



# Parish Times

Senior Service Guide  
Pull-out Section: Pages S1-S12

DECEMBER 2015

Living the Faith Together

FREE

## Spiritual Homes for a Lifetime



Chuck Short

**A** blessed Advent and joyful Christmas to all. I love Advent with its mystery, anticipation and animations of our Savior's birth. As a child it was a magical time. As an adult, I have come to appreciate its special opportunity for personal and parish reflections and preparation for a more mature appreciation of the meaning of Christ's coming. My thoughts have moved from Santa and the toys in his bag to Jesus and the blessings from His heart.

This year among my Advent reflections are a few words Pope Francis spoke while addressing Congress. I watched with inspiration and more than a touch of guilt when the Pope sternly pointed his finger toward the TV

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## The Rich Season – and Opportunity – of Advent



Rev. Msgr. John Enzler

I've said before that all I learned about God I learned during Advent. Yes, that's a bit of an oversimplification, but not much of one. I believe this is the greatest time of the year for families to teach children about God. They are so excited about Santa Claus coming, as they should be, and this time of waiting provides a wonderful opportunity to remind them and ourselves that it's about Jesus.

I was blessed to grow up in a loving, faith-filled home with parents who took full advantage of that opportunity to teach lifelong lessons to my brothers and sisters and me. For example, an Advent wreath was an integral part of our preparation. The kids (13 of us!) used to vie to be the one selected to light the candle and say the prayer for that night.

At the beginning of Advent, we would pick names and try to do something nice for the person whose name we chose, like make up their bed or pick up their clothes. The trick was to not get caught, and after we did our good deed, we got to place a straw on the manger. On Christmas morning, the baby Jesus would be on the bed made for him out of acts of love and charity.

On Christmas Day, as we finished the fam-

*Continued on page 4*



The youth groups from St. Jude (Rockville) and St. Mary of the Mills (Laurel) joined together for a three-day weekend retreat – “Catching Fire: Spiritual Hunger Games” – held at Summit Lake Christian Camp in Emmitsburg.

## St. Jude Youth Group Fall Retreat: Catching Fire

By Xiommy Esteban (SJ Youth Group, young adult volunteer)

**O**n the weekend of Nov. 20-22, the youth group from the Shrine of St. Jude joined together with the youth group from St. Mary of the Mills (Laurel) for a 3-day retreat entitled Catching Fire: Spiritual Hunger Games. The retreat took place at beautiful Summit Lake Christian Camp in Emmitsburg and the group was blessed with perfect mild fall weather. The 50

teens were led by Fr. Daniele Rebergiani of St. Jude and Fr. Bill Carloni of St. Mary of the Mills along with 10 adult volunteers.

The theme of the retreat helped introduce the teens to the meaning of spiritual warfare. Talks given by the priests throughout the retreat helped the teens gain an understanding of what it means to be in spiritual warfare and ways to combat sin and evil. The teens were shown the many “spiritual weapons” they have available to them, including various types of prayer, which they had the oppor-

tunity to learn and practice. In addition, they were “armed” with the teaching of forming alliances, both spiritual alliances, such as with the angels and saints, and holy friendships on earth.

The retreat also offered the opportunity for confession, adoration, praise and worship, and small group discussion. The teens were also led through an outdoor low ropes course to not only help build trust in each other, but understand the spiritual relevance to each

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## Maryland Bishops Call for Compassion in Addressing Refugee Crisis

**T**he Catholic bishops of Maryland join their voices with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and state Catholic Conferences throughout the country in calling for our nation and our state to welcome those fleeing persecution in other countries, including refugees seeking asylum from Syria. To deny certain groups access to a safe haven based on their religion or country of origin



is contrary to the principles of fairness and compassion that have been the foundation of our nation's character. Upholding these principles does not conflict with maintaining

the safety of our nation, which has always been a paramount priority of the U.S. refugee resettlement process.

Maryland is home to the national headquarters of Catholic Relief Services, which has a rich history of serving potential refugees in their native land, and firsthand knowledge of the brutal oppression that innocent families

*Continued on page 15*

## St. John's Celebrates 100th Anniversary of Corps of Cadets

**O**n Nov. 6, St. John's College High School welcomed more than 1,000 alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff and friends of the school to celebrate 100 years of the Corps of Cadets leadership program at The Cadet Corps Centennial: A Celebration of Leadership. This historic event, the largest gathering of the St. John's community in school history, was held at the JW Marriott in Washington, DC, and emceed by St. John's parent Major Garrett (P '13, '15, '18), chief White House correspondent with CBS News and correspondent at large with the National Journal.

This black-tie gala celebration hon-



St. John's alumnus Kevin Plank, founder and CEO of Under Armour, announcing his \$16 million gift to St. John's at its Cadet Corps Centennial celebration in November.

ored those who founded the Corps of Cadets, the alumni who carried on the tradition and the students and faculty who keep it alive today. Established in 1915, the Cadet Corps is one of the oldest military programs in the country. St. John's was one of only 100 schools across the country chosen to establish a military program under the National Defense Act of 1916, as well as the first private school to participate in Washington, DC, and one of only four Catholic schools among the initial participants.

From its inception, the Corps of Cadets has been recognized as an outstanding military unit, receiving

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## Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County

### Coming Events

**December 10, 2015**  
**Christmas Mass and Evening Reception**

Come celebrate the Christmas Season with CBN-MC at our Annual Christmas Mass and 5th Annual Holiday Reception in the Commons at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church on Thursday, December 10, 2015.

Mass will be celebrated at 5:45 pm with the reception to follow around 6:15 pm. The \$25.00 reception admission for members and guests includes hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, and networking amidst the joy of the Season. John Treseler

will be presenting 9 wines from around the world!

**December 12, 2015**  
**2015-2016 High School Scholarship Essay Competition**

CBN-MC is delighted to announce its 15th Annual Catholic High School Scholarship Awards. CBN-MC will award scholarships to eighth grade students selected for the quality of their essays. Essays must be received or postmarked by December 12, 2015 for consideration.

**January 8, 2016**  
**January Monthly Breakfast**

Join us for CBN-MC's monthly breakfast and speaker: Friday, January 8, 2016, at 7:25 am.

We meet on the second Friday of every month at Timpano Italian Chophouse, located in the Montrose Crossing Shopping Center at Rockville Pike and Montrose Parkway. Parking is conveniently located outside the restaurant. Registration is \$20 for pre-registered CBN-MC members, \$30 at the door and for non-members.

For more information about these and other CBN-MC events, visit: [www.cbnmc.com](http://www.cbnmc.com). **OPT**

## Fourth Archdiocesan Women's Conference

### Divine Mercy – in Prayer and Action

SAVE THE DATE: February 27, 2016, for the fourth annual Archdiocesan Women's Conference. The conference will be held at Elizabeth Seton High School in Bladensburg from 8 am until 4 pm. Women gather to enjoy fellowship, timely presentations including Mass, Eucharistic Adoration and

Confessions.

There will be English and Spanish tracks. The keynote speaker in English is Msgr. Charles Pope, Pastor of Holy Comforter/St. Cyprian, in Washington. The keynote speaker in Spanish is Fr. Juan Puigbo, Associate Pastor of All Saints Church, Diocese of

Arlington.

The cost is \$40. For more information visit [www.adw.org/womensconference](http://www.adw.org/womensconference) or contact Maria Suarez Hamm, Office of Hispanic Family Life and Leadership, Archdiocese of Washington, at 301-853-4499 or [mhamm@adw.org](mailto:mhamm@adw.org). **OPT**

## MCC Condemns Series of Targeted Terror Attacks in Paris, France

**November 14th, 2015**

The Muslim Community Center (MCC) of Silver Spring, Maryland, one of the oldest Muslim faith based organizations in the Washington, DC area, strongly condemns the series of coordinated terror attacks in France on November 13, 2015 that resulted in the deaths of over 100 victims and injured many more. We join the world community and the American Muslim community in strongly condemning and denouncing these atrocious actions committed by criminals who continue to seek and sow fear and hatred in the lives of ordinary people. Our deepest condolences, sympathy and prayers are extended to

the families of those who have lost loved ones in these outrageous terrorist attacks. Once again, the MCC joins the majority of mainstream Muslims worldwide in affirming our complete rejection and strong condemnation of all acts of terrorism wherever they occur. We pray and work hard for peace and justice, and for the perpetrators of these attacks to be apprehended and brought to justice.

MCC's mission is to promote brotherhood and human dignity among all by developing an environment of understanding, compassion, and justice in our personal and professional lives. We strive to serve the needs of the Muslim community and community at large in

a manner that promotes its positive image and standing in a changing environment. We aim to represent the Muslim community in interfaith circles, in government, public and media relations, and in the society at large.

**Montgomery County Faith Community Advisory Council**  
**Make Prayer Our First Response**

**November 19, 2015**

The unfolding violence in Paris, Beirut, and Baghdad—together with the responses of some political leaders in America—requires faithful responses. I suggest prayer be our first response. The photo here, from our countywide Faith Forum earlier this week, represents just one moment of offering prayers and words of encouragement from the scriptures our Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Jewish, and Muslim traditions.

I think it is especially important that those of us who are non-Muslims use this compendium of prayers and statements related to the violence of ISIS. I have put this together to help you document the fact that our Muslim colleagues



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# Mother and Teacher – Catholic social teaching guides J&A Council

By Anthony Bosnick

Since our beginning in 2005, the Justice and Advocacy Council of Montgomery County has advocated for public policy issues impacting the lives of the poor and vulnerable in the County. In our advocacy work, we address issues in view of Catholic moral and social teaching.

No political party adequately reflects a Catholic perspective. Thus, we may agree with the position of one party on some issues and with another party on others. And there are some issues we promote which aren't embraced by either party.

We seek the wisdom of Catholic social teaching to guide us on the positions we support and oppose. As stated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), "The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern

society." It is grounded in Scripture and in the teaching of the popes, Church councils and bishops' conferences.

Catholic social teaching "has its own profound unity" (*Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, n. 3) and reflects an integrated understanding of life. The Church understands the teaching as a unified "body of doctrine" that needs to be considered as a whole (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, n. 2422).

However, not a few Catholics embrace the approach attributed to the irrepressible William F. Buckley when he reflected on Pope John XXIII's 1961 encyclical *Mater et magistra* (*Mother and Teacher*). In the consummate statement reflecting "pick and choose" Catholicism, he wrote "Mother yes, Teacher no." He was willing to consider the Church as "Mother," but not follow her social teaching when he disagreed with it. However, a better way is to ask the Holy Spirit to help us understand the teaching and to grow in our acceptance of it. The integrated view is beautifully developed by Pope Francis in his recent encyclical *Laudate Si* (see, for example, paragraphs 158 and 233).

Catholic social teaching has been summarized by the USCCB into seven major principles. At the heart of the teaching is (1) **the life and dignity of the human person**. This core principle reflects



Anthony Bosnick

the Catholic belief that human life is sacred from womb to tomb and that the dignity of the person "is the foundation of a moral vision for society." All rests on this great principle and the J&A Council strives to be faithful to it.

Also at the core of the social teaching is the belief that humans are social beings and how we organize our society is important. Public policy positions must respect (2) **marriage and the family, promote community, and encourage participation in society**. In addition, all people (3) **enjoy rights and have duties and responsibilities** to each other, our families and the larger society. The J&A Council advocates for policies which build community and promote the common good.

Catholic social teaching also calls us to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first, known as the (4) **"option for the poor and vulnerable."** How we treat those on the margins of society is a moral question for us as Catholics. We also believe that (5) **work should have dignity and that workers have rights**. This the reason for our ongoing advocacy for the social safety net, for adequate appropriations for families providing home care for family members with special needs, and for just wages for taxi drivers.

All of these principles reflect the importance of (6) **solidarity**. We see ourselves not as autonomous

individuals but as persons who are part of a community seeking to live together in support of one another. As the teaching nicely states, "we are our brothers and sisters keepers." And finally, as have been reinforced by Pope Francis in his recent encyclical *Laudate Si*, we are called to (7) **care for God's creation**, with stewardship for creation and protection of our little part of the planet here in Montgomery County.

These are the principles that guide our efforts in the Justice and Advocacy Council. In our individualistic "me first" society marked by consumerism and materialism, acceptance of the principles often goes against the grain and what we are lead to believe is impor-

tant. But hopefully, we grow in our understanding and acceptance of the principles of Catholic social teaching as it is an invitation from God to participate in his life and love as we promote the values of his kingdom in the world around us.

You can read more about these principles by searching for USCCB and Catholic social teaching on the internet.

Anthony Bosnick is a long-time member of the J&A Council. He is Minister for Social Concerns at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Derwood.

You are invited to attend the next meeting of the Justice and Advocacy Council:

Wednesday, January 27, 2016 from 7:30-9:00 PM at Holy Redeemer Church Hall, 9705 Summit Avenue, Kensington, Md.

For more information, please call Ann Barbagallo at 202-746-986

## Did You Get Your Steps In Today?

By Michelle Ardillo

The steps-per-day phenomenon has been the motivation to get many a couch potato up and moving, myself included. Personal fitness trackers are all the rage and are seen on the wrists of people everywhere, young and old. I don't have a fitness tracker, but I do track my steps using an app on my smart phone. Some nights, when I am about to take my dog out for the last time before bed, I check it and see that I haven't reached even my minimal goal for the day so instead of a quick turn about the front yard, I walk him further down the block and back. I am not in competition with anyone, as some of my colleagues are, but still I feel the urge to make my steps-per-day goal. With New Year's Eve just around the corner, the inevitable list of New Year's resolutions will be made with all earnestness and optimism. I've already given this some thought with regards to my steps-per-day, with the hopes of increasing my fitness goals for 2016.

What about those of us who have become couch potatoes in our faith? Is there a tracker we can strap on our wrists to remind us of spending time with God in reflection and prayer? Can we motivate ourselves with a similar step program to help



us achieve spiritual goals? As we are just at the start of Advent, let's explore some of the steps we can take to help us better prepare for the coming of the Christmas solemnities.

Step One: Decorate for Advent First. Be sure your Christmas decorations and preparations include an Advent wreath and an Advent calendar. A simple wreath of evergreen and four candle holders is all it takes to anchor your kitchen or dining room table. Add a short Advent prayer before Grace at dinnertime. Hang the Advent calendar on the fridge or near the family

bulletin board so that, along with sports practices and music lessons, the reminder that Christ is coming will be visible to all. Opening the little doors each day increases our anticipation as we "wait" with eager expectation.

Step Two: Make a List and Check it Twice. Giving and receiving Christmas gifts is fun and exciting. Remember those, however, who are less fortunate than many of us. Find a way to make someone else's Christmas better. Adopt a needy family and add them to your Christmas shopping list. When you are doing your shopping for the big holiday meal, shop for another family and deliver it to a food pantry. Pack up your family and spend a few hours at a shelter, serving meals or just talking to some of those being served there. In a high school admissions essay I recently read, I was moved by the student's words that the homeless don't just want food or shelter or warm clothing; they also want companionship and someone to talk to.

Step Three: Schedule Time for Reflection. Christmas parties, family get-togethers, and office luncheons bring us closer together and reconnect us to those we love and care about. When putting all of

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### MATH NIGHT

Our second annual Family Math Night was a huge success. Students, parents and teachers made math exciting with sessions such as Cooking with Math, Art with Math and estimating how much candy was in the candy jar. This great evening highlights our philosophy of engaging the children to make learning a fun experience.

## SOAR! Honors Treseler

**S**upport Our Aging Religious (SOAR!) held its 2015 Washington, D.C. Annual Awards Dinner on Friday, November 6 at the Embassy of Italy. SOAR! which provides grants to religious congregations to meet the immediate needs of their retired or infirmed members, honored St. Mary's parishioner John Treseler among others.

Each year the dinner recognizes individuals and organizations for their contributions to the Catholic community. Mr. Treseler received the Elizabeth Ann Seton Award for his active volunteerism in the community, his parish and the schools of his children as he serves on numer-

ous committees and advisory boards.

Mr. Treseler said that he was inspired by SOAR!'s work when he thought about his own mother. As she aged, his brothers and sisters came together to ensure she received the support she needed. Like family, he told the audience, it is their responsibility to care for the religious. "Through your support you are now a member of the family of the aging religious," he said. "May God be praised."

Mr. Treseler, executive vice president of the John C. Grimberg Company, a generous supporter of all that is Catholic in the DC area. At St. Mary's he has served as chairs of the school advisory board and building committees, and held memberships on the capital campaign, strategic planning and principal selection as well as other committees. Mr. Treseler has served as a CCD teacher, CYO coach and marriage preparation sponsor. For his faithful service on the parish level, John was awarded the Archdiocese of Washington "Medal of Merit."

As president of the Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County, Mr. Treseler founded the Catholic Elementary School



John Treseler

Need Based Scholarship Program. He has been honored by CBN with the Business/School Partnership Award in 1998 and the Founders Award in 2010. Mr. Treseler is past president of the Gonzaga College High School Fathers Club. Currently he is president of the Gonzaga Business Network, serves on the Georgetown Visitation Board of Trustees, chairs the Buildings and Grounds Committee and is a member of the Capital Campaign Steering Committee. Mr. Treseler also currently serves on the Catholic Charities Presidents Council.

We congratulate John Treseler and feel blessed to have him as part of our community!

OPT



### COSTUME DRIVE

St. Mary's emulated the giving tree as their generosity branched out into the community. Above, middle school students take a break from sorting Halloween costumes donated to a local school. A few weeks later, they delivered approximately 50 winter coats there as well. The school sent over 100 items to Operation Christmas Stocking to benefit Marines stationed overseas and this weekend we will be participating in the Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive and the City of Rockville Toy Drive. The giving spirit of this community is inspiring!



### SUNRISE HALLOWEEN

St. Mary's School is richly blessed by the Sunrise Senior Living Community at the end of our property. The seventh-grade students visit Sunrise residents weekly and each year the entire school trick or treats at Sunrise as part of the Halloween parade. Here children are enthusiastically greeted by the residents as they show off their costumes!

### ENZLER

Con't from page 1

ily dinner, a cake was brought out for dessert and we would all sing Happy Birthday to Jesus. What a great and important lesson, especially for the kids.

Advent is always a special time of year as we are called to prepare for the coming of Jesus. This Advent will have an extra element to it as it is also the beginning of a Year of Mercy. Pope Francis is calling us to think about God's mercy as well as how welcoming and open we are in reaching out to those who are vulnerable or in need.

With that in mind, as you prepare for Christmas through prayer, sacraments and service, you may also want to reflect on the seven corporal works of mercy and whether

there is anything you could do there in the name of Jesus. As a reminder, they are:

- Feed the hungry
- Give drink to the thirsty
- Clothe the naked
- Harbor the harborless
- Visit the sick
- Ransom the captive
- Bury the dead

Mercy is at the heart of God's love for us and the incarnation that we will again celebrate on Christmas day. Jesus became one of us and ultimately died for us so that our sins will be forgiven and that we will live eternally with him. May we be filled with God's mercy this Advent and throughout the coming year, and may we be instruments of that mercy in the ways that we love and care for others.

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#### St. Mary's Parish

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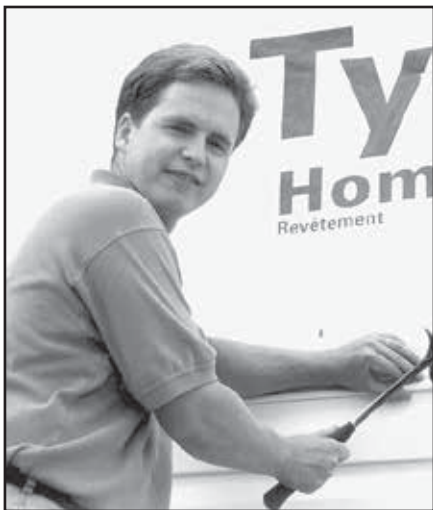
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# St. Jude Prepares for 60th Anniversary Celebration

In 2016, the Shrine of St. Jude will celebrate 60 years of serving as the Beacon of Christ on the Hill in Rockville, Maryland. Over the summer, planning for the 60th events began in earnest to ensure our celebrations reflect our historic cultural diversity and our Holy Father's focus on Mercy and the family. An executive

planning committee was formed, including: Fredes Pham, Rafy Gorope, Pedro Esteban, Barbara Smith, Natalie Craven, Christine Bloodgood, Robert LeBlanc, Jennifer Kilmer, Michelle Ardillo, Maureen Martin, and Lou Kratz.

*Continued on page 20*



Washington Nationals Pitcher Craig Stammen, pictured above surrounded by students, visited St. Jude Regional Catholic School on Oct. 5 to talk to the students about the importance of his Catholic faith and its impact on his career. Craig graciously answered questions and signed autographs as well. The visit was a St. Jude Gala pre-event for the students and was arranged through Catholic Athletes for Christ.

## Take Me Out to the Gala!

Let's hit one out of the park for the Shrine of St. Jude Church and Regional Catholic School at the 60th anniversary gala on March 12!

In coordination with the Shrine of St. Jude 60th anniversary, this year's gala's baseball theme – Diamonds are Forever – plays off of the diamond theme. This grand slam event is set for Saturday, March 12, in the Thaddeus "Stadium" of the school, with the announcement of "Play Ball" at 6 p.m. sharp. Solomon's Gold (featuring St. Jude Regional Catholic School dad and church parishioner Dave Bloodgood on drums!) will take the evening into extra-innings.

Following a similar format as galas of the past, the evening will include a 50/50 raffle, silent auction, buffet-style dinner, open bar, live auction, and a "Raise Your Pennant" special fundraiser. Additionally, this year will feature a souvenir shop complete with St. Jude apparel.

Tickets are available at [www.stjuderockville.org](http://www.stjuderockville.org), click on "Giving" and then the "60th Anniversary

## Take Me Out to the Gala



Gala." Cost to attend is \$55 per person or \$100 per couple until Feb. 5; then \$65/person \$110/couple. Be sure to get them before they are going, going, goooooonnnnnne!! Sponsorships and gala program ads are available to purchase as well. More details can be found on the website listed above.

All funds raised from the biennial celebration go toward the continued modernization of the Shrine of St. Jude Catholic Church and St. Jude Regional Catholic School.

For more information, please contact Christine Bloodgood at [cmbloodgood@gmail.com](mailto:cmbloodgood@gmail.com) or 301-946-7888 ext 106.

OPT

## Shrine of St. Jude Catholic Church Christmas Eve and Day Mass Times

### Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m.  
Mass with children's pageant  
7:30 p.m.  
Mass with Music  
10:30 p.m.  
Midnight Mass with music

### Christmas Day

8:00 a.m.  
10:00 a.m.  
12:00 pm (Spanish)

## Shrine of St. Jude Parish

12701 Veirs Mill Road  
Rockville, MD

Rev. Paul Lee, STD, Pastor  
301-946-8200

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

Maureen Martin,  
OPT Editor  
[MaureenCMartin@verizon.net](mailto:MaureenCMartin@verizon.net)

**More Shrine of St. Jude News on Page 20**

## St. Jude Catholic School Celebrating 60 Years 1956–2016

### OPEN HOUSE

January 27, 2016 • 11:30am & 6 – 8pm



*"Realizing that parents are the primary educators, we encourage an active involvement in their children's education."*

*-Glenn Benjamin, Principal*



- Resource & Learning Skills Program
- High School Preparatory Focus
- Spanish K-8
- Small Class Size
- Challenging Academic Curriculum
- Resources & Learning Skill Programs
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## Halloween Party Fun

**Z**ombies, hippies, goblins, witches along with Colonel Sanders, Wendy from Wendy's, General George S. Patton, Two Starbucks Cappuccino's and a former member of the Baltimore Orioles descended on the St. Jane de Chantal gym for their bi-annual Parish Halloween Party Saturday, October 24.

A comfortable crowd of about 100 really got into the Halloween spirit and enjoyed a space that was decorated to the hilt complete with skulls, a haunted house and a huge Frankenstein inflatable. Themed drinks were served at several bars and a tasty buffet meal of Red, Hot and Blue BBQ was served. The music, which kept the "thriller dance" and other activities going was provided by Bristol Sounds.

Prizes such as Starbucks gift cards were awarded for several costume categories and a drawing was held near the end of the evening for a \$50.00 gift card generously donated by parishioner and supporter, Patrick Murphy, owner of Ledo Pizza at Westlake. The grand prize was a \$100.00 gift card to Black's restaurants donated by Barbara Tappan Black of the Black's Group and a de Chantal graduate.

This was a great parish-wide event dreamed up by our pastor, Fr. Sam Giese and was shepherded along by the chair of the event committee and Pastoral Council member, Dan Jay with the help of many volunteer committee members. A spooky and really fun time was had by all. Photos by Jamie Caulfield

OPT



## Winter Open House

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## Honoring Our Veterans and Active Duty Service Members

**I**t has become a tradition at St. Jane de Chantal Parish to honor our Veterans during the masses of the weekend before Veteran's Day. Our Parish is blessed with numerous veterans and active duty parishioners, which also includes our Pastor, Fr. Sam Giese. After masses on Sunday, November 8, the veterans in attendance were given a medal and recognized with standing ovations for their service to our country. During the 10 o'clock mass, we were fortunate to honor Colonel William Walker, the Land Component Commander of the District of Columbia National Guard to which Fr. Giese also belong to as the Senior Chaplain. Col. Walker assisted Fr. Giese in



handing out the medals of appreciation. Photo by Jamie Caulfield

OPT

## Christmas Bazaar was Magical

**I**t was another successful year as shoppers packed the school gym on November 14th in search of holiday treasures, treats and prizes. The gym was transformed into a festive winter wonderland sponsored by the St. Jane de Chantal Home and School Association (HSA) to raise money for the school. Very special thanks to Kristin Grabill and Jessica Haug for all their hard work organizing the day and the vendors. More than 35 vendors packed the gym with arts, crafts, accessories, home



decor, jewelry, baked goods, and much more. There was also a thrift shop, children's book fair, story time with Mrs. Claus and a school sponsored Christmas tree raffle that included a tree covered in gift cards with a value totaling more than \$1,000. There were many HSA volunteers who kindly watched over the vendors, the displays, the baked goods and helped in assisting all the shoppers and guests. It was such a wonderful start to the Christmas season. Photos by Kristin Grabill

OPT



## Happenings In Our Blue Ribbon School

### Death of Sr. Mary Donald

Sr. Mary Donald Cusick, S.C.,

former principal of St. Jane de Chantal School, died on November 6 at Caritas Christi, the mother-house of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. She was 100 years old. Sister's ministry in education extended more than 35 years as teacher and principal in schools of the Archdiocese of Washington and the Diocese of Pittsburgh. In reflecting on her life, Sister Mary Donald once wrote, "I have loved my work, my students and all who have in any way influenced me. I am indebted to my family who gave me my first love of God, to my community who enriched this gift over many years

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

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

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

**Susana and Mario Cerritelli,**  
OPT Editors

Continued on page 10



## Jack Fitzgerald Named Catholic Business Person of the Year by CBN

**H**oly Cross Parishioner Jack Fitzgerald, CEO and Founder of Fitzgerald Auto Malls, was named the "Catholic Business Person of the Year," by the Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County. He was honored at its annual Gala and Award Ceremony on November 20.

Fifty years ago, Jack Fitzgerald started his business with a one-car showroom in Bethesda. Today, Fitzgerald Auto Malls has 15 locations and 35 franchises providing jobs for more than 1,400 employees. His business success can be attributed to his own philosophy of doing business the FitzWay, which is listening to his customer's comments and incorporating the best way to do business in every aspect of the business. Jack explains that "this philosophy differentiates us from other auto dealers."

More importantly, the FitzWay philosophy also encompasses programs to help the local community. For over 15 years, the Fitzgerald Child Safety Seat program has offered free installation and inspection of child safety seats. To date, more than 47,000 seats have been installed.



Pictured at the Catholic Business Network's Gala and Award ceremony on November 20th are, from left to right, Jack Fitzgerald, his sister Dottie Fitzgerald, Vice President of Fitzgerald Auto Malls, Master of Ceremonies Sue Palka, Holy Cross parent and Catholic School's Volunteer of the Year Michelle LeBlanc, and Father Robert Buchmeier, pastor of Holy Cross.

Fitzgerald employees contribute to this success, volunteering their time and effort. Protecting the environment is also a FitzWay philosophy. Last year, Fitzgerald Auto Malls recycled 81 percent of the solid waste generated at its dealerships, which is more than twice the national average for businesses. Fitzgerald Auto Malls is the first automotive dealership group in North America to become ISO 14001 certified, the global standard for Environmental

Management Systems (EMS), and this is considered the highest recognition available for quality management with a focus on the environment. In addition, all energy at Fitzgerald facilities is purchased from Green renewable energy sources, with 100 percent wind power used at all of the dealerships in Maryland. Fitzgerald's environmental team works to evaluate the company's environmental policy, objectives

*Continued on page 10*

## Holy Cross Parent Recognized as Catholic Schools Volunteer of the Year

**H**oly Cross parent, Michelle LeBlanc, was named the 2015 Catholic Schools Volunteer of the Year by the Montgomery County chapter of the Catholic Business Network. "We could not have been happier that the Catholic Business Network selected Mrs. LeBlanc for this honor," said Holy Cross Principal, Mrs. Lisa Kane. "She has served our school community in so many ways over the past thirteen years, and always with a smile!"

Mrs. LeBlanc served two two-year terms as the President of the Home & School Association with great energy and dedication. In that role, she developed many new social activities for families to come together to build friendships and memories. In addition, Mrs. LeBlanc chaired the annual Gala for six consecutive years. Each year, she worked tirelessly to surpass fundraising goals, and to provide a social event much enjoyed by members of both the school and parish.

Over the years, Mrs. LeBlanc has also chaired numerous school events such as the Back to School Picnic, the annual Christmas Breakfast, Lenten Soup and Stations, the Easter Egg Hunt, an Italian Dinner Night and Chili Cook-Off. And, in

her spare time, she is always happy to help Mrs. Smith with administrative tasks like photocopying and assembling materials for the Parent Communication envelopes. "Mrs. LeBlanc is always happy to help whenever I need an extra pair of hands. I know that whenever I ask, she will be there to help no matter what the task, big or small," said Mrs. Ann Smith, office administrator.

Congratulations, Michelle LeBlanc. We are very grateful to the Catholic Business Network for recognizing your invaluable contributions to Holy Cross.

**OPT**

### Holy Cross Parish

4900 Strathmore Avenue,  
Garrett Park, MD

**Fr. Robert Buchmeier,**  
Pastor

301-942-1020

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

**Lurana Hogan,**  
Parish Editor

[l.hogan@hcross.org](mailto:l.hogan@hcross.org)

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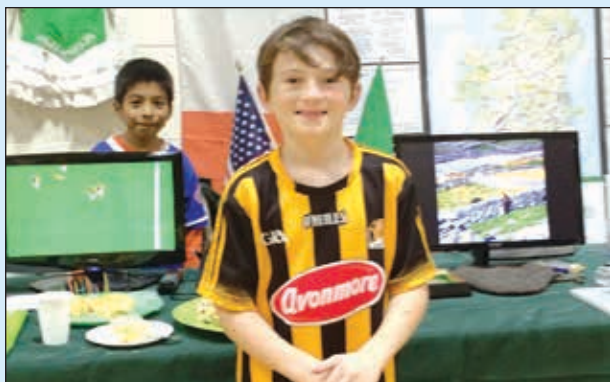
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# Country Displays at St. John the Baptist International Night



## St John the Baptist Celebrates International Roots



St. John the Baptist Schoolchildren at International Night



Eight years ago, St. John the Baptist parent Colleen Ionata decided SJB needed a different type of social event - one that was free to attend, included entire

families (to include grandparents, aunts and uncles) and would appeal to the school families who didn't normally attend other social events. She noted that the school was also

becoming more diverse and thought an International Night would be a "nice way to bring different people together."

Now in its fourth iteration, the bi annual SJB International Night has become a fall tradition. Ms. Ionata feels that its appeal lies in the fact that it provides a different platform that allows parents to talk about something other than school and CYO sports. Parents share food, culture and travel experiences. One hundred to 150 people attend International Night. Families volunteer to present "their" country with traditional dress, food, and decorative arts. Ms. Ionata arranges for cultural arts performers to show case different dance and music styles.

Presentations typically represent African, Central American, European and Island Nation countries. When International Night first started eight years ago, it was comprised of more European presentations. Now, more African and Island nations are represented. The evolving composition of presentations makes each International Night new and interesting. School Principal Brian Blomquist has even considered scheduling it as a welcome back activity to get parents connected earlier in the school year.

OPT



Afterschool STEM students at St. John the Baptist

## STEM Grows at SJB

"Yes, she does the STEM program and LOVES it." This is the response from Kristin Draper, a St. John the Baptist School parent, when asked about her daughter Evelyn's involvement in the Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) program at SJB.

Anna Damiano, another SJB

school parent, brought STEM to SJB three years ago. Ms. Damiano noticed that STEM programs were being implemented at local public schools and she wanted Catholic schools to participate as well. She contacted Excel After the Bell to bring an after school program to SJB. This year, 12 students par-

*Continued on page 34*

More St. John the Baptist News on Page 34



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## St John's Mourns Beloved Teacher

Erin Tervo passed away suddenly from this world on Labor Day weekend. She was a devoted wife, a loving mother, an adored daughter, a cherished sister. She was our colleague and our friend.



Erin Tervo

Several months have now passed and those first gasps of disbelief and the tears that filled our eyes daily have subsided. Children are our first priority at St John the Baptist School and the children need their teachers to restore order, to continue their lessons, to make them feel safe. And so we have done our best to do so. It is hard some days, but we try.

Erin was first a student at SJB, then a student teacher, then a teacher. She began her teaching career in the fifth grade; later she taught seventh and eighth-grade advanced mathematics. She choreographed our Christmas show, she directed our spring play, she prepared countless children to lector, to sing, to be altar servers, to

usher, and to be gift bearers at our school Masses. She infused our school with warmth, with collaboration, with fresh ways of looking at old problems, and she had an infectious laugh. We miss what she did, but more importantly, we miss who she was.

Erin loved her family - her best friend and husband, Jon, and their beautiful daughters, Shannon, Megan, and Caitlin. She loved telling family stories about one daughter's Irish dance class, another's creative writing journal, and another's silly jokes. She loved telling the story of how she and Jon met and about their "rivalry" over their respective alma maters - Notre Dame and Duke. "True love finds a way!" she would tell us with a wink. She loved family trips to the beach, seeing her girls mingle with their cousins, enjoying time with her parents and siblings.

Erin loved her school and the students she taught. She loved math

*Continued on page 34*

### St. John the Baptist Parish

12319 New Hampshire Ave.  
Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Y. David Brault, Pastor  
301-622-1122

Brian Blomquist, Principal  
301-622-3076

Anne Thomas,  
OPT Editor  
[anne.thomas@grace.com](mailto:anne.thomas@grace.com)



## All Saint's Day and Service at St. Bernadette School

St. Bernard House



St. Dominic House



**S**t. Bernadette School launched the fourth year of their Saint House System on All Saint's Day. All students are placed in one of five houses named after special Saints: St. Bernard, St. Dominic, St. Elizabeth, St. Joseph and St. Katharine. At the end of the year, one of the houses is awarded the St. Bernadette Cup for participating and spirit in school activities.

Each house has their own spirit color and completes over 5 service projects during the year. This totals over 25 service projects for St. Bernadette School. See the article on the Thanksgiving Food Drive for more information!

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St. Katharine House



St. Elizabeth House



St. Joseph House



## St. Bernadette School represented at Altar Server Recognition Mass

**S**t. Bernadette seventh graders Catalina Scheider and Matthew Thomas, and St. Bernadette alum Lucas Scheider attended and were recognized at the special Mass. The annual Serra Club Altar Servers Recognition Mass took place on November 22 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C. The above mentioned St. Bernadette Altar Servers attended and received a certificate of thanks from the Cardinal for their service.

The Serra Club sponsored the Recognition Mass, it is named for St. Junipero Serra, canonized by Pope Francis on September 23 at the Basilica, so it was a very special event. The main celebrant

was the Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington.

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### St. Bernadette Parish

70 University Blvd., East  
Silver Spring, MD

**Rev. Msgr. K.  
Bartholomew Smith**  
Pastor

301-593-0357

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

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**More St. Bernadette News on Page 25**



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## STEPS

Con't from page 3

those holiday events on your family calendar, be sure to schedule time with the baby Jesus. Take the time to visit with him in Adoration, receive the Sacraments, and attend Mass more frequently. Each year at our 8<sup>th</sup> grade overnight retreat, our students attend Adoration for an hour. It was suggested by our retreat leader one year, and some of us were skeptical that we could get 8<sup>th</sup> graders, away from school and parents, to sit or kneel quietly for an hour in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. The retreat leader said, "Trust me, this will happen, and you will be moved by this." She

was right, and the 8<sup>th</sup> graders always count it among their favorite parts of the retreat experience.

Step Four: The Reason for the Season. In today's rushed and materialistic world, this one is becoming more and more challenging. Deck the halls and light the Christmas tree but don't forget to put out a nativity scene or crèche. The image of the baby Jesus in the manger with the three kings coming to pay homage is a powerful one, a reminder of the humble beginnings of the son of God. With Black Friday and Cyber Monday thankfully behind us, there are still great online resources—for learning and growing in our faith during this Advent season. Bishop Robert Barron, recently ordained Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Los

Angeles and the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, has extensive writings, lectures, and homilies on the Advent season. He reaches millions of people each year via his website and his YouTube channel. In one of his reflections on Advent, he quotes the French spiritual writer Simone Weil, who said that "the core of the Christian life is waiting, watching, expecting. We cannot save ourselves, but we can look with rapt attention to the one who can. In this sense, we are, permanently, an Advent people."

Personal health and fitness is important to living a long and healthy life. Prayer and practicing one's faith ensures an everlasting relationship with God. Continue wearing your personal fitness tracker, but also, set some steps-per-day

goals to grow closer in your faith as we prepare for the coming of the baby Jesus.

OPT

## About the Author

Louisiana native and lifelong Catholic Michelle Ardillo has been teaching seventh and eighth-grade literature and English at Holy Redeemer Catholic School in Kensington since 2007. She and her family are parishioners at the Shrine of St. Jude in Rockville. She is currently working on a middle grade novel about a missing suitcase as well as a series of weekly essays being published on her web site, *Cajun Girl in a Kilt*, which can be found at [www.michelleardillo.com](http://www.michelleardillo.com). Follow her on Goodreads and on Twitter @michardillo.

## HAPPENINGS

Con't from page 6

and to God who has blessed me with His love." For the complete obituary, visit [www.scsch.org/who-we-are/in-memorial](http://www.scsch.org/who-we-are/in-memorial).

## Another Strong Year for Cross Country

by Ronan Kramer, Grade Eight

Thanks to Coach Skibo, the St. Jane de Chantal School Dukes cross country had an outstanding championship season. Caroline Kirvan, Cady Hyde, and Eamon Smith all ran to first place finishes throughout the year, and helped keep the title tradition at de Chantal. Recently, the team competed for four City Championship title and won three of them. With one hundred twenty-five runners on the team, de Chantal won first place in Varsity Girls, Varsity Boys, and JV Girls competitions. Cady Hyde even broke the meet record with a time of 12:51 for the two mile course. [Reprinted from the school's *Duke's News*]

## Fifth Grade Immaculate Bake Sale a Huge Success

by Amy Smigaj and Veronica Vincent, Grade Eight

In our school we have a beautiful statue of Mary in the stairwell near the fifth and sixth grades. Unfortunately the statue's face has chipped throughout the years. The fifth grade decided to raise money to fix the statue of Mary. Their goal was to reach five hundred dollars so they had a bake sale. The bake sale was located in the atrium and was held for three days. Everything sold was delicious, and the atrium was beautifully decorated. The whole school enjoyed the cookies, brownies, and other treats. Fifth grade reached twice their goal. Thanks to the fifth grade and all the helpers, students, and faculty, our statue of Mary is off to be repaired. [Reprinted from the school's *Duke's News*]

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## FITZGERALD

Con't from page 7

and ongoing progress on a regular basis and proving it is entirely possible to run an organization that is both successful and eco-friendly. Mr. Fitzgerald explains that "Good people like to do good things, and the good people at Fitzgerald Auto Malls live by the FitzWay philosophy, treating all associates and customers the way they would want to be treated...with honesty, respect, and dignity."

Over the course of many years, Mr. Fitzgerald has been a generous and steadfast supporter of Holy Cross School and Parish. Our entire community is blessed by his contributions. We are proud to honor him for his FitzWay philosophy which has attributed to his business success and his being named Catholic Business Person of the Year.

OPT



# Compassion with a Capital "C"!

Last year, Holy Redeemer implemented a faith-based school wide program called the 4Cs. Each quarter the school focuses on a "C": Courtesy, Compassion, Community, and Commitment. Each day the school begins their day saying the 4C Prayer:

O Jesus, my Holy Redeemer, I offer You this day all my thoughts, words, desires, and actions.

Help me so that I may always:

Speak and act with **courtesy**.

Treat others with **compassion**.

Show **commitment** to my faith, family, schoolwork and activities.

Build up our **community** by loving others as myself for the love of You.

Christ Jesus, strengthen me so that I may closer to You each day.

Throughout the second quarter, the students and families of Holy Redeemer have ample opportunity



Everyone pitches in to help with the GGCFFD

to show compassion to those in need in our area through three major service projects. The first is our Thanksgiving Food Drive. This year, our student donated enough

food and money to provide turkeys and food for 42 needy families of the St. Camillus Food Pantry. Our food boxes will go to the elderly and to the many immigrant families in which the St. Camillus Food Pantry serves each and every month.

The second major community service project is our Parish Wide participation in the Greg Gannon Food Drive. Last year was the time we had our very own collection site. HR school families have been hard at work behind the scenes reaching out to our neighborhood so that we can collect from as many houses

as possible. Last year we collected over 15,000 cans. This year's goal is to hit the 20,000 mark!

Holy Redeemer students are showing their support in several ways. On Friday, December 3, the students will have a Tag Day. Students can come to school out of uniform if they bring canned food items. The grade that brings in the most canned food items will be able to throw pies at Greg Gannon's nephew and HR's own Jorge Garayta. On Saturday, December 5 our HR families will be gathering bags of canned food items from their neighborhoods and bringing them to HR where they will be loaded on to trucks and taken to St. Camillus Food Pantry and to St. Paul's Food Pantry right here in Kensington. Our last major community service project is to show our support to S.O.M.E. HR school families fill shoeboxes with hats, gloves, socks and toiletries to



HR's Happy Volunteers delivering Thanksgiving Food Boxes

## Holy Redeemer is Thankful for Our Grandparents

The Holy Redeemer School community can't begin their Thanksgiving break without taking time to honor our Grandparents! This year's Grandparent's Day was yet another huge success! Invitations for this big event went out in early November. Students began preparing in their art classes by creating the artwork used to decorate our Herb Young



HR students are thrilled to have their grandparents visit!

Auditorium and in their music classes by rehearsing their Grandparent's day songs.

The day began with Mass which included Grandparents, special visitors and all of our students. At the end of Mass Fr. Hughes gave all of the Grandparents a special blessing. Immediately following Mass the grandparents were able to visit with

*Continued on page 30*

## Holy Redeemer Math Team Competes

By Michelle Ardillo

On Thursday, November 19, the Holy Redeemer middle school math team six eighth graders and two eighth grade alternates competed in the 42nd Annual Good Counsel Math Contest at Our Lady of Good Counsel High

*Continued on page 30*



HR Math Team members (left to right), first row: Pranav Rane, Matthew Wyble, Siobhan Wampler; second row: Dominic Welsh, Samantha Douki, Eliza Henne, Alex Domenech, and Paddy Phelps

### Holy Redeemer Parish

9705 Summit Avenue  
Kensington, MD

Rev. Mark Hughes

Pastor

301-942-2333

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**More Holy Redeemer News  
on Page 30**

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*\*In case of school cancellation due to inclement weather,  
the Open House will be held on Tuesday, February 9, 2016.*



# Lay Leadership at Work: *That Man Is You*

By Matthew Hoyle

What started in 2012 as the vision of a handful of men from St. Raphael Church in Rockville, led by long-time parishioner Dick Jasinski, culminated in the launch of a bold new men's group based on a program called *That Man is You* (TMIY). With endorsement from Pastor Rev. Jim Meyers and Adult Faith Formation (AFF) director Suzanne Nelson, Dick organized a core team of approximately 20 men and 14 small group leaders. His leadership and persistence made this program a reality. He rallied the right people to support the program and encouraged men throughout the parish and beyond to participate. The meeting time of this men's group has become a unique trademark and stands apart from many parish adult



Dick Jasinski

faith formation activities. To avoid disrupting family and work commitments, the men meet Saturday mornings at 6 AM and conclude by 7:45 AM, barely missed by their families.

With 26 weekly meetings over the Fall and Spring averaging 80 to

90 participants, the Holy Spirit is clearly hard at work developing a group of men representing the heart and soul of the parish in carrying out its Christian mission. In the course of the last three years, men at St. Raphael have successively considered the three most important relationships in a man's life: his relationship with God, his relationship with his spouse and his relationship with his children. To Dick's credit and despite the early wake-up call on Saturday, as 2015 draws to a close, over 130 men are actively registered and meet regularly to study and deepen their faith and bring back the teachings from the program to their families and communities.

Created in 2004 by a lay Catholic ministry called *Paradus Dei*, TMIY became the perfect foundation for building a vibrant men's

fellowship group at St. Raphael. The structure of the weekly meetings includes a light breakfast and socializing followed by a video containing the weekly teaching. Afterwards, the men meet in small groups and discuss the video and apply the lessons to their everyday life. The TMIY program was selected, in part, because the subject matter of the material was well-formed, relevant, and compelling to the men.

TMIY has made a difference in the lives of the participants because it honestly addresses the pressures and temptations men face in our modern culture, especially those relating to their roles as husbands and fathers. Keith Gilmore, a participant for the last three years may have stated it the best: "For years, I've tried to figure out how to be a better father, husband, and, in

general a better person. TMIY has given me the structure to achieve my goals. The great thing about this program is you don't have to be at any level of holiness to attend! Everyone, regardless of where they are in their faith journey is welcomed. Whether you are eighteen or ninety-nine, married or single, TMIY will help you achieve your goals. The camaraderie I found with the men has truly been a blessing in my life."

Leadership is said to be about giving "voice to a vision." It works best if the "voice" consists of those who will be involved, and is composed of the right mix of "passion, purpose and people." TMIY, as applied at St. Raphael, is an example of the right mix; it is an example of what makes AFF valuable and flourishing in the church. Kudos to you!

OPT

## St. Raphael School Celebrates the Thanksgiving and Advent Seasons

By Nina Cardillo

### A Season of Feasts

During the season of Thanksgiving, St. Raphael School celebrated a variety of feasts that brought our school family together. We shared a meal with each other, as well as with others, and that fellowship warmed the hearts of our students as we transitioned to the Advent season and its spirit of giving and joy.

Before joining our individual families for Thanksgiving, the SRS family came together for a small feast. The celebration began with a school Mass. All of the students



At the St. Raphael School Thanksgiving Feast, second-graders (from left) Victoria Colaiani, Norah Simpson, and Allison Risch are in the spirit of the holiday with their Mayflower hats. This special day is always filled with smiles, laughter, and grateful hearts. Photo by MJ Zafis-Garcia/St. Raphael School



Fourth-grader Declan Healy, dressed in serf costume, displays his family shield with its original coat of arms at the St. Raphael School Medieval Festival. Photo by Colleen Healy

and faculty enjoyed a delicious meal and remembered the pilgrims and Native Americans through the faces and dress of the kindergartners and first-graders, who represented the partakers of that first feast.

More than 100 guests from two Washington, D.C., shelters run by Missionaries of Charity were welcomed at the annual Mother Teresa Luncheon. SRS fourth-graders joined the special guests at Mass, and the seventh- and eighth-grade students served them a Christmas luncheon of baked ham and turkey and also kept company at their tables. A sing-a-long created a festive atmosphere, and the St. Raphael Nursery School 4-year-olds delighted the attendees with song,

especially a jubilant rendition of "Go Tell it on the Mountain."

It was the study of the medieval times that brought the fourth grade class and their families together at a banquet fit for a king. Dressed as royalty, knights, and serfs, students presented family shields with original coat-of-arms insignia. Foods typical of a medieval feast were savored, but it was the Rice Krispies castle—uniquely designed by the teacher, Michelle Roche, and art teacher, Yolanda Prinsloo, and decorated by the students—that was hardest to resist.

### A Season of Giving

Thanksgiving baskets were prepared to bless special people within our school and parish community. *Continued on page 35*

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St. Raphael School fourth-grade student Victor Cardillo receives Communion at the school-wide Mass on Nov. 24. The Mass marks the beginning of the Rockville school's Thanksgiving celebration. Photo by MJ Zafis-Garcia/St. Raphael School

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# Students 28: Teachers 23

The Wednesday before Thanksgiving was a perfect day for a friendly football game.

Grandparents started arriving at 10. They visited with their grandchildren in the classrooms, delighted with special poems, letters and pictures they received. At 10:30, everyone gathered on the field outside to hear Mr. Long give us our instructions.

We prayed the Prayer to Saint Michael the Archangel, sang the National Anthem, and the game began! The teachers and alumni were nervous, and the middle school students could hardly wait to get on the field. Mrs. Billings (former soccer star) kicked off for the teach-



Brendan Quinn gets ready to go long.



Nathalia Martinez, Sariaka Walsh and Jasmine Velasquez cheered for the teachers!

ers, and the middle school students with Brendan Quinn at quarterback wasted no time attacking. The scoring was plentiful – with the teachers even getting a safety. While most of the teachers had no idea what a safety was, they knew enough to know that it was good for their team.

As the game wound down, it looked like the teachers would walk away with another victory, thanks to a lot of help from alums John Mendoza, Matthew Fronda and Donovan Braithwaite. Then, out of nowhere, Christian Rodas

streaked down the field – bobbing and weaving between defenders, leaving dazed and confused teachers in his wake – and scored the winning touchdown for the middle school. As the teachers recovered, trying to compose themselves after a shocking defeat, grandparents and parents filled the gym for our Grandparents Day Assembly.

Students from Little Group to eighth grade sang beautifully for their appreciative audience. The day ended with the Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes, and everyone wishing one another “Safe Home” as they headed off to celebrate Thanksgiving.

OPT



Mr. Long and the sixth grade students recite the Pledge of Allegiance before the game.

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Kindergarten students Nikki I, Caleb Schmitt and Kelly Quinn re-enact the first Thanksgiving day.

## Legacy Project at Our Lady of Lourdes School

This fall, eighth graders at Our Lady of Lourdes completed an Eighth Grade Legacy Project in lieu of their usual study skills class. The students watched portions of Randy Pausch, former professor at Carnegie Mellon, delivering his “Last Lecture,” and they reflected on their own childhood dreams and dreams they have for their futures. The class also read excerpts from Pausch’s book, *The Last Lecture* and discussed some of the most important life lessons they have learned while attending Our Lady of Lourdes.

Finally, each eighth grader assembled his or her

*Continued on page 14*

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### For Purple Mountain Majesties

The Kindergartners at St. Patrick's School used the hymn "America the Beautiful" and the painting of a mural of a map of America to reinforce land forms in our country. In preparation for Thanksgiving, they also examined picture books to learn about the ways in which the Native Americans assisted the Pilgrims during their first year in America. They crafted items with wooden beads and patterns to form articles that may have been worn at that time by the Native Americans.



### St. Patrick's Parish

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### Giving Thanks

On Tuesday, November 24, the students and faculty of St. Patrick's School held an annual Thanksgiving Prayer Service. Led by the fourth and seventh graders, the school community (Pre-K-eighth grade) gathered to celebrate their many blessings including their faith, their loved ones, and their Catholic education.



### WE CAN DO IT!

St. Patrick's Parish in Rockville participated in the Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive (GGCFD) on Saturday, November 14, 2015. For the third year in a row, more than 400 volunteers from the parish and school distributed collection bags to the surrounding parish neighborhoods and then collected and counted cans. An astounding 18,800 cans were collected! Full trucks of food were sent to local food pantries. Pictured are student participants in the GGCFD from St. Patrick's School along with Deacon Jim Nalls (top photo center), of Catholic Charities DC.



### Grandparents Day at St. Patrick's School

On November 18, St. Patrick's School hosted its biannual Grandparent's Day. The festivities include Mass, donuts and coffee, classroom visits, and an essay contest. More than 150 grandparents came to spend the day with their grandchildren. The theme of this year's essay contest was "Things My Grandparent Taught Me." Winners were selected in each class. Pictured above are the essay winners with some of their grandparents: Bryce Madigan (Pre-K), Felicitas Salvado (K), Daniel Stone (second grade), Seamus Stevick (third grade), Paddy Kirchner (fourth grade), Ryan Maxwell (fifth grade), Alex Gaspar (sixth grade), and Azure Onyewu (seventh grade). Not pictured: Jillian Howard (first grade) and Rose Milano (eighth grade). The event was sponsored by Home Instead Senior Care.

### LEGACY PROJECT

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own Legacy Project, in which they identified lessons they have learned at OLOL, an accomplishment they are proud of, a dream they have for their future, how they want to be remembered after graduating, and advice they would like to pass on to younger students. The projects were as varied as the students themselves. Some were Power Points or posters, while others were works of art or poetry.

The students' projects were an outstanding display of the young women and men they are becoming, and their presentations were very moving for their classmates and teachers to hear. Rafael Espina wrote that the most important lesson he has learned is how to be a responsible young man, and he wants to be remembered as a friend to everyone. Finn Anderson cited his teacher Mr. Long, who reminds him, "we will be excellent or we will be miserable." Addie Robinson spoke of her dream to train dolphins for the Navy's Marine Mammal

Program, and how she is proud of herself for staying positive, even in times of difficulty. Max Walsh implored younger students to think about the consequences of their actions, and Miller Dunbar shared her dream of becoming an architect.

While the faculty and students at Our Lady of Lourdes will be sad to see The Class of 2016 leave, these students will surely leave a lasting legacy behind and make the OLOL community proud for years to come.

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### Mercy Sixth-Grade Girls' CYO Team Takes the Citywide Championship

Congratulations to Coach Shaffer and Our Lady of Mercy's U12 Girls who brought home the City Title Championship on November 8! The girls beat Little Flower in an exciting hard-fought 1-0 game. Haley Summers played goalie and Rocio Canedo-Arguelles scored the winning goal. When asked about the game, sixth-grade player, Michaela O'Connor exclaimed, "It was a great season, and Mr. Shaffer was a great coach!" Our U12 Boys also deserve congratulations for coming in second place in the City Title Championship!



### Mercy's New Leadership Plans to be Hands-On

Not every school sees its leadership get dirty! But at this year's Eighth Grade vs. Faculty Turkey Bowl, Mercy's new principal, Mrs. Debbie Thomas, and new priests, Fr. Bill Byrne and Fr. Chris Seith, joined the faculty in a spirited game out on the school field. This is an example of how Mercy's new leadership envisions working together to bring a hands-on approach to their involvement in the school community. Other examples worth noting are that the pastor and associate priests have committed to teaching religion classes in the school, and the pastor can be seen strolling through the hallways with his Boxer, Roo, chatting with students on a daily basis. With this kind of presence in the school, they hope to bring the school and parish communities together for the benefit of the entire community.



### Mercy's Production of *The Little Mermaid* Took the Community "Under the Sea."

The fall musical has been a school highlight for many years. This year was no exception as 37 students from grades six through eight transformed McAuley Hall into an underwater fantasy world. With the help of director, Mrs. Ginny Curtin, and producer, Mrs. Christine Green, students performed such musical numbers as "Under the Sea" and "Part of your World," entertaining Mercy families as well as audience members from the wider community.

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## CRISIS

*Con't from page 1*

endure at the hands of terrorist groups such as ISIS. In solidarity with the many Catholic agencies that serve the persecuted throughout the world, the Catholic Church in Maryland, through our Catholic Charities agencies and other ministries, stands ready to offer our assistance to these families. We urge all Marylanders to consider their plight with an open heart, and to learn more about the multiple layers of interviews and security checks these refugees must undergo in order to resettle in our country.

We offer our heartfelt sympathy and prayers for the residents of Paris who suffered the horror of the recent ISIS attacks, and pray that the true spirit of human fraternity and nobility will inspire our country and nations around the world to triumph over this dreadful example of viciousness against our brothers and sisters.

The Maryland Catholic Conference represents the mutual public policy interests of the Catholic (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, including the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington.

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## A Cancer-Fighting Pioneer in Our Midst

A lot of excitement has been generated lately about the research and treatment of cancer with a novel approach that individualizes therapy to each patient, instead of following a set regimen for the general type of cancer a patient has contracted. This new approach was made possible when the science of genomics was developed, enabling researchers to “map” a body’s genome, that is identify the ingredients of an organism, all of its DNA, including all of its genes, and use this information to deal with it in specific and individualized ways.

According to Dr. Jean Claude Zenklusen of the National Cancer Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda: “One may liken cancer therapy in the past to a bunch of tipsy Irishmen throwing darts in a pub. That was much like the way medicine was targeted at a cancer in the past—throwing a variety of therapies, like darts, at a given condition, somehow hoping to score a successful bulls-eye with one of them on the



Dr. Jean Claude Zenklusen

cancer itself. Now we take a far more sober approach by zeroing in on the target more clearly, knowing what it’s made of and what therapies work best to destroy the organism with minimal interference to the healthy organisms surrounding it.” The old dreaded choice of cancer treatments, “cut, burn or poison,” is rapidly becoming a thing of the past.

Dr. Zenklusen is the director of the Genome Atlas Program Office at the National Cancer Institute. He and his team work with a similar team at the National Human Genome Research Institute, also part of the NIH, to assimilate from researchers worldwide the countless gene sequences (over 132,000 were collected through 2014) of more and more types of cancers. So far, they have mapped the genomic changes of the tumors of 33 different types of cancer, including breast, stomach, lung, bladder, skin, colon, liver, cervical and prostate.

Dr. Zenklusen lives in Kensington and is also a parishioner at St. Elizabeth. He and his wife, Ana, have two sons, Matias, 16, and Francisco, 12. Known to friends and fellow parishioners simply as “JC,” Dr. Zenklusen was born in Switzerland and educated at the Universities of Buenos Aires and Texas before coming to his present position at NCI.

When he first moved to Kensington, it was the numerous recommendations of his colleagues at NCI that steered him to St. Elizabeth’s. “We were hooked from the first mass we attended – the warmth and inclusiveness of the parish made us feel at

*Continued on page 27*



“Hand Me Down,” the fourth and fifth-grade Musical, was a rockin’, hilarious collection of scenes and songs that delighted everyone! 53 students created this unforgettable show – a PHENOMENAL 4th/5th Grade Musical! Way to go, Saints! Congratulations go to Mr. Crimans and Mrs. O’Neill as well! Your St. Elizabeth School Community is PROUD of ALL of you!



Oktoberfest was a WONDERFUL event! Thanks to all those who helped to make it possible, especially Christine Maloney, Andrea Varea, Debbie Moore and Aimee Griffin.

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## Rocco Palmo Visits St. Elizabeth

### Recent Synod of Bishops in Rome

December 8, 2015: Pope Francis will open the Holy Year of Mercy, the same day on which we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the close of Vatican II. It is during this Year of Mercy the pope will likely release the Synod’s conclusions in a document of his own.

Distinguished journalist and Vatican observer Rocco Palmo was invited by St. Elizabeth pastor, Msgr. Jack Macfarlane, to personally share his witness of the recent bishops’ synod in Rome. Parishioners gathered in the church on Nov. 12 to listen to this savvy young man share his insights. One of global Catholicism’s most prominent chroniclers, Palmo has held court as the “Church Whisperer” since 2004, when his blog “Whispers in the Loggia” was launched. His byline has appeared on the British Catholic weekly The Tablet, The New York Times, Associated Press, Washington Post, Reuters, Los Angeles Times, BBC, NBC, CNN and NPR and other mainstream print and broadcast media worldwide.

Rocco spoke in an engaging and informative way of his own observations and thoughts of the recent actions and writings of our current pope, who without doubt holds fascination for Catholics and non-Catholics alike, a breath of fresh air for so many longing to truly be able to see the actions of Jesus in this Church that we love.

In both the pope’s recent visit here and his presence at the Synod, the focus was on the family – in all its many facets. Pope Francis has indicated that one of his primary concerns is keeping families together and moving forward on their journey of



Rocco Palmo

faith and love. In the Synod’s closing homily (which can be accessed at the following link: [http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2015/october/documents/papa-francesco\\_20151024\\_sinodo-conclusione-lavori.html](http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2015/october/documents/papa-francesco_20151024_sinodo-conclusione-lavori.html)) the pope adds a footnote that Rocco says is almost a mini-catechism in itself, as it uses an acrostic on the word ‘famiglia’ (‘family’ in English), its final ‘a’ being: ‘Aiming to love unconditionally all families, particularly those experienc-

ing difficulties, since no family should feel alone or excluded from the Church’s loving embrace, and the real scandal is a fear of love and of showing that love concretely.’ The entire acrostic is a remarkably effective means of communication.

Rocco noted that over the past 500 years, the Church had been moving toward maximizing the power of the papacy. Then along came Vatican II, which attempted a reversal of that route, with synods gathering to become listening posts for what was going on in the universal Church. He explained that each pope, himself a human being, has his own strengths and weaknesses when it comes to guiding the Church. Thus any given papacy is going to focus on areas that speak to that individual’s strengths. With Pope Francis, it seems clear that his strengths lie in his ability to identify with the less fortunate and not to see himself as someone who is above it all. And he’s determined to ‘say it like it is’ and address head-on what he sees as deficiencies – such as the way some of the clergy continue to mire themselves in clericalism rather than

*Continued on page 27*



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## Stephen Ministry Workshop Fruitful at St. Bart's

On October 31, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., St. Bartholomew Parish hosted an introductory workshop for local parishes and congregations about the Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministry is a Christian ministry to individuals experiencing personal or spiritual difficulties. Within a parish, rigorously trained Stephen ministers help expand pastoral care by providing confidential, one-on-one compassionate care and support to people hurting from death of a loved one, divorce or separation, hospitalization, terminal illness, job loss, or any other personal crisis. St. Bart's Parish has had a Stephen

Ministry for several years.

The workshop, which filled the Parish Hall, featured speakers experienced with Stephen Ministry who were able to use with examples from their own ministry in their presentations. Although the workshop had a pronounced interdenominational spirit, there was a special emphasis on increasing Catholic participation in this special ministry—now largely found in Protestant congregations. The goal of the workshop was for participants to go home with practical ministry skills and an excellent understanding of how they can organize the members of their parish or congregation for a

caring Stephen Ministry.

Deacon Julio Blanco-Eccleston of St. Bart's told OPT:

*"We were really blessed by the Lord, as such a good attendance to the Workshop showed. How pleased the Lord must have been as 160 Christians from 28 different Congregations – 8 of them from the Roman Catholic tradition – registered for the Workshop. And all of them mingled, sat together, eager to listen to the Presenter about 'How to care in a distinctively Christian Way...', after having listened to an Introduction to what Stephen Ministry is all about, as so masterly presented on caring, ministering to our neighbors experiencing grief."*

*"It was indeed a very fruitful workshop, as I can say all the participants left fully aware of how a Stephen Ministry can bring life-changing benefits to your Parish. Can we imagine a Parish were progressively each one puts into practice the Lord's commandment – Love one another as I have loved you? Because St. Stephen Ministry, that's what it is all about, loving one another."*

OPT



St. Bart's Parish Hall was packed for the Stephen Ministry Workshop.



St. Bart's parishioners and friends gather to make scarves for the homeless.

## St. Bart's "Serve before Service" Program Makes Scarves for the Homeless

"Serve before Service" has become a monthly event on Sunday evenings at 6:45 p.m. in the St. Bart's Church Hall. The program, which features a different service event each month, is specifically designed to allow participants to finish in time to attend the 8:00 p.m., Mass upstairs in the Church, featuring contemporary Christian music.

At the latest event on Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, participants made 234 fleece scarves for local homeless men and women in the community. Coordinator Brooksley Jones told OPT, "It was incredible considering these projects are designed to be about one hour long. I delivered them to a few transitional homeless shelters, as well as an emergency

shelter. The directors were absolutely stunned by the number we donated and that we took the time to make the scarves. I haven't heard that many 'Thank Yous' in a long time!"

At press time, the next scheduled "Serve before Service" event was scheduled for December 6<sup>th</sup>, when participants were slated to decorate "onesies" for the Sanctuaries for Life in Silver Spring, MD, a Catholic Charities program that provides a variety of services and assistance for women who are pregnant and need help, especially baby items and supplies. The next "Serve before Service" event will be in early February. All are welcome.

OPT

## St. Bartholomew's Youth Group Has a Busy Fall

The St. Bart's Youth Group has kept up a busy schedule through the fall season, with events including an All Saints Day Party, (with several members dressed as their favorite Saint!), a Halloween "Trunk or Truth" event (with appropriate spooky costumes), Laser Tag, a Service Day, dodgeball, and a talk with St. Bart's newest priest, Fr. Tim Daniel.

The St. Bart's Middle School Youth Group are sixth, seventh, and eighth graders interested in serving their neighbor, playing together, and getting to know Our Lord. Those who would like to learn more should email John and Maria Archer at 32kaufmann@cardinal-mail.cua.edu.



Youth Group Members talk with Fr. Tim Daniel. Photo by Maria Archer

## Sunday Evenings Combine Service, Worship, and Music

As the surrounding Bethesda neighborhoods are quieting down on Sunday evenings, the St. Bart's community is still going strong. Once a month, at 6:45 p.m. on a Sunday, a service activity, "Serve Before Service," is held in the Church Hall. As this popular service opportunity is ending, St. Bart's popular 8:00 p.m., Sunday Mass is just beginning upstairs in the Church.

The 8:00 p.m. Mass is usually said by Msgr. John Enzler, Catholic Charities President and CEO, and features a "younger" crowd as well as a contemporary Christian music band. A recent addition to the band has been the Junior Rock Band, a younger group of performers which made a special appearance at the St. Bart's Noon Mass on November 15, adding a rousing touch. All are welcome.

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St. Bart's Junior Rock band performs at the Noon Mass on Sunday, November 15.

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More St. Bartholomew  
News on Page 32

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## SJE Parishioners Form Care for Creation Committee

Inspired by Pope Francis' challenge and by the plight of our earth, St. John the Evangelist parishioners launched a Care for Creation Committee earlier this year. The young committee's mission statement states its purpose: "to educate our faith community on the moral imperative expressed in *Laudato Si* and inspire prayer, learning, advocacy, and action to protect the environment of which we are a part."

On Sunday afternoon, January 10, the committee will host a gathering of Women of St. John's, a multi-generational movement "to identify and develop all of our many charisms and talents and use them in a variety of easy, practical and love-filled ways." A knowl-

edgeable speaker will talk about the encyclical *Laudato Si*.

We are reaching out to other groups within the parish to coordinate with activities that are already going on, as well as stirring up new ones. Some of our members also serve on the Pastor's Advisory Council and on the Communications Committee and work with parish youth, so we will build on those connections in 2016.

We hope soon to add Mass petitions with a creation care spirit, working with the Liturgy Committee, and to engage the students of our National Blue Ribbon Award-winning school in activities to preserve the local environment. In Lent we will offer parishioners a calendar of practical things they can do to care for our common home. Fortunately, parish resources are readily available: from the Archdiocesan Care for Creation Committee, from Interfaith Power and Light, and from the Global Catholic Climate Movement, among others.

We see opportunities at every level, from the management of our own households to national and international environmental policy. As Pope Francis reminds us, "the natural environment is a collective good, the patrimony of all humanity, and the responsibility of everyone" (*Laudato Si*, 95).

OPT

### St. John the Evangelist Parish

10103 Georgia Ave.  
Silver Spring, MD  
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Rev. Joseph Calis  
Pastor

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

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## Remembering Cubby LaHood and Building upon Her Gifts

St. John the Evangelist Parish lost an exceptional parishioner when Cubby LaHood passed away on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Cubby and Dan LaHood founded St. Joseph's House in 1983 with the mission of serving school-aged children with multiple and severe disabilities and their families. St. Joseph's House is located in St. John the Evangelist Parish, and the work of the LaHood family has raised our parishioners' awareness of and comfort with these special children. The following passages, adapted from a eulogy by Cece Cooley, capture Cubby's impact on children and families in our area.



Cubby, second on the left, enjoys a musical moment with the children.

"I was the parent of a St. Joseph's House child from 1985 until 2001, when my daughter Caitlin died at the age of 17. I had the good fortune of meeting Cubby and Dan in 1985 when my

daughter was 18 months old. We had searched for suitable childcare, but her needs were so great that most care providers were unqualified or scared to death. When I met Cubby I was young, just 30, afraid, isolated, angry at God and in deep denial. St. Joseph's House was the lifeboat, the community that gave us hope, taught us that each life is indeed a gift and that we could weather any storm. Cubby helped me gain acceptance of the struggle ahead and do it with love. In the warm embrace of St. Joseph's, my fear abated. I had new friends and I stopped blaming God.

*Continued on page 34*

## Parish School Honors Cubby LaHood and Sr. Kathleen Lannak, IHM

St. John the Evangelist School sponsored our annual Walk-a-Thon for St. Joseph's House on Friday, November 6th. The students were amazing as they walked laps around the school. There were energetic middle-schoolers who actually raced around the school, 7th and 8th graders who walked in groups and chatted with their friends, primary grade children who stopped at the water station on each lap (thanks, moms), and upper-school students who carried some Kindergarteners on their backs for the last several laps.

Mr. LaHood, director of St.



Dan LaHood and Mrs. Durney with the school students at the beginning of the Walk-a-Thon.

Joseph's House, started the day by dedicating the race to his late wife

Cubby and to Sister Kathleen. I believe the thought of those two watching over us put a spring in all our steps.

On November 10, the entire student body joined the Associates of the Immaculate Heart of Mary to celebrate Founders Day. We began the day by dedicating the new crepe myrtle in front of school to Sister Kathleen. Father Calis blessed the tree and our community. We filed into the gym/auditorium, which was officially re-christened as the Sister Kathleen Lannak Community Center. There is a new plaque outside the door. Then the students played a rousing game of IHM Jeopardy. You should have heard them answer questions about the Sisters!

OPT



Fr. Calis, surrounded by students, dedicates a crepe myrtle in memory of Sr. Kathleen.

### SJE Class of 2005 Holds 10-Year Reunion

Eighteen of the 35 graduates of the class of 2005 gathered on Friday, November 27, to reminisce about their grade school days and to catch-up on their current lives. The reunion, organized by Emily Cavaliere and Theresa Bulley, was attended by four faculty members and raised money for the school's endowment. The group had such a good time that some suggested they shouldn't wait another ten years before getting together again.



More St. John the Evangelist News on page 34

## St. John the Evangelist School OPEN HOUSE

Thursday Jan 14 and Sunday Feb 7  
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# Bake For Good – Students Learn, Bake & Share

There is no better feeling than opening your front door and being greeted by the aroma of homemade bread, baking in the oven. You are enveloped in warmth, love and family all in one delicious whiff. But for too many people in our own community this is a fantasy. Their reality is homelessness and hunger. King Arthur Flour, in cooperation with Interfaith Works, gave Mary of Nazareth students the means to make a difference in the fight against hunger.

On October 14, Mary of Nazareth fifth and sixth grade students had the opportunity to learn a new skill and offer a helping hand to those in need. Mrs. Charlotte Garvey, Communications Manager with Interfaith Works, spoke to the stu-

dents about homelessness and need in our community. There are 1,100 homeless people in Montgomery County and Interfaith Works strives to assist these people with shelter, meals, clothing, home goods and backpacks for kids.

Next, Paula Gray, from King Arthur Flour in Vermont, presented their program "Bake for Good – Kids Learn Bake Share". Mrs. Gray, a science and math teacher, introduced students to the skills and techniques required to be a successful baker. Baking is math,



Mary of Nazareth students collaborate with Interfaith Works and King Arthur Flour to bake loaves of bread for Empty Bowls Banquet.

science, reading and art. Precise measuring, fresh ingredients, time management skills and a little creativity are all needed to make something delicious. The students were treated to a bread baking demonstration and given all the ingredients needed to create two delicious loaves of bread, one for their family and one to be served at Empty Bowls, Interfaith Works' fundraiser that helps "our vulnerable neighbors in need move from crisis to stability."

The students left with their bags of ingredients

and returned the following Monday with beautiful loaves of bread in many shapes and sizes. Not only were the children eager to tell the story of their baking adventure, they marveled at the bread made by their classmates and left determined to try a different style with the next loaf they make. The proud bakers delivered over 100 loaves to the lobby of Mary of Nazareth,

*Continued on page 24*

**Mary of Nazareth  
Roman Catholic School**  
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**Assistant Principal:**  
**Mrs. Rosemary Adams**  
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Affiliated with the following parishes:  
Mother Seton, Germantown; St. John  
Neumann, Gaithersburg; St. Mary's Shrine,  
Barnesville; St. Rose of Lima, Gaithersburg;  
St. Paul, Damascus; Our Lady of the  
Visitation, Poolesville; Our Lady of the  
Visitation, Darnestown.

**More Mary of Nazareth  
News on Page 33**



Mary of Nazareth students help sort coats collected for St. Martin's Coat Drive.

## Fall Social Concerns: Serving God and Neighbor

This year at Mary of Nazareth we have been reflecting on how we, as individuals and as a community, are faithful to Jesus. Led by Mary of Nazareth's Social Concerns Committee, students, teachers and families are showing their faith to Jesus through service to their neighbors. This fall Mary of Nazareth participated in three service projects to benefit our neighbors in Christ, both locally and internationally. Bearing in mind that the winter months can often be the most difficult for those in need, coat donations were collected at school in support of St. Martin's Coat Drive. At the end of the week, 146 coats had been collected at Mary of Nazareth School.

Ms. Megan McGregor, Social Concerns Committee Chair, reiterated the positive impact the coat drive has made within the local community, "Making a difference and helping those in the community is vitally important! I am so proud to be a part of our school community as we help to keep others warm this winter!" Additionally, Mary of Nazareth Cub Scouts led a food drive to benefit

St. Martin's Food Pantry. The generosity of the MoN community resulted in 1,500 pounds of donated food. Lastly, Mary of Nazareth middle school students organized a fall service project to benefit St. Paul Catholic Church's Clinic in Honduras, which provides services to residents of impoverished communities year round. Donations of toiletry items and children's medication were collected for St. Paul's mission trip this January to Honduras. In total, seven boxes of toiletries were collected over the course of two weeks. Our students and community are blessed by the opportunity to serve those in need as Disciples of Christ.

OPT



Eighth-grade boys and girls participate in Mary of Nazareth's Fourteenth Annual Cotillion.

## MoN Celebrates 14th Annual Cotillion

This year's eighth grade boys and girls brought new meaning to the expression "dress to impress" as Mary of Nazareth School hosted its Fourteenth Annual Cotillion. Over the course of five evening classes, young ladies and gentlemen received an introduction to formal etiquette and ball-

room dancing. Students learned basic steps of the Waltz, the Salsa, and Swing in addition to social grace training from professional instructors.

Viewed by many as a rite of passage at Mary of Nazareth School, students look

*Continued on page 33*

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**14131 Seneca Road,  
Darnestown, Maryland 20874**

**P: 301-869-0940**

**Principal: Mr. Michael J. Friel**



Scan QR code  
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## St. Rose Youth Group



St. Rose Youth on a hayride at Butler's Orchard. Photo by Molly Herrera



St. Rose Youth take a time-out from their Thanksgiving celebration. Photo by Molly Herrera



Father Mateo at the Mass marking 25 years in the priesthood. Bishop Martin D. Holley (in red) attended the Mass. Photo by Rafael Castillo

## St. Rose House and Accommodating Hearts Ministry



Parishioner speaks at a special Mass for parishioners with special needs held on November 15.

Father Mateo meets with a parishioner with special needs at a Mass which celebrated the anniversary of the St. Rose House and the celebration of Accommodating Hearts Ministry. The St. Rose House allows members of the parish to become involved in the lives of the developmentally disabled residents through activities and involvement in parish life. The Accommodating Hearts Ministry provides access to faith for and with persons with special needs, including those with developmental, sensory, or physical disabilities, mental health challenges, hearing loss or those who are Deaf. Additionally, the Ministry offers ongoing opportunities for full participation in the life of the parish and offering education and awareness training for the parish community. The Knight of Columbus sponsored the reception.



### Shrine of St. Jude

## ANNIVERSARY

*Con't from page 5*

Preparatory activities for the celebration have also begun: the children of St. Jude Regional Catholic School are busy designing a Sixtieth Anniversary logo design; the Pastoral Council is expanding its monthly Inter-Cultural Mass and Reception to a broader Fellowship Sunday (receptions following all Masses on the fourth Sunday of every month through June 2016); the Pastoral Council is sponsoring a "Speakers' Night" the third Thursday of every month; and Christmas decorations will be expanded to reflect "All of God's Children," with parishioners invited to decorate a tree in the parish breezeway with ornaments that reflect our parish's diverse cultural heritage.

The 60th Celebration will move into high gear following the Christmas Season. Key 2016 events and activities include:

- New driveway banners to go on display in January;
- Fellowship Sundays and Speakers' Nights;
- A 60th Anniversary Outreach Program;
- "Did You Know?" feature in the parish bulletin;
- "Diamonds are Forever" Gala Dinner and Auction (see sidebar);
- Family Day/International Festival; and a
- 60th Anniversary Mass and Reception in October.

Initial planning is ongoing and help, suggestions, and recommendations are welcomed; please contact Lou Kratz at 301-460-9406.

OPT

## Monthly Young Adult Mass & Fellowship

*By Xiomy Esteban (SJ young adult volunteer)*

This fall, St. Jude young adults continued having their monthly young adult mass at 12:30 p.m. on the 2nd Sunday of every month and celebrated by Fr. Ken Gill. The Young Adult choir, led by Ana Rosas, with the support of Fr. Daniele Rebeggiani, has been growing and providing beautiful music for the Mass.

Following the Mass, the group meets for fellowship, food, and discussion on a variety of topics. In the spring/summer, the group discussed the book **Men, Women and**



St Jude Young Adults viewing Episode 1 of Beloved: Does Marriage Matter?

**the Mystery of Love**, by Edward Sri, with the discussion facilitated by Fr. Ken. This fall, the group began viewing the new DVD series, **BELOVED**, released just this year by the

Augustine Institute. The 12 sessions in **BELOVED** help to uncover the mystery and meaning of the sacrament of marriage. The sessions includes commentaries by nationally-known Catholic speakers, as well as interviews with couples who talk about the joys of their marriage but also the deep difficulties and challenges they have had to face and overcome. The group has enjoyed reflecting on this engaging and informative series.

The St. Jude Young Adult Group continues to meet every second Sunday of the month. For more information and to find out about upcoming events, email Xiomy Esteban at xiomye10@gmail.com. OPT

**Former NFL line-man Marques Ogden stopped by St. Jude Regional Catholic School and spoke about his successes and failures both on and off the football field. Marques is pictured above (on right) with SJRCS Principal Glenn Benjamin, who was a teammate of Marques at St. John College High School in Washington, DC.**



St. Rose Youth, who are part of the Ministry of Hanging Out (MOHO), decorate pumpkins. MOHO meets every Wednesday from 6:30-8:30 to hang out, do homework, or just have a fun celebration. Photo by Caitlin Shea

### St. Rose of Lima

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# Police and Knights Join Hands to Help Kids Enjoy Thanksgiving

By Charles Hayes and Stephen Holowenzak, Past Grand Knights

On November 20, St. Michael the Archangel Knights of Columbus (KofC) and five other Parish Councils (PC), namely, Father Rosensteel (2169), Holy Family (5547), St. John the Baptist (11106), Our Lady of Vietnam (11769), Monsignor Thomas M. Wells (13008) of The Cardinal Patrick O'Boyle Assembly, (386) purchased 156 winter coats to support the nationwide charitable activity of K of C "Coats for Kids Program."

Faithful Admiral Yen Lê of Cardinal O'Boyle Assembly (386) is the Chairman of the K of C, Coats for Kids in Maryland. He understood that local police officers, who have day-to-day contact with kids, would know best the youth most in need of receiving a coat on their patrol beat. Yen Lê proposed the idea of using this community resource of police patrols to get the coats out to kids most in need to Captain Paul Starks of Montgomery County Police Department. Captain



Knights packaging the coats and delivering the boxed coats to the Police Station

Starks was most supportive and receptive to the idea. He suggested that the coats be brought to the Department to be ready for handout by designated Police Officers to a boy and girl during Thanksgiving week.

Beginning at Assembly 386, local Councils of the Maryland

State Knights of Columbus, packed coats into boxes, drove to the Montgomery County Police Department Station.

The caravan of Knights vehicles were greeted by Police Officers at the Complex and lead by police officers to the Auditorium Conference Room. (Note: Our Worthy State Warden, Chris Powers led the KofC delegation and delivered the 156 coats to Captain Paul Starks.

On each coat was a note with a Knights of



Worthy Chris Powers shaking hands with Captain Paul Starks together with other State Council Officials, County Police Officers, and Knights from the various Councils.

Columbus Emblem and greeting stating:

"This coat is provided by the Knights of Columbus with the Montgomery County Police Department knowing that it will keep you warm and hoping that you know how much we care about you."

In these times, when so many young people do not understand and appreciate all that the police do for the citizenry, it is hoped that this charitable gesture, will perhaps change misconceptions and enhance further positive attitude toward the police and their work.

Once again, this effort proves that the Principles of Charity, Unity,

and Fraternity are not hollow pronouncements but rather, a way of life for a Knight of Columbus. We are men of deeds to our Lord and His People.

OPT

## St. Michael's Parish

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Silver Spring, MD

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Pastor

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Joanie Heavey,  
OPT Editor

301-5891155 ext. 21

## St. Michael the Archangel Bazaar



Msgr. Tolentino assisted with the cooking (and the sampling) at the annual St. Michael the Archangel Bazaar.



Santa's Helpers Lilian Corvera and Sylvia Caramo were among the many parish volunteers who made the Bazaar a success.

## St. Mary's School



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## St. Martin's Parish Welcomes Fr. Gustavo Perez

By Paul Teter and Chris Rodriguez,  
Eighth Graders

This summer we welcomed a new priest, Father Gustavo Perez, to our parish. He comes to us from St. Mark's parish in Hyattsville, where he was a parochial vicar. Father Gustavo was born in Manizales, Colombia on November 15, 1966. Both of his parents came from Manizales as well. He is the youngest of six children (three brothers and two sisters). As a young boy, he loved to play sports. One of his favorite sports was soccer, which he enjoyed playing with his friends. He also enjoyed Tae Kwon Do, which he practiced for five or six years. But, sports were not his greatest love. Ever since he was young, he knew God was calling him to serve in the Church as a priest. He wanted to form his Catholic faith so that he

could best answer God's call. One person who played a big part in his life in the Church was Father Fabio Ochoa, the pastor of St. Peter's parish, who taught him how to grow in his love and relationship with God.

Fr. Perez says that he is enjoying his time at St. Martin's. He believes that St. Martin's community has a "big spirit" for those in need of help. St. Martin's is always very busy with helping many different people in need; both the poor and hungry and children who want to learn about God are supported here by our parishioners. Fr. Gustavo is happy to be here, and we are happy that he is here as well. He is glad that he can share God's great gift of faith with all of us. Father says that, in the future, he will keep serving God wherever God sends him. He hopes that, as a community, we will grow more in the image and likeness of God.

OPT

## St. Martin's New Youth Group Director

By Cattelya Nora, Eighth Grader

This year St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church is excited to have a new youth group director after a long search. Our new youth group director is Josh Moldiz. Josh is 27 years old and has been a youth minister for four years. He is also a religion teacher at St. Andrew Apostle School. Josh lives with his wife, Emily, whom he met at the Franciscan University. They have two children named Gianna and Lily. Josh loves music and leading praise and worship.

Josh was actually a member of the St. Martin's Youth Group when he was younger. He got the desire to serve the Lord in the ministry when he was in high school. As a teen, he experienced God's love through

youth group. He believes that Jesus Christ founded the Catholic Church and is still healing, forgiving, and loving us today through the sacraments. For Josh, being a youth minister isn't just a job, it's an opportunity to see teens grow in relationship with Lord and come alive in their faith. "It is fun to be able to pray with teens one moment, then throw dodgeballs the next," says Josh.

Josh invites all 8th-12th graders to St. Martin's Youth Group on Friday nights at 7 p.m. in the school building. One member said, "Youth group is where I can be myself. Josh and everyone made me feel welcomed when I first came, and I always have fun. I'm definitely glad I joined."

OPT

## St. Martin's Food Pantry and Coat Drive

By Rachel Collazo, Eighth Grader

The St. Martin's Pantry has been active for as long as 23 years, and Chuck Smith has been working there for 17 of those years. Smith is now the food pantry coordinator and has been for 15 years. He devotes about 20 to 30 hours every week to the food pantry. St. Martin's Pantry receives about two to three tons of nonper-

ishable items and about one to two tons of perishable items each week. They have a once-a-week distribution, and they serve about 230 families every week. They served over 12,000 bags in the 2015 fiscal year. Each year, St. Martin's School students hold a Thanksgiving and Lent food drive to support the pantry.

Monday, November 23, was the annual Thanksgiving distribution. This year, 403 people came to St. Martin's Pantry to be served. Over the past three years, over four hundred people have come to our Thanksgiving distribution.

St. Martin's also has an annual coat drive in which they have provided 83 families with about four coats per family. St. Martin School students also help out by collecting mittens and by knitting hats and scarves to keep people warm.

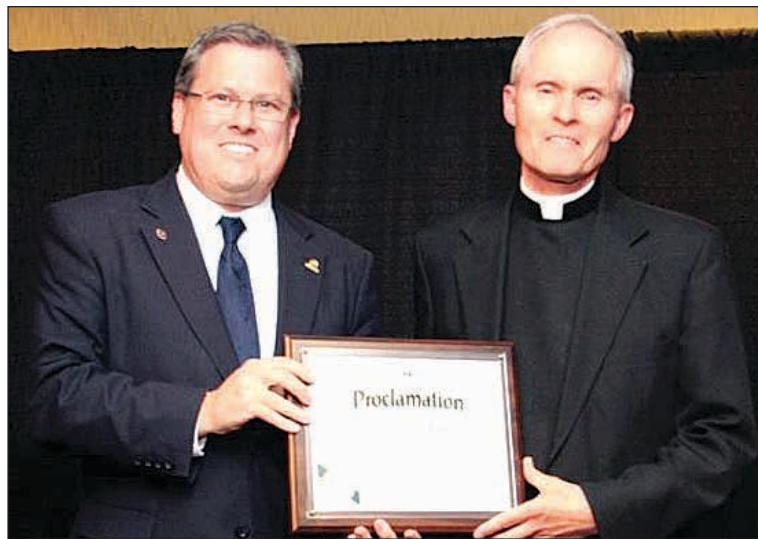
We have many volunteers helping serve in the pantry and for the coat drive, and they are a big part of our parish because they show that we are a very helpful, hardworking parish.

OPT



Gaithersburg Mayor presents Msgr. Brennan with a plaque proclaiming October 9, 2015, St. Martin's Day in the City of Gaithersburg in honor of the school's 90th Anniversary. Photo courtesy of Carlos Monzon

St. Martin's students participate in a service project as part of the school's celebration of its 90th Anniversary. Under the supervision of teacher, Ms. Stinger, students collected toiletry items for foster children and then stuffed them into 90 cinch sacks, which will be distributed to children upon placement in foster homes during crisis situations. Photo courtesy of Logan Hsueh



Jordan Raffo, Layla Abudayeh, and Benjamin Bell, all eighth graders at St. Martin's School, were winners in the Character Counts Essay Contest sponsored by the City of Gaithersburg and the Gaithersburg Rotary Club. Their essays reflected upon a person whose values and ethics exemplify the 6 Pillars of Character: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. They are pictured here with their "heroes," respectively, Luzmila Fernandez, Grandmother of Jordan; Mrs. Redmond, 8th grade teacher; and Msgr. Brennan. Photo courtesy of Logan Hsueh

## Catholic Lobby Night 2016

**February 9 – NEW Date and NEW format!**

Lobby Night is an opportunity for Maryland constituents to meet with their State legislators and share the Catholic viewpoint on issues before the General Assembly.

This year Lobby Night will be Shrove Tuesday, February 9, 2016, from 3-8 p.m. The new format includes a reception in the Miller Office Building for participants, bishops and other Catholic leaders and all members of the General Assembly.

Lobby Night is one of the best attended advocacy events in Annapolis, and gathering everyone in one place will also demon-

strate the great turnout we have every year when hundreds of Catholics show up in Annapolis!

- The new format will include:
- Streamlined briefing at St. John Neumann Mission Church, Annapolis (3-4:30 p.m.)
- Shuttles to the state office buildings (beginning at 4:30)
- Visits with legislators to deliver postcards and discuss the Church's stance on issues (5-6 p.m.)
- Dinner reception with legislators (6-7:30 p.m.)
- Short "Next Steps" presentation from Conference staff (7:30 p.m.)

- Shuttles available back St. John Neumann Mission Church (7:30-8:30 p.m.)
- Important Note: We will NOT be making appointments this year. Your legislators will be alerted that you will be visiting their offices between 5-6 p.m. If you don't see them in their offices, you will at the reception! Let's show the General Assembly hundreds of Catholics packing the Senate Office building!

The event is free but you must register in advance. To register, go to: [www.mdcathcon.org/lobbynight](http://www.mdcathcon.org/lobbynight)

OPT

### St. Martin of Tours Parish

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# What's Up, St. John Neumann Parish?

*"The glue holding all of our current parish offerings together started with prayer, but also comes with following the discernment of the SJN Pastoral Council," said Father Joe. "We have a clear and urgent need to pastorally support our parish families." And so, the parish has put together a series of programs—something for everyone—to take us through the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, as proclaimed by the Church for the coming months."*



Photo by Jerry Kelley

everyone, breakfast buffet is opened, a short video is played—outlining and discussing the topics for that day, followed by the men gathering in small groups for discussion on the video content. Simply put, this weekly gathering can impact your life! You only have to go ONCE, and you'll understand why this is something great for every man!

Ten years in existence, success for *That Man Is You!* has grown to over 140 parishes nationwide and now sees international acceptance mounting. "We'll have another 13-week program starting in the Spring 2016," reports Program Coordinator, Tony Castellano. "The program is free to ALL MEN of the parish (married or single). Come learn about the three most important relationships in a man's life...his relationship with God, his spouse and with his children." Check Church Bulletins for the Spring 2016 start date.



Catholic theologian, author, college professor and Christian apologist Dr. Scott Hahn was a keynote speaker at the Saturday (Oct 17) opening of the parish Congress on the Family. Photo by Jerry Kelley

By Rus Wester

**I**t's hard to imagine a more exciting time in the Catholic faith: Coming off of a wonderful papal visit to America from our dear Pope Francis, concluding with his attendance at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, our parish has been busy following the Pope's lead and the recommendations of our own Pastoral Council for a number of support programs for our parish family.

Catching up with Father Joe Rogers, we talked about the many parish activities centered on "The Catholic Family."

## Marriage Mini-Congress

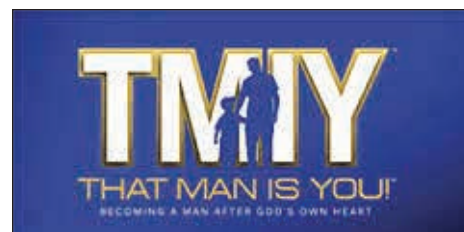
Father Joe shared the parish plan: "So beginning with marriage, and in terms of the teaching of the church and then also the pastoral support for marriage, we staged the Marriage Mini-Congress, assembling a remarkable group of national and local speakers, including well-known theologian-author, Dr. Scott Hahn."

"Auxiliary Bishop Martin Holley came from the Archdiocese to celebrate the Holy Mass with us. We prayed the Holy Rosary together and then began two days of stimulating talks about various elements of family life and how we can make God *first* in our lives and become a renewed, living reflection of Divine Love. We are so overwhelmed by the generosity of parishioner attendance and support, our speakers, coordinators and staff." Expect to soon hear about the availability of a set of audio recordings from the Mini-Congress.

## Family Catechesis

Family Catechesis was initiated at SJN this past summer through our Religious

Education, where once each month, parents join their children who are registered in the education program for their regular religious class time. Maureen Joseph, SJN Director of Religious Formation, has been very pleased with parish response: "We have over 175 registered for this program. Using the theme of Social Catholic Teaching, we are successfully bringing parish families together to learn about their faith and share a family meal together. I think this is the best step we've ever made in Religious Formation. It's the future of catechesis---families learning about their faith together."

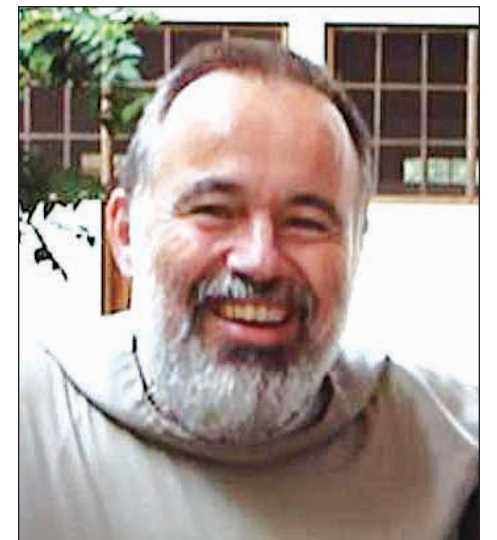


## That Man Is You!

Recognizing the complementarity of men and women and their relationships, and the need to reach out to the men of the parish to really embrace their vocations as husbands, fathers, as defenders of the church, as defenders of life, the parish introduced the *That Man Is You* program.

Begun September 12 and headed up by parishioners Tony Castellano and Eugene deRibeaux, a group of over 100 parish men have met Saturday mornings (at 6:45am!) to discover a deeper meaning of their Christ-centered vocation, that of bringing Christ to their families.

What's a session like? Father welcomes



Father Philip Scott, founder of the religious community Family of Jesus the Healer, is an international retreat director, conference speaker, and author known for his work in healing for families.

## Family Healing

SJN friend Father Philip Scott returned to the parish in early November to deliver a talk and healing service in the parish. Offered in Spanish, the Blessed Sacrament was on the altar as Father Scott spoke of the family, marriage and mercy. Following his powerful talk, individuals and couples were invited to come to the altar for personal healing prayer and blessings from Father Scott.

SJN Coordinators Deacon Carlo Caraballo and his wife Yolanda know the benefit of Father Scott's coming to the parish: "A lot of our families need pastoral healing. This is one of the events that can help people work through the many issues that separate them from one another...and from God."

OPT



Jeanne Mancini is President of the March for Life held annually in Washington, D.C. on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. Photo by Jerry Kelle



Mary Louise Mahoney Past President of St. Vincent de Paul Society of the Washington Archdiocese, and current treasurer of the SJN Conference of St. Vincent de Paul spoke about the importance of charity instilled and practiced in the family environment. Photo by Jerry Kelley



Over 175 parents and their children gather for a monthly family meal and an evening of learning about their Catholic faith together.

## St. John Neumann Parish

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Gaithersburg, MD 20882

Fr. Joseph Rogers,  
Pastor

Rus Wester,  
OPT Editor  
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## Annual Parish Picnic a Successful Community Affair

By Sylvia Jones

The Parish Picnic was held on Sunday, October 4. It was a perfect day despite the threat of the hurricane that never came. Every one enjoyed the decorating pumpkins, face painting and balloon art created by Buttons the Clown. The St. Francis Youth group worked hard at the many craft stations and the "Make Your Own Sundae" station.

There were plenty of hot-dogs and hamburgers, cooked by "Master Chefs" Deacon Dan Finn and Chris Gonzales, in addition to numerous side dishes and desserts which were provided by the parishioners. More than 150 people came to feast.

A lot of hard work went into this event which illustrates the heart of the St. Francis Community. Many were involved – setting-up, cooking, serving, cleaning-up and several other jobs. The afternoon was topped with the annual blessing of the animals.

OPT



At top, "Master Chefs" Chris Gonzales and Deacon Dan Finn at work

Above, Father John blessing the animals.

At left, parishioners enjoying the food and fellowship



## Spiritual Adoption Program

By Rose A. Attig

On Sunday, January 11, 2015, which commemorated the Baptism of Jesus, St. Francis of Assisi Parish and its Respect for Life Ministry launched a Parish Spiritual Adoption Program. Parishioners, either individually or as a family, had the opportunity to "spiritually" adopt a child who was newly conceived and pledge to pray daily for nine months for a baby who was in danger of abortion. Our prayers also served as a form of spiritual support for both parents.

This program served as a way to educate others about the development of the pre-born baby. Monthly updates about the baby's develop-

ment appeared in the Parish bulletin. Along with that, a new poster was displayed, every month, depicting each state of the baby's development. Parishioners were asked to name "their" baby and place a heart, bearing the baby's name, on the display.

At the end of nine months, the Respect for Life Ministry hosted a baby shower, with items donated to the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center in Gaithersburg, MD. The baby was "born" on October 4,

2015, the Feast Day of our Patron, St. Francis of Assisi. As always, our Parishioners responded with enormous generosity and love. The late Venerable Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen encouraged the spiritual adoption of an unborn baby. His brief and powerful prayer is: "Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, I love you very much. I beg you to spare the life of the unborn baby that I have spiritually adopted who is in danger of abortion."

OPT



Example of monthly poster showing baby's development during spiritual adoption



Nancy Currier (left) and Sylvia Jones (right) greeting people at the coffee and doughnuts table

## Another Successful Holiday Bazaar

By John McCarthy

Our annual Holiday Bazaar was held on November 14 in the Parish Center. It was a beautiful, crisp, fall day. It was well attended and considered a success. There were 22 vendors, plus 20 or so St. Francis tables – crafts made by 4 parishioner crafters, religious

items, Shabby Chic items, Jewelry boutique, Millie's bake shop, and the silent auction (100 donated items were available for bidding). Plus the always popular flea market held in the lower level of the Rectory. Many volunteers make this possible every year. But, our Chairperson, Anne Culver, appealed for more crafters for next year.

OPT



St. Francis Crafters Sara Becker (left) and Gerri Praskievicz (right) with Bazaar Chair Anne Culver (center)

## BAKE

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filling tables with braided loaves, baguettes, dinner rolls and pretzels destined for Empty Bowls.

On October 22, Science teacher Jennifer Massey, sixth-grader Fiona O'Connell and Development Director Beth O'Connell volunteered at the Empty Bowls event and served the bread baked by the students. There were many compliments on the taste of the bread and

even more when the guests learned that it had been made by fifth and sixth grade students. More than one guest returned for seconds.

Mrs. Gray shared the secret to good bread, "it is the yeast. Yeast needs three things to be successful; warmth, water and food". If you think about it, we need the same things to survive. Provide these three things and your yeast will yield a delicious loaf of bread. Provide these three things to another human being and they will thrive, and a loaf of bread, made with love, can't hurt either.

OPT

## RETREAT

Con't from page 1

specific challenge and the importance of leaning on the Lord. The retreat would not have been complete without a music-infused bonfire and downtime to play games.

The closing Mass was celebrated by Fr. Daniele, and following it, the teens had the opportunity to give their witness and experience of the

retreat, as well as reveal their secret 'prayer partners,' which they had been given on the first day of the retreat.

Both youth groups look forward to participating in future events together to continue building on the friendships that were made.

The St. Jude's youth group continues to meet every Friday from 7-9pm. To join St. Jude's Youth Group and find out about upcoming events, email Daniele.Rebeggiani@stjuderockville.org.

OPT

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## Mission to Help People with Disabilities

After two mission trips to Jamaica, St. Andrew Apostle parish has become actively involved in supporting Mustard Seed Communities' efforts and commitment to provide lifelong care to children and adults with disabilities. They care for many suffering from multiple physical and mental disabilities, children afflicted by HIV/AIDS and teenage mothers. Abandoned by their families and society, Mustard Seed provides them a caring home, never to be abandoned again.

This notable cause has captured the hearts of parishioners. Pope Francis' plea to never neglect the poor was vividly experienced by those who went on the mission trips. They share that experience with fellow parishioners and work to keep the mission alive.

Apart from the mission trips,

the parish has raised sufficient funds to build a shelter at Jacob's Ladder community, a home for disabled adults. Parishioners donated five thousand teddy bears packed with smiles, hugs and love. They will be given to the children Christmas day and, as Father Gavin of Mustard Seed said during his recent visit, "the five thousand bears would greatly impact the lives of the children even for just one day."

The loving relationship between Mustard Seed Communities and St. Andrew's is a reciprocal blessing. The living witness of faith, hope and love by the residents and their caregivers richly bless the parish families and challenges us all to generously serve those in need.

This Christmas, the parish is supporting the Sustainable Agriculture efforts of Mustard

Seed. Think about giving (or receiving) an alternative gift. Honor your loved one with this truly giving gift. Sustainable Agriculture efforts at Mustard Seed Communities provide wholesome variety for residents' diet, engage residents in farming activities as therapeutic alternatives, reduce food costs by providing an internal food source, cultivate a sense of pride through tangible fruits of labor, and build community among residents and staff.

Your gift could purchase a variety of farm animals or fund a greenhouse of tomatoes or peppers. Donations can be made in person at St. Andrew Apostle or online at [www.mustardseed.com/GrowingGifts](http://www.mustardseed.com/GrowingGifts). If you are interested in doing more to support this sustainable agriculture program, please contact the rectory.

OPT

## School News

November was a busy month at St. Andrew Apostle School. The family Thanksgiving dinner packed in over three hundred and the Cherub choir (Kindergarten – Second Grade) performed a medley of tunes during dinner. A record number of folks attended the annual Grandparents Day, November 11. Grandparents traveled from as far as South America to attend the all school Mass, listen to songs from both choirs and shadow their grandchildren in their classrooms.

We received word from Mustard Seed Communities that the shipping container loaded with five thousand stuffed animals and household goods arrived in Jamaica! The parish and school community donated 300 boxes filled with enough food for Thanksgiving dinner and several other meals to our local community. The school also held a canned food drive. The pre-kindergarten classes held a special pre-Thanksgiving feast attended by special guest, Father Dan Leary, who gave the blessing.

Eighth graders Hannah Aguirre, Nico Bofill, Owen Hammer, Max Howard, Chetanna Nweke, and Ashley Reyes participated in the 42nd Annual Eighth-Grade Mathematics Contest at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. Competing against more than 100



Pre-kindergarteners enjoy an early Thanksgiving feast.

eighth graders, Owen Hammer placed third overall! The JV Soccer Team was undefeated during the regular season and, more importantly, came together as a team. Nice job everyone!

December activities include Breakfast with Santa and Secret

Santa Shop on December 12. The annual Christmas Band Concert, December 14, will feature the first, second and third grades singing and reenacting the night Jesus was born. Finishing 2015 activities, the school parents will host a Christmas lunch for faculty and staff.

OPT



Congratulations to the St. Andrew's JV Soccer Team, undefeated during regular season.

## Packing for Bethlehem

Many blessing filled activities are available at St. Andrew's this Advent as we make the journey to Bethlehem. Among them are: serving a holiday lunch to those helped by the Missionaries of Charity, filling and delivering Christmas stockings to residents of local nursing homes, fulfilling a child's Christmas wish through the Angel Giving Tree, giving Snack Packs to the homeless and a "Walk to Bethlehem". More about the Snack Packs and "Walk to Bethlehem" follows.

The homeless are an increasingly common sight at busy intersections in Montgomery County. Instead of ignoring them or giving cash, parishioners are interacting with the local homeless population in a novel way. They are handing out Snack Packs for the Homeless: quart size packages containing a selection of non-perishable snacks balanced among the five food groups (carbohydrates, proteins, dairy products, fruits and vegetables, fats and sugars). Also included are print-outs containing information on resources available in Montgomery County (food, shelter, clothing, medical and legal services, etc.) and a Sacred Heart of

Jesus holy card.

Over four hundred packages have been taken by parishioners, to be kept in purses, back packs or cars, ready to be given to a homeless person. Feedback has been positive and the packages have been gratefully received.

The journey each Snack Pack makes into the hands of a person in need begins with parish and student volunteers who purchase the supplies. Faith formation students and families assemble the packages which are available after Masses. The suggested donation is three dollars and proceeds are used to buy supplies for additional packages.

The five thousand mile "Walk to Bethlehem" is another opportunity for the parish and school to prepare for the coming of the Christ Child. A wellness project, sponsored by the One-in-Christ/Health Ministry, participants submit prayerful miles (one mile or 20 minutes of activity equals one mile) each week from November 29 to December 25 to help nurture their body and soul and to help keep Christ in Christmas.

All are welcome to join these outreach efforts.

OPT



Father Bill Wadsworth presents the Parvuli Dei (Children of God) religious emblem to Andrew Dang. A member of Cub Scout Troop 1072, hosted by St. Andrew Apostle, Andrew earned this award by exploring the presence of God in his daily, family, community and parish life. In fulfilling the requirements, he was guided by his family and Deacon Michael Bond.

## St. Bernadette

### St. Bernadette House Families Thanksgiving Meal Food Drive

Students at St. Bernadette School are in houses that are separated into multi-grade families. Each family does a service project during the school year. This November, Mrs. Albert's family from St. Dominic house, Ms. Birk's family from St. Elizabeth house, and Mrs. Pryor's family from St. Katharine House joined together to plan a food drive that supplied 33 Thanksgiving dinners to McKenna's wagon.

OPT



From left to right: Mrs. Albert, Mrs. Pryor and Ms. Birk

### St. Andrew Apostle Parish

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SFIS students get the opportunity to read to eager canine listeners.

## Gentle Volunteers in the Spirit of St. Francis

**“T**hey listen quietly and are just happy to be there!”

That’s a great description of the role some new volunteers play in helping second grade students become confident readers at Saint Francis International School. The volunteers have names like Chadwick, Baxter, Sasha, and Aspen, and they all bring a friend with them ... the new volunteers are trained therapy dogs who come to SFIS to listen to students read

out loud.

Along with their human companions each of the dogs comes to school once a week to spend 90 minutes working with students in the school library. The program began five years ago at Burnt Mills Elementary School and is sponsored by the organization People. Love. Animals. This year, the Reading with Dogs program moved to Saint Francis International School and is proving to be a wonderful addition.

Second grade students are getting blocks of 40 minutes of sustained oral reading with the dogs and their companions which is really helping to build reading fluency and confidence.

You can learn more about PAL online (<http://peopleanimalslove.org>) and even find ways that you and your pets can help in a number of different settings including schools, hospitals, libraries, and retirement homes.

OPT

## SFIS Lions are City Soccer Champs

**S**aint Francis International School is proud to coordinate CYO sports for the parishes that sponsor the regional Catholic school. This year the Saint Francis Lions had an amazing boys varsity soccer season that showed true grit and determination from the team.

The Lions’ season came down to a tough, one goal victory against San Miguel School for the City Championship. Special thanks to Coach Gales and the boys for their hard work and dedication!



OPT

The SFIS community shares a Thanksgiving feast together.

## Honoring Grandparents and Elders

**A** significant tradition at Saint Francis International School takes place on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Grandparents and other elders are invited to join the students for a special Thanksgiving prayer service that includes poems and songs performed by the elementary classes.

After the prayer service elders are given the opportunity to visit classrooms and learn more about

what their students are doing in school. Finally, grandparents and elders join their students for a Thanksgiving feast with all of the fixings. In total nearly 800 people share Thanksgiving lunch together on grandparents’ day at SFIS. Thanks go out to Shop Rite Supermarket for annually helping to make this wonderful tradition continue!

OPT

## SHORT

Con’t from page 1

cameras and exhorted us to treat others as we would have them treat us, more poignantly he added, treat the children of others as we would have our children treated. That notable expansion of the second great commandment particularly struck me. I hope you are inspired by your own preparations during Advent.

This issue of OPT is the annual “older parishioner” edition (forgive my political correctness!). You’ll find articles focusing on activities, services, and opportunities for older residents. Seems appropriate to begin by celebrating this year’s winner of the Catholic Business Network’s Business Person of the Year, Jack Fitzgerald, patriarch of the Fitzgerald Automotive family, who at 80 is still contributing mightily to his business, parish, and community. Jack and his equally active and generous sister Dottie are legends in the auto sales industry for innovation and extreme customer orientation. While selling cars is Jack’s business, his passion is keeping children safe in the cars he sells. Jack has kept thousands of children safe through his child safety seat check campaign. For decades Fitzgerald Automotive, has offered free safety seat checks to **anyone**, who attends the often scheduled events. Hundreds of improperly installed seats have been discovered and corrected resulting in fewer injured children. What a great legacy; what a great role model for local businesses; and what a blessing to our community Jack Fitzgerald is.

We remember and celebrate the life of Msgr. Richard Burton who died in November. Msgr. Burton was a long time, beloved pastor at St Raphael’s in Rockville. Msgr. Tom Duffy, retired pastor of Blessed Sacrament and founder of St Raphael’s Parish, remembered his friend as leading the parish from its country church roots to the active and diverse faith community it is today.

Continuing the theme of “older parishioners”, on December third, Montgomery County Executive Leggett convened a major Senior Summit to discuss current and future issues facing the County’s growing older population. This was the second time the County Executive brought together several hundred policy makers and concerned residents in an effort to better understand the needs and hopes of older people and better coordinate our community’s responses. The vision of those who attended is clear; Montgomery County will be a Community for a Lifetime, a place for older adults to live safe, healthy and vital lives. A few words with huge implications for our County in the future. (Learn more about the Senior Summit at [montgomerycountymd.gov/senior-summit](http://montgomerycountymd.gov/senior-summit).) This vision, with slight modification, can become a goal for every Catholic community; our Parish will be a **Spiritual Home for a Lifetime**, a place for older

adults to live safe, healthy and vital lives while joyfully maturing in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

What then might the components of a parish based **Spiritual Home for a Lifetime** include? Several of our parishes have active ministries for seniors already in place. Perhaps, though, given the changing nature of older people, it may be useful to revisit the work of these ministries. A new direction identified during the recent Senior Summit is the shift from the perception that older people are in large measure frail and in need of significant services, to a new sentiment in which more and more older people wish to remain actively in their communities. Our challenge is to remove perceptual and actual barriers and enable older people to continue to live and contribute for as long as they choose.

Here are a few ideas to consider in your parish community that may help maintain older parishioners as vital, healthy, safe and spiritually at home.

- Create an intergenerational **older parishioner ministry** to imagine, plan and implement activities and service for older people.
- Conduct a **simple survey** of older parishioners every few years to better understand their hopes and needs. Report to findings to the full parish community.
- Consider a **parish communication and outreach center** for older parishioners to learn about local activities and services and especially to learn how to use emerging social media and technology in everyday life( on line banking, medical care, shopping).
- Sponsor **forums and discussion groups** for seniors on relevant topics.
- Establish a **volunteer bank** to help with transportation needs, meals for the homebound and other forms of assistance (tax preparation, understanding medical bills, employment assistance, housing issues, and chore services).
- Establish **health and fitness programs** which may include hiking, dancing, weight-lifting, etc. This is a perfect area for intergenerational fellowship.
- Promote **parish volunteer activities** which engage older parishioners with their passions to serve.
- And of course **liturgies and scripture groups** to enable people to joyfully grow in the words and works of the Lord.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Chuck Short  
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OPT

### St. Francis International School

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## Parish Collects Holiday Food for Those in Need

**T**hrough special collections by the parish food pantry, Resurrection Church provides Thanksgiving and Christmas food bags for those in need in the Burtonsville and surrounding area.

The parish typically serves close to 100 families for each holiday, according to Albert Klavon and Sharon O'Brien, who have coordinated the food pantry activities for many years.

The food bags are assembled by dozens of parish youngsters and distributed around Nov.

15th for Thanksgiving and Dec. 13th for Christmas.

The assembled items typically include a gift card for a main dish as well as an assortment of items such as bags or boxes of mashed potatoes and stuffing; canned items such as green beans, corn, peas, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, gravy, apple or cherry pie filling, and pumpkin pie filling; plus boxes of pie crust and condensed milk.

For more information or to donate to the holiday food program, call 301-651-8190.

OPT

## Resurrection, St. John Engage in Joint Faith-Sharing Program

By John Small

**M**embers of Resurrection Church in Burtonsville and St. John the Baptist Catholic Community in Silver Spring are involved in a joint faith-sharing program that began in September and continues until March.

The six-month program was organized by L.J. Milone, director of Faith Formation at St. John's, and Deacon David Suley, director of Adult Faith Enrichment at Resurrection. The theme of the six-session program is "Journeying with Pope Francis," with specific topics for each session.

The first three sessions have been very well-received, with between 35 to 50 participants, according to attendees.

The location of the presentations rotates between the St. John the Baptist gym and the Resurrection Parish Life Center. They are held from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays to allow attendance at 5:00 p.m. mass.

The first session was Sept. 19 and focused on Pope Francis's encyclical on the environment, "Laudato Si." The main presenter was Fr. Ladislav

Orsy, SJ, a professor of canon law at Georgetown University. He has written hundreds of journal articles and nine books, and was present at Vatican II.

The Oct. 24 session was a discussion of Pope Francis and Catholic social teaching. The main presenter was Dr. Patricia Fosarelli, associate dean of the Ecumenical Institute of Theology at St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore.

That was followed Nov. 14 by a session on "Pope Francis and Mission, Evangelization, and Discipleship." The discussion was led by Fr. Frank DeSiano, CSP, who is president of the Paulist Evangelization Ministries and has served as a consultant to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Evangelization.

The next session will be Jan. 23 (at Resurrection) and will focus on Pope Francis and the mission of mercy and joy. The main presenter will be Milone, M.A., the faith formation director at St. John. His specialty is with the mystics and masters of Christian contemplation, especially Meister Eckhart, Francis of Assisi, and the Desert Fathers and Mothers.

The Feb 27 session (at St. John the

Baptist) will have the theme "Pope Francis and the Church Outside the Walls. Leading the program will be Deacon Suley, M.A., D.Min., who is permanently assigned to the Archdiocese of Anchorage but on loan to Resurrection, where he coordinates adult faith enrichment programs. Each summer he serves in remote missions in Alaska.

The final session is March 19 (at Resurrection) with the theme, "Pope Francis, Non-judgment, and the Hard Truth of the Faith." Susan Timoney, S.T.D., executive director of Evangelization and Family Life at the Archdiocese of Washington, will lead the program. Her specialty is Catholic spirituality and parish life.

"By co-sponsoring this speaker series, we obtained a double win," says Jim David, one of the participants from Resurrection. "We got to meet new people, and we were able to attract high-caliber speakers who were very knowledgeable and provided us with new perspectives on the teachings of Pope Francis. Each presentation has stimulated active participation by those in attendance."

OPT



## Annual Christmas Concert Set Dec. 20

**R**esurrection's annual Christmas Concert, dubbed "Sing We Noel," will be presented at 7 p.m. Dec. 20 in the main church. A part of the parish concert series, the Christmas Concert has been held for more than two decades under Music Director Annick Kanter-Saint Hubert. The concert features a mix of traditional hymns and popular songs, several choirs and soloists, and an array of instruments including bells, brass and organ. The evening of holiday peace and joy "celebrates with awe and wonder the birth of the Messiah.

OPT

## PIONEER

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home instantly." Indeed, he and his family are active members, eager to do much more than just show up at Mass on Sundays. His busy schedule at the time he began at St. E's limited his personal stewardship to singing in the choir (at the time, he was also teaching chemistry part-time at The George Washington University.) Giving up his GWU job in 2009 for more time with his family, he has since then become a Eucharistic Minister, Lector and Catechist in the religious education

program at St. Elizabeth, teaching seventh-grade students. Matias is working with his dad, serving as a catechist-aide. Matias has also been an altar server since he was ten.

It is with great pleasure that we at St. Elizabeth's learned of the singular honor recently conferred on Dr. Zenklusen and his team at NCI as co-winners of the Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medal, the government-service equivalent of an Oscar, for their work in genomics immunotherapy. We at St. E's are proud that such a distinguished individual has chosen to become a part of our community.

OPT

## PALMO

Con't from page 16

taking on 'the smell of their sheep.' He wants to again put forth the elements of Vatican II, which sought to get away from concentrating power exclusively in the papacy.

Rocco outlined several of the areas that are dear to Francis, which he believes will be addressed in the pope's own document on this synod, including effective communication with the faithful in what their sacramental status is if they are divorced; good, solid, standardized marriage preparation (we pre-

pare a man to be ordained with 6-8 years, and yet prepare a couple for a lifetime of marriage with anywhere from several hours to 3-4 weeks); truly listening to what it is that the layperson's lived experience is and what they need from their Church.

Will there be specific answers to questions like this? We don't yet know. But, we can be encouraged by the questions being asked, out in the open, and a Church leader who seems to be taking a hard line in getting the tough questions answered and having merciful responses in place, while at the same time holding the clergy responsible for being a part of the solution.

OPT



## Despite Bad Weather, Animals Are Blessed!

**A**bout 35 members of Resurrection Church participated in the parish's eighth annual Blessing of the Animals, which was held indoors because

of cold, wet and windy weather. Father Jeff Defayette conducted the blessing, held Oct. 3--the day before the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals

and the environment. Among the animals blessed were six cats brought by Maureen Hunt (as well as the family's horse, which not attend); a green-cheeked conure parrot named "Maya" brought by Chris Kolb; and a spotted gecko named "Morrison" brought by Kathy Hinkle. The

ceremony included readings from Genesis and the "Canticle of the Creatures" by St. Francis. Photos by John Small

OPT



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Mr. Jerzy Terajewicz and Ms. Krystyna Nasiegniewska (seated in the center at the front table) celebrated their wedding anniversary on October 25, 2015. They were married ten years ago at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish. In addition to treating parishioners and friends to a repast after the Drama Club presentation of "Norymberga," they also used the occasion as a fundraising opportunity for the Drama Club.



Rev. Jerzy Frydrych, Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Poland and St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Silver Spring, led the services commemorating All Souls Day after the noon Mass on November 1, 2015. Parishioners and friends joined in prayer in the cemetery adjoining the parish.

## Polish Christmas Traditions at OLQP

Rev. Jerzy Frydrych, S.Chr., Pastor, and the Parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Poland and St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Silver Spring, Maryland, Extend Warm Wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year 2016 "Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku" and invite you to join us in celebrating Polish Christmas traditions:

1. Polish Christmas Food & Bake Sale, on Sunday, Dec. 20, 2015, 10 am - 2 pm.
2. Traditional Polish Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, "Pasterka," on Thursday, Dec. 24, 2015.
3. Concert of Polish carols "kolędy" performed by the Youth Choir on Sunday, January 3, 2016, after the 12 noon Mass.
4. Celebration of Parish "Opłatek" Christmas Dinner on Sunday, January 10, 2016, after the 12 noon Mass.

Please note that the Polish Christmas Wafers "Opłatki" are available at the rectory.

OPT



"Let us hurry to love people, they depart so quickly..." The Parish Drama Club presented a reading of the poetry of Fr. Jan Twardowski (1915-2006) after the noon-day Mass on November 8, 2015, in the church. Fr. Twardowski's short poems are about everyday life and the temporality of life. They are simple, yet full of philosophical reflections. The Polish Drama Club cast members at the Poetry Reading, holding candles, were: Filip Golebiowski, Anna Janiak, Laura Migasiuk, Miroslaw Podloch, Marion Raczek, Bea Slawecka, Jaroslaw Trocki.



The Polish American Congress (PAC) honored Our Lady Queen of Poland parishioner and centenarian Dr. Lucas Kulczycki, on November 15, 2015, at its annual dinner. Dr. Kulczycki, who celebrated his 104th birthday on August 19, was a founding member of the Polish American Health Association and a pioneer in the treatment of cystic fibrosis. He is pictured here with his daughter, on the left, and Dr. Susanne Lotarski, President of the PAC Washington Metro Division. The guest speaker at the dinner was Ambassador Mark F. Brzezinski.



Our Lady Queen of Poland (OLQP) parishioner and centenarian Sir Walter Zachariasiewicz celebrated his 104th birthday on Nov. 7, 2015. He is pictured here, wearing a few of his many medals, at the commemoration of Polish Independence Day at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland on November 13, 2015. From right: OLQP Pastor Rev. Jerzy Frydrych, S.Chr., Mary Ann Evan, Bozenna Buda, Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, Walter's wife Sandra.

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# One Church Together

By Juliana Ordoñez

**O**n November 1, Mother Seton Parish had the opportunity to celebrate its First Annual All Saints International Festival. There were representatives from twenty-four different countries who shared their faith, food, culture, and talents on a beautiful, sunny Sunday. The celebration started with an All Saints International Mass celebrated by the Pastor, Fr. Lee, where children

participated while dressed up in their native costumes. After the Mass, more than 400 parishioners attended the festival and celebrated their unity in Jesus Christ, coming together as one Church. Fr. Lee said:

"Many people remarked that this was the best event they participated in 35 years. We will have to expand it next year to a tent outside if everyone who promised follows through with more food! What moved me too was watch-



Mother Seton parishioners and Fr. Lee enjoying the Festival.



countries will be represented and more people will attend. **OPT**



Children participating at Mass dressed in their native costumes.

ing the dancing. We had a group of Mexican dancers, youth and adults, as well as girls doing Irish dancing, Filipino dance, Latino and an impromptu Conga line! The faces of the crowd watching the dancing was sublime and moving. Watching little kids from African backgrounds imitating the girls doing Irish step dance was adorable. The room was filled with joy, and the food was fantastic. Each table wanted you to sample their favorite food. So many different dishes, but all made with one special ingredient: love. Thank you all for participating and helping. We are many; we were one in the joy of being with each other."

The success of this festival was

possible only with the collaboration of all the volunteers who wanted to show the best of their countries, including patron saints, food and dance. Children and adults enjoyed walking around the room with their "passports," getting them stamped at each "country" while sampling food and learning a little about other cultures. The Festival was blessed with performances by three amazing companies of dancers: De Colores Mexican Dance Company, The Hurley School of Irish Dance, and Tinikling Philippine Dance. Next year is going to be even better, with the hope that more



## Alternative Christmas Program at Mother Seton

By Toni Woods, Social Concerns Coordinator

**M**other Seton's Alternative Christmas program gives an opportunity to reclaim the true meaning of Christmas. Instead of spending time and too much money buying things for loved ones who already have everything, participants can give gifts of sharing to those who have little or nothing in honor of our loved ones. We can find the Christ child

in those around us who are in need and can celebrate His birth by supporting our local service agencies in their mission of comfort and healing.

The Advent and Christmas seasons should be a time of quiet anticipation and hope for Christ's simple, yet profound rebirth in our lives. Too often, the focus at this time of the year is misdirected as we are pulled by the frantic preparations of the secular "holiday sea-

son" and the seemingly endless search for the perfect gifts for family and friends.

When parishioners place an order from the catalog, they receive a card from the charity that specifies the gift(s) they purchased. The charities are: Society of St. Vincent De-Paul (MSP Conference), Mother Seton Quilting Angels, Germantown Pregnancy Choices, Little Sisters of the Poor, Montgomery Hospice, and Germantown HELP. The cards

are presented to the loved ones they are honoring as an alternative gift. This is a beautiful way to do for those who are really in need this Christmas.

If you have questions, or want to participate in the program, please contact: Toni Woods, Social Concerns Coordinator in the Parish Office 301-924-3838 x 204 Kathie Porter, Alternative Christmas Coordinator at 301-461-8689.

**OPT**

### Mother Seton Christmas and New Year Schedule 2015

#### Christmas Masses:

*Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24*  
8:00 a.m.  
4:00 p.m.  
6:00 p.m. en español  
8:00 p.m.  
11:00 p.m. (10:30 Prelude)  
*Christmas Day, Friday, December 25*  
8:00 a.m.  
10:00 a.m.  
12:00 noon

#### Solemnity of Mary Mother of God New Year's Masses:

*New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31,*  
Vigil Mass 5:00 p.m.  
*New Year's Day, Friday, January 1*  
10:00 a.m.  
12:00 noon  
2:00 p.m. en español

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2015.

## Hispanic Heritage Celebration at Mother Seton Parish

By Brenda Rosado, School of Religion in Spanish

**T**he students in the Spanish school of religion at Mother Seton Parish in Germantown, Maryland celebrated their Hispanic heritage throughout the entire month of October. Students participated in the Spanish mass every Saturday in October by dressing up in their native clothing, bringing statues or images of their patron saint, and waving flags from their home countries.

The children are blessed to live in this wonderful country, and they learned of their rich and beautiful Hispanic cultures, and were reminded that whether they are from North America, Central America, South America, or the Caribbean, we are all one people, God's children united in our faith.

It culminated with the annual



Hispanic Heritage Fiesta on October 24th. Everyone, Hispanics and non-Hispanics, enjoyed delicious food, great company and

dancing. The Spanish Community was established at Mother Seton in 1991 and for the last 18 years has brought together the ever grow-

ing Latino population and English speaking fellow parishioners in this Upper Montgomery County parish.

**OPT**

### Mother Seton Parish

19951 Fr. Hurley Boulevard  
Germantown, MD

**Fr. Lee Fangmeyer**  
Pastor

301-924-3838

**Juliana Ordoñez**

**OPT Editor**

Bulletin@Mothersetonparish.org



## MCC

*Con't from page 2*

and friends are speaking out. I've become heartsick and frustrated by people asking, "Why don't the Muslims speak out against the violence?"

The facts are that the terrorists are primarily killing Muslims and imams and Muslim organizations have been crying out in protest for years. The problem is that the media caters to controversy, Islamophobia is growing, and we have not been effective advocates for our Muslim sisters and brothers. I encourage you to forward the document linked above to your network of leaders and concerned individuals.

It is also important that we be able to address the alleged threat posed by Syrian refugees entering our community. It is shameful that some politicians are catering to fear and prejudice rather than providing the facts and encouraging us to live according to the fundamental values of our faith and nation.

The facts are that Syrian refugees are literally fleeing for their lives and those approved for entry to the United States have gone through a rigorous series of examinations for a period of 18 to 24 months. Most are multi-generational families with only about 2 percent being single males of combat age. Here is information from the White House Task Force on New Americans addressing this subject, and an article separating truth from fiction regarding Syrian refugees and addressing our responsibility.

Our Faith Forum ended with a unanimous show of hands in favor of thanking our county executive and County Council for welcoming refugees and pledging to step up our efforts within faith communities to be welcoming and supportive. We had representatives from the agencies in Montgomery County responsible for receiving Syrian refugees and assimilating the 1,000 children fleeing violence in Latin America. Here is the county refugee resource sheet with contact information to help you act upon that for which we prayed on Tuesday.

In addition you may wish to call and encourage others to call your senators and representatives at 202-224-3121 and say something like: "I believe that our country should always be a place of refuge for those fleeing war, torture, and other atrocities. Please work to ensure that our country welcomes Syrian and other refugees and please increase funding to support refugees."

I have talked with my colleague, Jennifer Gray, who is responsible for interfaith outreach in Gov. Hogan's Office of Community Initiatives, reporting on our Faith Forum. She was impressed and expressed interest in having the governor meet with us. I sent her information related to the vetting process for refugees entering the United States and materials related to President Obama's phone conference with governors. I said we would welcome a meeting with the governor, assuming he has learned about the vetting process and is interested in working with us in welcoming Syrian refugees. Here is an article describing his position. You may contact his office at 100 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925 or call 410-974-3901 or 800-811-8338.

You may rest assured that County Executive Ike Leggett and County Council President George Leventhal are supportive of efforts to welcome refugees and immigrants.

In these days of shock and sorrow, fear and prejudice, let us seek the presence of the Divine within and among us. Let us pray for the wisdom and the courage to lead our people along a path of justice and peace.

I thank all who were present on Tuesday and look forward to the guidance and engagement of everyone as together we seek to create the Beloved Community in Montgomery County.

Salaam, Shalom,  
Namaste, Om Shanti,  
Peace, Kasey

Rev. Mansfield "Kasey" Kaseman  
Interfaith Community Liaison  
Office of Community Partnerships

## Holy Redeemer

# Holy Redeemer HSA Realizes a Busy Fall Agenda

The primary mission of the Home and School Association at Holy Redeemer is fundraising and community building. HSA fundraising efforts for the 2015-2016 school year started in the summer months with fulfillment of student school supplies and organization of a three day-a-week hot lunch program. A newly formed HSA Fundraising Committee began the year establishing new initiatives such as monthly dine-out events at local restaurants.

Community building events also packed the Holy Redeemer Fall HSA calendar. Family BINGO in September was overflowing with kids, prizes, root beer floats and pizza. The food sales this year soared as the date for Fall BINGO coincided with the opener of the HR Athletic Association's Flag Football season.

Homecoming and the Cardinal 5K achieved record numbers this fall and helped successfully mingled HR's Fund and FUNraising efforts. HR's Homecoming is a family event filled with games, moon



Runners are eager to start the 5K

bounces, DJ, raffle prizes, local food and HR flag football viewed from our new stadium bleachers.

The number of local runners increased from last year with over 550 participants in the Cardinal 5K and 1/2 mile fun run. The course stretched through the HR neighborhood and scenic Rock Creek and allowed us to welcome local runners and sponsors to our school for a huge post-race party.

The HSA at HR has many year-found efforts that also kicked-off in the fall. Scholastic and Barnes

& Noble Book Fair events provide a fun and educational way to raise funds to strengthen our robust school library. The Teacher Appreciation Committee started their year-long effort to spoil our faculty with monthly snacks, breakfasts, and luncheons. The always-busy Room Parents have worked to organize fall parent socials for each grade.

The Holy Redeemer HSA will take a short respite over the holidays but will soon gear up for a busy Spring to include the school's largest biennial fundraiser, the ShamRock~n~Roll.

A creative Save the Date invitation linked to Mardi Gras beads was sent home in each child's backpack to announce the 2016 Mardi Gras theme.

Thanks to the newly established ecommerce position on the HSA, all HR event information and tickets including the 2016 auction can be found at [www.hrcardinals.com](http://www.hrcardinals.com). You can also keep up to date will all HR events by liking Holy Redeemer School on Facebook.

OPT

## MATH TEAM

*Con't from page 11*

School in Olney, Maryland. Along with middle school math teachers Linda Grant and Lisa Capobianco, this year's team consisted of Eliza Henne, Paddy Phelps, Samantha

Douki, Dominic Welsh, Pranav Rane, and Matthew Wyble, with the two alternates being Alex Domenech and Siobhan Wampler.

Sixteen area schools participated in the contest with Holy Redeemer's team tying for third place overall. Team member Eliza Henne's individual score ranked her in the top ten, placing her eighth out of the 96

students competing in the contest.

During the exam, math teachers from the area schools were able to collaborate and share resources about their respective math programs. While the tests were being scored, the competitors enjoyed pizza and refreshments and a chance to socialize with other teams. .

OPT

## GRANDPARENTS

*Con't from page 11*

their grandchildren in their classrooms. They really enjoyed meeting the teachers and seeing their grandchildren's classmates.

Our very talented parents provided tasty baked goods and light refreshment for our Grandparents during a reception throughout the

morning. The grand finale of our celebration was the school performance. This year our theme was the 1950's. Ms. Kristin Brown, our music teacher, helped each class prepare a song and dance to a different 50's song - "Purple People Eater", "Splish Splash", "Tutti Frutti", "Let's Twist Again", "Shout!", "I've Got a Grandma" (woman), "Rockin' Robin", "We Go Together", "Hound Dog" and

"Jailhouse Rock." The students sang and danced their hearts out for their grandparents and our grandparents couldn't have been more proud!

The day was a big success. Smiles were seen all around! Our grandparents are already marking their calendars so that they can attend this event again next year.

OPT

## CADETS

*Con't from page 1*

the War Department's highest ranking year after year at their annual inspection. Originally called the Royal Officers' Training Corps of St. John's College, inspectors from the War Department recommended that the Corps of Cadets be recognized as a Junior Reserved Officers Training Corps (JROTC) in 1946. The program was mandatory for all St. John's students for more than 75 years. In 1991, the school made the decision to become coeducational and to make the Cadet Corps program elective. Today, approximately 25 percent of the student body participates in the program.

The centennial celebration began

with the induction of 35 cadet colonels into the Cadet Colonel Society, a new St. John's tradition. The cadet colonel is the highest-ranking student position in the Cadet Corps, and the young men and women chosen for that role serve as leaders for the entire student body. From now on, each cadet colonel will be inducted into the society at graduation.

St. John's also honored four alumni with the President's Medal, the school's highest honor. It is awarded to distinguished alumni and friends of the school who have given extraordinary service to St. John's or to the world community. The 2015 honorees include VADM Manson Brown '74 (Ret.), Msgr. John Enzler '65, Gen. Stanley

McChrystal '72 (Ret.) and John Veihmeyer '73.

At the end of the program, St. John's President Jeff Mancabelli shared the school's master plan to transform its arts, academic and athletic facilities. He then introduced Kevin Plank '90, founder and CEO of Under Armour, who spoke about his own St. John's experience. Plank also announced a \$16 million gift to St. John's from The Cupid Foundation, his private foundation. This is the leadership gift in a capital campaign to support athletics, academics and entrepreneurship initiatives. It is the largest in the school's history and one of the most generous grants ever made to a Catholic high school.

St. John's is currently build-

ing the first phase of its campus master plan, which includes a new 15,000-square-foot performing arts wing and new student center. The Cupid Foundation grant will launch the second phase of the school's master plan that primarily supports capital projects, including new state-of-the-art athletic facilities, unrivaled in the area. In addition, the gift will establish the Entrepreneurial Center for Innovation and Leadership, linking the American spirit of entrepreneurship to core Lasallian traditions of leadership and service. Funds will also enhance several academic programs and provide additional tuition assistance for students who might not otherwise have access to a St. John's education.

"The most important aspect of this gift is the tuition assistance that we will provide to students who might not otherwise be able to afford the St. John's experience," said Plank. "I am committed to investing in education, entrepreneurship and promoting physical fitness in Baltimore and Washington, DC. Providing great facilities, academics and programming to current and future students at St. John's is just one very important part of that commitment."

Other key leadership donors to the campus master plan include: Tom '65 and Karen Frana, Cap '61 and Christina Mona, Lou '52 and Ann Donatelli, Tom '84 and Karen Gletner, John '65 and Kari Hughett and the Donohoe Companies.

OPT



# Confirmation Class 2015

By Maria Kendall, DRE assistant

**O**n Sunday November 22, 18 Confirmation candidates received the Sacrament of Confirmation during the 10:30am Mass. These student candidates have been preparing since September 2014 and were confirmed by Bishop Mario D'Orsonville. The beautiful celebration was well attended. The students have been instructed well

by their Catechist, Fr Roberto Amoroso, FSCB, and answered the questions posed to them by the Bishop.

They had attended an all-day Retreat the previous weekend at the St. John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, DC. Time was spent in the new Redeemer of Man Church and the reliquary chapel to admire and appreciate the beauty of the mosaic walls. Fr Roberto described to them the

events in Sacred Scripture that are depicted on the walls and asked them what they thought was the deeper meaning of each event. The group also watched "The Butterfly Circus" film and talked about the human being's desire to be loved and his search for Truth and God.

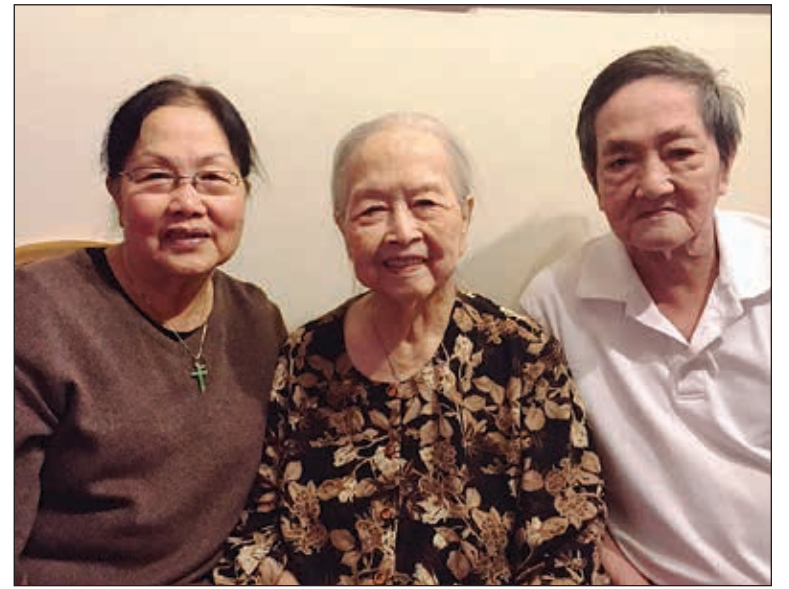
In the afternoon, the group was divided into four smaller groups which competed in a "Jeopardy" game. Instead of pressing buzzers, one from a group had to give Fr Roberto a high-five to have the chance to answer the question. The competition was tight. The students had to questions like: What are the Luminous Mysteries of the Holy Rosary? What are the seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit? What was the first official language of the Church?

The students had some right answers and some hilarious ones! There were occasions of racing to reach Fr Roberto's hand hurling themselves as if they were executing a football tackle. They had an enjoyable time learning and relearning the things that a Catholic should know. Pray for these newly confirmed that they will spread the Gospel and lead others to Christ.

OPT



Confirmandi candidates with Fr Roberto Amoroso, FSCB, in the chapel of the St John Paul II Shrine.



(L-R): Oanh Nguyen, Xinh Ngo and Viet Nguyen

## Do you know me?

By Katie Holland, CTK OPT editor

**W**ith this third installment Our Parish Times, Christ the King presents parishioners, Viet Nguyen and his mother, Xinh Ngo. Viet serves as an usher at the 8:30am Sunday Masses. Christ the King parishioners know Viet as the one who comes up behind you at 8:30am Mass to ask if you will carry up the gifts! His mother sits in the front pew, the lovely lady with the beautifully silver hair. Her daughter Nam came to the United States early on followed by daughter Oanh and her family in

1975. Xinh Ngo and her son, Viet Nguyen, followed, arriving in the 1980s.

Oanh's family is known to long-time parishioners, she and her late husband have four daughters, who came up in Christ the King's Religious Education program. The family always sat together. The daughters are now grown and live in various place, two now back here in the area. Of Xinh Ngo eight children, six live in this area, one in Houston and one is deceased.

OPT

## A Walk with St Junipero Serra

By Chris Tan

**A**lthough I grew up on the East Coast of the US, I have deep roots on the West and was delighted to attend the Mass of Canonization of Saint Junipero Serra. An ancestor who was a "leather jacket soldier", Juan Jose Dominguez, was a member of the Portola Expedition and accompanied the Franciscan Friars on the trip from San Diego to Monterey.

Fr Serra wanted the Mission to be a day's walk apart and, as a child, I imagined the Friars walking a

whole day and then plopping on the ground saying, "Whew, we're tired. Let's build a mission here." Fr Serra himself directed the building of the first nine missions. IT was left to others to construct the remaining twelve. While the original churches fell into disrepair over time, most were restored and today are active parishes, I was fortunate to visit Mission Dolores in San Francisco the day of eighth-grade graduation.

Other missions that I have seen are St Charles Borromeo at Carmel, the headquarters of Fr Serra, and St Juan Capistrano. I was at the

latter in late March and there was still great excitement about the return of the famed "Swallows of Capistrano" who fly to the mission each year on the Feast of St Joseph.

The trail used by Fr Serra and his companions was most likely an old Indian trail and runs along the Pacific Coast. It is still a pilgrimage route similar to El Camino de Santiago de Compostela in Spain. At 71, I don't expect to make that journey, but at the Mass of Canonization, I prayed that my grandchildren will.

OPT



The clean-up crew after the Bazaar: Chris Murphy, Alain Asaba, Alex Argueta, Joseph Forbin and Manny Ochoa.

## Christ the King Knitting Group at Fox Chase

By Liz Weiss, Social Concerns Commissioner

**C**hrist the King's Social Concerns Commission knitting group began again this autumn at Fox Chase Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Silver Spring, the former location of Springhouse Assisted Living. We meet most Tuesdays at 2pm. Rhonda, the Fox Chase activities coordinator has been very supportive. Three residents have joined parishioners Gloria Patterson, Sue Gordon and Liz Weiss. We already have 20 knitted or crocheted hats for the preemies at Holy Cross Hospital. Donations of yarn are always welcomed, as are new members who would like to join us.

OPT



(L-R) Fox Chase residents with Social Concerns Commission members, Liz Weiss, Sue Gordon and Gloria Patterson

## CTK Annual Bazaar

By Maria Kendall, DRE assistant and Katie Holland, CTK OPT editor

**C**hrist the King's annual bazaar was held on Sunday, Nov. 15th in the Colonial Room, a week earlier than the traditional parish feast day of Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Religious Education students who normally have their catechism class in the Colonial Room, helped out at the Bazaar - and excellent sales help they were, especially at the White Elephant table. Students helped out at every table at the Bazaar, wearing identifying volunteer badges and "hawking" the goods. The bazaar drew people from outside the par-

ish as well as families descending on the Colonial Room after Sunday Masses. It was an especially successful event!

OPT

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## St. Bartholomew

## Food Drive Highlights Thanksgiving at St. Bart's

By Barb Henry

This fall, the St. Bartholomew community collected, sorted and boxed food for families at Sacred Heart Parish in Washington, DC. Through the generosity of our School families, faculty and Parish community, St. Bart's gathered enough food to provide a turkey dinner and two weeks of groceries to 16 families at Sacred Heart.

With the donations, we also were able to send over 20 bags of excess groceries to help stock the food pantry at Sacred Heart Parish. The community-wide effort culminated in an afternoon of sorting and boxing all the donations with help from the St. Bart's school students, parents and parishioners.



St. Bart's students and parents sort food for Thanksgiving Food Drive. Photo by Barb Henry



The annual Advent Wreath Workshop kicked-off the Christmas Season at St. Bart's and drew a crowd of parents and excited children in the St. Bart's Parish Hall on Sunday, November 29.



St. Bartholomew School Principal Stephen Lamont discusses a book with a fellow patron at St. Bart's Bazaar and Book Sale on November 15.

## Annual Bazaar and Book Fair Attracts Throng at St. Bartholomew Parish

On Sunday, November 15, St. Bartholomew Parish held its annual Bazaar and Book Fair in the Church Hall. Patrons could browse a large selection of books as well as unique gifts from around the globe. A food truck was on-site as well as coffee and donuts, activities for fun and service, henna designs by Diana and a special presentation by award winning local children's author Jeanne K. Pettenati.

As a special attraction, participants could take a pause from the Bazaar and Book Fair to attend the Noon Mass upstairs in the Church, featuring St. Bart's new Junior Rock Band.

OPT



St. Bart's students and parents package candy for U.S. Military members. Photo by Barb Henry

## Stephen Ministry Workshop Fruitful at St. Bart's

On October 31, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., St. Bartholomew Parish hosted an introductory workshop for local parishes and congregations about the Stephen Ministry. Stephen Ministry is a Christian ministry to individuals experiencing personal or spiritual difficulties. Within a parish, rigorously trained Stephen ministers help expand pastoral care by providing confidential, one-on-one compassionate care and support to people hurting from death of a loved one, divorce or separation, hospitalization, terminal illness, job loss, or any other personal crisis. St. Bart's Parish has had a Stephen Ministry for several years.

The workshop, which filled the Parish Hall, featured speakers experienced with Stephen Ministry who were able to use with examples from their own ministry in their presentations. Although the workshop had a pronounced interdenominational spirit, there was a special emphasis on increasing Catholic participation in this special ministry—now largely found in Protestant congregations. The goal of the workshop was for participants to go home with practical ministry skills and



St. Bart's Parish Hall was packed for the Stephen Ministry Workshop.

an excellent understanding of how they can organize the members of their parish or congregation for a caring Stephen Ministry.

Deacon Julio Blanco-Eccleston of St. Bart's told OPT:

"We were really blessed by the Lord, as such a good attendance to the Workshop showed. How pleased the Lord must have been as 160 Christians from 28 different Congregations – 8 of them from the Roman Catholic tradition – registered for the Workshop. And all of them mingled, sat together, eager to listen to the Presenter about 'How to care in a distinctively Christian Way...', after having listened to

an Introduction to what Stephen Ministry is all about, as so masterly presented on caring, ministering to our neighbors experiencing grief.

"It was indeed a very fruitful workshop, as I can say all the participants left fully aware of how a Stephen Ministry can bring life-changing benefits to your Parish. Can we imagine a Parish were progressively each one puts into practice the Lord's commandment – Love one another as I have loved you? Because St. Stephen Ministry, that's what it is all about, loving one another."

OPT

## "Operation Gratitude" Successful at St. Bart's

By Barb Henry

As a post-Halloween service project, the St. Bartholomew Parish and School Community collected leftover candy to be delivered to "Operation Gratitude", a non-profit organization which puts together over 150,000 care packages each year for our U.S. military personnel. Our collection boxes in the school office and Church were overflowing with donations! We also had donations contributed by

Little Flower School as well which helped bring our total amount to almost 800 pounds of candy sent to Operation Gratitude!

St. Bart's students helped box, weigh and ship the candy as part of their weekly Service time. Many of the students also wrote letters of support to send to our Military in appreciation of their work. We'd like to extend a special thanks to Wayne and Lea Berman who underwrote the cost of shipping to Operation Gratitude.

OPT

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## Mary of Nazareth

## Hoops and Hope: Visit from Harlem Ambassadors Inspires MoN Students

If you were to ask nearly any young person on Mary of Nazareth's campus during the school day what their dream is, you would likely hear, "Play professional sports." Students had the privilege of getting one step closer to seeing that dream become reality this November during a school assembly with guest speakers, the Harlem Ambassadors. Sponsored by the Mary of Nazareth Home School Association, both Elementary and Middle School students gathered to learn a much bigger lesson than how to shoot from the three point line. Students heard stories of struggle and triumph from five Ambassadors, and even got to play some one-on-one ball with the Ambassadors afterward.

The Ambassadors gave individual

testimonials of their personal experiences pursuing an education after having struggled with situations often involving violence, substance abuse, and homelessness. Despite the heaviness that accompanied many of their stories, the underlying message of the Ambassadors was clear: with perseverance and faith, students can achieve anything they set their minds to accomplish. In each of their accounts, the Ambassadors told of their journeys to academic success while continuing to pursue their passion for basketball. Students left the assembly knowing that if they surround themselves with positive people, stay focused on school, pursue their passions, and have faith in Christ, there is no limit to their potential.

OPT



Harlem Ambassadors inspire students with stories of perseverance and positivity.

## Open House

Mary of Nazareth School will host an open house on Sunday, January 24, 2016 from 1 - 3 PM. Enrollment is currently open for the 2016-17 Academic Year and applications may be found online. Please consider visiting us for a tour of our beautiful campus and to discuss our curriculum. For more information about our school, visit our website [www.maryofnazareth.org](http://www.maryofnazareth.org), and follow us on Facebook & Twitter. To schedule a tour of our school, please contact Mrs. Maryellen Weir at [mweir@maryofnazareth.org](mailto:mweir@maryofnazareth.org). We look forward to seeing you!

OPT

## COTILLION

Con't from page 19

forward to putting on their dancing shoes and socializing with friends, both old and new, at Cotillion each Saturday. Final Cotillion, in particular, is filled with energy and excitement as the series culminates with a formal dinner followed by dancing. Students Kristina Kopsidas, Riley Keller and Colleen Koch commenced the festivities with a toast to their Mothers, who served as Cotillion Chairs, thanking them for their time and dedication in making Cotillion a success. The Mary of Nazareth community is grateful to all parents who made this year's Cotillion possible for the eighth grade, and looks forward to celebrating our Fifteenth Annual Cotillion in 2016.

OPT

## Students Welcome Grandparents to Mary of Nazareth



First grade student, Addison Rhode, works on a Thanksgiving Day project with both of her grandmothers.

This Thanksgiving season Mary of Nazareth School showed its gratitude for some of the most beloved members of our community: Grandparents. Each year we invite Grandparents to join students in their classrooms, and get a sneak peek into their grandchildren's school day. Leading up to this celebration, Mary of Nazareth families submitted stories and photos of Grandparents' weddings, which were proudly displayed in the school Multi-purpose Room.

Our school was filled with warmth and joy as Grandparents entered classrooms, and participated in activities in preparation for Thanksgiving. Students and Grandparents reflected together

on what they are thankful for this year, including teachers, friends, family and God at the top of their lists. We are thankful to all of the families that joined us at school this Grandparent's Day, and keep you in our thoughts and prayers each school day.

OPT



Mary of Nazareth eighth-graders earn sixth place in the 2015 Our Lady of Good Counsel Math Competition.

## Eighth Grade Excels at Math Competition

Nyawa Allieu, Celia Henein, Julia Nonnenkamp, Dillon Arrigan, Jacob Bryant, and Jim Juhring, eighth grade students from Mary of Nazareth Catholic School, were selected as representatives to compete in the 42nd Annual Good Counsel Math Competition. The students competed against sixteen other

Catholic Middle Schools from from the Archdiocese by taking a thirty question timed test.

The team of six from MoN finished sixth out of sixteen in the overall team score competition. Julia Nonnenkamp, finished in first place for the highest individual score. We are very proud of our team!

OPT

**QUESTION**  
a b o r t i o n <sup>SM</sup>

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

Instead, child abuse has escalated,  
and rather than shared responsibility for children,  
even more of the burden has shifted to women.

Question abortion. No law can make the wrong choice right.

Refuse to Choose® • Women Deserve Better®

FEMINISTS FOR LIFE OF AMERICA  
[feministsforlife.org](http://feministsforlife.org)

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## St. John the Evangelist

## CUBBY

Con't from page 18

Cubby and Dan opened their hearts and home to the many St. Joseph's families seeking comfort, help, and respite 50 weeks a year—school days, snow days, sick days, holidays, birthdays, and weekends. Wheelchairs, walkers, feeding tubes, seizures, medications, and tantrums were as much a part of a day's work as parties, outings, bowling, swimming, crafts, movies, musicals, and fundraisers. She helped me turn my tragedy into a celebration of life, not by talking, but by her actions and her example.

I followed her lead to love and acceptance.

Cubby shared her world, her home, her family and faith with the lucky ones who were fortunate to know her. She encouraged all families to include their non-disabled siblings and others in volunteering. She signed many community service forms joyfully. She was rarely too busy to console or advise, taking calls all times of day. Cubby understood the "big picture" and patiently waited for the rest of us to get it."

During the comments at Cubby's Vigil, her daughter Mary Frances provided a glimpse into Cubby's last days.

"It was the day before she died

that she said, 'I have nothing to do today.' This was a statement that spoke volumes of my mom's constantly and happily busy schedule—but I now realize that she meant, or at least I think she meant—that her work here was done. Her work will never be complete; we will all be her arms, legs, and voice—and I know that she's one busy lady in heaven."

Members of our parish and school are committed to providing ongoing support to the LaHood family in their work at St. Joseph's House. Please visit [www.saintjosephshouse.net](http://www.saintjosephshouse.net) to learn more about Cubby's life work and add your support to ours.

OPT

## St. John the Baptist



SJB Students Prepare to Deliver Food Collected During Thanksgiving Food Drive

## St. John the Evangelist Annual Christmas Bazaar 2015

November 6 and 7 marked the annual Christmas Bazaar, a wonderful, spirit filled community celebration! Parishioners and community members of all ages enjoyed the festive Christmas shopping and fun events for the children!

OPT



## STEM

Con't from page 8

ticipate in an hour long session one day a week after school. There is an upper and lower grade group. Each group focuses on a different topic. This year, the lower-grade children are learning about circuitry and the upper-grade children are learning about robotics and programming. A professor from George Washington University starts each lesson and then students from Montgomery County Community College take over the instruction and work directly with the children.

Ms. Damiano has been pleased with the response from the student body noting that they've added a summer session for children whose schedules kept them from participating during the school year. This past year the summer ses-

sion topic was 3D Printing. She sees that the program has more girls participating this year than in the past. Fourth-grader Stephanie Muoka is one of this year's participants. Stephanie says that STEM is fun because "I like technology and I learn interesting techniques. I signed up to explore and learn."

Ms. Draper enrolled her daughter for a similar reason observing that third-grader Evelyn has "always been interested in and very good at math and science, so I thought that this program would be a great way to introduce her to additional computer skills and engineering skills to foster these interests." Ms. Damiano says that the best thing about the program is "watching the kids work collaboratively on something they've never done before – the look on their faces when they make the robot go."

OPT

## TERVO

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and helping kids overcome their reticence to embrace a sometimes difficult subject. She loved seeing kids bloom when they finally understood a complex concept. She loved when a student would tell her, "maybe math isn't so bad after all." She loved the kids who already had the math instinct and she loved pushing them to achieve even more. She loved helping her colleagues develop strategies for teaching math in their own classrooms.

Erin loved the spring play. She loved producing musicals most of all and she had a definite fondness for Disney. She encouraged, cajoled and badgered kids into learning their lines and dance steps. She helped her colleagues become stage directors, scenery makers, prop and costuming experts. She loved working with our music teachers to find the "right" show for the current class of students. She loved the matinee, she loved opening night and she loved closing night. Every show was a little different, but Erin was always the same – leading the rest of us to learn how to do it all and have the show be spectacular year after year.

As this school year progresses, we are faced with difficult dilemmas. We have welcomed a new math teacher, we have figured out how to orchestrate a new Christmas show; we have many school liturgies ahead to plan. We are figuring out ways to close these looming gaps between what was and what has to be now. We will continue to do it. After all, Erin's legacy of love requires us to love, too.

And so life goes on as it always does – but we are different. We grieve and we thank God for our faith and for the promises Jesus has assured us are ours. Erin is in heaven, rejoicing and glorying in the love of the Father. We know this, but we are left here. So we hold tight to the promises Jesus made on the Mount of the Beatitudes.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Matthew 5:4

All of our words are inadequate to truly encompass a life's accomplishments and the love expressed in it, but we have tried in this tribute. At St John the Baptist School we will still mourn, we will still offer comfort to one another, we will still hold tight to our faith and we will still love. We will deeply miss our dear friend, Erin Tervo.

OPT

## Bill Hamm's

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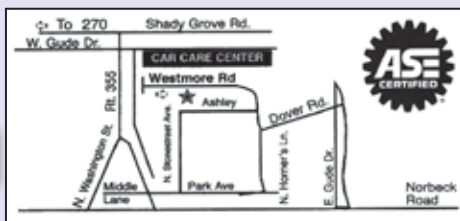


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# Ridgway Field Blessed and Dedicated During Community-Wide Gathering

**T**uesday, October 26 was a significant day in history of The Academy of the Holy Cross with the blessing and dedication ceremony of the new turf field, now known as Ridgway Field. The event was the culmination of the project, which broke ground in July and was part of the first phase of The Difference We Make: The

Campaign for The Academy of the Holy Cross capital campaign. Attending the event were the entire student body, parents, alumnae, faculty/staff, Sisters of the Holy Cross, Board of Trustees members, and special friends.

Ridgway Field is named in memory of Dick and Jeanie Ridgway, who during their lifetimes gave

generously of their time, talent, and treasure to many Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Washington, including Holy Cross. Their daughter Lisa Ridgway Slater '82 spoke during the ceremony about the dedication and commitment they had to Catholic education and athletics. Rev. Msgr. John Enzler, who gave the blessing and dedication, spoke

of his family connection to Holy Cross (six of his sisters are alumnae), and of his relationship with the Ridgways and of their bountiful generosity.

The ceremony included a student procession from the school to the field led by bagpiper Olivia Corcoran '17. The student Madrigal Singer ensemble led the National Anthem and the school Alma Mater. Helen Stanislav Dankos '75, current Board of Trustees Chair and Michael McAuliffe, immediate past Board of Trustees Chair,

spoke about the importance of the project for Holy Cross and the future of athletics for our students. Student Council President Casey Magersupp '16 and Student Council Treasurer Naomi Adedokun '16 performed the ribbon cutting.

"A new era in Holy Cross Athletics has begun with the completion of our new turf field," said President Katy Prebble. "Our students are thrilled to finally have the same competitive edge as their peers in the WCAC."

OPT



Seniors Casey Magersupp and Naomi Adedokun cut the ribbon at the Ridgway Field blessing and dedication ceremony. (L to R): Holy Cross Athletic Director Lisa Schrader, President Kathleen Prebble, Board of Trustees Chair Helen Dankos, Sister Grace Shonk, C.S.C., Casey Magersupp '16, Naomi Adedokun '16, Msgr. John Enzler, Lisa Slater, Principal Melissa Huey-Burns, former Board of Trustees Chair Michael McAuliffe

## St. John's Makes Rockville Ice Arena Its Home Rink

**B**eginning with the 2015-2016 season, the St. John's College High School ice hockey program has entered into a long-term lease agreement with the Rockville Ice Arena in Rockville that gives the Cadets a rink to call their own. This agreement grants SJC ice hockey preferred ice time for games and practices at one of the premier arenas in the DC metro area. St. John's will also have branding rights to one of the arena's three ice rinks, including a lighted sign at the facility's entrance identifying Rockville Ice Arena as the home of St. John's ice hockey.

The ice and boards now display St. John's logo and school colors, scarlet and grey, giving the feel of a true home rink. This summer, a new scoreboard was mounted to the rink's ceiling proudly displaying the names of St. John's and Under Armour, which was founded by St. John's alumnus Kevin Plank. Players now have a sense of home-ice advantage and fans have even more pride when cheering on the Cadets.

St. John's has also started a campaign to raise funds to construct two new locker rooms for St. John's exclusive use at the arena. These locker rooms will give the Cadets a

private team space and provide each player with their own locker for the first time.

St. John's ice hockey program began as a club-level sport in 2002 and it now boasts a robust varsity program, as well as JV boys' and girls' ice hockey teams.

"Our hockey team's relocation to this dedicated arena is an exciting move," said St. John's Athletic Director Brian Griffin. "It provides us with a real home to develop our hockey team, build strong momentum as an entire program and get better every day, both on and off the ice."

OPT

## ST RAPHAEL

Con't from page 12

ty—our facilities staff. Through bountiful student donations, each member of our maintenance team received traditional foods and gift cards to make up a complete holiday meal. In addition, our preschool students brought gifts of fruit to the church to fill large baskets, which were offered to our twin parish, St. Martin of Tours in Washington, D.C., to create plentiful and edible Thanksgiving Day feast centerpiece. All of the baskets were packaged with love and received with overwhelming gratitude.

We are once again holding our Christmas Giving Program to help make dreams come true for several local foster children in the Child Welfare Services Program of Montgomery County. Each year, these "adopted" teens become part

of the extended SRS family as students generously fulfill the children's wish lists and spread the spirit of Christmas.

### A Season of Fun

As we closed out the first quarter of the school year, many SRS and SRNS families enjoyed an entertaining Friday evening at Family Fun Night. Pizza and desserts, contests and prizes, music and moon-bounce, and our own Mr. D as the deejay, all make this event a family favorite.

CYO basketball players have sprung into action for some competitive fun. The season is off to an enthusiastic start from third through eighth grades. Go, Angels!

### In the New Year

While we take time to enjoy the Christmas season, we also look forward to the following events in the new year:

- Jan. 11: SRS and SRNS Double Open House** welcomes interested school and nursery school parents for a tour and presentation of our campus. Details can be found at [www.tiny.cc/srs-open-house](http://www.tiny.cc/srs-open-house).
- Jan. 31: Coats of Many Colors Drive** partners with Catholic Charities to collect new and gently used winter coats during Catholic Schools Week to help those in need stay warm.
- Jan. 31-Feb. 5: Catholic Schools Week** celebrates the value of Catholic education and honors the teachers, clergy, students, and parents who share its richness within our church and school communities.

Details about these events and more can be found on our school website at [www.straphaelschoolmd.org](http://www.straphaelschoolmd.org).

OPT



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# Catholic Business Network - MC Celebrates its 2015 Catholic Education Support of \$100,000

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The 22nd Annual CBN-MC Gala took place at the Marriott North Bethesda Conference Center on Friday, Nov. 20, 2015. Over 400 members and guests attended in support of Catholic education.

## Jack Fitzgerald CEO, Fitzgerald Auto Malls 2015 Catholic Business Person

Jack, a natural born salesman, left door-to-door sales to begin selling Fords in 1956. He since has developed a customer friendly focus for his business that has grown from a Dodge franchise in Montgomery county to 35 franchises in 15 locations in three Atlantic Coast states. He built a nation-leading Child Safety Seat program with over 100 Fitzgerald associates trained as Child Safety Seat Technicians. Jack and his sister Dottie, who teasingly introduced him, have supported every CBN-MC Catholic Education effort from the very beginning. Jack's remarks about his faith -- prayer and 20 minute daily

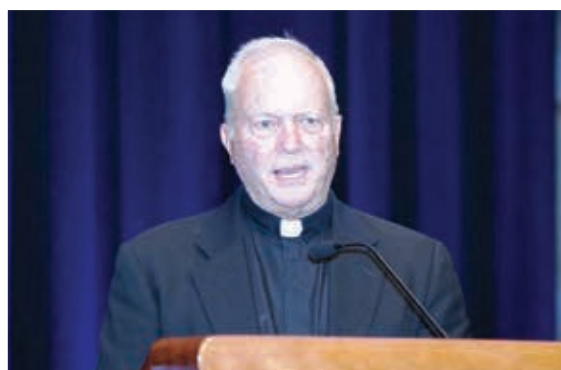


## William B. Whitaker President Washington Jesuit Academy 2015 Catholic Community Leader

The first to receive the CBN-MC Catholic Community Leader of the Year Award, Bill Whitaker sets a high standard for future recipients. His service includes 23 years deeply involved in Catholic education, including 15 at the Washington Jesuit Academy. In 2001 Bill became the founding President of the Academy, a middle school for boys from under-served, low-income communities that provides rigorous, tuition-free education with 11-hour days and 11 month years. Bill has served on three area Catholic school boards of directors, the Ignatian Volunteer Corps as well as serving as the National Nativity-Miguel Network of Schools Board Chair.



## Spiritual Advisor Fr. John J. Macfarlane



Father announced his retirement after a decade of service to CBN-MC Thanks. Father for your guiding presence and wry wit.

## Mark Gregory Photography honored with Founder's Award



CBN-MC Founder and founder of Our Parish Times, Paul G. Zurkowski presented the 2015 Paul G. Zurkowski Founders Award to Mark Gregory for nearly a decade of brilliant photographic support of all things CBN-MC.

## Barbara Kromer & Rob Smith Raise funds for needy students



Featuring gracious style of fund raising for Scholarships for needy students. Gala crowd money keeps students in Catholic schools following John Treseler's idea.

## Hail the Work of the 2015 CBN-MC Board of Directors



(Back l-r): Michael J. McCartin, Jos. W. McCartin Insurance, Inc.; Joseph Powers, The Woods Academy; Robert B. Scanlon, Esq., Anderson & Quinn, LLC, Immediate Past President; Barbara Murphy Kromer, CPA, Snyder Cohn, PC, President; Lance Ford, Palm Facility Services / Commercial Real Estate Advisors, Pres. Elect; Peter Hodgson, CPA, Cohn Reznick; and (front l-r): Anne Terry, Elite Personnel; Anita Segreti, Segreti Insurance, Gerard McLoughlin, Bank of Georgetown; John R. Comunale, CPA, Councilor, Buchanan & Mitchell, PC; Kathy Ogilvie, Payroll Network; William P. (Billy) Cannon, Esq., Offit Kurman, Past President. Not present: Annemarie Agnew, Comcast Spotlight; Hugh Carroll, Insurance Associates; Alex Echeandia, Eagle Creek Mortgage; Jay Long, Ruppert Landscape; Kevin O'Reilly, Emerald Advisor Group and Rev. Msgr John F. McFarlane, Spiritual Advisor, and Katie Shaffer, Administrator, CBN-MC.

Michelle LeBlanc, Holy Cross School, wins Volunteer of the Year



Samuel Bahreini of Voloforce, Mary of Nazareth School, Wins Business of the Year

