

OUR Parish Times

Senior Services Guide
Special Pull-Out Section

DECEMBER 2012

Living the Faith Together

FREE



Scouts at OLQP Raise Funds for Hurricane Sandy Victims

On November 11, 2012, Polish Scouts and parents at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish in Silver Spring, MD, led a fundraising event to collect funds for the victims of Hurricane Sandy. The money collected was sent to the American Red Cross Sandy Relief Fund. Pictured are some of those who helped in this effort: Parents Magda Ciecwierz and Violetta Bazyluk, Scout Leader Bozenna Buda, scouts Klaudia Weidlich, Eddie Lipsman, Aleksandra Ciecwierz, Alicia Coleman, Victoria Stanislawek, Adam Bazyluk, and siblings.

Five Guys



By Chuck Short

Most Wednesdays I enjoy the blessing of lunch with four good friends at the Jeanne Jugan home for the elderly, a mission of the Little Sisters of the

Poor. We've been spending this special time together for several years. Since this edition of the Parish Times is focusing on senior issues, I thought I would share with you a bit about our group of seniors. I hope you find a Christmas reflection in it.

We five are a diverse collection totaling near a half millennium in age. At ninety-something, Garland, an African American with a deep, velvety voice much like Morgan Freeman's, is our esteemed dean. Not deterred much by his wheelchair, he's often found out front peacefully enjoying his aromatic pipe. He's a man of few words (lucky for Joe since this affords him more time to talk). His quiet, broad smiles and approving shoulder-driven grunts add warmth to our conversations. Garland is from North Carolina, but really belongs to the entire nation as a retired career Army man. When he breaks silence, he speaks

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Catholic Business Network Volunteer of the Year



Mr. Vincent Spadoni, St. Elizabeth School principal, presents Mary Penny with the Volunteer of the Year award

Congratulations to Mary McCarthy Penny, who was awarded the Catholic Business Network Volunteer of the Year award on November 16, 2012 at their annual Gala. Mrs. Penny, a St. Elizabeth parent, alumna and parishioner, was chosen from nominees from all of the Archdiocesan schools in Montgomery County. Mary has three sons who have graduated (Michael, Patrick and John) and Thomas who is currently a 7th grader.

Mary has been involved in almost every aspect of the school and parish life. She has served as the President of the Home and School Association, school board member, Gala committee, and headed the committee for the creation and enlargement of the preschool.

Thank you, Mrs. Penny, for all of your hard work and dedication to St. Elizabeth School! You deserve this great honor.

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Among the two dozen adult and youth volunteers who helped assemble Thanksgiving baskets at Resurrection were, clockwise left to right, Julia Shawhan, Kate Mauck, Sabine Paul, Steven Anderson, Calixte Paul, Ryun Anderson, and Iris Salita. Photo by John Small

Resurrection Helps 70 Families with Thanksgiving Baskets

In a parish-wide effort, members of Resurrection Church helped to provide Thanksgiving baskets for 70 families in the Burtonsville area, where the church is located.

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A 21st Century Angel Tree



By Rev. Msgr. John Enzler

I don't know who first invented the Angel Tree, but I'd love to give them a hug.

It remains one of my favorite Christmas traditions in a parish. If you aren't familiar with an Angel Tree,

it is very simple. A tree, beautifully adorned, usually sits near the front of the parish. Tags with the names and ages of children, often including clothing sizes or a few wishes for specific toys, hang on the tree. But those tags have more than just names. They hold the hopes of children and young people, who have likely already experienced much hardship in their lives. These are children from families who don't have extra money to cover gifts.

Members of the parish can then pick out any number of kids and go shopping, bringing back the gifts in time to be wrapped and under the tree at home on Christmas morning.

I am very excited to share that Catholic Charities has an Angel Tree for the entire archdiocese (available, as a sign of the times,

Continued on page 3

An Opportunity to Experience Monastic Life

By Mark Laurent Asselin, St. Elizabeth parishioner

Several months ago I read of an unusual opportunity: a chance to spend a weekend living as a Trappist at the abbey in Berryville, Virginia. This "Monastic Immersion Weekend" was the inspiration of a new lay support element, the Companions of Holy Cross Abbey, led by Kurt Aschermann. What made this opportunity unique was that the special weekend was being offered not only to those discerning a monastic vocation, but to others who wanted to explore how one might adapt Cistercian spirituality to a secular life. How many opportunities like that come along? A married man with a family, I



Br. Barnabas, Br. Joseph, Br. Efrain, Fr. Robert (Abbot) and Fr. James (left to right) see off the participants in the first Monastic Immersion Weekend at the Holy Cross Abbey in Berryville, Virginia.

wondered not does this make sense for me, but, could I afford to pass this up?

"Listen to the voice of the Lord." And so, on a Friday in late September, I joined elev-

en other men mostly from Virginia, Maryland and Delaware, in donning grey-hooded sweatshirts and immersing ourselves in the monastic routine of Holy Cross Abbey. Over the next couple of days, we joined the community in chanting and singing the Divine Office, in living our lives according to the horarium, a schedule defined by the regimen of prayers as laid out in the Rule of Saint Benedict, and even abiding by the vegetarian diet of the monks. I had done retreats at Holy Cross Abbey before, but never had this kind of experience: Vigils in the choir at 3:30

a.m., followed by individual prayer, choir rehearsal, conferences on the Benedictine tradition of the Divine Office and Cistercian

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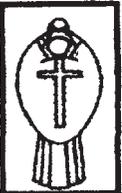
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Shepherd Foundation celebrates 25 years of providing tuition assistance

Twenty Five years ago, two businessmen and Fr. John Enzler started the Shepherd Foundation, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, to help students and families with tuition assistance so they could attend or remain in Catholic Grade Schools or High schools in the Archdiocese of Washington.



Shepherd Foundation founders Rick Sullivan, Sr. (left) and Dick Ridgway.

The goal of Dick Ridgway, Rick Sullivan, Sr and Fr John was to engage other Catholic business leaders in the area to raise and contribute a total of \$50,000 per year to the neediest schools in the region. On November 17 at Holy Redeemer Church in Kensington, the group celebrated 25 years of giving. Now, the Shepherd Foundation annually raises and distributes over \$400,000 to help over 600 students in over 50 grade schools and high schools throughout the Archdiocese.

"It's that last little amount we provide to the student that helps keep them in Catholic School", says current Chairman, Mike Ridgway. "That is our model, make the money go as far as it can for as many students as possible."

The group keeps a low profile compared to many other charitable

organizations. "We have very few moving parts. We have no administrative expenses so every dollar we raise goes to helping students" adds Rick Sullivan, Co-founder and former Chairman for the organization. Co-founder and first Chairman Dick Ridgway commented, "since day one, our goal was to make as big an impact as we could with the money we raised and distributed each year."

From its humble origins and goals, the Shepherd Foundation has granted over \$6.4 Million and helped over 10,000 students in its 25 years. Adds Co-founder Msgr. John Enzler, now CEO of Catholic Charities for Washington DC, "that last little bit makes a big impact

on enabling a student to continue receiving the gift of Catholic education and thus making a big impact on their life."

Adds Mike Ridgway "When some of our scholars contact us and tell us they are now a doctor, lawyer, engineer, or they have reached the goal we helped them achieve, we are humbled by knowing that last little amount of financial assistance to stay in Catholic school, gave them that chance to chase and reach their dream - and helped change a life."

But as Dick Ridgway pointed out, there are still many more student to help and the Shepherd Foundation wants to help change as many lives as it can by keeping kids in Catholic school.

If you would like to help the Shepherd Foundation help students in need, you can contact Mike Ridgway at 301-244-4582 or mike@cittle.net. If you would like to make a gift to help students, you can make a contribution to the Shepherd Foundation, PO Box 50 Kensington, MD 20895

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Kathleen & Lawrence Hamm
 PUBLISHERS

Danny Gannon
Michael Roseleigh
 DISTRIBUTION

Prepress by Electronic Ink
 www.eink.net



Parish Community Services, Inc.
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PUBLISHED IN ALTERNATE MONTHS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.

The Purple Puck

Are you are missing the Caps and are looking for some fun over the Christmas break?

Please come celebrate Gonzaga College High School's 20th Anniversary National Capital Hockey Tournament "The Purple Puck" Located at Ft Dupont Ice Arena 3779 Ely Place SE Washington DC

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Tournament runs Dec. 26th - Dec. 31st

Please check www.gonzagahockey.org for the 2012-13 schedule, scores, team updates, and directions Portion of the proceeds will benefit Gonzaga Hockey, Friends of Ft. Dupont Ice Arena Programs and the USA Warriors Program.

ENZLER

Con't from page 1

online). We serve thousands of children every year – and the stories can be especially heartbreaking at Christmastime.

Last week a mother of four called us about the Angel Tree. Her husband suddenly passed away and she is overwhelmed about how to get gifts for her children. A young couple called us after taking in their recently-orphaned niece and nephew. Each spoke with deep gratitude for the Angel Tree, grateful for any help we could give them.

On the other side of the coin, a family from DC called and told us that instead of exchanging gifts with each other, each member of the family would get gifts for a child on the Angel Tree. Together, they adopted a family with seven kids!

As of writing this column, we have 546 children on our Angel Tree – an “e-Angel Tree” available at www.CatholicCharitiesDC.org/ChristmasGiving. Already, more almost 200 have been adopted and we dearly hope to provide a gift to every child.

If you can, please adopt a child this Christmas. All of the information is on the website, including an option to donate money if you won't be able to get to the store in time.

The Angel Tree represents the very essence of what Christian charity is – giving when you have your own friends and family, caring about a stranger despite your own worries, and taking time out of your schedule when you are already overbooked.

Please join me in praying this Christmas season for all of those in



Catholic Charities' Angel Tree hopes to provide presents for hundreds of children this Christmas. Can you adopt a child, helping them share in the joy of this special season?

our region who suffer and struggle with making ends meet.

ChristmasGiving. If you know someone who needs gifts or if you have questions, call (202) 266-3097.

To adopt a child, please visit www.CatholicCharitiesDC.org/

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Love Thy Neighbor...



Parishioners gather to make sandwiches

November was a busy month for St. Andrew Apostle Parish. Hurricane Sandy struck a poignant note in some parishioners' hearts and moved them to want to help. With the encouragement and leadership of Father Daniel Leary, St. Andrew's Pastor, plus generous contributions of benefactors, a sandwich brigade was set up. About 40 parishioners showed up one evening to make 1600 turkey/cheese and ham/cheese sandwiches, which were stored in

dry-iced coolers, and driven up the next day to the distribution center that had been set up by St. Benedict's Church at Holmdel, New Jersey. Another van was filled with clothing and blankets that were donated by parishioners and friends of St. Andrew's, and driven up by another parish family. As of this writing, there are still plans to send another van to New York with school supplies and toys for schools that were demolished, and another van with winter wear (coats,

scarves, gloves, hats).

But, that's not all. Parishioners are busily filling up colorfully decorated Thanksgiving boxes with food plus a donation of \$15 with each box towards the purchase of a turkey. The intention is to donate a box to a needy family for a Thanksgiving meal. This year parishioners filled 300 boxes which were delivered to Catholic Charities and to Holy Name Parish in Washington, DC for distribution.

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Vans filled with sandwiches, clothing and supplies ready to depart for New Jersey



St. Andrew Apostle students attend school Mass and concert

Early Learning Center Opens at St. Andrew Apostle

St. Andrew Apostle School, with the recent addition of its Early Learning Center, is an infant (6 weeks) through 8th Grade school in Silver Spring, MD. Founded in 1960, the school which is supported by St. Andrew Apostle and Church of the Resurrection parishes is proud to serve a diverse, multi-ethnic student population of approximately 300 students. Based on sound rigorous educational principles, and directed towards the growth of the whole person, the general curriculum is a vehicle for the exploration of values, life, culture and faith within a Catholic framework. The values taught and practiced by our Christian faith – love, justice, freedom, compassion, hope and forgiveness – inform and enrich every aspect of school life.

St. Andrew Apostle School has been the recipient of two National Blue Ribbon awards for high performance, in 1997 and in 2007. Additionally, the school was recognized by the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth as a "Top School". This program recognizes schools with exceptional academic qualities, student and teacher talent as well as excellence in leadership. St. Andrew Apostle seeks to grow on this path of continuous improvement, while nurturing and enabling students to perform to the best of their abilities.

The Early Learning Center has been an exciting addition to the school. In the Fall of 2011, Principal Susan Sheehan realized the importance of building on the school's robust elementary education by preparing a pool of students for entry into the 3-year old Pre-School program. With support from our pastor, Fr. Dan Leary, the building behind the elementary school (formerly the convent) was renovated. The Early Learning Center recently opened its doors, staffed with teachers and assistants, and a new program featuring a year-round early development program for infants 6 weeks of age through 2 years old.

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St. Andrew Apostle Parish's Senior Group is Active

St. Andrew Apostle parish is blessed to have an active Senior Group that supports their fellow parishioners both spiritually and socially. The group gathers monthly after First Friday Mass for a pot luck breakfast, affectionately known as "B&B" or Blessings and Breakfast. On occasion, thanks

to volunteer chefs, the menu has included cooked to order omelets, French toast and pancakes.

The breakfasts provide an opportunity to learn a little more about one another. Some months feature a "Getting to Know You" segment which spotlights individual parishioners. We've heard from a published author and a grandmaster in Karate, we also heard a former employee at MGM studios who shared with us her experiences with some of Hollywood's biggest names. Another parishioner described her pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Spain.

The seniors also enjoy trips to local and regional areas of interest. A recent trip included a visit to a winery, lunch at a waterfront restaurant and a tour of the Decoy Museum in Havre de Grace, Maryland. Other trips have been to historic churches in Baltimore,



Kindergarteners serenade seniors at recent Blessings and Breakfast

Emmitsburg and the Franciscan Monastery. We've also joined other parish groups to fill a big bus for

trips to out of town venues.

"A Taste of St. Andrew's" is a popular parish event sponsored by

the seniors. Ours is a diverse parish and, for "The Taste", the All Purpose room is filled with culinary masterpieces representing many of the world's best cuisines. The group has also coordinated Mardi Gras and New Year's Eve celebrations. The annual Christmas luncheon, held in early December is a much anticipated and well attended event.

Giving back to the parish and community by participating in various service projects is important to the seniors. Some projects, such as monthly delivery of casseroles to So Others Might Eat (SOME) are ongoing. Others, such as selling fair trade items or filling and distributing Christmas stockings to residents of area care facilities occur on a seasonal basis. To this vibrant group, the term senior is generic and not a number. We have about 40 participants and new members are always welcome.

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St. Andrew Apostle Parish

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St. Andrew Apostle School
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Principal
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Second-grader Nela Sahady and her father celebrate Donuts for Dad on Columbus Day.

Donuts for Dad

On Columbus Day, St. Bartholomew School hosted all of our Dads in a morning filled with Donuts and fun. The children love to share their classrooms and everything they are learning with their fathers.

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Fourth-grader Gabrielle Joe works on a project with her father on Donuts for Dad day.



St. Bart's Hispanic Community celebrates Holiday Bazaar and Flea Market

Hispanic Community at St. Bart's Holds Annual Holiday Sale

On Sunday, November 4, St. Bartholomew's Hispanic Community celebrated their Fourth Holiday Bazaar and Flea Market. This year's proceeds are to be used toward the purchase of a new Crucifix for the church's altar. Twenty four tables filled with wonderful articles, most of them beautifully crafted by the sellers themselves, were displayed during the bazaar.

St. Bart's Deacon Julio Blanco-Eccleston told OPT, "This annual event is an amazing opportunity for fellowship and

community building." It was organized and coordinated by Ligia Blanco, spouse of Deacon Julio. "She does an incredible job; however, it's the good hearts of this parish's people who make things possible," said Deacon Julio. Fr. Joseph Sileo, Pastor of St. Bart's, told OPT: "This year was one of the Hispanic Community's most successful sales and drew a great deal of both Hispanic and Anglo support. They earned more than \$5,000 for the new cross. This was a really important social event for our parish community."

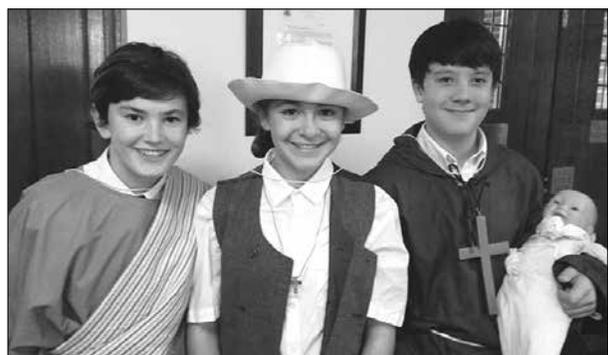
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Liz Winnor Remembered

The St. Bartholomew School community gathered with the Winnor Family to remember Mrs. Liz Winnor, our beloved First-grade Aide, who died earlier this year. The students shared their favorite memories of Mrs. Winnor in front of a tree planted in her honor.

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Chris McCann, Sofia Rebaudengo and Matthew Libre dressed as their favorite saints on All Saints Day.

All Saints Day

All of the eighth-graders dressed up as their favorite Saint in honor of All Saints Day. They had a special role at the 8:30 Mass.

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Eighth-graders Alec Bromley, Ryan Arinaga and Alexandra Rogers at the St. Bartholomew All Saints Day Mass.

St. Bartholomew CYO Benefits from Golf Classic Fundraiser

On Friday, Oct 5, 2012, St. Bart's held its annual St. Bart's Golf Classic Fundraiser. In addition to the traditional golf tournament at Bretton Woods Golf Club, the event this year for the first time featured a kids-oriented sports and dance/dinner party at St. Bart's, where nearly 200 parishioners enjoyed catered Italian food and pizza from Ledo's. The combined event raised over \$7,000 to benefit the CYO, e.g., maintenance of the Reddy Center Gym and the outdoor playing fields at St. Bart's.

Special thanks went to major sponsors Ferris Property Management and Nixon & Vanderhye PA (patent attorneys), as well as Caddies on Cordell, Dominos, The Crowley Company, and X-Cel Fitness. Especially appreciated were the tireless efforts of Chris Born, Mike Prentiss, and Paul Bowen, who helped put the event together, and volunteers including Joe Deausen, Jeremy Patten and Jackie Edmunds. Fr. Joseph Sileo told OPT, "This event was really successful and marked the first time we've held the dinner/dance on campus. A good time was had by all."

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Excited ticket holders wait for raffle results at St. Bart's CYO Parish Dinner following annual Golf Classic.

St. Bart's Youth Group Fired Up!

The St. Bartholomew Youth Group continues having fun, including a bonfire on November 3 with s'mores, hotdogs, and charades. Sports have included soccer-baseball, four square, and basketball. They have also been growing spiritually, though events such as a talk by a seminarian on angels and demons, viewing the John Paul II movie, and a discussion of Mother Teresa's teachings.

The group also has been reaching out to others by, for example, making sandwiches for the homeless and visiting the elderly residents at St. Bartholomew House.

Youth Minister Sarah Kayser told OPT: "We are very happy with the beginnings of the St. Bartholomew



Sean and Sarah Kayser tend the bonfire at a Youth Group outing on November 3.

Middle School Youth Group. Students from public and private schools continue to become better friends as they share their faith, serve, and have fun together. We are striving to grow in holiness by doing 'little things with great love' as Mother Teresa says. How simple yet challenging the youth are finding it is to live what Mother Teresa advises, 'How do you promote world peace? Go home and love your families.'"

Fr. Joseph Sileo, Pastor of St. Bart's, commented, "Our Youth Group is really doing well. They had a very successful bonfire (despite a touch of poison ivy). Now they are getting ready for the Right to Life March in January."

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St. John the Evangelist Students Honor Spanish Heritage Month

By Erica Walz and Melissa Rizio, SJE Spanish Teachers

October and November have been two exciting months for Saint John the Evangelist's Spanish Classes! In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Señora Walz took the fourth and sixth-graders on a field trip to the Discovery Theater where they experienced a traditional Mariachi Band with authentic Mexican Dancers. Sean, a sixth-grader, commented, "It was so nice to dance on the stage with the Mexican Dancers and learn how to dance the way they do."

On November 14, the seventh grade had lunch at "Los Chorros," an authentic Salvadoran/Mexican Restaurant in Wheaton. The students were able to practice their Spanish directly with the waiters. Molly said, "Going to the restaurant was great because we had a real connection with the waiters because of Señora Walz and her teaching." Betsy added that "The waiters were very nice and the food



SJE 7th graders enjoy lunch out in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month

was really "Deliciosa!" Colleen thought, "Everyone was so friendly and patient and I think it was a much better idea than taking a written test at school."

In the Primary Grades, the new Spanish Teacher, Señora Rizio, has

been busy with building on Señora Walz's outstanding base, while adding conversational Spanish phrases and a variety of new songs about the weather and colors. In November, Señora Rizio started introducing the Second Grade to "Misa Criolla," a



Seamus DeVol learns a Spanish dance from the pros

traditional and well-known Spanish Mass that is completely sung. The Third Grade is preparing to script and perform their own Spanish Radio Show.

Both Primary and Middle school grades will be combining class-

es to perform the "Misa Criolla" and Radio Station for this year's Christmas Celebration in Spanish classes.

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SJE third graders enjoy a hayride at the pumpkin patch.

SJE's Fall Gala & Auction Raised \$65,000 ... and counting ... !

By Kyra Lyons and Maureen Hathway, 2012 Gala & Auction Co-Chairs

We are ecstatic to announce to parishioners that your attendance and support

an incredible amount of funds to benefit our parish programs. Maintenance of the church, support of the school and religious education programs and much more are all now going to be funded in the coming year. But none of it would be possible without your vital donations and attendance.

Hearty congratulations to Phil Coyne and Sandra Kweder, the winners of the Paris trip drawing, and to all who left the auction with a treasure (or four). And from the bottom of our hearts, thanks again to the amazing Gala & Auction committee and volunteers who helped transform our SJE gym into a magical and sparkling evening in Paris.

As the Parisians say, *je t'aime*.

OPT

Look for the Magi

The Story Behind Our Three Wise Men

By Phil Hannan and Ging Graham

Last Christmas (2011), over the inside vestibule of St. John the Evangelist Church, you may have noticed the nearly life-size three wise men and their camel added to the already spectacular array of Christmas decorations.

The Magi bearing gifts are the work of the fledgling St. Joseph's Guild of St. John the Evangelist, a woodworking duo of neighbors Mike Graham and Phil Hannan operating in service to the parish. This is the pair's fifth project. The first was the design and execution of the tabernacle altar in the sanctuary several years ago at the request of our former pastor, Msgr. English. Others included a flower-arch-support frame, which debuted during the season of Easter last year enshrining the tabernacle with flowers, sidewalk vendor inspired stalls for parish fundraising events and a reproduction crucifix for the replica Carroll Chapel on the cemetery grounds at the historic old church.

As with the flower-arch project, the wise men began with a parish request from the Liturgical Arts and Environment Committee. The Magi were first envisioned as black silhouettes in plywood but soon evolved into full-size constructions of three-dimensional wise



The Magi preside over the vestibule of St. John the Evangelist Church during Advent

men and camel. The figures were carved from sheets of closed-cell insulation-grade Styrofoam using an electric hot knife and assembled in layers with spray and liquid glue. After several broken limbs and failed glue joints on the figures, Phil and Mike became comfortable with their medium and the work was completed in earnest over just a ten-day period.

The Magi figures are an original design by Mike Graham. The assembly included a wooden platform base on the ledge over the vestibule for structural stabil-

ity. Bamboo skewers were added through the backs of the cut-outs to join and secure the Magi together in their quest. The camel required multiple sheets of Styrofoam and, because of its size, was joined in the middle with a modified mortise-and-tenon. Acrylic paint completed the illusion of the wise men and their beast of burden on their journey to the manger, or at least in the direction of Wheaton, Maryland. The Magi figures will re-emerge at Advent and continue in their quest for our Savior along with the rest of us.

OPT

Thanksgiving Food Drive Benefits Holy Name Parish

From October 22 to November 8 the SJE Student Council ran a Thanksgiving food drive to benefit Holy Name Parish in Northeast, Washington. SJE students collected approximately 1.5 boxes of food from each class in grades K-8.

Rev. Michael Briese, pastor of Holy Name and

former associate at St. John the Evangelist Parish, came and picked up the donations on behalf of his parish community. The children collected dry foods like stuffing, canned vegetables and goods – focusing on foods that would be found at a traditional thanksgiving feast.

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Attendees Listen Attentively

St. John the Baptist Celebrates Anniversary of the Vatican II Council

By Ann Jelen

Fr. Landislas Orsy, S.J. delivered a presentation on November 3 to open St. John the Baptist's celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Vatican II Council. More than 200 people gathered to hear him.

Father Orsy has been coming to St. John the Baptist for ten years, mentoring Vatican II study groups and sharing his unique perspective on the Council. As a young priest, he was in Rome fifty years ago and served as an advisor to

bishops on matters of Canon Law during the Vatican II Council. He is currently a professor of law at Georgetown University.

Father Orsy discussed the history of ecumenical councils since their beginning in the fourth century with the Council of Nicea, where the divinity of Jesus was affirmed, to the most recent Vatican II Council, called by Pope John XXIII in 1962-65 to provide an opportunity for "updating."

Although Vatican II left behind a fresh and magnificent vision,

Father Orsy stated that it failed in practicalities with no laws and structures to support it. He proposed that, to have the right climate for progress, we must: "...trust in the Spirit and in each other, engage in merry debate, and have freedom."

Fr. Orsy's lecture was the beginning of St. John's three-year celebration of Vatican II. As part of the celebration, parishioners were encouraged to sign up for Vatican II study groups that will meet at various times.

OPT



Fr. Orsy Addresses Attendees



Students enjoying a Special Hot Lunch!

Grandmas Make Hot Lunch Thursdays Special

By Erica Pifer and Diane Kalita, Student Reporters

Thursdays at St. John the Baptist School in Silver Spring, Maryland, has its own claim to fame. Hot Lunch! Students, faculty, and volunteers all enjoy choices that vary from our own classic Hot Lunch to a wonderful Wendy's Hot Lunch. However, many do not know all the hidden work that happens behind the scenes. **Rose Martin, Betty McCarthy, and Ellen Cygnarowicz**, better known to the SJB community as "The Hot Lunch Grandmas," have been an important part of the Hot Lunch production for many years. From setting up tables to Ellen Cygnarowicz's time baking cookies, it is safe to say Hot Lunch is a big part of these women's lives.

To try to get a glimpse of the hectic lives of these grandmas, we asked them what it is like to help on

these special Thursdays.

Interviewer: "How long have you been helping out at SJB?"

Response: "A long time!" Betty McCarthy laughed, "I have had six children and seven grandchildren go to this school!"

Interviewer: "What is your favorite Hot Lunch?"

Response: "We all agree that the classic Hot Lunch is definitely our favorite" said Rose Martin. They all feel more involved than with other Hot Lunches.

Interviewer: "How much longer do you plan on volunteering?"

Response: Rose Martin replied while the others nodded in agreement, "I want to work here as long as possible; as long as God allows me to."

We want to give a special thank you to these three extraordinary women. All of SJB hopes to see their beautiful smiles for years to come!

OPT

St. John the Baptist School Celebrates 50 Years of Faith and Learning

By Liz Richardson

A heartwarming Homecoming, a 50th Anniversary Mass, a surprise party for 300 and an elegant dinner dance marked SJB's 50th Anniversary celebration over Columbus Day weekend.

The festivities began Thursday, October 4 with a surprise party for students, who were delighted by balloons cascading from the rafters. Hot lunch volunteers from many years past returned for a lunch reunion, and all enjoyed a lovely concert presented by the 50th Anniversary Children's Choir.

Friday evening's Gala Dinner Dance brought current and past clergy, nuns, teachers, alumni and parents, who were presented with a heartwarming video produced by Michael Diokno. The night included a delicious dinner and lively dancing 'til midnight.

The celebration continued at Saturday's Homecoming Fall Festival, which brought hundreds of current and alumni families together for a beautiful autumn day of carnival games, live music, garden activities, and a fall plant sale. The



Open House reunited alumni with retired teachers, and memorabilia highlighting how the school has changed, yet remained the same, in its commitment to providing a Faith-filled education in a nurturing environment. "SJB is a wonderful place for many reasons, but especially because of the people who have been and still are a part of the school community" said Erin McCauley Tervo, Class of '85 and current liturgy teacher.

Sunday's Anniversary Mass was

concelebrated by Fr. David Brault, Monsignor Kazista, Fr. Ozoagu, Fr. Willis and Deacon Gorman, and followed by a reception where all were treated to another inspiring concert by the 50th Anniversary choir. Principal Marianne Moore said, "It was a fabulous celebration of community...of all that SJB has been for 50 years."

For the video and photos of the weekend, go to: <http://www.sjbsilver-spring.org/school/> and click on the 50th Anniversary link.

OPT

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St. Bartholomew



Ho Young Jin shares a Social Studies Project with her parents.



Seventh-grader Jorge Familiar and his mother at the Open House

Open House

St. Bartholomew School had a very successful Open House on November 16 for both existing and prospective parents. After a brief presentation by Principal Miller, our parents spent time with their children in the classrooms. The students were very excited to show their parents all the interesting things they are learning! The classroom time was followed by a special Thanksgiving Honor's Prayer Service and a family luncheon.

MONASTIC LIFE

Con't from page 1

history, Lauds and Mass at 7 a.m. and finally breakfast at 8. It was like that Army recruitment commercial from the 1980s: "We do more before 9 a.m. than most people do all day!"

What did I learn over the weekend? Well I un-learned that the monastery is some sort of an escape from the world. While we long for the world to come, we were reminded that the present world is not evil; to accept that notion would be to embrace dualism, i.e., that this world is evil; only the world to come good. No, Brother Efrain reassured us, "You are from the world, and you're not evil."

Moreover, Saint Benedict in his Rule talks about manual work and

the stewardship of things. "When they live by the labor of their hands, as our fathers and the apostles did, then they are really monks" (RB, 48.8). Trappists traditionally work with the earth and earthly things, and they joyfully offer up that work and their stewardship of their tools to God. "He will regard all utensils and goods of the monastery as sacred vessels of the altar, aware that nothing is to be neglected" (RB 54.10). In this way, we can see that these monks are more in touch with the world than those of us who are buried in email, transfixed by Facebook, and zoned out in front of the television.

I think all of us agreed that the highlight of our weekend was chanting and singing in choir with the monks. With brief, expert instruction, delivered with a touch of humor--at 4:45 a.m., mind you--by the cantor, Father James, we took our specially assigned places in the choir with the monks, who also took temporary spots in order to be interspersed among us. Father James had prepared in advance music booklets so that we wouldn't have to find our places in the choir books the monks normally use. If our nervousness in joining in made us less attentive to the prayerful aspect of the services, we made up for that in our gratitude to be there. More than one of my brother participants said that they would never forget the experience; I certainly won't. When we arrived, the abbot, Father Robert, had suggested that it might be "fun" for them as well. I think they did enjoy having an unusually full choir with them that weekend.

"Listen." That's the first word of the Rule of Saint Benedict, whose model for monastic life guided the Benedictine tradition for over fifteen hundred years. Aside from singing in choir the most memorable part for me was listening to the stories of the other participants, including a handful of men considering entering the monastery. These men had been thinking about a monastic vocation for some time, and seemed to me good people, down to earth and not pietistic. We were also joined by other men like myself, some married, some not, who were deeply drawn to the Cistercian tradition and looking for ways to incorporate elements of that tradition in their lives, such as a modified horarium and Benedictine prayer. One of our brethren was a Southern Baptist, who, regarding his work leading the formation of missionaries, told me that, "We train them on what to do in a terrorist situation, but not how to sustain their spiritual life." I replied that, just as he is borrowing from the Cistercian tradition, the Catholic Church is re-learning evangelization with the help of our Protestant brothers and sisters.

On our departure Sunday afternoon, Father Robert and several of the monks came to see us off. They had all been so gracious in their hospitality--another Benedictine trait, straight from the Rule: "All guests who present themselves are to be welcomed as Christ, for he himself will say: 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me'" (RB 53:1).

Continued on page 9

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Spiritual Support Groups Launched by Parishioners at St. Elizabeth's Church

By James L. McKenna

In recent surveys that seek to measure the relative vibrancy of Catholic parishes, parishioners at St. Elizabeth's have consistently mentioned that one trait they value especially in their church's community is a feeling of "connectedness", a sense that they were part of a "personal and/or personable community".

It was in this spirit of connectedness that several parishioners within the St. Elizabeth's parish community recently came forward proposing ideas for small discussion groups for people eager to nurture their faith in God while expanding their knowledge in a variety of subjects. When the economy "headed south" a few years ago, for example, many of us unfortunate enough to have been laid off from our jobs gathered at the church to brainstorm and network, seeking job resources, search and interview techniques and, yes, spiritual guidance toward the goal of finding new employment. That group continues to this day.

Presented with the idea of sponsoring more such groups, pastor Monsignor Macfarlane has given a green light to these innovative parishioners. As a result, several small discussion groups have been launched to help participants achieve their spiritual goals, as those goals relate to dealing with contemporary challenges, employing prayer and sharing of knowledge to reach a desired objective.

In response to announcements in the weekly bulletins and at weekend services challenging parishioners to "Start Your Own (Spiritual Support) Group", volunteers stepped forward not only proposing names of groups, but also offering to lead one



A gathering of facilitators of St. Elizabeth parish discussion groups (left to right): Mary Clare Auger (Couples Prayer Group); Malu Gomes (Member, 'Older in Age and Younger in Faith' group); James McKenna (Facilitators' Group); Deacon Kevin Byrne (Bereavement Group); Jeanne Anastasi (Jobseekers Group); Kate Donvito (Breast Cancer Survivors); Eileen McCabe (Centering Prayer); Roberta Mancini (Separated and Divorced Group). Foreground: Mike McClimens (member, Teams of Our Lady)

of them. Here is a list of the spiritual support groups already meeting:

- Bereavement
- Book Club
- Breast Cancer Survivors
- Centering Prayer
- Faith-Sharing
- Jobseekers
- Married Couples Prayer
- Men of St. Joseph's
- Parenting
- Scripture Groups (2)
- Separated and Divorced
- Teams of Our Lady

To assure these groups can attract support to get started, their facilitators have been meeting on a regular basis to share ideas for their respective groups, things such as: vision statements, recruiting, advertising and facilitation skills training for the group leaders. The hope is that more and more people will continue to join these groups and that more groups will continue to be formed.

St. Elizabeth's is currently seeking volunteers to serve as small

group facilitators interested in starting 'Spiritual Support Groups' discussion groups of ANY topic. If you are interested, St. Elizabeth's will provide you with 'facilitator' training. For more information, either about the training or participation in the groups above, feel free to email me: McKennaJL44@gmail.com

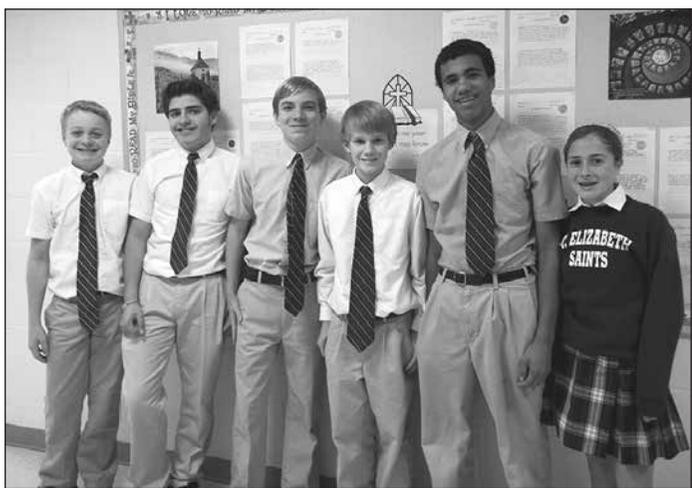
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St. Elizabeth School Math Team (L-R): Ryan Maloney, Roberto Carbonell, Anthony Ostuni, Jimmy Roche, Andrew Valentine, and Alexandra Taylor

39th Annual Good Counsel Math Competition

Congratulations to our eighth-grade Math Team which placed 2nd out of 14 schools in the 39th Annual Good Counsel High School Math Competition! Special congratulations to Roberto Carbonell who ranked FIRST among all 84 participants. Thank you to our 8th grade math teachers, Ms. Patterson and Ms. Kelly, for doing such a great job of preparing our students.

OPT



Girls on the Run

This fall, St. Elizabeth School joined the International network of Girls on The Run! Girls on the Run is a charitable organization that offers a unique after school program for third through fifth-grade girls that is designed to promote healthy habits and an active lifestyle. This dynamic 10 week program combines training for a 5k running race with education and discussions about critical issues that will affect pre-teen girls as they reach adolescence. Trained coaches teach life lessons to girls through fun and clever running games and workouts. On Sunday, November 11, 2012, the St. Elizabeth group participated in The Girls on the Run of Montgomery County 5k at Westfield Montgomery Mall.

OPT

MONASTIC LIFE

Con't from page 8

And we were particularly honored that they came to see us before we left. A few of our group may soon return for a longer stay to find out if the Lord is calling them to that life. Others, like myself, have taken away a piece of this experience to let it germinate in our hearts. Then we will join the monks in prayerful communion to "prefer nothing whatever to Christ, and may he bring us all together to everlasting life" (RB, 72:11-12).

For more information about the Monastic Immersion Weekend, contact the Companions of Holy Cross Abbey at companions@virginiatrappists.org.

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Polish Christmas Traditions Alive At OLQP

Rev. Jan Fiedurek, S.Chr., Pastor, and the Parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Poland and St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Silver Spring, Maryland, extend warm wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year 2013 – “Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku” – and invite you to join us in celebrating Polish Christmas traditions with:

1. Polish Christmas Food & Bake Sale, on Sunday, Dec. 23, 2012, 10 am - 2 pm
2. Traditional Polish Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, “Pasterka,” on Monday, Dec. 24, 2012
3. Parish “Oplatek” Christmas Dinner on Sunday, January 6, 2013, at 1pm

OPT



Polish Independence Day

All students, including the youngest, from Our Lady Queen of Poland Polish Saturday School participated in commemorating Polish Independence Day at the School on November 10, 2012. The date of Poland's Independence is November 11, 1918, when Poland again came into being after 124 years of oppression and partitioning into three separate areas by Russia, Germany, and Austria. Despite severe hardships, the Polish people in each area retained a strong sense of their nationhood and the determination to become one, independent, state. The spiritual unity of the nation was nurtured through the cultural influences of writers and composers, such as Adam Mickiewicz and Fryderyk Chopin, and by their shared Roman Catholic faith.

Walter Zachariasiewicz, KCSG, at 101

Among those wishing OLQP parishioner Mr. Walter Zachariasiewicz (seated) a Happy 101st Birthday, and many more to come, on November 11, 2012, in Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish Hall in Silver Spring, were Rev. Lukasz Dutkiewicz, visiting priest from the Sanctuary of the Sacredness of Life in Lodz, Poland, Mrs. Eva Chlebowska, Mrs. Sylvia Korzan, John Paul Korzan, Mateusz and Krzysztof Hasset, Julieanna Ciecwierz-Elias, Magda Stanislawek, Sebastian Kudrycki, and the Radziwill siblings. Mr. Zachariasiewicz, whose birthday was on November 7, is an active leader of the Polish diaspora and has received numerous honors and awards in Poland and the USA. Among his numerous current activities is being honorary chairman of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation. His latest commendation arrived with his 101st birthday greeting from Archbishop Jozef Kowalczyk, Archbishop of Gniezno and the Primate of Poland. Earlier, Mr. Zachariasiewicz was the honoree at the Kosciuszko Foundation Dinner in Washington, DC.



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Teacher Appreciation Day

Polish Saturday School teachers were honored on Teacher Appreciation Day, October 13, 2012. From left: Director Ewa Chlebowska, Malgorzata Firek, Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish Rev. Jan Fiedurek, S.Chr., Wieslawa Wisniewska, and Ewa Turner. Not pictured are new teacher Violetta Dabrowska and substitute teacher Grazyna Adamczyk .



Lucas Kulczycki, MD, at 101

OLQP parishioner Dr. Lucas Kulczycki, a cystic fibrosis pioneer who retired from Georgetown University, celebrated his 101st birthday this past August 19. Dr. Kulczycki is in contact with physicians treating cystic fibrosis patients who continue to consult him on various topics. He is the founding member and first president of the Polish American Health Association (PAHAUSA). Dr. Kulczycki is shown with Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, also a past president of PAHAUSA, and Mrs. Vera Szerszen at the coffee hour after Mass at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish in Silver Spring, on Nov. 4, 2012.

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St. Martin's School News and Notes

November 20, 2012

Grades K, 1, 2, and 3 shared a Thanksgiving "Break-feast" on Wednesday morning with each other and their families. Each class contributed a dish to the feast: corn bread, pumpkin pudding, cranberry sauce, and sweet potatoes with marshmallows. Yum!

December 18, 2012

Join us for a fun-filled evening of music. St. Martin's Christmas program will feature songs sung by every grade. The event will take place in the school gymnasium at 1 pm.

January 23 and 29, 2013

Are you looking for a Christ-centered environment where your child can grow emotionally and intellectually? Then, come visit St. Martin's School during our Open House. From 9 am to 1 pm, 7th and 8th grade students will lead tours of the school. The principal, Sr. Sharon Mihm, and current parents will be available to answer questions. Testing for incoming students will be held on February 8, 2012. For more information, please contact the school at office@smsmd.org or 301-990-2441. **OPT**



Members of St. Martin's Knitting Club make winter hats for the poor. Photo courtesy of Julie Stinger

St. Martin's Knitting Club

By Elijah Yator, Eighth Grader

The traditional knitters, mothers and grandmothers, may share a smile when they hear that a younger generation is taking an interest into knitting. Mothers and grandmothers are no longer the only ones that enjoy the art of knitting, for now students, boys and girls, from first to eighth grade are enjoying it too.

Thanks to the leadership of Ms. Stinger, the art teacher at St. Martin's, and a City of Gaithersburg grant for \$970, "Knitting for a Cause" was created. The knitting program's mission is to provide knitted clothing for the needy.

Each Wednesday and Friday thirty plus students meet to knit hats. They have knitted more than 180 hats, and they are still knitting. These knitted items go to the Lord's Table Soup Kitchen, St. Martin's coat drive, selected hospitals, and to anyone in need.

Ms. Stinger is now considering teaching the children how to make scarves, mittens, socks and even baby blankets. She also plans to give some of the knitted clothing to people who have just recently undergone chemotherapy.

Because of this group's dedication to helping the less fortunate, the knitting club was recently featured in the Gaithersburg edition of The Gazette. **OPT**

The Pantry Celebrates Its 20th Anniversary

By Mariela Cabanillas, Eighth Grader

St. Martin's Pantry in Gaithersburg has been providing the needy with non-perishable food items for the past twenty years. St. Martin's Pantry first opened in 1992 and celebrated its anniversary on Thursday, November 1. Marty Monks, then the Social Concern Minister at St. Martin's, started the Pantry and it has grown since. About 185 fami-

lies are given a bag of food at the Pantry each week. Besides donations from St. Martin's parish and school, the Pantry receives food from community businesses and other area schools and churches.

The Pantry's current director, Chuck Smith, first volunteered when his son needed service hours. When Chuck started in 2000, he had about 25 volunteers and now

Continued on page 12



St. Martin's students enjoy creating autumn-themed arts and crafts during Amazing Afternoons, an after-school event hosted by the teachers. Photo courtesy of Logan Hsueh

Advent at St. Martin's

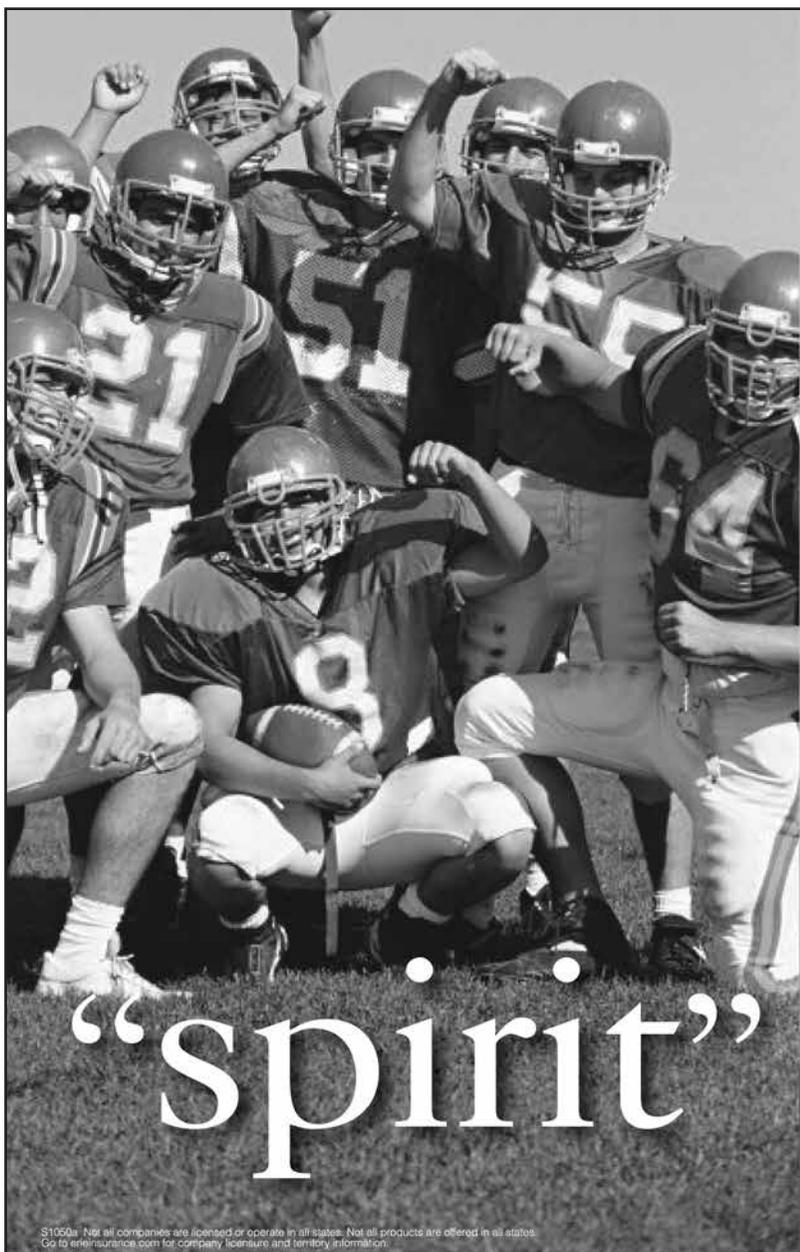
By Isaac Cooksey, Fifth Grader

Advent is a period of time in which the Christian faith will wait for the Messiah to come. At St. Martin of Tours School we are doing a number of interesting things for Advent.

We are creating a Jesse Tree as a way to prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ. Each class in the school makes an ornament to put on the tree. The ornaments are symbols representing Jesus's family and their stories.

We are also doing our Mitten tree. We collect donated mittens, boots, coats, and hats, which deco-

Continued on page 12



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Domenic Bruno, Beth Morris, and Ahadu Betselot dressed as saints

The Saints Go Marching In

November first is the Feast of All Saints, and it is also St. Peter's fourth graders' big moment. In October, the students are given the name of a saint to research. Using a detailed rubric, they must use the Internet and other media resources to find out about the life of the saint, his or her miracles, and what made that person memorable. Presenting the report is the culmination of the unit, but dressing as their saint for the All Saints Day procession is the chil-

dren's favorite part.

Miters, staves, robes, and even stuffed birds sewn to a shoulder (St. Francis of Assisi) identify the saints as they solemnly march into the church to the *Litany of the Saints*. The church is filled to capacity and, afterwards, the parents return to the school to take pictures of their little saints. This event reminds the students that we are all called to be saints, and that process begins when we are children and continues throughout our lives. **OPT**

PANTRY

Con't from page 11

he has about 60 volunteers, including students who help out whenever they can. Chuck feels that it is his duty to feed the hungry, and it makes him feel good. He thinks about Tobit 12:9 when Raphael told the two men "for almsgiving saves one from death and expiates every sin. Those who regularly give alms shall enjoy a full life." Mr. Smith sometimes worries that there is not enough food to give to the poor, but he always knows that God provides.

My mother, Laura Armijo, is one of the Pantry's volunteers. She helps out by picking up food from Bottom Dollar. "I feel very happy when my car is full food and I have the opportunity to help people," she told me. **OPT**

On the pantry's anniversary, St. Martin's students circled around the pantry before going to the All Saints Day Mass. Each of the students donated canned goods. Mr. Smith spoke to them about the people who are served and the amount of food that the pantry has given out, and Monsignor Brennan explained the importance of the work of the pantry. Deacon James Nalls from Catholic Charities joined the All Saints Day Mass and spoke about the pantry. He also recognized the pantry volunteers.

The pantry offers an important service to the community. Special thanks go out to all the volunteers who have given up their time to help the less fortunate. St. Martin's Pantry has been a blessing to everyone and hopefully it will continue over the years. **OPT**

ADVENT

Con't from page 11

rate a tree in the lobby of the school. Once we have enough items, we take them to the Pantry where they are given to the poor so they can be prepared for the winter. Then, we start all over again.

Kindergarten through 3rd grade will make a paper candle about 4 feet tall for each week in Advent. Also these classes listen to Sr. Sharon Mihm read a story about

Jesus and when he was born.

First graders are creating their own advent wreaths, made out of toilet paper rolls and paper, to take home to their families. They also will be performing a nativity play for the school. They can be an angel or another character in the play. The angels are the narrators of the play, and the characters are people from the nativity story in the Bible. Fifth graders are creating 3D nativity sets and other original pieces of art work in preparation for Christmas. **OPT**

Blue Ribbon Week at St. Peter's

On Tuesday, November 13, 2012, our pastor, Father Thomas Kalita, principal, Mrs. Liz Whelan, and resource teacher, Mrs. Mary Schaeffer, spent the day at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, DC. They were there to participate in round table discussions on educational topics and then receive the National Blue Ribbon Award for Excellence on behalf of St. Peter's School. Meanwhile, back at the school, the students and teachers were celebrating throughout the week. There were gifts, tag days, and special events.

Our music teacher, Mr. Peter Nguyen, worked with a group of



Sixth grade boys enjoy the Blue Plate Special lunch



Joey Page as Elvis

seventh graders to put on a musical presentation using songs with the word 'blue' in the title. The hit of the performance was when little kindergartner, Joey Page, burst out from behind the curtains, dressed as Elvis, playing a guitar as the choir sang "Blue Suede Shoes." The audience roared!

The week ended with a lunch for the students – the

Blue Plate Special. The children were treated to pizza and ice cream served on blue plates, of course. Everyone was exhausted by Friday, and they realize that everything will be back to normal after the Thanksgiving break. The students and teachers also know that they must keep up this high standard of learning and teaching so they can always say that St. Peter's is a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. **OPT**



Girls on the Run

By Helene Fritschi

What's better than working out alone? Exercising both your body and mind with 19 of your fellow schoolmates, of course! Twenty third-fifth graders from St. Peter's School recently completed their first session of Girls on the Run of Montgomery County. The Girls on the Run (GOTR) program is a 10 week afterschool activity that combines training for a 5K while preparing the girls for a lifetime of positive self respect and healthy living using creative running activities, fun games and enthusiastic discussions. The girls practiced how to set personal goals, how to be meaningful teammates and how to serve their commu-

nity while creating loyal friendships, supporting one another and of course...giggling!

The third-fifth graders were so spirited and passionate about a GOTR related anti-bullying campaign called Mean Stinks that they were chosen as the GOTR MoCo Team of the Week during the week of October 24. During that activity the girls participated in a "Blue Pinky Swear" and promised to stand up against bullying and to put an end to mean. They even painted their pinkies blue!

On November 11, the girls completed their end of the season 5K in Bethesda while surrounded by their family and friends. The smiles were bright, the GOTR spirit was conta-

gious and the energy was out of this world! Way to go, girls...we are so proud of you! **OPT**

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St. Peter's School
Mary Elizabeth Whelan,
Principal
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Sheila Pfeifer, Parish Editor
301-570-5551
www.stpetersolney.org



A Feast for All the Senses!

On November 15 the kindergarten class presented a Thanksgiving play in full costume. Afterward, the entire school was treated to pumpkin and apple pie in celebration of that first feast!

Good Deeds

By Maureen Stiles

The St. Mary's community supported those in need at home, across the nation and across the world this Fall. Here are but a few examples:

Megan McCormick, a seventh grader at St. Mary's participated in a service project in New Orleans, October 4-7. Megan, her sister Elizabeth (Holy Cross H.S.) and father Matt painted, assisted children and delivered school supplies to the St. Louis Cathedral. The request for supplies was a last minute addition to the trip and the school was overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity from St. Mary's. As the photo attests, Megan was surrounded by a mountain of much needed school items and had to carry extra luggage to accommodate it all!



Meghan McCormick looks awestruck as she takes in all the donations from the school families.

After the devastation wreaked by Hurricane Sandy, many locals were left to wonder how they could help. Long-time St. Mary's parishioners, the Kernans, had personal ties to the Seaside Heights neighborhood in New Jersey. Thus a drive to collect basic necessities was born. The Kernans contacted school principal Debby Eisel and the community responded in typical fashion. A truckload of donations arrived in

record time and was distributed to those in need.

Also, in conjunction with their annual Thanksgiving Feast (see photo), St. Mary's participated in a food drive to benefit a variety of local food pantries. Each class was assigned a canned good or item for donation in order to ensure that essential foods were included. The donations piled in throughout the

week until the huge volume of food was painstakingly packaged up for delivery.

And a final, special note from music teacher Mrs. Julianne Martinelli who organizes the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Drive. "We collected 152 shoeboxes as a school community. The response at the drop off location was "WOW! What an amazing school you have! Thank you so much!" I was reminded of what an amazing school we have as I helped unload every wrapped, filled and blessed shoebox gift. Thank you to the students, teachers and parents for all your help!"

DC Hood

By Maureen Stiles

Free entertainment for the entire family? Nearly unheard of these days but on October 12 St. Mary's offered just that when they hosted the DC Hood basketball team at Rockville High School. In addition to free admission, attendees enjoyed free pizza and drinks, giveaways, contests and some pretty great basketball.

DC Hood is a basketball team comprised of priests and seminarians from the Archdiocese of Washington DC. The team travels to play parish teams as a way to educate the public about vocations and show a less serious side to the priesthood.

Before a record-breaking crowd of approximately 300, the two teams dueled to the finish with the St. Mary's Mustangs eking out a 44-37 win. Basketball skills ruled the night—even at



The St. Mary's Mustangs pictured here with coach Gerry Blackwell and evening emcees George Griffin and Victor Muzzatti

half-time when eighth grader Conor Sullivan sank a half-court shot to win a prize.

At half-time Father Gallagher, St. Mary's Parochial Vicar and DC Hood player, gathered chil-

dren of all ages on the court to speak about his calling to the priesthood. Although the game will not be an annual event, all agreed that a rematch was in order in the near future!

OPT

By Maureen Stiles

On October 19 Bishop Holley visited the school to celebrate a very special Friday Mass. Holley helped St. Mary's School celebrate 60 years of academic excellence. In addition to the Mass dedication, the students reveled in the blue and white decorations as they enjoyed an ice cream party for all.

The parish is preparing for its Bicentennial which kicks off in August of 2013! Plans are underway to celebrate "200 years of faith here in Rockville." An array of events will highlight not only the parish's significance in Rockville's history, but also the Catholic teachings and community that have endured throughout the years.

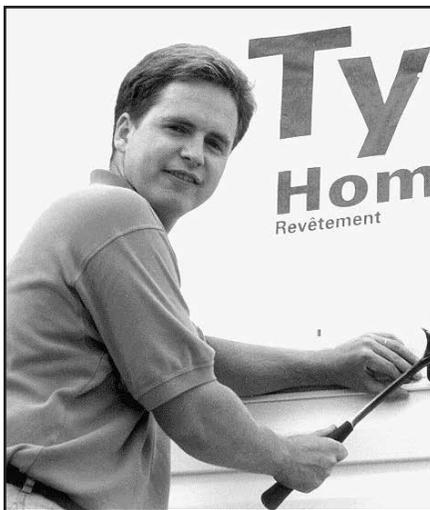
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Welcome Baby Elenora!

Music Teacher, Choral Director and Kindergarten aide Julianne Martinelli and her husband welcomed baby Elenora Rose on November 1. The Martinelli's newest addition joins siblings and St. Mary's students Anna and Andrew! Congratulations!



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Mercy Reading Initiative Ends Among the Stars at Smithsonian

After seven weeks of reading and transforming the school's hallway into a planetarium, students ended the seventh annual reading initiative "Every Reader is a Star" with a K-8 surprise trip to Smithsonian's Air and Space Center. Younger students paired with their older prayer partners and toured the space center. Each year students are surprised with reading initiative culminating activities which have included a school-wide trip to the Baltimore Aquarium and a reading picnic.

OPT

Mercy Saints March In

Mercy saints gather on the altar for the annual third grade All Saints' Day celebration. Each child represents a saint of their choice, complete with costume and background knowledge that would challenge any adult. The school has carried on the tradition for over thirty years.



A Successful Blood Drive

By Sheila Scanlan Sabatini

Under the capable supervision of Richard Sinatra, Our Lady of Mercy had a very successful blood drive. Weeks in advance, he posted flyers and notices to our church, surrounding churches and other locations, including, Mater Dei Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Business Network, M.C., Mercy's Health Clinic, IBM, Chick-fil-A, Montgomery County Public Libraries, The Catholic Standard, Our Parish Times, GW University, U. of Maryland, Giant, Suburban Hospital, St. Andrew Kim

Congregation, and Potomac Path.

Seventy-eight donors signed-up in advance and walk-ins were also welcome. Volunteers distributed cookies, muffins, snacks, fruit juice, water and cards for a free treat at Chick-fil-A. Donors also, received an e-mail thanking them, plus a blood donor card with their blood type. Although the blood drive had been drive scheduled months in advance, it took place at a time when there were shortages due to "Hurricane Sandy." Inova is grateful to donors and volunteers who are such a vital part of providing blood for those who need transfusions and blood products.

OPT

Mercy Gives Thanks

By Sheila Scanlan Sabatini

Two favorite parish traditions include attending the wonderful

Thanksgiving Mass at 9:30 AM on Thanksgiving morning and the preparation of Thanksgiving Baskets for the community. This year the project was directed by Lisa Tuchtan. Mercy Parishioners chose a family in need of assistance by numbers of persons in the family, or types (children, seniors, large family or small). Two hundred ten baskets were prepared with frozen turkey and all the trimmings. Many extras such as tablecloths and decorations were added to the feast. These were brought to church in a variety of containers –

baskets, boxes and reusable plastics bins.

Three different drop off locations for the baskets were set up on the parish grounds on Saturday November 17. School buses were waiting in front of the Parish House, a moving van near the school gym and volunteers for a smaller group in front of the school. Volunteers lifted the heavy contributions out of the vehicles, if needed. The baskets were delivered to Assumption Parish in DC, The Multicultural Center and to the Scotland community. Thanks for all who contributed so generously, especially Coughlin Bus and Office Movers Inc. who contributed the service of the vehicles used for delivery.

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More Our Lady of Mercy News on Page 15

Spirit of Thanks and Giving at Holy Cross

The Holy Cross community has been busy with numerous activities as we head into the blessed holiday season. The students of Holy Cross collected and sent more than fifty boxes of food to the Assumption Outreach located in Washington, DC. Each class “adopted” a family and collected items for Thanksgiving along with staples to stock the family’s pantry for the winter. Principal Lisa Kane stated, “As I walked through the classrooms and hall, I was amazed by the generosity of the Holy Cross Community. Each classroom has festively decorated boxes filled with donations for Assumption Outreach. The thoughtfulness and caring of our community is truly heart-warming!”

The students in Pre-K, Kindergarten and First grade came together to celebrate with a traditional Thanksgiving feast on the Tuesday before the holiday. The students made and wore festive costumes and head pieces. In addition, the students learned more about the spirit of this special holiday by making personalized placemats listing the many blessings for which they are thankful.

The Holy Cross Social Concerns Committee is currently holding its annual parish Giving Tree event. School students and



Siblings Teddy (First Grade) and Clara (Kindergarten) Howard enjoying the Holy Cross Thanksgiving Feast!

parishioners have already taken numerous tags containing suggested gift ideas from the giving tree. The committee expects that hundreds of wrapped gifts will be placed under the tree for distribution to those who are less fortunate. Additionally, the Social Concerns Committee has collected numerous winter coats for the Catholic Charities “Coats of Many Colors” initiative. The Holy Cross parish, School and School of Religion have jointly participated in this project to provide coats to those in need as the weather becomes colder.

OPT

My Favorite Teacher Contest Finalist

The Holy Cross community was delighted to learn that Mrs. Kitu Devlin, our 3rd grade teacher was a finalist in The Gazette’s My Favorite Teacher contest in the Montgomery County Elementary School division. Mrs. Devlin joined the Holy Cross family in 2011 and quickly became well-liked and respected by both the students and parents. Mrs. Devlin holds a B.S. in biology from McGill University. She started her career working in a laboratory where one of her duties was to train and onboard new employees. Through this experience, Mrs. Devlin realized she had a knack and love for teaching and she decided to return to school to obtain her B.S. in education from the University of Maryland.

Jennifer Tartaglia, a fourth grade student submitted the nominating essay that led to Mrs. Devlin being chosen as a contest finalist. Jennifer was in Mrs. Devlin’s initial third grade class at Holy Cross. In her nominating essay, Jennifer states that Mrs. Devlin is strict but made learning a lot fun through the use of games and stories. Jennifer states that Mrs. Devlin really cares about her students and cites the example of the “Homework Club” that Mrs. Devlin hosts for her students each week. The homework club affords students the opportunity to stay after school and work with Mrs. Devlin on their homework. Current third grade student, Katie Zalewski concurs with Jennifer’s essay and states, “Mrs. Devlin makes learning



Fourth-grade student Jennifer Tartaglia poses with her favorite teacher, Mrs. Kitu Devlin

fun and she always encourages me to do my best.”

Mrs. Devlin has stated that she is absolutely honored and overwhelmed to have been nominated for the My Favorite Teacher contest. She is a firm believer in helping her students achieve academic excellence while experiencing the value of a Catholic education. Mrs. Devlin works hard to instill in her students a love of learning, a spirit of personal responsibility and the belief that with hard work and determination that they can achieve anything.

The Gazette will announce the contest winners on December 12, 2012. Regardless of the contest outcome, the entire Holy Cross community is proud of the recogni-

tion that Mrs. Devlin has received and will always consider her to be a favorite teacher!

OPT

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Holy Cross School
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Principal
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l.hogan@hcross.org

Our Lady of Mercy



Mercy Students Read for Halloween

Above, Mercy second graders Hannah Herndon, Jack Kaplan, and Bridget Bayles proudly pose with the finished results of their Halloween book report. After reading a mystery/Halloween book, students created their haunted house book report which included story elements such as main characters, setting, summary, and opinion.

Mercy Brings Halloween Cheer to Byron House

At upper left, Mercy Kindergartners Sophia Azcarate, Carmen Garcia de Alvear, and Carly Dougherty enjoyed trick or treating and singing some Halloween songs to residents at Byron House, an assisted living facility on the school’s campus.

At lower left, Mercy Kindergartners Caroline Humiston, Sam Sporidis, and Luke Finnell enjoy sharing their costumes and smiles with Byron House residents.

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*** St. Bernadette Class of 1962, 50 Year Reunion ***

Front Row: Davide McClay, Maureen Duggan, Anne Cronvich, Molly Schwenzer, Jane Simpson, Cathy Donohue, Mary Aulte, Susan Fitzgerald, Dolores Hughes, Margaret McArdle, Christine Fehlner, Michele Gownley, Mary Egan, Maureen Gilliam. 2nd row (standing): Rick Brown, Billy Rawson, Mary Lou Slight, Mike Boone, Winnie Sartain, Joan Gallagher, Carol Ann Cokenias, Christine Mondor, Maureen Pergal. 3rd row (seated): Greg Ford, Tim West, Joe Ravicini, Peter Laake, Bill Nolte, Bob Kellington, Dennis Darling, Johnny Magnolia, Jerry O'Donovan, Bob Powers, Joe Gutierrez. Top row (standing): Bill Waugh, Tommy Dillon.

St. Bernadette Class of 1962 Gathers for Memories and Fun

By David McClay

The St. Bernadette graduating class of 1962 held their 50th reunion on October 6 in the school hall in Silver Spring. There were approximately forty alumni and ten spouses/guests in attendance. Our last reunion was in 1992, and the majority of the grads are still in the Maryland/DC/Virginia area. We had at least three attendees fly in from California and Southwest Florida. The party was nothing short of spectacular: the

food, the music, the video presentation, and, of course, the renewing of old friendships. We have decided to do it again in five years!

We were able to locate ninety of the original one-hundred-twenty grads, but there are still around thirty that we could not find. If you are a member of the class of 1962, please contact us at dmac82948@gmail.com so we can add you to our address list for the next reunion.

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The St. Bernadette Community Celebrates Our Unity

St. Bernadette World Drumming Ensemble Performs with Richard Montgomery High School

On Thursday, October 18, six members of the St. Bernadette's World Drumming Ensemble took their show on the road and showcased their talents at Richard Montgomery High School's Fall Choral Concert. Under the direction of Mrs. Camille Frezzo, the drumming ensemble was added to the yearly concert by Mr. Ron Frezzo, Richard Montgomery's choral musical director, and



St. Bernadette World Drumming Members with their Director, Camille Frezzo. From left to right: Harrison Hodgkins, Graham Millar, Nicholas Warner, Robert Burgess, Molly Starkenburg, and Maggie Warnick

husband of Camille – two schools, two musical departments, one family!

“As for how we got our “gig,” Mrs. Frezzo explains, “I thought that *Sow It On the Mountain* might be the perfect song to showcase our drummers. Ron had a concert coming up and agreed to have his students perform it, accompanied by our drummers. As long as we were there, we took the opportunity to do a short solo piece, *Lord of the Bodhran*.” The ensemble played to a lively and enthusiastic packed house at the Richard Montgomery School Concert Hall. It is hoped to become an annual tradition as the

Continued on page 22

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More St. Bernadette News on Page 22

Eighth-Grade Field Trip to the Shrine

By Joseph Liekweg, HR middle school religion teacher

On November 14, the eighth-grade class from Holy Redeemer School (Kensington) set out on a field trip to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. It would be more than fair to say that none of us who participated knew what a great experience awaited us! As our bus pulled into the parking area, we were greeted enthusiastically by Holy Redeemer parishioner Paul Schilling, a tour guide at the Shrine. We began immediately with a tour of the lower level of the Shrine.

Mr. Schilling's knowledge and



Eighth-grade students on steps of Shrine

expertise were apparent and appreciated by the students, teachers and chaperones. He tailored our tour to

concentrate on two main themes, universality/diversity in the Church and witness in the Church. While

the artwork was simply stunning in so many aspects, when it was coupled with clear explanations as to the historical origins and cultural interpretations, it provided us with a much deeper understanding than we had upon arrival. Most of us became aware for the first time of the martyrdom of 100,000 persons in the Chapel of Our Lady of La Trang. The powerful mural depicting the

Continued on page 29

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Kensington, MD

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Pastor
301-942-2333

Holy Redeemer School
Mrs. Colleen Ryan,
Principal
301-942-3701

More Holy Redeemer News
on Pages 29, 30 & 31

Holy Redeemer's Missionaries in Motion

By Pam Hurley, Holy Redeemer's Religious Life Committee Moderator

On November 5, Sister Maria de la Revelacion Castañeda of the Servants of The Lord of Matara, joined Holy Redeemer's Missionaries in Motion and Blessed Sacrament's Christ Care Corp for a lesson in making World Mission Rosaries. Sister Revelacion is the Archdiocesan Mission Education Coordinator.

The World Mission Rosary was introduced by Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen on February 11, 1951, to inspire prayers for the mission fields of the five continents of the world and for the missionaries who dedicate their lives to preaching the "Word of God". Archbishop Sheen commented that "Peace will come only when hearts of the world have changed...But we cannot change without prayer, and the power of the Rosary as a prayer is beyond description. For the love of Our Lord and His Blessed Mother, won't you please make a tour of the world on your World Mission



Sr. Revelacion helps Brendan Whitty make a rosary, while Timmy Harper works on his.

Rosary? I know you will." Heeding the words of Archbishop Sheen, Missionaries in Motion was created at Holy Redeemer. Students will say the rosary on the World Mission Rosaries that they make and then pass them on to Blessed Sacrament students to also pray the rosary on them. The rosaries will then be sent on to missions in El Salvador and Togo. They will become the Roaming Rosaries for the Missions.

In December, Holy Redeemer seventh-grade students Timmy Harper and Finn Kirvan, along with JP Harper, HR Class of 2012, will be delivering the rosaries on their mission trip to El Salvador with their fathers Mr. Tim Harper and Mr. Michael Kirvan. Additional rosaries will be sent to Fr. William Ryan's mission in Togo, Africa. Fr. Ryan, also a former HR student, visited Holy Redeemer in September to talk about his mission and say a World Mission Rosary with the students.

OPT

Virtual Pilgrimage to Lourdes

By Colleen Ryan

On Tuesday, November 13, 2012, students of Holy Redeemer School were blessed to experience a Virtual Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Mrs. Marlene Watkins from Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality in Syracuse, New York, came to give this very moving presentation. The students learned about the life of St. Bernadette and of her time with the Immaculate Conception. The students saw pictures of the shrines that have been erected at the site of the grotto. They virtually processed in with the other pilgrims in the photo.

At the end of the pilgrimage the students were able to touch an actual rock brought back from the grotto and bless themselves with holy water from Lourdes. Students were also each given a small bottle of holy water from Lourdes

and a prayer intention card. Once completed, the cards bearing the prayer requests of the students were returned to Mrs. Watkins so that she and her group can bring them on their next pilgrimage to Lourdes in February.

More information about the virtual pilgrimage can be found at the website of the Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, which is a Public Association of the Christian Faithful founded in the Syracuse Diocese under the Ecclesial Authority of Most Revered James Moynihan. The website, which can be found at <http://www.lourdesvolunteers.org>, states that the group was originally formed in 2002 at the invitation of the Hospitallé Notre-Dame de Lourdes in France, with the primary goal "to extend the invitation to North Americans and to serve the sick and suffering."

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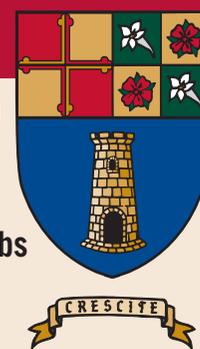
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International Pot-Luck Dinner a Big Hit

The annual Taste of Resurrection international pot-luck dinner was a big hit again with more than 100 parishioners enjoying the culinary delights of a large range of countries and ethnic heritages. Adding to the festivities was the native dancing of a group of parishioners from Cameroon and others. The gathering, organized by Ginger Kessler and a group of volunteers, gives many at Resurrection a chance to learn more about the cultural traditions and foods of their fellow parishioners. Photo by Sharon Sobotka



Altar Servers Attend Mass of Recognition at Basilica

Nine altar servers from Resurrection Church participated in the Altar Server Recognition Mass on November 18 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The altar servers attending from Resurrection were Rita Bechara, Sabrina Cauton, Emmanuel Corporal, Marie Lauren Kouao, Emmanuela Kodjo, Buchi Nwogu, Anna Catherine Patino, Daniel Patino, and Vincente Maltagliati. Sponsored by the Serra Club of Washington, the Mass was celebrated by Auxiliary Bishop Barry Knestout. The Mass was also attended by Resurrection adult parishioners Mary Lou Ponton, immediate past president of the Serra Club of Washington, and Phil Kane, Resurrection parish altar server coordinator.



Rachel Eligado, left, and Celine Paul, right, help fill up one of the 70 baskets of food prepared by Resurrection volunteers. Photo by John Small

THANKSGIVING

Continued from page 1

In the weeks leading up to Thanksgiving, parishioners brought in either food items or gave a monetary donation that helped in providing the items, including canned goods, non-perishable items, and deserts, for low-income families.

The baskets were assembled Nov. 18 by 10 adults and 14 youth volunteers under the direction of Sister Rita Ricker, R.J.M., the parish's director of social justice and outreach. The



Some of the 70 Thanksgiving baskets that were prepared by Resurrection volunteers. Photo by John Small

food baskets were distributed in the

days before Thanksgiving.

Each November, parishioners participate in the annual "Holiday Giving Project" sponsored by Montgomery County. Human service professionals, such as social workers and school counselors, screen and refer individuals and

families needing holiday assistance.

Parish pantry volunteers Albert Klavon and Sharon O'Brien, who have devoted countless hours of their time assisting hundreds of people in Montgomery County, were especially instrumental in putting together the Thanksgiving food project.

"The purpose of the project is to provide resources to make the Thanksgiving and December holidays more festive for families and individuals in Montgomery County," Sister Rita said.

The Parish has been involved in the holiday food-giving project for at least a dozen years, Sister Rita said.

Fifth Annual 'Blessing of the Animals' at Resurrection

About 45 parishioners and their pets participated in the fifth annual Blessing of the Animals at Resurrection Church, held October 6 in conjunction with the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. As part of the ceremony, which was conducted for the first time by new Pastor Scott Hahn, parishioners related how their pets helped them in their lives and to appreciate all of creation and to get closer to God. Photo by Sally DeSavage



Find the Perfect Gift

Advent is defined as the arrival of a notable person. In the Catholic Church, Advent is the period of preparation before Christmas, the birth day of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. In conjunction with the beginning of Advent, the Archdiocese of Washington is distributing 10,000 yard and window signs. The signs will announce the start of the "Find the Perfect Gift/Regalo Perfecto" initiative, which is an invitation to get to know more about Christ. In addition to the yard signs, television and radio commercials will direct people to a website to find more information about the Catholic faith.

At the interactive websites for "Find the Perfect Gift" and "Regalo Perfecto" (www.findthepperfectgift.org and www.regaloperfecto.org), users can ask questions about the Catholic faith, learn more about the Archdiocese

of Washington, learn how to pray during Advent, and find answers about what is peace and happiness. There is also a list of events around the archdiocese that are open to anyone wanting to celebrate the season with sacred music, prayer and ser-

vice. Additionally, there are links to Catholic parishes and their respective Mass times. "Christmas, or 'Christ's Mass,' is the time in which the Christian community shares the greatest love story in the world: the story of God's love for His people," said Dr. Susan Timoney, Assistant Secretary of Pastoral Ministry and Social Concern. "God desires



our love so much that he chose to become one of us, to be human in the form of a vulnerable, dependent infant named Jesus." Dr. Timoney explained Christmas is an invitation to a relationship with Jesus and to joining a community that comes together to

pray, learn, celebrate and serve. More information about the "Find the Perfect Gift"/"Regalo Perfecto" initiative is available at www.adw.org, www.findthepperfectgift.org and in Spanish at www.regaloperfecto.org. Interactive feedback can also be found on Twitter at #PerfectGift.

Church of the Resurrection Parish

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Burtonsville, MD

Fr. Scott Hahn
Pastor

301-236-5200

Parish Editor
John Small

johnny1944@hotmail.com
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St. Jude Regional Catholic School News

Free Gift for Christmas to be Performed by St. Jude Students

St. Jude students will be performing *Free Gift for Christmas*, a retelling of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, for their families and the community on Thursday, December 13, at 7pm in the Thaddeus Room of the school. This play will remind everyone of just what is the true meaning of Christmas. Admission is free.

Mixed Bag Fundraiser: Shop & Support SJRCS

This holiday season, why not get some gifts that give back? Check out the super cool, fun and eco-

friendly products from Mixed Bags that will also help a good cause – St. Jude Regional Catholic School. There are tons of great gift ideas and fun bags and accessories that are great for teachers, grandparents, friends and more!

Mixed Bag Designs will give 40% of every online purchase that includes our ID 53562 back to St. Jude! Go to: <http://www.mixed-bagdesigns.com/Retail-Home>. Be sure to enter the St. Jude Regional Catholic School ID 53562 at check-out after reviewing your order and St. Jude Regional Catholic School will receive 40% of your order. If you want to ensure that you will receive your order before the holidays, make sure you order before



More Than 200 pounds of Food Collected for USO Food Pantry

Peanut butter, soup, pancakes and syrup...Miss Neale's fourth graders at St. Jude Regional Catholic School collected over 200 pounds of food for the USO Ft. Meade Food Pantry for military families in need. To tie in this community service project in with technology, after weighing the mound of boxes and cans, the students created graphs in the computer lab.



Young Scientists at Work!

Fifth graders Samantha Koehler and Valerie Kuzma were just two of the nearly 100 students who took part in the St. Jude Regional Catholic School annual Middle School Science Fair last month, which showcased projects ranging from the best paper towel to studying electrical currents. Three winners were named per grade, voted on by those who attended the fair as well as the teaching staff at St. Jude.

December 10. Thank you for your support.

Catch Our Spirit – Open House at St. Jude Regional Catholic School

St. Jude Regional Catholic School will host an open house where prospective students, their families, and the community can learn about the school and its mission to provide high-quality, values-

based education. The open house will be held on Wednesday, January 30, 2013, from 9-11:30 a.m. and 6-8 p.m. Admissions information will be available at all times. Teachers will be available to speak to prospective families at the evening open house. For information on the curriculum, admissions policies and registration, contact the school office at 301-946-7888 or visit www.stjuderockville.org.

OPT

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

Shrine of St. Jude Catholic Church News

Children's Mass to Tell the Story of Christmas

Please join the students and parish families of St. Jude as we celebrate the birth of Jesus at the Children's Mass at 5 p.m. on Christmas Eve. The eighth grade class from St. Jude Regional Catholic School will participate in the liturgy, bringing the birth of Jesus to life. The Children's Christmas choir, led by music director Denise Lindekugel, will bless us with their voices. St. Jude Regional Catholic School and the Shrine of St. Jude wish everyone a happy and holy Christmas.



Photo from January, 2012, from left to right: Mary Beahn (who passed away in August 2012), Katie Hurley, Shannon Holt, John Francis Marcolin, Carmen Vincent, Hazel Cummings, Patrick O'Hanlon, and Martha O'Hanlon.

preparation. If you enter the sanctuary in the early evening, the group that you will hear practicing is

Continued on page 20

Handbell Choir to Perform at Christmas Concert on December 8

Thursday evenings at the Shrine of St. Jude are filled with music

More St. Jude News on Page 26










A 56 Year Tradition of Academic Excellence

Open House Wed. Jan. 30, 2013 9-11:30am & 6-8pm

Pre k-8

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—Glenn Benjamin, Principal



4820 Walbridge Street, Rockville, MD 20853
301-946-7888
www.stjuderockville.org

TKM Recruits at Annual Men's Conference

Forty men of St Patrick came forward on a blustery Saturday of early November to hear the message of *The King's Men* (TKM) at the annual Men's Conference of the parish. It was a full day of prayer, testimony, and invitation to join the new movement to "authentic masculinity" which has been spreading across the nation by the TKM ministry.

Video presentations and talks provided the main direction by Dave DiNuzzio Sr, spokesman for TKM. A TKM group is now forming at St Patrick in order to assist laymen to grow in authentic Catholic spirituality as a protector and provider of family values.

OPT

At right, attendees gather in church for one of five presentations by Dave DiNuzzio, who explained the on-going ministry of The King's Men (TKM).

Below left, Nick Hladek, Director of Adult Faith Formation at St Patrick, introduces the principal speaker of the day at the Men's Conference.

Below right, conferees gather for a hearty BBQ lunch in the school cafeteria before the afternoon sessions.



Thirteen of the twenty runners gather for send-off blessing from pastor Msgr Hart. Father Michael Paris, a member of the newly-formed parish team, can be seen wearing a yellow jersey, and standing in the midst of the group in the rear.

Up and Running for Vocations

Morning twilight on Sunday 28 October was barely showing when a small group of youngsters and oldsters gathered on the steps of St Patrick Church for a special blessing of the day by the pastor. It was the pre-dawn hour of 6:00 AM before the start of the annual Marine Corps 10-K Run. Msgr. Kevin Hart, also an early-bird, greeted and blessed the newly-formed team of twenty runners from the parish who had registered with the Archdiocese for this Annual Run for Vocations. Rev Michael Paris, Parochial Vicar, had joined the parish team, and, placed in the upper 8% of all runners (495 of 6742) for the event.

OPT

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Pastor
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St. Patrick's School
Ms. Susan Splendido,
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ST JUDE NEWS

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the Handbell Choir, directed by Carmen Vincent. The Shrine of St. Jude Catholic Church owns a three octave set of English handbells (although in England, they would be called "American handbells" because the clappers and handles are not built with traditional materials). The thirty-seven bells are made of brass, with a clapper on a hinge so that the clapper moves back and forth in only one direction. When rung, a bell will sound its main note and, much more quietly, a note a twelfth higher than the main note—an overtone of the note.

The challenge of playing handbells is the coordination needed among all the members of the group. Although a single performer can play solo music with a set of handbells, more often, several people work together, each playing a few bells. All the ringers need to keep track of the rhythm count so that they play at the right time, and the notes need to connect in a musical line.

The St. Jude Handbell Choir rings instrumental pieces during Masses, Christmas concerts, weddings, and shows, and accompanies different singing choirs. Since its beginning in 1991, the choir has taken both chimes and handbells

to play at venues throughout DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Ringers have also made solo, duet, and trio presentations. Current ringers Shannon Holt, Katie Hurley, Denise Lindekugel, Carmen Vincent, and Tuva Welp are preparing to accompany the Adult Choir on "Noël, Noël" by Carl Schalk at St. Jude's Christmas concert on Dec. 8 at 7:30 pm, and also plan to play a piece of their own.

Pro Life Christmas Card Sales Underway

The Shrine of St. Jude Pro Life Committee kicked off the annual sale of pro life Christmas cards, Advent candles and Advent calendars in early November. The Christmas cards feature beautiful religious Nativity scenes with gentle life affirming messages. They are the favorites of many parishioners.

Children love to count down the days until Christmas with the Advent calendars and participate with their families singing and praying before dinner, lighting another candle each week during Advent. Sales were much higher than past years.

Altar Servers Honored for their Service

Five altar servers from the Shrine of St. Jude participated in the altar server recognition mass that

took place on November 18 at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The main celebrant was Bishop Knestout. Special thanks to Kelly Omotade (senior), Samuel Omotade (eighth grade), Patrick O'Hanlon (eighth grade), Brittney Ranti (sophomore) and Isabella Zambrano (sophomore) for your years of serving the Shrine of St. Jude as well as for representing the Shrine at this wonderful event.

CATHOLICISM: Journey around the World and Deep into the Faith

To strengthen and celebrate our Faith, we invite the community to join us in the Thaddeus Room from 7 to 8:30 p.m. on two Thursdays for the next few months to view the DVD series, *Catholicism with Father Robert E. Barron, STD*. In this series, Father Barron not only explains what Catholics believe and why, but also displays in breathtaking, visual detail the richness of the Church's global culture.

This series has been created to enhance and support the Church's mission to evangelize and teach the content of the Faith. Below are the remaining dates and topics:

12/6: The Mystery of the Liturgy & the Eucharist

1/10: The Communion of Saints
1/24: Prayer and the Life of the Spirit

OPT



Mrs. Scaletti and her 3rd grade campaign workers stood in the carpool line encouraging Mary of Nazareth School students to vote.

Mary of Nazareth School Holds Mock Presidential Election

By Karrie Cerone and Ursula Schaeffer

Patriotism was at an all-time high on November 6, 2012. The third-grade students of Mary of Nazareth School spent the month of October preparing for this all important day. They learned about the three branches of government, the presidential election process, and the laws that govern that process. In class, each student registered to vote and wrote a speech about the candidate of their choice, his stance on the issues and why he is the best candidate for office. The children voted and selected the student they felt would best represent the Romney/Ryan ticket and the Obama/Biden ticket at the mock convention.



Mary of Nazareth School voters stood in line waiting to cast their vote.

On Election Day, the students arrived to school early and stood outside campaigning for their candidate of choice, encouraging the arriving families to vote. The entire school participated in the mock election and the Stavallo multi-purpose room was converted into a convention and polling center. The kids donned patriotic attire and a student represented every state.

After the speeches were given at the mock Democratic and Republican conventions, students checked in to vote, collected a ballot and then proceeded to the voting booths to cast their vote for either President Obama or Governor Mitt Romney. Then, using a website that calculated the electoral map, each state cast their electoral votes for their political party. Everyone watched electoral map fill in and saw the votes add up for each candidate.

This hand-on process helped the students gain a better understanding of how the United States electoral process works. They learned how important it is to exercise their right as a citizen to vote and to have their voice heard; a lesson we pray will carry them through adulthood.

OPT

Kickball Tournaments at Mary of Nazareth School

By Mary Stefaneli

Mary of Nazareth School fourth and fifth grade students were excited to hear that an organized kickball tournament was taking place during their afternoon recess. Thanks to the entrepreneurial spirit of two Mary of Nazareth School students, Matthew Rutland and Sam Massaro, the concept was born. Matthew and Sam approached Principal, Mr. Friel, with a proposal for a kickball competition. Mr. Adrien McDonald, Elementary Physical Education teacher, was brought in to see this

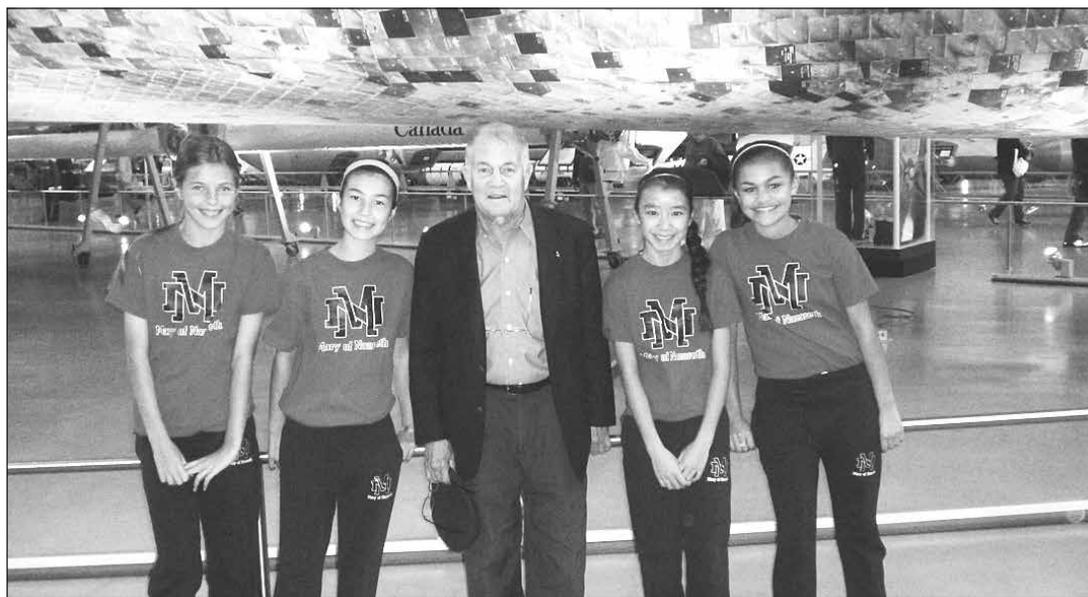
great idea to fruition.

Six teams comprised of seventy-five students participated. Each day during lunch, Mr. McDonald would announce the teams that would be playing. Not only was this a fun activity for the students, it was also an opportunity for them to practice their sportsmanship skills. The students who were not playing that day would watch the game taking place and cheer on their friends.

Mary of Nazareth School loves new ideas, especially when they come from our fantastic student body. Thanks Matthew and Sam!

OPT

A Fieldtrip that was OUT OF THIS WORLD!



Lauren McDonald, Ava Sanchez, Lindsay Wright and Shauneen Miranda pose with Mr. Joe Allen, Astronaut from Space Shuttle Discovery

By Ms. Massey, Lauren McDonald, Shauneen Miranda, Eva Sanchez, Lindsay Wright

On Friday, November 2, the seventh grade students of Mary of Nazareth School went to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum at the Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia. We toured the museum and learned about military aviation from World War I to the present. We also used the scientific method in a paper airplane design lab.

After the tour and lab, our teacher offered to take us around

the museum before lunch so that we would have enough time to see the *Discovery* shuttle. Ms. Massey took our picture as we "held up" the space shuttle when we heard a man say, "What an adorable photo!" He then introduced himself and told us that he was an astronaut who flew on the Space Shuttle *Discovery*. We also found his space suit that was hanging from the ceiling. We actually met an astronaut!

Mr. Joe Allen was humble about having the opportunity to be in space and to fly on the *Discovery*. Mr. Allen explained the feeling of returning to Earth from space:

reentering was smooth and he felt as if he was gliding back to earth. He described the intense bright orange glow from the windows during the reentry which was due to the atoms coming back together. It turns out that it was his first visit to the museum and he was there to see the shuttle, just as we were. We were overwhelmed that, out of all the people in the museum, he asked to take a picture with us. We all just stood there in awe thinking that we just met a real astronaut. It is an experience that we will never forget.

OPT

Read to Write. Write to Read.

Mary of Nazareth School second grade students have embarked upon an exciting journey. They are publishing their very own school newspaper. This quarterly, newsletter format paper includes the submission of every second grade student.

In an effort to continue meeting the goals of our 5 year strategic plan, Mrs. Michele Kowansky and Miss Kelly Olewack decided to take the writing curriculum to another level. "The students are very excited about this project. They love the idea of being published," said Miss Olewack.

I had the opportunity to speak with one of those second grade students, Robbie Castillo. His enthusiasm was evident by the huge smile across his face. When I asked him

why he thought that all the students were working so hard, he responded, "Because we all want to get in the newspaper!" He went on to tell me that he is hoping his owl picture that he created in Art class will be chosen to be published as well.

"The students are learning the basic skills of writing which include prewriting, drafting, revising and proofreading. We are just taking it to the final level of publishing," says Mrs. Kowansky. "It has been amazing to see their writing improve in just a short period of time. They have gone from three sentence articles to full pages."

The students are learning so much more than basic writing. They have already interviewed their prayer partners and will be conducting interviews in other classes for the

next publication. Of course, they would not be official without their press passes and press hats, thanks to Miss Olewack. Their grandparents who attended Grandparents Day received the inaugural copy of the paper. Thank you Mrs. Kowansky and Miss Olewack for bringing new, exciting ideas to Mary of Nazareth School.

OPT

Mary of Nazareth School Open House

Sunday, January 27, 2013 1 pm – 3 pm

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

Principal: Mr. Michael J. Friel

Assistant Principal: Mrs. Rosemary Adams

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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.

Activities of the Social Concerns Commission

By Christine Tan, member, Social Concerns Commission

In October, Christ the King parish participated in a "Baby Shower" for the benefit of The Gabriel Project. Parishioners selected decorated cards bearing the name of an item essential to caring for an infant. By the end of the month a play pen in the Church vestibule was filled with festively decorated gifts. These presents then went to the Gabriel Project, which assists pregnant women in difficult situations.

This month, the annual "Giving Tree" will appear in the front of the Church, at the side of the Holy

Family. Parishioners may select an ornament naming an item requested by an individual or family in need. The gifts are to be returned throughout the Advent season, then distributed shortly before Christmas. Christ the King parishioners are always outstanding in their response to this project.

In January the Parish will participate in the Joseph's Closet clothing drive of Catholic Charities. Parishioners will have the opportunity to donate "gently used" winter coats for those who have none. The drive will take place over the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday weekend. **OPT**

The Year of Faith at Christ the King

By Jennifer Evancho, Catechist, Religious Education program

As the Pope opened The Year of Faith we have also begun a new series in the Religious Education program at Christ the King. I have had the grace to assist in the implementation of Family Catechesis.

Sundays, once a month, the families of the Religious Education Program get together to learn in a multigenerational and bilingual setting. The response has been humbling. The families that came the first Sunday were many. At least 78 children judging from the pizza count! My capacity as a volunteer Catechist was challenged and I found that I was the one that learned a great

deal about my Faith.

Looking into the eyes of the parents and children I realized that I will never be able to give them all that my heart desires. Instead I was left with giving my all for the love of My Lord, and, with the gracious self-giving of our Religious Education Director, Maria Eugenia Fernandez Johnson, we prepared a presentation on the invisible world of Angels and Spirits. The kids were introduced to various works of art and music and craft as well as a moment of small group dialogue on the workings of these fascinating helpers. I was amazed at the happiness that filled the room.

In November we learned about Saint Kateri. I was amazed again. On a nice Sunday afternoon we had a larger group than September. Our work segued from the invisible world to the visible Communion of Saints. We discussed the development of Faith into understanding through the life of St. Kateri. Having opened with an energetic music video we then began the work of the day. But work it was not, for "His yoke is sweet, His burden light." I pray, Lord, help me continue in this work. It is my joy! **OPT**

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Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Jose Maria Cortes
FSCB Pastor

Katie Holland, OPT Editor
301-495-4812
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DRUMMING

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grade school ensemble musically interacting with the high school chorus made for an extremely festive and communal atmosphere.

Mrs. Frezzo has been teaching at St. B's for 22 years and in addition to the World Music Drumming ensemble, teaches general music to grades K-5 and conducts a grade 4-8 chorus. Mrs. Frezzo initiated the St. Bernadette World Drumming Ensemble in 2008 after attending a *World Music Drumming* (known as WMD) Workshop with an idea to bring the excitement of world music and drumming as an extracurricular

activity to the St. Bernadette classroom. The WMD curriculum was developed with the expressed goals of improving communication, listening skills, teamwork, and a respect for others, through African and Latin-American music and culture.

Currently, there are 17 students who participate in the WMD ensemble, who give up their recess time once per week and often times more, to rehearse. The St. Bernadette World Drumming Ensemble has far surpassed Mrs. Frezzo's goals and has become a regular staple at the annual Christmas Pageant and Spring Concert, providing accompaniment to the school band and chorus. Plans are already underway for these drummers to perform at other exciting events! Stay tuned... **OPT**

Closing the 50th Anniversary Year at Christ the King

By Katie Holland, CTK parish editor

On Sunday November 25, 2012, the Feast of Christ the King, fourteen Confirmandi were welcomed as members of our Parish Church. Auxiliary Bishop Francisco González, S.F. concelebrated the bilingual Mass, with Deacon Stephen Frye, our Pastor, Fr. Jose Maria Cortes, F.S.C.B. and Christ the King Deacon Stephen Mitchell, for: Anthony Benlizar, Alexander Brightoupt, Carol Canales, Nixon Espinoza, Nicholas Jackson, Edwin Jovel, Erick Machado, Angela Martinez, Joseph Mitchell, Garrett Paclob, Martha Pozo, Antonio Shaw, Dayana Villanueva and Johanna Zavala.

The next weekend our seventh and eighth-grade pre-Confirmation students worked the Advent Bazaar Sunday, December 2, selling 50th Anniversary Commemorative cookbooks, parish directories, "CTK@50" wristlets, suncatcher ornaments,

Christmas and note cards. We normally would have held our annual Bazaar the weekend of The Feast of Christ the King but in its place to close Christ the King's 50th anniversary year, we welcomed our newest members into the fold.

Fundraising at Christ the King will enter early in 2013 with the Catechist Teachers' plans of a New Year's Eve gala fundraiser which will enable Christ the King to replace all the carpet in its Msgr. John J. Dressel Colonial Room reception hall. As with all fundraisers to date, this will be in the Colonial Room, with a DJ and cash bar. You do not have to be a parishioner of Christ the King to attend!

Our final fundraiser of the season will be on Mardi Gras weekend, a time we have traditionally held our Auction, Saturday evening February 9, 2013 from 6:30pm until 11:30pm. (If the snow and bad weather predictions hold for this coming winter, we will "rain date" it for the

next afternoon, Sunday, February 10, from 4-7pm.) But to return to its beginnings at Christ the King (about 1988) we will again have a costume ball with raffles instead of an auction, a semi-catered event with a cash bar and a "Chinese" raffle, that is, purchasing tickets and distributing them at the desired prize (or prizes) in the hopes of winning that specific item, or one of the hopefuls.

Our official anniversary began with a first Mass on December 17, 1961, just three weeks beyond our "patron" feast day, and our "inauguration" as a parish officially on February 11, 1962. In keeping with this rather long "date", we Confirmed our newest members, held our annual Bazaar brought in the New Year and closed just barely two days before the "official" date of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, with our February 9 Mardi Gras costume ball. **OPT**

St. Bernadette



St. Bernadette Kindergarten Class enjoys popsicles after their first Walk for the Homeless

St. Bernadette's Greater Love

Greater Love is St. Bernadette School's program to encourage student participation in charitable works. The primary goal of the program is to involve students in helping their community and learning compassion by being exposed to those less fortunate than they are. The name Greater Love comes from John 15:13, "Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

During the month of October, the Greater Love community focused on helping the homeless. St. Bernadette School donated 50 backpacks to local homeless kids through The National Center

for Children and Families. The entire student body participated in the Walk for Homeless at the end of October. On Halloween, the students held a bake sale and the money generated was donated to the Breast Cancer Society. In November, the 4th grade girls collected Halloween candy which was donated to the Carroll House Men's Homeless Shelter. The school also held a Thanksgiving Food Drive for McKenna's Wagon. Each class was asked to bring in a different food item for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Families gathered as a parish community on Sunday, November 18 after mass on the front lawn of

the Church where over thirty-five boxes were assembled complete with turkeys and delivered to The Father McKenna Center at Gonzaga High School.

Upcoming Greater Love programs planned for December include a bake sale sponsored by the fifth-grade Girl Scouts for the LilaBean Foundation for Pediatric Brain Cancer Research, a TAG day with proceeds donated to Sheppard's Table to enable them to serve brunch for homeless people during the weekends, and the 8th Grade will sponsor a Holiday Gift Drive for Seniors. **OPT**

Charity Project Highlighted Youth Group Start to School Year

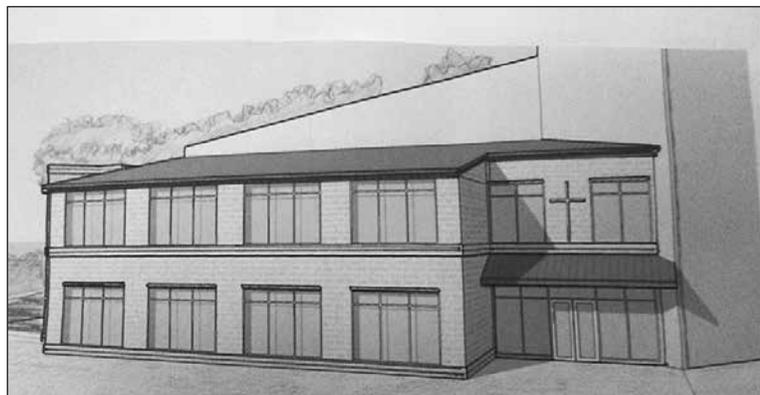
By Susan Lea, Director of Youth Ministry

The high school youth group started off the school year by joining Life Teen youth groups around the world for the 5th Annual Give It Away Now (GIWA) event. This year we focused on

the Corporal Work of Mercy – Shelter the Homeless. We collected 422 items for the GIWA homeless challenge! All items were donated to a local homeless shelter. The high school group goes by acronym FRED, which stands for Saint Francis Religious Education. **OPT**



Youth Group holding items for homeless



Artist Sketch of Catechetical Center

“God’s Co-workers – God’s Building” Campaign

By Father David Beaubien, Pastor

There is no better way to celebrate the Year of Faith than to see that the third phase in the development of St. Francis of Assisi parish is becoming a reality. Following the construction of the church building in 1975, further development continued with

the opening up of the Parish Center beneath the church and the construction of the Rectory, containing offices and living quarters for the clergy. Phase 2 was the addition in the latter 1990’s of an ample-sized Gathering Space, which has provided a much-appreciated area to meet

Continued on page 26

St. Francis Celebrates Feast Day



Chili Cook-off overall winner Peter Galvin with Father David



Chili Cook-off judges, L to R: Father David, Susan Anderson, Georgana Finn, Milt Madison, Deacon Dan Finn, Maureen Pagan (score keeper)

By John McCarthy

Our annual Parish Picnic was held on Sunday, October 7, within the octave of St. Francis of Assisi’s “official” October 4th feast day. While the outdoor activities for the children had to be canceled due to the inclement weather, it did not dampen the fun, fellowship and good food enjoyed by all in the Parish Center.



Father David Blessing the animals

The food, as usual, was plentiful and delicious thanks to Kathy and Rick Cornwell and the many parishioners who brought side dishes and desserts. There were six entries for the Chili Cook-off, with Peter Galvin’s “Piping Hot Party Chili” winning the best taste and overall prize. Ralph Sanchez had the best name entry

– “Slap Yo’ Demons Holy Chili”. Pumpkin decorating and face painting delighted especially the children, as well as a special guest, the Stilt Lady. The day is always highlighted by the Blessing of the animals by Father David on the front lawn. Parishioners send kudos and many thanks to this year’s coordinator Sylvia Jones and her team of volunteers for such a wonderful celebration of our patron saint, Francis of Assisi. **OPT**



Stilt Lady (a.k.a. Shelly Gup) entertaining the children



Pere Roland and Father David after morning Mass

Pastor from Haiti Sister Parish Visits St. Francis

By John McCarthy

Pere Jean Roland Joseph, pastor of our twinned parish, the Conversion of St. Paul, in Leon, recently made his annual visit to St. Francis of Assisi. Preaching at all the Masses on October 28, he brought greetings from his parishioners and on their behalf offered thanks for the support St. Francis has given to his parish, their school of Bon Pastor, and the medical mission. During the week he met with our Haiti Committee and our pastor, Father David, to report on details of the parish activities and present some immediate needs.

by Pere Roland for which funding was agreed upon: a feeding program for the students and an upgrade to the electrical supply to the parish house, church and school. The parish twinning program gives us the opportunity to put faith into action by enhancing the dignity of our sisters and brothers in Haiti. We look forward to Pere Roland’s next visit planned for August, 2013. **OPT**

In addition to the main parish church and school in Leon, Pere Roland travels a circuit that includes six outlying chapels, with two new chapels being planned. Four of the chapels have schools with a total of 270 students. The parish school in Leon (Bon Pastor) has 403 students, an increase of 145 from last year. St. Francis parishioners fund the teachers’ salaries through individual student sponsorships and general contributions.

Two new projects were presented

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More St. Francis of Assisi News on Page 26

Parish within a parish

At de Chantal, French-speaking parish embraces faith through community

For anyone who's attended 5 o'clock Mass on Saturdays at St. Jane de Chantal Church, it's no secret that the day isn't over there when the recessional ends. As the last attendees of the popular Mass filter out, another group of Catholic faithful wait for their turn to worship, in the language of St. Jane de Chantal herself.

Each Saturday at 6:30, parishioners of St. Louis de France celebrate Mass with joyful singing and shared camaraderie alongside fellow French-speakers from throughout the Washington area. It is a sense of community that is vitally important to trying to make a home abroad, said Father Jean-Marie Vincent, pastor of St. Louis de France.

"It's so important for our community to come together and commune in our faith," said Father Vincent. "We're so grateful for the opportunity to use de Chantal."

The St. Louis de France parish is situated in a small house on Garrison Street in Northwest Washington that is too small to host a weekend Mass. The majority of the parish attends the Saturday evening Mass at de Chantal, coming from Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Northern Virginia. It is the only French parish in the Archdiocese of Washington, and also hosts Catholics connected to the French Embassy. (The parish also offers two Masses on Sunday morning at Epiphany Catholic Church in Georgetown.)

The sense of community is important to those who are new to the area, or only here for a few months, said Valerie Goudet, who has been part of the parish for nearly eight years and has five children who have either graduated from or are currently enrolled at St. Jane de Chantal School.

"It's difficult because many people are only here for two or three years or less, assigned here through



Father Jean-Marie Vincent, pastor of St. Louis de France

their work, or taking courses here. If you're with the parish for six months, you are an old parishioner," she laughs.

The parish has been an important part of her life, and she has been an important part of St. Louis, having served in a right-hand role to the pastor two years ago. She said the church is her family's connection to the French community. "All of my children's French friends come from the parish," she said. Indeed, Mass-goers congregate in the gathering space long after Mass has ended; Goudet said they will often continue the celebration at one of their homes, with several families getting together for dinner. It's a connection that's clearly precious to those who are part of it.

Recently, Father Vincent was able to share joyful news during Mass – a Christmas Eve Mass for the parish would be added to the schedule at St. Jane de Chantal, the first time the parish would have Christmas Mass at the church. For many years, the Christmas Mass was celebrated at Howard University's chapel downtown, but the space wasn't adequate, and for the many parishioners who host family and friends during the holidays, the news was something to cheer about.

"As I made the announcement, one parishioner couldn't contain her joy – 'Now I'll have Christmas Eve Mass with my family!' " Father Vincent said. "It might not seem like much, but it's a big thing to our parish."

OPT

New pastor celebrates de Chantal's spirit of service at Volunteer Dinner

St. Jane de Chantal's pastor, the Rev. Samuel Giese, offered his gratitude to the parishioners during the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner he hosted at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center on Oct. 19. In remarks before the

dinner, Father Giese spoke of the importance of volunteering within a civil society as well as a loving Catholic community, referring to its importance in keeping a democracy from disintegrating and in keeping alive the spirit of Christ. He praised each and every



Father Giese visits with attendees at the dinner, where he thanked guests for dedicating themselves to serving others.



Father John McKay offers the blessing during St. Jane de Chantal's Volunteer Dinner Oct. 19 with Pastor Samuel Giese, rear.

volunteer present, regardless of the work they performed. "No job is too small or unimportant" when it comes to volunteering, he said.

About 350 parish volunteers attended the festive evening, which featured cocktails, dinner and dancing; the pastor visited with the attendees to personally thank them for the work they do.

OPT

De Chantal students and faculty dedicate themselves to serving others

Students, faculty and staff at St. Jane de Chantal joined principal Elizabeth Hamilton and Pastor Samuel Guise to celebrate the school's annual commissioning service on Oct. 4, the Feast of St. Francis Assisi. The service is an outgrowth of the religion program and the many giving projects that take place throughout the school year. This commissioning service reflects the school's mission of helping others and acknowledges the students' and faculty's responsibility and commitment to be advocates of social justice for all. At the service, the school community reaffirmed their commitment to Catholic action and pledged to continue to be disciples in service, channels of peace, as well as evangelists of the Roman Catholic Faith.

The "good news" of service was celebrated with songs by the de Chantal School Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Olga Morales, and students sang along with a piano selection of "The Prayer

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Proud de Chantal kindergartners pose with the bottled drinks their families collected for military families staying at Fisher House in Bethesda while undergoing medical treatments.

De Chantal Sodality welcomes new members, celebrates power of grace

The St. Jane de Chantal Sodality Guild welcomed new members at a formal investiture ceremony at the 10 o'clock Mass on Nov. 4. Among the new members were a number of eighth grade junior sodalists. The inductees were welcomed by the presiding priest, Father John McKay, and provided with a blessed Miraculous Medal

to help them keep the grace of Mary in their lives. This year more than 25 new Sodality members were inducted, including Champa Soyza and Julie Liotta and Junior Sodality members Landry Werth, Zoe Westrick, Valerie Biggs, Kristiana Kalset, Claire Perry, Emily Ryan, Tess Daniels, Cristin George, Emma Kaden, Ally Edwards, Emily Matejik, Issa Hoyos, Lauren Cummins, Emma Eder, Kara Posniewski, Chloe Blomquist, Julia Kane, Grace McCrery, Katerina Rinaldi, Kayla Tiller, Rebecca Arce, Tori Saylor, Grace Ryan, and Lanie Shook.

After the Mass and Investiture ceremony, the Sodality held a com-



St. Jane de Chantal's Father John McKay with new sodalists, from left, Kristiana Kalset, Kayla Tiller, Emma Eder, Julie Liotta and Champa Soyza.

munion breakfast with guest speaker Kevin Wells, a former sportswriter and author of the recently published book, "Burst – A Story of God's Grace When Life Falls Apart." The book is Wells's story of how grace

helped him weather his own life-threatening illness and the murder of his uncle, Monsignor Thomas Wells. The book also describes how his "burst" was a congenital malformation that almost ended his life. Wells gave a heartfelt talk that deeply affected those present; among those in the audience were his wife and three children. Following his talk and some questions from the group (and after everyone wiped away tears), Kevin signed copies of his book, which was rated No. 1 in the country for Catholic Books in 2011.

The Sodality Guild at St. Jane de Chantal Parish has been in existence for more than 50 years and has approximately 300 members. The

women of Sodality follow Mary as their spiritual model and deepen their relationship with the Lord by working within the community and their families. The group's next project is the annual de Chantal Giving Tree, in which approximately 1,000 Christmas gifts are collected from generous de Chantal parishioners and delivered to fulfill wishes of needy men, women and children throughout the area. Hard-working Sodality members ensure that every wish on the list – which they obtain by contacting various local social service providers -- is covered. This year, in addition to assisting many local families and organizations, the project will also provide gifts to some needy families in West Virginia. If you are interested in learning more about the St. Jane Sodality, contact Helen Bollwerk at bollwerk@rcn.com.

OPT

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Seminarians – Our Spiritual Thanksgiving

By Mary Beth de Ribeaux

What a sight to see – 25 seminarians from the Archdiocese’s new Bl. John Paul II Seminary sitting together at our 11:15 Mass! That’s 25 fine young men who have answered “yes” to God and are willing to give Him their lives in service to the Church – definitely a cause for thanksgiving.

Archdiocesan Vocations Director, Fr. Carter Griffin, and seminarians’ spiritual director, Fr. William Gurnee, concelebrated the Mass. Fr. Griffin explained that the visit allowed the seminarians to be a witness to the parish and help remind us to pray for vocations. In addition, it helped the seminarians recall the very reason for their commitment, to serve the People of God.

Another reason to give thanks: Our parish is blessed to have one of its own among them. James Morrison is in his second year at Bl. John Paul II Seminary. At the end of Mass, James spoke of his journey to the seminary. “God did not speak in a text message, words in the sky, or a voice like Morgan Freeman,” he noted. “For me, He spoke through

an overwhelming sense of peace, inexpressible joy, and a desire to serve His Church. I’ve never been happier.”

After Mass, seminarians were greeted by the John Paul the Great Vocations Society for lunch at the Neumann House. Dishes came lovingly prepared from the kitchens of Vocations Society members. One member, Theresa McKinney, also shared with them a touching reflection on why we need priests.

Six other young men from our parish joined the seminarians at lunch. Perhaps someday they will enter the seminary; for now, they are at least open to asking God’s will for their lives. Our pastor, Fr. LaHood, noted that he believes there is fruitful ground in our parish for future vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. And that would truly be cause for thanksgiving.



Fr. Carter Griffin, Archdiocesan Vocations Director, brought twenty-five Seminarians for a November visit to SJN parish. After Mass, the special visitors and their guests were welcomed by Fr. LaHood and Mary Beth de Ribeaux for a luncheon prepared by members of SJN’s John Paul the Great Vocations Society.



Knights of Columbus took the Living Rosary to Mother of God School where students led the prayers, followed by parents using smaller, traditional versions of the rosary. Photos by John Jankowski

Rosaries Come Big and Small

By Rus Wester

A couple of times a year the SJN Knights of Columbus (Our Lady of Guadalupe Council #12127) travel around to parishes bringing the “Living Rosary” to Catholic school children. The most recent stop was Mother of God School in Gaithersburg.

Joining Knights John Jankowski, Bill Garvey and Rus Wester, over 150 elementary-grade students, teachers and parents were greeted by gentle



music (provided by Brother Knight, Marty Wild) as everyone entered the MOGS gym and quietly moved into position around this gigantic rosary (over 40 feet

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Father LaHood officiates and Raffle Coordinator, Rosemarie Lunn, rolls the drum as Parish Youth draws the winning raffle tickets worth \$25,000.

And the Winners Are...

When the parish gathered for Thanksgiving morning Mass, nearly every seat in the church was filled.

Father LaHood celebrated, Father Regan concelebrated. The homily message reminded all that the most important prayers of thanksgiving were to God for allowing us to know Him and thank Him for all he does for us.

Moments after the Mass, other thoughts of thanksgiving came in the parish center as Father LaHood selected a young man from those gathered, to reach into the parish rolling drum and come up with three winning tickets from the 490 placed there for the Parish Raffle Drawing.

For several weeks, we have been encouraged to buy raffle tickets in the spirit of aiding the

parish in reducing its debt. Raffle Coordinator, Rosemarie Lunn, turned the drum, eagerly cheered on by the assembly. As the three winning names emerged, Rector Coordinator, Maria Itoni, recorded:

1. Mary Keller
\$10,000 WINNER
2. Luis Garcia
\$10,000 WINNER
3. Christina Andrews
\$ 5,000 WINNER

Fr. Regan helped do the math: “From the tickets sold, after paying the winners, the parish raised \$24,000 to help reduce our debt”. None were happier than our Pastor. “I’m thankful that the parish responded so generously with this fundraiser,” said Father LaHood. “I’m excited about this. The parish is moving forward!”

OPT



Knights of Columbus Annual Pumpkin Carving participants and their creations

Carvin’ up the Pumpkin Patch

By Rus Wester

Once again happy faces graced the patio deck of Neumann House as the Knights of Columbus staged their second annual Pumpkin Carving Party for the parish. Families, Knights and Father Kevin Regan helped many faces emerge from the already beautiful pumpkins provided by the Knights for this year’s contest...carving, painting and otherwise enhancing the Halloween orbs,

which the children took home at the end of the day.

Face painting by Mary Castellano set the stage for creativity to flow freely among children-carvers and assisting parents. Pumpkin Party organizer, Manny Dayao, and his family prepared and served a veritable feast for all on hand.

As goodbyes were offered, Grand Knight, Steve Rhodes reflected on the day: “I think it’s safe to say we have a new parish tradition.”

OPT

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Fr. Thomas G. LaHood
Pastor

Fr. Kevin Regan
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St. Michael's Volunteers Pen Holiday Cards for Service Members

On Monday, November 19, a group of St. Michael the Archangel parishioners spent the evening preparing cards for the Red Cross' "Holiday Mail for Heroes" program.

The group convened by the Pastoral Care Committee brought their collections of unused Christmas cards and their best penmanship to the rectory conference room for the effort.

Now in its fifth year, the "Holiday Mail for Heroes" project is just one aspect of the American Red Cross' history of service to the Armed Forces. The first four years of the project resulted in the distribution of more than 3.5 million

cards of holiday greetings and gratitude from the American public to American soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines families nationwide.

The St. Michael's volunteers exchanged ideas for salutations and messages for the card and enjoyed listening to Christmas music as they wrote individual messages on dozens of cards. Pastoral Care Committee Chair Aimee Bolen Valenzuela later delivered the cards to the local Red Cross office. All the volunteers agreed that it was a great pre-Thanksgiving way to show their appreciation for the sacrifices and service of our military members.

OPT

K of C Family of the Month

The Knights of Columbus have named the Ballard family "Family of the Month" for November.

The family of the month is selected for exemplary stewardship in our parish. John and Juliana Ballard have two children, Justine and

Jackson. They are always faithful patrons of KofC events and other parish benefit functions.

Brother Knight Steve Holowenzak presented the Ballards with two gift certificates on November 26th. Congratulations to the Ballards!

OPT

Knights of Columbus Sponsored Retreat

By Charles J. Hayes, Grand Knight

On Saturday, November 10, the St. Michael the Archangel Knights of Columbus sponsored a day long religious retreat at the Franciscan Monastery. The theme for the day was: Devotion to Holy Souls in Purgatory. The day's events were planned by Brother Knight Pan Hu.

Our Chaplain and parish pas-

tor, Monsignor Tolentino celebrated mass and we all had the beautiful grounds for private meditation, rosaries in the Rosary portico, the Divine Mercy Chaplet and readings for spiritual reflection. The participants were given a tour of the catacombs by Brother Charles Hayes, who is a volunteer guide at the monastery. Brother Charles explained that the true catacombs around Rome stretch for 900 miles where there were buried over nine million people.

Brother Pan provided us with writings to answer the major questions about Purgatory such as: What is Purgatory? Why are the Souls in Purgatory Holy? Why do the Holy Souls need our prayers?

The Knights plan to make this an annual event for our Council and parishioners.

Please join us in November 2013 for a spiritual remembrance of prayer for your friends and loved ones.

OPT

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Shrine of St. Jude

Bulldogs Go to Washington!

On Nov. 16, St. Jude fourth and fifth-grade students visited the Nation's Capitol! They walked through the U.S. Capitol and learned about the Congressmen and Senators that shape our country, they saw different pieces of art, and learned about the structure of the Capitol and how it was built. The highlight of the trip was getting to meet 8th district Congressman Chris Van Hollen, who spent over 45 minutes talking to the students on the Capitol steps. Our St. Jude students asked very insightful questions and had a great time getting to know Mr. Van Hollen!



St. Francis of Assisi

Holiday Fair a Big Success

By Rose Attig

It was a beautiful sunny day with a bit of a crisp fall chill to the air, on November 10th, for the annual St. Francis of Assisi Holiday Fair. The Fair, a major fundraiser for the Parish, has been a tradition for over 25 years. Many crafters, and parish volunteers, along with outside vendors, contributed to another successful year.

The Jewelry Boutique, headed by Linda Call, as always, was a huge success. Many shoppers waited in line for their turn to browse among the many items, mostly donated and gently used, in search of values and gifts, at modest prices. Millie's Bake Shoppe, forever a hit, attracted young and old alike, to place a quarter bet for a chance to win a delicious cake. Shabby Chic, head-

ed by George and Barbara Beall, had wonderful gifts and treasures, and some higher end items, donated throughout the year, all available at super bargain prices.

The Silent Auction with many donated theme baskets, services, and home decor, was open to bids throughout the day. For the day, the lower level of the Rectory was transformed into a buyers' haven for White Elephant items. Many buyers came early



Millie's Bake Shop- a traditional favorite. LtoR: parishioners Millie Bussard, Ceil Noga, Rose Nodine

for the best items at very nominal prices.

The Cafe Assisi was a resting stop, for shoppers, to enjoy some morning coffee and donuts and, later, lunch. The raffle, this year, headed by Linda Foster, sold many tickets, for both monetary prizes and donated prizes. But the highlight, as always, was Santa's official arrival, adding to the festive and Christmas atmosphere for children of all ages.

It was a wonderful day, bringing a sense of community and fellowship, not only to our Parishioners, but also to our neighbors and friends. Many thanks are due to Anne Culver and her team of volunteers for another great Holiday Fair.

OPT



Vendors, LtoR, George, Barbara and Patrick Beall - "Shabby Chic Shoppe"

CAMPAIGN

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and greet before and after Mass, as well as a music office and a meeting room. As the parish continued to grow with increasing numbers of children in catechesis, Phase 3 was envisioned to ease the burden on the Parish Center and add more meeting rooms and classrooms.

Beginning in 2004, funding for Phase 3 was linked to the archdiocesan-wide Forward-in-Faith Campaign, which concluded in 2009. In the interim, after a parish-

wide reassessment of the initial plans for a Catechetical Center, it was decided that a smaller structure extending off the side of the church would suffice for our current needs. It would include four rooms on each of two floors with elevator access between the worship space and Parish Center below.

To complete the needed funds for the Catechetical addition, a mini-capital campaign was inaugurated last June, called "God's Co-workers—God's Building," a quote from I Corinthians 3:9. Over and above the Forward-in-Faith funds, which amounted to

approximately \$1 million, we are aiming at an additional \$600,000, and as of mid-November we are over halfway there in pledges. In the meantime, we are working with our architect to begin the detailed schematics of the building addition and look forward to putting a shovel in the ground as soon as possible. By providing much-needed meeting space, the new building addition will enhance our ability at St. Francis to bring people together, grow in faith and express it through acts of service to the needy.

OPT

St. Raphael Parish News

St. Raphael Parish had much for which to be grateful this Thanksgiving. In the tradition of showing our gratitude to God, parishioners step up to the plate to make sure those who are suffering and with little resources to make ends meet can have a lovely Thanksgiving dinner. This is our parish's 21st year in sharing our gifts of food, clothing and time with the community members of our Twin Parish, St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church located in Washington, D.C.

Our parish collects and organizes Blessing Baskets of traditional Thanksgiving food items including a frozen turkey. The non-perishable food drive yields boxes and boxes of items for families who request a blessing basket from Fr. Michael Kelly, the Pastor of St. Martin's. This year we fulfilled the need of turkeys and food items to make 269 Blessing Baskets. Our parish also collects roasted turkeys and baked desserts to transport to St. Martin's on Thanksgiving morning to add to the fabulous side dishes typically served at Thanksgiving by members of the St. Martin Twinning Committee. Together, we

work to assemble dinners for shut-ins of the community and then serve others who have no way to prepare a Thanksgiving dinner. We also distribute winter coats and other clothing to those attending. It is truly an uplifting sharing of time and personal contact with our brothers and sisters who enjoy this event year after year.

Living Catholic: The Way Ahead is a new program forming at St. Raphael parish. This program is a direct result of the success of the original *Living Catholic*, a pilot program offered here and started by the Archdiocese of Washington. The program was a huge success with over 50 participants and great speakers – including our pastor, Fr. Meyers. Several participants from the original program expressed a desire to take what they learned and expand upon it, so to take it to the “next level” and they are forming *Living Catholic: The Way Ahead*. The

purpose of this course is to continue to learn effective ways to make the faith known and loved, and to discuss with each other our own experiences of faith and our efforts to share it. The program is currently scheduled monthly through April 2013.

Popular speaker, biblical scholar, psychotherapist, and award-winning author **Stephen Binz will be coming to St. Raphael on January 30, 2013, to speak about *Embracing the Word in the New Year*.** He will lecture on two topics: *The Gospel of Luke* (10:00 am-11:00 am), and *Mary Woman of the Word and Exemplar of Lectio Divina* (7:30 pm-9:00 pm). For more information, contact Suzanne Nelson, Adult Faith Formation Coordinator at 443-472-3730 or ptmcenter@aol.com.

St. Raphael will be celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 9 at the 1:00pm Mass, which will be presided by His Eminence

Cardinal McCarrick. There will be a procession from the church to the Trumpet Room, followed by folkloric dancers, a representation of the Miracle of the Tepeyac interpreted by the school children and typical food. On the actual feast day of Our Lady, we will serenade the Blessed Mother at 6:00am, followed by the 6:30 are Mass.

On December 15 we will begin the celebration of the Posadas. In our parish, we start every day of the Posadas with the recitation of the Rosary at the Library at 6:30pm. Following the rosary, a group of parishioners with children dressed as Mary and Joseph, shepherds, and angels will visit three neighborhood homes, singing Christmas carols along the way. Two of them will deny opening the house to Mary and Joseph. When they reach the third house, the owners will open the door and there will be great rejoicing. After a brief Liturgy, the host will offer a light refreshment to the people that had endured the cold weather to re-enact the cold and difficulty journey of Joseph and Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

OPT

By Nora Stephens

It's been a wonderful autumn at St. Raphael School, and we are now excitedly anticipating the arrival of the Christmas season.

We had a well-attended and successful open house in October for both the nursery school and the elementary school. For those who missed it, our next open house will be held Jan. 14, 2013. Watch for more information on our website at www.straphaelschoolmd.org.

The fourth annual Fr. Bill Finch Memorial St. Raphael Golf Classic was our fourth consecutive sellout and beautiful weather for the Oct. 22 event, which was held at Manor Country Club in Rockville. Thirty volunteers helped on site throughout the day, not to mention the committee that worked behind the scenes to bring it all together. Our students also participated by writing personal thank you cards to accompany a small gift for every golfer. Our generous host, PGA Tour caddie Mike “Fluff” Cowan, again gave his time to help out with tips at his golf clinic before the event, and played against participants on one hole as he caddied for each foursome. The tournament raised

St. Raphael School News



Meredith Kearns and Grant McGraw help promote the St. Raphael School bake sale to benefit families affected by Hurricane Sandy.

\$38,000, which will go toward the St. Raphael Educational Building Fund.

The students of St. Raphael School held a bake sale to benefit Hurricane Sandy relief efforts. Students gathered after school to

make colorful and creative signs promoting the event, which was held Nov. 18 after the morning Masses. St. Raphael School partnered with Our Lady of Hope Regional School in New Jersey, which coordinated with parishes in the Toms River,

N.J., area in providing aid to families that lost so much (coincidentally, girls at Our Lady of Hope wear the same plaid jumper as the SRS girls). The bake sale raised almost \$1,800, all of which was donated to the cause.

Our planning committee is already busy preparing for our spring gala and auction to be held on March 16, 2013. This year's theme is “Dancing in the Streets” and will feature the foods of New

York, Hollywood, Nashville, New Orleans, Las Vegas and Washington, D.C. The event, which benefits St. Raphael School, will feature live entertainment, dinner and dancing. Watch www.straphaelschoolmd.org for details.

Our entire school gathered together in the Trumpet Room the Monday before Thanksgiving for a celebratory meal and to give thanks for all that we have in our family, community and nation. The younger grades sported Thanksgiving attire—Native American headdresses, pilgrim bonnets and Mayflower hats—which added something special to the festivities.

The fourth-graders shared their knowledge about medieval times during their traditional Medieval Festival on Nov. 16. The students spent the month of November studying the medieval time period. They learned about life on a feudal manor, specifically how nobles, knights and serfs worked together to form a self-sufficient community. They read novels that took them back to the Middle Ages, created a trebuchet (a medieval military catapult) in science, illustrated medieval community scenes in art class,

and studied medieval melodies during music class. The students demonstrated their learning at a daylong celebration as they dressed in period costumes as kings and queens, knights and ladies, peasants and serfs. They presented their written character compositions and coat of arms to their classmates, teachers and family members, and then everyone enjoyed an authentic medieval feast. The day concluded with medieval games in P.E. class. It truly was a cross-curricular extravaganza!

We are looking forward to our annual Mother Teresa Luncheon, to be held this year on Dec. 11. The Sisters of Charity bring men and women from the District to our parish for a wonderful holiday feast, prepared by dedicated parish volunteers. This year, middle-schoolers from St. Raphael will serve our guests and will also join them at their table.

All our students, from the smallest preschooler to the biggest seventh-grader, are preparing for their Christmas pageant performances. A lot of work and preparation goes into putting together the annual shows, which the families love watching as much as the children enjoy performing. It is a wonderful, happy way to gather with our school family and bring 2012 to a joyous close.

OPT



Sean Healy and his 4th grade classmates at the St. Raphael Medieval Festival.

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Mother Seton Parish Seton Seniors

Mother Seton Parish's Seton Seniors is a social and spiritual organization. All members of Mother Seton Parish over the age of 50 are welcome to join this church ministry. Non-Catholics, who are spouses of church members and non-parishioners, Catholic or non-Catholic, are also welcome to join. Non-Catholics must be sponsored by a member of the Seton Seniors.

The Seton Seniors meet on the second Wednesday of each month

from September to May. This meeting consists of a business meeting and luncheon and an educational speaker or entertainment. Speakers for our business meetings come from diverse backgrounds, such as health professionals, financial experts, travel guides, community volunteer workers, and even prison guards just to name a few.

The fourth Wednesday of each month is our social outing. Our social outings include attending various theatres in Olney, Frederick and Lancaster, Pa. One of our favorites is the Sight & Sound Theatre-the Nation's largest professional Christian theatrical company. You can experience great stories taken from the Bible through spectacular shows filled with gifted actors, elaborate sets up to 40-feet high, hundreds of costumes, live animals, and incredible special effects. We also attend many varied restaurants.

A majority of our members support and contribute to other church ministries such as the funeral committee, lectors, Arimatheans, choir, Eucharistic Ministers of Holy

Communion, Sodality, and the Knights of Columbus. Even though we are seniors, we strive to remain active physically and mentally. We have given monetary donations to charitable organizations such as Germantown HELP and others. Recently, we initiated a project called "Operation Gratitude". Our seniors will be sending letters and parcels to troops around the world. Our small contribution expresses our deep appreciation of the sacrifices that our Armed Forces endure during their service time overseas.

We consider our Seton Seniors organization at Mother Seton Parish as a therapeutic tool that combats loneliness and depression. You meet new friendly people with fresh ideas and smiling faces. Happiness boosts our immune system and friendship is the best medicine - ever.

If you are interested in joining the Seton Seniors, please contact the Mother Seton Parish Office, 301-924-3838, and asked to be referred to Barbara Dowjat, President, Seton Seniors.

SHORT

Con't from page 1

proudly of his days with General George Patton during World War II. Garland drove the "number three" tank just behind "Old Blood and Guts" himself and testifies that the nickname understates the toughness of Patton who he often witnessed in action. When we talk about the old days as we often do, Garland drifts deeply into silence. Many of his memories are of segregation and personal injustices, elements of the "Greatest Generation" that weren't great at all. He bears no grudge, seeks none to blame and at ninety-something still looks forward with hope to his beloved nation's future.

I mentioned Joe earlier. Son of an Italian immigrant shoemaker who settled in West Virginia early in the Twentieth century, Joe loves to socialize. The Pearl Mesta of the home, he could talk for hours about his interests and yours. Frequently Joe shares his regret that he has not had the opportunity to travel and see more of the nation and world.

In fact he has had the fewest of these experiences among the group. Yet, Joe has an insatiable appetite for learning; loves history and local geography, and between bites of his pureed meal, won't miss the opportunity to chime into discussions of politics and faith. If ever there is a man for whom the Internet was intended, it is Joe. As yet, he hasn't learned how to use it, a common deprivation for aged folks. Perhaps someday that unlimited world of learning will be open to him. Joe has a gift for playing the accordion. He gleefully shares this talent with others in the home and guests including President and Mrs. Bush and a Princess from Belgium who recently visited. The guys often remind Joe when he's feeling low about his lack of experiences that playing music for the President of the United States and world royalty isn't a bad achievement for the son of a shoemaker from West Virginia!

Richard's from Connecticut and spent much of his life in Chicago with his brother in the trucking business. His gentle, gregarious nature belies what one would imagine of someone who spent decades in a rough and tough industry which included regular negotiations with the Teamsters Union. What a joy he is, always the first to break into a welcoming smile when I enter the room. "Hey Chuck", he calls from our usual lunch table, "pull up a chair, buddy!" There is no other place or time during my busy week that I feel more welcome and accepted than when I hear this call from Richard. We miss him when he's not at lunch because, as one of the strongest members of the community, he is often out helping one of the sisters with a chore. At Thanksgiving, we gave special thanks for Richard's health since just a few months ago

he was near death in Providence Hospital. Upon his return to the lunch bunch, he reminded us that he was tough enough to negotiate with Jimmy Hoffa, gun in vest and all, so we should never have been concerned. Indeed, while walking out in front of the home a few years ago, Richard was roughed up a bit by a couple of thugs. Next day, he was prepared to go out after the guys himself. Lucky for the thugs, we were able to restrain Richard.

Rounding out the residents of the home in the lunch bunch is the consummate gentleman, Robert. A well-educated, seemingly aristocratic fellow, Robert contributes vivid portraits of local history to the group's conversation. He came to Washington from California in the 1930s and spent many years in the downtown banking business. Always meticulously dressed in jacket and tie at lunch, his severely diminished vision is no obstacle to precise descriptions of memories of Washington's grand old restaurants and hotels. I often imagine Robert and my father in law, also a grand Washington gentleman, smiling and tipping their hats as they walk along Connecticut Avenue in the early days. Robert's bright, clear eyes twinkle playfully when the young ladies who volunteer at the home serve dessert. There's a bit of Gatsby in this grand gentleman! He keeps fully informed of current events thanks to a volunteer who comes regularly to read to him. Like Joe, Robert would benefit greatly from access to the internet with the addition of available talking software enabling him to independently scour the news world.

As the fifth member of the lunch bunch and the only one who is part of the community that doesn't live at the home, I'm grateful and humbled to be with my friends at the table. At 65, I'm the youngest. The guys don't hold this against me. When they correct a mistaken memory of mine, add a forgotten detail, inject a wise observation, or offer much appreciated sage advice, it's done respectfully. They never make me feel the inadequate member of this remarkable group which I surely am. My flaws and I are comfortable with the guys.

More than three decades separate us and oceans divide our backgrounds yet the depth of friendship and respect is immeasurable. Our time together each week is filled with dignity, warmth and joy. Sometimes a little too much joy requiring Sister's stern warning to pipe down. Some things in my life never change! Five old guys don't talk about love, but on these Wednesdays we are present to each other in such a very special way; in humility and trust, compassion and respect. Don't tell the guys, but I think it's love.

Merry Christmas and God Bless!

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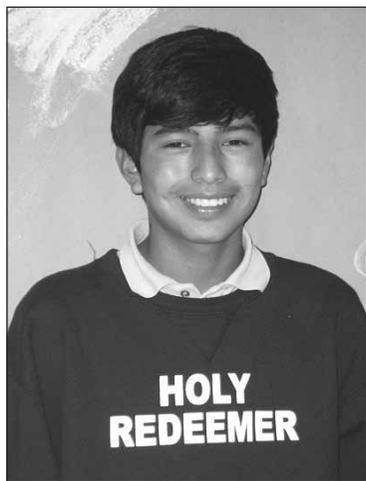
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Holy Redeemer eighth-grade literature students were recently given a choice of writing prompts exploring the themes from O. Henry's short story "The Ransom of Red Chief". In the first of two essays to be published, student Edwin Ramirez used the prompt asking for reflection on a talent that required perseverance and personal growth to discuss his love of soccer and leadership skills on the field.

Eat, Sleep, and ...

By Edwin Ramirez

My first memory of being a little boy was that of always having a soccer ball at my feet and playing with it. Wherever I went my soccer ball went with me. That's when I can remember that I dreamed that when I grew up I wanted to become a professional soccer player. I dreamed to be like the elite professional footballers who played for Real Madrid.



That would be me one day. Ever since then I have challenged myself to become a better soccer player.

My passion in life is soccer. I eat, sleep and play soccer. Whenever I have a chance to practice or play soccer I take every opportunity. I have played on many teams from recreational to a National Capital Soccer League team. I take soccer very seriously. What some people

may call me being obsessed with it, I call having dedication to it. Soccer skills do not come to a person free, one has to work and work hard to become a better player, such as I did.

Practice is the key. I have practiced hours a day, rain or shine throughout the years to improve my game. I have had numerous coaches and trainers that have helped me develop into the player that I am. I am grateful for my father for teaching me almost everything I know. He has taught me that there is always room for improvement no matter what level you are at.

Soccer has been a long time sport in my entire family. It has been jokingly mentioned that it runs in my blood. I love playing in games and enjoy even more playing with family and friends. Soccer has been my life as long as I can remember and I only hope my dream to go pro comes true and to continue to have the love for the game for many years.

Disco Night

The Upper County Community Resources Group spent Saturday night, October 13, disco dancing at St. Francis of Assisi Parish Center. Approximately 150 young adults with and without disabilities gathered to dance, hang out, eat pizza and snacks to a musical mix of hits from the 80's to today.

The Upper County Resource Group is an organization of persons who believe that diversity in our community enriches us all. Our mission is to promote faith based and social opportunities for individuals with and without developmental differences in a community that values each member.

If you would like more information about our group or to find what is next on the calendar, contact Sylvia Jones at 301-762-6564 in the evening.



OPT

OPT

Red, White and Blue

The Walter Reed Medical Center is just down the road from Our Lady of Lourdes School, so when we were asked to do something for our neighbors we were more than happy to say, "Yes".

Over a period of five days, the students of Our Lady of Lourdes School collected \$1800 for *iPads for Soldiers*. This organization gives iPads to wounded soldiers at Walter Reed, and to soldiers who are deployed to Afghanistan. We had a red, white and blue tag day to kickoff our fundraising, and Specialist Cisneros came to speak with us. Specialist Cisneros works with the wounded soldiers and their families, helping them readjust to life back in the US. She supports them while they are going through therapies and treatments at Walter Reed, and prepares them for life back in their home communities.



Tyler O'Leary, Daniella Reyes, Jonathan Simpson and Carter Monroe sing, "This Land is Your Land."

All of our students were dressed in red, white and blue, and we offered special prayers for our troops, and sang some patriotic songs. It was a wonderful way to begin our day, and Specialist Cisneros was so glad to see how much our families cared about the soldiers.

The next day, Specialist Cisneros returned with a young soldier who had been wounded in Afghanistan. This young man talked to us about his time at Walter Reed, and about how good it felt to know that we pray for the soldiers every day. We presented Mrs. Kirby, a representa-



Monsignor Filardi joined Chandler Hawkins, Bridie McGroarty, Caterina Ieronimo, Andrew Sherican, Marina Jaquete and Matthew Fronda on Red White and Blue Day.

tive from *iPads for Soldiers* with a check, from our tag day and a huge bake sale.

In the coming weeks, the employees of the Montgomery County Circuit Court will hold a tag day, and donate their proceeds to *iPads*

for Soldiers, because they heard about our efforts. The efforts and prayers of many people will provide some joy to the wounded soldiers during the Advent Season.

OPT

Holy Redeemer

Holy Redeemer Eighth Graders Search for Roots of Their Faith on Overnight Retreat

By Michelle Ardillo

"What Are You Rooted In?" was the question proposed to Holy Redeemer's eighth-grade class at their recent overnight retreat on October 24 and 25, at the Bishop Claggett Retreat Center in Buckeystown, Maryland. Amidst the backdrop of the beautiful mountain scenery and crisp fall weather, the retreat was led by Erin Johnson and her youth ministry team of Ismael Daho and Luis Gorres. David Guillen, another member of the youth ministry team, added much to the retreat by leading the group in music during Adoration and at the bonfire.



The eighth graders, along with principal Colleen Ryan and faculty members Michelle Ardillo, Megan Dees, Graig Brubaker, and Danielle Trotta, explored their faith in a series of talks and exercises such as an Emmaus Walk, a trust walk, and journaling. The group enjoyed a bon-

fire, with singing and s'mores, after going to Adoration and Confession with Fr. Justin Huber, parochial vicar at Holy Redeemer. The retreat ended the next morning with Mass celebrated by Fr. Justin and a commissioning ceremony where each eighth-grader was presented with a wooden cross on a leather cord, complete with calligraphy by faculty member Mary Ruth Clark.

OPT

SHRINE

Con't from page 17

march of African slaves toward freedom was a potent reminder of the struggle for dignity and rights for which the Church stands. Visits to Eastern Rite Catholic chapels highlighted the diversity of style and liturgy in the Church. In the hall of American Saints, we saw witness to the Gospel lived through the service of Bl. Kateri Tekawitha, St. Katharine Drexel, St. Elizabeth Seton, and others. There are too many stops along the way to mention; suffice it say that the richness of the Church in all its diversity, and the steadfast witness of countless others who have gone before us, were overwhelmingly present!

The tour was followed by a "treasure hunt" of saints represented outside one the upper walls of the Shrine, saints whose lives will be highlighted in class during November. Thereafter we were fortunate to have Holy Redeemer's Fr. Justin Huber celebrate Mass with us to culminate and seal our day. The students were unanimous in their praise for the day. In religion class, we will be continuing our examination of universality and witness in the Church with concrete examples in mind.

Thanks to Fr. Huber; Mr. Schilling; parent chaperones Mrs. Whitty, Mrs. Bonfiglio, Mr. Heyl, and Mr. Olcott; and eighth-grade homeroom teacher Michelle Ardillo, for donating the time to make it a great day for our eighth graders.

OPT

More Support for Our Neighbors at Walter Reed

This year our Pennies From Heaven Advent collection proceeds will go to a project called Vettered Books. The money raised will pay for over 300 books that have been purchased for the wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Medical Center. Each book has a bookplate in the front cover with a note from a Lourdes family in it.

Our messages to the soldier say, "Thank you for

protecting us.", and "We are praying for you." One student wrote, "Thank you, brave soldier, for keeping me safe at night.", while another said, "You make great sacrifices for me."

All of our books will be delivered to Walter Reed before Christmas, and we hope that the wounded servicemen and women will enjoy reading them and knowing that we appreciate them.

OPT

Grandparents Galore

The annual Our Lady of Lourdes Grandparents' Day celebration kicked off with the Faculty versus Middle School Football Game. Under the direction of Mr. David Long, the game was exciting right up to the end. Coincidentally, it ended in a tie – for the fourth year in a row! Ms. Foote coached the teachers in a game with a record number of interceptions and penalties that negated touchdowns. Monsignor Filardi was a standout for the faculty team, and Hunter Hawkins and Alex Brennan played key roles for the middle school team.

After the game we moved into the gym where over 200 grandparents and parents enjoyed a concert presented by the students. The grandparents loved seeing and hear-



Ms. Foote took her coaching responsibilities very seriously.

ing their grandchildren perform, and the students did a terrific job.

As everyone headed out,

there were wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving, and lots of smiles as we anticipated turkey and pumpkin pie as well as a long Thanksgiving weekend.

OPT



Mr. Long was a little more lighthearted in his approach.

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Principal
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Holy Redeemer Junior Varsity Girls



Holy Redeemer Varsity Boys

Holy Redeemer's Cardinals Tally City Championships in Soccer

This fall, more than 320 parishioners (ages 4-14) participated in the soccer program at Holy Redeemer parish in Kensington, Maryland. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of volunteer coaches and parents, the Cardinals fielded

19 teams in the CYO program this year, as well as a community skills clinic for 4-5 year olds.

One of the most successful seasons in recent history was capped off on November 4 when the Varsity (seventh and eighth grade)

Girls team, led by All-Stars Georgia Tinsley, Jennifer Gribble and Maddie Dent, captured the City Title Championship at the Maryland Soccer Plex Stadium in very close game against St. Jane de Chantal.

Not to be left out by their classmates, the Varsity Boys team, led by All-Stars Edwin Ramirez, Colin Hinton, Kevin Krivda and Patrick McNamara became the City Title Runners-up in an equally hard fought battle

against St. John the Evangelist.

Meanwhile, of the three Holy Redeemer Junior Varsity (fifth and sixth grade) Girls teams, one hoisted the City Title Championship Trophy after defeating Little Flower in a well-played match at Holy Redeemer's Plank Field and another came away with a divisional runners-up trophy after succumbing to Our Lady of Mercy in penalty kicks.

Congratulations to Varsity

coaches, Edwin Ramirez and Pat Gittings, for being chosen to represent Holy Redeemer, Kensington at this year's All-Star game that took place at Georgetown Prep on November 10.

The parish looks forward to the continued growth and development of our sports programs' as a means to learn athletic skills, as well as the life skills needed become good, Christian citizens.

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Holy Redeemer Varsity Girls

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SJE Varsity Boys #2 won first place in the Bronze Division, the SJE Varsity Girls made it to the semi-finals and the SJE JV Boys #2 came in second place in their Bronze Division championship. Way to go St. John the Evangelist!

It pays to advertise in Our Parish Times

On Your Marks, Get Set ... Success!

By Michael Heyl, Holy Redeemer parent

With beautiful sunny skies and spring-like temperatures, Holy Redeemer School held its 9th Annual Cardinal 5K road race on November 10th. The event, which included both a 5K race as well as a 1K fun run, attracted runners of all ages and experience levels. This year's event had 590 registered participants with hundreds more showing up at the race to cheer for the runners. The 5K race began at Holy Redeemer School, where the course wound through Rock Creek Park and the school neighborhood, and ended at Holy Redeemer Church. Congratulations to all of our runners.

Following the race, runners and spectators alike were treated to a post-race party that included music and entertainment, including a moon bounce, an obstacle course, a rock climbing wall, and face painters. The kids also enjoyed participating in a number of events including a dance contest and various prize raffles. Local radio station 94.7 Fresh FM was also on hand to promote the event with prize giveaways.

The success of the Cardinal 5K is a true reflection of the support and participation of the Holy Redeemer Community. The event would not have been possible without the hard work and support from the



Above, participants line up for the 9th annual Cardinal 5K

At right, Holy Redeemer faculty members doing course marshaling at Cardinal 5K: Bottom, Grace Lovelace, top left Danielle Trotta, top right Elizabeth Crabill

Cardinal 5K Committee, faculty, volunteers, family sponsors, and numerous corporate sponsorships from Holy Redeemer parishioners and supporters. Though final numbers are still being calculated, the

2012 Cardinal 5K raised an estimated \$20,000 for the Home and School Association. These funds will be used to upgrade computers and technology for the school.

OPT



De Chantal soccer, cross country teams bring home trophies

CYO teams at St. Jane de Chantal had much to celebrate this fall, with several taking titles and trophies. The de Chantal varsity girls' soccer team had a rough start to the season but pulled out in the end with a trip to the city title tournament. The girls beat St. John's in the semi-finals, sending them to the city title finals against Holy Redeemer at the Maryland Soccerplex Stadium. In a thrilling game, Holy Redeemer beat de Chantal 1-0, giving de Chantal's girls a second-place finish in the tournament.

Meanwhile, the de Chantal boys varsity team finished the season 7 - 3 with 3 back-to-back wins to capture the CYO Silver Tournament trophy. Everyone contributed to the successful season and to an exciting

championship game against Our Lady of Mercy. De Chantal won 2 - 0 in a spirited match. The team was led by its three all-star players, Chris DeMartino (who scored both goals in the championship game), Danny Tran and Grant Connolly. Not to be outdone, de Chantal's junior varsity boys soccer team also brought home a Silver Tournament trophy. The boys started the journey through the tournament playing tough teams in the first couple of rounds. In the semi-final game, the boys took on a formidable Our Lady of Mercy team and won the game on penalty shoot-outs, sending them to against St. Andrews. At the regulation the score was tied 1-1 and again was decided by penalty shoot-outs, with de Chantal coming out on top.

But soccer wasn't the only sport to cheer about, as de Chantal's cross country team brought home a City Title in the CYO championships. The varsity girls won the championship against St. Bernadette in Silver Spring by more than 30 points. The team consisted of Grace Ryan, Genevieve Di Bari, Annie Ramsayer, Micheala Kirvan, and Michelle Aukward. The varsity boys were title runners up right behind Little Flower of Bethesda. The top five runners were Leo Bucello, Jack Ramsayer, Elias Norris, Davis Goetcheus and Matthew King. The JV boys also came in runner up to Holy Redeemer by 10 points. The top runners on their team were Ryan Hunter, Matthew Pottker, Hamilton Sateri, Robert Dimond, and Patrick James.

OPT

ROSARY

Con't from page 25

in diameter). Created by the SJN Knights, it has become a source of great joy as the large and small beaded rosaries meet for meditation on the mysteries of Christ's life.

"In the name of the Father..."

and so it continued through each bead, the upper class students leading Hail Marys and Our Fathers, while the students in lower classes and seated on the floor turned on light bulbs signifying beads as the rosary prayers continued around the room.

As "Hail Holy Queen..." fell from the lips of those assembled,

peace had filled the gymnasium. This normally busy school day had gone through a transition. Hail Mary!

Editor's Note: If you know of a school in Montgomery County where the Living Rosary would be welcome, please notify the SJN Rectory: 301-977-5451

OPT

KINDERGARTEN

Con't from page 24

to St. Francis" played by Emma Eder. Students and staff representatives presented tea lights that illuminated the entire school community's promise of service, discipleship, and community outreach.

This year, each grade in the school has "adopted" a local social need. The first graders are collecting pamphlets for the Christ Child Society. Kindergartners collected bottled drinks for military families staying at Fisher House in Bethesda. Eighth graders are collecting books and magazines for the adult patients at Suburban Hospital. The Junior Sodality collected donations of extra

Halloween candy to send to the troops. All families are contributing toiletries and paper goods for use by the Little Sisters of the Poor in their outreach to those in need.

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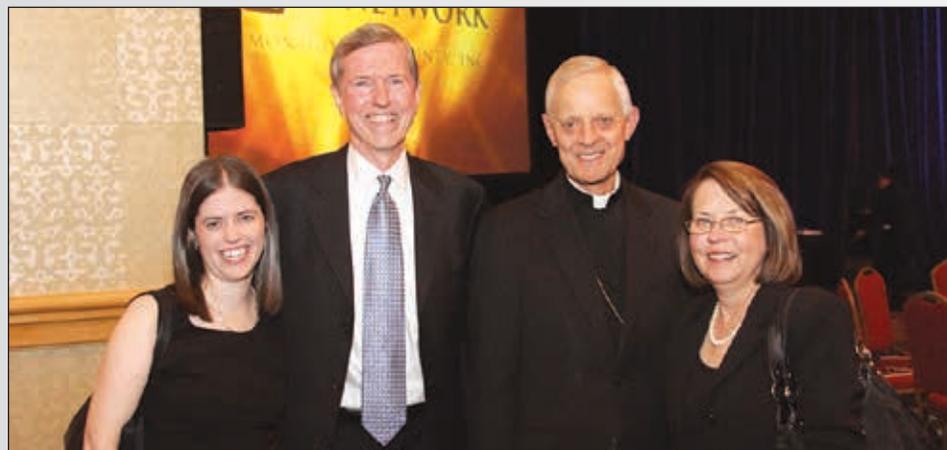
—William P. Cannon, III, 2012 CBN-MC President



CBN-MC 2012 President Billy Cannon welcomed the Gala crowd, who came to celebrate Catholic Education and the CBN-MC tradition of donating every dollar raised to Catholic Education



Sue Palka, Channel 5's Weather Authority, celebrated her fourth year as the CBN-MC Mistress of Ceremonies. Everyone is addicted to her style and grace in keeping everyone in a fun mood while moving the program forward. We are blessed by Sue's presence.

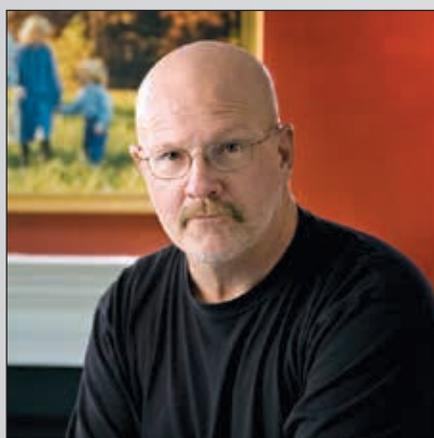


Cardinal Wuerl hails Keven J. Sexton, CBN MC's 2012 Catholic Business Person of the Year

Cardinal Wuerl enjoys a family moment with CBN-MC's Catholic Business Person of the Year, Holy Cross Hospital President Kevin J. Sexton, his wife, Mary and daughter Mary Beth.



CBN-MC Past President and Gala Auctioneer, Rob Smith, of Fitzgerald Auto Mall, leading yet another powerful live auction and scholarship appeal, the key Gala fund raising event in raising funds for Catholic Education. See CBN-MC website for scholarship video. (www.cbnmc.com)



Here's the gentlemen you see at every Gala working his profession to support CBN's mission. CBN-MC is grateful beyond words for his support. Lawrence Hamm, publisher of *Our Parish Times*, thanks him for his courtesy in making pictures available for this annual rotogravure report on the Gala.



Cardinal Wuerl got the crowd involved in the importance and success of Catholic Education and Catholic Health Care both areas where Mr. Sexton has repeatedly made his mark. Sexton is the 13th recipient of CBN-MC's Business Person of the year since 2000, when then CBN president Paul G. Zurkowski created the award. The first recipient was also a Holy Cross Executive, Eileen Cahill. At inset, Cardinal Wuerl,



Lance Ford, Palm Facility Services, and his merry band of sailors got dressed up to promote a live Auction item "Day on the Bay" making it clear The Gala is a very serious!

President Cannon and Emcee Palka Help Celebrate Gala Annual Awards



Mary Penny's volunteer service to St. Elizabeth's Parish School won her recognition as the top CBN 2012 School Volunteer of the Year. Volunteers provide amazing services in all parish schools.



Immediate Past President Bill Gessner won the 2012 Paul G. Zurkowski Founder's Award in recognition of the intensity of his service and dedication to CBN-MC for two years, as President and for years of Board service.



Susan Apgood of News Generation providing business services to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish School in Bethesda won her CBN-MC's top Parish Business Partner of the Year Award.