food to St. Camillus. To help students understand better the critical need in our area, Mrs. Joan Conway from St. Camillus spoke with them and explained how their participation makes a difference.



Students transport boxed food to waiting cars.

During this year's Catholic Schools Week, particular items needed most by the families served at the pantry were assigned to each class. The food was packed up during lunch where students, parents, and teachers boxed and loaded food into several vehicles and transported to St. Camillus. Truly, SJB exemplifies and responds to Christ's message "When I was hungry, you gave me to eat."

OPT

Lenten Supper Talks at St. John the Baptist

Sharing a simple supper of homemade soups and breads coupled with talks related to the social concerns of our church, make up one of the activities members of St. John the Baptist are offered for the Lenten season.

Friday night talks run the range of "Love, Discipleship, and the Social Mission of the Church" to "Deuterastronomy: Saving

the Night Sky," presented by an astronomer, and "A Lenten Call to Conversion: Turning away from the Golden Calf and Promoting the Authentic, Integral Development of the Human Dignity," on destructive mineral mining in Central America.

Participation, accompanied by a gift of canned goods for St. Camillus Food Pantry, is open to all. Come join us!

OPT

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IJ Milone, Director of Faith Formation

St. John the Baptist's Parishioners Celebrate Lent

Responding to the question "What will bring me fully alive this Lent?" St. John's parishioners gathered for a Lenten Parish Renewal. With morning and evening sessions, child care available, and parallel programs for youth, it was easy to find a convenient time to participate.

Led by Fr. Tom Ryan, CSP, we explored the Lenten practices of fasting, keeping Sundays in perspective, forgiveness, and service. We were encouraged to recommit to and strengthen our Lenten practices as we grow more fully in our faith life. Each session included an opening and closing hymn, Father's presentation, and gathering afterward in the parish center. There was also an opportunity for Confession for those who wished it. The week

ended with a celebration of the Eucharist, followed by hospitality in the parish center.

On Friday nights during Lent, parishioners observed the Lenten fast by gathering in the Lyon Center to share a simple meal of soup and bread prepared by parishioners. During the meal, presentations centered on SJB's social concern projects and invited participants to think about opportunities in which they might participate. Topics included Breaking the Bonds of Poverty, Teaching Kids to Care, St. Camillus Food Pantry, Haiti Parish supported by SJB, the challenges of Homelessness, and the Colesville Council of Community Congregations. The concept of giving back in service to others was a prominent focus.

OPT

SHORT

Con't from page 1

to him and principal, Susan Malloy, our son succeeded at Victory and later The Heights high school. What a faith-filled gift of opportunity from Fr. Foley, and a gift to the people of St. Patrick's he will be.

Congratulations to Cardinal Wuerl, recipient of the 2014 Patricia Sullivan Award for Outstanding Service. This award is given annually by Potomac Community Resources to an individual who has led the community to be more loving and inclusive of people with special needs. Since arriving in Washington, he has worked to increase inclusion and participation in every aspect of parish and community life. The impact of his leadership is seen through enhanced Catholic programs including: a greater role for the Archdiocese Office for Special Needs Ministries; expansion of the Joseph P. Kennedy Institute, Catholic Coalition for Special Education and the work of PCR. He has supported new initiatives including Rosario Communities which builds homes for people with intellectual challenges on available parish properties, Upper Montgomery County Community Resources, Inc. and similar programs in Southern Maryland parishes. Cardinal Wuerl has made a significant difference in the lives of hundreds of people with physical and intellectual challenges. He is a most worthy recipient of this important and cherished award.

We have begun our Lenten journey. Each year I'm especially inspired by the Ash Wednesday Gospel, Chapter 6 of St. Matthew. In this reading, Christ teaches we should give alms to the poor; giving out of love and not for public or personal recognition. His prophetic message was unpopular in His time as it often is today. His lesson is a good one for Lenten reflection.

Lent is a period of atonement. In this, our Jewish brothers and sisters are fortunate that they have only one day for atonement, **Yom Kippur**; Lent is six weeks! Traditionally, Lent is a time of sacrifice; abstinence from some of our favorite foods or activities. In reflecting on the Ash Wednesday Gospel, Christ instructs in another way to atone by urging Christians to engage in unheralded acts of love and kindness for the Lord's sake. So, rather than giving up our daily cup of Starbucks, dessert, or whatever, **adding** deliberate acts of kindness and love each day during Lent can enhance our observance of this important spiritual period. What if each of the 300,000 Catholics who reside in Montgomery County added an act of kindness or love each day for six weeks! Shopping, traffic, email, family and civic life, sports, working conditions among other activities would be transformed and a bit more holy, if only for Lent. Seems like a wonderful way to memorialize and honor the suffering of Christ whose life's mission was to spread love and kindness among humanity.

Here's a practical activity that's available to our schools and parishes

for your consideration. **Operation Rice Bowl** is a partnership of Catholic parishes and Catholic Relief Services, the international aid agency of the US Catholic Church. Through this annual Lenten project, an Operation Rice Bowl Kit can be obtained from the parish school or religious education office. The kit includes a box for collecting money for the needy and an inspirational teaching and prayer package for Lenten reflection. Each day, participants identify a specific savings from their allowances, household expenses, or other resources and prayerfully place them in the Rice Bowl Box. **Critical to the project is the reflection of the individual, students, or family on the condition of the poor and our Christian obligation to assist them.** In Gospel spirit, the boxes are returned **anonymously** to the parish and the funds raised divided between the needs of the world's poor in places such as Haiti and our local poor such as a soup kitchen. A clear and simple way to live the Lenten Gospel.

Jews have a similar tradition. Their box is called a **Tzedakah** box into which Jewish families place loose change, Tikun Olam, for the purpose of repairing the world. Many Jewish homes keep a Tzedakah box, often created and decorated by the children, year round. Perhaps your family or group would like to construct its own "charity and kindness box" for year round use.

Wishing you a loving Lent and joyous Easter!

God Bless, Chuck Short



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The Holy Cross Girls' Varsity Basketball team, pictured, back row, left to right: Christina Stavish, Elaine Finney, Andrea Shirdon, Elise Mitchell. Front row: Lucy Wilkerson and Maddie Ewers. Three teammates are not pictured.

"Trey" Bien, Hawks!

The Holy Cross Girls' CYO Varsity Basketball team rounded off an exciting season in January with a 6-3 record in the conference, and neutralizing 1st seeded and undefeated De Chantal to qualify for the finals. Coach Perry Finney described the hard-fought championship game against Little Flower. "We were down by 15 points at the half. We could have folded, but did not. Our guards – led by Emily Martin and Elaine Finney – were outstanding. We rallied hard on a full court press and cut it to a 3 point deficit with an Elaine trey with about 40 seconds on the clock." The final score was 30-36, with the win – and our congratulations – going to Little Flower. "The girls were very proud of their effort, and they should be," Coach Finney added. The entire school community is proud of our team. Go Hawks!

OPT

History Inspires Holy Cross Students

Martha Brach, Middle School Social Studies teacher at Holy Cross, formed the Eighth Grade History Club six years ago, after she found an interest among her students to delve deeper into topics presented in class. The club meets once a week to watch a short video about an important historical event, which follows with a discussion during which students can ask questions, clarify understanding, and share ideas. "I choose the topics during the first half of the year, focusing mainly on events that precipitated

World War II. We also analyze specific battles of the war—the strategies and objectives for each – as well as things like the Bataan Death March and the Manhattan Project. This series of topics challenge students to think about the world from multiple perspectives, and to make connections to help explain issues confronting the world today," Miss Brach explained.

In the second half of the year, the students pick topics from a diverse list of twentieth century events and people. Victoria Galloway, an

Continued on page 32

Who Do You Think You Are?

That's the question that Christine Anne Schauer posed for her Science Fair project this year. Many people have traced back family history several generations, but Christine received confirmation from a DNA analysis that traced her family's roots to 60,000 years ago! The findings coincide with her research into the travel patterns of many generations of her ancestors.

Isabelle Homan attributes the idea for her science project to practicing her clarinet, something she likes to do without disturbing anyone. "I wanted to find out what materials provide the best sound insulation," she explained. "Water turned out to be the best." Isabelle's project entitled "Can you Hear Me Now?" earned a third place ribbon.

Some results were surprising. For example did you know that girls spend more time playing elec-

tronic games than boys? That's what Janique Peterkin determined after gathering data for her project, entitled "Is There Such a Thing as Too Much Gaming?" which earned a Fourth Place Ribbon.

Volunteers from the school, par-

Continued on page 32

Holy Cross Parish

4900 Strathmore Avenue
Garrett Park, MD

Rev. Msgr. Cary Hill, Pastor
301-942-1020

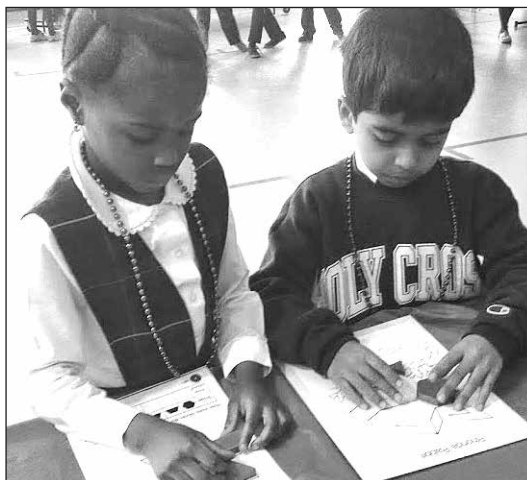
Holy Cross School
Lisa Maio Kane,
Principal
301-949-0053

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

Math + Games = Fun!

Grades Three through Five at Holy Cross hosted the second annual Math Carnival for Pre-Kindergarten through Second Grade students in January. The older students designed math games with differentiated levels of play that allowed the younger students to flex their skills at adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing. Adding to the enjoyment was the prize table where students could redeem tickets earned at the games for prizes. We can sum it up in three words: It was fun!

OPT



Science Fair Winners

Sixth Grade

First Place Maddie Zalewski Does Butter Matter?
Second Place Katelyn Menjivar Do You See it?
Third Place Luke Mitchell Energy from Water
Fourth Place Lance Gibney The Tests of Taste
and
Ella Weave The Eagle Has Landed

Seventh Grade

First Place Brennan Lyons Texting + Walking
Second Place Adrianna Navarro McTruth
Third Place Marie Clare Paxton Buttoned Down Blues

and
Andrew Wilkerson The Long Jump
Maria Manuel Pop! Pop!

Eighth Grade

First Place Nadira Roberts Landfills
Second Place Isabelle Homan Can You Hear Me Now?
Third Place Elise Mitchell Chlorine vs. Bacteria
Fourth Place Anne Christine Schauer Who Do You Think You Are?

and
Janique Peterki Is There Such Thing as Too Much Gaming?

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Candidates Susan Rice and Ed Zamani being signed with the cross by their sponsors while Catechumen Roger Stevens and his Godmother Olga Baeza look on.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults and Teens

Each year, during the Easter Vigil, parishes welcome new members into full communion with the Catholic Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (R.C.I.A.). Eight adults are preparing, through R.C.I.A., to be received into the Catholic Church at St. Andrew Apostle this April.

Over the past two years the parish's R.C.I.A. program has been reorganized, moving from didactic lectures to seminar format discussions led by a core group of six catechists. Additional catechists contribute periodically, giving participants an opportunity to interact with Catholics of different ages and life situations.

Therese Errigo leads the R.C.I.A. program. She also serves as President of Immaculate Conception Chapter of the Lay Fraternities of St. Dominic. Included on the team are Deacon Chris Alar and Brother John Luth, both from the Marians of the Immaculate Conception. Deacon Chris is a transitional deacon and a popular speaker. Originally from Connecticut, Brother Luth has lived overseas in England and Saudi Arabia. Tom Kreitzberg, Rose Folsom and Steve Monette round out the core team. Tom is a parishioner, father of two and author of a Catholic blog known for its penetrating and often amusing theological insights and commentary. Rose, another Lay Dominican, is completing a book on the virtues. Stephen Monette, a former seminarian and now father of five, enjoys sharing his expan-

sive knowledge of the faith garnered partly from the years he lived in Rome. The group meets weekly. One of the catechists leads a discussion on the assigned topic, choosing materials (handouts, videos, music, PowerPoint presentations, etc.) that complement the readings. The meetings are relaxed and provide a welcoming atmosphere in which the group can share experiences. Faith sharing by both instructors and participants is an important part of the weekly meetings. The instructors are frank with the struggles and joys they have encountered in their own faith journey.

Each year the group is different. This year's group is particularly enriched by their span of age and by diversity.

In addition to R.C.I.A., St. Andrew Apostle has a program designed especially for teens.

Modeled after R.C.I.A., the Rite of Christian Initiation for Teens (R.C.I.T.) is for any high school teen who has not been baptized or has not received the Sacraments of first Eucharist or first Reconciliation. R.C.I.T. teaches the fundamentals of the Catholic faith so that candidates who wish to become Catholic are baptized or make a Profession of Faith at the Easter Vigil and enter into full communion with the Church. This is the first year the program has been offered at St. Andrew Apostle and six teens are currently enrolled. Directed by Josh Moldiz, our Youth Minister, they meet weekly for prayer and catechesis. Along with two retreats, the teens also attend Youth Ministry meetings where the emphasis is on parish involvement, service and building a relationship with the parish community. Josh feels that this is key to the program's success, benefitting both the R.C.I.T. and the Youth Ministry. "The Church becomes more tangible to them. The idea of being brothers and sisters in Christ becomes more of a reality. They pray for each other. They pull for each other".

The adults, teens and their instructors continue the journey of faith through Lent and joyfully anticipate this year's Easter Vigil.

OPT

Guests and Gifts at recent Stand for Life social. Gifts were given to Centro Tepeyac Pregnancy Center in Silver Spring



Record crowd enjoys Adult Bingo Night

Record Attendance at Fundraiser

Adult Bingo Game Night, the annual fundraiser benefiting St. Andrew Apostle School, was held February 8th. The evening was a huge success with over 200 in attendance. A highlight of the event was the silent auction. Auction items included themed baskets, sports memorabilia, summer camps and din-

ner for eight prepared and served by Father Leary and Monsignor Hart. That dinner was very popular and generated much interest! It was a fun evening and a great way to come together as a community in support of Catholic education.

OPT

Looking Ahead

St. Andrew Apostle School will host a 5K/1K on March 29. Starting and finishing on the school grounds, the course winds its way through beautiful

Wheaton Regional Park. All levels of runners and walkers are welcome. In conjunction with the 5K, students will host a sponsored walk on March 21.

A portion of the proceeds from both events will be donated to the Lila Bean Foundation. For additional information and to register, please visit <http://bit.ly/SA5K2014>

OPT

You've Got a Friend in Me

By Tara Boogaerts, sixth-grade Religion Teacher

Brookwood is a singing school. Beyond music class, the girls sing in the hallways, in the stairwells, on school outings, and in their carpool shuttles. When the sixth-grade class received an invitation to sing at a 40th anniversary celebration for the Friendship Club, a group of 100 plus senior citizens from 12 area faith traditions, the students embraced the opportunity. Singing on stage is where many Brookwood girls feel most comfortable, and this relational batch of middle schoolers found it easy to perform uplifting songs about friendship. The selections included: "You are My Sunshine," "You've Got a Friend in Me," and "Lean on Me." While her classmates performed on stage, Grace Tifford accompanied on the piano. Many in this class are already involved in area performing arts groups, and thus sought to add dance to their existing repertoire.



Brookwood sixth graders performing for the Friendship Club

The dancing added to the already celebratory spirit of friendship.

Prior to their stage performance, the girls decorated the large auditorium, where the event was held, with posters reflecting what friendship signifies to them. On the posters were such phrases as "Friendship is Caring

for Each Other," "Friendships are Forever," "Friendship is Magical," "Friendship is Sweet," and "Friendship Rocks."

The girls also spent several weeks with their art teacher, Judy Kearns, making 120 decorative cards that

Continued on page 36

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

It pays to advertise in
Our Parish Times



Fathers and Daughters take to the dance floor at St. Bartholomew's Annual Father-Daughter Snowflake Ball on February 8. Photo by Elizabeth Crone

St. Bart's Twelfth Annual Snowflake Ball Huge Success!

By Elizabeth Crone

St. Bartholomew Home and School Association hosted the 12th annual Father-Daughter Snowflake Ball in the parish hall on Saturday evening February 8th. The event was attended by 150 girls and their dads who danced the night away to the music of DJ Bud Hall. The parish hall was transformed into a sparkling winter wonderland with glistening white lights, sparkling trees and snowflakes.

Appetizers and drinks were served and a photographer captured the evening in individual photos of each daughter with her Dad, as well as class group photos. The evening was a special time, providing fond memories for all who attended.

OPT

BENEFIT

Con't from page 3

A senior at Winston Churchill High School, Katie is an accomplished viola player, and a member of the Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra. She has performed at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center. Of her work at NoteAbles, Kate says "I want to thank everyone I volunteer with for their genuine happiness, for the smile I leave with after each session, and for everything they have taught me."

Kimberly Beer will receive the Outstanding Staff Member Award. Kim has worked with wonderful enthusiasm, warmth and dedication for six years with PCR. She has helped staff numerous PCR programs and special events, and represented the organization at conferences and resource fairs. In her "day job," Kim serves as the Director of Advocacy for the Arthritis Foundation in Washington, D.C., where she is responsible for advancing the foundation's legislative and policy agendas in Congress and the Executive Branch and oversees its 77,000 member grassroots advocacy program. Of her work with PCR, Kim says "there hasn't been an event or program where I haven't laughed or learned something about myself or about the PCR members that hasn't amazed me."

PCR encourages the full inclusion of persons with developmental differences into community life. It provides therapeutic, recreational, social, educational and respite care programs for teens and adults throughout Montgomery County. PCR also assists other faith and community groups to create programs and services for persons with intellectual and developmental differences. PCR began in 1994 at Our Lady of Mercy Parish, which still generously supports PCR. Its Chairman is Monsignor John J. Enzler.

OPT

**It pays to advertise in
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Cardinal McCarrick Braves Snowstorm to Visit St. Bart

Celebrates Popular Sunday 8:00pm "Contemporary Christian" Mass

On Sunday, March 2, as a major snowstorm bore down on Washington, Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, archbishop emeritus of Washington, visited St. Bartholomew Parish for St. Bart's 8:00 p.m. Mass, which features "contemporary Christian" music. Cardinal McCarrick, who is 83 years old, noted that that St. Bart's seemed "more lively" since he had last visited the parish several years ago and that the music was also "lively."

The Cardinal clearly enjoyed the Mass and thanked God for the musicians. St. Bartholomew's 8:00 p.m. Sunday evening Mass was started over a year ago and has grown into a well-attended, popular Sunday Mass option for Montgomery County and D.C. residents. It is the last Sunday Mass in Montgomery County. Cardinal McCarrick fulfilled his promise to have Mass-goers home safely before the first snowflakes fell.

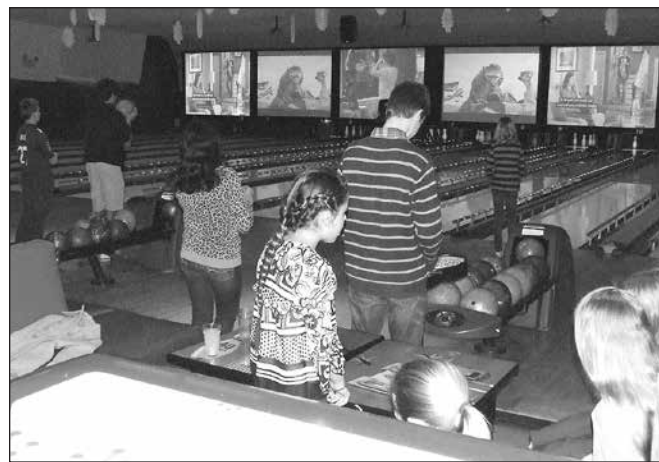
OPT



The band performs Contemporary Christian music as Cardinal McCarrick, assisted by Deacon Julio Blanco-Eccleston, celebrates 8:00 p.m. Sunday Mass at St. Bartholomew Parish. From left to right, Barry Gurley is on the piano, Demetri Christos and Jeanne Hisle are on vocals, and John Starr is on bass guitar. Not shown are Duncan Ballantine on acoustic guitar, Ken McNair on drums, and Phil McCusker on electric guitar.

Busy St. Bart's Youth Group Tackles Bowling

The St. Bart's Youth Group went bowling at Bowlmor Lanes in Bethesda on Sunday, February, 2. The crowd of teenagers and near-teenagers, fueled by pizza and soft drinks and



St. Bartholomew Youth Group members roll strikes at Bowlmor Lanes in Bethesda

accompanied by Youth Group leaders Maria Kaufmann and John Archer, had a great time. The Youth Group has had a full schedule recently, including a discussion of "Friendship, Dating, and Marriage" on February 23 for the older kids, and Movie Night on March 2, where the movie "The Human Experience" was shown.

Future events (as of the OPT deadline) include a fundraiser bake sale for the Missionaries of Charity on March 9 after 10 a.m. and noon masses at St. Bart's, and ice skating on March 16 (weather permitting) at the Sculpture Garden Ice Rink. Typically St. Bart's Youth Group events feature sports before and after the main events, as well as "dinner!"

OPT

St. Bartholomew Parish

6900 River Road Bethesda, MD 20816

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7:00PM(English) • 8:15PM(Spanish)
- Reconciliation "Light is on For You"
Wednesday Evenings 6:30 – 7:30PM
Saturday- 2:45-3:45PM
- Share the Hope Food Drive March 14
- Lenten Day of Retreat March 15, 9:30-3:45PM
- Lenten Parish Revival March 17-19 7:00PM
- Lenten Fish Fry March 28- 4-8:00PM
- Lenten Prayer Groups meet every week
- Operation Rice Bowls during Lent

See Lenten updates on facebook page:
www.fb.com/St.Michaels. Silver.Spring

St. Michael's Parish

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Pastor

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Joanie Heavey,
OPT Editor

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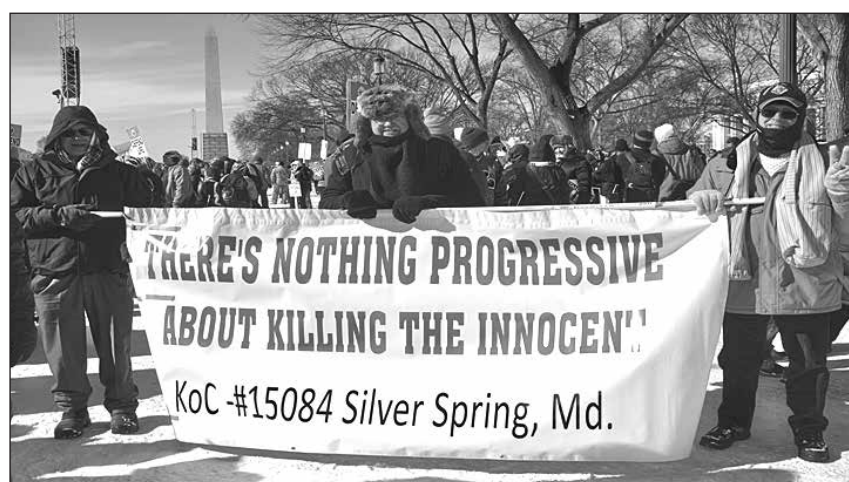
Lorraine Lynch, MSW
Program Manager
lorraine.lynch@
catholiccharitiesdc.org

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Three Council Knights, Greg McFadden, Chancellor, Stephen Holowenzak, DGK and Charles Hayes, PGK, from St. Michael the Archangel Church standing on the frozen ground of the National Mall near the Washington Monument holding their banner with the poignant words of Pope Francis.

"Walking the Walk" in the 41st March for Life

St. Michael the Archangel Knights of Columbus Council #15084

By SK Stephen Holowenzak and SK Charles Hayes

On Wednesday, January 22, the morning of the 41st March for Life, Rev. Msgr. Eddie Tolentino celebrated the beautiful Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and focused his moving homily on the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. Mass was held at St. Michael the Archangel Roman Catholic Church in Silver Spring, MD. Knights of Columbus Council #15084 officers and members participated.

Later the same morning, thousands upon thousands of Pro-Life believers, (young and old, parishioners, clergy, professionals, college, university and high school students from all walks of life) converged on the National Mall for the 41st March for Life. It was a time for National prayers, talks, action and massive show of their spiritual and moral commitment to



On their way to the US Supreme Court, supporters carried their sign "We Are PRO LIFE" past the National Museum of Art with the banner of "St. Michael the Archangel" the protector of the innocent.

Christian faith and to the Sanctity of Life.

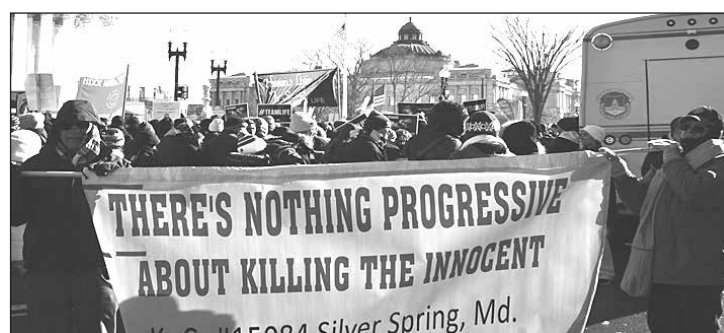
Three Knights from St Michael the Archangel Council (Greg McFadden, Charles Hayes, and Stephen Holowenzak) carried their own banner (shown below) along with thousands of other Knights and believers from around our nation (state by state) with banners and signs of their own They heard

the call, braved the elements and made the charge to the National Mall, to listen to speeches from Pro-Life Congressional members and March Organizers. Critically important came, Pope Francis's text and announcement from the Vatican to marchers of support for an anti-abortion march in the nation's capital. The statement read, "I join the March for Life in Washington with my prayers. May God help us respect all life, especially the most vulnerable."

The marchers with their banners walked in solidarity up Washington DC Constitution Avenue past Capitol Hill and on to the Supreme Court building to affirm the "Sanctity of Life."

As true Pro-Life believers, the marchers were there to show their resolve about Pro-life and the protection of unborn children and to protest the Supreme Court's 1973 decision (Roe vs. Wade) that declared a constitutional right to abortion.

OPT

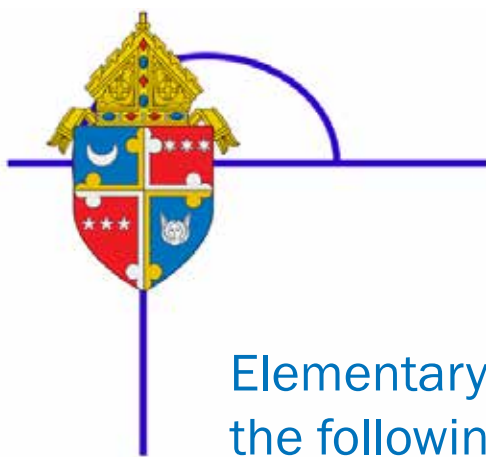


With our US Flag flying high, marchers arrive on the steps of the US Supreme Court. Thousands upon thousands of marcher arrive at on the steps and grounds of the US Supreme Court. Council # 15084 Knights pause to present their banner and it statement to the public.



Another Successful Oyster Roast!

The Knights of Columbus Council 15084 and St. Michael the Archangel Parish hosted another successful oyster roast on February 7. Proceeds went to Catholic Seminarians and much needed church roof repairs. Pictured are Fr. Saulo Vicente and several St. Michael's parishioner in the Williamsburg Room.



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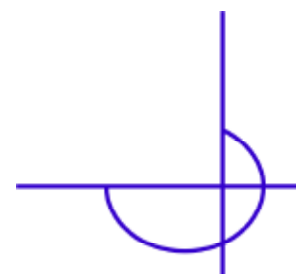
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Music at Our Lady of Lourdes School

By Rebecca Maurer

March is National "Music in Our Schools Month," and as I look through the articles in my monthly newsletter from the National Association for Music Educators (NAfME), I have never felt luckier to teach music. Many of my colleagues across the nation have to fight to keep their ensembles, their classrooms, their jobs, because of an ever-increasing focus on "core" subjects to the exclusion of "specials." I could probably talk about that issue all day, but I'd rather focus on what I'm thankful for in this article.

At Our Lady of Lourdes School, we have two choirs, two bands, a drama club, and general music for every grade. "So what?" you may ask, and I can understand your confusion, since our music program is hardly revolutionary. What makes Lourdes different is the atmosphere. Every morning, the entire school starts the day with prayer – and

SINGING. And when I say "entire school," I don't mean just the students. Teachers, Mr. Long, and Mrs. McGann are all enthusiastic participants, and it makes a huge difference. The fact that even the "cool" teachers (you know who you are) put in the effort to perform silly hand motions and belt out patriotic tunes sends the message to every student in the school: this is important.

The support from our parish makes a huge difference, too. When our choirs are invited to sing for Sunday mass, the parish members make the students and me feel so welcome. Many Fridays after the noon Mass, I am approached by people who want to congratulate me on teaching the children how to sing so beautifully. My response is usually, "Thank you, but I really cannot take the credit for the singing atmosphere that I inherited." During "Music in Our Schools Month" I express my gratitude for the musical children and the encouragement and support that they and I receive for our programs. **OPT**

Silent Auction a Huge Success

For many weeks the auction committee has been scouring the town for items to be auctioned off at the Our Lady of Lourdes Silent Auction. Their efforts certainly came to fruition on Saturday night at the Black Finn Restaurant. Over 200 parents, friends and teachers enjoyed delicious food, cocktails and great company while bidding on everything from a camping trip with Mr.



Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Appgood, Mrs. Lacey and Mrs. DuFour enjoying the auction.

Long to a seven-day timeshare in Orlando, Florida. There were tickets to Nationals, Orioles, Caps, Notre Dame, Maryland and Redskins games and to the theater and concerts. One could bid on front row seats

to graduation, the Christmas Pageant and our upcoming production of "The Sound of Music".

Teacher experiences were a big draw,

Continued on page 35

An Update on the Artists of Our Lady of Lourdes School

By Riley Sheebey, Art Teacher

The students at Our Lady of Lourdes School have been working energetically this quarter in art class. Little Group and Pre-K students finished painting and collaging their mixed-media "tinted" hearts at the end of February, and are currently learning about how to draw and paint landscapes. In the elementary school, kindergarteners have been comparing and contrasting the artwork of Pablo Picasso and Mexican painter Frida Kahlo by creating self-portraits in both of their artistic styles.

The first grade students just finished painting a striped table for this past Saturday's auction, and are about



Pottery painted in the Blue Willow pattern of Ancient China by the students of the Lourdes sixth grade class.

to begin learning about how stained glass windows can tell different Bible stories. They will be visiting the church to examine our own stained glass windows soon. In the second grade, students are exploring the color wheel through still life paintings, and the third grade just completed surrealist drawings in the style of Belgian artist Rene Magritte. Last week, the fourth and fifth graders began a unit on British Op-artist Bridget Riley and

Continued on page 35

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

7500 Pearl Street Bethesda, MD

Msgr. Edward Filardi, Pastor
301-654-1287

Patricia Kilroy McGann Principal
301-654-5376



Mercy Change for Life Baby Bottle Campaign

Kindergartners Christian Moore, Anna Gilbert, Ainsley O'Connor, Roman Wright, and Nikolas Mundy proudly display baby bottles filled with change that will be donated to the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center. The annual campaign ministers to young mothers and their families while teaching children the importance of helping others. Children (K-8) are encouraged to place bottles in a popular place at home and drop change in them while saying a brief prayer for mothers and their children.

Mercy Principal Welcomes New School Mascot

Mercy principal Joan Hosmer thrilled students at a culminating Catholic Schools Week assembly when she presented the school's new mascot, the Mercy Pride lion.



At the School Spirit Day assembly, Hosmer was honored by teachers with a "singular sensation" song and dance tribute, along with student accolades proclaiming her as the best principal ever. Pictured are vice principal Frank English, the Mercy Pride lion, and principal Joan Hosmer.

The Spring Gala Season

While we have had a winter that has seemed to last forever, spring is just around the corner and with it comes a series of fundraisers that are of significant importance to the Mercy community.

The season begins on Saturday, March 15, 2014 with "Blossoms in the Spring," the 18th annual Patricia Sullivan Benefit Dinner. The Dinner benefits Potomac Community Resources, Inc. which provides therapeutic recreational, social, educational and respite care programs for teens and adults with developmental differences.

The venue for the event is the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center. The evening will begin with cocktails at 6:30, followed at 7:30 with dinner, awards presentations and dancing.

His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl, S.D.T., Archbishop of Washington, is serving as the Honorary Benefit Chair. He will also receive the Patricia Sullivan Leadership Award.

Other honorees will include Katie Zhao, Outstanding Youth Volunteer; Maureen Appel, Visionary Award, and Kimberly Beer Outstanding PCR Staff Member.

On Friday, April 4th, Our Lady

of Mercy School will hold its annual fundraiser. This year's theme is "Cowboy Up." Western style dress is encouraged. The evening will feature a country band, DJ, mechanical bull rides, smoked barbecue dinner and an auction. This shindig is described by its organizers as "plain ole boot stompin' fun."

The "Heart of Mercy Gala" will take place Saturday, April 5th, 2014 at the Embassy of Italy. The gala is a fundraising venture for Mercy Clinic. The clinic is committed to increasing access to quality medical care for low income and uninsured adults in Montgomery County.

The evening will include a formal dinner, a live and silent auction and music and dancing.

OPT

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Potomac, MD

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Our Lady of Mercy School

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St. Elizabeth Students compete in robotics challenge

By MaryGrace Gagliardi

The “Lego Movie” is but one offshoot of the wildly popular kids’ construction toy game. There’s even a nationwide league of teams for kids ages 9-14, that compete given a challenge robot that they build using their own ingenuity, helped by background research and supervision. Called FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO® League, or FLL, students solve real-world engineering challenges and develop important life skills by their participation.

St. Elizabeth School has its own team, the Lego Tryhards. On Sunday, January 12, 2014, the Tryhards participated in the Shady

Continued on page 34



Dominic Gagliardi with the Tryhards robot, The Dominator. The story's author, his mom, stands to the right.

Congratulations, St. Elizabeth School alumni, Mackenzie Hickey (class of 2012), on you quest to become The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's 2014 Student of the Year! Mackenzie, along with her “Team Mackenzie” teammates is working hard to raise funds to support therapies and treatments for those that battle blood cancers. As part of her campaign, Mackenzie visited St. Elizabeth School to share her goals and educate the students on the importance of her mission. (See photo.) Way to go Mackenzie! The St. Elizabeth School community is so proud of you!



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Searching for the open door. The Job Seekers Group at St. Elizabeth plot their position on the Career Road Map.

Job Seekers Find Spiritual and Practical Support at St. Elizabeth Parish

By Jeanne Anastasi

Through the vision of St. Elizabeth Pastor Msgr. Jack Macfarlane, the parish has

initiated a number of small, spiritually based groups on a range of topics addressing families with special needs, healing from separation and divorce, writing your spiritual story—and others. Perhaps the most seasoned of these small communities is the Job Seekers Support Group, begun three years ago by parishioner Jim McKenna as a Lenten “chat group.”

Our Job Seekers group provides spiritual, emotional, and practical support for persons who are looking for work, re-entering the workforce, underemployed, or considering a career change. In addition,

Continued on page 34

St. Elizabeth Parish

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OPT Editor
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More St. Elizabeth News
on Page 34

SBS Second Grade Parents Sweep Annual HSA Chili Cook-Off

Three of the families who attended last year's HSA chili cook off had such a great time that they decided to compete this year. Each family, whose oldest child happens to be in St. Bernadette's Second Grade, made a different type of chili. Jack Devilbiss made the 1st place turkey chili, Priscilla Rawlins made the 2nd place ground beef chili and Karen Manley made the 3rd place white chicken chili.

Cook-Off attendees and participants enjoyed these chilis as well as Jen Herlihy's steak chili, Maggie Warnick's sausage chili and Steve Mann's venison chili. Pete's New Haven APizza was also provided. Maura Hanley Haanes-Olsen said, "I left full... way to go!" The judges had a hard time deciding who would win, but, once announced, the children of the winners didn't take long to run up and celebrate



SBS Chili Cook-Off winners Jack Devilbiss with son Declan

with their parents.

The winners received trophies, gift certificates donated by The 4 Corners Pub and bragging rights for the year. All are looking forward to defending their titles

at the 2015 Home and School Association's cook off when Msgr. Smith will provide his renowned food expertise to the judge's table.

OPT

Boots & Bling theme lets St. Bernadette School take the bull by the horns

St. Bernadette School held their Sixth Annual Gala Auction Friday, February 21st at the Samuel L Riggs IV Alumni Center at the University of Maryland. "Saint Bernadette School has a reputation as big as Texas, and it is well deserved." Msgr KB Smith said, "It stands on the reality of an excellent school with a committed, hard-working, and talented faculty, supported by and omniscient staff and seemingly omnipresent community of parents and friends who make that excellence possible."

Truer words could have not been spoken. Embracing the *Boots and Bling* theme, event attendees donned cowboy hats, boots, and lots of sparkle to gather and enjoy cocktails, passed appetizers, dinner buffet, bull riding and dancing while participating in the silent and



Mimi and Roger Dennis embrace the Boots and Bling gala theme.

live auctions. Also included were a wingspan raffle, surprise boxes, sign-up parties, and the always popular Heads-or-Tails game.

Silent Auction items included wine tastings, weekends away, adventures with teachers, gift bas-

kets, and class creations. With over 135 items to choose from, certainly there was something for even the most discerning cowpoke. Auctioneer, Sherry Truhlar kept the bids coming during a very spirited Live Auction. Attendees had the opportunity to place their brand on 15 different items including a progressive dinner at Jose Andres DC eateries, tickets to see the Barefoot Contessa - Ina Garten, and a trip to Kinsale, Ireland. All funds raised will be used to off-set expenses and enhance school programs.

OPT



SBS student Matt Murphy wins 2014 Geography Bee in a tie-breaker question with William Heinle. Teachers Tina Field, Virginia Cooper, event organizer, and Shirley Jeffords celebrate with the winners.

SBS Celebrates Teachers, Staff and Students During Catholic Schools Week

Activities throughout Catholic Schools Week at SBS gave all a chance to celebrate and to show appreciation. Students were treated to assemblies focused on their service to the community, patriotism and vocations, tag days centered on school colors and American pride, and an afternoon featuring fun activities.

Parents had an opportunity to show their appreciation to teachers, administrators and staff members via HSA activities. Dawn Nichols, HAS Board Member said, "The Home School Association used Catholic Schools week as a means of treating our wonderful teachers to a breakfast on Monday, teacher treat cart during the week, daily treats in their mailbox and a special teacher luncheon in

downtown Silver Spring on Friday afternoon. In addition, the HSA purchased a new microwave to replace the broken one in the teacher's room. Much appreciated by all from what we have heard!"

OPT

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Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Msgr. K.

Bartholomew Smith, Pastor

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St. Peter's Students Celebrate Their Baptism



Preschoolers bless themselves on Baptism Day.

Most elementary schools recognize their students on their birthdays, but this year, St. Peter's added another celebration — Baptism Day. The Catholic Identity Committee of the school's strategic planning process has been researching activities that would enhance the spiritual development of the children and also bring parents into the teaching process. Among several ideas, the Committee proposed that it is essential for our students to recognize the importance of their baptism into the Catholic faith. This sacrament not only removes the guilt of

Continued on page 33

Principal for the Day

Adults recognize the job of being a principal of a school as one of dealing with problems with students, problems with teachers, and problems with parents. Few people really know what goes on behind the office door. A popular item in the St. Peter's Gala live auction is "Principal for the Day." Parents bid high for the prize of having their child sit behind the big desk. This year, two families won the honor, and each had two children participate in the many responsibilities of the principal.

On one day in February, Phillip Stasko, a fourth grader, was the principal and his brother, Teddy, a second grader, served as his Assistant Principal. The next day was the Calogero twins' day. Isabella and Lilly, fifth graders, served as Co-Principals. The day began with the 'principals' greeting the children during morning arrival and then making announcements on the school's television program. A free out-of-uniform



Isabella Calogero (far left) shakes the hand of TV anchorperson Katherine Smith, while Lilly Calogero (far right) thanks Emma Ardizzone for her work with the show.

day was declared, and the recess time was expanded. Birthday treats were handed out, the school's bird

Continued on page 36

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The Spiritual Life Committee with seniors at The Solana show the blankets they made.

The Spiritual Life Committee – Serving the Community

The Spiritual Life Committee at St. Peter's School has been revitalized this year under the guidance of paraeducator, Yami Costa. With the idea of serving the community around them, Mrs. Costa had the students reflect on what they could do to serve

those in need. Each student came up with an idea. One girl remembered receiving a special blanket as a patient at Children's Hospital and how much it meant to her at the time. She suggested the committee could make blankets

Continued on page 36

Dancing the Night Away

The weather outside might be frightful, but the dancing inside was delightful. That was certainly true February 7 at Saint Peter's School's 12th annual Ballroom Dance Competition held at the Oak Room in Sandy Spring. The Ballroom Dance Competition is a culmination of 10 weeks of dance instruction provided by Diane and Paul McRoberts to Saint Peter's seventh and eighth grade students. Mr. and Mrs. McRoberts and Mrs. Mary Randles, the school's Development Director, served as judges for the competition

Continued on page 36

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Olney, MD

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Pastor**
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St. Peter's School
Mary Elizabeth Whelan,
Principal
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Sheila Pfeifer, Parish Editor
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St. Raphael School Update

By Nora Stephens

March is here, but, at press time, it certainly doesn't feel like spring. A glimpse outside the windows of St. Raphael School shows the grounds still blanketed in snow. Yet the sun gets stronger every day, and that must mean that we'll see daffodils popping up at any moment!

National Junior Honor Society Arrives

Because we are a young school, we are experiencing many "firsts." One of those firsts is the founding of a National Junior Honor Society. Students in grades 6, 7, and 8 with a minimum grade point average of 3.5 are eligible to participate. If they meet the criteria, they are asked to complete a form to detail their leadership, service, and community activities. A faculty committee will review the forms and look for qualities of scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship. After students are selected, they will be inducted into the NJHS in a formal ceremony this spring.

SRS to Honor First Confirmands

Another first is the Confirmation of our first class of eighth-graders in April. While St. Raphael Church has celebrated many sacraments of Confirmation over the years, this one is particularly special. Our

community is so blessed, and we continually feel the presence and works of God in our lives. This sacrament will further enrich us with the strength of the Holy Spirit in our hearts.

Science Fair and Track Team Soar

The firsts continue in other arenas as well. Our first middle school science fair, led by science teacher Melissa Kelly, was held earlier this month. Our students worked hard on their projects, which were judged by science professionals from our own community. We are also fielding our first track team this year! After two years of our Angels on the Run 5K, we know we have quite a few sprinters out there ready to fly when the starter goes off.

Presenting 'The Little Mermaid Jr.'

We may be young, but we have already formed some traditions. Our second school musical will be held March 21-22. The entire staff and student body are eagerly awaiting the production of "The Little Mermaid Jr." The sets and costumes are coming together through the dedication of parents and kids. Opening night will be here before you know it. The Children's Stations of the Cross, set for April 11, is an even older tradition at St. Raphael Parish, where St. Raphael School or Religious Education students read the stations for the congregation. Afterward, the children and their families enjoy a pizza dinner in the Trumpet Room.

Girls' Night Out is April 30

We surely expect that the daffodils will be in full bloom by Girls' Night Out on April 30. The spring shopping boutique includes festive drinks, munchies, a terrific raffle, and almost 40 vendors – a perfect opportunity to shop for Mother's Day, First Communion, Confirmation, graduation or just yourself. Admission is free. This popular event keeps getting better every year.

OPT

BREAKFAST

Con't from page 8

Charities. Before the service work began, middle school students attended a special afternoon Mass with Holy Redeemer's parochial vicar Fr. Samuel Plummer. After the Mass, Kevin O'Brien from the Cup of Joe Project spoke to the students about the importance of doing service work. After Mr. O'Brien's talk,

Darryl Colbert, also from Catholic Charities, spoke to the students about the time in his life when he needed the services of Catholic Charities. Mr. Colbert's talk was very moving and left the students with a real sense of how they could make a difference in someone's life. After the service project was completed, eighth graders reflected back on the experience in a journal entry in literature class.

OPT

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That Man is You, St. Raphael Church. Photo by Frank Della Penna

That Man is You

Over the past year and a half, St. Raphael has offered a wonderfully successful program for the men in our parish. That Man is You, brings together 100-120 men gather each Saturday morning at 6:00 am for a light breakfast, a teaching video, followed by

sharing in small groups. The teachings are focused on men, leadership, and building stronger families. Its training helps our men bring their Christianity into their homes, their families and their lives.

The sharing and fellowship allow the men to learn from each other, and

the small groups encourage bonding between other like-minded Catholic men interested in making the Lord and their Christianity more a part of their lives. We are witnessing the fruit of this effort as the men and their families increase their participation in the parish and parish life.

OPT

Lent at St. Raphael

Lent is a busy and beautiful time in St. Raphael parish, with many opportunities to come together as a community.

Every Friday, St. Raphael offers an opportunity to participate in the Stations of the Cross, where we can as a community reflect on Jesus' sacrifices for us. One long tradition is the Children's Stations of the Cross, which will be held on Apr.

11. The children the stations for the congregation and then their families convene in the Trumpet Room and enjoy a pizza dinner together.

Our parish participated in a program called Empty Bowls, where after the first Stations of the Cross of Lent, parishioners gathered for a simple meal of meatless soup and bread. Proceeds of the event, which encouraged donation of \$5 per per-

son or \$20 per family, helped fund the programs of the parish's St. Vincent DePaul Society.

St. Raphael, like other parishes throughout the archdiocese is participating in the Lenten Food Drive. This wonderful tradition, which began during the visit of Pope Benedict in 2008, benefits the Capital Area Food Bank

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After a stellar 19-0 season and a 14U Varsity Mid-Atlantic Girls Division 1 Championship St. Mary's gears up for the City Championship Finals Game on Sunday March 9th at St. John's College High School against Blessed Sacrament.



Congratulations to the Bacon Bots robotics team from St. Mary's! They competed in the Maryland state championship Saturday March 1st against 71 other teams and won a trophy in the Programming category! The team did well in all aspects of the competition. They should all be very proud of their accomplishment. Above the team is pictured with coaches Mr. Sanneman and Mr. Badamo!



The St. Mary's Annual Auction and Gala went "South of the Border" this year with a true Mexican Fiesta—La Gala Loca. School families and parishioners alike gathered to honor awardees Victor and Lilly Muzzatti and Gary and Clare Funkhouser, recognized for their volunteerism and contributions to the Parish. Attendees enjoyed a spectacular live auction featuring vacation homes, trips and Disney tickets. Pictured at left: Bob and Alice Scanlon get into the spirit of the night's theme!

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The Lenten Season Is Upon Us

By Maureen Stiles

For many, the Lenten Season is an opportunity to strengthen our souls through sacrifice by giving up something we enjoy or hold dear for Lent. However, it is also important that we use this time as a means of growing within our faith in preparation for the celebration of Easter.

To that end, St. Mary's has many spiritual

events planned during the Lenten Season. The first was a 4-day Lenten Mission held in conjunction with the Parish Bicentennial. Visiting speakers joined our own Father Gallagher and Monsignor Amey as they offered enlightening sessions from March 10-13.

A Lenten Retreat Series featuring Br. Henry Stephan O.P. of the Dominican House of Studies will also be available. The session entitled "The Lenten Spiritual Toolkit: Four Keys To Living Happily Ever After," will be offered four consecutive Tuesdays beginning on March 18 and ending on April 8 with a different topic each week.

In addition, St. Mary's will offer a full complement of Lenten worship and reflection with Stations of the Cross each Friday at 7pm (with the exception of Good Friday) and Confessions each Wednesday evening as well as regular Saturday afternoon confession times.

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St. Mary's School
Mrs. Debby Eisel, Principal
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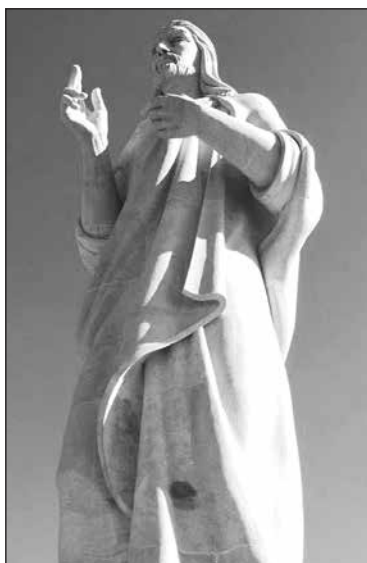
Religious Pilgrimage to Cuba

Christine Jeffery as well as Sue and John Clark recently went to Cuba as part of a religious pilgrimage, through the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation.

In addition to Jeffery and the Clarks, there were 20 other pilgrims of diverse backgrounds and faith traditions, from far and near. The pilgrims went to Cuba to pray with Cuban Christians, share faith stories, and journey under the spiritual guidance of Thomas Merton, who visited Cuba in 1939.

As part of the trip, the pilgrims visited the Christ statue in Havana. Cuba. As the pilgrims approached the statue, prayers were offered for the people of Havana, the people of Cuba, all who were encountered on the journey and for the people of the world.

OPT



Christ statue in Havana, Cuba. Photo by Becky Kretschmann

St. Rose of Lima Stands Up for Life

By Mary Zoccola

A group of St. Rose youth and other parishioners faced extremely cold temperatures and attended the Right to Life March on January 22, 2014.

The St. Rose group went to the Right to Life March as an expression of their pro-life beliefs. Ultimately attendees hope to make a difference in the political debate about abortion. "It was a great testament to the idea that you can't wait for the right time to take a stand, you just have to do it," said Susan Joseph, adding that she has been attending the March for a few years. "I am not sure if it makes a difference to the lawmakers on Capitol Hill," Joseph continued, adding she is sure that people notice the Marchers, via happenstance encounters. "From the workers at the Verizon Center to the business people walking on the streets, to the folks we sat next to at the crowded little sandwich shop. They see us, they read our signs, they wonder." Also, Joseph said she thinks that the Right to Life Marchers caused passersby to pause and consider the pro-life message. "It is in these pensive looks that I see the power and the grace of our loving



St. Rose parishioners attend Right to Life march

Father, always reaching out to us with encouragement and love. It is perhaps not through the laws that Roe vs Wade will be overturned but in the hearts and minds of good people everywhere."

The sheer number of participants in the Right to Life March energized and reinforced the St. Rose group in sharing their right to life message. "I remember turning around at the top of Capitol Hill and seeing a sea of people marching behind me," Simon Brake said. Another St. Rose marcher, Caitlin Shea said, "It was a very moving day." Shea continued, "It was especially impressive to see the

youth's enthusiasm continue, as we walked toward the Supreme Court, in freezing temperatures."

Prior to the Right to Life March, the St. Rose contingent attended the Right to Life Mass at the Verizon Center. The Mass served as a fitting prelude to the March. Joseph recalled, "We prayed, sang, and cheered our way through the wonderful rally at the Verizon Center. Then it was time for prayer. Being part of a group prayer of thousands was particularly powerful." Joseph continued. "Together with everyone in arena, we prayed the Rosary, our voices in uni-

Continued on page 36



St. Rose Thank You Party featured a Mardi Gras theme and lots of fun for all. Photo by Kwanho Roh

Mardi Gras Thank You Party for Volunteers

On February 22, St. Rose held their annual Thank You Party as an expression of gratitude for St. Rose for the volunteer activities of its parishioners.

Previous Thank You parties were timed along with Twelfth Night at Christmastime. This year, the party had a Mardi Gras theme. The evening started with a Mardi Gras parade; Msgr. Langsfeld played the King of Mardi Gras.

"The party recognizes the gifts of time and talent that parishioners give throughout the year," said Laura Lowery, a member of the Administrative Staff at St. Rose.

"Many programs and ministries wouldn't be possible without support from volunteers," she added.

Additionally, people giving of their time directly ties into the vision statement at St. Rose: Broken we gather, nourished we reach out. In Christ, we are bread for one another. Quite literally, the time that St. Rose parishioners dedicate to their volunteer endeavors reaches beyond the walls of St. Rose.

About 200 parishioners attended the Thank You Party that featured hot and cold hors d'oeuvres. The St. Rose Thank You party dates back in the 1970s.

OPT

St. Rose First Communion Retreats

St. Rose held two retreats for the 80 children who are slated to make their First Communion on May 10.

The First Communion retreats are a fun, interactive time to learn via experiences for the children, along with their parents, according to Susan Joseph, a St. Rose director of Religious Education, Pre K-Fifth grade. Additionally, the retreats reinforce what the children have been learning in their Religious Education classes. For instance, in class children learned that Jesus is the bread of life. At the retreat, the children and their parents have an opportunity to make and score bread. In their classes, students learned that Jesus came to serve and called each of us to a life of service. In a session at the retreat; an actor playing Jesus humbles himself and



Emulating Christ, First Communion retreat participants wash feet at a retreat.

washes the children's feet. The children, in turn, washed their parents' feet. Then the children washed the



First Communion retreat participant prepares communion dough for baking.

feet of their parents' feet.

Roughly 100 people attended each retreat.

OPT

By Mary Zoccola

On March 12, St. Rose of Lima welcomes a new pastor, Father Agustín Mateo Ayala.

"I am looking forward to serving the people at St. Rose, with all my heart and strength," Mateo said. "I want to help them to love Christ, who is really present in the Eucharist and is in and all around us, especially, the less privileged of our society." For the past seven years, Father Mateo has been the pastor St. Gabriel's in Washington, DC. While looking forward to his new assignment at St. Rose, Mateo says he will keep the people of St.

New Pastor at St. Rose of Lima

Gabriel and their beautiful church building in his heart.

Since October 2012, Monsignor Paul Langsfeld has been the pastor at St. Rose. "I have been impressed with the number of volunteers who sustain the parish's many activities and ministries," Langsfeld said of his tenure at St. Rose. "It makes St. Rose a lively place," Langsfeld continued. "The spirit of hospitality is also very strong." Langsfeld will become the new pastor at St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church

on Capitol Hill.

Since 1996, Father Mateo has been part of the Archdiocese of Washington DC. Prior to St. Gabriel's, Mateo was the pastor at Our Lady Queen of the Americas. Additionally, Mateo served as associate pastor at St. James in Hyattsville, Maryland and at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, DC.

From 1991 to 1996, Mateo served both the German community and the Spanish speaking immigrants

in the Archdiocese of Freiburg, Germany. In addition, Mateo also served as Chaplain for the Spanish speaking service man and women of the US Army at the Patrick Henry Village in Heidelberg, and as Chaplain for the high security Prisons of Darmstadt and Stuttgart in Germany.

In 1990, Mateo was ordained to the Priesthood for the Diocese of Calahorra, La Calzada-Logroño, Spain. Additionally, Mateo served as Associate Pastor at St. Michael's

Church in Logroño and as a Notary for Diocesan Tribunal. Mateo was born in Navarra, Spain in 1963.

OPT

St. Rose of Lima

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St. Jude Youth Group at the Valentine's Day Dance, with Fr. Raul DeLeon

Shrine of St. Jude News

St. Jude's Youth Group organizes Valentine's Day Dinner & Dance

By Xiommy Esteban, SJ Youth Group young adult volunteer

On February 14, the St. Jude Youth Group hosted a Valentine's Day Dinner and Dance for its parishioners. The event was a fundraiser for a pilgrimage the youth group is planning to take in June to visit the Shrine

of the North American Martyrs in Auriesville, New York, as well as St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Shrine located in northern Manhattan.

The night was made possible with support from parish volunteers under the leadership of Fredes Pham and Andrea Vargas, as well as many of the teens' parents. The

Continued on page 36



St Jude Athletic Association News

2014 St. Jude Intermediate City Champions

The "Old Gang" Gets Back Together to Win a City Championship

St. Jude Intermediate Boys Basketball team members returned

to play a magical season they will never forget. Finishing undefeated in the regular season, they entered the City Championship Tournament as the number one seed. On their way to the City Title Game, the boys had to face tough teams from Mercy and St. Bartholomew before beating St. Mary's of Rockville, 31-25, to win the title.

Team members included Mikey Joseph, Jack Posluszny, Johnny English, Nick Ribas, Parker Ricketts, JT Doyle, Christopher Burgoyne, Mickey Van Gieson, Patrick Friddle, Chris Craven, James Mabry, and Ryan Bell. The City Championship capped off a perfect season for the team, going 10-0. "I am very happy for these fine young men, and with or without the trophy, they are the best!" said Coach Michael Joseph.

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STJUDE
REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL



Kickin' It Up for St. Jude

Shrine of St. Jude parishioners and St. Jude Regional Catholic School families kicked it up at the school's biennial gala event on March 1. With a cowboy theme and a casual vibe, a great time was had by the more than 200 attendees. Proceeds will support the school and its mission to educate the whole child, delivering academic excellence within a Catholic community of faith. Special thanks to Margy Crivella, director of development, and her

St. Jude Regional Catholic School News

team for organizing the gala. Pictured above is Principal Glenn Benjamin, locked up in "jail" until he was bailed out by gala attendees.

Bulldog Bolt 5k Race March 29

Run or walk with your fellow St. Jude friends at the first annual Bulldog Bolt 5K and show your support of St. Jude Regional Catholic School. Race takes place on Saturday, March 29 from 9 am to 12 noon. The 3.1 mile run (or walk) will take you through the neighborhood surrounding the school and church, starting and ending at the school. To register or be a sponsor, go online to www.stjuderockville.org and select the 2014 Bulldog Bolt 5K link. Cost for race is \$40 for adults and \$30 for children under 13 years. Kids and adults of all skill levels are invited! This wonderful event will provide a day of fun and fresh air for families, teachers, parishioners and neighbors to come together in support of our parish school. All proceeds will be used to enhance athletic equipment and continue the Modernization of at St. Jude. Contact James Roberts at James.roberts@stjuderockville.org or Ashley Bettis at BulldogBolt@outlook.com.

OPT

270Catholic: Young Adults on the Road to Christ!

By Xiommy Esteban, 270Catholic leadership team

An exciting, new regional young adult ministry has recently hit the ground running! 270Catholic is a ministry for young adults in their 20s and 30s, single, engaged, or married, living in the Montgomery County region. This ministry grew out of a monthly Young Adult holy hour occurring at St. Mary's in Rockville, organized by several young adult priests in the Rockville area. With the initiative and support of Jonathan Lewis, Coordinator of Evangelization and Young Adult Initiatives for the Archdiocese of Washington, a vision to expand programs and events for young adults and develop a more comprehensive Young Adult ministry in the Montgomery County region came about.

Last fall, a leadership team was created, comprised of 1-2 young adult representatives from each participating parish. These leaders agreed to serve for one year as parish ambassadors, to represent their parish on the regional leadership team and communicate



Young adults at a recent gathering of 270Catholics

back to their parish and pastors. The leadership team meets every other week for formation, discussion, and planning. Parishes currently with representatives on the leadership team include St. Mary's, St. Elizabeth's, St. Jude's, St. Raphael's, St. John Neumann, and St. Camillus. The immediate goal of the leadership team is to identify

and build connections with young adults within individual parishes, and invite young adults to join the regional group at regularly scheduled monthly events.

Currently, 270Catholic is continuing to organize the monthly holy hours, known as "Christ in the City," in the lovely historic chapel

Continued on page 33

Shrine of St. Jude Parish

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St. Jude Regional
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St. Jude Gives Generous Donation to St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home

Thanks to profits from a January 'Cupcakes for Life' bake sale, the St. Jude Pro-Life Committee provided a bus to transport parishioners to the 2014 March for Life. In addition, generous donations were made to St. Jude Regional Catholic School and St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home, in memory of St. Jude parishioner Anne DeCourcy, longtime benefactor of St. Ann's. Pictured above are Sr. Mary Bader from St. Ann's accepting the check from Isabella Donnelly from St. Jude.

Students on a Mission at Saint Francis International

By Ismael Hernandez-Cruz, Cap Corp volunteer

Many schools study world cultures and have international festivals, but at Saint Francis International School focusing on countries outside the United States is a very personal experience for many students. Nearly 80% of students at SFIS have at least one parent who was born in 54 different countries around the world. The coming of Lent allowed the SFIS community an opportunity to celebrate and study world cultures while building community and making a difference in the world.

At the end of February, Sr. Bon Secours from the Archdiocesan Missionary Childhood Association visited Saint Francis to talk to the students in kindergarten through eighth grade about missionaries around the world. Tobias Harkleroad, principal of SFIS, explained, "She wanted to make sure that the kids heard that from their baptism they are all called to



Sr. Bon Secours speaks with SFIS students about praying for missionaries. Photo by Javier del Angel, Franciscan postulant

be missionaries wherever they are." Sr. Bon Secours also told the students that other missionaries were praying for them and that therefore they should pray for others. To do so, she taught them how to pray the World Mission Rosary.

Sr. Bon Secours impressed many students. One of those students, Raviya Bateau, a third grader, was really interested in how much sisters pray. "She really wants to help us go to heaven," she said happily. Amy Rivera, a seventh grader,

appreciated Sister's message. "I learned how the Catholic Church teaches kids to pray the rosary for kids around the world, not just for themselves, but for the benefit of everyone."

On the Friday before Lent began the SFIS community had an international carnival celebration. In many countries and regions around the world carnival celebrations (called Mardi Gras in Louisiana) are a traditional way for Christians to have a final feast before the fasting of Lent begins. For Saint Francis International School the carnival celebration included food from the many different home cultures of SFIS students.

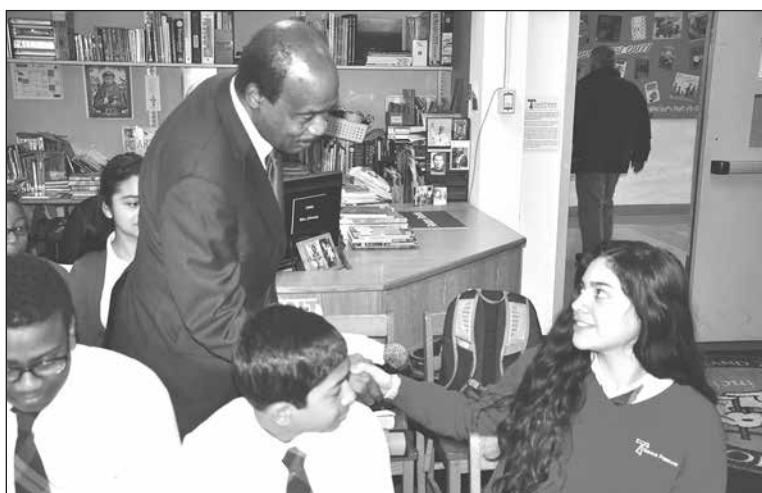
After learning about the missions and celebrating their own cultures, the students and parents of SFIS then turned outward to begin Lent with the school's traditional Mission Fair. The tradition goes back to St. Mark School, where it began thirty-six years ago. Mrs. Nora Facchiano, co-director of the Extended School Program (ESP),

helped begin the tradition, and she is still responsible for its continuation today.

As part of the Mission Fair each grade in the school creates a presentation about a particular country in the world and then sells food and games from that country to other students at the Mission Fair, all of the money raised from the food and games goes to support some Catholic mission or charity. This year, in honor of St. Catherine Labouré Parish joining SFIS, the Mission Fair will benefit the Daughters of Charity in the Philippines to help those affected by Typhoon Haiyan.

Mrs. Facchiano's fondest memory was the year that the fundraiser helped an Indian orphanage, and a priest from there came to the school to offer thanks. Through Mission Fair students continue to fulfill Saint Francis's mission and make the world a better place for people across the globe.

OPT



County Executive Leggett challenges SFIS students to make a difference. Photo by Javier del Angel

County Executive Speaks to SFIS Students about Civil Rights

By Ismael Hernandez-Cruz

This past August our nation celebrated the 50th anniversary of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I have a dream" speech. In that famous oration Dr. King spoke of a world that looks remarkably like the community of Saint Francis International School. In the days leading up to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett came to SFIS to speak the 8th grade American History class about the struggle for Civil Rights in the United States and his opportunities to meet Dr. King.

Ike Leggett now lives in Montgomery County, but he discussed his roots in Louisiana to illustrate the struggles of segregation that many African Americans faced prior to the Civil Rights Movement. Mr. Leggett provided three elements to achieving success to the students. He mentioned education and its importance in

gaining the knowledge to make sound choices. He then discussed the power of hard work and persistence and finally concluded with the impact a person's moral and ethical foundation can make. Mr. Leggett warned that, without this final piece, the other two components could achieve evil, instead of good.

The eighth graders gained some wisdom from Mr. Leggett, listening to him speak about his experiences and journey through life. "What struck me the most was how he was talking about all of that hard work to get where he was," eighth grader Kristen Marshall recalled. His role in the Civil Rights Movement simply inspired some other students, like Wesley Dankwa. "People were very oppressed. Some people didn't maintain hope, but there were also a lot that believed this would someday end. Their children would have a better world through their work, as would their children's children."

OPT

Celebrating our Shepherds

By Ismael Hernandez-Cruz

During Catholic Schools Week, certain days commemorate different important groups within Catholic schools. A Mass at St. Catherine Labouré Church kicked off the week celebrating the parish community's support of Catholic education. The Parent Teacher Organization honored the teachers all week with food and break time. Students and teachers dressed in their cultural attire one day to celebrate everyone's national backgrounds. Students even had a day without homework that included ice cream for everyone!

On Wednesday of Catholic Schools Week, SFIS honor the special role of pastors in Catholic education at their weekly school mass.. Bishop Knestout and the superintendent of schools for the Archdiocese of Washington came to celebrate Mass with the students. At the end of Mass, Bishop Knestout and Deacon L'Homme presented the award for Distinguished Pastors of the Year to Father Mike Johnson, pastor of St. Camillus, and Father John Dillon, former pastor of St. Mark the Evangelist, for their roles in founding Saint Francis International School. Mr. Tobias Harkleroad, principal of Saint Francis, stood up to give thanks for the pastors' support in creating the new school. Father Mike then offered some words of gratitude to Mr. Harkleroad for his vision throughout the process. The students also showed gratitude to Bishop Knestout for celebrating Mass at Saint Francis. A group of students brought a white teddy bear up for the bishop, and other students brought cards that students had written to him. Bishop Knestout appreciated the gifts and, after processing out, stood by the



SFIS students light incense sticks before a photo of the late Fr. An Vu. Photo by Javier del Angel.

door to shake students' and teachers' hands as they left the church.

Two weeks later, our celebration of pastors had a mournful tone: we celebrated a memorial Mass for Father An Vu, the pastor of Our Lady of Vietnam, another supporting parish of Saint Francis International School. True to Vietnamese tradition, there was a table in the sanctuary with incense sticks, a candle, and a picture of Father An Vu. Before Mass started, student leaders and administrators

lit the incense sticks, which would remain lit throughout the Mass. Vietnamese students led the prayer of the faithful, carried up the gifts, lit more incense sticks, and sang a verse in Vietnamese during the offertory. Mr. Harkleroad explained Father An Vu's role in supporting the newly founded Saint Francis and mentioned that Fr. An Vu was actually scheduled to celebrate the school Mass at SFIS on the day he died.

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St. Camillus Campus
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Silver Spring, MD 20903
St. Mark Campus
7501 Adelphi Road
Hyattsville, MD 20783

Tuesday Dinners for St. John's House

Our parish family has recently begun an initiative for St. John's House to provide dinner every Tuesday evening for the residents of St. John's House, Brendan, David and James, young men with intellectual disabilities, and their wonderful caregivers.

Can you make a home-cooked meal or provide a commercially-

prepared one and deliver it to their home on Harmon Road? This is a great way to be neighborly and get the whole family involved in a small act of service. All parishioners are welcome to participate. Go to the parish's website at: www.sjeparish.org under the Service tab to sign up to provide a meal today!

OPT

SJE Grad Sean Rudolph Receives Youth Leadership Award

Each year Our Lady of Good Counsel High School (OLGCHS) students are nominated by the faculty to receive the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership award. This award was established by veteran actor Hugh O'Brian to "seek out, recognize, and develop outstanding leadership potential among our nation's youth." Among fifteen qualified GC sophomore students who were named finalists, SJE's very own Sean Rudolph (SJE Class of 2012) took the prize.

As the winner, Sean will represent OLGCHS at the Hugh O'Brian Youth (HOBY) Leadership Conference at the University of

Mount St. Mary's over Memorial Day weekend. At the seminars, students participate in programs designed to enhance their leadership and teamwork skills. Students also meet and converse with leaders in their community in fields such as volunteerism, media, education, philanthropy, and politics, among others.

"We are going to hear a lot more about Sean in the years to come. He brings new meaning to the GC motto: 'Expect Excellence'" says St. John the Evangelist teacher, Kelly Burgess. The SJE community congratulates Sean and the Rudolph family on this prestigious honor.

OPT

Come Fly with Me – Let's Fly, Let's Fly Away!

Calling All St. John the Evangelist Alumni – We Want YOU!

The 2014 Gala Auction chair committee has been formed; the date and theme have been chosen: "Come Fly with Me" October 25, 2014 – now it's time for you to join the effort to support your alma mater and help make the 2014 SJE Auction Gala the most successful one ever! We're celebrating mid-century American cool so if you remember the Rat Pack (or even if you don't) and love that hipster vibe ... we've got just the place for you and your friends to get together and reminisce about "the good old days" at SJE.

Donate

Quality items are needed for auctioning off at the Fall Gala Auction so is there something you can contribute? Artwork, antiques, vintage items, collectibles, sports memorabilia, books

signed by the author, restaurant/spa gift certificates, vacation homes/packages, services, tickets to sporting events or concert venues – there are many items that you might considering donating for auction – both new and old. And, as a bonus, a portion of your donation is tax deductible. Phone an old friend today and see if they'll split a donation with you. Get creative!

Sponsor

It's time to dig deep. So round up your fellow classmates and become a class sponsor. Does the Class of 1979 want to sponsor dessert? Or perhaps the Class of 1983 can band together and sponsor a Fund an Item donation? Sponsorship opportunities vary and can be tailored to fit any budget so put your thinking caps on and start contacting your pals

today.

Volunteer

Whether you are ready to step up and lead a committee or just roll up your sleeves and be a worker bee behind the scenes, volunteer opportunities are many and varied and can take as little or as much of a time commitment as you can offer. Don't wait!

As beloved SJE alumni, your continued and generous support of St. John the Evangelist School is vital to its future! What a great way to give back to the school that helped make you who you are today and continue the legacy of Catholic education. For more information on ways you can make a difference, please contact sjeauction@gmail.com. Do it today.

OPT

CSI: St. John the Evangelist

By Shannon Garvey

If you have the opportunity to visit Saint John the Evangelist School, you will notice the shiny Blue Ribbon banner above the front door, the friendly faces as



dred students in their neat uniforms, shuffling books and papers on their way to class. But if you walk by the Science Lab Room 10, use caution. Step around the broken glass, and do not disturb any fingerprints on the door handle. Put on your green lab goggles and be prepared to get your hands dirty. This is a crime scene.

The eighth grade science class trained this year to be Crime Scene Investigators. They learned how to make careful observations, identify fingerprint patterns, analyze ink chromatography, compare fibers using microscopes and burn tests, and simulate DNA fingerprinting.

Said SJE eighth grader, Colleen Hathway: "I liked taking and studying our fingerprints in the Crime Scene Investigation unit in science. I found it interesting that the scars on my fingers affected what my fingerprints look like."

After passing a practical test, each student became a SJE CSI Agent, and earned a badge. They were teamed up with partners to solve a crime scene, set up in their laboratory.

"Science is about asking questions and attempting to find answers through observation and experimentation," said Mrs. Shannon Garvey, SJE Science Teacher. "This hands-on experience gave the students an opportunity to do just that."

OPT

St. John Students Give Hope to Haiyan Victims

\$1,000! Between January 15 and February 7, St. John the Evangelist students raised this amount for the victims of super typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

Matthew Johnson, a seventh-grade student at St. John's, when presenting the idea at the Student Council meeting in January said, "We know Haiyan has claimed the lives of so many Filipinos. These people lost everything in one day. We have so much. If this happened to any of us, I know we would want someone to help us."

Along with Matthew Dukes, a fourth-grade student and co-chair of the Committee, they went from classroom to classroom to encourage the students to "give from the heart." In each classroom was a jar where students could drop their donation. Johnson put up a



Matt Johnson



Matthew Dukes

hand-made poster announcing the drive to "help the people of the Philippines."

A collection during a Wednesday

hot lunch brought in \$36. "Tag Day" monies usually given to various charitable organizations added

Continued on page 36

you enter the building. If you have the opportunity to walk the upper hall, you will see over one hun-



Congratulations to the new CYO JV Girls Mid-Atlantic District Champions! Front row: Brigid Mulholland, Anna Campbell and Nya Salinas. Back row: Melina Skinner, Maura Lyons, Kathryn James, Alice Droege, Mary Colby and Ryann Cuddy. Coach Gregg James on left and Coach Tom Lyons on right.

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Pastor

St. John the Evangelist School
Sr. Kathleen Lannak, I.H.M.,
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SJN's Vocation Tree is a Lenten activity of the John Paul the Great Vocations Society to help parishioners remember Seminarians and Diaconate Candidates in their Lenten prayer.

Pick a Seminarian and Pray

By Mary Beth de Ribeaux

You really can't miss it when you come into the church foyer: a large bare branch dangling purple-trimmed cards as though offering them to you, inviting you to reach for one. Each card features an Archdiocese of Washington seminarian or candidate for the permanent diaconate. Please take one (or more!) and commit to praying for him/them each day during Lent -- and beyond, if you wish.

Future clergy have benefitted from "Vocations Tree" prayers since our John Paul the Great Vocations Society at SJN initiated this project in 2006. Considering that Father Joe Rogers was ordained in 2007, somebody here prayed for him while he was a seminarian and now sees the fruit of that prayer right here in our own parish!

Vocations Trees are "sprouting"

beyond our parish, too. Thanks to generous support from Fr. Carter Griffin, Vocation Director for the Archdiocese, 25 parishes will have a Vocations Tree this year.

"I'm so happy that the Vocations Tree project is spreading to more parishes around the archdiocese," says Fr. Griffin. "I am convinced that this project is the source of many graces both to our seminarians and to those who are praying for them. Working with our younger seminarians every day at Bl. John Paul II Seminary, I am filled with hope and know that the Lord is raising up strong and faithful young men to become His priests. Your prayers help them to respond to the grace of a vocation -- there is no greater gift that you can give!"

Don't let any of the seminarians/candidates go without prayers. If you haven't picked a card yet, please do so today!

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Welcome Father Joe!

If you were within 100 miles of SJN in mid-February, you probably heard large numbers of parishioners roaring in unison "Welcome Father Joe" as he walked into the Parish Center following several weekend Masses.

Signage around the rooms set the tone for the festivities. Parish children wrote notes, cards and letters welcoming our new Priest. The John Paul the Great Vocations Society of SJN hosted four of the post-Mass receptions and its members ensured that refreshments flowed freely while young and old gathered to shake Father's hand and share a story. Smiles of happiness all around confirmed that our Father Joseph Rogers has found a new home!



Above, Vocations Society hosts with Father after Mass



At left, Paul Abel Family hosting receptions after Mass



Below, youth of the parish welcomed Father at every Mass

Liturgical Music Around the World

By Sandy and Rus Wester

SJN Director of Music & Liturgy and organist, MaryLu Hartsell, joined us in 1997. She moved to Maryland from her home in West Virginia after 25 years of ministering music in six different churches throughout that tri-state area. Turns out this journey to Maryland was one of her shorter trips to share her life of music... music we enjoy every weekend and at many parish events.

Since joining us, MaryLu and most of her SJN choir members have almost filled up their passports with International Customs stamps from Italy, Vatican City, Ireland and along the footsteps of St. Paul in Greece and Turkey. Choir trips have also been to the lands of John Neumann in Germany, the Czech Republic and Austria and most recently the choir participated in liturgies in the churches of Spain.

Prior to the Spain trip, in a concert just for us, MaryLu and the Adult

Choir gave the parish a glimpse of the music they were taking overseas. "We've been blessed to bring our music to many of the world's churches" says MaryLu. "What makes it interesting is that our own SJN organ has the unique ability to ready us for the instruments we encounter all over Europe."

The SJN instrument is a specially-design Allen Organ called the Heritage. It's really four organs in one. "Thanks to today's technology," said MaryLu, "we can change the voicing and tuning to sound like the four types of organs indigenous to other countries and other periods in time. We have American Classic, English Cathedral, German Baroque and French Romantic—all at my fingertips. We can actually hear the music as it was conceived originally by its composer."

Reports have it that many times MaryLu has performed on an organ far away from home with members of that congregation commenting on how thrilling it was to hear her music as they had never heard their church's instrument sound so wonderful. "We enjoy preparing nice surprises for the parishes in our travels," recalls MaryLu. "They are so welcoming and appreciative."



SJN's specially-designed Allen Heritage organ

MaryLu could not be called the proverbial "church mouse" since she has volunteered her time and talents to accompany and co-direct the Gaithersburg Chorus and the Montgomery Village Interfaith Choir for almost 15 years. She recently accompanied Hazzan (Cantor) Kim Komrad at the installation of Rabbi Charles Arian, Gaithersburg's Kehilat Shalom Synagogue.

Fr. Thomas LaHood worked with MaryLu for several years at SJN: "Mary Lu is a wonderful musician, a great organist. She knows and loves music, knows and loves

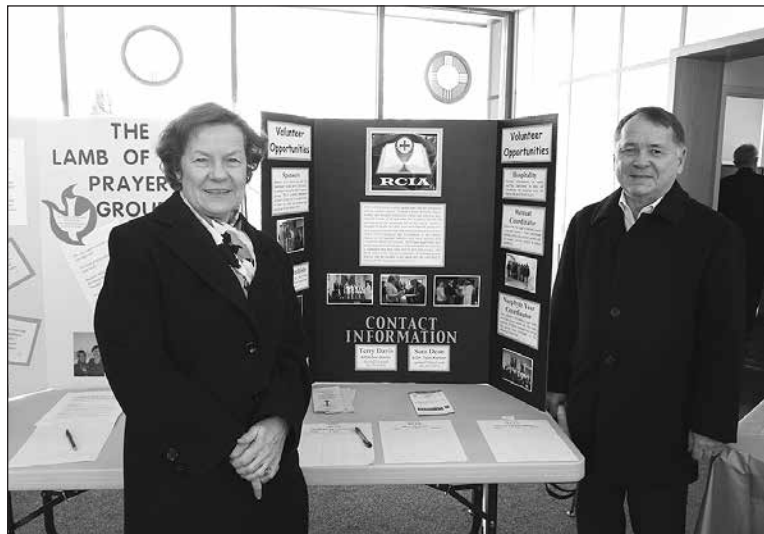
the church and she brings both together beautifully here at SJN." We're always happy to have her back home.

OPT



Preparing for a last-minute funeral Mass request at St. Patrick's in Ireland

St. John Neumann Parish
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Fr. Joseph Rogers
Parish Administrator
Rus Wester
OPT Editor
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Sara and Don Dean tending RCIA Display at the Ministry Fair

Ministry Fair Successful

By Sean Wooten

Over three weekends in late January to early February, St. Francis of Assisi held its (mostly) annual Ministry Fair. The Ministry Fair gives St. Francis' Ministries and opportunity to inform parishioners about the ministry and to recruit new ministry members. All reports indicated that these aims were met and the Ministry Fair was well-attended.

Each weekend of the Ministry Fair, eight to ten ministries set up a table and display describing their ministry in the Gathering Space. These displays were set up

prior to the Saturday 5pm mass and remained on view until after the 5pm Sunday mass. Various ministry members were present, after each mass, during the weekend to answer questions and provide information. A cross-section of ministries, from the service-oriented to the liturgically-oriented to the community-oriented was represented.

If you missed the Ministry Fair, information about St. Francis Ministries is available on the parish website www.sfadw.org. We have a lot of great ministries which give parishioners a chance to use their talents to serve.

OPT

Manifesting the Kingdom Award Congratulations Arleen & Wendel Hall

By Rose Attig

On Epiphany Sunday, January 5, 2014, following a Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington, honored 204 individuals from parishes and Catholic organizations, across the Archdiocese, for their exceptional service to their home Parishes. Arleen and Wendel Hall, from St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Derwood, were nominated to receive this award. Recipients of this award are nominated for working with service ministries, including the St. Vincent de Paul Society, prayer and liturgy, religious education, maintenance of the parish property, or for doing the many small, yet important things that make a parish run smoothly.

Wendel and Arleen Hall, and their children, have been members of the St. Francis family for 14 years. Arleen works with Sacramental preparation and Religious Education Programs and has helped with numer-



Arleen and Wendel Hall

ous events over the years. She manifests God's love as a Lector at St. Francis and has been a teacher at St. Catherine Laboure, in Wheaton. Currently, she is a teacher at St. Martin's School, in Gaithersburg. Wendel has been involved with the FRED (St. Francis Religious Ed.) teens for all his years at St. Francis; has

started a group, Church Guys, for men, who gather every Saturday morning, for Scripture discussion. Wendel also serves as an Eucharistic Minister and Lector. He was elected to the Parish Pastoral Council, in June, 2013. St. Francis of Assisi Parish congratulates Arleen & Wendel Hall.

OPT

Many Faces of the Church Celebrate International Night

St. Francis of Assisi Parish had its first-ever International Night on March 1. Spearheaded by parish teen, Sarah Seyed-Ali, age 17. She wanted to create this night to bring together her diverse community and display the many faces of the Church, and she did just that. On their journey of knowledge, participants, with the aid of a Pilgrim Passport, explored cultural displays of over twenty



Sarah Seyed-Ali with Sister Melissa and Mother Isabel representing Mexico – one of the twenty country displays with cultural background, icons and food

countries. Traveling from Latin America to Asia to Europe and to Africa, pilgrims learned more about Catholicism in each part of the world.

The night ended with cultural performances and the Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi said in multiple languages. From young people to families, many people worked together to make this night a success. It was truly an event for people of all ages to learn more about life in other different

countries and to see how our God is a God of many cultures.

OPT



Bishop Knestout conferring award to Fr. Johnson (left) and Fr. Dillon (right). Also present – Deacon Bert L'Homme, Superintendent of ADW Schools. Photo by Franciscan postulant Javier del Angel

Congratulations to Fr. John!

On January 29, the Archdiocese of Washington recognized our Pastor, Father John Dillon, and Father Mike Johnson,

OFM, as Distinguished Pastors of the Year for Catholic Schools – the first time this award was given to two pastors. While Father John was Pastor of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish, Hyattsville, he worked with Father Johnson, Pastor of St. Camillus Parish, Silver Spring, to establish Saint Francis International School (SFIS).

SFIS has become a very important part of the lives of its diverse student body and their families in the Silver Spring/Hyattsville area. At the ceremony, in which the award was conferred, Bishop Knestout publicly thanked Father Dillon and Father Johnson on behalf of Cardinal Wuerl, for their perseverance and determination to make SFIS a success.

OPT



Bolobian Flokonico dancers performed Bolivian dances in full costume



Parishioner David Ball played accordion favorites from different cultures during the gathering

**St. Francis
of Assisi Parish**
6701 Muncaster Mill Road
Derwood, MD

Rev. Rev. John J. Dillon
Pastor

301-840-1407

Rose Attig and John McCarthy
OPT Co-Editors
240-447-2286
jfmamm@gmail.com

The Schedule at Christ the King

Rectory Office schedule:

Morning hours Monday-Wednesday & Fridays from 9am-noon, Tuesdays NO morning hours. **Afternoon hours** Monday-Fridays 2-4:30pm by appointment only. The office answering machine is ON and is regularly checked.

Mass schedule:

Saturday 8:30am, 4pm, 5:30pm (Spanish); Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm (Spanish), 4pm on 1st Sundays of the month (Tagalog); Thursday 7am; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9:15am.

Confessions:

Thursday 8-9am; Saturday 3-3:45pm

Rosary:

Monday-Saturday 15 minutes prior to the daily Mass; Sunday prior to the 12:30pm Mass (Spanish)

Tuesday Knitting & Conversation Group

The group meets in Springhouse assisted living residence next door to Christ the King for knitting caps and other such knitted articles to donate to preemies at Holy Cross Hospital. They gather from 1:30-3pm Tuesday afternoons, except 2nd Tuesdays of the month, when our Pastor celebrates 2pm Mass for residents. New members of any age and skill level are welcome, whether for knitting or just conversation - you don't have to live at Springhouse to join!

Thursday Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament:

7:30am through 7pm with Benediction, except when a HDO falls on Thursday.

Thursday Bible Study Group

The group meets Thursday mornings from 10-11am in classroom 7 of the Religious Education Building, using The Little Rock Scripture Series. New members are always welcome.

4th Thursday of the month:

Shepherd's Table in downtown Silver Spring kitchen serves a warm meal to the homeless every evening. Christ the King has been a supporter since the beginning providing volunteers to set up and serve dinner every 4th Thursday of the month.

Parishioners unable to go to the kitchen help by picking up pans at Church on the *first weekend of each month*, preparing a nutritious casserole (recipe provided) and returning the completed dish the *following week*. The Fourth Thursday Group of Christ the King volunteers set up from 4-5:30pm with serving and cleanup 5:30-7:45pm. Parishioners wanting to join for either timeslot may contact Liz Weiss at, 301 588-6726.

First Fridays Holy Hour:

9:45-10:45am in the Chapel (winter months) or Church (during more seasonal times).

Friday Youth Group:

High school students at Christ the King meet every Friday 7:30-9:30pm in the Rectory Meeting Room for a moment of catechesis, dialogue, games, movie watching amidst peers and under the direction of Fr. Jose Cortes and Fr. Ettore Ferrario.

Fridays in Lent:

March 7-April 11th Way of the Cross from 6-7pm (in English), 7-8pm (in Spanish) in the Church.

First Saturday:

WorkCenter meets at Christ the King every first Saturday 9:30-11:30am in the Rectory meeting room. There is no fee for participants. All mentors are volunteers from different walks of life who provide mutual support in preparing for interviews, mentoring in rethinking career paths, providing professional contacts (starting from their own business network), reviewing CVs and resumes, organizing meetings and seminars on networking and financial business management issues, organizing lectures and seminars with professionals and sharing experiences to guide the personal development of the individual. The group welcomes those who work for companies in active hiring to attend the meetings to offer advice and to talk about employment opportunities at their companies. For both job seekers and potential volunteers, contact Stefano at rattigno@yahoo.com.

First Sunday: Young Adults brunch occurs immediately after the 10:30am Mass on the first Sunday of each month, the group of 20-somethings cook up breakfast and prepare Mimosas for other Millennials.

OPT



Outdoor Procession

With beautiful weather Christ the King parishioners gathered outdoors and began Mass for The Presentation of the Lord on Sunday, February 2. At the end of Opening Prayers they processed into the Church to the surprise (and delight) of the neighborhood.

Bakesale Sharing

By Katie Holland, CTK editor

On Sunday February 16, one of our religious education students, Victoria Penate, coordinated a bake sale to benefit St. Ann's Infant and Maternity Home. She attended an earlier Social Concerns Commission meeting, made a presentation of desire to have a bakesale and was given assistance by the Commission to hold the fundraiser. Her mother, Adela Penate revealed that Victoria loves to bake and made most of the cupcakes available for sale. Victoria will coordinating an April bakesale to benefit the parish again and St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

OPT



Parishioner and Religious Ed student, Victoria Penate, holding announcement

Christ the King Concert Series

Christ the King Concert Series will continue this Lenten season with a performance of Pergolesi's *Stabat Mater* on Sunday, April 13th, at 4pm in the main Sanctuary. The event will feature soprano Bethany Baxter and mezzo soprano Rebecca Roy. All contributors (past and present) will be recognized in concert programs. Contact our Music Director, John Henderson at J.C.Henderson90@gmail.com for additional information.

OPT



Soprano Bethany Baxter



Mezzo soprano Rebecca J. Roy

Were You Once a Christ the King Parishioner?

By Katie Holland, CTK parish editor

Christ the King has installed a new In Memoriam plaque identical to the one erected by, and in memory of, parishioners in 1961 when we were established. We have opened the availability of these nameplates to all whose families or parents may have once been

a part of the parish. You may want to consider having one of these bronze nameplates made in honor of your family.

Nameplates take about 3-4 weeks to be produced and shipped to the Church where it is then installed on the Memorial Plaque (and we notify you in the event you wish to attend

the installation). You are invited to contact the Christ the King editor at the email and phone number listed on Our Parish Times' page for Christ the King, or you may call the Rectory at 301 589-8616 Monday through Friday (office hours listed above).

OPT

Lenten Season Activities and Events

At the beginning of Lent the Social Concerns Commission will place a basket containing cards with good works to be performed during the following weeks. We invite parishioners to take one, perform the work, and then return the card to a second basket. The basket of completed works will be presented with the Gifts on the Fifth Sunday of Lent, April 6.

The religious education program will have a "From Me to You Project." The purpose of this project is for the children in the RE program and their teachers, organized by grade to collect and donate nonperishable items of food for the needy of our parish for one Sunday during Lent. Additionally the students will participate in Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl Program. This program aids the hungry locally and around the world. Each student will receive a "rice bowl" to take home and fill with change saved by mak-

ing Lenten sacrifices. Along with the container will be a calendar with a reflection for each day of Lent and a prayer that the family can say at meal time. Adult parishioners will have the opportunity to participate by putting their offering in the Poor Boxes during the month of March.

A Lenten Morning of Recollection will be Saturday March 15, from 9am-noon in the main Church.

OPT

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Rev. Jose Maria Cortes
FSCB Pastor

Katie Holland,
OPT Editor

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HISTORY

Con't from page 13

eighth grade student participating this year, shared that the club "has helped her understand the complexities of major historical events" and has enjoyed learning in more detail how the world has changed. Grace Kpetemey, another History Club member, agrees and adds "My thinking is much more

analytical now, even in other subjects. Plus, it's made learning history fun." Alumni Dari LeBlanc, now a junior at Good Counsel High School, attributes part of her academic success to having participated in the History Club while at Holy Cross. "I have excelled in my social studies classes in high school, and have been recommended for higher level courses. History Club was a great experience, and I'm glad I had the opportunity to be a part of it."

OPT

WHO

Con't from page 13

ish, and local business community judged the projects, with First Place through Fourth Place winners in each grade.

Middle School Science teacher, Mrs. Shari Connor expressed her gratitude to the parents, and judges for sharing their time, tal-

ents, words of encouragement and support to the students through the entire process. "Everyone works so hard through the year to choose a topic, plan the investigation, gather data and then present the results. I am amazed at the creativity and ingenuity of our students. And, it is wonderful to see how generously the entire school community comes together to support each student's work."

The data supports our conclusion: This year's Science Fair was a huge success! OPT

HAITI

Con't from page 10

Social Justice/Outreach Director at Resurrection, and parishioner Darlene Newman, who both have made several trips to Haiti, also went this year, as well as parishioners Chris Alex and Paul Meola.

The was Father Hahn's first Haiti trip, although not the first time the Resurrection pastor has made the trip—Retired Pastor Bob Keffer having gone one year.

This year, the group visited four different locations "where we checked on already established projects and/or explored new locations to promote sustainability projects," Sister Rita said.

After helping build two churches and a school in outlying villages back in 2005 and later, as well as helping set up some freshwater systems, the Haiti mission moved in a "new direction" in 2011 to help other parish schools in the Gros Morne area and to assist in small-scale economic projects like food growing and raising small animals such as pigs, goats and chickens.

Resurrection provides both financial support for the projects, as well as some physical assistance. Over

the years, more than a dozen other parishioners have made the annual trip to help out.

Sister Rita noted that about \$9,000 was raised at the annual Winterfest in 2013 "by several dedicated women from our parish who had spent many months knitting, crocheting and sewing beautiful crafts and articles of clothing in support of our projects dealing with clean water, medical assistance and education in Haiti."

Similar to the Heifer International project, a nonprofit group working to eradicate poverty and hunger through community development, Resurrection parishioners "support our Alternative Gift Giving Project that provides, among other things, livestock to families struggling for a sustainable lifestyle," Sister Rita said.

While in Haiti, the Resurrection group stayed at the convent at Our Lady of the Light and worked with Pastor Wilner Donecia (S.M.M) and Sisters Pat Dillon and Jackie Picard (R.J.M) at the various sites they visited—meeting and interacting with many of the children and adults served by that parish.

The Resurrection group learned that one project, the "Hens for Haiti" program to bring fresh eggs

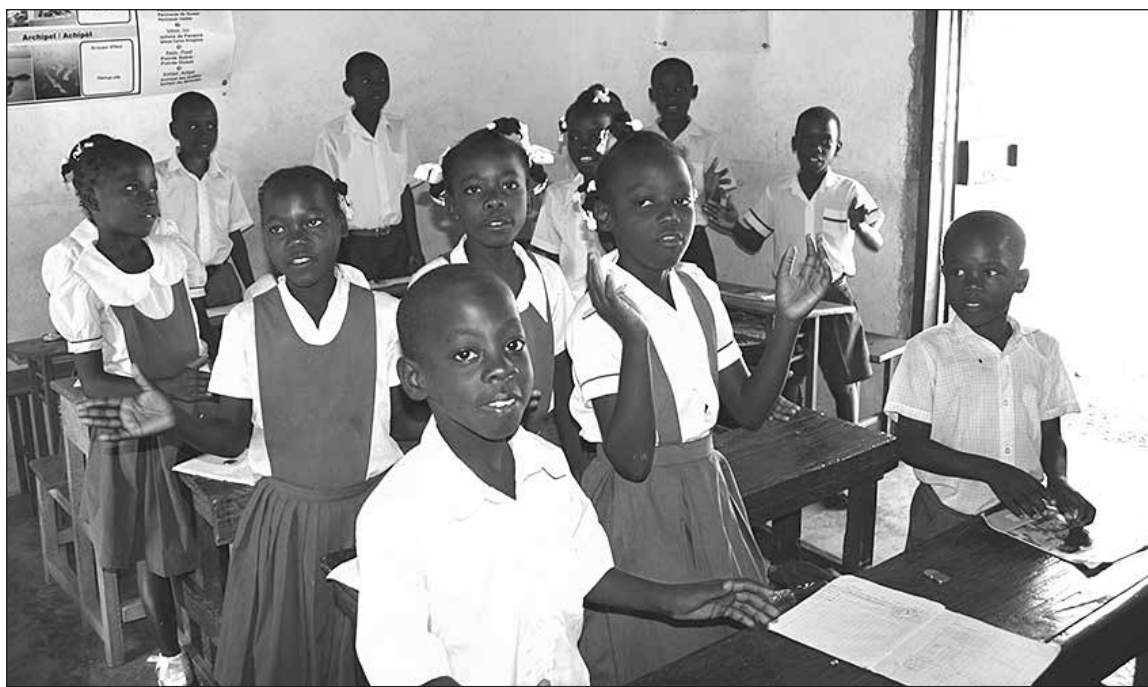
to local residents, has undergone some changes because of problems in providing food (the high cost of corn) and water (problems with a well) for the chickens. As a result, the first batch of chickens has been sold, as the project works to grow its own corn and drill a new well,

and then procure a new brood of chickens, Meola said.

Among the other sites they visited were a trade school that teaches carpentry and sewing, a pre-school for young children, and a house for the homeless called "Bon Samaritan Kay Pov."

At various places, the group saw flourishing evidence of the success of an animal donation program started by Resurrection and the R.J.M. sisters a few years ago—with an abundance of goats and pigs for proud Haitian owners.

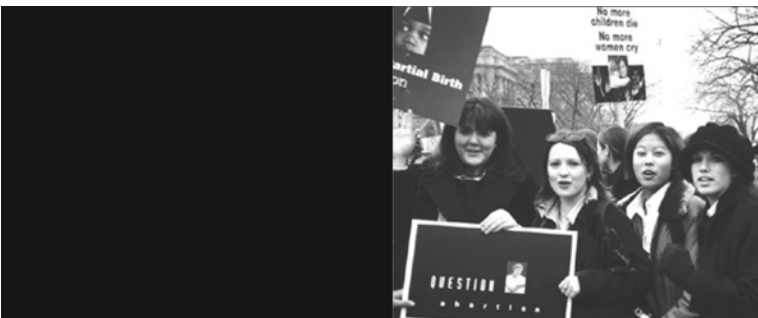
OPT



Children at the Fon Ibo elementary school sing and clap while welcoming Resurrection group to Haiti. Photo by Paul Meola



Father Scott Hahn celebrates mass at the Grand Plaine Chapel in Haiti as Sister Pat Dillon (of Resurrection twin parish Our Lady of the Light in Goss Morne) interprets. Photo by Paul Meola




QUESTION
a b o r t i o n SM

Abortion rights activists promised us a world of equality and reduced poverty.
A world where every child would be wanted.

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and rather than shared responsibility for children,
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Question abortion. No law can make the wrong choice right.

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feministsforlife.org

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WEISGERBER

Con't from page 10

says.

At the Jan. 5 awards ceremony at the Shrine, Weisgerber was impressed by the memory of Cardinal Wuerl, whom he had met

six years ago at the 150th anniversary of St. Aloysius and they had chatted about Weisgerber being an altar boy there so long ago.

"He remembered me from six years ago and asked how the altar boy from 1935 was doing," Weisgerber said. "That was really something."

In addition to Cardinal Wuerl, the "Manifesting the Kingdom" awards mass was concelebrated by Auxiliary Bishops Francisco González, Martin Holley and Barry Knestout, and about three dozen priests.

OPT



The cast of the Polish Drama Club at Our Lady Queen of Poland and St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish read excerpts from Molière's "The Bourgeois Gentleman" ("Mieszczanin Szlachcicem") on March 2, 2014, after the noon Mass and celebrated Mardi Gras with an enthusiastic audience. The cast included Mirek Podloch, Anna Janiak, Laura Migasiuk, Filip Gołbowski, Jarosław Trocki, Viola Klimek, Milena Munoz, Igor Szczerniak, Jerzy Piwowarski, Ryszard Starosta, AJ Szemiel, and Dorota Ponikiewska, who also directed the play.



Newlywed OLQP parishioner Walter Zachariasiewicz, 102, and his bride Sandra stand shortly after they exchanged marriage vows at Our Lady Queen of Poland & St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Silver Spring, MD, on February 15, 2014. With them are OLQP Pastor Rev. Jan Fiedurek and Rev. Msgr. Anthony Czarnecki, both of whom officiated at the ceremony.



Thinking Day 2014 was celebrated at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish on February 23rd with Mass and a service project in the OLQP Parish Hall. From left, scout Klaudia Weidlich and scout instructor Bozena Buda help with refreshments at the coffee hour after Mass.

BAPTISM

Con't from page 22

Original Sin, but also welcomes us as members of the Church.

To support the school's new celebration, parents helped their children prepare posters that displayed pictures of the child's baptism. These posters included information and pictures of the child's Godparents, the baptismal candle

and gown, and the church in which the sacrament was administered. The Committee decided that this family faith formation activity should be celebrated on one day rather than on every student's actual baptism day. The Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, January 13th, was chosen as the natural date for the commemoration.

The special day began with a prayer service in the Parish Hall. As the children exited the hall,

they blessed themselves with holy water. Throughout the day, the classes were taught a variety of baptism lessons, and the student posters were displayed on the hallway bulletin boards. The school provided the children with small baptism cupcakes at lunch. The day was filled with joy, as the children learned that baptism brings us into new life in Christ.

OPT

OLQP Parishioner Maria Pryjomko Quas de Penno was the featured speaker at American University on February 25, 2014. The event was sponsored by the AU Polish Student Organization and The Embassy of the Republic of Poland. It included a screening of the film, "The Way Back" and discussion with Maria, a Polish survivor of Soviet Russian deportation to Siberia during World War II. She shared her remarkable story of survival and escape. Her experiences have been recorded and archived in the Kresy Siberia Virtual Museum (www.kresy-siberia.org) under Survivor Testimonies.



Holy Lent And Easter Schedule 2014

Stations of the Cross – Fridays at 7:00pm

Lenten Lamentations devotions (Gorzkie Zale) – Sundays at 11:30 am, before Mass

Sat. March 29, Sun. March 30, Mon. March 31, and Tues. April 1
Parish Lenten Retreat led by Rev. Leon Knabit, OSB

Palm Sunday, April 13
12 noon, Holy Mass with palm procession

Holy Thursday, April 17
7:30pm, Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday, April 18
3:00pm, Stations of the Cross & Divine Mercy Chaplet
7:30pm, Liturgy of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday, April 19
10:00am – 2:00pm, Easter Food & Bake Sale
10:00am – 2:00pm, Blessing of the Easter food baskets (every half hour)
7:30pm, Liturgy of the Paschal Vigil

Easter Sunday, "Wielkanoc", April 20
6:00am, Holy Mass with the Resurrection procession
10:00 am & 12:00 noon Holy Masses

Easter Monday, April 21
7:30 pm Holy Mass

Divine Mercy Sunday & Canonization of John Paul II & John XXIII, April 27
10:00am & 12:00pm Holy Masses
2:30pm, Divine Mercy Chaplet & Mass

Sunday, May 4, Solemnity of Our Lady Queen of Poland & Parish Picnic

We sincerely invite you to come share the experience of the upcoming celebrations in our Parish!

270CATHOLIC

Con't from page 26

of St. Mary's (Rockville), on the last Tuesday of every month from 7:30-8:30. The Young Adult Holy Hour includes scripture reflection led by a priest, praise and worship adoration, silent meditation, and the option of confession. Following the holy hour, there is always a social with food, drinks and fellowship.

When the weather is nice, there will be grilling!

Additionally, 270Catholic is organizing monthly dinners on the second Sunday of every month at 6:30 pm. More than 40 young adults from numerous parishes around the Montgomery County area gathered for dinner, drinks and fellowship at the inaugural event.

If you are interested in participating in 270Catholic's monthly events or would like to represent

your parish on the leadership team, please email 270Catholic@gmail.com. Visit our website <http://270Catholic.org/> and like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/270Catholic> in order to stay in the loop with upcoming events! Please keep 270Catholic and all young adults in your prayers, so that this ministry will achieve its goals and continue to flourish.

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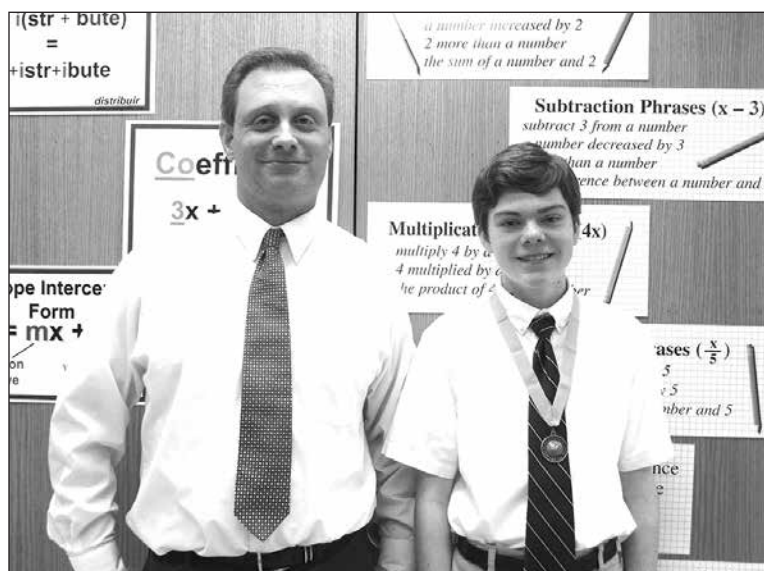
St. Elizabeth



St. Elizabeth School is delighted to announce that three of our students, Meaghan Kilner (grade 6), Caroline Peter (grade 7), and Claire McKeon (grade 6), have been accepted in Montgomery College's *Sonya Kovalevsky (STEM Explorations) Program*. The program is part of Montgomery College's commitment to increase the number of women pursuing the sciences and mathematics at the post-secondary level. Congratulations Meaghan, Caroline, and Claire! The St. Elizabeth School community is proud of you!



Congratulations to the St. Elizabeth School Academic Team who won **FIRST PLACE** in this year's DeMatha Academic Challenge hosted at DeMatha Catholic High School. Sixteen teams from schools across the Baltimore and Washington archdioceses competed in the competition, where questions ranging from popular culture to math and science were used to test each team's knowledge. Hats off to our Winning Team (Pictured L-R): Brigid Johnston, Maggie Hansen, Katie Zain, Eric Trimble, and Thomas Canary, Team Captain. Winners pose with Mr. Vincent Spadoni, school principal, and Mrs. Barbara Bausch, Team Moderator. We are so proud of our students!



Congratulations to eighth grade student, Jack Robertson (with Social Studies teacher, Mr. John Haun), the St. Elizabeth School 2014 National Geographic Geography Bee Champion! Jack will now take the test to qualify for the state of Maryland finals! Good luck, Jack! The St. Elizabeth School community is so proud of you!

ROBOTICS

Con't from page 20

Grove Qualifier for FIRST Lego League. In addition to building and programming Lego robots to conquer an obstacle course, each team must come up with an innovative solution to a problem. The theme for this year's tournament is "Nature's Fury".

The competition provided a hands-on, interactive robotics challenge in a competitive atmosphere. The Tryhards first had to focus on team building, problem solving, creativity, and analytical thinking to develop solutions to a problem commonly facing the world today (in this case, a tornado). The teams do their own research, talk to professionals, and develop compelling presentations that address the challenges presented. At FLL competitions, the teams are evaluated on their robot's performance, their presentation, teamwork and robot design.

During the first judging session the Tryhards gave a presentation with their "Scoop 2000", a transferring device attached to a plow to facilitate more-efficient cleanup and disposal of debris after a tornado. Declan McHugh explained the various types of tornadoes, as A. J. Lacaze, Peter Coene, Joey Sanchez and Ciaran McAndrews demonstrated the effects of a tornado on their model house, tree, and car. Matthew Mussleman and Dominic Gagliardi explained how



The Tryhards put The Dominator through it paces at the competition.

the Scooper 2000 could pick up debris with shovels on a wheel that would load it onto a conveyor belt. Sarkis Pakhchanian ended the presentation by detailing how they had shared their idea with local landscaper Thomas Evers.

For their second round of judging, the Tryhards demonstrated how their handmade robot, "The Dominator" could race through an obstacle course, performing assigned missions as they ran the circuit. In the first heat the Tryhards robot perfectly accomplished six maneuvers out of 20 on their mission board's obstacle course.

The robot performed all of these tasks as programmed, the team scoring 267 points out of 616 on the first try. The Tryhards were so pleased by their robot's performance that, in between the first and second heat, they attempted to

add a program to navigate another portion of the course and increase their point score. Unfortunately, they were unsuccessful. However, between the second and third heats, they did successfully add a program to allow the robot to dislodge a branch from a tree and then set their vehicle back on its previous mission. Unfortunately, when the robot did return to the earlier mission, it had an accident and caused unintended damage. Despite these setbacks, the Tryhards still finished in 7th out of 23 teams in the robot races.

The St. Elizabeth Tryhards would like to thank the Coene family for constructing the mission board and model house and tree. The team would also like to thank Robotic Research LLC for providing the team with a place to practice every Sunday over the last four months.

OPT

JOB SEEKERS

Con't from page 20

tion to reviewing basics such as polishing resumes, role playing for interviews, networking, and crafting the 1-minute "elevator speech." Job Seekers hosts special events such as LinkedIn workshops and our most recent topic, "Assessing Where You Are on the Career Road Map" (see photo).

During these three years, the Job Seekers Support Group has become a community in the deepest sense of the word. The ongoing support among group members is perhaps best expressed by Paula, one of our job seekers who recently became a successful "job finder." After stop-

ping by in February with apologies for needing to leave early, Paula e-mailed: "Though I only got to see everyone briefly, at least I touched 'home' for a few minutes."

This sense of "home" is felt by many. Mercy, a bilingual educator, affirmed her intention to continue with the group even after finding work, because she "feels that the group is part of my family now." For Mercy, that family feeling is not only virtual but also literal: her husband, Manuel (fully employed), accompanies her to meetings and even participates when Mercy is away.

All are welcome to join our Job Seekers "family," which usually gathers together on the first Monday of every month at 7:30

p.m. in the Commons area at St. Elizabeth Church in Rockville. The group is guided by Jeff Kenny, Human Resources manager with Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab (Jeff.Kenny@jhuapl.edu) and Jeanne Anastasi, a health communications consultant with Georgetown University (janastasi25@gmail.com). To learn more, please visit our Job Seekers web page under St. Elizabeth Parish Ministries at <http://www.stelizabethchurchmd.org/parish-ministries/job-seekers-support-group.htm>. And for information on other open-to-all support groups at the parish, please contact Jim McKenna at mckennajl44@gmail.com.

OPT

St. Bernadette



Sage Dennis proudly accepts 3rd place award for the SBS Accelerated Reader program for the third grade 2nd quarter from principal Mrs. Cheri Woods.



Above, St. Bernadette is proud to announce eighth grader Emma Jennings has been invited to study in New York City this summer for five weeks at American Ballet Theater Summer Intensive.

**It pays to advertise in
Our Parish Times**



Deacon Frank Bendel

Deacon Frank Bendel and his wife Isabel both serve the Church by teaching. He is the coordinator of the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program at Mother Seton Parish and she teaches ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) through Spanish Catholic Charities.

They have been married for 37 years, and have been blessed with five children and (so far) three grandchildren. They met in Isabel's hometown, Buenos Aires, Argentina, where they both worked at the American embassy. Thanks to Frank's career, they have lived in Connecticut, Georgia, Oklahoma, California, New Mexico, Virginia, Gabon, Greece, Croatia, and Spain. Isabel is an experienced packer. As a couple, they have lived in Germantown longer than anywhere else and are very happy here.

Four of their five children are adopted and they make a colorful family. The oldest child is married and lives with her husband and three children in Florida. The youngest, 16-year-old Ariadna, is a frequent altar server. Their three sons, ages 20, 28, and 32, also live at home. If the boys never leave, Frank and Isabel will eventually

move out.

Frank is retired from the federal government, and his retirement job is driving a bus part-time for Ride-On, the Montgomery County transit system. He likes people and being outside, and describes bus driving as the best retirement job in the world providing time for his prayer life. As a bus driver he continues to travel frequently, although never leaves Montgomery County.

Frank was ordained a deacon in June 2008 and assigned to Mother Seton Parish. Since Cardinal Wuerl became our archbishop, all deacons are assigned to a parish and to a ministry of charity and justice. Frank was assigned to Spanish Catholic Charities to teach ESOL. Isabel went along as his assistant. However, after the second year she objected to his teaching style claiming he spent too much time practicing his Spanish in the classroom. Isabel never speaks a word of Spanish in the classroom. In fact, the students don't believe Frank when he tells them Isabel is from Argentina. Therefore, for the past four years Isabel has been the official ESOL instructor and Frank her loyal assistant. Isabel teaches Tuesday and Thursday evenings at

the Gilchrist Center in Germantown and Saturday mornings at St. Martin's in Gaithersburg. When not driving the bus or otherwise busy at Mother Seton, Frank goes with her. Many of the students come from the Spanish-language community at Mother Seton Parish.

Deacon Frank was the coordinator of the Baptismal Preparation program at Mother Seton Parish from 2003 to 2013. Beginning this year, he is the coordinator of the RCIA program. He is blessed that he has two experienced catechists, Terri Ann Murray and James Otim, who also teach. Currently, there are eight catechumens and fifteen candidates in the program. Lord willing, at the Easter Vigil the catechumens will be baptized, take Holy Communion, and be Confirmed; the candidates will receive Holy Communion and be Confirmed. The RCIA class is a mixed-group. For some of the catechumens and candidates, this is all new, but some of the others know the Bible quite well. The classes are held Friday evenings. Several spouses, fiancés, and sponsors also attend class, and help make a lively group.

OPT

AUCTION

Con't from page 18

and included a pancake breakfast prepared at school, manicures with Mrs. Stallsmith, Principal for a Day, a sleepover at school, and ice cream at the park. There were sign-up events that drew a lot of attention – a lacrosse clinic by our in-house lacrosse star, Ms. Looney, a basketball clinic led by well-known college and high school coach, Pete Strickland, soccer training and baseball instruction, and much more! Eighth grade parents, still beaming after hearing of high school acceptances, were able to pick up gear from The Academy of the Holy Cross, Visitation, Gonzaga and DeMatha High School. Others went home with a life-sized Lebron James figure, incredible paintings by local artists and a table and chairs painted by the first grade students.

Thanks go out to Mrs. Agood and her committee, and Ms. Moore and her crew, who handled the online registration, PayPal, and checkout at the end of the night. Over 50 volunteers made sure the night was a huge success. It was a night full of fun, conversation and laughter, and it gave all participants an opportunity to celebrate and support the Our Lady of Lourdes School community.

OPT

ARTISTS

Con't from page 18

viewed different examples of her artwork while discussing how she creates the "illusion" of movement within them.

In the middle school, the owner of All Fired Up in Bethesda came for an "in-class" field trip last month and helped the sixth grade students design and paint plates in the Ancient Chinese "Blue Willow" pattern. This project gave the students the chance to combine what they learned about Ancient China in Mrs. Stallsmith's history class with their knowledge of ceramics from our pottery unit in the fall. Their plates look beautiful, and will soon be on display in the lobby of the school. Seventh graders are almost finished drawing their observational self-portraits, and the eighth graders are experimenting with weaving on a loom for our Anni Albers artist study.

As we move into the spring, the warmer weather will allow for some outdoor and nature-oriented projects, and possibly even a trip downtown to see what is on display at the National Gallery.

OPT

Lenten Schedule

All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence. Abstinence prohibits the eating of meat (beast or fowl), but not eggs, milk products, or condiments of any kind even though made from animal fat. This obligation is to be observed by all Catholics 14 years old and older.

Confessions during Lent will be held Tuesdays from

6 to 6:45 p.m.; Wednesdays from 6 to 7 p.m. (The Light is On for You); Saturdays from 4 to 4:45 p.m.; and from 6 to 6:30 p.m. (Spanish); and on Good Friday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Noon).

Stations of the Cross are on Fridays at 12 p.m. (Noon) and immediately following the 7 p.m. evening Mass.

OPT

Lenten Food Drive

The Archdiocese of Washington Lenten Food Drive collections will be held Mar. 22 and 23 in Montgomery County. Bags will be available at our parish the weekend before, Mar. 15/16. Please bring the filled bags back to the church narthex by Mar. 22/23, and collected food bags will be distributed to Germantown HELP. For more information, visit: www.CatholicCharitiesDC.org/LentFood.

OPT

40 Hours Devotion

We will have 40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration beginning after the 5 p.m. Mass Sun., Mar. 16. A sign-up sheet will be available in the narthex for every hour so that someone is constantly present with the Eucharist during the 40 hours. It will end on Tuesday, Mar. 18, with solemn Benediction.

OPT

Mother Seton Parish
19951 Fr. Hurley Boulevard
Germantown, MD

Fr. Lee Fangmeyer
Pastor
301-924-3838

Joyce McCarthy
OPT Editor
301-718-5995
mspb1tn@aol.com



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Delivery to front or side of driveway only. No special delivery areas, please.

All orders must be received by Monday, March 17, 2014

Deliveries from Mother Seton Parish (MSP) parking lot on Saturday, March 22

(Small quantity orders can be picked up at MSP without delivery charge from 7-10 AM)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

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Donation (Thank you!)	\$
Total	\$

Please make checks payable to: **KofC, Fr. McKenna Council 11024**

(Profits from the KofC Mulch Sale Fundraiser help support Knights of Columbus charities and activities)

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Germantown, MD 20874



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kocmulch@gmail.com
*Please, no phone orders

2014 NSGA Rules

The National Senior Games Association has released updated rules and regulations to follow in 2014 as athletes qualify for the ‘15 Games in Minneapolis/St. Paul.

OPT

LIFE

Con’t from page 25

son echoing to the heavens. The Mass, led by Cardinal Wuerl, was inspiring and upbeat.” Shea echoed Joseph’s recounting of the Mass. “I loved the Mass before the March,” Shea said. “To see all the youth their supporting this cause was such an amazing experience.”

While the weather wasn’t ideal, it may have been providential for some in being able to attend the Right to Life March. Joseph said, “The weather for the March for Life March was bitterly cold, but did

Basketball, bowling and doubles parnering have significant changes. For the full text of the 2014 rules, visit: www.nsga.com/media/documents/rules/2015-nsga-games-rule-book.pdf

not hamper our spirits or dim our resolve to be witnesses to the culture of life. “ Luckily, Montgomery County Public Schools were cancelled the day of the March. “I actually wouldn’t have been able to go if school hadn’t been cancelled, so I joined the group last minute,” Brake said, a high school senior. “I also felt that the snow, as a deterrent to many, put greater responsibility on me to add numbers to a cause that I believe in,” Brake said. Additionally, Shea, an employee of MCPS, said, “I’m glad it was a snow day for MCPS so I was able to go.”

OPT

DANCING

Con’t from page 22

which included three categories; Waltz, Swing and Tango. The judges agreed it was one of the most difficult years to choose winners because there were so many exceptional dancers. Mrs. Randles declared, “The competition was fierce.” In the final round of the competition ten couples competed in style of dance. Congratulations to the following winners:

Waltz

First Place

Chris Lemmo and
Christina Hermann

Second Place

Ryan Gleason and Julia Bowers

Third Place

Will Pfeifer and Maddie Holt

Swing

First Place

Nick Costa and Anna Bowers

Second Place

Justin Bustamante and Haley Krause

Third Place

Christophe Tanis and
Emma Shuster

Tango

First Place

Joey Hooke and Hailey Wolff

Second Place

Nicholas Arias and Julia Bowers

Third Place

Michael Love and Summer Loftus

OPT

COMMITTEE

Con’t from page 22

for children undergoing treatment at Children’s Hospital.

Armed with supplies and snacks on a cold February afternoon, the Spiritual Life Committee trudged over to The Solana Olney, a senior living community. There, they visited once again with the seniors they met while Christmas caroling back in December. Together with the residents of Solana, they were able to make a dozen blankets. They also delivered handmade valentines to residents unable to participate in the blanket making activity.

Several residents remarked on the students’ manners, dedication, and friendliness. They found it

hard to believe the students were only in fifth grade because of their level of maturity and how respectful they were while working with the seniors. The Solana Olney has extended an invitation to the students to return in April for an Easter egg hunt.

The blankets were delivered to Children’s Hospital along with many gifts and toys donated by St. Peter’s faculty. Volunteers at the hospital report they are always in need of infant-to-age-3 toys especially small items such as teething rings, rattles, and small baby hand held toys. Also, they often have a hard time providing for teenagers being treated at the hospital. Crafts, handheld games, and e-readers are usually best for this age group.

OPT

PRINCIPAL

Con’t from page 22

feeders were refilled, and important phone calls to mom and dad were made.

One highlight of the day was when Phillip, Isabella, and Lilly each read a story to the kindergarten classes. The little ones listened

in awe as the ‘principals’ expertly read age-appropriate books. The other event enjoyed by the children was the limo ride to a neighborhood restaurant for lunch. The ‘principals’ were permitted to bring several friends, and they all felt special as they rode in style and dined in their favorite eatery. As everyone knows, that’s what principals do every day!

OPT

Gabriel Project Needs You

The Gabriel Project needs volunteers: prayer volunteers, Angel Friends, etc. Help is needed picking up donations, collecting donations, setting up cribs, distributing clothes, and more. Bilingual volunteers are welcome. Most tasks take 20-60 minutes weekly. Men are welcome and needed. All volunteers must be Archdiocese certified or eligible. For more information call Budne or Diane (301) 946-4815 or the Rectory.

OPT

The Light Is On!

On Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, the doors of St. Catherine Labouré are open and The Light is ON

for you! Bring a family member or friend, come in, and rediscover our heavenly Father’s heart of mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To find Confession times at other parishes and for additional resources visit www.TheLightisON.org

OPT

SCL’s Kathy Fitzpatrick Certified as Cantor Colleague

Dear Fr. Salah,

For the past two years, Kathy Fitzpatrick has been working towards her completion of the certification process as a Cantor Colleague. This rigorous process has entailed her participating in a live adjudication of her presenting two psalms, sightreading, aural skills testing, a music theory exam and a liturgy exam that was quite

rigorous as well as a personal interview.

All of this work has been done on her own, so that she might more effectively minister to the people of God, and especially the community of St. Catherine Labouré. She has completed the requirements and is now awarded the designation of **Cantor Colleague** by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians.

Please realize that there are only

18 musicians in the United States that have been awarded this distinction. I hope you will join me in congratulating Kathy on this accomplishment.

Yours in Christ,

Brent McWilliams
National Coordinator for Cantor Colleague Certification

OPT

VICTIMS

Con’t from page 28

another \$200 to the pot. And by February 7th, the total collection had reached \$1,000.

The third grade class of Mrs. Chris Calabro claimed the ice cream party prize by giving the highest amount during the campaign. These third graders had already donated \$62.81 in November of 2013 to The

Tapulanga Foundation, a non-profit organization run by Mrs. Ging Graham’s nephews and nieces. This money was used to build and repair houses on the island where Mrs. Graham’s family lives.

The \$1,000 will be donated to “Cards for Charity Campaign,” a project launched by Drs. Alvin and Barbara Sanico to raise money to build fiberglass boats for the fishermen in Busuanga, Palawan. The goal of this project is to deliver a

hundred of these boats. As of the first week of February, the first nine fishing boats have been built and transported.

From thousands of miles away, the fishermen will be happy and feel hope again. To the students of St. John’s they say, “Buong puso kami nagpapasalamat sa inyong lahat.” [With all our hearts we thank all of you.]

OPT

FRIEND

Con’t from page 14

correlated to the friendship theme. When the girls handed out their creations to the club members, they

were delighted to put a face to the recipients of the cards they had carefully crafted.

The event concluded with three Catholic University of America students in the music theater program performing for this long-standing

OPT

ST JUDE NEWS

Con’t from page 26

teens helped make decorations for the event, set-up the Thaddeus Room, and served as hosts and servers throughout the dinner. The evening consisted of fellowship, a delicious catered dinner, dancing, a raffle, and a brief presentation of pictures of the youth group. *DJ*

Rumba (Raul Marin) played a variety of music, which kept parishioners and teens on the dance floor all night.

The youth group is led by Fr. Raul DeLeon, and assisted by Deacon Paul Schmitt and a group of young adult volunteers. The youth group meets every Friday from 7-9pm and participates in various activities to grow in their relationship with God, their prayer and spiritual

life, moral values, friendships and parish community. Weekly events have included social outings, movie nights and discussions, panel presentations with Q&A, teen mass and dinner, and the March for Life Rally. To join the St. Jude Youth Group and find out about upcoming events, email stjudeym@gmail.com

OPT

It pays to advertise in Our Parish Times

RideOn, Metrobus free for seniors during certain hours

Did you know that seniors 65 and older ride free on Ride On and some Metro buses in Montgomery County from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday, and pay half the usual fare most other times? To do so, seniors must have a valid senior SmarTrip card or Medicare card and photo ID.

In addition, seniors pay just half the usual Metrorail fare when using a senior SmarTrip card. This convenient electronic card makes travel on transit in the region seamless and now saves you money. With SmarTrip, travelers can pay for Metrorail, Metrobus, Ride On and parking at Metro stations — all with the convenient touch of a card. SmarTrip users can check balances and add money to the card on buses as well as at Metro stations. SmarTrip is a permanent, rechargeable fare card. It's plastic like a credit card and is embedded with



a special computer chip that keeps track of the value of the card.

To purchase the card, seniors need to show a valid government issued photo ID with proof of age at the locations listed below and most public libraries located in Montgomery County. The Senior SmarTrip card costs \$2.

TRiPs – Transit Services Store
8413 Ramsey Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910
240-773-TRiPS (8747)
Open weekdays 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

TRiPS Commuter Store
17 Wisconsin Circle
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
240-773-TRiPS (8747)
Weekdays 10 am to 6 pm
(closed 1 – 2 pm for lunch)

The Department of Finance/
Division of Treasury
255 Rockville Pike, Suite L-15
Rockville, MD 20850
240-777-8930
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

There is no value on the card at the time of purchase. The Senior SmarTrip Card may be presented to Ride On and Metro operators to ride free during free periods or to get half fare all other times in Montgomery County on most routes. During free times, do not tap the Senior SmarTrip card on the target on the farebox because a fare will be deducted from the card. Make sure there is value on the card during times of half fare.

OPT

Keeping current on county development

The Montgomery County Planning Department makes it easy to keep on top of what's happening in the county. From its **Living in MoCo** web page, you can learn more about community plans, follow development applications and keep track of Planning Board decisions.

At **Living in MoCo**, you also can find out about about environmental rules affecting property owners, historic preservation, browse the library of free maps and visit the GIS map store to cover Montgomery County from every angle, and access county demographic, housing economic, population, household, employment and housing data.

Living in MoCo: www.montgomeryplanning.org/departments/residents.shtm

OPT

Issues facing older women in the workforce

The Montgomery County Commission for Women is holding a panel discussion on Wednesday, March 19, on Senior Women: at the Intersection of Cultural perceptions of Sex and Age. The event will be at the Executive

Office Building auditorium, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville, MD 20850, from 11:30 am to 1 pm.

Free, but registration is requested. Call Jamila Allouane at 240-777-8302 or email: jamila.allouane@montgomerycountymd.gov.

OPT

Maryland Senior Olympics 2014 Plans Underway For Qualifying Year!

MSO is off to a quick start for our 2014 Games, which is a qualifying year for the 2015 National Senior Games in Minnesota. Among the early items: The base of our events will once again be held in Baltimore, and the hope of adding pickleball and cycling to our lineup.

MSO track and field meet will once again be held at the Johns Hopkins Eastern High Campus in Baltimore, dates to be determined. To learn more, visit: www.mdseniorolympics.org.

OPT

NIH adds substantial set of genetic, health information to online database

Information on older adults is largest ever resource for researchers

Researchers will now have access to genetic data linked to medical information on a diverse group of more than 78,000 people, enabling investigations into many diseases and conditions. The data, from one of the nation's largest and most diverse genomics projects—Genetic Epidemiology Research on Aging (GERA)—have just been made available to qualified researchers through the database of Genotypes and Phenotypes (dbGaP), an online genetics database of the National Institutes of Health.

The GERA cohort—average age 63—was developed collaboratively by Kaiser Permanente and the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF). The addition of the data to dbGaP was made possible with \$24.9 million in support from the National Institute on Aging (NIA) and the National Institute of Mental Health. “I look forward to new insights that such a unique resource might offer for better health with age,” said NIA Director Richard J. Hodes, M.D.

“Data from this immense and ethnically diverse population will be a tremendous resource for science,” said NIH Director Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D. “It offers the opportunity to identify potential genetic risks and influences on a broad range of health conditions, particularly those related to

aging.”

The GERA cohort is part of the Research Program on Genes, Environment, and Health (RPGEH), which includes more than 430,000 adult members of the Kaiser Permanente Northern California system. Data from this larger cohort include electronic medical records, behavioral and demographic information from surveys, and saliva samples from 200,000 participants obtained with informed consent for genomic and other analyses.

In addition to diseases and conditions traditionally associated with aging, such as cardiovascular disease, cancer and osteoarthritis, researchers can explore the potential genetic underpinnings of a variety of diseases that affect people in adulthood, including depression, insomnia, diabetes, certain eye diseases and many others representing a variety of disease domains. Researchers will also be able to use the database to confirm or disprove other studies that use data from relatively small numbers of people, as well as to increase the size and power of their samples by adding participants from GERA to meta-analyses. The large cohort will also serve as a reference source of controls that researchers can compare to individuals with different conditions that they have studied.

OPT



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Schedule your appointment to discover the difference 301-530-0500.

Are You Caring for Another Adult?

The best way to help is to recognize it is not all up to you

Did you know that one out of four adults helps a family member with a physical or cognitive disability, is ill, or is frail due to older age? Organizations providing supportive services to these helpers refer to them as "caregivers."

In Montgomery County, our local government, non-profit organizations and private businesses can help caregivers and their loved ones live well in the community.

Montgomery County Aging and Disability Services

240-777-3000

ADS@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov

Knowledgeable County professionals help seniors and their caregivers with a wide range of topics and advice. Staff listen, recommend local resources around the County, and help with program applications when needed. Calls are answered directly by a trained staff person. If specialists are busy, your

wait on hold should be less than 30 seconds. You can also choose to leave a message for a call-back within one business day.

Hours are Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. For the convenience of caregivers who may not be able to call during the work day staff take calls until 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Holy Cross Hospital Caregiver Resource Center

301-754-7152

www.holycrosshealth.org/caregivers-resource-center

Take advantage of many free services for caregivers including a helpline, support groups, library and newsletter. The center offers a Caregiver Telephone Helpline (301-754-7152) to answer questions about services and resources for caregivers. Caregiver support groups for spouses and adult children provide a place to share sorrows and successes, resources and solutions. Classes are available on topics ranging from handling a par-

ent's finances to first aid and CPR. The center's health information library provides caregivers access to books, DVDs, audiotapes and videotapes on caregiver issues and health-related topics, as well as listings of aging adult services in our community. The center's newsletter is published three times a year to provide tips, book reviews, resources, articles on caregiving, and listings of the center's upcoming seminars, lectures and support groups.

Respite Services of Montgomery County

301-816-9647

respite@arcmontmd.org

Respite is short-term relief and support for families providing ongoing care to frail older adults and people with disabilities. Montgomery County recognizes caregivers' need for respite and works with over thirty agencies providing care throughout the County. Respite Services of Montgomery County can help families find the most appropriate provider. Financial subsidies are available for qualified individuals and families.

Alzheimer's Association

1-800-272-3900

www.alz.org/nca

Learn as much as possible about Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. Call the Alzheimer's Association 24-hour Helpline, 1-800-272-3900, and attend local support groups and events offered by the National Capital Chapter. Care consultation and other supportive services for families are also available.

Connect-A-Ride

301-738-3252

connectaride@accessJCA.org

Access this free, County-funded information and referral program that helps seniors

and people with disabilities find safe transportation for medical services, grocery shopping, errands and other needs. Connect-A-Ride staff provide guidance for those applying for Metro Access and Call N Ride and for those seeking paid and volunteer escorted transportation services. Some financial subsidies are available for those who qualify.

Financial Assistance

240-777-3000

ADS@MontgomeryCountyMD.gov

In some cases, financial subsidies are available to help pay for assisted living, adult day care, in-home aide services, healthcare, and home modifications for qualified individuals. Staff of Montgomery County Aging and Disability Services can help explore these possibilities.

U.S. Government's Caregiver Resource Page

<http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/>

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Hyattsville • 301-699-8600

Marian Assisted Living
Olney/Brookeville • 301-570-3190

Raphael House
Rockville • 301-217-9116

www.VictoryHousing.org



Continued on page 39

Shrine of St. Jude



St. Jude Varsity Boys take Division Championship

The St. Jude Bulldogs Varsity Tournament Boys Basketball team, who finished the regular season at 6-1, entered their Divisional Tournament as the number one seed. After beating St. John the Evangelist and Holy Redeemer in the playoffs, the boys faced St. Bernadette's for the Division Championship. The boys came out strong from the opening tip behind the strong play of Joe Kilmer, Maxwell Miller, Stephen Ribas, Ryan Holt, and Angelo Cuna to take an early lead in the first quarter. Parker Shugars, Matthew Ourand, Tim Wasel, Thomas Barr, Patrick O'Hanlon, Mike Welanetz, Bayer Ulambayar were key contributors on both ends of the court to bring a 31-22 win to the Bulldogs. "I am proud of our boys for working hard all season and excited to see the 8th graders go out with a championship," said Coach Eddie Ribas.

St. Martin of Tours



St. Martin Boys Basketball

Congratulations to our St. Martin's 12 and Under Boys Basketball Team! The boys are the 2014 Holy Redeemer Shootout Champions. The team played a total of five games to win the championship. The final game was against Mary of Nazareth. After a close back-and-forth game, the boys finally pulled away, winning 39 to 33. Photo by Rene Roach

Maryland Catholic Conference District Captain Project

Are you energetic, passionate about your faith, and eager to make a difference in the political sphere? Do you nerd out on social media and love meeting new people? Are you looking for a way to become involved in your state in a way consistent with your Catholic values?

Then consider joining the Maryland Catholic Conference District Captain Project. MCC will teach you the issues in the state government, help you make professional connections, host a special overnight training in Annapolis for you in May 2014 and reimburse your help with a small stipend.

Intrigued? Want to chat more? Mariann Hughes, MCC's Communications & Outreach Coordinator, would be happy to speak with you. You can contact her at mhughes@mdcathcon.org or at 410-269-1155/301-261-1979.

OPT

Annual congressional art competition

The 33rd annual congressional art competition for students is underway.

Entry forms are available by calling Rep. Chris Van Hollen's Rockville office, 301-424-3501, or on his website: <http://vanhollen.house.gov/constituentservices/congressionalartcompetition.htm>.

The forms must be signed by the student and a faculty member and faxed (301-424-5992) or emailed (karen.mcmanus@mail.house.gov) by the deadline, March 24.

The winning entries will be displayed in the US Capitol for a year. Runners-up from the 8th congressional district will be displayed in the congressman's office. A collection also will be displayed April 4-24 at Washington ArtWorks in Rockville (12276 Wilkins Avenue). Rep. Van Hollen will host an awards reception there on April 5.

OPT

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email: zmapaint@aol.com

Classifieds

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VICTORY HOUSING of the Archdiocese of Washington seeks land or multifamily buildings within the Archdiocese for the development of affordable housing. Please contact Jim Brown at 301-493-5506 or jbrown@victoryhousing.org.

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I am seeking a part-time position.
Have experience and references.

Please call: (301) 984-4422.

CARING

Con't from page 38

Topics/ Health/caregivers.shtml

Find assisted living, nursing homes, or hospice. Check availability for various government benefits. Get resources for long-distance caregiving. Review legal issues, and much more, at this website.

Lotsa Helping Hands

www.lotsahelpinghands.com
Free website for coordinating a

group of family and friends to help with various tasks. Caregivers set up a members-only community and then post jobs on the website's calendar, such as providing a ride to the doctor or doing laundry. E-mail is sent to the community members to alert them to new tasks.

Source: Montgomery County Senior Site. To download the **Caregiving Supports and Aging Services** flyer in pdf format: http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/senior/Resources/Files/SeniorCaregiver_english.pdf

OPT

MATH TUTORING

Twee Hightrink, M.B.A.

Phone: 240-292-7885 Email: Tweehightrink@verizon.net

Here are the ABC Rules for Students to be Successful in Math at the "A" level.

GOD gives me the gift to help students struggling in math to earn an "A". If you are interested in giving your son/daughter a chance to earn an "A" in Math, please contact me at the number or email listed above, I can help. All my students have my full attention on a one on one basis. What are my secrets to help my students earn an "A" in Math?

A BELIEVE. I motivate my students to believe in God, believe that God gives them a powerful brain to be successful at the top, believe that they can earn an "A" in Math, and set their goal at 100%.

B PRAY. I invite them to pray at the beginning of my Math lesson and pray at night before they sleep. I apply the teaching of Jesus: "Ask and it will be

given unto you." Here is our prayer: "O my God, I love you very much. I know that you give me a powerful brain to be successful. Please remove the mountain of distraction from my brain and move in your mountain of wisdom because wisdom is joy, success, and happiness and help me to earn 100% on my next Math test. I ask you these two favors in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord and through the mediation of the Holy Mother of God. Amen. Thank you, my God."

C OBEY. I explain to each student individually their current math lesson being taught to them in school. Once the lesson has been reinforced, I ask all my students to follow direction, study my math rules, and complete their homework. In addition to that they work on extra math practices I prepare for them. Math practice truly makes perfect!

"Special 50% discount to all new students at Holy Cross Church and School if registration received before Easter."

All of my students who follow my ABC Rules for Math are successful and achieve an "A" or "B".

Success guaranteed or 2nd year free. Here are a three examples.

This letter is from a parent:

Twee is a very capable, kind-hearted math tutor. We feel so blessed to have found someone whose values and work ethic set such a good example to our children. My husband and I find math to be a very difficult subject to reinforce at home, and that's why we were thrilled to meet Twee. Under his guidance, our children have performed consistently better in math. Twee is very flexible. Wonderful to work with, and has a sincere desire to see his students do well. I highly recommend him!

—Mother to elementary & middle school students

This letter is from a parent:

Mrs. Pamela: My son is in the 7th grade, he attends a public school in Olney, Maryland. He was failing his math test for the 1st and 2nd quarters, the lowest test score was an "E" 27% ("E" is a failing grade in MCPS). I was referred to Mr. Twee Hightrink by my aunt. She sent her three children to Mr. Hightrink which ranged from middle, high school and college level math. Since Mr. Hightrink was so highly recommended I enrolled my son in his tutoring services. My son has been attending Mr. Hightrink's math tutor services for two months now

and has been improving. His math test grades have gone from a 27% "E" to 100% "A" which is an improvement of four letter grades, 73% increase to be exact. As of February 10, 2014 he has a 99.6% "A" total math average, with a 100% "A" test average. This was possible because of Mr. Hightrink's dedication and devotion to getting my son back on track. Not only is my son at the top of his math class, but the confidence that he has gained in what is truly a short amount of time is priceless! I will continue to send my son to Mr. Hightrink and know that this is one of the best investments I can make for my son. I'm thankful that I was referred to Mr. Hightrink and definitely highly recommend him as well.

This letter is from a student:

Mr. Twee is very kind and he will help your son/daughter with easy steps to get an A in math. I am in seventh grade now, and I started to work with Mr. Twee in the sixth grade. I had a C in math and I was going down slowly, so my mother's friend recommended me to go to Mr. Twee. Mr. Twee helped me to get a B in Quarter 3 and 4 last year. Now I have an A in math thanks to Mr. Twee.

—K.J. March 1, 2014

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