



Parish Times

High School Open House
Pull-out Section: Pages 20-21

OCTOBER 2015

Living the Faith Together

FREE



Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur
TOUCHING HEARTS • CHANGING LIVES • TOGETHER.

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Mark 175th Year in U.S.

Events commemorating the anniversary to be held in Washington and across the country

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur are marking the congregation's 175th year of service in the USA with events across the country. In Washington, a special prayer service and reception will take place at Trinity University on Saturday, October 24.

It was in 1873, at the request of Ellen Sherman, wife of General Sherman, that Sisters of Notre Dame first came to DC (then part of the Archdiocese of Baltimore) to staff an industrial school for young girls. They also taught parochial-school classes and, in 1876, opened Notre Dame Academy, K Street. By 1897, they were establishing the first Catholic college for women – now Trinity Washington University.

From Trinity, many Sisters taught religious education classes in nearby parishes, which soon were building schools and applying for SNDs to staff them. The years to follow would find Sisters at St. Aloysius, St. Martin,

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Filling Our Hearts

By Msgr. John Enzler

My head is still spinning as I sit here at Catholic Charities, where Pope Francis visited us as his last stop in Washington, blessing us and setting our hearts on fire. In the few hours since, I find myself thinking about what I've heard many times from parents, brides and grooms about weddings. There is so much work, preparation and anticipation leading up to the big event, and when the moment is everything



Rev. Msgr. John Enzler

you dreamed it would be, you can't help but feel a bit of a letdown when it's over.

I have a little bit of that in my heart as I write this, but only a very little bit. There was indeed great preparation, effort and expectations, and while I would have loved for the

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Photo by Freed Photography

Our Lady of Lourdes School faculty and staff. Front row (L-R): Mrs. Kathryn Wasp, Dr. Luigi DeLuca, Monsignor Filardi, Mrs. Patricia McGann, Mr. David Long, Ms. Bridget Looney, Monsignor Beattie, Father Diaz. Second row (L-R): Mrs. Sheri Gutierrez, Mrs. Amanda Sheehan, Ms. Alison Jakovics, Ms. Katie Flynn, Ms. Rachel Norton, Ms. Kristin Addison, Ms. Maureen Skelly, Ms. Molly Carter, Ms. Alex Corbutt, Ms. Sara DeLuca, Ms. Chelsey Hipp, Mrs. Therese Keating, Ms. Margy Gannon; Third row (L-R): Mrs. Kristen Billings, Mrs. Betsy Sunier, Mrs. Nan Kiyonaga, Ms. Brigid McGann, Mrs. Debbie Walsh, Ms. Amy Moore, Mrs. Mary Crane, Mrs. Meg Greaney, Ms. Aleta Winters, Ms. Riley Sheehy, Mrs. Alli Richardson, Mr. Rich Dwyer, Mr. Billy Hudak.

Our Lady of Lourdes School Named 2015 National Blue Ribbon School

Our Lady of Lourdes School in Bethesda was named a National Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education on September 29 – one of only two parochial schools in Maryland to be given the award in 2015. To be chosen, schools must go through a competitive application process and demonstrate a strong commitment

to educational excellence for all students. Principal Patricia McGann attributes the School's success to its high academic standards, to its close-knit community, and to its outstanding faculty and staff. *More about Our Lady of Lourdes School on page ten.*

OPT



Several TV news crews were at St. Bernadette School in Silver Spring to capture the distribution of tickets to the Papal Mass to three students and one teacher. See page 17 for more on St. Bernadette Parish and School.



St. Bernadette School Sends Four to Papal Mass

Left to Right: Monsignor Smith, Catalina Scheider, Addison Ruszkowski, Brendan Sippel, Mr. Eric Lee and school principal Cheri Wood.

A Marathon Life

By Chuck Short



Chuck Short

Pope Francis's visit to Washington was every bit as exciting, joyful and substantive as I could have hoped. His visit has given us volumes of wisdom upon which to pray and

ponder for the months ahead. Focusing on his many lessons may be a meaningful way to inspire our Advent season.

Since 1972, Catholics throughout the United States have observed October as Respect for Life month. It was established by the US Bishops as a special time to promote respect for life activities in parishes and schools. During his visit, Pope Francis clearly reaffirmed our moral and spiritual obligation to respect life in all its stages. Ending abortion, assisted suicide, genocide and the death penalty are obvious in respecting life. Much has been done to address these, yet much more prayer and dialogue is required.

The Bishops designate October as a special time to reflect and act on our commitment to life in every stage. For most of us living in local parish communities, the call is difficult to put into **tangible action**. We can and should pray, advocate and participate in liturgies, but parish and individual "hands on"

Continued on page 36

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22nd Annual CBN-MC Gala

The Board of Directors cordially invites you to attend the Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County Annual Gala on Friday, November 20, 2015 at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center to celebrate another year of success for CBN-MC and renew our commitment to Catholic



schools and their students. This year, we honor Jack Fitzgerald, Founder & CEO of Fitzgerald Auto Mall, as our 2015 Catholic Business Person of the Year, and Bill Whitaker, President of the Washington Jesuit Academy, as 2015 Community Leader of the Year.

Register Online: cbnmc.mae-stroweb.com

We will also recognize our Business Partner of the Year and our School Volunteer of the Year, and name the newest recipient of our Founder's Award.

Since 2003, Gala ticket, table, and raffle sales, auctions, and program advertising have raised more than \$800,000 for schools through the CBN-MC Foundation, including tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships for 8th grade graduates attending Catholic high schools.

OPT

Save the Date

Please plan on joining us for the **CBN-MC Leadership Reception**

October 28th from 5:30-7:30pm

At the new Germantown Holy Cross Hospital

Details at www.cbnmc.com

Deadline for Fall Nominations/Applications

Schools can now apply for grants as well as nominate a volunteer of the year and a business partner of the year online. The deadline for all three is October 16, 2015.

- School Grant Application
- School Volunteer of the Year Nomination
- School-Business Partner of the Year Nomination

In the past two years, CBN-MC has awarded over \$60,000 in Project Grants to 21+ schools for projects ranging from the installation of improved restroom fixtures to the purchase of Smart Boards and other teaching tools to the adoption of student assessment software.

OPT



The UpCounty Community Resources Group went to Nationals Park on Sunday, September 20 to watch the Washington Nationals out score the Miami Marlins 13 to 3. The weather was perfect, the bats were hot, Metro ran on time, the hot dogs were tasty and the trip was an exciting adventure for the 93 individuals who attended.

The next event planned for the group is a Hoedown Dance at the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Center on Saturday night, Oct 24 from 7:30 to 9:30. Admission is \$5 and buys you hot dog and bean, snacks

and a night of dancing with old friends and new. If you would like more information about our group and upcoming events, contact Sylvia Jones at 301-762-6564 in the evening.

OPT

CARA to conduct nationwide survey of ministries for persons with disabilities

First-ever nationwide surveys of Catholic parishes and dioceses to evaluate needs of

ministries and programs for individuals with disabilities and their families launched in response to the

call by Pope Francis to pay attention to marginalized and vulnerable people.

Individuals who have developmental differences, persons with intellectual and physical disabilities, and people who are blind or deaf are among the most marginalized and vulnerable members of American society. Pope Francis calls on us to pay attention to people at the margins of society, to meet them, know them, include them, and serve them.

As a response to the Holy Father's call to action, and in celebration of his historic visit to the United States, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) today announced the launch of a project that will survey Catholic parishes and dioceses nationwide to learn what the Church in the United States is doing now to respond to

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Some Relief for Montgomery County Cab Drivers

By Fred Maricucci

As St. John XXIII said in his 1961 encyclical *Mater et Magistra* (Mother and Teacher, no.20): "It [the State] has also the duty to protect the rights of all its people, and particularly of its weaker members, the workers, women and children. It can never be right for the State to shirk its obligation of working actively for the betterment of the condition of the workingman." This past summer, Montgomery County took action to better the condition of taxicab drivers, and the Church, through its Justice and Advocacy Council of Montgomery County, supported their efforts.

In Montgomery County, we

Justice & Advocacy Council of
Montgomery County



Fred Maricucci

expect taxis to be promptly available, rain or shine, 24/7, at the click of a mouse or last minute phone call. Even if we own cars, we often need taxis to shop, get to doctor's appointments, the Metro,

or the airport. For our seniors and handicapped, taxi service is not just a convenience, it is essential to living independently here in the County. Taxi service gets our attention only when we hear about Uber or Lyft or think the response was too slow. We expect drivers to know how to get us where we want to go as if they've lived here

all their lives, yet their accents and complexions make clear that mostly, they come here from far, far away. Beyond that fact, we know little of their lives.

According to documents submitted to the County Council, taxi drivers are not employees of the cab company; they are independent contractors who typically do not own their cabs but rent them from the cab company on extended leases, at rates of \$110 day, each day, six days a week. The cab company covers maintenance costs on the car and provides dispatch services. The drivers pay for gas, \$50 or more per day. The drivers also pay the cab company for insurance (\$7500/year), for processing customer payments by credit card (7.85% per charge), and for toll charges (\$25 per EzPass charge).

Of course, as independent con-

tractors, they pay their own Federal taxes (some 14% of their earnings) and are responsible for the cost of their own health insurance that can cost the driver several hundred dollars a month, even with Federal subsidies. They have no pension plans. They report commonly working 60 or more hours a week to earn what often amounts to minimum wage or less. In fact, the *Washington Post* reported one long-time driver testified that, after expenses, a driver working 50 hours a week may take home as little as \$200 a week. They have little leverage to negotiate better terms with the cab companies.

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You are invited to attend the next meeting of the Justice and Advocacy Council on Wednesday, December 2 from 7:30-9:00 at Holy Redeemer Church Hall, 9705 Summit Avenue, Kensington, Md. At this meeting we will set priorities for the County Executive's budget forums schedules for January and February 2016. For more information, please call Cathy Couch at 301-933-6120



 **Parish Times**

Kathleen &
Lawrence Hamm
PUBLISHERS

Danny Gannon
Michael Roseleigh
DISTRIBUTION

Prepress by Electronic Ink
www.eink.net



Parish Community Services, Inc.

5212 Goddard Road Bethesda, MD 20814

Phone: 301-706-9684

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Holy Redeemer Parish9705 Summit Avenue
Kensington, MD**Rev. Mark Hughes**
Pastor

301-942-2333

Holy Redeemer School**Mrs. Colleen Ryan,**
Principal

301-942-3701

**More Holy Redeemer News
on Page 38**

Holy Redeemer Walks with Francis

by Colleen Ryan

Over the summer Cardinal Wuerl and Catholic Charities began a #WalkwithFrancis campaign to encourage everyone to pray, act, or serve in preparation of Pope Francis's visit to Washington, DC on September 22-24. Holy Redeemer faculty and staff pledged to ACT by donating canned food items to the St.

Camillus Food Pantry during our Faculty In-Service Week in August. After completing their pledge they wanted to find a way to get the students excited about the Papal visit and get the students involved in the #WalkwithFrancis campaign. When our Pope Francis cut out arrived Ann Enkiri, the school librarian, came up with a great idea! She stated, "Wouldn't it be fun to have the kids walking with Pope Francis to church and to Adoration, to the tune of 'Walking on Sunshine', by Katrina and the Waves." This was the spark that lit the fuse!

Mrs. Michelle Ardillo, our middle school Language Arts teacher, shared the idea with her daughter

Continued on page 38

Luke David and Colleen Ryan pose with the Pope to celebrate the end of a great shoot.



Holy Redeemer students gather on our field to sing and cheer for Pope Francis.

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Parishioners enjoy hot dogs and hamburgers at the annual parish picnic

Annual Parish Picnic

By Eamon Magee

Holy Redeemer's second annual parish picnic was held on Saturday, September 5, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the parish parking lot. Fr. Hughes was pleased to be there along with Fr. Plummer and to mingle with several hundred parishioners who came as singles, couples and families to feast on burgers and hot dogs ably prepared by volunteer parishioners many of whom were members of the parish's That Man is You program. Beer, soft drinks and delicious lemonade were provided along with garnishes for the burgers and potato chips. Dessert came in the form of large chocolate chip and other sugar cookies. These were a big

hit and were consumed steadily as the picnic progressed.

Apart from the wonderful food provided, there was the occasion for parishioners to come together as a community, to meet and greet each other and spend some time at the tables under the tents on a day that was partly cloudy but when the shade was appreciated. Also provided was the opportunity to socialize with our priests. Though some of the burgers and dogs were left over as the picnic came to a close, these were distributed to some of the families who were present and nothing was wasted. Fr. Hughes was pleased by the turn out and God willing this annual picnic will be an event that will be repeated and happily in future years.

OPT

The Goal is Heaven, Not Harvard

By Michelle Ardillo

The Holy Redeemer School faculty and staff were graced with a wonderful spiritual retreat on Friday, August 28, 2015, during their in-service week. The retreat was given by Fr. Samuel Plummer, parochial vicar of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church. Fr. Plummer's talks were centered on the idea that the goal of a Catholic school teacher should be to get the students to heaven, not to Harvard, or even to high school. He offered that perhaps the mission statement of a Catholic school should simply be "Help the kids get to heaven."

Fr. Plummer told his vocation story and how his job in a publishing company in Charlotte, North Carolina, eventually led him to



Holy Redeemer's Fr. Plummer leads faculty at back to school retreat.



Holy Redeemer faculty works in groups to develop goals for new school year.

reevaluate his career path. When tasked with trying to find a more efficient way to organize a group of fifteen employees, he realized that each employee had a different idea of what the mission was. Once the mission was clearly identified to each employee, the group worked much more efficiently towards its goal. He used this example as a metaphor for how we must work at having a real relationship with the Lord to achieve our goal of getting to heaven.

In order for Catholic school teachers to work efficiently towards the goal of getting kids to heaven, Fr. Plummer suggested that we must first know how to get there ourselves

and he gave some very concrete examples of how to do this: go to Mass every Sunday, spend time with the Lord in Adoration, go to Confession, spend at least thirty minutes a day in prayer, and read the Bible, something he acknowledged that Catholics traditionally haven't spent enough time doing.

Fr. Plummer recounted a conversation he had had with some college-age students from the Holy Redeemer parish and school. They were still active and engaged in their faith, still practicing their religion. The students were asked what had helped them remain close to their faith during their college years when many young people fall away from the Church. Their response was that one teacher had made such an impact on them. She was identi-

Continued on page 25

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OVER \$3 million

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Holy See

On Wednesday, September 23rd, a group of eighteen Holy Cross students from Second through Eighth Grades were on hand to greet Pope Francis at the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington DC, as our Holy Father departed for the mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

"It was really amazing to meet Pope Francis," affirmed Annie Paton, a Sixth Grader. "I got to shake his hand and it was the most memorable part of my life so far." Equally enthralled by the experience was Seventh-Grade student Tara Anders, who observed that Our Holy Father is "just so happy, it makes you want to feel happy too." That feeling was echoed by the others in different ways. "He smiled at me," said Fourth-Grader Grace Smith "and I felt all good inside." Suryah Mathurin, a Third-Grade student, said she "felt special



Eighteen students from Holy Cross welcomed Pope Francis at the Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See on Wednesday, September 23.

to have met Pope Francis." She also met Cardinal Wuerl who was "really nice, too."

Annie and Tara spoke to a reporter from Youth Radio who asked them what issues Pope Francis is addressing during his trip here are resonating with them. This ques-

tion struck a chord with Annie who started a Vital Voices Club at Holy Cross last year. The club meets monthly to study societal, economic and political challenges affecting young people around the globe. Annie explained, "It is important to me that Pope Francis is address-



ing difficult situations faced by children. [Vital Voices] addresses issues such as child labor and the lack of girls' education in many countries, so I'm really happy that the Pope is taking a special interest in those topics." On a more personal level, Annie continued, "Pope

Francis seems to radiate holiness. Seeing him inspires me to take my faith to the next level."

There is no doubt that Our Holy Father's visit to our area will have a lasting, positive impact on many lives.

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

Celebration of Installation Mass at Holy Cross

On Saturday, September 19, Cardinal Wuerl celebrated the installation mass at Holy Cross for Father Robert Buchmeier, who joined the parish as pastor in July following the retirement of Monsignor Cary Hill. At the mass, Father Buchmeier renewed the vows of service, fidelity to the Gospel, and obedience which he first took at his ordination in 1991. A reception was held for Father Robert following the mass.

Father Robert, a native of Spokane Washington, has served the Archdiocese of Washington in many capacities and with great distinction, most recently as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in La Plata, Maryland. Prior to that, he completed fifteen years of service in the U.S. Army as Medical Service Corps officer with the rank of major.

At the mass, Father Robert shared that as a seminarian, he had visited Holy Cross as a guest

of then-pastor, Monsignor Gatto. Taken with the beauty of the church, he recalled thinking that one day he aspired to be the pastor of Holy Cross. The Holy Cross parish and school community are blessed, and very happy that Father Robert's aspiration has become a reality. Welcome to the Holy Cross family, Father Buchmeier!

OPT

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Pastor: Rev. Robert Buchmeier • Principal: Lisa M. Kane



My Papal Experience

By Maureen Stiles

My mother is not Catholic but she knew how important faith was to my dad, so we attended 12 years of Catholic school and were very involved in the church as a family. She supported us fully but never felt moved to convert to Catholicism.

Why is this important?

I share this with you because, although I did not see the Pope in person, I witnessed something much more important. I saw the effect he had on those outside the Catholic faith.

My mother's visit from Florida coincided with that of the Pope's

here in Washington. No one in our family had tickets to an event or lined the parade route, but we had pledged to Walk with Francis and were thrilled he was on American soil.

Initially, we tuned in to coverage because we knew so many that were making the trek to the city for a glimpse of Pope Francis, we hoped the camera would catch a familiar face.

We never left the house on Wednesday and the television was tuned to the days' events continuously. Mom and I were riveted by the Pope's joy, evident though being beamed through satellite into our living room. We were fascinated by his willingness to walk among the people. And most importantly, we were engrossed in his words.

So much love and common sense were woven into his message, it was relatable to every man, woman and child.

Only when we watched the Mass itself at the Basilica did I realize how much mom had absorbed in all those years raising us. She was still familiar with the rhythm of the Mass and what came next but this time she was listening and hearing the words of the sermon.

We did see a great number of people in the crowds that we



After pledging to Walk with Francis, the student body forms a cross.

knew. A St. Mary's mother, Mary Cardoza, was interviewed for the Today Show and was eloquent as she spoke of the Pope's inspirational message. Her daughter Luisa was featured on WTOP and reminded us that even the littlest of hearts embraces this Pope. Another of our students, Kevin Hrozcencik, appeared in a CBS News segment on Papal Selfies which our social media savvy Pontiff tolerated

graciously throughout his stay.

But what I saw firsthand was a woman who had not stepped foot in a church in decades, moved by this remarkable man and his ideology.

At the airport on Thursday, my mother watched the Congressional Address with hundreds of others waiting to depart. People stopped in the concourse to listen for a minute before hurrying off to their gates. And when it was over, the entire airport—employees and travelers alike—erupted in applause.

She couldn't wait to share this rare occurrence with me once she arrived home. When was the last time Americans gathered around the television to watch something other than a tragedy? When was the last time that our nation drew together as one regardless of race or religion and was inspired?

That is what this Pope is capable of. He lifts us up not only in faith but also by the way he lives his life. His humility and benevolence

Continued on page 35

St. Mary's Parish
520 Veirs Mill Road
Rockville, MD
Msgr. Robert Amey,
Pastor
301-424-5550
St. Mary's School
Mrs. Debby Eisel, Principal
301-762-4179
Maureen Stiles, Parish Editor
301-990-4329



From right to left Monsignor Amey, Parishioner Michelle Bean, Father Chip and Father Val making their way onto the Basilica grounds.



Luisa Cardoza is interviewed by WTOP as she waits for the Pope.



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St. Elizabeth School's Opening Day Celebration was a great way to start the new year!

St. Elizabeth Parish

917 Montrose Road Rockville, MD

Msgr. John Macfarlane, Pastor
301-881-1380

St. Elizabeth School Principal
Vincent P. Spadoni
301-881-1824

Gerry Moore, OPT Editor
202-887-6475



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Monsignor Macfarlane, the school administration, faculty, parents, and new and returning students gathered this morning in the MAC to celebrate the start of the new school year.



Our teachers and staff gathered on Friday to make sandwiches for a local shelter all in an effort to

At left, students from St. Elizabeth School chat with our archbishop, Cardinal Wuerl, outside of the Vatican Embassy.

Below, our Back to School Picnic was an amazing event! Such a great turnout...and such great weather! Special thanks to our Chairs, Mrs. Meghan McHugh, Mr. Richard Robinson, and Mrs. Ginger Shaw!



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Doing a brisk business at the Montgomery Agricultural Fair

Fund Raiser at the Fair – Financial and Community Success

By Sylvia Jones

For the second year, Saint Francis of Assisi was on a mission at the Montgomery County Agricultural Fair, August 14 to 22, selling barbecue pork, chicken fingers, hot dogs, chili and cheese dogs, hamburgers and piles of French Fries to raise funds to support the parish. Close to 200 adults, teens and families volunteered their time to work a shift cooking, cleaning and prepping the tons of food served during the nine days of the fair.

The mission was a financial success with the greatest benefit from the event was the sense of community created by individuals working together to support God's mission. We hope to see



Display thanking the 200 plus Fair volunteers, by name

you, rain or shine, at the corner of Fair. Come hungry! Sycamore and Maple at the 2016

OPT

Parishioner Seminarian's Summer Experience Valuable

Seminarian Daniel Koscinski, a St. Francis parishioner since age 10, spent the summer in residence at St. Joseph's parish, Morganza, MD, St. Mary's County. He characterized his experience as "a wonderful, and fruitful summer assisting at the parish". He worked with the school children, visited the home-bound parishioners and assisted in daily liturgies, weddings, and funerals. He also gave a three part adult education series on the priestly, prophetic, and kingly roles we receive in baptism. He especially appreciated the care and mentorship of the pastor, Father Keith Woods.

Daniel entered St. John Paul II Seminary in 2012, upon graduation from high school. He began to sense a vocation when he was 12 and discerned it seriously when he was 17, through daily adoration and Mass. He was especially influenced by reading the works of St. Augustine. He is in his fourth year at Catholic University of America and is looking forward to moving on to his theological studies next year. Daniel assists at St. Francis



Seminarian Daniel Koscinski at St. Joseph's, Morganza, MD, on the Feast of Corpus Christi

liturgies during his Christmas and Easter breaks.

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Our Lady of Lourdes School Named 2015 National Blue Ribbon School

The celebration started out subtly. The teachers all seemed to be wearing blue, and there were blue designs on the windows of some of the classrooms. A few students wondered why, but got no answers to their queries. No one was revealing the secret. Mr. Long asked several times during our morning assembly, "Are there any other announcements?" and he was told "No, not at this time, Mr. Long."

At 11:00am the official word was released, and the banner was hung from the front of the building, "2015 National Blue Ribbon School." An email went out to parents and alumni, letting them know about the great news.

At noon we told the eighth graders, and they were ecstatic. They jumped right in – tying balloons everywhere, organizing blue leis and moving chairs into place.

Students were kept in the dark until about 12:45 when, joined by



Katie Myers, Olivia Cristillo, Emily Myers, Colby Roth and Brennan Smith had a great Blue Ribbon Day.



Owen Eskenazi was all decked out to celebrate Blue Ribbon Day.

This was a day worth celebrating. Our Lady of Lourdes School faculty and staff have been committed to creating a school that is truly inclusive of all children who seek to attend. They have been committed to providing every child with the challenges, support and encouragement they need to be successful students. Our Lady of Lourdes faculty, staff and students have worked incredibly hard to achieve their goals. Teachers and staff believe that an inclusive and diverse school can be academically rigorous and still support all students who enter those wide-open, blue doors. Teachers and staff believe in their students, and they believe in the value of hard work. Their efforts have proven that inclusive education is not just "as good as" standard education - it is actually better for children, for families and for Catholic education. Congratulations to the teachers, staff, families and students of Our Lady of Lourdes School!

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Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

7500 Pearl Street
Bethesda, MD

Msgr. Edward Filardi,
Pastor

301-654-1287

Patricia Kilroy McGann
Principal

301-654-5376

Father James Meyers, the former Pastor of Lourdes, Mr. Thomas Burnford, the ADW Secretary for Education, Mrs. Mary Weadon, founder and Director of the Little Group Preschool Program for over 30 years and, Mrs. Linda Merkel, former Principal and teacher at Lourdes, excited parents, friends and families, Mrs. McGann announced to the students that the school had been recognized as a 2015 Blue Ribbon School. There were cheers, balloons, and ribbons everywhere! Mr. Burnford, commended the students and teachers for their hard work. He mentioned that only one other private school in Maryland was recognized, and he read a letter of congratulation

from Cardinal Wuerl.

After more wild cheering, Mrs. McGann let the students know that in honor of this momentous occasion, there would be no homework and Wednesday would be a "Free Tag Day". These announcements were met with even more cheers. Finally, the students were dismissed to their classrooms- but not for

class. Instead they were told to pack up their backpacks, and then head outside where they would enjoy a great deejay, cotton candy, popcorn, Rita's Italian Ice, hot dogs on the grill and lots of games. Parents, teachers and students enjoyed a wonderful afternoon outside, and the rain held off till right after dismissal!



The Papal Experience

The children of Our Lady of Lourdes Middle School classes were privileged to be able to see the Pope during his Parade last week. They arrived downtown about four hours before the parade and so had plenty of time to visit monuments and run into lots of

friends. Mr. Long, Ms. Looney, and Mr. Hudak accompanied the children on their trip. Many of our eighth-grade students had an opportunity to shake hands with Pope Francis and kiss his ring. Pope Francis reminded us all of the message of Jesus. We feel privileged

that he visited our area, and that many of us were able to see him.

The pictures include students in Lourdes sixth, seventh, and eighth grades with other students from Lourdes who traveled to see the Pope during the parade.

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Mercy Students Pledge to Walk with Pope Francis

Mercy students made a first day of school pledge to walk with Pope Francis by participating in monthly service projects spotlighting the corporal works of Mercy, challenging St. John the Evangelist to match that pledge. Incorporating the school's "Called by Name" theme initiated by Mercy's new principal, Mrs. Deborah Thomas, students were called by name to place their personalized footprint (a symbol of the pledge) on the Walk with Francis banner. Afterwards, teachers and students with prayer partners met on the school's field where pastor Fr. Bill Byrne gave a special blessing. After taking the pledge and challenging St. John the Evangelist School, students were given footprint cookies, a symbol of the promise.

Mercy Skype Session from Rome

Fr. Bill Byrne, Mercy's new pastor, reached out to Mercy students via a Skype session from Rome following Mercy's opening school Mass. The virtual tour of the Vatican City included a visit to St. Peter's Basilica and prayer time with Fr. Bill.



Our Lady of Mercy Parish
9200 Kentsdale Drive
Potomac, MD

Fr. William Byrne, Pastor
301-365-1415

Our Lady of Mercy School
Ms. Deborah Thomas, Principal
301-365-4477

Gerry Burgess, OPT Editor
301-330-5676

Our Lady of Mercy News
on Page 19

The New and Improved Youth Mass

The new school year is off to a great start and the youth of the parish along with Fr. Bill Byrne has been instrumental in getting the new 5PM Mass on Sunday well on its way. The youth mass was celebrated last year in the chapel where things had gotten a bit cramped as the result good attendance. It was moved to the church in September and now the parish can worship with the youth and enjoy their energy and talent as they sing in the youth choir, lector and participate as Eucharistic ministers. Also, attending the early evening Mass is a great way to spend time with Our Lord as the busy weekend comes to an end.

OPT

A New Way to Serve Some

One thing was very clear about Pope Francis when he visited Catholic Charities, he absorbs energy and radiates great joy when he is with those who are in need. OLOM has been helping SOME to feed the hungry since 1987. Parishioners have been preparing and serving food at SOME on the second Sunday of the month.

This year, another way to serve has been set up. We will be preparing casseroles to deliver to SOME.

On the last Sunday of the month, aluminum casserole pans with the recipe for baked ziti will be placed in the back of the church for volunteer cooks to pick up. They will make the casserole and bring it to the Kennedy Room kitchen before the second Sunday. Drivers will pick up and deliver the food. Now, even more people can be involved in providing for the guests of SOME. May God bless the cooks, drivers, servers and their guests.

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301-924-2284

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

301-929-9672

Parish Editor
New Volunteer Needed
Contact rectory to apply**St. Patrick Youth Welcome the Pope!**

St. Patrick's children and teens welcomed Pope Francis upon his arrival at the Apostolic Nunciature on September 22! Eighteen students from the parochial school, catechetical program, and youth ministry represented the parish at this momentous event. Their excitement was contagious as they joyfully waved their Vatican flags, held up their phones and cameras for photos, and called out "We love you, Pope Francis!" Standing directly across from the Pope with only a short driveway in between, the children of St. Patrick's Parish will surely remember this experience for the rest of their lives.

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**Sharing a "Cup of Joe" With Their Neighbors**

Eight graders at St. Patrick's School recently supported the "Cup of Joe" Program of Catholic Charities. This program brings healthy breakfasts to men and women staying in overnight emergency shelters and transitional shelters operated by Catholic Charities. The students

Continued on page 39

**Prayers for good leadership for our St. Pat's SGA!**

Members of St. Patrick's Student Government Association were formally installed in a ceremony following the school's weekly liturgy on September 16. Fr. William Foley, Pastor, called the members to the altar and blessed them with holy water. The assembled student body prayed together for strong leadership and asked God to guide them in their duties. The following students are pictured along with Fr. Foley: Emma Farren (SGA President); Caroline Maurano (SGA Vice President); Katie Maurano (SGA Secretary); Cora Beswick (SGA Treasurer). The representatives from the middle school homerooms are also included: Ruth Fangmeyer and Courtney Richardson (fifth grade); Theodore Ament and Bobby Mascari (sixth grade); Brian Depman and Azure Onyewu (seventh grade); and T.K. King and Rachel Warren (eighth grade).



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WELCOME PAPA! Students in Kindergarten and the First and Second Grades at St. Patrick's School show their love and support for Pope Francis during his visit to Washington, D.C.



Eighteen students and 3 adults from St. Martin's School and Parish joined Msgr. Brennan on a wonderful opportunity to greet Pope Francis when he arrived at the Papal Nunciature on Tuesday, September 22, 2015. Here the group gathers before boarding a bus to Washington, D.C. for the event. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.

St. Martin's Parish Welcomes Fr. Gabriel Fermin

By Paul Teter, Eighth Grader

In July, we had two new priests come to St. Martin's. One of these priests came to us right after his ordination. He is Father Angel Gabriel Fermin.

Father Gabriel was born in the Dominican Republic on October 26, 1980. His father was an onion farmer, and he taught his son how to work in the fields where he worked most of his childhood. In 1990, at the age of nine, he started to take CCD classes. He fell in love with the faith, and the next year he received First Holy Communion. From that moment forth, he had an attraction to the Church, and he started going to Mass more frequently. He became more involved with his faith by doing things like joining a youth group.

During his teen years, he knew that he had a calling to be a priest and wanted to join the seminary. One reason why Fr. Gabriel wanted to become a priest is because his role model in life, his grandfather, was a permanent deacon. His grandfather was a very generous and kind man, especially to the sick. He felt that this was how he wanted to live. Fr. Gabriel was told that he had to finish high school before going into the seminary. He went through high school, and after finishing, he asked once again if he could go to the seminary. And once again, he was told that he couldn't go. His parents preferred it if he would go to a university. So, he went to the university to study engineering. After finishing university, he worked in a factory. After finding his job unfulfilling, he decided to ask to go to the seminary. Finally, after being so persistent, he was free to go.

We are happy to have him at St. Martin's!

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St. Martin's students enjoy arts and crafts activities at the Family Literary night, which included a dramatic reading of a Winnie the Pooh tale. Photo by Helene Redmond

New Teachers Abound at St. Martin's School

By Caroline Crown, Eighth Grader

This year at St. Martin of Tours School, we have plenty of new teachers. We are giving a warm welcome to Ms. Doherty, the new Science teacher; Ms. Kelly, a new Language Arts instructor; Mrs. Randall, the new fifth grade teacher; and Ms. Ordonez, the new Spanish teacher. The school also has Ms. Jonas and Ms. Thibault, the new counselor and Kindergarten aid.

Since these teachers are brand new to St Martin's, most of us haven't had the chance to learn much about them yet. I've been given the opportunity to interview a few of them with questions such as "When did

you first know you wanted to be a teacher?" or "What is your favorite book?" With any luck, their answers will provide a start on getting to know them a little better.

Most of them had discovered they wanted to teach at an early age, ranging from as early as 4 to as late as 15 years old. Although they are all teachers now, Mrs. Randall says she once wanted to be a video game developer or author as a child.

Our new teachers all agree that their favorite thing about teaching is connecting with the children, helping students learn, and seeing the students grow in knowledge throughout the year. Some of the hobbies they shared with me are

reading, knitting and crafting. They also came up with a long list of the classes which were their favorites as children. These included writing, computer lab, social studies, music, math, and science. This list sounds very much like the classes we have here at St. Martin's. Their favorite books at the moment are Wonder, the Holy Bible, the Nancy Drew books, and the Lord of the Rings trilogy. Many of these teachers are new to having their own class, but Ms. Ordonez has been teaching for 10 years!

So far into the new school year, our new staff are very much enjoying their St. Martin's experiences. We, as a school, are happy and excited to welcome new members of the St Martin's community. **OPT**

Walking with Pope Francis

By various Fourth Graders

- "I will walk with Pope Francis by praying more for the poor, the homeless, and the sick." Alessandra Marino

- "I will try to give some money to the poor to help them and if I don't have any money I will just smile to them." Jessyca Batista

- "I will try to be more responsible and respectful to my elders and my younger family members, and walk with Pope Francis." Thea Javelosa

- "I will be a better person by letting the little kids in my neighborhood and at school play with me!" Henry Garner

- "I will try to be a better student. I will walk with Pope Francis by helping the poor by bringing food to Saint Martin's food pantry." Adrianna Guiffo

- "I will cheer up people when they are sad and help people who are in need. I will bring food to the St. Martin's food pantry to feed the poor." Leanna Torrence

- "I will walk with Pope Francis by following the W.W.J.D. rule [What would Jesus do?] to honor Pope Francis and Jesus Chris every day." John Teter

- "I will be a better person by bringing more food to the pantry and helping my dad and grandma go up the stairs. I will patient with my brother and do the dishes for my parents." Julian Bejarano

- "I will be a better person by helping my parents by washing the dishes and by taking the laundry upstairs." Abigail Lau **OPT**

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Rev. Msgr. Mark E. Brennan
Pastor

301-990-3203

St. Martin School
Andrew Piotrowski, Principal
301-990-2441

Catherine Cooksey, Parish Editor
240-477-8706
www.smsmd.org

St. Raphael Sodality

An active Sodality is one of the numerous ministries available to members of St. Raphael's Parish. The Sodality's Executive Board meets regularly to formulate a broad calendar of programs that foster growth and spirituality and offer a sisterhood. The Board is anxious to extend an invitation to all women of the parish to join in these programs.

Returning events this year will be retreats, guest speakers, and the Sixth Annual Christmas Book Drive for St. Augustine Parish School. The committee chairing the Book Drive hopes to deliver a gift wrapped book to each of over 200 students this Christmas; donations are now being solicited. Other upcoming events include the third annual White Elephant Pot Luck Luncheon, a Communion Breakfast, and a pilgrimage to the Baltimore Cathedral. The work of the Sodality serves the financial and spiritual needs of our parishioners as well as those of our sister parish in the District, St. Martin of Tours.



St. Raphael's Sodality Executive Board (L-R): Seated left to right are Karen Watson, Liz Galvin, Monica Leupold, Rosmarie Buckley, Janet Leonard-Walker, Mary Jane Smith, and Liz Slyne. Standing, from left, are Arlene Davis, Betty Gill, and Louise Cox. Board members not in attendance are Jan Rathgeber, Dianna Gemma, and Anna Derry.

What's Ahead

Sep. 26 - Pot Luck Breakfast with guest speaker Fr. Francisco Aguirre

Oct. 28 - Mini-retreat at Our Lady of Bethesda

Nov. 1 - Formation topic: "Mary" with guest speaker Fr. John Hopkins

Dec. 1 - Mother Teresa Luncheon

Jan. 20 - Pot Luck Lunch with guest speaker Dr. Grace Morrison

Feb. 1 - Formation topic: "The Mass" with guest speaker Fr. Francisco Aguirre

Apr. 4 - Mini-retreat at Our Lady of Bethesda

May 17 - Pot Luck Dinner / Program

May/June - Pilgrimage to Baltimore Cathedral

OPT

St. Raphael School Hits the New Year Running

By Nina Cardillo

Outside it still felt like summer, but inside St. Raphael School, classrooms were prepared, teachers and students were introduced, and lockers were decorated—we were ready to begin the new school year. SRS opened with a school Mass celebrated by our pastor, Fr. Jim Meyers, and was led in song by teachers who filled the choir.

On that first day, we saw excited

faces of children. Some parents looked anxious while others looked relieved, and all of the teachers appeared eager to get to know their students and start their curriculums. There were many smiles as friends reunited. Some families celebrated new life over the summer, and we welcomed new faces to our SRS family while recognizing that, for others, this will be their last year. As we stood together and received blessings, it was clear that we were growing. As reflected by our theme,

"Growing Stronger Together," we began the journey enriched as the SRS family through the similarities and differences of the treasured parts that make us whole.

Classrooms were open, and festivities followed the Mass, including a student scavenger hunt for the seven virtues. Each clue identified a virtue, and at every location, students received a charm to create a bracelet that reminds us to grow in fortitude, charity, justice, prudence, temperance, faith, and hope.

OPT

St. Raphael Parish St. Raphael School

1513 Dunster Road
Rockville, MD

Rev. Jim Meyers, Pastor
301-762-2143

Teri Dwyer, Principal
301-762-2143
tdwyer@straphaels.org

MJ Zafis-Garcia, OPT Editor
301-762-2143
mjgarcia@straphaels.org

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Mike Cronin, chairperson of this year's Fr. Bill Finch Memorial St. Raphael Golf Classic, and his wife, Katie, volunteer coordinator, were key members of the team that organized the sold-out tournament. Photo by MJ Zafis-Garcia/St. Raphael School

Fr. Bill Finch Remembered at St. Raphael Golf Classic

With our pastor, Fr. Jim Meyers, the St. Raphael community remembered Fr. Bill Finch at the annual St. Raphael Golf Classic held

September 14 at Lakewood Country Club. Our community and friends enjoyed a day of golf and fellowship as they paid tribute to the life

Continued on page 39

More St. Raphael News on Page 39

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Do You Know Me?

With this issue of Our Parish Times, Christ the King presents parishioner Noel Augustyn. He and his family have been parishioners at Christ the King since 1987. He has served as a Lector, a member and chairman of the Liturgy Committee, and now as the facilitator for Parish Council meetings and as the English language RCIA catechist.

As the Parish Council facilitator for its meetings, Noel states that its purpose is to provide advice to the Pastor, who is the chairman of the Parish Council and who sets the direction and makes decisions for the parish.

The RCIA sessions are held on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm, which began October 6, and last between 60 and 90 minutes. The materials



Noel and Ann Augustyn.

used are the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Catechism of the United States Bishops Conference, and other readings that are provided.

Noel and his wife Ann have three grown children and two grandchildren, who now reside in San Antonio, Los Angeles and Boston.

OPT

Living Catholic

The Archdiocesan program, Living Catholic, came to Christ the King Saturday August 29. The instructor was Lia Salinas of the ADW Office of Catechesis. This is a foundational program of the Faith and for the New Evangelization, using subject video of Fr. William Byrne. Most

parishioners there, representing all groups within Christ the King Church, were catechists in the parish religious education program for nonCatholic school students (Christ the King does not have a parish school).

The Retreat was a full day (9am-4pm) with lunch provided, as well as the texts used. An option was also provided to the attendees for a follow up online course, paid for and provided by the Archdiocese. The course itself followed the four parts of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. To quote from the program, "if we are Christian, then Christ should be recognizable in us" and that was the key to this program. And it will be coming to other parishes soon.

OPT

Christ the King
2301 Colston Drive
Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Jose Maria Cortes
FSCB Pastor

Katie Holland,
OPT Editor
301-495-4812
kh7@georgetown.edu

More Christ the King News on Page 34

Forty Hours of Adoration at Christ the King

Christ the King began 40 Hours of Adoration on Friday, September 11, with a 7pm Mass in the Church. After that Mass, participants then processed with the Blessed Sacrament into the Chapel of the Religious Education Building. There a special 40 hour period of continuous prayer, Adoration, was made before the Blessed Sacrament in solemn exposition, for the success of the Holy Father's visit to the United States.

The 40 Hour Devotion provided an opportunity for the spiritual growth of the parish as well as for the individual. The priests and Catechists brought the children from the Religious Education program in front of Jesus Exposed on the first day of Catechism classes. As Fr. Ettore noted, "it was moving to see all these children and Catechists following Jesus, which



Parishioners process into the Church with Deacon Guiseppe Cassina, FSCB, holding the monstrance.

is what Catechism is all about". On Sunday September 13, 2015 the period ended with a Solemn Blessing at noon in the main Church. This was held especially in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the founding of our priests' congregation, The Fraternity

of St. Charles Borromeo. On Monday, September 14, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Fr. Ettore, invited all who attended the daily Mass that day to a breakfast in the Rectory!

OPT

Protest Participation at Planned Parenthood



In the center, before the wooden cross, is Joyce Tabb of the Silent No More Awareness Campaign.

On Saturday August 22, parishioners of Christ the King, most noticeable, the Young Adults and young members of our choir, joined many other parishes and concerned community residents at the Silver Spring abortuary of Planned Parenthood on Spring Street off Georgia Avenue at Woodside. Throughout the country, groups and churches coordinated the nationwide protest prompted by the graphic but accurate Planned Parenthood videos produced by Fr Pavone and Priests for Life showing the discussion of harvesting fetal organs for profit.

Groups such as Silent No More Awareness were also present. This particular group is a project of Priests for Life and Anglicans for Life. Leader, Joyce Tabb, spoke on just how *black lives really do matter*, as all the babies of any color do. This facility is the gathering place every Saturday morning from 8am until noon

Continued on page 34

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Fr. Ettore Ferrario, FSCB

Parochial Administrator

Fr. Ettore Ferrario, FSCB, was appointed as the Administrator of Christ the King on August 15, 2015, by the Cardinal Archbishop of Washington, Donald Wuerl. In his message to Fr. Ettore, Cardinal Wuerl wrote, "as I entrust to your pastoral care a portion of God's people, I ask that in your generosity and zeal you love and serve them. I recognize your willingness to accept this new responsibility and have every confidence that you will provide appropriate pastoral leadership at Christ the King Parish. With the prayer that God continue to bless your ministry and efforts on behalf of the Church of Washington and with every personal good wish, I am" (and his signature).

OPT



St. Bernadette's own off-to-see-the-pope-mobile leaves for the Apostolic Nunciature on Embassy Row in Northwest Washington.



The Holy Father smiles at students from the CCSE (Catholic Coalition for Special Education) who ran to hug him as he arrived at the Apostolic Nunciature

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

Clara Callahan, OPT Editor
callahan.clara@gmail.com

St. Bernadette Parish and School Greet Pope Francis

St. Bernadette was grateful to be able to send a contingent of 20 parishioners and school students to the Apostolic Nunciature for the arrival of Pope Francis after his prayer service with the United States Bishops. The parish is especially proud of Jackie Nguyen of the rectory business office who read

the intentions in Vietnamese at the Mass at the National Shrine. Look for her at the ambo when you watch the Mass, again! What a blessed day to have time to reflect and pray about this wonderful time in our history.

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ENZLER

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moment to have gone on and on, I am mostly overflowing with excitement about what did happen and energy about what is to come.

I still feel the excitement of being able to meet Pope Francis personally, to look into the eyes of this man who is the kind of priest I try to be every day. I feel the excitement of introducing him to some of our staff and clients. Inside St. Patrick's Church, he blessed about 250 of our clients from all of our different programs. There were those who were hungry, those with disabilities or suffering from mental illness, those from our Spanish Catholic Center, those with new jobs and a fresh start in their lives, and many more. They were lifted up in a way that is hard to imagine if you were not present.

Then, as we came out the doors of our offices, Pope Francis did what he does best and what he calls the church to do – go out into the streets and be among people. In yet another beautiful moment, he went almost immediately to a group of children near the front. He blessed a lunch that had been prepared for 300 of our homeless clients (wishing them “buon appetito!”) and then spent time in the crowd greeting our staff and clients. I saw a big smile on his face, and some people told me that as tired as he must have been, he looked as animated and relaxed as at any time during his three days in Washington.

As I watched the pope, I was reminded again in the most personal of ways what Jesus did, reaching out and touching those in need and being fully present to all he encountered. I thought of Jesus in the early part of his ministry and how a large crowd gathered at a house in Capernaum when it became known he was there, all wanting to be healed, touched and affected by him. I felt in the presence of one just like Jesus, and it was a true joy to watch Pope Francis touch the heads, hands and hearts of so many of our people.

That includes me. I am a strong believer in hands-on ministry, in being present to all who come our way, and in trying my best to always say “yes.” Pope Francis touched my heart by his “yes” to Catholic Charities and all those who are part of our team – a “yes” that came from one so powerful in position yet so humble in attitude. He filled us with faith, hope and love. He brought us the very gift of Jesus.

I'm on the top of the world. I feel blessed beyond measure that Pope Francis came to our agency and so deeply touched the lives of those who are served by and who serve Catholic Charities. It went by quickly, but just as a wedding is the beginning of a new life, I pray that the pope's visit will be much more than a memorable event. May we all use this historic occasion as an opportunity to grow in holiness and continue our walk with Francis. In so doing, we will surely walk with Jesus and see him ever more clearly in each other.

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Mission and Activities of the Social Justice and Advocacy Committee

By Paul Eder

As the co-foundress of the Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary, St. Jane Frances de Chantal believed deeply in social justice and advocacy. Today, her namesake parish in Bethesda carries on that tradition with a robust social justice and advocacy program. The St. Jane de Chantal Parish Council's Social Justice Committee is responsible for the encouragement, coordination, communication, and oversight of the various charitable efforts of the parish.

St. Jane parish members are

active in supporting a variety of community-wide service and outreach programs, including: Bethesda Help, Bethesda Cares, Shepherd's Table, Pro-Life Group, Gabriel Project Montgomery Hospice, Shady Grove Pregnancy Center, Rosaria Communities, Catholic Charities of Montgomery County, Project Rachel, Birthright, Interfaith Works, BCC Meals on Wheels, Archdiocese of Washington Justice and Advocacy Councils, and So Others Might Eat. In addition, parishioners support internal parish activities such as Ladies of Charity, Msgr. Christopher Fund, and St.

Martin's Cloak. The leadership of the Social Justice Committee presents regularly on social concern activities to the Parish Council, which meets monthly to receive updates.

For information on getting involved as a volunteer or leader of one or more of the social justice concerns at St. Jane's, please contact Joe Gallelli or Paul Eder through the parish office. Your involvement will help us continue St. Jane's more than 400-year-old legacy of giving a hand up to the poor, the weak, the uneducated, and the disadvantaged.

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Parishioners Treated to Special Popemobile Parade Prior

Prior to the open-air Mass that was held on the campus of The Catholic University of America, parishioners from St. Jane de Chantal Parish in attendance were treated along with other attendees to a special surprise Popemobile parade around the seating section. The close proximity of the group to the parade route afforded everyone the opportunity to wave and capture the Pope's attention along with some exciting and memorable cell phone pics, like the one shown here.



Students pose for a group photo outside the Apostolic Nunciature as part of their field trip to greet Pope Francis prior to his departure to the Capitol.

Pope Meeting that Students and Chaperones will Never Forget

The school was a whirl of excitement this week with the visit from Pope Francis to Washington,

DC. The school walked with Francis on Tuesday, parading around wearing paper mitres and waving flags in celebration. Each classroom watched the Pope speak, the parade and his entire day of activities from the smart boards.

The school selected a small number of families with their students in uniform to welcome the Pope outside the Apostolic Nunciature on Thursday. These fortunate students and their families received blessings, hugs and hand-shakes from Pope Francis, a moment these students will never forget!



As broadcasted around the globe by news organizations, students from St. Jane de Chantal School get up close and personal with Pope Francis.

Happenings in Our Blue Ribbon School

Poetry Corner

All De Chantal students were asked to read poetry this past summer and to memorize

one of their favorite poems. This week the eighth-grade students recited their poems during reading classes. The selections included poems by Emily Dickinson, John Masfield, Robert Frost, Walt Whitman, and more, and authors were as varied as Shel Silverstein and Homer. They will continue the study of poetry throughout the school year.

Winning Art Class Projects

Over the summer, two St. Jane de Chantal students, Luke and Matthew Matelis, took projects they had created last year in art class and entered them in a contest at the Montgomery County Fair. Luke won first

Continued on page 30

10th Annual

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

St. Jane de Chantal School
9525 Old Georgetown Rd, Bethesda
 Sponsored by the HSA for the benefit of the school

Saturday, November 14th
9am to 4pm

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Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton
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Susana and Mario Cerritelli, OPT Editors

SISTERS

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St. Francis Xavier, St. Stephen, St. Martin of Tours (Gaithersburg), St. James (Mt. Rainier), St. Jerome (Hyattsville), Little Flower (Great Mills), St. Camillus (Silver Spring), and St. Joseph (Beltsville).

In 1955, SNDs opened Holy Spirit School for children with special needs, which evolved into the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Institute. Adults, too, benefited from GED and job-skill courses offered at the Notre Dame Education Center. In 1978, Sisters at Trinity College launched the Education for Parish Service (EPS) program, which served adult Catholics from parishes across the archdiocese for 33 years.

Starting in Cincinnati

The first group of eight Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur came to this country in 1840 from Belgium, at the invitation of Cincinnati's Bishop John Purcell. He wanted the Sisters' help to build a strong Catholic school system in his young diocese and across the country.

Within a few years, the Ohio Sisters had started 17 Notre Dame schools around Cincinnati, eight in Dayton, five in Columbus, and they were teaching in another dozen schools in the state. As their reputation as Catholic educators spread, the Sisters were soon asked to establish schools in Illinois, Massachusetts and all along the eastern seaboard.

Over the course of the congregation's 175 years in this country, the Sisters have taught in more than 200 schools in 22 states, shaping the lives of millions of students, from pre-school to university and adult education. Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur have also built more than 100 schools including Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont, California; Emmanuel College in Boston, and Trinity College (now Trinity Washington University) in Washington DC.

About the event at Trinity Washington University

A prayer service with music by the St. Camillus multicultural choir will begin at 2 p.m. in Trinity's Notre Dame Chapel on Saturday, October 24th. A reception will follow in the Main Building. The event is free and open to the public. To make a reservation or for more information, please contact Sr. Mary Hayes at 202-884-9246, or e-mail HayesM@TrinityDC.edu.

About the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur

Today, more than 1,300 Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur serve across the US and in Belgium, Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo, France, Great Britain, Haiti, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Peru, South Africa, South Sudan and Zimbabwe.

Throughout the world, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur are committed to education, and they take their stand with those living in poverty, especially women and children in the most abandoned places.

OPT

CARA

Con't from page 2

the special needs of Catholics who have disabilities and their families, and also to learn what else needs to be done.

This unprecedented project has been commissioned and is supported by a small group of organizations that work to include and serve persons with disabilities, including Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC, the National Catholic Partnership on Disability, and Potomac Community Resources, Inc.

"Asking Catholic parishes and dioceses across the United States what they are doing to reach out, include and serve individuals with

developmental differences is a practical way to respond to the call by Pope Francis that we pay attention to people who are marginalized in society. This project will encourage the creation of new ministries and programs that will benefit people with disabilities and their families, and enrich the life of the Church in America. It is a wonderful way to celebrate the Holy Father's historic visit to our country," said Monsignor John J. Enzler, President & CEO of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington and Chairman of Potomac Community Resources, Inc.

The project will be rolled out in three phases: first, a survey will be conducted of a random sample of 5,000 Catholic parishes across the United States; second, a survey will

be sent to disability ministry leaders of all American dioceses; and third, special reports will be produced by CARA that will analyze the findings, identify current practices, and recommend ways to address unmet needs.

The project will take approximately ten months to complete. The National Catholic Partnership on Disability will share the findings with parishes and dioceses across the country and with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, whom they advise on disability-related issues. The findings and recommendations will draw attention to the needs and desires of persons with disabilities and their families and form the basis of new ministries and programs to serve their needs.

OPT

Our Lady of Mercy

Immigration Film and Discussion

The immigration crisis has been on the minds of many people these days and Our Lady of Mercy's Social Justice Committee will sponsor the screening of a film titled "A Bridge Apart", on Tuesday October 20 at 7 PM. It explores the question of why Central American young people flee their homeland to seek security in the United States. Ginger Wolf, the producer of the film will be participating in a question and answer session after the film is shown. There is no charge for admission to the event and refreshments will be provided.

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	Mary Elizabeth (Beth) Blaufuss, President Katy Dunn, Principal Elana Gilmore, Vice Principal Tiffani D. Scurlock, Director of Admissions Coed • Freshman Class Size: 100 • Tuition: \$13,146 • Admissions Information: Tiffani D. Scurlock @ 202-529-0900, x135				

 DeMatha Catholic High School 4313 Madison Street, Hyattsville, MD 20781 Dr. Daniel McMahon, Principal Mr. Tommy Paolucci, Admissions • 240-764-2210 www.dematha.org	Boys Competitive teams in 15 interscholastic sports. Students participate in wide range of athletic activities (Varsity, JV, Freshman, Intramurals) Washington Catholic Athletic Conference	Special Programs • Extensive Honors courses in 33 areas; • Advanced placement courses in 15 areas. • Nationally recognized instrumental and choral music programs. • Extensive creative and practical arts programs.	Open House Sunday, Nov. 1 11:00 a.m.	Entrance Exam: Archdiocesan test results are required	Freshman Application Deadline December 15 Freshman Financial Aid Appl. Deadline December 15	Freshman Notification of Admission Feb. 2016 Registration Deposit Due Mid-March 2016
	Freshman Class Size: 250 • Tuition: \$16,400 • Financial Aid: Admissions Office 240-764-2210					


 Elizabeth Seton High School Sr. Ellen Marie Hagar '74 President Melissa Davey Landini '99 Dean of Admissions 5715 Emerson Street Bladensburg, MD 20710 301-864-4532 www.setonhs.org	Girls Basketball, soccer, volleyball, softball, golf, swimming, crew, cross country, lacrosse, indoor and outdoor track, tennis, field hockey, cheerleading and dance. Washington Catholic Athletic Conference	Pre-Career Programs Engineering & Design Law, Health Science / Pharmacy AP & Honors Courses Scholars Program • Small classes and personal attention • 1:1 MacBook Air devices	Open House Sunday, November 1 11:00 AM–2:00 PM	Entrance Exam Archdiocesan test results required.	Application Deadline December 3 Archdiocesan Financial Aid Application Required	Notification of Admission February 18 Registration Deposit Due Mid March
	Roadrunners Scarlet, Gold, and White					

 Georgetown Preparatory School 10900 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda, MD 20852 www.gprep.org 301-493-1215 Father Scott Pilarz, SJ, President Jeffrey L. Jones, Headmaster Brett Graham '92, Admissions Director	Boys 15 interscholastic sports 20 clubs and organizations Hoyas Blue & Gray	College Placement: Virginia • Yale Notre Dame Georgetown Harvard U.S. Naval Academy Boston College Duke • Princeton Penn • Stanford	Open House Sunday, October 18 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. REGISTER ONLINE	Admissions Process: Please visit www.gprep.org to set up your admissions account. Also, be sure to set up your Hoya-for-a-Day visit.	Application Deadline Jan. 5, 2016 Financial Aid Appl. Deadline Jan. 5, 2016	Notification of Admission Feb. 25, 2016 Registration Deposit Due March 11, 2016
	Tuition: Day: \$33,165 Boarding: \$56,665 • Forming men of competence, conscience, courage & compassion: Men of faith, Men for others since 1789					

 Gonzaga College High School 19 Eye St., NW, Washington, DC 20001 Rev. Stephen W. Planning, S.J., President Mr. Thomas K. Every II, Headmaster Mr. Andrew Battaile, Dean of Admissions 202-336-7101	Boys 7 Freshman, 16 Junior Varsity, and 17 Varsity Sports Washington Catholic Athletic Conference	Special Programs Comprehensive advanced placement, band, choral arts, internet applications, earth systems, science laboratory.	Open House Sunday, November 22 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Entrance Exam Archdiocesan test results are required.	Application Deadline December 10 Financial Aid Appl. Deadline Jan. 11, 2016	Notification of Admission Feb. 25, 2016 Registration Deposit Due March 15, 2016
	Freshman Class Size: 245 • Tuition: \$20,800					

 OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL HIGH SCHOOL A Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School 17301 Old Vic Boulevard, Olney MD 20832 Paul G. Barker Ed. D., President • Thomas Campbell, Principal Kevin Collins, Director of Admissions Admissions@olgchs.org www.olgchs.org	COED Offering a comprehensive college prep curriculum including the IB Program, AP and Honors courses, the STEM Program, and the Ryken Program.	Home of the Falcons Extensive co-curricular activities, 43 sport teams, Performing Arts, Speech & Debate and over 30 cultural and academic clubs. Member of the W.C.A.C.	Open House Sunday, Oct. 18, 2015 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM	Prospective Parent INFORMATION NIGHT Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015 7:00 PM	Freshman Application Deadline Dec. 11, 2015 Freshman Financial Aid Appl. Deadline Dec. 11, 2015	Freshman Notification of Admission Feb. 25, 2016 Freshman Registration Friday, March 11, 2016
	Tuition \$19,550					

 Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School Daniel M. Kerns, Jr., Head of School Mary Kate Blaine, Principal Janet Donnelly Keller, Director of Admissions Tel: 202.337.3350 Fax: 202.342.5733 • www.visi.org 1524 Thirty-fifth Street NW Washington, DC 20007	Girls 9-12 A Catholic High School and Pioneer in Women's Education since 1799 • Small Class Sizes • 100% College Acceptance • Bridge Program at Georgetown University • AP & Honors Courses • ISL Champion Athletics • Lively Performing Arts • Robust Service & Retreat Programs • More Than 50 Clubs	OPEN HOUSE Saturday Oct. 17, 2015 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.	Entrance Exam HSPT (Offered at Visitation Dec. 5, 2015)	Freshman Application Deadline Dec. 4, 2015 Financial Aid Appl. Deadline Jan. 4, 2016	Freshman Notification of Admission Feb. 24, 2016 Registration Deposit Due Mid-March 2016
	Cubs • Gold, White & Green Freshman Class Size: 127 • Tuition: \$27,400 • Financial Aid: Janet Keller @ 202.337.3350 ext. 2241				

 THE HEIGHTS SCHOOL 10400 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac, MD 20854 Alvaro J. de Vicente, Headmaster Richard S. Moss, Director of Admissions 301-765-2093 • admissions@heights.edu www.heights.edu	Boys 3-12 The Heights forms "men fully alive" through a rigorous curriculum implemented with a highly personal approach to education and character.	Challenging liberal arts; innovative science and math; small classes; individual mentorship; 13 varsity sports; extensive extracurriculars; rich sacramental life.	Open House Sunday, October 25 2:00 to 5:30 p.m.	Admissions: Call us any time or visit our website at www.heights.edu/admissions for an overview of our application process.	Admissions Deadline for Full Consideration Jan. 22, 2016 Financial Aid Appl. Deadline Jan. 22, 2016	Notification of Admission Feb. 25, 2016 Registration Deposit Due March 11, 2016
	Cavaliers Red & White Freshman Class Size: 65 • Financial Aid: Phil McGovern (CF0) 301-365-4300					

 Brookewood School Richard B. McPherson President Joseph W. McPherson Headmaster Helen Williams Director of Admissions 10401 Armory Avenue, Kensington, MD 301-949-7997 www.brookewood.org	Girls Grades 1-12 Basketball, Cross Country, Field hockey, Lacrosse, Soccer, Volleyball	Special Programs Small Classes • Personal Attention • Content-Oriented Curriculum • Experiential Learning • Advanced Placement (AP) Courses • Emphasis on Cultural Literacy • Latin • Italian • Advanced Math Program • Music • Art • Actors Guild • Uniform • Interscholastic Sports	Open House Saturday November 14 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Steps to Admission Application Recommendation Transcript Shadow Visit Family Interview	Application Deadline Rolling Admission	Notification of Admission Rolling Admission
	Bengals Blue & White Average Class Size: 13 • Tuition: Grades 1-2 \$7,500 Grades 3-5 \$11,400 Grades 6-8 \$12,650 Grades 9-12 \$13,500 • Financial Aid: Helen Williams 301-949-7997					

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December 12
January 16
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Application Deadlines
Rolling
Financial Aid Appl. Deadline
Feb. 1

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Catholic School House 2020 - Catholic Schools & Parish Times


 CONNELLY SCHOOL OF THE HOLY CHILD 9029 Bradley Boulevard, Potomac, MD 20854 Shannon Gomez, Ed.D. Head of School Patricia Harden Director of Admissions • 301-365-0955 www.holychild.org • admissions@holychild.org	Girls 6 - 12 Field Hockey, Cross Country, Soccer, Tennis, Volleyball, Equestrian, Basketball, Golf, Swimming, Diving, Lacrosse, Softball, Track, Dance Team Independent School League Artificial Turf Field Tigers • Blue & Gold	Special Programs • College Prep Curriculum • Spanish Heritage Program • Online School for Girls • AP & Honors Courses • Fine Arts Opportunities Our student teacher ratio is 8-1	Open Houses Upper School Sunday, November 1 11AM-1PM Middle School Preview Days Online Registration for Middle School Preview Days begins in September. Entrance Examinations: Middle and Upper School SSAT	Application Deadline & Financial Aid Appl. Deadline UPPER SCHOOL December 4 MIDDLE SCHOOL February 1	Notification of Admission: UPPER SCHOOL Feb 19 MIDDLE SCHOOL March 2 Reg. Deposit Due: Mid March
	Tuition: \$29,716 Upper School; \$26,471 Middle School • Financial Aid: Meghan Cross				

 The Academy of the Holy Cross 4920 Strathmore Ave., Kensington, MD 20895 Kathleen Prebble, President Melissa Huey-Burns, Principal Louise Hendon, Admissions 301-942-2100 • www.academyoftheholycross.org	Girls Basketball, cross-country, field hockey, ice hockey, golf, lacrosse, poms/cheer, soccer, softball, volleyball, swimming and diving, tennis, track, crew, equestrian. Washington Catholic Athletic Conference Tartans • Lavender & White	Special Programs IB Diploma Programme AP & Honors Courses 1-to-1 iPad Program Senior Project Internship	Open House Sunday, November 8 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Offered at Holy Cross Dec. 5, 2015)	Entrance Exam HSPT	Application Deadline Dec. 14, 2015 Financial Aid Appl. Deadline Jan. 11, 2016	Notification of Admission February 2016 Registration Deposit Due March 11, 2016
	Freshman Class Size: 130 • Tuition: \$21,575 • Financial Aid: 301-942-2100					


 OAKCREST SCHOOL 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA 22101 Dr. Mary T. Ortiz, Head of School Terri Collins, Director of Admissions Cecilia Marquez, Academic Dean 703-790-5450 • Fax 703-790-5380 Oakcrest.org • admissions@oakcrest.org	6:1 student-teacher ratio 1-to-1 mentoring Vibrant International Program 24 Clubs including Model UN, Sailing, and Jr. State of America Daily Mass	Basketball, Volleyball, Cross Country, Lacrosse, Soccer, Swimming, Softball, Tennis, Track & Field, Conditioning & Weight Training Potomac Valley Athletic Conference	Open House Sunday, October 18, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.	2 Veritas Scholarship Awards Each Year Deadline to apply: February 2, 2016 Bus Transportation available from Maryland and Virginia	Application Deadline Feb. 2, 2016 Tuition Assistance Appl. Deadline Feb. 5, 2016 Testing SSAT HSPT	Faith Academic Excellence Leadership Character Service Middle School & Upper School Show Productions
	An independent school for girls in grades 6-12 • Freshman Class Size: 34 • Tuition: US \$22,875 / MS \$21,800 Moving Fall 2016! 1619 Crowell Road, Vienna, VA					

 Bishop McNamara High School 6800 Marlboro Pike, Forestville, MD 20747 Dr. Marco Clark, President Dr. Robert Van der Waag, Principal Mrs. Patricia Garber, Admissions (ext. 113) Mr. Jeffrey Southworth, Admissions (ext. 102) www.bmhs.org 301-735-8401	Co-ed 20 sports teams Freshmen, Junior Varsity and Varsity In the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference Mustangs Maroon & Gold	Special Programs: Fine Arts Diploma Endorsement Orchestra 5 Choirs & 11 Bands Dance & Theater Arts St. Joseph Program Internships • Concurrent college enrollment • Advanced Placement Courses • Scholarships	Open House Sunday, Nov. 8, 2015 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Entrance Exam High School Placement Test (HSPT) required	Application Deadline Dec. 15, 2015 Financial Aid Appl. Deadline Dec. 15, 2015	Notification of Admission late Feb 2016 Registration Deposit Due March 11, 2016
	Freshman Class Size: 235 • Tuition: \$13,780					

 SAINT JOHN'S CATHOLIC PREP 3989 Buckeystown Pike Buckeystown, MD 21717 301-662-4210 Dr. Thomas Powell, President Marc Minsker, Principal Michael Schultz, Director of Enrollment Management E-mail: mschultz@saintjohnsprep.org	Coed Small class size • College preparatory 100% College Applicant Acceptance Rate Dual Credit, AP, & Honors Classes • Program for students with learning needs • Bus Transportation VIKINGS Green, Gold & White	OPEN HOUSE Sunday, November 8 1:00-3:00PM Founded in 1829	HSPT Entrance Exam Saturday, December 5 8:30AM Registration 9:00AM Testing begins	Application Deadline Rolling Admissions Dec. 14, 2015 Financial Aid & Scholarship Appl. Deadline Dec. 14, 2015	8th Grade Acceptance Day Feb. 19, 2016 Registration Deposit Due March 18, 2016
	Freshman Class Size: 65 • Tuition: \$15,785 • Financial Aid: Michael Schultz @ 301-662-4210 • www.saintjohnsprep.org				

 ST. VINCENT PALLOTTI HIGH SCHOOL 113 St. Mary's Place, Laurel, MD 20707 Mr. Jeff Palumbo, President/Principal Ms. Lindsay Dively, Director of Admissions 301-725-3228 Ext. 2202 www.pallottihs.org	Coed 17 varsity athletic teams; Maryland Athletic Association (MIAA) - Men; Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland (IAAM) - Women 20 Clubs & Organizations	Grades 9-12 College Prep Curriculum Honors & AP Courses 99% College Placement One-to-One Technology Program Visual & Performing Arts Program Learning Center	Open House Sunday, Nov. 8 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. 515 Students	Visit the web site for 2016-2017 application! 18:1 Teacher Student Ratio	Admissions Application Deadline Dec. 11, 2015 Financial Aid Application Deadline Jan. 3, 2016
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 ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL Mr. Jeffrey W. Mancabelli, President Bro. Michael Andrejko, FSC, Principal Mrs. Susan Hinton, Director of Admissions 202-363-2316 • www.stjohnschs.org 2607 Military Road, NW, Chevy Chase, DC 20015	Coed Coed: ice hockey, crew, cross country, golf, equestrian team, rifle team, swimming, track; Female: basketball, field hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, tennis, volleyball; Male: baseball, basketball, football, lacrosse, soccer, tennis, wrestling, rugby. WCAC Cadets Scarlet & Grey Tuition: \$17,850	Special Programs • De La Salle Scholars Program • Benilde Program • 1:1 Technology Program (iPads) • Corps of Cadets Leadership Program (optional) • Nationally Recognized Band & Choral Programs • Outstanding Theater Program & Two New Fine Arts Studios	Open House Sunday, Oct. 25, 2015 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.	Entrance Exam Archdiocesan test results are required.	Application Deadline Dec. 11, 2015 Financial Aid Appl. Deadline Feb. 1, 2016	Notification of Admission Feb. 25, 2016 Registration Deposit Due March 12, 2016
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 Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart Catherine Ronan Karrels '86, Head of School 9101 Rockville Pike • Bethesda, MD 20814 301-657-4322 www.stoneridgeschool.org	Girls PS-12 (Coed PS-K) Basketball, cross country, field hockey, equestrian, golf, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, squash, tennis, swimming/diving, track & field and volleyball The Gators Blue & Gold	Special Programs Honors/AP Courses 1:1 Laptop Social Action Student Exchange Stem Certificate	Open House High School Sunday, Oct. 18 12:00 - 2:30 pm All School Nov. 11, Dec. 9, Jan. 7 8:45 am	Required Entrance Exam: SSAT Register at www.ssat.org (School Code: 7494) Application Deadline Dec. 4, 2015	Financial Aid Deadline Jan. 15, 2016	Notification of Admission Late February Registration Deposit Due Early March
	Freshman Class Size: 85 • Tuition: \$30,900 • Financial Aid Available					

 the Avalon School Richard B. McPherson President Kevin J. Davern Headmaster 200 W. Diamond Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD 20877 301-963-8022 www.avalonschools.org	Boys Grades K-12 Soccer, Football, Basketball, Baseball Black Knights Black & Gold	SPECIAL PROGRAMS Small Classes • Personal Attention • Content-Oriented Curriculum • Advanced Placement (AP) Courses • Latin • Spanish • Advanced Mathematics Program • Full Religion Program • Actors Guild • Poetry • Journalism • Dress Code • Transportation • Interscholastic Sports • Co-ed Kindergarten	Open House Saturday, November 7 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Steps to Admission: • Application • Shadow Visit • Teacher Recommendation • Transcript • Family Interview	Application Deadline Rolling Admission Notification of Admission Rolling Admission
	Avg. Class Size: 15 • Academic Half-Day Kindergarten \$3,750; Lower School Gr. K-2 *full day kindergarten \$7,500 Gr. 3-5 \$12,750; Middle School \$14,250; Upper School \$15,000				

OPEN HOUSE
Sunday
Nov 1
11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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Maroon & Grey
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 dline:
Feb. 25, 2016

Registration
 Deposit Due
March 15, 2016

le • \$26,000 Upper
 al Aid:
 @ 202-281-1656



Rev. Dr. Raymond Fecteau, Our Lady of Visitation Parish, pictured with Mary of Nazareth candidates to receive First Communion and Confirmation in 2016.

Opening Mass: Love, Listen, Laugh & Learn

The Mary of Nazareth community began its 2015-16 academic year with a message to love, listen, laugh and learn as it celebrated the School's Opening Mass on the Nativity of our Patroness, the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mass was attended by Mary of Nazareth students, parents and faculty, and was celebrated by

Rev. Dr. Raymond Fecteau of Our Lady of the Visitation Parish.

In his Homily, Fr. Ray urged students and teachers to be mindful of the important role of Mary not only as the Mother of Christ, but also as His teacher. Fr. Ray called on teachers to follow Mary's example in showing love to their students, listening with compas-

sion, and being joyful each school day. Students were reminded that they too must walk in the footsteps of Christ at school: learning and growing one day at a time. This school year, students and teachers at Mary of Nazareth have implemented love, listening and laughter as key elements to learning and growing in Christ. **OPT**

Open House

Mary of Nazareth School will host an open house on the following days:

- Wednesday, November 4, 2015 from 9 - 11 AM
- Sunday, January 24, 2016 from 1 - 3 PM

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, and follow us on Facebook & Twitter. To schedule a tour of our school, please contact Mrs. Maryellen Weir at mweir@maryofnazareth.org. We look forward to seeing you!

OPT

MoN Pledges to Pray, Serve, and Act

Every Sunday night, my parents and I will pray the Rosary and dedicate it to Pope Francis. (Fiona O'Connell, Grade 6)

I will pray an Angel of God for Pope Francis every day for a month. I pledge to donate my old toys to the poor. I can help make breakfast for my father in the mornings until Christmas. (Brendan Pauline, Grade 6)

I pledge to pray for the guidance of world leaders and the end of all crises around the world. (Luke Schlamm, Grade 7)

I pledge to pray every night for souls in purgatory so that they may reach Heaven. (Ileana Plummer,

Grade 7)

I pledge to sit with someone who is alone at lunch. (Joshua Gonsalves, Grade 8)

I pledge to donate all of my clothes that don't fit me anymore to charity. (Riley Keller, Grade 8)

I pledge to answer the Holy Father's call to do more to protect the environment, by taking actions to save energy and reduce waste, at home and at school. (Mr. Michael Haskell, Reading Specialist)

I pledge to serve the community by accompanying the 8th Grade when they visit the food pantry. (Mr. Michael Friel, Principal)

OPT

Nature Trail and Outdoor Classroom Renewal

Mary of Nazareth alumnus Kevin McGinnity worked diligently this August to renew the School's nature trail and outdoor classroom. The trail was originally completed by McGinnity's brother, Brendan, in 2008, and had since become heavily damaged. "Before the renewal, the trail was overgrown and difficult to follow," says McGinnity, adding that, "the project took many hours of preparation and actual work." He stated that he personally dedicated twenty-five hours to the nature trail renewal, a project he was inspired to undertake in an effort to give back to the community that, "gave me a great education". In total, the Project took approximately one-hundred and thirty hours to complete among a team of twenty Scouts. Since completion of McGinnity's Eagle Scout Project, the trail has a visible



Eagle Scout Project Leader Kevin McGinnity

entrance and exit, the bridge has been fully repaired, and all debris has been cleared from the trail's main pathway.

The nature trail and outdoor classroom have already been used this school year on numerous occasions for meditation, Spanish class, and other instructional activities. McGinnity, who graduated from Mary of Nazareth in 2011, has been a Scout since childhood. He adds that scouting is an important part of his family life, commenting, "My father was an Eagle Scout, as well as my brother. Hopefully my brother and I pass it down to our kids." In the future, McGinnity plans to continue serving his community with hopes of becoming a Police Officer. A member of Mother Seton Parish in Germantown, McGinnity recently graduated from St. John's College High School, and is currently studying Criminal Justice at Stevenson University. The Mary of Nazareth community would like to thank Kevin for his hard work and dedication in restoring such a valuable part of our campus – we applaud you! **OPT**



Sixth-grade students Claire Beucher, KC Soewandi, and Mackenzie Saum complete a scavenger hunt in the outdoor classroom during Spanish class.

Social Media Campaign Kickoff

Mary of Nazareth Catholic School is excited to announce we have launched an official social media campaign this Fall. We invite parishioners to join the MoN community online by Liking us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/MONcatholicSchool and Following us on Twitter @MoNCatholic_Sch. **OPT**

Mary of Nazareth Roman Catholic School
14131 Seneca Road, Darnestown, Maryland 20874

Principal: Mr. Michael J. Friel

Assistant Principal:
Mrs. Rosemary Adams
301-869-0940 (tel)
301-869-0942 (fax)

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

Website:

www.maryofnazareth.org

Affiliated with the following parishes:
Mother Seton, Germantown; St. John Neumann, Gaithersburg; St. Mary's Shrine, Barnesville; St. Rose of Lima, Gaithersburg; St. Paul, Damascus; Our Lady of the Presentation, Poolesville; Our Lady of the Visitation, Darnestown.

MoN Students Welcome Pope Francis at the Apostolic Nunciature

Mary of Nazareth Catholic School welcomed His Holiness, Pope Francis, with joy this September during his visit to the United States. Ten Mary of Nazareth students had the privilege of traveling to greet the Holy Father on September 24 at the Apostolic Nunciature in Washington, DC. The students, along with children from other parishes and schools in the Archdiocese of Washington, lined up outside the residence and waited for their opportunity to see Pope Francis up close, shake his hand, take his picture, or even receive a blessing from the Holy Father. "It's something I'll never forget," said seventh grader Kylie



Mary of Nazareth fourth-grade students welcome Pope Francis in his native language with a bilingual song. View the video on Twitter @MoNCatholic_Sch.

Ly. Sixth-grader Andrew Schaefer added, "I just felt really blessed." Our fourth-grade class played

a special role in welcoming Pope Francis as they sang him a bilingual welcome song set to the

tune of Mary of Nazareth's Alma Mater. The song, composed by

Continued on page 35

St. Bartholomew Parish Sponsors Stephen Ministry Workshop

By Sylvia Shaffer

Fr. Mark Knestout, Pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish, is hosting an introductory workshop for local parishes and congregations who want to learn more about the Stephen Ministry and how they can become involved.

The workshop will be held at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church, 6900 River Rd., Bethesda, on Saturday, October 31, from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Check-in begins at 8:30am.

The cost of the workshop is \$15 per person or \$50 for a group of four or more from the same congregation. For more information, or to register to attend the workshop, contact Stephen Ministries at 314-428-2600. You can also register online at www.stephenministry.org/workshop.

The 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.

"The needs for care in our congregation and community were much more than our pastor could handle alone," says Deacon Julio Blanco-Eccleston, who oversees St. Bartholomew's Stephen Ministry.



Deacon Julio Blanco-Eccleston (right) plans Stephen Ministry workshop with parishioners Sylvia Shaffer and Charles Pucie. Photo by Sylvia Shaffer

"So we established this ministry of love and compassion at St. Bartholomew's and began training carefully selected parishioners to provide individual, quality Christian care."

Over the past three years, some 30 members of St. Bartholomew's have undertaken 50 hours of training and been commissioned as Stephen ministers. Another three recently began training.

The half-day workshop at St. Bartholomew's consists of three sessions: "Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief;" an introduction to the Stephen Series system of lay caring ministry; and "How to Care in a Distinctively Christian Way."

Fr. Knestout sent invitations to pastors of approximately 1500 Christian parishes and congregations in the Washington area in

early September. A special emphasis for the workshop, however, is to increase Catholic participation in this special ministry—now largely found in Protestant congregations, although it is in about 1000 Catholic parishes. In the Washington archdiocese, Catholic parishes with Stephen ministries include St. Bartholomew, St. Rose of Lima, St. John the Baptist, and St. Andrew Apostle.

"Fr. Knestout and I encourage congregations of all Christian denominations to attend," says Deacon Julio. "Participants will go home an excellent understanding of how they can organize the members of their parish or congregation for a caring ministry through the Stephen Series."

OPT



St. Bart's Youth Rock Band entertains at St. Bart's Family Mass and Picnic on September 12. Photo by Amy Boccella.

St. Bart School Year Off to a Rocking Start!

By Amy Boccella Smith

The St. Bart's Back to School Family Mass and Picnic was held September 12 at 5:00p.m. and was a wonderful parish wide event! Father Tim celebrated Mass, and prayed for a blessed, meaningful and successful year for all. The Junior Rock Band once again led the congregation in song, prompting churchgoers to not only sing along, but stand and clap to the beat as well!

Over 300 were present to celebrate the Eucharist together. Afterwards, the

weather cooperated and everyone feasted on pulled chicken, hot dogs, and a wide variety of side dishes and desserts which were donated 'potluck' style by attendees. Coach Jeremy was on hand in the gym to entertain any interested children and there were even henna tattoos offered by Diana Carter, a talented volunteer and school mom. We look forward to this being a very special annual event and hope to see everyone there in September 2016!

Also, if you or your child/children are interested in participating in the Junior Rock

Band, please call the school office (301) 229-5586 and let us know- we would love to have you!

OPT

St. Bartholomew Parish

6900 River Road
Bethesda, MD 20816

Rev. Mark Knestout
Pastor

301-229-7933

St. Bartholomew School
Stephen Lamont, Principal
301-229-5586

Frank Maguire, OPT Editor

202-512-8226

Saint Bartholomew School Pre-K to 8th Grade

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www.stbartholomew.org

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2015

2:00-4:00 P.M.

*Presentation by Head of School: 2:45 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS - ALL ARE INVITED!

Middle School Presents: *Pocahontas*

November 13-14, 2015

Book by Vera Morris, Music and Lyrics by Scott Deturk, Produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc., Englewood, Colorado

Parent Enrichment Committee presents

Reflection & Discussion: *Compass: A Handbook on Parent Leadership* by Jim Stenson, Saturday, November 21, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

Find out more at Oakcrest.org



703-790-5450 | Moving Fall 2016 to 1619 Crowell Road, Vienna, VA

Actress Judith Light Educates Seniors on Seriousness of Flu

Survey Shows Many Seniors Underestimate the Seriousness of the Flu

Two-time Emmy and Tony award-winning actress Judith Light and the National Council on Aging (NCOA) are teaming up for the second year on the national educational initiative **Flu + You** to educate older adults and those who care for them about the seriousness of influenza ("the flu"), the importance of prevention and available vaccine options.

Light, who will co-star in the Broadway play "Thérèse Raquin" which opens October 29 at Studio 54, is appearing this fall in a new public service announcement in support of the campaign.

See the clip at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=pXvMI_U3z30&feature=youtu.be

Influenza is a contagious illness that can be severe and life-threatening, especially for older adults. One reason that flu can be severe for seniors is the immune system weakens with age, which makes it harder to fight disease. The flu can also make existing health problems worse and is especially dangerous for people with chronic health conditions, like heart disease and diabetes, which often affect older adults. People with these conditions are more likely to develop complications from the flu that can result in hospitalization and even death.

The flu hits older adults the hardest, yet the **Flu + You** survey found that many seniors underestimate the seriousness of the flu and are largely unaware of their vaccine



Judith Light

options. "I turned 65 last year, and even though I still feel healthy and active, I know people my age are more susceptible to the flu and its complications," said Light. "If you're 65 or older like me, talk to your health care provider about your flu vaccine options, and get vaccinated early before it's too late."

This year, **Flu + You** will also unveil results from a survey conducted to highlight flu awareness among people aged 65 years and older. The survey, fielded before the start of this flu season, included more than 1,000 Americans 65 years of age and older and found:

- Only 13 percent of seniors are extremely confident in their knowledge of possible flu complications.
- About one third are unaware that someone with chronic health conditions, like heart disease or diabetes, would be at risk for complications from the flu.

- More than half (57 percent) are unaware there is a flu shot specifically for their age group.

- Most seniors (88 percent) take a proactive approach to their health; however, about as many are not confident in their knowledge of the flu and where to get flu information.

"Adults 65 and over typically account for roughly half of flu-related hospitalizations and almost all flu-related deaths, so the low awareness among seniors about the seriousness of the flu is concerning," said Kathleen Cameron, MPH, Senior Director, National Council on Aging. "In our survey, 82 percent of seniors said they are not extremely confident in where to find information about the flu—and that is what we are here for, to provide the further education and resources needed when it comes to the flu."

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the single best way to prevent the flu is to get an annual vaccination, which is recommended for everyone age six months and older, with rare exception. Older adults have flu vaccine options, including the regular flu shot and a higher-dose vaccine developed specifically to address the age-related weakening of the immune system. Flu vaccination is a Medicare benefit with no co-pay. Both options are widely available at a doctor's office or local pharmacy.

OPT

Senior SmarTrip Card

The bright yellow Senior SmarTrip card for citizens age 65 and older – available at most libraries – enables seniors to get the discounted fare on Metrobus and Metrorail. A SmarTrip card is easy to use and faster than a farecard. Just touch it to the target on a faregate or farebox. Reduced fare will automatically be deducted. SmarTrip eliminates the need to carry cash, coins, and transfers. You don't lose the value of a registered SmarTrip card if the card is lost or damaged. For a \$2 replacement fee, you'll get a new card with the value of the lost card at the time you notify Metro.

To purchase the card, seniors need to show a valid government issued photo ID with proof of age at Metro sales offices, commuter stores, and some public libraries located in Montgomery County. The Senior SmarTrip card costs \$2. The \$2 fee for the Senior SmarTrip card is the cost of the card. This card has no monetary value. To add value, you must load value using a blue Passes/Farecards machine at any Metrorail station or a bus farebox that accepts SmarTrip.

- I am 65 years of age. How do I get reduced fares on Metro?

A valid driver's license, non-driver's ID, or passport must be shown to purchase the \$2 Senior SmarTrip card, which can be used for both Metrobus and Metrorail.

- What's the advantage of using a Senior SmarTrip Card?

With a registered SmarTrip



card, there are no more worries about demagnetized and damaged paper cards or lost cards. A lost or stolen Senior SmarTrip card can be replaced with its remaining Metro value at the time it was reported lost or stolen for a \$2 replacement fee. Call 1-888-SMARTRIP (1-888-762-7874) to report a lost or stolen card.

- Can I purchase the new Senior SmarTrip card online?

No, you must appear in person to present valid identification verifying that you are age 65 or older.

- Where can I buy a Senior SmarTrip card?

Reduced fare SmarTrip cards for senior citizens are not sold in vending machines located in Metro stations nor are parking fees reduced. Senior SmarTrip cards are available for \$2 at Metro sales offices, regional commuter stores and public libraries located in Montgomery County. If you'd like further assistance to find out where you can buy a Senior SmarTrip card at a location near you, see Metro Sales Locations or call the SmarTrip Regional Customer Service Center at 1-888-762-7874.

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CAB DRIVERS

Con't from page 3

J&A advocacy efforts on behalf of the drivers included inviting five cabdrivers and a Union Representative to a meeting to tell us about their working conditions and what needed changed in order to earn a fair wage. We agreed to support their efforts. As evidence of our support, Cathy Couch, Co-Chair of our J&A attended the public hearing at the Council Building in March and demonstrated support of the Cab Driver's Bill of Rights.

As a result of the work of the cab drivers, the Union and advocacy groups including the Justice and Advocacy Council, the County Council amended the laws (Mont. Co. Code §53-14 and 54-14) governing taxi service in the County.

The new provisions of the laws will generate revenue for increased services to the handicapped, seniors and low income riders by surcharges on trips by Uber and Lift and will limit to a single year the term of agreements between drivers and cab companies. It will also bar automatic renewal of those agreements, require cab owners to use a standardized lease developed by the County, require mediation of disputes, and direct the County to set maximum rates for leases and other charges to drivers, so that, in the words of the law, owners will receive a fair and reasonable return on their investment while providing drivers an opportunity to earn a fair and reasonable income. The law encourages the development of a driver-owned cooperative, and earmarks 50 new licenses to the co-op. These changes promise to give drivers a fair return from their fares. The J&A is pleased to have had a role in bringing about these changes.

OPT

HEAVEN

Con't from page 5

fied as their middle school religion teacher, Emily Syski Schwerdt, who had brought them closer to their faith and by her example they had remained active, practicing Catholics. Fr. Plummer challenged the HR faculty to be that teacher that makes that impact on his or her students.

After his initial talk, the faculty and staff worked in groups to discuss the different themes of the retreat, as well as setting goals for the coming school year. The goals were meant to cover all four main areas of our lives: spiritual, human, intellectual, and professional.

In his closing talk, Fr. Plummer said that the most important thing about prayer is just showing up. He quoted Pope Francis, "If we're not praying to God, we're praying to Satan."

The retreat closed with Mass for the faculty and staff in the Holy Redeemer Chapel, followed by lunch in the Herb Young Auditorium, which was an excellent ending to a productive in-service week in preparation of the new school year.

OPT

Senior Housing and Aging in Place Resource Fair

Tuesday, October 27
11 AM to 3 PM
Holiday Park Senior Center
3950 Ferrara Drive, Silver Spring

Come find all the information you need to decide whether to stay at your current home or to downsize to your next one. FREE admission to visit exhibits, hear speakers, and enjoy refreshments, prizes and giveaways.

Sponsored by Montgomery County, Holiday Park Senior Center and the Montgomery County Department of Recreation.

OPT

CarFit event on November 4...limited spaces...sign up today!

Wednesday, Nov. 4 from 10am-2pm
Margaret Schweinhaut Senior Center
1000 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring

CarFit is a free, interactive and educational program that teaches participants how to make their personal vehicle "fit" them to increase safety and mobility when they hit the road. As part of this program specially trained CarFit technicians will review 12 key areas of your fit to your car, including adequate space from the steering wheel, proper seat belt use, and properly adjusted head restraints, and you'll learn how to use and adjust your safety devices.

Each checkup takes about 20 minutes. This is not a driving test



or mechanical inspection.

Check up sessions are available by appointment ONLY. Spaces are limited so call TODAY to reserve your spot: 240-777-8085.

If you're interested in training as a CarFit technician to help with this and other CarFit events in the area, we need YOU! Contact mary.murphy@seniorconnection.org or call 301-962-0820 for details about the

November 2 technician training.

CarFit is an educational program developed by AAA, AARP and the American Occupational Therapy Association. This event is sponsored by the Senior Connection, the Montgomery County Department of Recreation, the Mid-Atlantic Foundation for Safety and Education, and Olney Home for Life.

OPT

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

Raphael House
Rockville • 301-217-9116



www.VictoryHousing.org





Service Learning: Farmer Dean, Madeleine Malone (from SJB), Annie Burgess, Grace Droege, Libby Burgess, Jeanne Marie Hathway, and Jude Hathway cleaning out a garden and preparing it for planting. They also picked up trash at this school.

SJE Teens Learn from Others How to Walk the Walk

Grace Droege, Libby and Annie Burgess, and Jeanne Marie and Jude Hathway began their "Walk with Francis" in August with a 5-day service trip. The SJE teens participated in the Romero Center's Urban Challenge, a service-learning program that immerses high-school students in the lives of the people of Camden, New Jersey. As Jeanne Marie explains, "The Romero Center offers a phenomenal blend of service and learning about catholic social teaching, the lens through

which Pope Francis approaches his teachings. It was an incredible opportunity to learn the true meaning of core catholic values like care for God's creation and preferential option for the poor through service and completely changed the way I understand the political and social implications of my faith."

Service activities included staining a classroom floor, moving school furniture, cleaning a house, playing with children at a summer camp, and sprucing up community and school gardens around Camden. According to Annie, "The service we did was strenuous at the time, but at the end of the day it was amazing to step back and see how much it helped the community." Libby recalls how her initial discomfort was lessened through engaging with those she met: "I had heard stories about how scary and dangerous the city is, but I had never expected to meet so many hardworking and dedicated people." She was impressed that the camp leaders taught the children "to use their gifts and talents to make their hometown better."

Continued on page 36

St. John the Evangelist Parish

10103 Georgia Ave.
Silver Spring, MD
301-681-7663

Rev. Joseph Calis
Pastor

St. John the Evangelist School
Mrs. Margaret Durney,
Principal
301-681-7656

Monica M. Bradford, OPT Editor
bradford2@comcast.net

More St. John the Evangelist News on Page 36

St. John the Evangelist



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Thursday, Nov. 5 and Jan. 14

8:30–11:30 am

Sunday, Feb. 7

10:30 am–1:30 pm



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St. John the Evangelist

10201 Woodland Drive • Silver Spring, MD

301.681.7656 www.sjte.org

Witnessing Joy & Compassion Reflections on Seeing Pope Francis

Many of our St. John's community were present at the various events during the Pope's visit to DC, witnessing joy and compassion at every stop. Here are some of their reflections.

The White House

Parishioner Phil Droege, a White House employee, was able to take his wife Kate and daughter Lucy along to the official Head of State ceremony on Wednesday, September 23. Lucy, a sixth grader at SJE school, observed: "All the people were very anxious to see the Pope. It was a beautiful day at the White House and even though I could barely see the Pope from my Dad's shoulders, it was an amazing experience." Phil added: "I have been to many events at the White House but this one was very special. The mood of anticipation and quiet stillness from the crowd was palpable."

Basilica Mass

Several teachers, religious, and SJE families attended the Mass at the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Wednesday, where our very own Father Joseph Calis was among the con-celebrants and Deacon Jeeves distributed communion. Marge Gillis reflected: "What a surprise to receive a call from Fr. Calis informing me I had won a ticket to the Pope's Mass! The entire day was a joyous experience surrounded by 25,000 people who shared a common bond of Faith. I will always treasure the memory of being present at this event. What a blessing it was to be in attendance!"

Historic Address to Congress

Chris Langley, another of our parishioners, is a Senior Broadcast Technician for the U.S. Senate Recording Studio. He and his wife Tina were at the Capitol



Eddie Sloan, a first-grade student in our school's Inclusion Program greets Pope Francis.

when Pope Francis spoke to the Joint Session of Congress. Tina found her Catholic faith reaffirmed by Pope Francis's visit and said: "His address to Congress instilled a calmness and sense of peace over me. I connected with his thoughts on living the Golden Rule, a path I've truly tried to follow my entire life and to pass on to my children."

Lunch with the Homeless

Two of our SJE parishioners, Mary and Kevin Carey, were honored to volunteer at the luncheon sponsored by Catholic Charities. Kevin said that the crowd was buzzing prior to the Pope's arrival and when he gave a very simple blessing, Buon Appetito, the crowd cheered. One man told them how his heart was racing and beating out of his chest after shaking Pope Francis's hand and that a calm feeling of joy would carry him through the day. Mary and Kevin felt humbled and blessed. "Just seeing him and being so close to him is an awe inspiring moment and one that we will not soon forget."

Maggie Kane, a parishioner and employee of Catholic

Charities, said: "I talked with several of our guests from the homeless shelters before the event and again as they left. Several were stunned to hear there were only going to be about 300 guests and that they were the guests. More than one said they were going to ask the pope to pray for them. It was a grace to witness joy and awe that many expressed as they left the event. Many held up a hand saying: 'He shook my hand!' and 'I never thought something like this would happen to me!' and 'He filled me up with his blessing.' One guy was grinning and speechless so he gave me a big hug. It was truly a wonderful day!"

Hola Papa!

Twelve St. John the Evangelist School and six CCD students were lucky enough to greet Pope Francis on Thursday, September 24, at noon outside the Apostolic Nunciature (Vatican Embassy). The Pope's arrival in his sporty black Fiat was greeted with squeals, gasps, shouting, singing and shouts of "Ole, Ole!" and "Hola Papa!" from the children. They were doubly blessed when the Pope reached out his hands and touched them or shook hands with them as he walked down the line. The kids were scrambling to catch photos and videos. Eighth-grader Alice Droege said: "When I first saw the Pope my breath was literally taken away and I had no words. I wouldn't trade this experience for anything!"

In the Classroom

Many of our classes watched the live stream of the Pope's activities. In the words of school Principal, Peggy Durney: "How fortunate we are that our children can witness these historic events and, more importantly, witness the joyful celebration of our Catholic heritage!"

OPT



Heading to the Canonization Mass: SJE parishioners gather with Fr. Calis at the Forest Glen Metro before heading to the Basilica on Wednesday.



Archbishop Presides at Installation Mass

Washington Archbishop Donald Wuerl (second from right) presides at the installation mass Sept. 20 for new Resurrection Church pastor, Father Jeff Defayette (right), which was attended by a standing-room-only crowd. Also participating in the mass were the parish's Monsignor Francis Kazista, Father William Brailsford, Deacons David Suley and Chuck Bieberich, and the Resurrection Choir led by Annick Kanter-Saint Hubert. The mass also recognized the contributions to parish life of the Parish Council and financial advisers, staff workers, and volunteers and activists throughout the 4,000-member congregation. Father Defayette became the parish's fifth pastor since its founding in 1981. Photo by John Small

Youth See God's Beauty, Learn to Serve on Alaskan Trip

By Lisa McDonough Peacock

"Nature is filled with words of love, but how can we listen to them amid constant noise, interminable and nerve-racking distractions, or the cult of appearances?"
— Papal Encyclical "Laudato Si"

The idea to take a group of young people on a mission to Alaska to both explore God's beauty in nature and to serve the needy in an area so drastically different from suburban Washington was a dream that became a reality this summer for Deacon David Suley.

Deacon David is 'on loan' to the Church of the Resurrection in Burtonsville from the Archdiocese of Anchorage. The organization of a mission trip began nearly a year ago. A team of parents, youth, Parish Director of Religious Formation Helene Stever and Deacon David planned the trip and raised money to make it a reality.



Members of the Resurrection mission trip gather with new friends from St. Patrick's Parish in Anchorage during a stop on the Seward Highway between Seward to Anchorage. — Photo by Lisa Peacock

In July, eight young people and four adult chaperones joined Deacon David on "Mission 2015/ Rugged and Remote Alaska: The Last Frontier of Catholicism." The

participants in the mission trip were Deacon David, Tess Maltagliati, Travis Armbruster, Cooper Quinn, Joseph Peacock, Joey Gruber, Michael Katski, Kelly Krizmanich,

Continued on page 31

Parish Welcomes All to Annual Winterfest December 4-5

Santa's elves are very busy these days at Resurrection Church, preparing for the parish's 16th annual Winterfest & Craft Show, which is set for the Dec. 4-5 weekend.

The major attractions of the two-day event will be an array of items from about 80 crafters and vendors on the East Coast, tasty homemade baked goods for the holidays, the Big Raffle featuring cash prizes, White House ornaments (with President Calvin Coolidge), the popular Silent Auction and a Secret Santa Shop for children.

The parish's major fundraiser will run from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, Dec. 4, and from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, in the Amadeo Room and the Parish Life Center. All are welcome to attend.

Last year's event attracted more than 1,600 shoppers, diners and holiday revelers, while raising about \$45,000 to help pay the mortgage on the Parish Life Center and \$5,000 for other parish organizations.

"We look forward to Winterfest every year, as it is a wonderful community-building activity," says Phyllis Bottegal, chairperson of the event. "The best thing is that it helps to meet the needs of the parish and each other. It gives everyone a beautiful Christmas spirit."

In addition to the Big Raffle cash

prizes there will be separate auction for a super queen-size bed quilt hand-made by the parish's hard-working "Quilting Bees."

Among the crafters will be a number of Resurrection parishioners, selling handmade baskets and artwork, lightweight jackets and hand-made purses. Other items on sale from the crafters will be hand-made jewelry, candles, Brazilian lace articles, hand-crocheted items, hand-sewn totes, table runners and placemats, and floral arrangements, Bottegal says.

There also will be a special table of handmade articles to benefit Resurrection's sister parish in Haiti. And all kinds of food will be served both days from the renowned chefs of the Knights of Columbus,

Continued on page 31

Church of the Resurrection Parish

3315 Greencastle Road
Burtonsville, MD

Fr. Jeffery Defayette
Pastor

301-236-5200

Parish Editor
John Small

johnny1944@hotmail.com
301-318-4247



60 Resurrection Members Attend Papal Mass

Sixty members of Resurrection Church were among the 25,000 worshippers who attended the Canonization Mass of Blessed Junipero Serra presided over by Pope Francis on Sept. 23. Prior to the mass, some of the Resurrection members gathered under the dome and spire of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at the Catholic University of America, where the outdoor mass was held. Pastor Jeff Defayette (front row) was one of the 1,000 concelebrants at the mass. The rapturous crowd loudly cheered the pope as he made his way around the campus in the famous popemobile before the mass. Photo by John Small

CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION

2015

Winterfest & Craft Show

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4th: 3:00 pm–9:00 pm
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5th: 9:00 am–3:00 pm

Over 75 Crafters & Vendors

Homemade Goodies

Food & Dinner Specialties from
the Knights of Columbus #9808

Silent Auctions

Raffles

And Much More!

For more information visit
www.resurrectionadw.org

Church of the Resurrection
Burtonsville, Maryland
Greencastle Road & Old Columbia Pike

St. Rose Fiesta

St. Rose held its annual Fiesta on September 19. Fiesta activities included a flea market, a cash raffle, lots of kids' events, a live and a silent auction, and live entertainment. The Fiesta day ended with a multicultural Mass at 5 p.m.

OPT

At right, dancers from the Filipino community perform at the St. Rose Fiesta.



Margarita Ossorio Goldman sings at the St. Rose Fiesta, which featured performances by parishioners.



The Pope Tent at the St. Rose Fiesta provided information about evangelization outreach and the Papal visit – as well as Walk with Francis T-shirts. From left to right: Kathy Fry, Remi Bauer, Eric Lemus.



St. Rose kids at the Fiesta enjoyed pumpkin decorating, face painting, and host of other activities.

Welcoming Francis

St. Rose parishioners were involved in all the events and activities during the whirlwind visit of Pope Francis to Washington.

OPT

At right, as the popemobile enters the grounds of the Basilica, Pope Francis delights crowds of the faithful as he waves. Photo by Liz Sullivan



Bottom left, Archdiocesan choir that performed for Pope Francis. St. Rose singers in the choir are: Remi Bauer, Catherine Benskin, Lon Musslewhite, Rebecca Vanover, and Dan Youngs.

Bottom right, after many hours of volunteer service in Ticket Resolution, St. Rose parishioners bask in the afterglow of the Papal Mass. Front Row (l-r): Christine Jeffrey, Laura Lowery & Sean Jeffrey; Second Row (l-r): Alex Jeffrey, Sue Clark and John Clark. Photo by Laura Lowery



St. Rose of Lima

11701 Clopper Road
Gaithersburg, MD

Fr. Agustin Mateo
Pastor

301-948-7545

Mary Zoccola, Parish Editor

mary.zoccola@gmail.com

240-401-0612

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

St. Michael the Archangel Young Adults welcome Pope Francis at Joint Base Andrews, formerly Andrews Air Force Base. Rene Holder, Nicole Calaro, Damien Kawkami. Both Nicole and Damien are parish council members.



Upcoming Events at St. Michael the Archangel

Sunday, October 11

Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, October 17

Knights of Columbus Walk-A-Thon, Kids Helping Kids

Sunday, October 25

Sodality Bake Sale

November 13, 14, 15

Annual Christmas Bazaar (see ad this page)

For information regarding Baptism classes and Religious Education, please contact the Rectory at 301-589-1155

OPT



Fall Festival

St. Michael the Archangel held their annual fall kick off on Sunday, September 20. Parishioners and visitors attended the event under the tents on the plaza to meet clergy, parish leaders and find out information about the parish's various ministries. Over 100 people signed up for various ministries, and outreach programs. Ten new parishioners enrolled.



St. Michael's Parish

805 Wayne Avenue
Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Msgr. Eddie Tolentino,
Pastor

301-589-1155

Joanie Heavey,
OPT Editor

301-5891155 ext. 21



St. Michael the Archangel parishioners sweep helps clean local park!

St. Michael the Archangel Parish helps clean up Sligo Creek!

Volunteers haul bags of trash, bush and tree clippings from our local waterway.

St. Michael's volunteers gathered

with other Silver Spring volunteers, for the annual Sweep the Creek cleaning event. Members of St.

Continued on page 35

Join us for our 3rd Annual Christmas Bazaar

November 13, 14, & 15 at
St. Michael the Archangel



St. Michael's Church
805 Wayne Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY November 13
5:30PM-9:30PM

Bazaar Preview, Baskets,
Silent Auction, Wine, Food
Admission:\$15

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

SATURDAY November 14
9AM-8PM

Bazaar, Bake Shop,
Snack Shop, Raffle
ADMISSION IS FREE

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

SUNDAY November 15
9AM-3PM

Bazaar, Bake Shop,
Snack shop, Raffle
ADMISSION IS FREE

For more info visit us at:

FACEBOOK

www.fb.com/St.Michaels.Silver.Spring

WEBSITE

www.stmichaelsilverspring.org

E-MAIL

stmichaelschristmasbazaar@gmail.com

PHONE

Jose C. Romero: 301-466-4429



Edwin Mendez (left near microphone), a parishioner and employee of St. Michael the Archangel Church in Silver Spring, singing at the Papal Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine

*Parking available across the street in St. Michael's School, on the street after 7PM or on Sunday, or Public Parking Garages nearby.

*A 10 minute walk from Silver Spring Metro across from Whole Foods

Mother Seton Parish

Invites you to participate in the first
International All Saints Festival

Let us bring our Mother Seton Parish cultures
together, through faith, family and food.

Sunday November 1st, 2015

12:30pm to 5:00pm



La Parroquia de Mother Seton

los invita a participar en el primer

Festival Internacional de Todos los Santos

Es la gran oportunidad de integrar las diversas culturas
de nuestra parroquia en un solo evento, compartiendo
nuestra fe, la cultura y comida de nuestros países.

Domingo 1ro. de Noviembre de 2015

12:30pm a 5:00pm

**This festival will be possible,
only with your participation.**

For more information and
registration please, contact:

**Este festival será posible solo con
su participación.**

Para mayor información y reservar su
mesa por favor contactar a:

Melisa Biedron (240) 751- 8321
Juliana Ordoñez (301) 233 - 5027
mspallsaintsfestival@gmail.com

HAPPENINGS

Con't from page 18

place for his mosaic self-portrait, and Matthew won third place for his mosaic sunset.

Advancing in Math

This summer, St. Jane de Chantal School began a school membership with IXL.com for students in Grades Two-Eight to reinforce and enrich their math skills. This program provides a year-long membership to students for use in both school and home. The school's top five summer assignment finishers were Ariana Phugphud, Maria Thomas, Ezra Etherly, Quinn Connolly, and Tyler Phugphud!

Student Council Election

The 2015-16 Student Council has been elected. After a week of campaigning, candidates delivered speeches before the faculty and student body, who then cast their votes. The following eighth graders were elected: Cole Chalfant, Anna Owens, Chris Khoury, Mollie Maynard, Mary Daniels, Henry Iloanya, Jack Hoffman, Meghan McCarthy, Matt Flynn, Ronan Kramer, Sofia D'Avella, and Jillian Geils.

The 2015 Sixth-Grade Play Announced

The anticipation and excitement around

Mother Seton Parish

19951 Fr. Hurley Boulevard
Germantown, MD

Fr. Lee Fangmeyer, Pastor
301-924-3838

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

the announcement of this year's sixth-grade musical play was at an all-time high, but the suspense is finally over. It will be The Lion King! The play will take place on the 28th-29th of April and will feature the talents of the sixth-grade St. Jane students.

Field Trip on the Chesapeake Bay

The fifth grade visited Chestertown, MD, in September to sail on the Sultana, which provides students with a hands-on learning environment about the history and environment of the Chesapeake Bay while sailing aboard an authentic 18th century reproduction vessel. An educational and enjoyable time was had by all.

Box Tops Support Physical Education

The General Mills Box Top for Education program benefits the school's Physical Education program through the purchase of new equipment. Last year the school raised \$1000, which helped pay for new equipment and Field Day supplies. Drop them off at the school office, or send them to St. Jane de Chantal School c/o Lisa Tehan, 9525 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20814. Thanks for your support!

Disciples in Service Ceremony

Students and teachers assembled in Church for the annual Disciples in Service Ceremony to commemorate all of the St. Jane de Chantal School community service programs. The ceremony began with a procession of beautiful banners the students made to depict the 13 organizations the school supports. These acts of charity and service are rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and are foremost in the religion curriculum for each grade.

Readers are Leaders

Mrs. Theim's eighth-grade reading program

Continued on page 32

The Faith Community Nurse Ministry

Presents

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HOSPICE CARE AND NURSING HOME CARE?

October 29 at 7:00 pm

Mother Seton Parish

19951 Father Hurley Boulevard
Germantown

Our Speaker will be:

Sue Fortuna, RN, BSN, CHPN

Clinical Manager
Holy Cross Hospice

All are invited!!!

St. John Paul II Room

(McCabe Center-lower level of the Church)

If you have any questions, please contact:

Mary Beth DeLuzio, RN, FCN
mspfaithcommunitynurse@gmail.com

Hispanic Heritage Month

Join us to celebrate our
heritage and culture.
The night will be filled with
lots of fun, music, food and
great company.



Mes de la Herencia Hispana

Venga a celebrar nuestra Herencia y Cultura.
La noche estará llena de mucha diversión, música,
comida y buena compañía.

Tickets: \$20

Mother Seton Parish Center
Saturday, October 24, 2015
7:30 pm to 11:30 pm
Includes dinner, beverage, music,
dancing and prizes

*Proceeds will benefit
Mother Seton Parish*

Centro Parroquial de Mother Seton
Sábado 24 de Octubre del 2015
7:30 pm a 11:30 pm
Incluye cena, refresco, música,
baile y premios.

*Los ingresos beneficiaran a la
Parroquia MotherSeton*

Para más información, por favor contactar a Humberto Soler,
al (240) 305-8624 o vía email hsoler@solerfinanciam.com

MOTHER SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH • 19951 Father Hurley Boulevard • Germantown

School Families Welcome Pope Francis

Like many schools in the Archdiocese of Washington, Saint Andrew Apostle planned activities during the time Pope Francis was scheduled to be in the Washington, DC area. There were drawing and essay contests and the younger students completed crafts and reenactments. All of the classes were able to watch the festivities and speeches on classroom feeds.

Some school families had unique opportunities to see Pope Francis in person. One family was fortunate to be able to listen to his initial address on the lawn of the White House. Principal Susan Sheehan and a group of families were at the Papal Nunciature to greet Pope Francis as he returned from evening Mass. They were within arms distance of him and made the evening news! Another group of families awakened before dawn and were on the train that left the Glenmont metro station at 5AM. They went through security and were early enough to secure a prime spot on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol where they saw and heard his moving address to Congress on the jumbo screens set up for the occasion. They had an opportunity for a more personal view when he greeted



Welcoming Pope Francis on the Capitol's West Lawn



Pint-size papal admirers

everyone in attendance from the Speakers Balcony. Despite the crowd, all agreed that it was a wonderful experience that moved many to tears. Though they didn't make the local evening news, a reporter from the Boston Globe interviewed them about their day's experiences.

OPT

Ready to meet Pope Francis at the Papal Nunciature



WINTERFEST

Con't from page 27

according to Winterfest co-chair Bill Ratcliffe. Bargain hunters will enjoy Santa's Closet, which offers many items donated by parishioners and sold at a low cost.

As always, one of the most popular features will be the Silent Auction, which provides an opportunity to win gift baskets containing an assortment of items, including sports memorabilia, tickets and gift cards. Many are donated by local businesses in the Burtonsville and Silver Spring communities.

"Join us for this exciting holiday event and get some of your Christmas shopping done at the same time," Bottegal says.

Resurrection Church is located at 3315 Greencastle Rd. in Burtonsville, Md. For additional information or inquiries, contact Phyllis Bottegal at: winterfestfun@gmail.com.

OPT

TRIP

Con't from page 27

Vinny Maltagliati, Lisa Peacock, Susan Quinn, Rich Maltagliati and Kelly Maltagliati.

One goal of the trip was to foster solidarity and develop a partnership between St. Patrick's Parish in Anchorage and Resurrection Church.

"During our week of service in Alaska, our youth saw glory and beauty in the glaciers, towering, snow-capped mountains and deep-blue rivers...but especially among the poor and hungry on the streets of downtown Anchorage. I am so proud of them all," said Deacon David.

St. Patrick's Youth Director John Barrientes and a group of young people met the Resurrection Mission Team at the Anchorage airport July 31. Signs of Welcome and smiling faces, and even a truck dedicated to bring our luggage and

backpacks to the Jesuit Holy Spirit Retreat Center, set the tone for a week of amazing hospitality and unity in Christ.

The first night (daylight until 11 p.m.) of fellowship with the youth from Alaska was truly beautiful. We were tired but ready to tackle our mission. The next day had us hiking Flattop Mountain to see the beauty of the area. It was spectacular, and at times tenuous, but our partners from St. Patrick's were there as we hiked, and others met us after the climb.

"There's nothing like climbing an Alaskan mountain. The people we met were all so friendly and helpful," said Cooper Quinn, a high school senior on the trip.

That evening the group had a special visitor at dinner – Anchorage Archbishop Roger Schweitzer! He joined our group for a meal along with seminarian Kevin Klump, who shared his story of being called to the priesthood. Everyone found Archbishop Roger to be approachable, funny and excited to be shar-



Forty Hour Devotion Offered at Saint Andrew Apostle

Saint Andrew Apostle is offering 40 Hour Eucharistic Adoration beginning October 12 at 9:00 a.m. through October 13 at 6:00 p.m. as part of the devotion to the Blessed Mother under the title of the Mystical Rose. Mary's call for prayer, penance, and sacrifice for the salvation of the world has been the constant message of Marian apparitions. In this devotion, Mary, the Rosa Mystica, calls upon the faithful to pray particularly for priests, religious institutions, and those dedicated to God. Pope Saint John Paul II reminds us that, "the relationship with Mary most holy, which for every believer stems from his or her union with Christ, is even more pronounced in the life of consecrated persons..."

Mary's presence is of fundamental importance both for the spiritual life of each consecrated person and for the solidity, unity and progress of the whole community."

(John Paul II, March 29, 1995)

All are invited to come and pray anytime during the 40 hours or to commit to a specific hour dedicated for priests of the Archdiocese of Washington, religious orders, seminarians, and bishops. Confession will be offered at various times throughout the devotion. Each month, we honor Mary on the 13th, entrusting our prayers and petitions to her Immaculate Heart. More information can be found on the Saint Andrew Apostle website at <http://standrewapostle.org/40-hours-devotion/>.

OPT

Parish / School Carnival

October 18 is the date for the rescheduled parish/school carnival.

With games, food and an Oktoberfest theme, the afternoon promises to be a time of fun for the entire community.

St. Andrew Apostle Parish

11600 Kemp Mill Road
Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Daniel P. Leary,
Pastor

301-649-3700 ext. 311

St. Andrew Apostle School
Susan M. Sheehan,
Principal

301-649-3555

ing a meal with us. The young people connected with Kevin's story and his relatable experience as a student-athlete.

The trip included working at the Brother Francis House, a large homeless shelter in Anchorage. This was a stark contrast to the immense beauty the group saw in nature. How do we see that same God and His divine beauty in the homeless or mentally ill? Working at the shelter made Vinny Maltagliati, a freshman, think of this quote, "What is life worth if we will not risk it for another?"

It was exciting to see the young people open their hearts to serving their brothers and sisters in Alaska. Following the day at Brother Francis, the team visited Covenant House of Anchorage, a facility that provides housing, education, job skills, healthcare and nutritional support to at-risk young people.

The team's final day of service was at St. Francis Food Pantry, the oldest and largest food pantry in Alaska. Moving hundreds of

pounds of food from the warehouse to shelves, seeing the staff interact with clients who face food poverty every day, was transformational to many on the trip. "Thanks, you all did a week's worth of work in a day," said St. Francis House Program Director David Rittenberg. Being blessed to have full cupboards and refrigerators at home in Maryland made us all realize the problem of hunger in our own country.

"As parents and parishioners," Kelly Maltagliati stressed that she and the other adults who were on the trip "enjoyed seeing the kids we've seen grow up in Resurrection parish develop into such caring, respectful young people."

Other highlights of the trip included salmon fishing in Hope, Alaska, a visit to Talkeetna and St. Bernard's Mission Parish, and spectacular views of 21,000-foot high Denali, the highest U.S. peak. We learned that St. Bernard's, home to just 20 families, is so remote

Continued on page 39

OLQP Welcomes New Pastor Rev. Jerzy Frydrych

By Bozenna Buda, ED

On Sunday, September 6, the parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Poland & St. Maksymilian Kolbe Parish welcomed our new pastor, Rev. Jerzy Frydrych, S.Chr.

Father Jerzy was born in Suwalki, in northeastern Poland. He entered the Seminary in Poznan, Poland, in 1978. This was in the same year that Cardinal Karol Wojtyla from Krakow, Poland, became Pope John Paul II.

His Order is the Society of Christ, founded by Cardinal Hlond in 1932 for the purpose of ministering to the Polish diaspora throughout the world. Rev. Frydrych was ordained a priest in 1985.

In 1987, he came to North

America. He first served in parishes in Canada, in Ontario and in Saskatchewan. In the United States, he was pastor and supervised the building of a new church in Houston, Texas, before becoming pastor in a parish in San Francisco, California. He most recently served as pastor of St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish near San Diego, CA, where he also celebrated the 30th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood earlier this year. One of his favorite quotes is from Romans 5:5, "...And hope does not disappoint..." or, in Polish, "Nadzieja zawiesc nie moze."

We look forward to working together with Father Jerzy at Our Lady Queen of Poland and St. Maksymilian Kolbe Parish in Silver Spring!

OPT

Sto Lat, Marion Raczek!

By Bozenna Buda, ED, with material supplied by Marion Raczek

OLQP Parishioner Marion Raczek celebrated his 80th birthday after Mass on Sunday, September 20th, in the parish hall. Parishioners and friends came to help him celebrate this milestone. Marion is friendly and helpful in many capacities at OLQP. One of his favorite activities is taking his turn as host of the parish Sunday coffee hour. He is also the indispensable Assistant Director of the Polish Drama Club.

Marion was born in Dunkirk, New York, which is located between Buffalo, and Erie. After graduating from high school, he served in the US Air Force for four years. He lived in Illinois and West Virginia before coming to Maryland where he married and raised two daughters.

About twenty years ago, Marion began his odyssey to trace his Polish roots. He knew that his father had immigrated to the U.S. in 1913. He found old letters from an aunt in Poland. His father's journal had some notations and names. He started reading about Polish immigration history. He searched the National Archives for traces of his family's past. He visited Poland to try to locate his relatives. It took a lot of work and many trips before he was able to connect with his extended family in Poland.

On his first trip to Warsaw,



Marion Raczek in the Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish hall on September 20, with the cakes that were brought to celebrate his 80th birthday. Dorota Ponikiewska holds up one cake.

Poland, he noticed a statue of Polish hero Jozef Pilsudski with an inscription: "*Ten, kto nie szanuje i nie ceni swej przeszlosci nie jest godzien szacunku ani prawa przyszlosci.*" ("The one who does not respect and value their past is not worthy of respect nor a voice in their future.") This strengthened his resolve to find his ancestral roots.

In the meantime, Marion joined OLQP Parish and became active in the parish community. He likes attending Mass at OLQP because he gets to experience it in the Polish language. Marion continues to work on his language skills in Polish classes and in conversations with parishioners and friends.

We wish Marion "Happy Birthday!" and "Sto Lat!"

OPT



Polish Saturday School students at the entrance to Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish with their handmade "palemki" earlier this year.

OLQP Parish Polish Saturday School is Open

OLQP Polish Saturday School reopened for the new school year on September 19. The program of instruction includes Polish language and culture and religion classes. Further information can be obtained from the Director, Mrs. Ewa Chlebowska, at 301-680-9573.

OPT

HAPPENINGS

Con't from page 32

is entitled "Readers are Leaders." This summer reading program for students transitioning into eighth grade included incentives, bonus points on reading tests, and prizes for dedicated readers. Several students were awarded Barnes and Noble gift cards in recognition of the total number of novels they read this summer. The first place winner was Cecelia Swartz. Second place winners were Anna Owens, Emma Wallinger, and Tripp Harris.

OPT



New Our Lady Queen of Poland Pastor Rev. Jerzy Frydrych, second from left with members of the Polish Drama Club: Jarek Trocki, Ania Grochowina, Ola Abramowicz, Laura Migasiuk, and Karolina Bodziony on September 27, after the Pope Francis presentation.

In honor of the Pope's Visit

Five members of the Polish Drama Club celebrated the life and teachings of Pope Francis on Sunday, September 27, 2015, after the noon Mass at Our Lady Queen of Poland & St. Maksymilian Kolbe Parish in Silver Spring. Jarek Trocki, Ania Grochowina, Ola

Abramowicz, Laura Migasiuk, and Karolina Bodziony recited important events from the Pope's life and teachings. They sang songs in his honor while Ola played on the guitar.

OPT

**Our Lady
Queen of Poland**
9700 Rosensteel Avenue
Silver Spring, MD
**Rev. Jerzy Frydrych,
S. Chr. Pastor**
301-589-1857
**Bozenna Buda,
OPT Editor**
301-495-3377
bbudadc@gmail.com

We Prepared ... He Came ... Love and Mercy Remained!

By Rus Wester

For months we have been preparing as a parish for the Apostolic Visit of Pope Francis...to hear his message of love, to embrace his mission of mercy, to enter in solidarity with the action Holy Father recommends and carries out with his own life.

A series of activities and events have helped us prepare for the visit of His Holiness. This Papal visit is yet another "spiritual first" for us at SJN. It can be said that these "firsts" started back last November 2014 with the visit of another Pope, St. John Paul II, when the sister of The Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary brought John Paul's relics to our parish. As hundreds came to venerate those relics, incomparable blessings were shed upon our entire parish and have continued to build opportunities for spiritual and corporal works of mercy prior to the visit of Pope Francis.

OPT



Door-to-Door Evangelization

As we got closer to the September Papal visit, Father Dave Wells led the parish in a Door-to-Door Evangelization effort that allowed a large group of SJN parish volunteer missionaries to go into our greater Gaithersburg neighborhood to make new friends and invite them to come worship with us. As doorbells rang, invitations were left to join in the joy of "walking with Francis". "I think the gift of having Pope Francis come is to help us become more aware of the needs of those we don't see," said Father Joe Rogers, "the families that don't come to Mass, but are part of the parish. The Door-to-Door outreach really showed that to me." The commitment deepens as Pope Francis teaches us!



Pizza, Pupusas and the Pope

During Door-to-Door Evangelization, colorful invitations were handed out inviting everyone to come to our parish to enjoy some of the Holy Father's favorite foods while learning all about Pope Francis, what he has to say to us and discover his message of hope and healing. Father Dave led the well-attended evening in presenting much about Pope Francis. "Graces are felt by all when the Holy Father comes for a visit," said Father Dave. "Our Pope easily relates to Catholics and non-Catholics. We're so eager to welcome him."



SJN Youth Group & Visitors

Positioned at Catholic University and the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the SJN Youth Group stopped for a quick shot with visiting Sisters of The Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary as they made their way to another first--Pope Francis' Canonization Mass for Junípero Serra, the first canonization of a saint to take place in the USA.



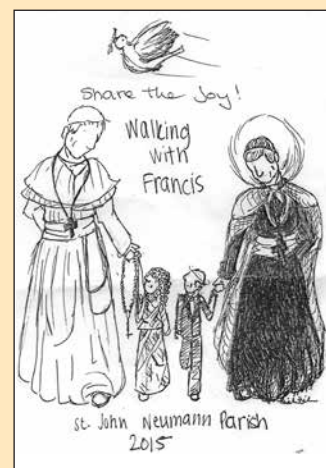
SJN Hosts Papal Pilgrimage

The Sisters of Mother Adela Galindo, SCTJM were our parish guests at the Neumann House during the Pope's visit to Washington. You'll remember the blessing they brought to us last year in providing the relics of St. John Paul II for our veneration. "It was so easy and joyful providing hospitality for the Miami-based sisters," said Mary Beth de Ribeaux. "The John Paul the Great Vocations Society joined our parish Priests and Staff to provide for their temporal and spiritual needs."



Pictures with the Pope

SJN parishioners, Mario and Marcos de Ribeaux, greeted Pope Francis as he departed his Washington address. Holy Father was on his way to the U.S. Capital, and another first: the first-ever address by a Pope of a joint meeting of Congress. Image courtesy of C-SPAN.



The front-cover illustration of the Pilgrimage Book was designed by SJN Youth Group member Michaela Hiles.

More SJN Firsts

Four A.M. Mass and Pilgrimage Book

In preparation for the Papal Welcome Parade downtown, Fr. Joe and many in the parish made it possible to plan and celebrate the earliest Mass in parish history. "It was pretty early," said Fr. Joe. "We wanted to begin our pilgrimage day right and we had several hundred parishioners who needed to be on the 5am METRO train that morning. Each boarded with security credentials and a copy of our bi-lingual Pilgrimage Book, containing popular and traditional prayer, which was developed by MaryLu Hartsell and a team of SJN Staff and parishioners."

OPT

St. John Neumann Parish

9000 Warfield Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20882

Fr. Joseph Rogers,
Pastor

Rus Wester,
OPT Editor
301-330-0047

High School Fall Retreat 2015

“Attitude of Gratitude”

Friday, November 6 —
Sunday, November 8

Concord Retreat Center,
Yellow Spring, WV

Cost: \$125

Sign Up Now!

Another amazing SJB retreat for high school students is around the corner. Mark your calendars for November 6-8, and prepare for all

of our wonderful SJB retreat traditions, plus some new surprises. The topic this year is all about gratitude, both for the gifts you've been given and for how God is working in your life. We will be using a new retreat center, the Concord Retreat Center in Yellow Springs, West Virginia.

To reserve your spot, please email Marie at marie.ferman@sjbsilver-spring.org as soon as possible.

OPT

Adult Faith Sunday Morning Classes

Sundays, 10:15-11:30 a.m.

(during Faith Formation Classes) in the School Library

We have ongoing educational opportunities for adults Sunday mornings at 10:15am in the school library. We cover a variety of Catholic topics through lively, interactive classes. Our Fall schedule is below:

October 18	Raising Faith-Filled Kids II, Deacon Ed McCormack
October 25	Raising Faith-Filled Kids III, L.J. Milone
November 1	Basic Catholic Beliefs, L.J. Milone
November 8	Transforming Worry & Anxiety, L.J. Milone
November 22	Bible Basics, Alicia Urban
December 6	Christian Enlightenment, L.J. Milone
December 13	Spiritually Preparing for Christmas, L.J. Milone

OPT

Evening of Prayer and Remembrance



SJB Bereavement Ministry will sponsor an evening to remember your loved ones, especially those who have died during the last year, on Monday, November 2, at 7 p.m. in the Chapel.

Refreshments will follow in the Conference Room. For further information call Maryanne Dulski, 301-384-1743 or Dolores Ritter, 301-384-5885.

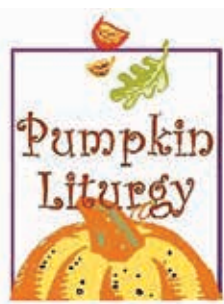
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Pumpkin Liturgy

Father Glen Willis will pre-side at the Pumpkin Liturgy on Saturday, October 24 at 5 p.m. in the Church.

Everyone is invited to bring a carved pumpkin ready with a candle inside to the sanctuary steps before the Liturgy begins. (Adult volunteers will light the candles.) The pumpkins will be blessed; remember to take them home after Mass.

OPT

Journeying with Pope Francis
Saturdays, 3-4:30 p.m.

Lecture Series at St. John's and Church of the Resurrection in Burtonsville.

Our Lecture Series this year will be co-sponsored by the Church of the Resurrection in Burtonsville. Therefore, our lectures will alternate between St. John the Baptist and the Church of the Resurrection.

October 24 – Church of the Resurrection

Pope Francis and Catholic Social Teaching

Presenter: Dr. Patricia Fosarelli, M.D., M.A., D.Min.

Dr. Fosarelli is the associate dean of the Ecumenical Institute of Theology at St. Mary's Seminary and University, Baltimore. She is the director of the M.A. in Church Ministries Program.

OPT

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

Shannon Jordan Mulrooney,
OPT Editor
shannoncoll@comcast.net

St. John the Baptist Spiritual Talks

Wednesdays, 9:15-10:15 a.m.

or 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Conference Room

Come any Wednesday morning or evening for informal talks on spirituality and its eminently practical nature. Each session will have a short spiritual exercise, a little talk on a spiritual theme (like attachment, how to deal with pain, meditation), and time for questions. Participants can bring up issues important to them—whether or not they are related to the subject of the talk. All are welcome, those of any, little, or no faith.

Join us on September 30 as we continue the series on the Sermon on the Mount.

Fall Spiritual Talks Schedule

October 7	Sermon on the Mount 3: Mt.6:1-18 or Matera Ch. 2
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October 14

October 21

October 28

November 11

November 18

December 2

December 9

December 16

Sermon on the Mount 4:
Mt.6:19-34 or Matera Ch. 3
Sermon on the Mount 5:
Mt.7:1-14 or Matera Ch. 4
Sermon on the Mount 6:
Mt.7:15-29 or Matera Ch. 5
The Parables 1:
Mt.13: Losing/Finding, Great Banquet
The Parables 2: Luke 15, The Ten Virgins
God is All in All
DVD of Fr. Thomas Keating OCSO
The Parables 3: Mustard Seed, Leaven, Sower, Day Laborers
Dealing with Unconsciousness
Online Video (morning talk only)

OPT

Christ the King

Annual Picnic

Christ the King held its annual picnic&potluck on the afternoon of Sunday, September 20, 2015, with the gracious and welcomed assist of the Knights of Columbus, Rosensteel Council in Forest Glen. Across from the historic St. John the Evangelist Church and its cemetery, the grounds were accommodating to the families and friends with tables of food, with games, a piñata and many contests, largely for the children and a MOONBOUNCE!



Parishioners enjoy the Picnic & Potluck on the grounds of the Rosensteel Knights of Columbus.

Every parishioner brought food to share while the Knights manned the grill bearing steaks, hamburgers and hot dogs. The beautiful weather made for a delightful day! Many

thanks to the volunteers of all ages! But most especially to the Knights and their Ladies who have once again shown their generosity in their work.

OPT

Pope and Pilgrimage, Birthright's BBQ and Telecast

Wednesday, September 23, Christ the King parish participated in the Papal visit first by attending 6am Mass at St. Michael the Archangel Church. They walked from there to the subway and then walked from the Metro to the Ellipse, all wearing the important bracelet that granted the wearer entrance. It was there that they waited on the ADW-established allocated area along the Holy Father's route.

On Sunday September 27, 2015 parishioners arrived at Church well before the 8:25 departure and boarded a bus for a pilgrimage to Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families Mass! This was an all day trip with arrival back at Christ the King roughly around midnight.

For those not making the trip to



Parishioners lining up to board the bus to Philly

Philadelphia, many joined the Birthright BBQ held at the Rosensteel Knights of Columbus in Forest Glen for food, conversation and to watch live-feed of the Papal Mass from Philadelphia. The BBQ was also a fundraiser benefit for this organization, Birthright of Montgomery County, which provides support for those women who

have opted not to abort their babies. Supporting such a wonderful, Catholic organization while watching the Papal Mass was a joyous afternoon for many at this first annual Pro-Life Barbecue.

Thanks go out to the Knights of Columbus Rosensteel Council for the work they do to support the Silver Spring Catholic community.

OPT

PROTEST

Con't from page 16

for pro-life activists who pray the Rosary, making a presence felt to those women who may not be aware that there is an alternative to what they have come to do. If you were not able to make the August protest, join others this and each Saturday morning to help save the unborn.

A nationwide protest is scheduled for Saturday October 10, from 8am until noon.

OPT

Upcoming Events

Throughout the month of October Christ the King parishioners recite the Rosary each Thursday evening at 6:30pm.

Saturday, October 24, 6pm-midnight The Lord Is My Shepherd Prayer Group Halloween party fundraiser in the Colonial Room; \$15 per person.

November 7 First Saturday of every month The WorkCenter, a non-profit association of volunteer professionals and business people, provides mutual support, reviewing CVs and resumes and helping prepare job interviews, 9:30-11:30am in the Rectory Meeting Room.

November 7 Saturday 10am Mass for those who died in the parish since November 2014

November 8 Sunday 4pm All Souls Concert with reception to follow

November 15 Sunday 9am-3pm CTK annual bazaar

November 19 Thursday Mass & pasta dinner in honor of the Fraternity of St. Charles Borromeo 30th anniversary (no Eucharistic Adoration that day)

November 22 Sunday Confirmation during the 10:30am Mass

November 26 Thursday Thanksgiving Day Mass at 9:15am (no Eucharistic Adoration that day)

December 5 Saturday Advent Morning of Recollection

PAPAL

Con't from page 7

are evident in everything he does.

There is talk that Pope Francis's less conservative views may drive some from the Church, but based on my home grown research I believe he will gather more to the flock than will flee for seemingly greener pastures.

Photos are of St. Mary's children and parishioners at various Papal events as well as the all-school photo after they pledged to Walk with Francis.



Student Sean Dunphy and his mother Jennifer await Mass at the Basilica

OPT

CLEAN UP

Con't from page 29

Michael's parish were participating in the event as part of the parish annual community service day of Michaelmas.

Parishioner Cecilia Flores, was the leader of the group of 25 who helped and wanted to participate and "in keeping with the Pope

Francis message last week of each of us taking responsibility of what God has entrusted with us."

Plastic bags, like most trash found in street gutters, often wind up in the creek in surrounding area, which cause health problems for fish and other aquatic life. Volunteers having been cleaning the creek since 2002 and St. Michael's volunteers hope to continue helping friends of Sligo Creek next spring.

OPT



Mary of Nazareth students jump with joy before heading to greet Pope Francis at the Apostolic Nunciature

NUNICATURE

Con't from page 22

Mrs. Peggy Clifford, beautifully expressed the welcoming spirit of the Mary of Nazareth community on the momentous occasion of the Holy Father's visit. The joy and faith in our students' song was so moving that it was featured on CBS 5 o'clock news. In addition, Mary of Nazareth students and faculty committed to Walk with Francis by taking individual pledges of prayer, service, and action within their communities. Pledges were proudly displayed on school bulletin boards in solidarity with Pope Francis' 'Walk With Francis' challenge.

OPT



Third-grade student Kevin Long receives a blessing from the Holy Father

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

Lord, Make us Instruments of Peace



SFIS students hold a special assembly on UN International Day of Peace to pledge to be peacemakers.

This fall, Saint Francis International School is taking on an initiative to teach our students concrete ways of building peace in their lives and by extension in the communities to which they belong. Thanks to a grant from Catholic Charities, a group called the Little Friends for Peace (www.LFFP.org) is working with the SFIS faculty and staff to teach students about peace and self-awareness in a way that is designed to promote kindness and conflict resolution.

In August, the Little Friends for Peace spent a half-day of profes-

sional development teaching the teachers about peace education. Each teacher and staff members at SFIS received a copy of the Little Friends for Peace's book *Live Peace, Teach Peace: Best Practices and Tools*. In turn, the SFIS faculty and staff is working to include peace lessons as part of the daily Responsive Classroom morning meetings that happen throughout the school every day.

On September 21st, in honor of the United Nations' International Day of Peace, the students of SFIS took the Kids for Peace Pledge and during the first week of October,

in honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, students in grades three, five, and eight will attend special seminars with the Little Friends for Peace to begin equipping them with peacemaking tools. Students in grades three, five, and eight will receive special training again in November and December.

Later in the winter the eighth grades students will translate what they learned about peacemaking into presentations that they will make to the SFIS Pre-K classes. Not only will SFIS students learn about peace, but they will also teach peace!

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SFIS students pose with "Flat Francis" during the Pope's visit to DC.

Service is a Constant Part of Life at SFIS

Each week eighth graders at Saint Francis International School put in time helping at the St. Camillus Food Pantry unloading donations from the Capital Area Food Bank and from Shop Rite Supermarket. SFIS students are taught that service is so important that the entire class gives up 30 to 40 minutes each Thursday afternoon to help get the food pantry ready for all of the needy folks who come to pick up food on Fridays.

Of course, the students at SFIS do more than just help with the St. Camillus Food Pantry. Each November the students also collect thousands of canned and dry goods for the food pantry at St. Mark the Evangelist Church along with collecting coats and other cold weather clothing during December.

The largest service activity that the SFIS community participates in is the annual Mission Fair that happens at the beginning of Lent each year. Mission Fair is an activity that all students from Pre-K through eighth grade participate in that raises money for a Catholic charity in a mission territory.

OPT



SFIS eighth graders unload boxes for the St. Camillus Food Pantry.

St. Francis International School
www.saintfrancisinternational.org

Tobias A. Harkleroad, Principal

St. Camillus Campus
1500 Camillus Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20903

St. Mark Campus
7501 Adelphi Road
Hyattsville, MD 20783

St. Bartholomew

Pope Francis Inspires "Breakfast-to-Go" at St. Bart's

While the Holy Father was in Washington on Sunday, September 20, volunteers at St. Bart's gathered in the Church Hall to help assemble healthy "breakfast-to-go" bags to be distributed to area shelters, which provide a safe bed for 1,000 women and men each night. Coordinator Brooksley Jones told OPT, "The event was called #Serve B4 Service and will be a monthly community service event held an hour before St. Bartholomew's 8:00 p.m. Rock Mass." Brooksley and fellow parishioner Amy Smith decided they wanted to kick off their first event before Pope Francis' arrival in the U.S. and tie it into Walk with Francis.

Brooksley found the experience



Our generous volunteers not only stuffed about 350 breakfast bags, but also, helped load them in the car. We made so many bags, we even ran out of containers to put them in!

exciting and fulfilling: "Cup of Joe is a terrific organization connected to Catholic Charities. It provides breakfast bags for homeless men and women in some of the local shelters. When hosting a packing party like we did, Cup of Joe provided us with all the supplies so we then just had to pack the bags with food and love. We were so excited to have about 20 people come out and help us! When I delivered the bags to the shelter, they were overjoyed, they were so impressed we were able to complete about 350 bags." Brooksley told OPT, Next month, October 25th at 7, we will be making fleece scarves for the homeless. Feel free to come and help!"

OPT

St. Bartholomew Parish Goes "Walking with Francis"

The Papal visit to the Washington area was an exciting event at St. Bart's. Although Pope Francis did not stop at St. Bart's, he was there in spirit and in the hearts of hundreds of parishioners who Walked With Francis.

Many parishioners participated in

charitable works, such as Breakfast to Go for Catholic Charities. Many, many parishioners attended local events or watched on TV with friends. The St. Bart's Youth Group sprang into action, packing food bags for Catholic Charities' "Cup of Joe" program. St. Bart's

School, from pre-school through Eighth Grade, was awash with Pope Francis events. St. Bart's Young Adult Group had a "Papal Viewing Party." Many parishioners signed pledge cards to "Walk With Francis" through prayer, service, and action.

OPT



Above, St. Bart's Eighth Graders unfurl a banner welcoming Pope Francis.

At right, top, St. Bart's School children surround a lifelike figure of Pope Francis. Photo by of Julia Constable-Allen

At right, bottom, St. Bart's Youth Group Members pack food bags for Catholic Charities' Cup of Joe program.



SHORT

Con't from page 1

actions to end abortion, genocide, euthanasia, and other challenges to the dignity of life are more difficult. Yet **our action** is essential.

Each year, hundreds of babies are born in local hospitals requiring urgent care in Neonatal Intensive Care Units. The children are those who were born prematurely, some by weeks, others months ahead of their time. Some children were diagnosed in utero with severe disabilities. Many babies make a brief stopover in the NICU to be monitored or add a few ounces to their weight. Some leave in the arms of angels in route to their heavenly Father. Others remain in the caring and professional hands of medical teams for months as they perform heroic medical interventions to save children's lives. Many graduate the NICU in full health and a bright future. Others graduate with serious physical and/or mental challenges with an arduous journey

ahead. St. Paul might characterize the struggle by these babies as a race for life with the early months being a sprint and the rest of lives, a challenging marathon.

Cubby and her husband Dan La Hood acted to help with the marathon. In 1983 the Silver Spring couple, St John Evangelist parish, was inspired to give up their current life and dedicate themselves and fully to providing care to seriously disabled children. Their goal was simply to provide a loving setting for children and support and assistance to the children's parents in order that they could work or have a respite from the sometimes overwhelming needs of their beloved children. The La Hoods created **St Joseph's House** in 1988 and since have loved and cared for hundreds of children. After their own severely disabled child was born and died days later, the La Hood's responded to another call, to create a program to support parents who have received, like they had, a prenatal diagnosis of likely serious disability for their child. They

established **Isaiah's Promise** in 1995. At Isaiah's Promise, stunned, frightened, angry and grieved parents find understanding, love and information to prepare for their own marathons. Cubby and Dan exemplify the action to which Pope Francis calls us.

As I write this, I join hundreds of others in mourning the death of Cubby on September 21 and in prayer that more of us will emulate her life and take our places in the marathon to assist children with disabilities achieve the joy, opportunity, inclusion and love which God intends for them. I've written of a few "street saints" in previous columns. Cubby's now one of them. Learn more about Cubby and Dan La Hood and their work at www.saintjosephshouse.net/.

To honor Cubby and in response to Pope Francis's call and the Bishop's designation of October as Respect for Life month, let's reflect on "hands on" actions individuals and parishes might consider to respect and dignify the lives of people with significant physical and

emotional challenges and how we might assist them in their marathons.

Establish a parish **Opportunities and Inclusion Ministry** to promote parish activities that assist people with disabilities to live inclusionary lives of dignity, freedom and personal opportunity.

Provide opportunities in every form of **parish spiritual and liturgical life** for full inclusion of those with special needs.

No one can feel secure in life without **reliable and affordable housing**. What more can parishes do to provide housing for people with special needs? Can parishes provide a house or property? Learn more by researching Rosario Communities, Victory Housing, or the Joseph P Kennedy Institute.

We all are strengthened by a **warm and supportive network of friends**. Can parishes do more to promote social well-being for people with special needs, often isolated by physical or intellectual challenges? Consider PCR, Inc.; Upper County Community

St. John the Evangelist

Embracing Literature at St. John the Evangelist School

The International Literacy Association sponsors an International Literacy Day which embraces the power of people and communities to create a literate world. This year's focus country is The Philippines. Mrs. Nila DiRaimo's second grade Spanish class was delighted when Mrs. DiRaimo and her Filipino friends created a wonderful display of art, artifacts, games, food, and videos for the children to experience the rich culture of that country. All the other students were invited to share the experience.

Earlier in September, St. John celebrated its own Literary Day. Students in grades 4-8 read two books over the summer, chosen from a list prepared by our librarian. On Literary Day, our guest speaker, Liz Robelen, an editor, actor, and playwright, stressed to the students the importance of good

editing and what makes an interesting story. The students then participated in small group discussions



International Literacy day: First grade students look at examples of Filipino culture on display.

about the books they read. Hearing others in the group talk about their interpretations of the books enhances the learning experience. Students in grades K-3 listen as their teachers read books to them, and then they complete a project based on the books.

OPT

WALK THE WALK

Con't from page 26

Annie gained insight into Bishop Romero's mission through a young camper, Joshua. He told Annie that she was perfect and wrote I love you on volunteers' hands. Annie said, "I think that God was maybe trying to tell me something through that little boy." Joshua taught her the power of using positive words and loving actions with everyone. Dean, the head farmer, taught Grace a different lesson by doing what he loved most while helping others in need. She said, "It was nice to be reminded that I can choose to make a living doing what I love, and maybe even devote my talents to serving others."

The trip was eye-opening for all

the teens. "Going to Camden made me feel real life injustice for the first time, and I am very glad I could," Jude remarked. "This whole experience changed me because it opened my eyes to the world, and made me realize the world isn't such a happy place. It made me more grateful for where I am now, and left an itching inside of me to go back and help the people of Camden." Grace's words echoed Jude's: "This trip was a wakeup call to me because I fully understood for the first time that God has blessed me with many opportunities, and I should not waste his blessings." Jeanne Marie summed up the experience by noting: "Pope Francis says it and the Romero Center proved it: Catholicism is more than a religious identity; it is a call to social justice."

OPT

Resources, Best Buddies as models.

More than 70% of people with disabilities are unemployed. Most want to work and can work with job training and workplace accommodation. What more can parishes do to **promote meaningful employment**? Could they establish parish employment opportunity committees to scour the community for jobs? Could each parish pledge to hire at least one individual with significant disabilities?

Life-long education is important in the marathon. Can more be done to **welcome unique learners into our Catholic schools and religious education programs**? Are there parish volunteer readers, mentors or discussion group leaders?

Finally, can parishes find more love in their hearts to **support the parents and caregivers** of people with special needs? This is critical. As much as the caregivers love, they tire and need your help as repite.

God Bless!

Chuck Short

Novena to St. Jude Thaddeus, October 20-28

Please join the Shrine of St. Jude parish in nine days of devotion and prayer to St. Jude Thaddeus, Oct. 20-28, at 8 p.m. each night in the church. The services will consist of novena prayers; a talk entitled "The Road Less Traveled," by novena director Fr. Francis X. Russo, OFM, Cap; Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament; and veneration of the relic of St. Jude. Additionally, confessions will be heard on Oct. 28

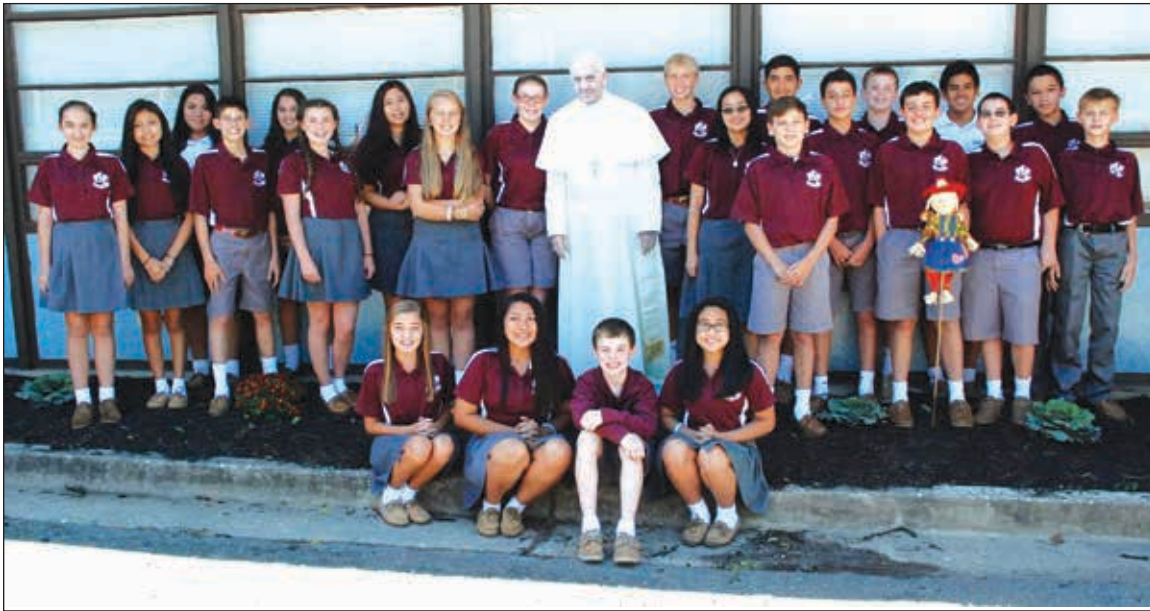


Fr. Francis X. Russo, OFM Cap

from 6-8 p.m.

Fr. Francis X. Russo, OFM Cap, of Capuchin College in Washington, DC, has served as parochial vicar, pastor, vocation director and retreat director since 1959 in various parishes in Puerto Rico, Philadelphia, and throughout the Archdiocese of Washington. Since 2011 he has been helping out at local parishes and preaching parish missions in both English and Spanish.

OPT



SJRCs eighth graders Walk with Francis by planting gardens at the school

The Shrine of St. Jude and St. Jude Regional Catholic School All A-Buzz for Pope Francis

In joyful anticipation, the Shrine of Saint Jude sponsored several activities in September to prepare its parishioners and community for Pope Francis' visit to Washington, DC:

Two-thousand Papal visit door hangers were placed on door handles across the Parish by the Challenge Girls, St. Jude Regional Catholic School Students, Boy

Scouts, St. Jude Right to Life, Charismatic Prayer Group, and the Pastoral Council. The hangers were provided by the Archdiocese of Washington announcing Pope Francis' visit on the front side, and on the reverse side, inviting recipients to the Shrine of St. Jude.

Fr. Ken Gill, parochial vicar, orchestrated the "Walk with Francis" pledge weekend Sept. 5-6,

where more than 800 parishioners pledged to join in prayer, service to the poor, and action for justice. Pledge cards were sent to the Archdiocese for presentation to the Holy Father.

As a parish, St. Jude partnered with the American Red Cross to sponsor a blood drive. Approximately 120 parishioners volunteered as blood donors.

Following all Masses over pledge weekend, parishioners and guests were invited to a reception hosted by the Pastoral Council Community Committee, where they could snap "selfies" with a Pope Francis cut-out, volunteer for the blood drive, receive their "Walk with Francis" wrist bands, and enjoy light refreshments and fellowship.

The Pastoral Council Community Committee sponsored the viewing of "Francis: The Pope from the New World," a documentary by the Knights of Columbus.

The Parish wrapped up September with a Post-Papal Visit Fellowship Sunday on Sept. 27. Parishioners and guests enjoyed light refreshments and fellowship following

Continued on page 38



SJRCs students and Principal Glenn Benjamin bid farewell to Pope Francis at Joint Base Andrews.

St. Jude Welcomes Archbishop Coakley on Nov. 19

The Shrine of St. Jude Pastoral Council Community Committee proudly welcomes Archbishop Paul Coakley, from the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, on Thursday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m. in the Thaddeus Room. Light refreshments will be provided. The Shrine of St. Jude is located at 12701 Veirs Mill Road in Rockville.

More Shrine of St. Jude News on Page 38

St. Jude School Beautified by Eagle Scout Project

Children at St. Jude Regional Catholic School were welcomed back to school by a playground ringed with flowers and greenery after completion of an Eagle Scout project by parishioner and alumnus Xavier Daschner (SJRCs '12) of St. Jude Boy Scout Troop 1071.

The school's parking lot—where students hold recess—has long been bordered by dirt-filled planters. Because of the difficult growing conditions, including an overhanging roof, most beds had not been planted for years. On three different days, Daschner led a team of more than a dozen Scouts from Troop 1071, friends, and parents in the final phase of the project—planting hardy plants designed to withstand the adverse conditions, an occasional stray kickball or hula hoop, and provide a beautiful environment for the students.

Daschner, a Rockville High School senior, wanted to do an Eagle project that benefitted his old school. He contacted the principal, Glenn Benjamin, who is an Eagle Scout himself, and the two worked out the details of the planting project. "When



Xavier Daschner (in green shirt, back by wall), an SJRCs alum, beautifies the school as part of his Eagle Scout Project. Pictured with Xavier from left are his father and Scout leader Phil Daschner, Troop No. 1071 Scoutmaster Stuart Dols, and friend Jack Posluszny.

Mr. Benjamin offered me this project, I was really excited for the opportunity to provide an impact for my old school in such a healthy way," Daschner said, "Hopefully people see these beds for years to come and enjoy them."

The project cost more than \$1,000, of which the school paid about half the cost and Daschner raised funds for the rest.

Congratulations and well done, Xavier!

OPT

Farewell to St. Jude Music Director Denise Lindekugel

In August, the Shrine of St. Jude said farewell to its music director, Denise Lindekugel, who over the past 16 years has led several of the parish choirs, trained cantors and the bell choir, and prepared special liturgies. But Denise's gift of music to St. Jude goes further back. Before being made director, Denise was a member of the St. Jude adult choir, which she joined in 1983, giving the Shrine of St. Jude parish more than 30 years of her beautiful voice, talent, and leadership.

Most recently, Denise auditioned, was selected, and sang with the choir for the mass that Pope Francis celebrated in Washington, DC, on Sept. 23.

In her farewell to the Shrine of St. Jude parish, Denise said "It has been a great joy to serve the Shrine of Saint Jude through music for the past 30 years...I am grateful for the kind and prayerful hearts of the parishioners in the pews, and the talent and generosity of spirit of the cantors, instrumentalists, and choir members with whom I have worked. Thank you all very much."

(This story was compiled by Terry Broderick, Paul Lindekugel, Donna Ely, Mary Jane Boyle, Tom Ardillo, and Janice Strachan.)

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Former St. Jude Music Director Denise Lindekugel at her retirement party

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

Shrine of St. Jude



Natalie Young (eighth grade) rings the bell announcing the arrival of the "Little Pope" and the start of SJRCS' own Papal Parade around the school parking lot. Maximilliano Hernandez (Pre-K), the Little Pope, parades in his decorated "Popemobile," escorted by eighth-grade "Cardinals" Patrick Ribas (left) and Nick Sanders and "Secret Service Agent" Caleb Garcia (third grade).

SJRCs Holds Its Own Papal Parade!

At 11 a.m., on Wednesday, Sept. 23, as Pope Francis was preparing to parade DC streets enroute to the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, St. Jude Regional Catholic School held their own Papal Parade, complete with a Little Pope, Cardinals, Secret Service Agents, and a Popemobile. The "Little Pope," four-year-old Maximilliano Hernandez, who attends the school's Pre-K program, smiled and waved to all those who came to see the "other Papal parade."

The story was covered by local media and has since gone viral around the country, with hopes that Pope Francis will soon see this beautiful tribute.

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St. Jude Pre-K student Maximilliano Hernandez dressed up as the Pope and rode in his "Popemobile" around the school grounds, waving and smiling at all who attended St. Jude School's own Papal Parade.

POPE

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all Masses. New parishioners were welcomed to the St. Jude family by members of the Pastoral Council following the 10:30 Mass. The next Fellowship Sunday is scheduled for Oct. 25 in the Thaddeus Room.

St. Jude Regional Catholic School (SJRCs) also prepared the students for the Pope's arrival with these special activities both before and during his visit:

Fr. Ken Gill escorted the eighth-grade class on a tour the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, the site for Pope Francis' prayer service with the U.S. Bishops.

Following Pope Francis' call that we all take care of the environment, SJRCs Class of 2016 made a pledge to take care of two gardens in the back of the school. Several

students cleaned, dug, planted, and mulched. Now they will water, weed, and take care of the aptly named Pope Francis Garden and John Paul II Garden.

fourth-eighth graders live streamed the President's welcoming ceremony for Pope Francis.

The entire school live streamed in their classrooms the Pope's Midday prayer service with the U.S. Bishops at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle.

On Thursday, Sept. 24, upper school students watched the Pope's visit and address to a joint meeting of Congress.

To help send off Pope Francis to his next stop, 19 SJRCs students and staff were invited to Joint Base Andrews, where they joined students and staff from other Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese in song and prayer while waiting to say thank you and farewell to the Pope.

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Holy Redeemer

Second Grade Celebrates Dot Day

By Mrs. Ellen Borda

Second Graders at Holy Redeemer School celebrated International Dot Day on September 15. This day marks the anniversary of the publication of best-selling author/illustrator Peter H. Reynolds' *The Dot*, a "storybook for all ages."

On this day students explored the story's powerful themes: bravery, creativity, and self-expression. The Dot tells the story of a caring teacher who reaches a reluctant student in a creative way. The teacher dares the student to "make his mark!" So, that is what the second graders did! They made t-shirts, did a variety of art projects with dots, and sang "The Dot



Second graders were courageous in executing their creations.



Second graders enjoyed creating Dot Day sticker art.

Song" by songwriter Emily Dale and the FableVision Learning animation team.

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HR Drama Club Begins Work on Fall Play

By Michelle Ardillo

Eighteen seventh and eighth graders started the school year by beginning work on Holy Redeemer Drama Club's fall play, *One in a Million* from Pioneer Drama Service's catalog. Director Michelle Ardillo and assistant director Danielle Trotta are once again selecting a play written by Craig Sodaro, well known for his age-appropriate humor, positive message, and educational undertones.

This year's play focuses on two sisters, convincingly played by real sisters Eliza and Clara Henne, who have been placed in a foster care home with loving but somewhat disorganized parents who battling a social worker who wants to relocate the girls to what she believes will be a more stable environment. Add in a winning lottery ticket, a roller-skating grandma, and some money-hungry people from Grandma's past and the result is a fun-filled family night of theatre.

Cast members include: eighth graders Dylan Hitt, Eliza Henne, Jackie Gonella, Betsy Robey, Henry Smith, Lauren Gaston, Dominic Welsh, Sam Douki, Bill Smolskis,



The cast and stage manager of HR's fall play, *One in a Million* by Craig Sodaro

Jason Nobahar, Ella Keegan, and Lucy Daignault. Seventh grade cast members include Clara Henne, Savannah Thompson, Blaise Ryan, Ellie Dunn, and Scott Styslinger. The production team will also include eighth grader Emily Lucas as stage manager.

Costumes and props will be curated by long-time HR Drama Club patron Mrs. Cathleen Farr, grandmother to cast member Henry Smith. Mr. Joe Ryan, parent of cast member Blaise Ryan, will assist

with sound. Other faculty members and parents will assist with the fall play, the first of two productions sponsored by the HR Drama Club each year.

One in a Million will be performed for the school on November 20, 2015, at an afternoon assembly, and again that night at 7:00 pm for friends and family. Tickets for the evening performance will be available at the door of the Herb Young Auditorium.

OPT

FRANCIS

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Maddie. Maddie who is a talented writer was able to re-write the lyrics of "Walking on Sunshine" to "Walking with Francis." The next step was to figure out the best way to execute the video in such a short time frame. School Principal, Colleen Ryan, called upon school parent Luke David to help with the

production. Luke owns Automatic Sports and he has done video production for the school in the past. Luke David and Colleen Ryan worked together to come up with fun and creative ideas for scenes that would capture both the spiritual and fun part of Holy Redeemer's pledge. Luke also had contacts with a recording studio so that Ms. Brown, our music teacher AND Papal Mass Choir member, could lay down vocal tracks for the video.

The fun idea became a first class operation!

The finished product is nothing short of amazing. The students, faculty, and staff of Holy Redeemer couldn't be more proud! We hope that we are on our way to going viral as the video has already been viewed over 1,900 times! You can see the video for yourself at <https://youtu.be/KmJgsJlIpXI>.

God be with you, Pope Francis!

OPT

St. Raphael

GOLF

Con't from page 15

of Fr. Bill and advanced the legacy left at the time of his passing—the St. Raphael Educational Building.

Proceeds from the tournament were directed to the St. Raphael Educational Building Fund in Fr. Bill's name. The building houses the Parish Library and St. Raphael School, and provides meeting space for local organizations and charities as well as classrooms to foster religious and academic studies. All of us at SRS are grateful to the participants, volunteers, and sponsors who contributed toward the success of the St. Raphael Golf Classic as we continue to fulfill the dream Fr. Bill envisioned for our school.

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From left, Dave DeSalle, Mike Krivka, Fr. Agustín López, and Denio Zara were among the more than 30 foursomes that participated in this year's Fr. Bill Finch Memorial St. Raphael Golf Classic. Photo by Ann Gleavy

SRS Students Welcome Pope Francis to D.C.

As individuals, families, and as a school, we joined the Walk With Francis in joyful anticipation of the Holy Father's historic visit to the United States and our archdiocese. At SRS, we pledged to Walk With Francis and committed to follow his example of prayer and service, uniting on a recent September morning to collectively lift more than 600 prayers for the Holy Father under the guidance of our parochial vicar, Fr. Francisco Aguirre. In addition, to help Pope Francis "change the world," the students collected loose change and donated the coins to the St. Raphael chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, whose mission is to end poverty through systemic change.

Next to a life-sized display of Pope Francis at St. Raphael church, everyone had an opportunity to take photos in commemoration of the eagerly awaited papal visit, and, to the delight of a small group of SRS students, the experience of a lifetime to see Pope Francis in person. Six SRS students joined a larger St. Raphael group of religious education students and members of the youth ministry in greeting the Holy Father at the Apostolic Nunciature near the Naval Observatory during his visit on Sept. 23. Other students attended the historic canonization Mass of Blessed Junípero Serra with their families, including seventh-grader Katie Opack, who shared that she could feel

the prayers in the air and expressed her joy in seeing Pope Francis. "It was really cool to see him, and exciting, because you never expect to see someone like the Pope," she said. "It fulfilled the whole experience and made me really happy!"

Regardless of whether we welcomed Pope Francis amidst the Washington, D.C., events or in private, the fruits of his visit remain with all of us as we are reminded by the Holy Father that "the family...the basic cell of society, through the bearing and education of children, ensures the future and the renewal of society" and as we strive to grow stronger together.

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Grandparents Honored

The tradition of Grandparents' Day at SRS continued on Sept. 25 as we incorporated gifts of faith and family with wisdom and love that grandparents uniquely offer. We shared St. Raphael School with our beloved as generations came together to celebrate Mass, take family portraits, visit classrooms, and enjoy a meal. This day honored our special guests, who have nurtured and blessed our families and helped bridge us as a school community.

Angels Raced for Funds and Fun

Angels of all ages hit the ground running on October 3 for our annual Angels on the Run. This year's

event drew some 400 participants and included a 200-yard cherub dash for the littlest ones, a 1-miler for youth, and a 5K for everyone ready to go the distance. Angels on the Run raises funds for our school through the support and participation of school, parish, and extended community families, and always sends our spirits soaring!

Upcoming Events

For information about the following events and more, visit our school website at www.straphaelschoolmd.org.

Oct. 8-9: Day to Serve is a multi-state interdenominational effort to help those less fortunate. As part of this initiative, St. Raphael School and Nursery School will conduct a food

and supplies drive to benefit Stepping Stones Shelter.

Oct. 19: SRS Open House welcomes interested parents to a presentation and tour of our facilities. Join us 9:15-10:15 a.m. (NOTE: This open house is for K-8; mark your calendars for the St. Raphael School and Nursery School open house on Jan. 11.)

Oct. 24: Haunted Trail benefits the American Red Cross and is a collaborative service project led by SRS students. All are invited 6:30-8 p.m. at Potomac Woods Park.

Dec. 1: Mother Teresa Luncheon sets our tables with food for the homeless in our community and opens our hearts to love and serve our neighbors.

OPT

TRIP

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that they only have a priest celebrate mass once a month. The few priests to cover a diocese the size of California is also a big reason many Alaskan parishes have communion services rather than mass each week. It made everyone realize how blessed we are to be in the Washington Archdiocese where we can go to mass every day.

During masses, daily commu-

nion services, along with nightly prayer and reflection, there were many opportunities to digest the overwhelming encounters of each day. "Alaska was a magnificent experience. Everything we saw was breathtaking. But, even more is that I saw God in places that I would never think to look. While the mountains were cool, what I really took away from the trip was a strengthened relationship with God," said Michael Katski, a high school junior.

The trip finished on the Feast of the Transfiguration, very appropri-

ate as none of us wanted to "come down from that mountain-top high of seeing the beauty in nature and the people we served. In the words of Tess Maltagliati, "I never knew that saying goodbye to a place could be as hard as saying goodbye to a person."

Time away from the noise, to see God's handiwork in creation, is something we all need as it refocuses us on what is important and enables us to better serve each other. This Mission Trip accomplished that goal and so much more.

OPT

CUP OF JOE

Con't from page 12

helped assemble 300 "breakfast-to-go bags" to be sent to a local shelter for distribution. Clients of the shelters exit the shelters around 7am and through this program are able to start the day with a filling meal.

Typical breakfast bags include fruit cups, raisins, juice boxes, granola bars, pop tarts, and peanut butter crackers. The breakfast bags were donated to Chase Partners Shelter on Gude Dive (near the school) so students were able to have an impact in their direct com-

munity. These bags provided about 2 weeks of breakfasts for the clients of the shelter.

Monica Ludwig, Director of Social Concerns for St. Patrick's Church, was impressed with "the conscientiousness" and work ethic of these eighth-grade students in completing the project. She plans to coordinate the breakfast bags project on a monthly basis with other student groups at the parish. "It's a great way for people to participate in service. Any age can participate and be a part of something bigger," Ludwig commented.

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11:30 AM

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1725 Rhode Island Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20036

Principal Celebrant

HIS EMINENCE
DONALD CARDINAL WUERL
Archbishop of Washington

Homilist

REV. WILLIAM D. BYRNE
Pastor, Our Lady of Mercy, Potomac

REV. MSGR. W. RONALD JAMESON
Rector

The Mass has the designation, "White" because of that color's connection to our baptismal promises. And it has now become a tradition that all the participants at the liturgy wear white, to symbolize the bonds of community we all share through this sacrament of initiation. In fact, the Catholic Bishops in 1995 based their Sacramental Guidelines for persons with disabilities on this primary foundation:

*By reason of their baptism,
all Catholics are equal in dignity in the sight of God
and have the same divine calling. (#1)*

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