



Parish Times

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

DECEMBER 2016

Living the Faith Together

FREE

Followers or Disciples



Chuck Short

By Chuck Short

How quickly things can change. I went to the store on Saturday in a tee shirt. By the time I left the store the temperature dropped twelve degrees.

Autumn morphed to winter in minutes. We watched on election night as results were tallied signaling significant change in the nation. Through rapid change and uncertain times, I draw comfort in the assurance that God will look after the beloved. Advent is the beginning of a new liturgical year for the Church and reminds us of one thing that never changes, the love of God and salvation for those who do God's will.

Before reflecting on Advent, let's celebrate the Catholic Business Network's selection of John Treseler as Catholic Business Person of the Year. John is the Executive Vice President for the local general contracting business, John C. Grimberg Co. He received the prestigious award at the CBN's November 23rd annual scholarship and awards Gala. John was recognized for his enduring and

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We Can Stop "The Most Terrible Poverty"



Fr. Enzler

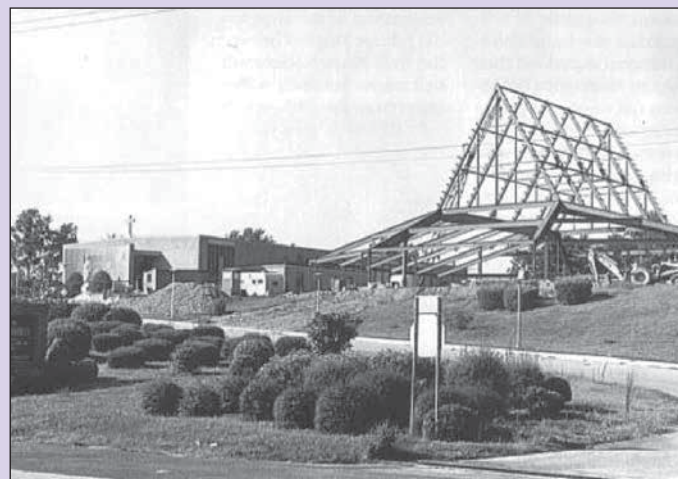
If you know me or have read some of my columns in recent years, you may already know how much I love this time of year. As a pastor, I loved watching the parish come alive with the spiritual preparation of Advent, the fellowship of holiday

gatherings and events, and the love of God as people helped with everything from canned food drives to the local Angel Tree to charitable donations.

It's still one of my favorite times at Catholic Charities for those same reasons and because I see firsthand how grateful our clients are for the help and love they are given.

As you think about how you will spend your holiday season this year, I would like to suggest an often-overlooked way you and your family can be part of Christ's outreach to the world by bringing joy and love to others. It may not be one that comes immediately

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Shrine of St. Jude, then (1956 groundbreaking at left and 1971 construction at right) and now, below.

Shrine of St. Jude: 60 Years as the Beacon of Christ on the Hill

In December 1953, the family of Dr. Charles W. Allen, once a prominent Washington physician, presented \$25,500 to the Archdiocese of Washington for the purchase of a 10-acre tract of land in the Aspen Hill (Maryland) area for a church to be dedicated to St. Jude, Patron Saint of Desperate Causes. Not quite three years later, in June 1956, the new parish of St. Jude was ushered in with much excitement generated by the 761 charter families and a dynamic pastor – Rev. Francis J. Lauriola.

Fast forward 60 years and that same excitement was evident at the Shrine's 60th anniversary celebration on Oct. 23. More than 1,400 people gathered for a mass celebrated by Cardinal Donald Wuerl, archbishop of Washington,

filling the main church, as well as overflow areas – Madigan Hall (formerly the Blue Room) and an oversized tent off the Thaddeus Room. Many founding families as well as former St. Jude Catholic School

teachers and students, former parochial vicars and seminarians, and past parishioners joined current parishioners at the parish they once called home. The Shrine of St. Jude parish has grown throughout its

60 years into an ethnically diverse community of faith, with more than 1,500 registered parishioners and 60 nationalities represented. Fr. Paul D. Lee, once a newly ordained parochial vicar at St. Jude, is now its pastor. The Shrine of St. Jude will continue to serve the community as the Beacon of Christ on the Hill for many, many years to come.

See more Shrine of St. Jude 60th Anniversary photos on page 23.



Retired Pastor James T. Beattie Warns of the Danger of Materialism During Christmas

By Angelyn Tugado-Marzan

He's a unique priest, retired pastor Reverend Monsignor James Beattie is. He uses a walker while saying Mass. When he leaves the rectory of Our Lady of Lourdes (OLOL) Catholic Church in Bethesda where he has resided since his retirement in July 2011, neither a walker or a cane will he use to cross Pearl Street to his car at OLOL's parking lot.

At age 82 and after more than 55 years as a priest in the Archdiocese of Washington (having served as pastor at St. Bartholomew Parish in Bethesda, at St. Camillus Parish in Silver Spring and at St. Catherine Labouré Parish, Wheaton and as a parochial vicar at St. Ambrose Parish, Cheverly, St. Michael Parish, Ridge, St. Peter Parish, Washington, St.



Retired pastor Reverend Monsignor James T. Beattie, Priest in Residence at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Bethesda, Maryland

Camillus Parish, Silver Spring, and St. Mary Parish, Landover Hills), Monsignor Beattie's stamina is quite amazing! Once a week, he drives for an hour or so to his alma mater, Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, hears confessions of seminarians there and drives back to OLOL the next day. "I just need to be there, to counsel those priests-to-be," Monsignor Beattie told this writer.

He's a "priestly priest," according to OLOL parishioners Tom and Elaine Collins. "He loves to be a parish priest, to be among the people," Paula Benson, OLOL's RCIA teacher, chimed in. "We thank him for his wisdom and humor," reflected OLOL pastor, Reverend Monsignor Edward J. Filardi.

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CBN-MC 2016 Community Leader of the Year

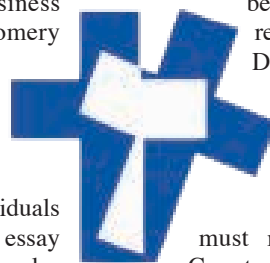
Michael C. Ridgway was named 2016 Community Leader of the Year at the annual gala of Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County. Mike has led several community organizations in the Washington Archdiocese. • In his 22 years years working in the Shepherd Foundation it raised over \$9 million, every dollar of which goes directly to tuition assistance for families who need financial aid to keep their children to Catholic schools. • Co-founder and Director of Victory Youth Centers, Inc.; • On The Georgetown Preparatory School Board of Trustees; • On the Holy Redeemer School Board for the School Addition Committee responsible for a large addition to the school; and • a Board Member of Kids in Need Distributors. Mike is an attorney and the CEO and President of Community Closing Network a local real estate title company. He and his wife of 31 years, Nancy, have 3 children and are members of Holy Redeemer Parish. Pictured L-R: Scott Smith, Kara Smith, Mike Ridgway, Nancy Ridgway, Kelly Ridgway, Kevin Ridgway.



Entries due December 9!

2016–2017 CBN-MC High School Essay Competition

The Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County ("CBN-MC") is holding its 16th Annual Catholic High School Scholarship Awards essay competition. All eligible individuals are invited to enter an essay for consideration. The rules and procedures are set forth



below. All essays must be received or postmarked by December 9, 2016.

CBN-MC will award scholarships to eighth grade students selected for the quality of their essays. Students must reside in Montgomery County, Maryland and must be entering a Washington

Metropolitan Area Catholic High School as a freshman in the fall of 2017. The scholarships are for the student's freshman year. The awards will be presented at The Scholarship Awards Breakfast to be held on April 7, 2017. All winners, their parents, principals, and pastors are invited as guests to this

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Local Catholics are Responding

Pope Francis Says World Refugee Crisis Challenges All People

By John McCarthy and Anthony Bosnick

The world refugee crisis is the worst since World War II, largely a result of the violence and unrest in Syria, other parts of the Middle East, and parts of Africa. A June 2016 report from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that 65.3 million people are “displaced persons” or refugees—one out of every 113 people in the world. This is an increase of 5.8 million over the 2014 figure. (See www.unhcr.org/576408cd7 for the report.)

Catholics are challenged to respond. Pope Francis calls us to act. In his Angelus Message of September 6, 2015, he said, “The Gospel calls us, asks us to be near the least and the abandoned. To



Anthony Bosnick

give them concrete hope, not just say ‘Hang in there, have patience!’” Pope Francis is squarely in line with the teaching of St. Pope John Paul

II, who roots his teaching in “the dignity of every person,” a basic principle of Catholic social teaching (see *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, para. 505.)

Pope Francis is reminding us that our response to the Gospel message is inadequate should it evoke within us only some vague compassion or shallow distress at the misfortunes of others. It requires action individually and collectively to address the needs especially of the weakest and poorest among us and affirm the dignity of every person regardless of their religion, country of origin, race, or gender.

Local Catholics are responding. Refugee families have arrived now in our area, facing many challenges in resettlement. The refugees have suffered much and as they come into our neighborhoods they do not

know whether they are welcome or not. The Justice and Advocacy Council of Montgomery County (J&A Council) of the Archdiocese of Washington is most supportive of the efforts of parish communities to welcome and aid the new refugee families. This is our call from the Gospel as expressed in Catholic social teaching.

Now more than ever, we who have immigrant ancestors who were not always welcome here either have to step forward to let these newly arrived refugees know, regardless of their religion, they are welcome among us. We do so, remembering Jesus’ message to us, “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of the least of my brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:45). In his Angelus Message of September 6, 2015, Pope Francis

reminded us that God’s mercy is expressed through the works of regular men and women—such as the Catholic faithful.

The J&A Council applauds the efforts of parishioners at St. Rose of Lima in Gaithersburg, St. Francis of Assisi in Derwood, and St. Paul in Damascus to come to the aid of refugee families. We are delighted to hear of their involvement in various ways with the Montgomery County Interfaith Refugee Resettlement Neighbors (MCIRRN), a newly developing coalition of roughly 20 faith communities in Montgomery County (mosques, synagogues, and churches). MCIRRN welcomes and assists these families in their difficult transition from years in a refugee camp to their new home here.

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Both Sides of the Border

By Lawrence Couch

I arrived in Nogales, Arizona, in the early afternoon. Although October, the weather was hot and I was glad I had brought my sunscreen and a water bottle. I came to Nogales to participate in a gathering organized by the School of the Americas Watch (SOA Watch). This was the first year that SOA Watch had organized an event on our border with Mexico.

SOA Watch was founded in 1990 by Fr. Roy Bourgeois to protest the training of Latin American military officers at the School of the Americas. Located on the grounds of Fort Benning, Georgia, some of

the graduates of the school have participated directly or by people under their command in murders, rapes, and torture. These crimes included the murder in El Salvador in 1989, of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and her daughter.

Beginning the year after the massacre and every year until this year, SOA Watch has held an annual protest at Fort Benning. This year, for the first time, they shifted their protest and demand for immigration reform to Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Mexico. The two cities are separated by the border wall.

On the Friday evening before the weekend of activities at Nogales,

SOA Watch organized a solidarity gathering at the nearby Eloy Detention Center. The facility has had 14 detainee deaths between 2003 and mid-2016, including five suicides. Since 2003, Eloy alone represented 9% of the total inmate deaths in all 250 detention facilities in the United States.

As the evening darkened over the desert, cars were parked facing the detention center. Flashing the car lights toward the Center, the detainees within the Center answered with their lights flashing on and off. The detainees knew we were with them in solidarity and friendship.

The next morning, Saturday, hundreds of us gathered at a central hotel in Nogales to march to the wall built along the border. We carried placards showing our support for immigrants and refugees, many of whom had been forced to flee from violence in their native countries. I carried a placard with the emblem of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. The placard proclaimed: End Family Detention!

Arriving at the wall, the organizers had arranged two sound systems adjacent to each other separated by the wall. In this fashion, protest-



Lawrence Couch

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Georgetown Prep Receives \$20 Million Anonymous Gift

Georgetown Preparatory School in North Bethesda, Maryland has announced a \$20 million gift – the largest in its 228-year history – from an anonymous donor.

According to Georgetown Prep officials, the gift will support the School’s Strategic Plan initiative



of “enhancing our international and boarding character,” specifically in the areas of improving and updating residential resources.

As the only Jesuit boarding school in the United States, Georgetown Prep attracts students from around the nation and world.

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In early October, the UpCounty Community Resources group hosted an old-fashioned Hoedown at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Derwood.

Getting Down & Going Out!

By Jenn Lynn, UCR Executive Director

St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Derwood endured an amazing transformation Saturday, October 8, but not what you’d expect for a vibrant Montgomery County parish. The normally quiet and calm activity center turned into an old-

fashioned Hoedown for members of UpCounty Community Resources. The barn-like atmosphere included a real wagon wheel, authentic hay bales and saddles! Dance music with a heavy beat, hotdogs & beans fueled this wild dance party for

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PUBLISHED IN ALTERNATE MONTHS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.



Thanks to our Home & School Association, our teachers were treated to the coffee cart which traveled around the school offering morning coffee and goodies to our teachers! We sure do have wonderful parents at St. Elizabeth School!



Thank you to all our St. Elizabeth parent volunteers, students, and faculty for making our Halloween parade such a memorable day!



What a wonderful St. Elizabeth School Golf Classic it was! Special THANKS to our event chairs, Christine Shioutakon, Lisa Splaine, and Niveen & Tom Mulholland! A beautiful day indeed!



God Bless all those who serve and have served this great nation! Our St. Elizabeth community is so grateful to all of you.



St. Elizabeth's Saints "ROCKED THE PINK" to support Breast Cancer Awareness Month!



St. Elizabeth students gathered outside for morning prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, and the singing of God Bless America and Let There Be Peace On Earth --- all to honor our veterans!

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St. Elizabeth students had fun on the Eighth-Grade Excursion to New York City!



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Fr. Giese greets CSM Brooks during the mass.

Honoring Our Armed Forces Members and Veterans

At all Masses during the week-end of November 12th and 13th, the St. Jane Frances de Chantal Church honored and thanked all parishioners who have

Continued on page 20

Happenings in our Blue Ribbon School

School reports provided by Mrs. Catherine Skibo

Fun-Filled Week of Spirit, Charity, and Costumes

During the last week of October, leading up to Halloween Day, the St. Jane de Chantal students celebrated Spirit Week! There were Pajama Day, Sports Team Jersey Day, Wacky Wednesday, and Grade Color Day - all helping to get the students into the Halloween spirit. During the week, the

Continued on page 20

St. Jane Frances de Chantal Sodality Annual Communion Breakfast

On Sunday, November 6, during the 10 AM mass, the St. Jane Frances de Chantal Sodality celebrated their Annual Investiture Ceremony, followed by their Annual Communion Breakfast. During the breakfast, in addition to the good food, conversation and fellowship, Sodality and parishioners were treated to a first-class guest speaker: Lieutenant General Nadja West, the 44th Surgeon General of the United States Army and Commanding General, United States Army Medical Command.

LTG West, a member of St. Jane de Chantal parish where she

attends mass regularly with her husband, is the highest-ranking woman to have graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. She also received a Doctorate of Medicine Degree from the George Washington University School of Medicine, completed her internship and residency in Family Medicine at Martin Army Hospital, Fort Benning, GA, and was deployed during Operation Desert Shield. She has served in top positions within the Army, both at home and abroad, and has received numerous awards.

During her presentation, LTG

Continued on page 12



A record number of parishioners attended the Communion Breakfast and presentation hosted by the St. Jane de Chantal Sodality Guild.

A Biblical Walk Through the Mass

As part of its adult education program this fall season, St. Jane de Chantal offered a five-part video study about the Mass. This fascinating series helped parishioners to understand and "get more" out of the Mass.

During the five-week program, parishioners were able to meet each week during three different times slots that were made available to accommodate busy schedules. Each weekly meeting started with a video presentation followed by group discussions with the highlights summarized by a Parish leader. Before meeting, participants were encouraged to complete a short reading assignment in a book provided that complemented the video presentation.

More than 100 parishioners participated in the series, leading to a richer, more fruitful worshiping experience for those involved.

St. Jane de Chantal Parish

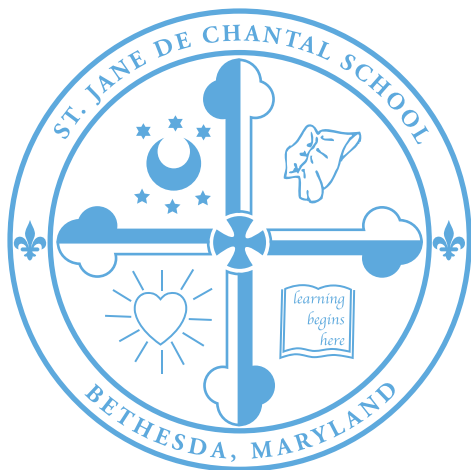
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St. Patrick's SGA

St. Patrick's School is pleased to announce the officers and representatives who will be leading the Student Government Association for the 2016-2017 school year. The following students are pictured along with St. Patrick's Parochial Vicar, Fr. Martino Choi, who installed the students in a ceremony following a school liturgy: Azure Onyewu (SGA President); Katie Maurano (SGA Vice President); Gracie Grimberg (SGA Secretary); and Christian Leusch (SGA Treasurer). The representatives from the middle school homerooms are also included: Paddy Kirchner and Ellie Maurano (5th grade); Liam Erickson and John Rizzo (6th grade); Quinn Kirchner and Emily Pautler (7th grade); and Brian Depman and Eileen McConville (8th grade).

St. Patrick's Parish

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St. Patrick's School
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Parish Editor
New Volunteer Needed
Contact rectory to apply

More St. Patrick News on Page 34



TRUE BLUE!

Students and faculty assembled for a photo to celebrate being named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. St. Patrick's Catholic School is one of 279 public and 50 private schools nationwide receiving this prestigious award. The school was honored as an "exemplary high performing" school, which ranks it among the top schools in the state of Maryland.



Vocation Experience

Seventh and eighth-grade students at St. Patrick's School took a field trip in November to understand vocations. Girls visited the Servants of the Lord Convent while boys toured the St. John Paul II Seminary. Both groups had a "day in the life of" experience. They were impressed with the joy and exuberance these holy people had for life. The group lunched on the Catholic University campus and toured the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception with their parochial vicar, Fr. Martino Choi, and teachers, Andrew Ament and Monica Staples.



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We Can Do It!

St. Patrick's Parish in Rockville participated in the Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive (GGCFD) on Saturday, November 12, 2016. For the fourth year in a row, more than 400 volunteers from the parish and school distributed collection bags to the surrounding parish neighborhoods and then collected and counted cans. An astounding 17,300 cans were collected! Full trucks of food were sent to local food pantries.



Holy Cross Students Prepare for 2017 Middle School Science Fair

Holy Cross middle school students have brought home the one assignment that their parents dread the most each year, the annual science fair project. Preparing for the 2017 science fair is a very busy and rewarding time during the 1st and 2nd quarters of the school year at Holy Cross. "The goal of the science fair is to provide students with an opportunity to plan, prepare for, and carry out a scientific investigation," said Mrs. Shari Connor, Holy Cross' middle school science teacher. "It is a very large project, and I have tried to break it down into smaller pieces that are due at certain intervals leading up to the fair so no one gets caught in too much of a jam. After conducting their experiment, they have to analyze their results. It takes a full 4 months, and I am always so proud of their efforts and amazed at the creativity year after year!"

The science fair tests a parents' ability to balance collaboration and project independence with their kids, or better yet, their budding scientists. Parents must figure out how to provide enough support to their

kids preparing for the science fair, but not too much, and this can definitely be a challenge. Parents can help spark their child's interest by showing interest and enthusiasm for their ideas and approach for completing the trials. Students often need help staying on schedule with their experiments, and parents work with their children to set milestones to make sure they're working on their experiment little by little, so it's not a "mad rush" at the end to complete it the night before the poster board display is due to be set up for judging.

For the kids, preparing for the science fair is like "doing homework on steroids," but it is very rewarding for them nonetheless. The 2017 middle school science fair at Holy Cross will offer its visitors a glimpse into the future from a talented group of young minds that have only just begun to take shape. The students also benefit from discovering that their ideas have broader meaning, and that they can learn as well as teach others about what they have learned!

OPT

Holy Cross Visits National Air and Space Museum

On October 31, 2016, Holy Cross' sixth and seventh-grade students visited the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, DC. The museum contains a trove of famous aircraft you can't see anywhere else, including Amelia Earhart's Lockheed Vega 5B, Charles Lindbergh's Spirit of St. Louis, and Wilbur Wright's Wright 1903 Flyer, among others. For space travel fans, we saw the Mercury spacecraft, a real lunar module, and the Apollo 11 capsule.

One of the most interesting exhibits visited was that of the Spirit of St. Louis. The students and chaperones learned about Charles Lindbergh's historical flight in May 1927, where he flew nonstop from New York to Paris. The Spirit of St. Louis was designed specifically for this flight, and what was unique about his plane was that it was designed with the gas tank in the front. Lindbergh flew the 3,600-mile flight with only two small side windows and a periscope to see what was in front of him. During that time, Lindbergh's 33.5-hour solo trip was beyond gutsy!

The students stopped by the



Lockheed Martin IMAX® theater to watch a movie called "To Fly!" This 3D movie took the students on a multi-stop journey that provided them with a first-hand look at the evolution of flight. In addition, to test her student's understanding of the museum exhibits, Mrs. Shari Connor, Holy Cross' middle school science teacher, sent the students on a fun and special assignment, a science scavenger hunt. All students who finished the science scavenger hunt handout, received a special prize. They also enjoyed airplanes suspended from the ceiling, missiles and rockets, and the space ships. The chaperones loved how much aviation history they could

learn as they wandered through the museum keeping mindful eyes on the students.

OPT

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The Buzz from The Hive

A House that is a Home

By Gavin Weddington, Grade 7, and
Bryson Hill, Grade 7, St. Bernadette
School Student Council Commissioners
of Publicity

Here at St. Bernadette School, we have a tradition like no other. If you have ever read

the *Harry Potter* series, you will have a sense of what we do. All students from every grade level are assigned to a different House. We have five Houses that each has an assigned color (purple, blue, pink, yellow and red), a patron saint and a character trait such as fairness or responsibility. Within your House, each student is assigned to a smaller House Family.

The students in each family are a complete mix of all grade levels. This is your House and House Family for your entire St. Bernadette School experience and career.

We do many interactive activities with our House such as service projects such with a food drive or a bake sale as examples. Having

the chance to do many activities with students of all grades and ages really builds a sense of community at our school.

Mrs. Ingram, a teacher and a Red House member shares, "I love the way the younger kids get to bond with the older kids. It builds a relationship like no other."

There is competition as well. Through various eligible activities, each House accumulates points throughout the year. At the end of the year, the House with the most points wins the House Cup. Our House system helps build camaraderie and good sportsmanship. This is our school's tradition. We would love to hear about other schools' traditions.

OPT



Jennifer Herlihy (SBS '85) and her husband Mike (SBS '77) with their children: Cormac (SBS '16, not pictured) Declan (SBS '18) and Aileen (SBS '21) and Keegin Teare with wife Teresa (D'Antuono, SBS '92) and their children: Julia (SBS '19), Molly (SBS '21) and John (SBS '25)

Celebrating Our CBN Volunteer and Business Partners of the Year

St. Bernadette School congratulates and celebrates our 2016 Catholic Business Network nominations for Volunteer of the Year, Jennifer Zovko Herlihy, and Business Partner of the Year Keegin Teare of The Wine Group. In addition to their outstanding contributions to our amazing school, The Herlihy and Teare Families boast SBS alumni status as well! Jennifer is a proud member of the class of 1985 while her husband Mike is a member of the class of 1977. Keegin's wife, Teresa (D'Antuono) is a member of the Class of 1992. It is our honor to be selected as the school of choice for their children to carry on their legacy through the learning and experience as the next generation of students at St. Bernadette.

When asked about the value and impact of volunteerism, Jennifer replies, "Volunteerism is at the core of why our experience has been so wonderful at SBS. From helping in the classrooms, to going on field trips, to working on the HSA or with the school Gala and for over nine years with the CYO program, I feel like I truly know the faculty, parents, and staff in

a way that I would never otherwise had the opportunity to know. I experience SBS right along with my children helping me understand how they spend their day. I know parents from all grade levels. This provides me with a sense of partnership and community with the parish and school in the development of my children." Similarly, Keegin shares, "Volunteering and partnering with our children's school is vitally important to both the community and to our children. First, we have an obligation to give back to the school that gives our children love, support, and a safe place to learn and explore. Furthermore, our children benefit and learn by the examples we set: give to others of yourself, your time, and your abilities. Each family has different skills and talents that they bring to the school. That we are able to tap into those for the greater good of our community is a beautiful thing."

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Herlihy and Teare families and to all our school families who so generously donate their time, treasure and talent every day. You are the lifeblood of our spectacular school.

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On November 17, Sr. Mary Mother of the Crucifix from The Archdiocesan Office of Missions came to visit our students to share the important work of missionaries. She reminded us that we can all be missionaries each day through prayer and offering sacrifices for those in need.

St. Bernadette CYO Cross Country Races to Victory

By Mimi Dennis, St. Bernadette Head Cross Country Coach

The Saint Bernadette CYO Cross Country team raced its way to victory this year with an all-time record of 68 runners on the team. After practicing long hours throughout the season on the trails of the Wheaton Regional Park, our runners were ready to face the competition at the 2016 CYO Championships on October 15. A total of 593 runners from dozens of local schools competed on a hilly, challenging course at the Villa Rosa nursing home.

Our hard work paid off as Saint Bernadette's U8 boys came in first overall for the one-mile course led by Tommy Crossett (3rd place), Fletcher Dennis (5th place), Griffin Reilly (9th place) and John Bamford (12th place). Finishing in second place, Lucy



U8 Runners L-R: Seamus Rooney, John Bamford, Griffin Reilly (behind trophy), Fletcher Dennis and Jake Reilly

Conrad led our U8 girls to a fourth-place finish on the one-mile course. Liam Rooney, coming in second place, raced our U11 boys to a sixth

place overall in the two-mile race. Keller Reilly (19th place overall) set a personal record as she led the U11 girls to third place in the two-mile race. Our U14 boys were second overall on the two-mile course with outstanding performances by Aiden Rooney (2nd place), Harry Olson (5th place), and Chris Aparicio (11th place) while all four of our U14 girls turned in impressive times on their two-mile run as well.

Our team brought home two enormous trophies, which are proudly displayed in the Saint Bernadette School lobby for all to admire. The Saint Bernadette CYO Cross Country team happily welcomes all runners of all speeds from age 5-14. Come join us on the trails and courses next year!

OPT



Havana Nights!

SAVE THE DATE: February 4, 2017!

Please save the date for the ninth annual Saint Bernadette School Gala, *Havana Nights!* The event is open to all and the more the merrier! Please join us to support a great cause. More information about ticket sales will be coming out soon but will be available for purchase both at the school and online through the school website: www.saintbernadetteschool.org

When: Saturday, February 4, 2017

Where: The Silver Spring Civic Center in downtown Silver Spring

Why: The Gala is St. B's largest fundraiser. Money raised from the event goes directly towards keeping tuition rates down. It is a fun, community-building evening!

What: The evening features a Live and Silent Auction, dinner, drinks, and dancing. It is an event not to be missed!

We are in need of donations – nothing is too small! If you have an item or service you would be able to donate please contact Hilary Bednarz at hbednarz@saintbernadetteschool.org. Thank you!

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Men of Faith at Our Lady of Lourdes School

By Caroline Krauth

Last year I was new at Our Lady of Lourdes School. I decided to come here because I had been a long time parishioner, and I received my First Communion at Lourdes. I came to Lourdes for a shadow day and I enjoyed the school and the students, so I decided to come as a student. During my time at Lourdes the teacher whom has most influenced me in my education and my faith is Dr. Deluca.

Outside of being an excellent teacher, Dr. Deluca is a wonderful person to be around and a great role model for my faith. In his early morning Latin classes he never fails to put a smile on my face. He is kind and funny, though never at any student or teacher's expense.

Continued on page 35

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

7500 Pearl Street
Bethesda, MD

Msr. Edward Filardi,
Pastor
301-654-1287

Patricia Kilroy McGann
Principal
301-654-5376

**More Our Lady of Lourdes
News on Page 35**

New Playground at Lourdes Was Worth the Wait



Out with the old.

The wait for a brand new, beautiful playground is over for the students of Our Lady of Lourdes and they are once again swinging, climbing, and sliding during school recess. If the joyful yells and smiles are any indicator, the wait was certainly worth it.

Plans for the new playground began in earnest last year following the decision that the old and well-used playground of 18 years needed to be replaced. After raising money through the school's two annual fund raising events, the OLOL Annual Fund and the Lions' Roar Kate Truax 5K celebration, a company was selected to perform the work.

Excitement began building in early November. A crew from Gametime arrived to dismantle and haul away the old playground. After leveling the play area, the new slides, swings, and climbing bars were installed. The final touch was the pouring of a new rubber



First graders watch the demolition.

surface. The new surface should help with preventing injuries and there will no longer be a need to replace mulch!

Recess has always been alive and well at Our Lady of Lourdes. The new playground has made it just a little more exciting this year

OPT

Grandparents' Day at Our Lady of Lourdes

Our grandparents started arriving right about 9:00am on Wednesday, November 23rd. They enjoyed coffee, pastries, and fruit until the sixth-grade students came to take them to their grandchildren's classrooms. Students had an opportunity to show their grandparents around their classrooms, and even to play some games in the classrooms with them.

At 10:30 it was time for the Middle School vs. Faculty football game. The sun was brilliant and there was a little nip in the air as we sang the

National Anthem, led by three of our eighth-grade girls. Alumni joined the faculty team, which was a little smaller this year due to teacher pregnancies. Mrs. Wasp, a fierce competitor who couldn't play because she is expecting a baby, was nonetheless involved in the game. She coached the teachers and the alumni brilliantly, moving players in and out of the game a lightning speed. The faculty struck first, with an extraordinary touchdown run by Cristian Rodas, of the class of 2016. Cristian had told everyone that he was going to repeat

his winning score of last year, and he did, but this time he was playing for the faculty! Second grade teacher Ms. Carter connected with Donovan Braithwaite of the OLOL class of 2013 for another touchdown for the teachers, but the middle school students came roaring back under the direction of their coach, Mr. Long. Scores by Joey Sparmo and Michael Walsh brought the students within one point of the faculty before time ran out.

Within minutes, all the students and their grandparents and parents

were assembled in the gym for our musical presentation. The highlight of the program was a moving performance of "You Raise Me Up" by our eighth-grade students. We finished our assembly with an all-school rendition of "God Bless the USA".

It was a special day for the Lourdes community, as we honored our grandparents. As one eighth grader put it, "We wanted them to know that we are grateful for the love and guidance they provide us as we grow up to be young men and women of *"Faith, Excellence and Service."*

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OPEN HOUSE

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Our Lady of Lourdes Gets a Special Cross

The Our Lady of Lourdes class of 2016 gave a special legacy gift to the school. They decided that they wanted the school to have a large cross in the gym. Students explained that they felt the cross would be an important addition for two reasons; first, it would serve as a reminder to children and adults that God is with us whatever we are doing and wherever we are; and second, it would provide children, teachers and parents with a focal point as we pray each morning before we begin our school day. Today, their gift was realized.

Mr. Charles Hamm, father of Bernadette in grade two and Elizabeth in Kindergarten



Monsignor Filardi blessing the cross as Oscar Rodriguez prepares to hang it.

is a master woodworker. He creates beautiful handmade furniture. A few weeks ago he began work on a special project, and he invited some young friends to help him in his workshop. Mr. Hamm allowed the children to create their own wooden crosses while he worked on the cross for our school.

Mr. Hamm's gift will serve the school for many years. The cross will serve as a reminder of Christ's sacrifice on our behalf. At the same time, it will remind us that all of the members of our school community bring a unique and valuable gift to share. This is what Catholic school communities are all about!

OPT



OLOL students wearing safety glasses and holding the crosses they made supervised by Charles Hamm at his woodworking shop stand behind the cross he made for the gym. L-R: Patrick Smith, Matthew Robinson, Charlie Smith, Elizabeth Hamm, Jacob Schmitt, Caleb Schmitt, Bernadette Hamm, Charlotte Harrison and Flynn Cotton.



Four Generations of Deckelmans

Sue and Frank Deckelman have been Christ the King parishioners for 49 years. They raised their six daughters, fondly referred to as the Deckelwomen, in the parish as well. This year they welcomed a great-grandson to the Thanksgiving feast, Mason David Rosenthal. Pictured are Mason David Rosenthal, 8 months old with Emily Stecher and Stephen Rosenthal, his parents; Carmel Deckelman and Geoff Rosenthal, his grandparents; Sue and Frank Deckelman, his great-grandparents.

BEATTIE

Con't from page 1

With Monsignor Beattie's poker face during homilies, one never knows if a joke is coming. Consider the beginning of his homily for a Holy Mass at the start of this school year. Without smiling, he looked straight into the eyes of OLOL teachers and students before him and started to seriously narrate a story: "A day before school started, a girl complained to her mother: 'I don't want to go to school because no one likes me! I ride the school bus and my fellow riders become uneasy with my presence. I pass through the school gate and the school guard does not want to see me! As I walk through the school corridors, everyone stares at me! Can I just stay at home and not go to school?' Her mother gently answered, 'You can't do that, my dear! You're the school principal!'"

"Any Christmas jokes?" the curious asked. "Christmas is no joke! It's the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ!" retorted Monsignor Beattie. With a faraway look and at an age 18 years shy of being a centenarian, he shook his head as he quietly reminisced on how Christmas has become a season without "Christ," the actual reason for the Season. "We have to be careful with how materialism is attached to Christmas," whispered Monsignor Beattie who's also known as the endeared "Counselor of Priests." With a twinkle in his eye, he explained no further as he stood up and walked — sans a cane or walker (but under the concerned eyes of OLOL's Parochial Vicar Fr. Alejandro Diaz) — raring to go towards his cozy spot in the rectory — where awaits on tv his favorite football team: the Washington Redskins.

OPT

Angelyn Tugado-Marzan, a parishioner of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Bethesda, Maryland and St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, D.C., is a Bachelor of Arts in Journalism degree holder from the 405-year-old Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomas (UST, the Catholic University of the Philippines) where she also pursued a Master of Arts in Literature degree.

Sunday after Mass Lunch Returns!

The Legion of Mary and the Spanish Charismatic Prayer Group have offered to provide a parochial lunch again on the 1st & 2nd Sundays of the month (Fr Salinas is encouraging any other parish group to step up to do lunch for the other Sundays in the month!). These lunches will be priced at \$10 a plate with all proceeds going to the Church.

The Legion of Mary led by Aurora and Transito are working to have something after each of the first Sunday of the month Masses, even the earliest at 8:30am! Maria Celia and Reina Flores leading the Prayer Group to do the lunches is focusing on the Masses closest to a lunch hour, on the second Sunday of every month. We will



Transito and Aurora of Christ the King's Legion of Mary

await those who will step up for the third and fourth Sundays as well as those four months on the calendar which will have a fifth Sunday!

OPT



The Giving Tree

Christ the King's Giving Tree Project started the weekend before Thanksgiving. Parishioners were asked to return the cards and gifts the weekend of December 10-11. The unwrapped presents are to be placed under the Christmas tree in the Nave with gift cards and cash donations placed in the designated box in front of the tree. The gifts will be distributed to needy families having requested gift assistance December 19 in the Rectory Meeting Room (basement) between 3:30 and 7:30 pm that Saturday.

OPT

Christ the King

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Fr. Rodolfo Salina,
Parochial Administrator

Katie Holland,
OPT Editor
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St. Mary's Annual St. Nick Festival Benefits Kids and Elderly Alike

By Maureen Stiles

As the head elf of St. Mary's Annual St. Nick Festival, Margaret Dickerson would have every right to feel overwhelmed. The parish-wide event draws hundreds of people and features games, crafts, dancing, dinner, a Secret Santa Shop and an appearance by the jolly old guy himself.

However, Margaret meets the logistical challenges head-on and looks for ways to improve the festival every year because she loves it.

"To me the Saint Nick festival means a real sense of community and joining together during the Christmas season. Watching the children dance and decorate cookies and paint ornaments there is nothing better than to see the spirit of the holiday season shine through everyone on this special night. Even all the parents are happy," explains Dickerson.

Five years ago, Margaret decided to expand the reach of the festival outside the parish. She contacted the City of Rockville and has



Margaret Dickerson with the beautiful St. Nick Festival backdrops created by art teacher, Tracey Keating, and a mountain of donated toys!

instituted a toy drive as part of a city initiative to help others in need during the holidays.

Margaret feels that, "Christmas is about

giving back and helping those who are less fortunate. It's giving back to our local community right here in Rockville. It's a nice way

for our school and church to be able to help someone in need who might be living right next-door to them here in Rockville. The toy drive donates not only toys but it gives certificates to teenagers and gift cards to the grocery store to the elderly. Last year we contributed over 300 toys."

As an extension of the event, the St. Mary's eighth-grade class sets up the toy drive at a local community center so the families who are less fortunate get the opportunity to go in and pick out presents for their children for free.

The families on this list come from the guidance and resource department of all the public schools in the city of Rockville. Also, families and the elderly can contact the city of Rockville to request to be included on this list.

Following Margaret's generous lead, dozens of volunteers make the St. Nick Festival a true representation of the spirit of the season for the parish and beyond.

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Rockville, MD

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Pastor

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St. Mary's School

Mrs. Debby Eisel, Principal
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Before Thanksgiving break, the St. Mary's community showed its generosity by organizing a coat drive for a local school in need. Over 30 coats were collected for children who might not otherwise have a warm option for the winter. The school also collected a mountain of canned food as part of the Annual Thanksgiving Feast which was donated as well. Here, student organizer Reed Stiles is shown with the bags of donated coats before delivery.



A few eighth-grade students with their little buddies after stopping by Sunrise Assisted Living to Trick or Treat as part of St. Mary's Halloween parade. For over a decade, St. Mary's students have been visiting Sunrise to interact with residents weekly as well as sharing special occasions with them.

SODALITY

Con't from page 5

West made a moving tribute to the woman who inspired her life-long commitment to serve her country and others in need. Her own mother, who adopted 12 children and changed and saved so many lives during her lifetime, was the model LTG West had tried to follow

so successfully during her own career and in her own private life. After her talk, LTG West met and greeted parishioners eager to thank her for her service. A record 120 people attended the Sodality Annual Communion Breakfast. Everybody enjoyed the special ceremony and was grateful for the opportunity to listen and meet such an incredible member of the Armed Forces and parishioner of our parish.

OPT



Mary of Nazareth students lead 'Help Haiti' campaign, raising funds to support relief efforts following the devastation of Hurricane Matthew.

Students Organize 'Help Haiti' Fundraiser to Aid Hurricane Relief Efforts

Mary of Nazareth Catholic School is living out its mission to serve God and neighbor through a student-led 'Help Haiti' campaign. The campaign, spearheaded by eighth grade student, Stevie Orsini, aims to support Haitian relief efforts following the devastation of Hurricane Matthew. Orsini and his peers, with the help of school administrators, mobilized to designate Wednesday, October 19 as an "out-of-uniform day" for all students making donations to the 'Help Haiti' campaign. The suggested donation amount was set at \$2.00 for each child, with all participants encouraged to donate at least \$1.00 of their own money.

Adding creativity to social concern, students designed a plan to use their

Continued on page 25

MoN Celebrates Veterans Day with Food Drive and School Assembly

Mary of Nazareth Catholic School honored veterans this November with a faculty-sponsored food drive to benefit the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless, and a school-wide Veterans Day assembly. The faculty-sponsored food drive took place during the week leading up to Veterans Day, from November 7 to November 11. Eight boxes of food items, ranging from canned goods to fresh fruits and vegetables, were collected for donation. MoN Athletic Director and veteran, Mr. Rich Huelbig, delivered collected items directly to Darnestown MCCH Veterans Home on Veterans Day. MoN faculty and staff are grateful for the chance to serve veterans in our immediate community by supporting MCCH's first facility dedicated solely to serving veterans with persistent mental illness.



Navy veteran and Athletic Director, Mr. Rich Huelbig, delivers items collected from faculty-sponsored food drive together with PE teacher, Mr. Tim Renehan, to benefit Darnestown MCCH Veterans Home.

The Tuesday following Veterans Day, students had the opportunity to learn about service in the US military first-hand from two veterans within the MoN school community. Admiral Wray and Colonel Riley spoke to students about their service in the US Navy and US Marine Corp respectively. Students attended the school-wide assembly in three individual sessions, and were presented with an overview of how each branch of the military operates, the day to day life of military service men and women, academic and professional opportunities within the military, and requirements for serving in the military.

A highlight of the assembly for MoN students was learning the significance behind giving a military salute, and how to give one properly. Each session ended with a question and answer period, allowing students to speak directly with Admiral Wray and Colonel Riley. Mary of Nazareth students felt fortunate to develop a deeper appreciation for veterans belonging to their school community, and look forward to honoring those who have served our nation again next year.

OPT

Mary of Nazareth Students Who Serve: Brenden Pauline

This June seventh-grade student Brenden Pauline volunteered for the Maryland State Special Olympics at Towson State University. Special Olympics provides sports training and athletic competition for persons with intellectual disabilities, giving them opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills, and friendship. Brenden served as an officiator for the bocce ball competition, and as an athlete escort for track and field events. Brenden's duties as a volunteer included ensuring events were carried out in a respectful manner and accompanying athletes to their events. As an athlete escort, Brenden assisted with keeping track and field events running on schedule so all athletes were able to participate in the various activities offered. Additionally, Brenden helped athletes line up for their heat and walked them to awards ceremonies to receive recognition for their hard work. One of the most important jobs Brenden completed in both volunteer roles was encouraging all athletes to perform to the best of their ability.

According to Brenden, the entire service experience was a great one, as he enjoys sports and competition himself. Brenden reported one of the most valuable aspects of his experience being the ability to develop a different perspective about what is truly important in competitive sports and what it means to be an athlete. Brenden shares the insight he gained while working with Special Olympics athletes, "for them it was not about winning the events they participated in. It was about completing the event." He indicated



Seventh-grade student Brenden Pauline learns the true meaning behind competitive sports while serving at the Maryland State Special Olympics summer games this past June.

that he was inspired by the pure joy the athletes expressed in being a part of the games regardless of whether they came in first place. Brenden also felt inspired to witness athletes cheering on and championing their fellow athletes in ways that didn't focus on winning. Instead, focus was placed on finishing and giving it their best shot. Brenden looks forward to continuing his volunteer work with the Special Olympics, and hopes to assist with skiing and basketball this winter in addition to next year's summer games.

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Mary of Nazareth

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If Our Hallways Could Speak

As you walk down the hallways at St. John the Evangelist School, they tell the story of the valuable lessons our students are learning. Drawing inspiration from her works of kindness and compassion, Mrs. Cooke's fifth graders have displayed quotes from St. Teresa of Calcutta. Their goal is to follow her example.

Our Public Speaking teacher, Mr. Higgins, reminded the seventh and eighth graders that November is the month when we say special prayers for those who have died. The students in those grades research a relative they never met and give a speech about what they learned about that person. Pictures of these relatives are displayed in the hall. They prompt us to learn from the past and to pray for those who have gone before us.

The exhibit outside Mrs. Rossi's sixth grade classroom reminds us that we are all stewards of God's creation. Mrs. Gutierrez's science students have quoted famous scientists and authors, telling us that it is okay to make mistakes (Einstein) and that everything is impossible until you try (Heinlein).

In the primary-grades hallway, the students let us know what makes them thankful. Kindergarteners thank God for His glorious paint box which He uses to color our world. The storks outside the first and third grade classrooms proclaim our gratitude for a new baby sister joining a family and



The Primary hallway showcases student projects and reinforces community values.

our community.

Displayed as tail feathers on their colorful turkey, our 4-year-olds are thankful for "Prayers and learning to pray," "My best friend Arthur and chicken cutlets," "All the dinosaurs in the museum," "My family and my Dad's phone," and for "Jesus Christ."

Stories of faith, remembrance, responsibility, compassion, and gratitude define our community, and our students are reminded of that every day as they walk the halls of our school.

OPT

Busy Fall at SJE

On the first Friday in November, St. John the Evangelist in Silver Spring held its annual Walk-A-Thon for St. Joseph's House, a non-profit serving children and teens with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The students spent almost two hours walking to earn the pledges of money they raised to help this worthy cause.

Sixth-grade science students have been busy constructing electrical circuitry. Putting their theoretical knowledge to work, they literally lit up the science lab.

The Chick-fil-A cow paid a visit to our school as a part of our restaurant fundraiser. The only people who were more excited to see him than our students were the parents who arrived for afternoon carpool!

OPT



Gala Combines Fun, Fellowship and Fundraising

The 2016 Gala was held at St. Catherine Laboure's Claridge room with a James Bond theme of "Shaken, Not Stirred". The October 1st event was attended by 200 parishioners and included dinner, dancing and both a silent and live auction. In addition, a limited number of raffle tickets were offered for a trip to "Sip and Soar" over the Napa Valley.

Sherry Truhlar of Red Apple Auctions energized the crowd during the live auction and attendees battled to win coveted items like dinner with the Pastor, Fr. Calis, dinner at the Convent, Principal for the Day, and Name the Lane. The bidding for the popular dinners was so lively that Sherry offered dinners to both of the top bidders and doubled the amount raised. Attendees were asked also to raise their bid



Phil Droege, Fr. Calis and Tom Kane in their best James Bond attire.

cards to signal donations to help fund an upgrade to the school air conditioning. The event raised over \$50,000 dollars of which \$24,000

was targeted for the school air conditioning.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the

Continued on page 26



St. John the Evangelist School OPEN HOUSE

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**More St. John the
Evangelist News on Page 26**



Family Advent Wreath-making Workshop

Families and friends gathered in the Kennedy Room on the first Sunday in Advent to learn about the custom of the advent wreath and to create one of their own. Fresh greens, a foam ring, and candles were provided. Each person or group brought their own vision and creativity to the project and the results were amazing. What a great way to start the season of Advent!

Trunk or Treat

The St. Bartholomew parking lot turned into a Halloween wonderland of candy, costumes and creativity at the parish's annual Trunk or Treat. Students and families enjoyed some friendly competition, trying to outdo each other in transforming trunks into clever spots for trick or treating. The scene included an Italian Restaurant trunk serving brick oven pizza, a druid forest, a football toss game and plenty of spooky stuff! Father Mark Knestout and Father Tim Daniel served as judges of the best costume and best trunk competitions, but everyone walked away a winner, thanks to the spirit of friendship and community enjoyed by all.

OPT



No Small Feat

St. Bart's Donates Thousands of Socks to Homeless Men

More than 1,800 pairs of socks were collected recently at St. Bartholomew, thanks to the generosity of its students and parishioners. Throughout the month of "Socktober", the outpouring of kindness led to carloads of socks being delivered to the Adams Place Emergency Shelter in Northeast Washington. Run by Catholic Charities, the shelter provides critical support to homeless men, especially during the freezing winter months.

"Socktober gave our students a chance to learn how important a pair of socks is to general hygiene and the emotional well-being of

all people," said Principal Stephen Lamont. "The students' desire to help led us to eclipse our goal of 1,000 pairs of socks. In combination with our parish, we collected 1,824 pairs of socks!"

OPT



St. Bartholomew students organize socks for delivery to the Adams Place Emergency Shelter in NE Washington.

Sunday Evening Mass Continues to Attract from Far and Wide

St. Bartholomew's 8:00 Sunday Night Mass with contemporary Christian music continues to draw worshipers from near and far. The well-attended Mass is typically offered by Msgr. John Enzler, CEO of Catholic Charities of Washington, whose homilies frequently address social justice issues. All are welcome. OPT



The band plays contemporary Christian music at St. Bart's Sunday, 8:00 p.m. Mass.

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More St. Bartholomew
News on Page 34

St. Bartholomew Eighth Graders Connect with Confirmation Saints

Some of the Catholic Church's most fascinating saints recently "came alive" at St. Bartholomew, as part of a unique wax museum project presented by eighth graders preparing for confirmation. Students wrote biographies and personal reflections on the lives of their confirmation saints and then created artistic backdrops. Outfitted in full costumes, the eighth graders shared their saints' stories with visitors.

The process helped students see that the teachings of saints are deeply relevant today and can inspire their lives in the classroom and beyond. "The eighth graders developed



St. Bartholomew Eighth Graders inspire wax museum attendees by sharing important details of saints' lives.

a close connection with their saint, as they developed writing, speaking and art skills," says teacher Laura Digges. "They did a marvelous job and it was an event enjoyed by parents, students and teachers."

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OLOM Justice Committee Aids Work in Haiti

By Judy Walser

Our Lady of Mercy Justice Committee hosted a Haiti night on Oct. 25. St Pat Mensing introduced the DVD "Mission of Hope" in preparation for the Second Sunday Collection on Nov. 20.

Dr Joe Giere talked about his work with the CRUDEM Foundation in Haiti particularly in Milot. Three area parishes, Blessed Sacrament under Msgr. Enzler, Little Flower under Msgr. Vaghi and Our Lady of Mercy under Fr Bill English supported the building of a parish hall three years ago. A school was started in the basement of the hall. Immaculate Conception School has grown from 30 to 277 students.

Our special guest was Mr. Stewart Simonson, legal counsel from the CRUDEM Foundation who told us of the disruption of food supplies and storm devastation of fields. Dr. William Battle talked of his work with Haiti Cardica Alliance Mission in Milot. A consensus was reached that the most immediate need for Milot was addressing food insecurity and a campaign was formed with the mission to feed the school children one meal each school day for a year with a goal of \$26,000. The meeting ended with a reading of a letter from Sister Anne Crawley, Sister of St. Joseph, stationed in Milot, thanking us for support.

OPT

Catholics for Family Peace

A series of meetings were begun for the staff and concerned parishioners this fall to focus on the issue of domestic violence. We came together to study and formulate a plan for a response in our parish. The meetings have featured speakers who are professionals aiding endangered people and families. The Archdiocese of Washington and the

Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse are two of the organizations represented. For the last meeting in the month of November, Dr. Mindy Thiel, a licensed clinical social worker from Rockville facilitated the discussion. The discussion covered the effects domestic violence has on children, legal rights, and resources for victims and offenders.

OPT

Music of The Season

Our Lady of Mercy's Parish Choir, the Handbell Choir, the Children's Choir, and musicians playing Brass instruments will present A Festival of Lessons and Carols. On Sunday December 11, 2016 at 3:00 PM. Attending this concert is a wonderful way to prepare for the holidays

The Cherub Choir which is made up of children from kindergarten through third grade is rehearsing on Wednesday evenings until December 21. They will sing at the 4:00 PM Mass on Christmas Eve.

OPT

Mercy U

Registration is open for Mercy U. our lay theology institute. The focus of this session is Church Fathers (Patristics). Classes will take place on Wednesday, starting January 25 through February 15, 2017.

OPT

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Parish Author

Our Lady of Mercy Parishioner, Mark Shriver has written a new book titled: *Pilgrimage: My Search for the Real Pope Francis*. Mark visited Argentina to interview people who knew Jorge Bergoglio as a child, as a young Jesuit priest and a reforming bishop.

OPT

SHORT

Con't from page 1

active support for Catholic education and his outstanding example as a business leader who models Christian business ethics. The CBN established this award to underscore the importance business plays in supporting Catholic education and other parish based activities. Congratulations to Mike Ridgeway as well who was recognized by CBN with its Catholic Community Leader Award. As costs increase for these

important functions, there is increasing need for experienced and wise counsel and determined action in parishes and other nonprofits. Let's pray for more business leaders to follow the examples of John and Mike.

Advent is a time for renewal. Every church and many homes will light one candle each Sunday for four weeks as a symbol of recommitment to the life and teachings of Christ. Among Christ's most often repeated lessons is His promise that being a true disciple of His requires profound commitment to His Gospel and acceptance of the sacrifices which accompany them. He warned of dangers in the ease of being a follower, while promising eternal joy to those who chose the active and difficult path of discipleship. The distinct difference is the follower waits for Christ, the disciple acts for Christ. As we brighten our hearts with the four advent candles this Advent, I suggest we pray for the grace and wisdom to be truly committed **disciples, Americans, friends and family, and parishioners.**

What does it mean to be an American? Some live in the US passively enjoying its great freedoms and opportunities, leaving the hard work of governing, confronting difficult issues including our nation's growing diversity, economic and social challenges and community service to others. Our country will be stronger if more of us become engaged in federal, state and local issues. Let us pray for rekindled commitment to participate in our communities as fully engaged Americans, keeping informed, sharing our opinions with elected leaders, actively serving our communities, working to solve difficult issues, fully paying taxes and always voting in local and national elections. In doing so, **we act as American citizens not merely residents.**

Let us pray that we reignite our deepest devotion and love to family members and friends. Siblings are simply a result of chance birth, living together for eighteen or twenty years, moving on to the life's demands. Let us actively seek to be connected to our brothers and sisters and other family members throughout our lives overcoming the challenges of disagreement, dis-

tance, past grievances, jealousy and pride. **And that our friendships be more than acquaintances and our families more than relatives.** Rather let us seek to emulate the affection Christ had for His disciples and the loyalty and selflessness early Christians had for each other, **fused together by their love of Christ.**

Those who attend Mass on Sundays in their nearby parish but are otherwise strangers to the parish community and its needs, may meet the basic requirements as followers of Christ, but they fall short of discipleship. Let us pray this Advent for more engaged parishioners aflame with love for their parish communities and committed to active service wherever needed; teaching religious education, ushering, social ministries, and other activities which strengthen the Christian mission of our parish, and of course just financial support for the material costs of the parish. Parishes were created to be centers for Catholic community. There is a huge difference **between attending Mass at our local church and being an active parishioner.**

Lighting the previous three candles makes the fourth more certain. We pray that the fire of the Holy Spirit which invigorated our faith at Confirmation, the very same Fire that came upon Christ's disciples at Pentecost, will renew in our hearts the essential ingredients of discipleship; courage, perseverance, forgiveness and love that we might live Christian lives. On earth, Christ's teachings and parables were action oriented; the Good Shepherd who sought the lost sheep, the Prodigal Son's father who ran out to meet his once lost son, the Lord who sought out the sick to heal amidst the crowds, and the Infant was sent at Christmas by God to save the world. **Disciples of Christ seek to love and serve others, followers wait to be asked.** Lighting Advent candles is more than a holiday tradition. Lighting each candle provides an opportunity to reflect upon the true meaning of Christ's life and his teachings and the inspiration to renew the fire in our hearts to live as disciples of the Lord.

Wishing you a blessed Advent and happy Christmas season.

Chuck Short



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Parish generosity continues

This Thanksgiving we all have much for which to be grateful. 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. To maximize our outreach to those in need in our Twin Parish, St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church located in Washington, D.C., we focused our efforts this year by concentrating on

the Thanksgiving Food and Frozen Turkey collection and Winter Coat Drive.

The outpouring of love and care was what amazing! Over 200 boxes of canned food were collected, sorted and packed according to type of food item. The effort of sorting and packing carried on all morning of Sunday, November 20th and was transported to St. Martin's via caravan along with 297 frozen turkeys. During the afternoon of that same day, volunteers then assembly blessing baskets for the needy who have signed up in advance to receive the food. During the morning, we also sorted and packed hundreds of coats, many of which were brand new, as well as jackets, sweaters and other warm clothing for those in the St. Martin community to select from for their family on Thanksgiving Day.



St. Raphael Winter Coat Drive volunteers Eileen Cheng and Mardima Barga are grateful for all beautiful coats donated this year!



Volunteers Rich Mariani, Elizabeth Nelson and Bob Shamburek direct parishioners to drop off site for Thanksgiving Day Food & Frozen Turkey Drive.

Although hectic, a procedure for the drop-off of donations has been perfected in our parking lot so that parishioners need not have to walk-in their donations. This was welcomed by all parishioners as the day was blustery and cold. Our

volunteers braved this cold with perseverance and at the end of all the activity in the early afternoon, they wanted to know how to sign up for next year's event. Bravo to our parishioners for a job well done.

OPT

Our Thanksgiving Feast reminds us that we have much to be grateful for at SRS. Here, our kindergartners dress the part. Photo by Carole Matteo, St. Raphael School



Each year, the SRS community provides complete Thanksgiving meals for the members of the maintenance team and their families to say "thank you" for all they do for the school. Photo by MJ Zafis-Garcia, St. Raphael School

Sodality Hosts Father Cortinovis and Prepares for St. Augustine Book Drive in December

St. Raphael Sodality welcomed back Father Charles Cortinovis as a guest speaker for their faith formation event in November. Father Cortinovis is a former assistant pastor of St. Raphael, and is currently the pastor at St. Ambrose Parish in Cheverly, MD. Father Cortinovis spoke to the crowd of more than 50 women about the Fatima Centennial U.S. Tour for Peace, March 2016 – December 2017. The tour of the International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima is a nationwide call to prayer. Father Cortinovis stressed that the message of Fatima (The Peace Plan from Heaven) is serious, and that we must pray daily for the conversion of sinners. He called upon everyone to be prayer warriors for each other. In addition to Father's speech, Sodality collected blankets to donate to a local women's shelter and filled Christmas stockings to be delivered to the residents of St. Raphael House in December.

Another December project for Sodality is the St. Augustine School Book Drive. Rosemarie Buckley has been chairing this event since 2010. Mrs. Buckley works tirelessly

on this project beginning in the fall with requests from parishioners for a \$5 donation, or whatever each individual would like to contribute. Mrs. Buckley's daughter, Carla McCaffrey, is a media specialist and each November they visit a warehouse in Columbia, MD to purchase all of the books. In early December, Mrs. Buckley and her Sodality committee of nine women gather together with their Christmas wrapping paper and wrap each book, tie it with a bow, and add an individual name tag. The books are then delivered to the students each year at their annual Christmas party. During the program's first year, Sodality collected one book for each St. Augustine student in preK through 1st grade. Because of the generosity of St. Raphael Parish, Sodality is now giving one book to every student, preK through 8th grade. To date, St. Raphael has gifted 1,266 books to the students at St. Augustine School! In addition to last year's individual book gift, Sodality also donated books to the St. Augustine School library.

OPT

Where Angels Trod

By Nina Cardillo

A Time to Pray

At St. Raphael School and St. Raphael Nursery School, every day begins and ends with prayer. For SRS, Morning Prayer is a special tradition that brings everyone together in the church first. At this moment, rushing stops, chatter ceases, and nerves settle as students sit with their class before the Blessed

Sacrament and the school day starts. Principal Teri Dwyer opens Morning Prayer with a reflection and interactive discussion—anything from a current or school event, Sunday's reading or daily prayer, a saint or feast day—centered on the closeness of a living God fully present with us. Music teacher Rebecca Maurer also leads a brief worship, where students and staff

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A yearly invitation for those less fortunate

St. Raphael has a long-standing relationship with the Missionaries of Charity. Every year, we invite, transport, feed and entertain the regular individuals served at the Queen of Peace and Gift of Peace Missions for a holiday meal complete with a parting gift for each guest. We begin our planning in July when we hold a "Christmas in July" collection for specific toiletry items. All donations are then sorted and stored until November when we can assemble an individual toiletry gift bag

for a man and a woman. In addition to a candy and toiletry bag, the individual gift bag includes a special gift—this year hand-knitted hats for the women and a fleece-lined hat and gloves for all.

Our event this year is scheduled for Tuesday, December 13. Our guests look forward to this event every year and so do our St. Raphael School Students. The school's seventh and eighth-grade students help to serve each guest a hot meal and dessert and sit with them in friendship. It is truly a sight to be seen.

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ANGELS

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learn and sing a song of praise. Anyone celebrating a birthday receives a blessing from the priest, and together everyone prays for the leaders of our country and state, the Pope and our clergy, and our school and selves. The routine of Morning Prayer is readily overshadowed by the active engagement of the students and variety of discussion as inspired with the newness of each breaking day.

Throughout the month of October, Morning Prayer was especially dedicated to the Holy Rosary. During this time, students uncovered the Mysteries and Jesus'

life, ministry, death, and resurrection through this powerful prayer. This practice allowed each student from youngest to oldest to individually grow in their knowledge, understanding, and devotion to the Holy Rosary. October ended with the entire school and staff praying a "living rosary" together. The Luminous Mysteries were brought to life by eighth-graders who represented each bead of the rosary and led the prayers as sixth-grader Mary Washko prayed the beads of a wall-sized rosary large enough for everyone in the church to see. The SRS "living rosary" witnessed to the power of group prayer before the Blessed Sacrament and the intercession of Our Lady, one mystery, one bead, and one person at a time.

A Time to Remember

November began with an All Saints Day Mass that commemorated our heavenly champions, and the SRS students joyfully sang the "Sound of the Saints" in celebration. With heavier hearts, All Souls Day honored our loved ones who have gone home to God with a Remembrance Wall—a photo memorial of school family members who have entered eternal rest. Throughout the month of November, this wall also served as a reminder to pray for the holy souls who have preceded us and whose memories we continue to cherish.

On the first Saturday of November, St. Raphael Church held a special Mass of Remembrance in

memory of parishioners and relatives of parishioners who have died during the past year. The Mass of Remembrance has been a tradition at St. Raphael for over 20 years and gives evidence to the seventh spiritual work of mercy, to pray for the living and the dead. As almost 90 names of our dearly departed were called, a family member was invited to place before the altar a vibrant rose in honor of their loved one. A reception organized by the Bereavement Committee followed and gave those in attendance, sharing in sadness and loss, time to come together in solidarity.

A Time to Play

It was Angels on the Run racing through the neighborhood that sur-

rounds St. Raphael one beautiful, late October morning with over 350 competitors, including school and parish families and friends, taking part in the race that raised school funds and spirit. The fifth annual event featured a 5K race, a 1-mile run, and a cherub dash for kindergartners and preschoolers, as well as a music and dance celebration for everyone, emceed by Mr. D. The enthusiasm of the cheering crowds was contagious and energized the runners. Many participants dressed in Halloween costumes adding to the liveliness of the event that was made possible by many volunteers, sponsors, and eighth-grade bake sale contributors.

When it comes to checking what you know, quizzes aren't just for students... SRS and SRNS parents competed for the right answers at Trivia Night. In a round-robin style tournament, adults only tested their knowledge in various subjects including science, music, sports, and more. They brainstormed trivia facts and passed with flying colors in categories such as socializing with friends and enjoying good food and drinks. Based on the fun-factor, everyone scored a great time!

A Time to Give Thanks

Each year, Thanksgiving reminds us of the authentic gratitude to God that the pilgrims and successive founding fathers displayed in the formation years of our nation for blessings they received. With faith and fortitude, they reaped what they sow—cultivating seeds and grains, they yielded a harvest; cultivating charity and kindness, they grew in harmony with the Native Americans. Similarly, Thanksgiving at SRS embraces giving thanks to God, gathering together, and giving to others.

The festivities began with school Mass and the spirit of gratitude was in the air as everyone sang a song that praised "Give thanks to the Lord for his love never ends, and all the people said Amen." A small feast followed bringing the whole SRS family together, including a special appearance of pilgrims and Native Americans as disguised kindergartners and first-graders. Baskets were prepared to bless our beloved maintenance team, who do so much to make routines and events run smoothly across our school and parish facilities.

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HR Drama Club's Fall Play Showcases Famous American Authors

By Michelle Ardillo

On November 4, 2016, for both a school assembly and an evening performance for friends and family, the HR Drama Club presented a two-act show of stage readings featuring scenes from famous American literature for its fall play. The first act was an adaptation of *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott and the second act was an adaptation of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* by Washington Irving.

The casts for the two acts were comprised of seventh graders Brennan Flynn, Bridget Trebon, Claire Morin, Donnie Carmody,



Cast of *Little Women*

James Smith, Katie Monahan, KK Morin, Maggie Gormly, Nicky Waits-Cabrales, Owen Kirvan, Patrick O'Donnell, Rafael Rodriguez, and Therese Osborn, and 8th graders Abby MacCartee, Blaise Ryan, Clara Henne, Jorgie Garayta, Megan Toner, Molly Murphy, and Ryan Magnino. Eighth graders Abby MacCartee and Molly

Murphy served as stage managers for the production.

Directed by middle school faculty members Michelle Ardillo and Danielle Trotta, the stage readings took place on a nearly bare stage with painted flats representing the winter holiday setting of both acts. All cast members wore black turtle-necks and blue jeans, unifying the



Cast of *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*

actors so that the focus would be on their voices. Period-piece costume accessories props were curated by long-time HR Drama Club patron Mrs. Cathleen Farr, grandmother to cast member James Smith. Mr. Joe Ryan, parent of cast member Blaise Ryan, assisted with sound and lights.

With their usual generosity,

Drama Club parents supported the cast and crew throughout rehearsals and tech week with snacks and refreshments, manning the box office and concession stands, and hosting a reception for the cast and crew after the evening performance. Next up: the spring musical!

OPT

Focusing on God in Me Retreat

By Michelle Ardillo

Holy Redeemer's 8th grade class enjoyed an overnight retreat on October 27 and 28, 2016, at the Bishop Claggett Retreat Center in Buckeystown, Maryland. Amidst the backdrop of the beautiful mountain scenery and crisp fall weather, the "Focusing on God in Me" retreat was led by Matt Avery, who is Youth Leadership Team Adult Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Washington Office of Youth Ministry. Avery also serves as a volunteer youth minister at his parish, St. Gabriel. Avery's extensive background in youth ministry was evident as he quickly got to know the Class of 2017 and before long was calling them each by name.

The eighth graders, along with HR principal Colleen Ryan and faculty members Michelle Ardillo, Danielle Trotta, and Cory Hudson, explored their faith in a series of spiritual talks and team-building exercises such as an Emmaus Walk, a trust walk, an anointing of hands, and journaling, all led by Avery with the assistance of HR faculty present on retreat.

Later in the evening of the first day, the group enjoyed a bonfire, with singing and s'mores, after



HR Class of 2017 at Bishop Claggett Retreat Center

going to Adoration and Confession with Fr. Ryan Pineda, parochial vicar at Holy Redeemer, who also attended the retreat. Many of the students commented on what a big impact Adoration had on them and how they felt so much closer to God while on retreat.

The retreat ended the next morning with Mass celebrated by Fr. Pineda and a commissioning ceremony where each eighth grader was presented with a wooden cross on a leather cord, complete with calligraphy by HR faculty member Mary Ruth Clark.

OPT



It is always fun to have our grandparents come to visit!

Holy Redeemer is Thankful for Our Grandparents

The Holy Redeemer School community cannot begin their Thanksgiving break without taking time to honor our Grandparents! This year's Grandparent's Day was yet another

huge success! Invitations for this big event went out in early November. Students began preparing in their art classes by creating the artwork used to decorate our

Continued on page 30

Tis the Season to be Giving

Throughout the 2nd quarter, our school focuses on the virtue of compassion. We here at Holy Redeemer are so blessed and it is important to remember those who are in need, especially during the holidays.

Once again, our school and our families will be participating in the Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive.

This year we've added an element of competition to this worthwhile service project! Holy Redeemer and Blessed Sacrament will both be doing a school collection the week leading up to December 3rd—the big event. This year the two schools will compete to see who can bring in the most canned food

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Students at St. Jane de Chantal pose for a wacky photo on Wacky Wednesday of Spirit Week.

HAPPENINGS

Con't from page 5

school assembled for an exciting pep rally where the Cross Country Team was congratulated for their five City Championship wins during the Fall season. Students were able to spend Tuesday afternoon playing games outside, winning prizes, painting their face, and celebrating the excitement of being a student at St. Jane de Chantal!

The Spirit Week festivities culminated with the St. Jane de Chantal students giving back to the community.

On Friday morning, all students walked around the school to raise money and awareness for Mary House. Mary House is a community-based organization that provides transitional housing services, shelter, and support programs to homeless and struggling families.

On Monday, Halloween Day, the entire school dressed up in their Halloween finest costumes to celebrate one of the students' favorite holidays. There were Halloween parties and games in the classrooms, a Halloween assembly, and a Halloween Parade to get everyone in the spirit for the big night of trick or treating! Ghosts, and witches, and skeletons, oh my!

Kindergarten Field Trip – Learning the Life Cycle of Apple Trees

The kindergarten class of St. Jane

de Chantal went to Heyser Farm in November to learn about the life cycle of an apple tree, the bees that pollinate each apple blossom, and how apples are picked, sorted, and



The fourth-grade class poses in front of a large historic flag.

VETERANS

Con't from page 5

served in the United States Armed Forces. During the 10 AM Mass, there was a special guest, Command Sergeant Major Michael F. Brooks. CSM Brooks is Command Sergeant Major of the Land Component Command, District of Columbia National Guard, and is a recipient of numerous military awards and decorations. During his presentation to the parishioners, he mentioned the many sacrifices military families must make; he also shared how joining the Armed Forces is like signing a "blank check" in terms of giving service to our country.

During all the masses, Veterans



and active members of the Armed Forces were called near the altar and received a small token of appreciation for their service to our country, followed by a standing ovation from the congregation. Honoring the many Veterans of our parish has become a special observance and tradition that attracts individuals from other parishes in the area wanting to participate in such an honorable celebration.

OPT

sold in the market. The children fed the chickens, smelled the compost pile, and learned about how it was turned into nutritious soil. The class watched eggs being sorted by

weight and apples being sorted by size. After selecting their apples, they followed the process apples go through to become cider: washed, sorted, washed again, ground/smashed, and poured onto a presser where the juices dripped out and were funneled into a large steel refrigerator. Finally, they were able to taste the apple cider once it was completed. It was a fun and informative trip for the students.

Fourth Grade Field Trip to Fort McHenry and Baltimore Inner Harbor

Thankful that the rain had held off for their trip, the fourth-grade students experienced an exciting and educational visit to Baltimore, Maryland. Students attended a flag presentation at Fort McHenry, visited the Fort McHenry Monument and Historic Shrine, and strolled the Baltimore Inner Harbor area. The trip culminated in an enjoyable narrated boat ride in Baltimore Harbor, where the students learned about the Fort's role in the War of 1812, where it successfully defended Baltimore Harbor from an attack by the British navy, inspiring Francis Scott Key to write a poem that was later set to tune becoming the Star Spangled Banner, our national anthem.

OPT

COMPETITION

Con't from page 2

event. Once enrollment at an area Catholic High School is confirmed in July, 2017, checks will be sent directly to the winners' high schools in August, 2017.

Eligibility

To be eligible, students must be entering a Washington Metropolitan Area Catholic High School as a freshman in the fall of 2017.

Rules

Students must submit an essay meeting the following criteria. The Essay must be no more than 500 words, typewritten using Times Roman or Courier, minimum

12-point font, double-spaced and must be the student's own work. The schools may use this as an assignment, but ungraded and unedited essays should be submitted to CBN-MC. PARENTS AND STUDENTS WILL BE ASKED TO SIGN A CERTIFICATION WITH THEIR ESSAY THAT THIS IS THE STUDENT'S OWN WORK PRODUCT. The essay must be well written and will be judged anonymously on style and grammar, clarity of content, innovation and creativity and conformity with topic. For details visit: www.cbnmc.com/scholarships/essay-competition

The essay should be submitted in duplicate and have a cover page with the student's name, address, phone number, email address, and the name of the school or parish, and must be SIGNED by the stu-

dent AND parent/guardian as follows: "We certify that the attached essay is my own work product that has not otherwise been edited or revised." The duplicate should be attached to the original but should not have the student's name on it. It will be assigned a number by CBN-MC and essays will be sent randomly to volunteer judges (non-CBN-MC board members). All essays submitted will become the property of CBN-MC. CBN-MC reserves the right to make all final decisions regarding eligibility and interpretation of the rules. In the event for any reason the winners do not attend an area Catholic High School, the runner up in that category will receive the scholarship.

Essay Topic

The Catholic Church Year of

Mercy will conclude on November 20th. In announcing the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis said that Jesus "... urges each of us never to stop at the surface of things, especially when we have a person before us. We are called to look beyond, to focus on the heart in order to see how much generosity everyone is capable of. No one can be excluded from the mercy of God..."

Pope Francis recently tweeted that "mercy does not just mean being a 'good person' nor is it mere sentimentality. Mercy is the measure of our authenticity as disciples of Jesus."

In a 250-500 word essay please address the following questions:

In your view, what is mercy?

Do you believe mercy is the measure of authenticity as a disciple of

Jesus, as Pope Francis tweeted in August? Why or why not?

From your own experiences in life or from literature or film, where have you experienced or witnessed "extraordinary" mercy? Who was involved? What were the circumstances? Why did this example of mercy come to mind?

Due Date

All essays must be RECEIVED by CBN-MC or postmarked NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 9, 2016. Essays should be delivered by regular mail to the following address:

CBN-MC SCHOLARSHIP
c/o William P. Cannon, III, Esq.
Offit Kurman, P.A.
4800 Montgomery Lane, 9th Floor
Bethesda, MD 20814

OPT

St. Martin's Women of Prayer

By Catherine Cooksey

For more than a decade, the Women of Prayer ministry at St. Martin's Church has provided women with the help they need in their spiritual walk with Our Lord Jesus. The group welcomes all women over 18 years, whether they are Catholic or not, young or old, saints or sinners. Through the help of their patron, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the group seeks to love Christ, serve souls, and build the Church, starting with their own families, their parish, and then extending to their own community.

At the November meeting, the

group welcomed Diane Salem who provided an introduction on the Flame of Love Prayer Cenacle. The Flame of Love is an approved movement that aims to faithfully and prudently put into practice the desires of God and our Mother Mary received by Elizabeth Kindelmann in locutions and detailed in her diary. The Flame of Love is a grace intended for the whole world which will blind Satan and free souls from his power. Prayer cenacles are formed to help fulfill the Lord's longings and spread the Grace of the Flame of Love. The Women of Prayer invited Ms. Salem to speak to its members

and others in the community to hear about the Flame of Love and consider the possibility of starting a prayer cenacle within the parish.

The Women of Prayer meets once a month on a Saturday morning following the 9:00am mass for fellowship and to listen to a featured speaker. The meetings begin with a light breakfast and opening prayer. Following the end of the speaker's presentation, there is time for intercessory prayer. More information can be found at www.thewomenof-prayer.org or by contacting Katie Vivian at womenofprayer.news@gmail.com.

OPT



Cub Scout Pack 926 and Girl Scout Troop 274 partnered to organize a food drive for St. Martin's Pantry. The scouts packed over 20 boxes of food and 60 care packages containing toiletry items. Photo courtesy of James Ponce.

St. Martin's School held its first Trunk or Treat on a windy, fall night. The event was spooktacular! Children were thrilled to go trunk to trunk, trick-or-treating dressed as their favorite Princess, Super Hero, or Goblin. The City of Gaithersburg graciously lent us their parking lot, playground, and pavilion for the occasion. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.



Five eighth graders represented St. Martin's School at Our Lady of Good Counsel's annual Math Competition in November. The team took 4th place overall. Sarah Lehrman placed sixth in the individual category. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.



St. Martin's School celebrates the Feast of All Saints with a mass. The third graders led the mass dressed as their favorite saints. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.

St. Martin's Parish News and Notes

November 12 and 28, 2016 – In honor of our patron saint, St. Martin's held its annual distribution of coats, jackets, sweaters, hats, gloves, and scarfs to the less fortunate.

November 13, 2016 – The parish celebrated the feast day of St. Martin of Tours at all masses. The principal mass was held at noon and was followed by a procession with an image of the saint and good food and drink in the gym.

November 23, 2016 – Parishioners participated in an

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service with neighboring churches. The service was held at Grace United Methodist Church in Gaithersburg.

December 13, 2016 – St. Martin's will hold its Advent Penance Service at 7:30pm in the church. Numerous priests will hear confession in several languages.

December 24, 2016 – Join us for our annual Christmas Eve Pageant at 4:15pm. The pageant is produced by the Religious Education Office and features parishioners in grades 1 through 7.

OPT

Grateful Students Share Their Thanksgiving Prayers

Fourth graders at St. Martin's School share with us what they are most grateful for this Thanksgiving season.

"I am thankful for my family and my friends. Thanksgiving is important to me because I get to spend the day with my family. Sometimes I get to go to New Jersey to see a lot more of my family. Happy Thanksgiving!!" *Allie*

"I'm thankful for my parents because they gave me life, food, and a nice, cozy home. I'm also thankful for the plants because they give us fresh air to breathe in. Thank you!" *Julia*

"I am thankful for my family and my school. I love my family because they teach me how to cook and how to be nice to my brother. I love my school because that is where all of my friends and teachers are. They teach me about Jesus, God, and Mary." *Jason*

"I am thankful for my parents

because they have always been there for me and they have always taken care of me. I am happy to always be with my family and go to fun places with them and take care of them." *Alma*

OPT

St. Martin of Tours Parish

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Gaithersburg, MD

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Pastor

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St. Martin School
Anthony Sahadi
Principal

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Catherine Cooksey

Parish Editor

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Polish Christmas Traditions at OLQP

Rev. Jerzy Frydrych, S.Chr., Pastor,
and the Parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Poland and
St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Silver Spring, Maryland,

Extend Warm Wishes for a Blessed Christmas
and a Happy New Year 2017

“Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku”
and invite you to join us in celebrating Polish Christmas traditions:

- Polish Christmas Food & Bake Sale, on Sunday, Dec. 18, 2016, 10 am - 2 pm.
- Traditional Polish Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, *Pasterka*, on Saturday, Dec. 24, 2016.
- Celebration of Parish *Oplatek* Christmas Dinner on Sunday, January 8, 2017, after the 12 noon Mass.

Please note that the Polish Christmas Wafers *Oplatki*
are available at the Rectory.



Celebrating Krystyna Wolanczyk's 90th birthday with the Polish Drama Club on November 27, 2016, at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish: Jarek Trocki, David Summers, Anna Kajkowska, Aleksandra Parszewska, Krystyna Wolanczyk (holding bouquet), Dr. Lucas Kulczycki, Dorota Ponikiewska, Anna Janiak, Mirek Podloch.

Celebrating Krystyna Wolanczyk's 90th Birthday

By Anna Janiak, PhD, Parishioner &
Member of Polish Drama Club

Krystyna's Wolanczyk 90th birthday was celebrated at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish hall on November 27th 2016, with her friends, acquaintances and other parishioners in attendance.

Krystyna has been our dear friend and parishioner since the beginning of the Polish Parish in Silver Spring. She is affectionately known as "Krysia."

She was born in Warsaw, Poland, on November 30, 1926. At the age of 18, she fought in the Warsaw Uprising. She was a soldier of

the Polish Home Army (Armia Krajowa, AK) during World War II with the rank of Corporal and served as liaison among troops.

She is very well educated, having degrees from the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland (Bachelor of Arts), Alliance

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Talented parishioners from Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, Adam Hawiger and Aleksandra Abramowicz, sang and played for the pilgrims on Nov. 12, 2016, at the 2nd Polonia Pilgrimage to Saint John Paul II National Shrine, Washington, DC. The pilgrims arrived from nine states and Poland for the event, which was organized by the Polish Apostolate Committee headed by Msgr. Anthony Czarnecki and hosted locally by the Friends of John Paul II Foundation, DC Chapter. Here, they invited a pilgrim from the audience to play and sing with them one of John Paul II's favorite songs, *Barka*. The rest of the pilgrims joined in the singing.



Several of the parishioners from Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish and members of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Washington DC Chapter, who gathered for the second Polonia Pilgrimage at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington DC, on November 12, 2016: Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, Zofia Dunian, Rev. Canon Phillip Majka, Joanna Roberts, Adam Hawiger, Sister Gaudia from Poland, Bozenna Buda, Dr. Krzysztof Kot, Sandra Zachariasiewicz, Cecilia Glembocki.



Rev. Jerzy Frydrych, Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Poland & St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Silver Spring, MD (second from left), with Ambassador Piotr Wilczek (first from right) of the Republic of Poland at the Ambassador's Residence in Washington, DC, on November 16, 2016, for the celebration marking Poland's Independence Day. Rev. Tomasz Kraj from Krakow, Poland, who is the Theologian in Residence at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine, Washington, DC, is first from left; Charge d'Affairs Maciej Pisarski of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland is second from right.

Polish Scouts-ZHP Zuchy spent part of their meeting on October 29, 2016, picking up debris and tidying the grounds of the cemetery near Our Lady Queen of Poland & St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Silver Spring, in preparation for the All Souls' Day procession. OLQP parishioners who are buried in the cemetery include Polish Scouting Organization-ZHP scoutmasters Jadwiga Miska and Jan Kanty Miska. May they rest in peace!



Students from Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish Polish Saturday School celebrated Poland's Independence Day by presenting a program for parents and guests at the school on November 12, 2016.

**Our Lady
Queen of Poland**

9700 Rosensteel Avenue
Silver Spring, MD

**Rev. Jerzy Frydrych,
S. Chr. Pastor**
301-589-1857

Bojenna Buda, OPT Editor
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Mrs. Joan Lacey, the first lay teacher to work at St. Jude Catholic School, shared memories with former student John Martin, class of 1976, and his daughter, Annie, class of 2013, at the Shrine of St. Jude 60th Anniversary Mass and Reception. Mrs. Lacey continued to substitute at the school until only a few years ago.



Fr. Blake Evans, a former parochial vicar at St. Jude, returned to the parish for its 60th Anniversary Mass and Reception on Oct. 23. With more than 1,400 people in attendance, the church soon filled up as did two overflow rooms, including this tent outside of the Thaddeus Room.



The Thaddeus Room of the Shrine of St. Jude was filled to capacity at a reception following the 60th Anniversary Mass. Many founding families, former St. Jude Catholic School teachers and students, former parochial vicars and seminarians, and both current and past parishioners came back to parish they once called or still call home.

At a recent Mass, candidates for Confirmation from the Shrine of St. Jude Faith Formation and St. Jude Regional Catholic School make their commitment to prepare diligently for the sacrament by studying, praying and participating in the weekly Mass. Each candidate then received a youth Bible from Fr. Paul Lee, pastor.



That Man Is You Program at the Shrine of St. Jude Off to a Great Start

By Larry Kilmer

In late July, Father Ken Gill asked several men of the parish of St. Jude if we would attend an informational meeting about the That Man Is You program. After that initial meeting, all agreed to begin this program at St. Jude. This movement, founded by Steve Bollman, began in Texas more than 13 years ago and now has spread to more than 700 parishes throughout the country. Most recently, St. Raphael completed the three-year-long program while Holy Redeemer has also just begun.

The weekly meeting begins with a warm breakfast, a short video, and a group discussion around questions that are provided. It is clear



A group of men from the Shrine of St. Jude discuss a topic at a weekly That Man Is You meeting. Speaking on left is Larry Kilmer, author of the article.

that the 50 or so men who have come regularly each Saturday at 6:45 a.m. have thoroughly enjoyed this experience and agree that it is

helping them become better fathers, husbands, friends and members of our parish and community. Soon,

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Trading Places

At the end of October, the Shrine of St. Jude welcomed back Fr. Robert Kosty. For the past 16 years, Fr. Bob, as he is known, had been serving as pastor of St. Catherine of Alexandria, McConchie and St. Ignatius, Hilltop parishes. Now at St. Jude as a senior priest, he has come full circle back to where his ministry began when he



Fr. Robert Kosty

was a deacon under Msgr. Lauriola in 1973.

At the same time, the parish had to say goodbye to Fr. Ken Gill, who had been a parochial vicar at the parish for the past two years. Fr. Ken, who literally traded places with Fr. Bob, is now serving as administrator of St. Catherine of Alexandria, McConchie and St. Ignatius, Hilltop parishes.

OPT



Cardinal Donald Wuerl dedicated the St. Jude Thaddeus Brick Garden after celebrating Mass in honor of the Shrine of St. Jude's 60th Anniversary. Pictured with the Cardinal are Father Paul Lee (on the Cardinal's right), Father Kenneth Gill (back row, second from right) and Father Daniele Rebbegiani (back row, far right) along with the many altar servers.

Cardinal Dedicates St. Jude Thaddeus Brick Garden

Under a clear, blue sky and with a throng of grateful parishioners looking on, Cardinal Donald Wuerl dedicated the newly installed St. Jude Thaddeus Commemorative Brick Garden. The Cardinal came to the Shrine of St. Jude Church on October 23 to celebrate the Mass honoring the 60th Anniversary of the parish and school. The dedication of the brick garden was held immediately after the Mass and allowed parishioners to interact with the Cardinal and thank him for helping celebrate a major milestone in the history of the parish.

The Commemorative Brick Campaign, affectionately known as the Beacon of Hope Project, was part of the year-long 60th Anniversary celebration. The term "Beacon of Hope" reflects a combined focus on our mission statement, namely, "We seek to be the Beacon of Christ on the hill in our neighborhood and beyond," while highlighting the role of St. Jude in providing hope in desperate situations.

The centerpiece of the brick garden is a gift from St. Jude Regional Catholic School to Cardinal Wuerl. Four bricks, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Cardinal's ordination, were presented to the Cardinal when he visited St. Jude school earlier in the year. The bricks were installed and are sur-

rounded by over 300 bricks honoring past and present clergy, parishioners, teachers, students and friends of St. Jude church and school. The response of the parish was overwhelmingly positive and gave everyone the opportunity to set in stone a personalized tribute to the impact that St. Jude has had on their lives. As one parishioner noted, "This brick garden is the perfect place to sit, pray, reflect and appreciate all the gifts that St. Jude has given us."

Phase 2 of the Brick Campaign has already begun. Anyone interested purchasing a brick and leaving a legacy that will last a lifetime should go to www.brickrus.com/order/stjudeville, or go to www.stjudeville.org or call Cecilia Rowedder at 301-910-0603.

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

Maureen Martin,
OPT Editor

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Mother Seton Christmas and New Year Schedule

Christmas Masses:

Christmas Eve, Saturday,
December 24

9:00 a.m.

4:00 p.m. Children's Mass

6:00 p.m. en español

8:00 p.m.

11:00 p.m.

Christmas Day, Sunday,
December 25

7:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m.

10:45 p.m.

12:30 p.m.

No 5:00 p.m. Mass

Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

New Year's Masses:

New Year's Eve, Saturday,
December 31,

Vigil Mass 5:00 p.m.

New Year's Day, Sunday,
January 1

7:30 a.m.

9:00 a.m.

10:45 a.m.

12:30 p.m.

5:00 p.m.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

All Saints International Festival



Peru, Philippine and Paraguay with Fr. Lee and Fr. Santiago.



Imasumaq Dancers from Bolivia joined our Festival



Making new friends

By Juliana Ordoñez

On October 30, Mother Seton Parish had the opportunity to celebrate their Second Annual **All Saints International Festival**. There were representatives from twenty-six different countries who shared their faith, food, and culture, on a beautiful, sunny Sunday. The celebration started with an All Saints International Mass celebrated by the Pastor Fr. Lee Fangmeyer, where children and adults participated while dressed up in their native dresses. After the Mass, around 250 parishioners attended the festival and celebrated their unity in Jesus Christ, coming together as one Church. Children and adults enjoyed walking around the room with their "passports," getting them stamped at each "country" while sampling food and learning a little about other cultures. The Festival was blessed with a performance of the Morenada dance by the Imasumaq dancers from Bolivia. Imasumaq means beautiful woman in the Aymara native language of Bolivia.

The All Saints International Festival Committee wants to thank all who participated in the festival by sharing their faith, food, cultures, and talents with us!!! It was such a beautiful afternoon to celebrate the rich diversity of our Parish. The success of this festival was made possible by our Parish coming together as One Family in Faith. **OPT**



Parishioners at the Festival

Alternative Christmas Program **BORDER**

By Toni Woods, Social Concerns Coordinator

Mother Seton's Alternative Christmas program gives an opportunity to reclaim the true meaning of Christmas. Instead of spending time and too much money buying things for loved ones who already have everything, participants can give gifts of sharing to those who have little or nothing in honor of our loved ones. We can find the Christ child in those around us who are in need and can celebrate His birth by supporting our local service agencies in their mission of comfort and healing.

The Advent and Christmas sea-

sons should be a time of quiet anticipation and hope for Christ's simple, yet profound rebirth in our lives. Too often, the focus at this time of the year is misdirected as we are pulled by the frantic preparations of the secular "holiday season" and the seemingly endless search for the perfect gifts for family and friends.

When parishioners place an order from the catalog, they receive a card from the charity that specifies the gift(s) they purchased. The charities are: Society of St. Vincent DePaul (MSP Conference), Mother Seton Quilting Angels, Germantown Pregnancy Choices, Little Sisters of the Poor, Montgomery Hospice, and Germantown HELP. The cards are presented to the loved ones they are honoring as an alternative gift. This is a beautiful way to do for those who are really in need this Christmas.

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

BORDER
Con't from page 3

ers could gather at either the U.S. side of the wall or the Mexico side. More than 770 people came to show solidarity with immigrants and refugees and remember the hundreds of immigrants who die each year in our deserts because of heat stroke, dehydration, and hyperthermia.

To my delight, I met up with a colleague, Marianne Comfort, who works for the Sisters of Mercy. She invited me to join her and several religious Sisters and staff persons to take a local bus to visit the Kino Border Initiative Center. The Center, a binational organization located in both Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Mexico, offers direct humanitarian assistance and accompaniment with migrants through its soup kitchen, nursing clinic, and women's shelter.

While going from the U.S. to Mexico was extraordinarily easy, returning to the U.S. was a much slower process. We waited in line for about a half hour while border officials carefully examined our passports.

On Sunday morning I went to Mass at the Sacred Heart Church not far from the border. The Gospel reading was about the ten lepers whom Jesus cured. Of the ten, only one returned to give thanks. The priest spoke of following God's will in our lives, emphasizing that to follow God's will we must be people of gratitude.

I reflected on what a difference it would make if we were truly grateful for the many gifts that immigrants bring us each day. Hardly a meal goes by without our benefiting from their work on our farms, in processing our food, and preparing our meals in restaurants. Also, we could appreciate the opportunity to enjoy their presence and build relationships with them. But we cannot live in appreciation and openness when we live in fear and hatred.

After Mass, I returned to the gathering at the wall. I met with a group of people who travel across the U.S. planting crosses where immigrants have died. They invite people from the community to join them in a prayer service for the hundreds of immigrants who die each year in the deserts. I was reminded of an old song by Woody Guthrie

lamenting the death of immigrants in an airplane crash. Rather than reporting their names, they were simply referred to as deportees.

*"Goodbye to my Juan, goodbye,
Rosalita,
Adios mis amigos, Jesus y Maria;
You won't have your names when
you ride the big airplane,
All they will call you will be
'deportees.'"*

Walking back to the car, I turned and took a final look at Nogales. From the top of a hill, I saw below me the curve of the long wall dividing the people of Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Mexico. The wall is made of steel and more solid than any cathedral. But when our descendants look at the wall, what will they think? Will they remember us as a fearful, selfish people? Or will they consider us a generous, welcoming people as enshrined in the Statue of Liberty? **OPT**

Lawrence Couch is the Director of the National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. For more information, visit: www.gsadvocacy.org

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Oktoberfest

By Cheryl Harksowitch

On October 29th, SJN hosted its' annual Oktoberfest. It was a big hit! Tickets sold out quickly. Outstanding food, terrific music, authentic German beer, wine, and food, and, most importantly community of spirit complimented the evening event. Father Dave Wells opened the event with a prayer of thanks and kind words.

Authentic eats were prepared by SJN parishioners Vicky Schneider, Betsy Rayel, Tom Firestone, and Sue Evans, included three types of German brats, sauerkraut, red cabbage, kale salad, warm German potato salad, German chocolate cakes, in addition to giant soft pretzel appetizers. Kids ate hot dogs



Father Dave blessing the food and comradery for the night.

and macaroni and cheese. Jennie Cullen provided German dark and light beers and German red and white wines while an assortment of non-alcoholic drinks were present. Decorations included beer stein

table arrangements.

The Rockville German Band of 10 musicians provided the oompah music with parishioners showing off their dance moves! Lederhosen, dirndles, aprons, and a section of the Berlin Wall added to the authenticity of the celebration. Knights of Columbus Tom Firestone was the Master of Ceremonies and kept us guessing on the correct answers to the German Oktoberfest trivia questions.

Pastor Joe Rogers concluded the event with a blessing and thankful words of appreciation for everything that was done by so many to make this a huge success. Clearly another SJN spectacular event not to be missed next year!

OPT



Father Joe spending time with all the parishioners during dinner and drinks.



The band kept the night alive with it oompah music.



One of SJN youngest parishioner by the German flag celebrating a family event.

HAITI

Con't from page 13

"out-of-uniform" privileges to recreate the Haitian flag as a display of solidarity. Students in prekindergarten and 1st grades wore white shirts, kindergarten-4th grades wore red shirts, and 5th-8th grades wore blue shirts. The entire student body assembled on Wednesday morning outside of the school's athletic building, the Katie Fitzgerald Center, and created a living image of the Haitian flag. Student participation reached every classroom, raising \$2,600 in total.

Funds will be used to benefit the Haitian mission churches of two of the school's sponsoring parishes: St. Joseph of Carcasse (mission church of St. Mary's Parish and Shrine, Barnesville) and Our Lady of the Visitation Gonaives (mission church of Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, Darnestown). Additionally, a portion of the proceeds will be used to purchase book bags and school supplies for ten Haitian children at

Christmas through Life Connection Mission, an organization dedicated to bringing hope and opportunities to Haitian children and adults.

The positive impact of Mary of Nazareth Catholic School's 'Help Haiti' campaign was felt immediately, as members of school and parish communities expressed their gratitude for the initiative. Parents of first grade student, Abygail Thomas, express their appreciation in a letter to Principal, Michael Friel, "On behalf of our fellow Haitian citizens we would like to convey our deepest gratitude to the community of Mary of Nazareth for this whole-hearted initiative ... we are deeply moved by your attention, and will treasure it forever in our heart." President of Life Connection Mission, Christie Anne Short, says of the student-organized campaign, "Every donation is a valuable one ... For those in our community it means that someone cares for them, and I look forward to sharing your students' love with our friends in Haiti."

Community outreach and service

projects, such as the 'Help Haiti' campaign, are an integral part of student life at Mary of Nazareth Catholic School, as emphasis is placed on educating the whole child. The school curriculum is designed to facilitate the intellectual, spiritual, emotional, social, and physical growth of each student. Many of the school's service projects are sponsored by Mary of Nazareth's Social Concerns Committee, which aims to provide opportunities for students to fulfill their responsibility to those in need. Mary of Nazareth is a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, serving upper-Montgomery County families with children in prekindergarten through eighth grades. The seven sponsoring parishes of Mary of Nazareth Catholic School include Our Lady of the Visitation Parish, St. Mary's Parish and Shrine, St. Paul Catholic Church, St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Mother Seton Catholic Church, St. John Neumann Catholic Church, and Our Lady of the Presentation Catholic Church.

OPT



Preacher Salvador Gomez blessing the congregation with preaching and music

SJN Welcomes Salvador Gomez

By Sylvia Granados-Maready

SJN had a whirlwind of special guests blessing the church with their words and testimonies. One of our special guests was preacher Salvador Gomez from El Salvador. Salvador Gomez has endured many sufferings and knows a thing or two about vices, don't we all? He graciously shared the story of how he was able to see his father reborn, after alcoholism made their family lose everything and drove him to prison, when he renewed his relationship with Christ. Their life changed.

Finding Christ was the big topic of the night, being able to let go of vices by seeking Christ. He continued to share testimonies of how Christ has changed his life and those around him. He emphasized in the importance of relying on Christ to alleviate any anxieties, to offer up worries and concerns up to God. He shared how his family experienced a tragedy when his son lost an eye due to an accident.

Their family relied on God's mercy and the church to overcome this obstacle and to find hope in a life-changing moment.

"It was a beautiful night filled with laughter and genuine emotions about how life is," recalls Flor Martinez, an active parishioner in the Hispanic community. Salvador Gomez used humor and music to bring the congregation together and to give a message of hope and mercy. So, this holiday season he reminds us to reflect on our lives and our vices. What can we do to better our lives and our relationship with Jesus Christ?

OPT

UPCOUNTY

Con't from page 3

130 individuals with special needs.

Much gratitude goes to Patrick and Katherine Hanifin who rocked their debut as DJ's, after learning about the mission of UCR from members and wanting to get involved. One would never suspect that these two were rookies as they kept the music streaming and the crowd of cow-boys and cow-girls

on their feet for two solid hours. What an amazing celebration of the special gifts within each of us!

Then on Saturday, November 5, UCR members converged on the F. Scott Fitzgerald Community Theater for an exciting and interactive viewing of *Shrek-The Musical*

This amazing play is fun, exciting, while also sharing a message of community. The UCR attendees were thrilled as they got to pose with the show actors/actresses in the lobby, while they were still in

costume! Special thanks go out to the Rockville Theater group who made tickets available at a reduced rate, UCR's Social Events Coordinators Meghan and Sylvia Jones, as well as California Tortilla in the Rockville Town Center who hosted a fundraising benefit before the show.

For information about future events, check out our web page at www.ucresources.org and the events calendar!

OPT

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

Marriage Enrichment Comes to St. Michael the Archangel Parish

In celebration of World Marriage Day, St. Michael the Archangel Parish will host a Marriage Enrichment Retreat on February 11, 2017.

St. Michael's Parish

805 Wayne Avenue
Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Msgr. Eddie Tolentino,
Pastor

301-589-1155

Edwin Méndez,
OPT Editor

301-589-1155

The Spirit of Love Marriage Enrichment Retreat is designed and presented by Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center & Center for Family Development. This day-long program offers married couples the opportunity to reflect on their love, learn practical tools for enriching their relationships, and renew the love of Christ in their marriages.

Topics presented during the day will include: improving communication; understanding your spouse's emotional needs; fostering forgiveness and intimacy; and recognizing the presence of Christ in the sacrament of Marriage. Expert speakers include Fr. John Hopkins, LC, Dr. Lisa Klewicki, and Dr. Frank Moncher. The retreat will

close with a special Mass, including renewal of marriage vows for retreat participants.

Gregory and Antoinette Wilkie, parishioners at St. Michael the Archangel Parish, recently attended a similar retreat at Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center and remarked that it was "amazing and will do wonders for anyone's marriage, regardless of where you are in your relationship or how long you have been married. Fr. Hopkins and Dr. Klewicki are truly gifted experts in their respective fields and deliver a program that every married couple can benefit from."

Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center & Center for Family Development, located in Bethesda,



offers a variety of programs for engaged and married couples. These quality programs draw upon the best in contemporary psychology, Church teaching, and practical wisdom from the experiences of married couples to reveal the beauty of Christian marriage and family life.

Programs such as the Three to Get Married Marriage Preparation, The Newlywed Program and the

Three to STAY Married program, all provide guidance and support to couples from the first days of their engagements into their golden years.

The Spirit of Love Marriage Enrichment Retreat will take place on February 11, 2017, at St. Michael the Archangel Parish, located in the heart of downtown Silver Spring at 805 Wayne Avenue. The cost of the retreat is \$50 per couple and includes continental breakfast, lunch, and a marriage enrichment workbook.

To register for the retreat, please visit: www.stmichaelsilverspring.org/enrichment

All are welcome!

OPT

St. John the Evangelist



Auctioneer Sherry Truhlar energizes the attendees during the live auction.

GALA

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2016 Gala co-chairs, Jim Polk and Edwin Agbonyitor and the fabulous Gala Committee: Mary Bowman (Catering and Event Coordination),

Peg Daly (Auction Items), Angela Calarco (Gift Cards), Kate Comello (Decorations), Josie and Harry Gieske (Trip Raffle), Ginny Hogan (Program and Printing), Cori Lathan (Auction Items), Sally Polk (Ads) and Carol Slatick, (Data Entry).

OPT



Volunteers selling tickets for the 50/50 raffle.

Getting a Jump on Holiday Shopping

Our annual Parish Holiday Bazaar was held on November 11 and 12. The Bazaar began with an adults-only evening that allowed parents to leisurely browse the lovely items provided by a variety of vendors while catching up with other parents and old friends. Saturday, on the other hand, was meant for the entire family with a science show, games, and crafts for the children. Baskets filled with all kinds of treats were being raffled off along with chances to win the 50/50 raffle. In addition

to the new items offered by vendors, the treasure hunters in the family could find many great bargains in the used books and collectables room. And a great group of volunteers in the kitchen made sure plenty of food was available to provide sustenance for shopping. This annual event has been a parish tradition for many years. We are grateful to Edwin Rivera for chairing the Bazaar this year and for the many volunteers who contributed their time to make the Bazaar a success.

OPT

Don't Wreck the Holidays! Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

It's the most wonderful time of the year—until you get a DUI.

For many Americans "holiday cheer" involves consuming alcohol at parties and holiday events. So it comes as no surprise that there's a spike in drunk-driving crashes each December and drunk-driving fatalities happen around the holidays year after year. Too many drunk drivers aren't learning the lesson the first time — more than half of the drunk drivers in fatal crashes have at least one previous DUI conviction on their record.

In every state, it's illegal to drive with a blood-alcohol level of .08 or higher, but some people seem to think they're above the law. So law enforcement nationwide is cracking down on drunk driving this holiday season: *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*.

There's no happy holiday ending to drunk driving. The risks just aren't worth it; you could find yourself in the back of a police car headed to jail, or worse — you could kill someone or end up seriously injured or dead yourself. Law enforcement actively looks for drunk drivers, especially around the holidays. If you are caught driving over the limit, you will be arrested.

Some drivers think they can just refuse a breathalyzer test if they get pulled over, and avoid the consequences of a DUI. Not true. Maryland law imposes a mandatory license suspension upon an individual, suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol, who either refuses to take a chemical breath test or submits to a test and registers

a blood alcohol concentration result in excess of 0.085.

Consider the legal and financial costs of driving while impaired. You not only face jail time, the loss of your driver's license, higher insurance rates, and dozens of other unanticipated expenses ranging from attorney fees, court costs, car towing and repairs, and lost wages due to time off from work — there's also the added humiliation and consequences of telling family, friends and employers of your arrest.

Plan a sober ride home for the holidays.

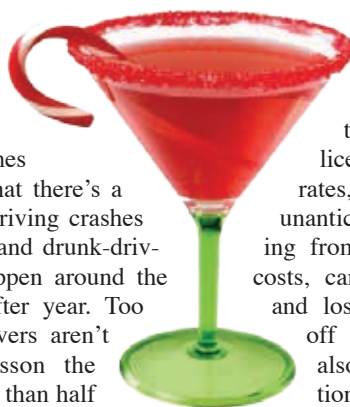
Before you attend that office party or holiday open house, make a plan to get home safely. If you plan on drinking, designate a sober driver ahead of time and leave your keys at home, or program the phone number of a friend or local taxi service to your phone.

Before you take your first sip of alcohol, have your plan in place. If you wait until you're too impaired to drive, you're more likely to make an impaired decision. Alcohol affects your judgment, so you might think you're "okay to drive" when you're not.

Even one drink can impair your judgment and reaction time and increase the risk of getting arrested for driving drunk — or worse, having a crash.

If you have been drinking, there's always another way to get home safely. You can call a taxi, phone a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation.

Some DUI offenders say the reason they drove drunk was because they didn't want to spend money



on a cab. The average DUI costs \$10,000. Wouldn't you rather pay cab fare?

Help others be responsible, too. If someone you know is drinking, do not let that person get behind the wheel. They'll thank you for it.

Call the police if you see someone driving drunk. It is your business. Getting drunk drivers off the roads saves lives.

OPT

Annual Holiday Bazaar a Success

Our annual Holiday Bazaar attracted many shoppers on November 12. Many volunteers make this annual event possible.

OPT



Activity at the Bazaar. Youth Group Coordinator, Susan Lea, in the blue shirt, offering St. Francis Cook Books for sale.



Volunteers at the always popular Millie's Bake Shop: l. to r. Cecilia Bussard, Ed Smulsky, Mary Francis Bussard, Mary Ann Murphy



Always Faithful Volunteers, l. to r. Mary O'Sullivan, Sara Becker, Anne Russell



Parishioners enjoying the food and fellowship

Annual Parish Picnic a Success

By Sylvia Jones, Picnic Coordinator

The annual Parish Picnic was held on Sunday, October 2. Although the weather was "iffy" in the morning, the sun came out at noon, the clouds disappeared and St. Francis smiled down on our parish. There were lots of fun activities for all ages, including decorating pumpkin, sand art, face painting and balloon sculptures, created by Buttons the Clown. The youth group worked hard at the many craft stations.

And, of course, there was the food. There were plenty of side



The Master Chefs, l to r, Georgana Finn, Deacon Dan Finn, Alex Chung, Chris Gonzalez



Pumpkin Painting an attraction

dishes and desserts that were provided by the parishioners to go along with the grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, prepared by Master Chefs Deacon Dan Finn, Chris Gonzales, and Alex Chung, to feed the 150 plus people.

A lot of volunteers made it possible—the set-up crew who transformed the Parish Center into a Fall Festival atmosphere, the servers, the clean-up crew, and many others who made this year's picnic extra special. And, there was the traditional blessing of the animals by Father John to end the afternoon.

OPT

Monsignor Ralph Kuehner Appreciation Celebration at St. Francis of Assisi

By Donna Zezzo, Parish Secretary

On October 15, St. Francis Parish celebrated Msgr Ralph Kuehner. About 150 parishioners came to visit with Fr. Ralph, as he likes to be known, to let

him know how much they appreciated him and his 26 years of service at St. Francis. Attendees also wrote personal notes to him letting him know what an inspiration he had been. Over 100 pages were placed

in a notebook and given to him at the celebration.

Our pastor, Fr. John, presented Fr. Ralph with a plaque depicting the image of St. Francis and the animals as well as the prayer of St. Francis. Fr. John commented that Fr. Ralph truly lived the prayer of St. Francis.

OPT



Father Ralph enjoying the moment

GIFT

Con't from page 3

This gift will allow the School to imagine new ways to leverage this position while making necessary upgrades and updates to existing living areas, including renovation projects for Georgetown Prep's two residential buildings— Boland Hall and Gunlocke Hall.

"This historic gift to Georgetown Prep is an exceptional act of generosity. It is also an extraordinary vote of confidence for our newly instituted Strategic Plan that ultimately seeks to advance a vibrant, sustainable Ignatian apostolate that practices cura personalis and strives for excellence in all things," said Rev. Scott R. Pilarz, S.J., president of Georgetown Prep, in announcing the gift.

Fr. Pilarz added, "This gift allows us to act immediately on our ambitious plan, in particular the restora-

tion of Boland Hall, which has been Georgetown Prep's main building for a century, and Gunlocke Hall, while allowing us to do what Georgetown Preparatory School does best: provide a rigorous and balanced educational experience in the context of a caring, faithful community. On behalf of all of us at Georgetown Prep, I am deeply honored and humbled to accept this momentous gift."

Georgetown Preparatory School, situated on 90 acres in North Bethesda, Maryland, is an independent, Jesuit college-preparatory school for young men in grades nine through 12. The school was founded in 1789 by Archbishop John Carroll, S.J., the first Catholic Bishop of the United States. Georgetown Prep is America's oldest Catholic boarding and day school for young men, and the only Jesuit boarding school in the country.

OPT

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

6701 Muncaster Mill Road
Derwood, MD

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Noted Catholic Musician Hosts a Concert at St. Rose

By Mary Zoccola

Nationally-renowned musician Jesse Manibusan held a concert at St. Rose on November 4.

Manibusan has been bringing the word of God to audiences since the age of nine, when he started play-

the mission of faith." Manibusan encourages audience participation by having the lyrics of his songs on PowerPoint. Often, Manibusan says, people will start singing spontaneously.

Much of the music Manibusan played at his concert came from the Sing of Mary, a collection of songs co-written by Tom Booth and Manibusan. Manibusan describes Booth as an iconic music minister in the Catholic Church. In addition to collaborating with Booth, Manibusan has been a co-composer with St. Rose's Director of Music, Remi Bauer, to create the Mass for Our Lady of Light. The Mass for Our Lady of Light has been published in the United States and Spain. Bauer and Manibusan are both composers for the Oregon Catholic Press in Portland.

Manibusan says that he appreciates the opportunity to collaborate with other musicians. "Collaboration is a real treat," Manibusan said. "Individually, we have our own musical tastes

and personal biases. If we connect with another artist, it takes us out of our own comfort zone and stretches us."

Manibusan hopes to return to the Washington DC area in May 2017, possibly even for another concert at St. Rose. Manibusan attends church in the Archdiocese of San Francisco and has spent most of his life in California.

OPT



St Rose youth enjoy a hayride and bonfire at Butler's Orchard, in Germantown, part of the St. Rose Youth Ministry. Photo by Molly Gradowski



Manibusan entertains the audience at his concert at St. Rose on November 4.

ing at Masses. Now, Manibusan identifies himself as a lay Catholic Evangelizer, through music and storytelling. "A concert is really evangelization and catechesis. What I do is less 'performance' and more 'proclamation of the gospel,'" said Manibusan. "In this way, we do this type of ministry, focuses on how we engage, we empower, in the hope that people will hear and live

Mass of Inclusion and Celebration

Sunday, November 13, St. Rose held a Mass of Inclusion and Celebration, which was designed to have the community live out the Parish's mission that all are welcome. The Mass celebrated the ministry with the St. Rose House and other members of the Parish with special attributes.

OPT



Dedicated St. Rose Volunteers Make Christmas Sales a Success

By Mary Zoccola

Over one thousand Christmas trees and wreaths arrived at St. Rose, on November 28 and 29. All that greenery makes a prime contender for the title of the largest non-commercial tree lot in Montgomery County.

The generosity of St. Rose staff and parishioners keep Christmas tree sales on track. The vast num-



Volunteers at St Rose help unload trees for the annual Christmas Tree sale. Photo by Mary Zoccola



Christmas trees dot the landscape before the start of St. Rose's annual Christmas Tree sale. Photo by Mary Zoccola

St. Rose of Lima
11701 Clopper Road
Gaithersburg, MD

Fr. Agustin Mateo
Pastor
301-948-7545

Mary Zoccola, Parish Editor
mary.zoccola@gmail.com
240-401-0612

ber of the trees requires a bevy of St. Rose volunteers to keep the operation moving smoothly. Christmas tree sales require 1200 hours in

volunteer time to operate. The Christmas Shop requires about 800 hours to operate. Wreath decorating and poinsettia sales take another

1900 hours.

Volunteers are what make the Christmas sales a success. St. Rose gets Fraser Firs from North

Carolina and Douglas Firs from Pennsylvania.

OPT

A Busy Calendar for SAA Seniors

In what has evolved into an annual event, the Saint Andrew's Seniors Group (SAA Seniors) enjoyed a "taste and tour" November 10. On a crisp November day, after a bus ride through the beautiful Maryland countryside, we arrived at Linganore Winecellers in Mount Airy, MD. While nibbling on cheese, crackers and fruit, the group sampled various types of wine made from grapes grown on the property. An informative tour of the winery followed. We then continued to Frederick, MD for lunch at Brewer's Alley in the heart of historic Frederick, MD. Always popular, this year's trip was an early sellout.

Too late for this edition, the Ninth Annual Christmas Luncheon, sponsored by the Seniors Group, was held Monday, December 5 at Leisure World Club House 1. Details will be covered in the January edition.

The SAA Seniors and the Youth Group have joined in an



Mix sunshine, excellent company and good food and the result is a fine afternoon.

intergenerational activity to bring Christmas gift bags to residents of local senior and group homes. Bags have been distributed and may be filled with personal care items, small games, books, puzzles, etc. Bags should be returned to the drop box, located

in the church hallway, no later than December 11.

The first Blessings and Breakfast of the New Year will be January 6, 2017. Join us for Mass at 8:30 and a potluck breakfast and social afterward.

OPT

CRISIS

Con't from page 3

Welcoming families to their new homes. MCIRRN has studied, learned, and been amazed at the 13-step vetting process, taking a minimum of two years to complete, while most of the families endure extremely difficult living conditions in refugee camps as they wait. MCIRRN has identified 13 recently arrived refugee families that its member faith communities will begin to welcome and assist during the period of their transition to their new homes.

For instance, people from St. Rose of Lima, the Islamic Center of Maryland (ICM), and Temple Beth Ami have agreed to work together and be a resource for one of these families, a Syrian family, a couple with eight children. Two sons (ages 18 and 17) and two daughters (ages 13 and 7) are with them. The other four children remain in Syria and other countries.

People from the three faith communities have already made contact with the family. They are in the process of assessing and prioritizing their needs which must be addressed in order for them to be independent and feel at home here as soon as possible.

Other faith communities affiliated with MCIRRN will partner to welcome, get to know, and work with the other 12 families in the same way. In the future other families will possibly be included. Should you or your parish wish to be part of this important initiative to heed the call to welcome the strangers in our midst, contact Bob Cooke at cookrh1251@gmail.com.

To learn more about Church social teaching on migrants and refugees and to put your faith into action, search "USCCB, Catholic Social Teaching on Immigration and the Movement of Peoples." This resource from the American bishops is a good study guide, discussion starter, and guide to action.

OPT

Anthony Bosnick is Director of Social Ministry at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Derwood and a long-time member of the J&A Council of Montgomery County.



Scouts were on hand to do the heavy lifting from car trunk to school hallway November 20. Thanks to generous parishioners more than 300 boxes, filled with everything needed for Thanksgiving dinner, were donated to Catholic Charities for distribution to needy families in the District and Montgomery County.

PROGRAM

Con't from page 23

we will complete the first semester, a 13-week program. In the spring, we will continue with the second semester. The plan is to continue with this pattern for the next two years.

I personally have appreciated the insights, friendships and the guided direc-

tion it has provided. The core team members are grateful to Father Paul Lee, our pastor, for supporting and encouraging its beginnings. I, personally, am very glad that Father Lee gave it the green light. I think this program will help to build the faith community and the families of the parish of St. Jude. I would encourage all parishes to look at this program.

OPT



Students prepare bins for weekly pick-up and delivery to Choice Food Pantry.

Community Service is School Wide

In October, Saint Andrew Apostle School inaugurated a school-wide community service program. Students are making weekly contributions to the McCarrick Family Center Choice Food Pantry. Part of Catholic Charities, the Choice Food Pantry serves anyone in need living in Montgomery County.

To meet dramatically increasing requests for assistance, the school community is committed to weekly support of the Center by collecting staples such as canned beans, soups, and vegetables, as well as cereals, grains and boxed snacks. Each week, volunteer parents transport numerous bins of collected items which are used to help restock the Pantry shelves. In November, students participated in a "Dress

the Turkey" competition. They purchased feathers to "dress" paper turkeys displayed in the school entrance.

The proceeds, over \$600, were used to purchase turkeys and other food items for Thanksgiving meals for the needy. This was in addition to a special two-day collection of nonperishable food specifically for Thanksgiving meals for clients who come to the Pantry seeking assistance. In a separate service event the students collected and donated 298 pairs of socks to Friends of Sarah's House, an emergency and transition housing charity for homeless families. With several additional service projects planned, the school is aware of and responding to the needs of the less fortunate in our area.

OPT

School News and Parish Notes

The Second Annual Family Thanksgiving Event was a huge success. Held Friday evening, November 18, more than three hundred folks enjoyed an early Thanksgiving feast in the All-Purpose Room. Three hundred forty pounds of turkey and forty pounds of chicken nuggets, accompanied by sides of mashed potatoes, yams, stuffing, green beans, corn, cranberry sauce, gravy and rolls, were cooked and served. Place mats, decorated by art class students, and fruit filled cornucopias graced each table. The cherub choir (kindergarten to second grade) sang to a packed house. The festive atmosphere extended to the corridor where tables were filled with assorted items available for purchase: a school sponsored "Southern Living" Bake Sale; Christmas cards, ornaments, and puzzles from the Knights of Columbus; wreaths from the CYO and crafts from parish vendors.

On December 10 at 2:30 pm, Saint Andrew Apostle Children's Choir will sing at a Mass, celebrated by Cardinal Donald Wuerl at the

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, in observance of the Annual Archdiocesan Pilgrimage, "Walk with Mary." All are welcome to attend.

Parishioners will host the Missionaries of Charity Christmas Luncheon, Saturday, December 17. The Sisters and the senior shut-ins they serve will be bussed to Saint Andrew's where they will be treated like royalty with a special lunch and Christmas program. Members from the Confirmation class have been invited to be greeters and servers.

OPT

St. Andrew Apostle Parish

11600 Kemp Mill Road
Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Daniel P. Leary,
Pastor

301-649-3700 ext. 311

St. Andrew Apostle School

Susan M. Sheehan,
Principal

301-649-3555

Winter Coats Needed at High Point HS

This year High Point HS has welcomed over 200 new immigrant students from Central America. Beth Hood, an ESL teacher at High Point, is again asking SJB and St. Camillus parishes to provide new and gently used winter coats (adult size small and medium) for the new arrivals (75% are young men). Blue and black are preferred. Hats and gloves would also be appreciated.

Please drop the clothes off at the Parish Office Center until the middle of January. If you have questions, contact Jim and Arlene McGarrity at 301-774-4379. **OPT**

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



Community Service Opportunities



The Colesville Council of Community Congregations

Toy Distribution Volunteer to help set-up for the toy distribution on Sunday, December 4, 11:30am – 1:00pm, Friday, December 9, 6pm– 8pm, or distribute toys at C-4, Saturday, December 10, 8 am – 2 pm. Contact AlyssaRanko at 301-599-2108 ext 313 (w) or 703-851-5993 (C).

Heads & Hands & Toes!

Looking for a fun and easy way to support the Homeless? Donate new socks and/or warm

caps and gloves for homeless children, women, and men in our area. Warm hats and gloves in cold weather is easy to understand. For people who live on the fringe of society, the socks provide comfort and help ensure foot health. A homeless person getting clothing from a charitable organization may get just about everything—except socks. The ideal pair of socks is simple



Blanket Sunday

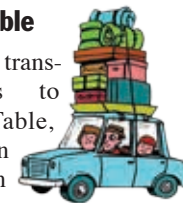
Participate in Blanket Sunday by bringing a warm blanket to Mass during the weekend of



December 10/11. St. John's is the sole contributor of blankets for the homeless at Shepherd's Table. Many times, shelters are so overcrowded that the homeless choose to sleep on the streets. The blankets are their only source of warmth, comfort and protection during the winter months. Donate new or very gently used, clean, blankets, comforters, sleeping bags to help those in greatest need.

Shepherd's Table

Volunteer to transport blankets to Shepherd's Table, 8210 Dixon Ave, located in downtown Silver Spring. Contact Cynthia Norris at 301-622-1122.



Adopt a Family



Adopt a family with children in need for Christmas gifts and dinner. Contact Cynthia Norris at 301-622-1122 no later than Friday, December 16. **OPT**

Holy Redeemer

GRANDPARENTS

Con't from page 19

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

The day began with Mass which included Grandparents, special visitors and all of our students. At the end of Mass Fr. Hughes gave all of the Grandparents a special blessing. Immediately following Mass the grandparents were able to visit with their grandchildren in their classrooms. They really enjoyed meeting the teachers and seeing their grandchildren's classmates. Our very talented parents provided tasty baked goods and light refreshment for our Grandparents during a reception throughout the morning.

The grand finale of our celebration was the school performance. Our new music teacher, Mr. Peter Smith, helped each class prepare a song and dance to various songs. Our Pre-K and Kindergarten started the performance with an adorable "Hello" song and our 5th graders ended our program with the Sound of Music's "So Long, Farewell." Mr. Smith upped the performance this year with his concentrated vocal and choral instruction. Our grandparents were so impressed with the level of talent and the improvement they noted in our student singing and music ability. The day was a big success. Smiles were seen all around! Our grandparents are already marking their calendars so that they can attend this event again next year. **OPT**

GIVING

Con't from page 19

items. The winner will receive an official Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive trophy and the principal of the school who brings in the least amount of food will have to wear the winning school's sweatshirt for a week. Holy Redeemer is never one to shy away from any competition! Even though our school is a bit smaller than Blessed Sacrament, the competitive spirit of our community will prevail. Follow us on Twitter (@HRPrincipal1) or



HR Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive

Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/HRCardinals/>) to find out who won! **OPT**

Culturally diverse parishes are the fastest growing in the U.S.

*Over 6,300 US parishes now serve distinct ethnic and cultural groups
Multicultural and multiethnic communities trend likely to continue*

Culturally diverse parishes are the fastest growing type of parish in the United States, according to a report on Cultural Diversity in Catholic parishes, presented by Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller of San Antonio, chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church. The report was presented during the annual fall General Assembly in Baltimore, November 15.

The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) conducted the two phase study, commissioned by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat on Cultural Diversity. "The Catholic Church in the United States has always been a very diverse entity, but it is the first time that all available data was brought together to map this diversity nationwide in remarkable detail," said Archbishop García-Siller. "It is also the first time that parish life was looked at from the point of view of the experience of diversity. Multicultural parishes are a growing phenomenon in the United States. This is what makes this study so fascinating and ground-breaking."

The first phase identified the populations and parishes in the United States that are known to serve specific racial, ethnic, cultural, and/or linguistic groups communities using a variety of sources. In all, 6,332 (36 percent) of parishes were identified as multicultural or as serving particular groups of Catholics.

The recently concluded second

phase consisted of in-pew surveys in multicultural parishes across the U.S. Over 11,100 adults completed the survey with topics ranging from race, primary language spoken at home, marital status, sacramental life, parishioner attitudes about cultural diversity, parish understanding of different cultures, welcoming of new parishioners, interacting with priests of different cultural backgrounds, staff reflection of cultural diversity of parishioners, tension between different cultural groups, among other topics. To facilitate and encourage participation, the study was translated into 20 languages at the request of the local pastors.

As they relate to the parish experience of diversity for each group, the findings are:

- Widespread majority agreement among all sub-groups that "having people of different cultural backgrounds enriches the parish."
- Few feel like an outsider in their parish. The group most likely to do so are foreign-born Hispanic or Latino parishioners (36% agree).
- Many agree that they have a role in the "decision-making" of their parish. Those most likely to "strongly" disagree with this are Koreans (51%) and Hispanics or Latinos (28%).
- Foreign-born parishioners are more interested than U.S.-born parishioners to believe their parish should be providing pastoral care for refugees and immigrants.

CARA affirms that the study reveals some important trends, and provides the following conclusions:

- The Catholic Church in the United States is one of the most culturally diverse institutions in the country and it will become even more diverse in the future.
 - Parishes, schools and colleges, hospitals, charities, and other ministries need to adapt and prepare for this growing diversity.
 - In the pews, many of those who are most comfortable with growing diversity are those who immigrated to the United States, though African American Catholics are one of the most likely to say they welcome diversity in the parish and that diversity enriches parish life.
 - Those who are descendants of previous waves of immigration from Europe appear to be the least comfortable with diversity and less willing to engage in parish life beyond attending Mass.
- Archbishop Garcia-Siller, asked the bishops to consider how the data speaks to their local realities and how these findings may affect the way local dioceses plan, set priorities and allocate resources for the continuation of the mission of the Church. He reminded them of Pope Francis' call to a pastoral conversion and to put the entire church in a "permanent state of mission."

The report is available at: www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/cultural-diversity/upload/Cultural-Diversity-Summary-Report-October-2016.pdf. **OPT**

Resurrection Reaches Out

Pope Francis has said, "In imitation of our Master, we Christians are called to confront the poverty of our brothers and sisters, to touch it, to make it our own and to take practical steps to alleviate it." Resurrection Parish has been working this season to be a positive force in our surrounding community through acts of charity.

Thanksgiving and Christmas draw to mind tables laden with food and the fifth and sixth grade students from the Religious Education Program with the aid of adults and teachers helped to make that a reality for 130 families in Montgomery County. Food bags donated by the *Creig Northrop Team of Long and Foster Real Estate* were stuffed with traditional holiday items — cans of corn, green beans, cranberry sauce, evaporated milk, gravy, pumpkin, yams, pie filling, along with boxes of mash potatoes and pie crust. The generosity of parishioners who donated these items and the efforts of the volunteers filled a lot of empty plates and happy bellies!

On the Tuesday, November 22, Church

of the Resurrection hosted the annual C-4 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Resurrection parishioners have long been active volunteers for the Colesville Council of Community Congregations, working together with other faiths to be of service to the community. Since its founding in the 1960s, the Council, better known as C-4, has been reaching out to help thousands of individuals and families in need.

This collaboration of nineteen churches, one synagogue, and one mosque has been providing free clothes, baby furniture, school supplies and holiday gifts as well as advocating for other community projects such as Shepherd's Table, the creation of Martin Luther King swim/park and local bike paths, EMEAN (Eastern Montgomery Emergency Assistance Network), and Great Hope Homes which provided low and moderate income housing. The service, followed by a reception hosted by the Knights of Columbus #9808, was a chance to recognize and give thanks for the many volunteers and for those who donate to C-4's efforts.

OPT



Resurrection Religious Education Program fifth and sixth graders offering cornucopia for Thanksgiving tables in Montgomery County



Flags celebrate the diversity of our Catholic Community at Resurrection.

Taste of Resurrection 2016

Taste of Resurrection has been a celebration of the food and culture of the members that make up our parish community for almost twenty years. A mirror of Montgomery County, Resurrection Parish is home to people from all over the world and the evening's thirty dish selections reflected this rich diversity.

When parishioners entered the Amadeo room in the Keffer Parish Life Center they were greeted by feasts for the nose and the eyes! There was the aroma of exotic spices and herbs, meats and vegetables and the colors of balloons, festive lights and the flags of many nations. Some members of the parish wore traditional clothes of their culture. Pastor of Resurrection, Father Jeff

Defayette offered prayers of thanksgiving as one hundred and twenty forks hovered over plates of delicacies and delights!

Two weeks before, buffet pans are handed out after Mass and recipe books and grandmothers are consulted as preparations are made for the evening. Young people from the parish, Faith Dallo, Lauren and Audrey Blow, Jazmin Tadmire, Shaznay and Mary Jade Kalou, Abraham and Laura Ndour and adult parishioners, Cindi and Rich Holgash, MaryAnn and Gary Katski, Stephanie and Tim Kelchner, Tom and Jane Aylward,

Ginger and John Kessler, Wanda Page, Nancy Shrider, Dionne and Anthony Estime, Carol Black, Angeline Bandon-Bibum, and Tom and Sharon Sobotka contributed to this year's gastronomic success by volunteering to decorate, meet and greet, serve beverages and clean up after the evening's final desserts were enjoyed.

Plans are being made for next year's Taste of Resurrection to include pleasures for the ear as well — the inclusion of traditional music! Bon apeti, An ngon nhé, Itumelele dijo, Tayo'y magsikain, Buon appetito!

OPT



Taste of Resurrection celebrates the heritage of the parishioners of Church of the Resurrection with Agape feast!

Bravo and congratulations to our youth! Fr Jeff Defayette, Pastor, and Mrs. Helene Stever, Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry, accepted a first-place Recognition Award for the "Summer in the City" Food Drive from the John S. Muholland Family Foundation Gala Dinner Fundraiser on behalf of the 75 middle-school and high-school youth of Church of the Resurrection. Through the efforts of the youth and the generosity of the parish community, they collected over 17,000 items of food which benefited inner city parishes in Washington, DC. Special thanks and gratitude to the parish 2016 Summer Service Work Camp Coordinator, Mrs. Cat Halpin, who organized the food drive!



Confirmation Candidates Visit Riderwood Residents

Young and old alike had a wonderful day when the Candidates of Confirmation class 2017 hosted an afternoon gathering.

Each Confirmation candidate brought food to share and everyone gathered together to enjoy a main course provided by the parish. To the delight of the Riderwood residents, door prizes were given out including Fr. Jeff Defayette's famed homemade breads and cakes. Many of the residents had never been in the church or the Rev. Robert F. Keffer Parish Life Center on Old Columbia Pike and



Young people sharing food and laughs with Riderwood residents — and growing in wisdom and understanding.

ering at the parish with residents from Riderwood Village Retirement Community. The Catholic residents there represent nearly one-third of the total Riderwood community and Church of the Resurrection Parish ministers to their spiritual well-

Greencastle Road so the students gave them tours. A Mass was then celebrated by Fr. Jeff, Resurrection's Pastor and everyone departed making plans for the next chance to visit together in the late spring.

OPT

Church of the Resurrection Parish
3315 Greencastle Road
Burtonsville, MD

Fr. Jeffery Defayette
Pastor
301-236-5200

Amy Horn,
Parish Editor
afhorn@aol.com

Day of Prayer and Solidarity with Families of Immigrants

December 12, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

A Day of Prayer with a focus on the plight of refugees and migrants will take place across the United States on December 12, 2016, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It will be a time to place before a merciful God the hopes, fears, and needs of all those families who have come to the U.S. seeking a better life.

"As Christmas approaches and especially on this feast of Our Lady, we are reminded of how our savior Jesus Christ was not born in the comfort of his own home, but rather in an unfamiliar manger," said Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, archbishop of Galveston-Houston and president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). "To all those families separated and far from home in uncertain times, we join with you



in a prayer for comfort and joy this Advent season," Cardinal DiNardo added.

Prayer services and special Masses will be held in many dioceses across the country as the Catholic Church continues to accompany

migrants and refugees seeking an opportunity to provide for their families. If you are unable to attend or there is not one near you, Catholics are invited to offer prayers wherever they may be. For example, the United States Conference of

Catholic Bishops' office of Migrant and Refugee Services (MRS) has also developed a Scriptural Rosary entitled "Unity in Diversity" that includes prayers for migrants and refugees at www.justiceforimmigrants.org/documents/Scriptural-Rosary-Eng.pdf.

"So many families are wondering how changes to immigration policy might impact them," said Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, vice-president of the USCCB. "We want them to know the Church is with them, offers prayers on their behalf, and is actively monitoring developments at the diocesan, state, and national levels to be an effective advocate on their behalf."

In 2003, the bishops of the United States and Mexico issued a joint pastoral letter, **Strangers No Longer:**

Together on the Journey of Hope, which presented a Catholic framework for responding to the ongoing migration phenomenon in their respective countries. In doing so, the bishops offered pastoral guidance to Catholics who encounter and engage migrants living and working in their communities. The letter also suggested systematic reforms to U.S. immigration policy and presented an alternative to the existing immigration policy paradigm. "We call on the local church to help newcomers integrate in ways that are respectful, that celebrate their cultures, and that are responsive to their social needs, leading to a mutual enrichment of the local church." (Strangers No Longer, no. 42)

OPT

ENZLER

Con't from page 1

to mind for many, but the need is increasing.

As I look at I Church, I can't help but notice we are an aging population. I am concerned that millennials and younger adults do not attend Mass as often and that the parish is not the focus it once was when I was growing up or in my earlier days as a pastor. I hope that as young people start to have their own families, they will re-center the parish in their family life. That being said, how lucky we are to have so many strongly committed and wonderful seniors who continue to inspire us by their presence, their hard-earned life experiences and the practice of their faith.

But coming hand-in-hand with an aging population is the scourge of loneliness. When I visit people in nursing homes, I am increasingly concerned about the number of people who are by themselves. I see it in assisted living facilities and senior apartments as well. For many, once they need to leave their home, they sadly end up leaving much more of their life than independence and belongings.

I am sad to report I see plenty of homeless seniors in our programs in Montgomery County and at our free meals throughout the archdiocese. Of course, it makes perfect sense that age would not be a barrier to the horrible effects of poverty, but it does little to lessen the tragedy of witnessing an elder of our community endure homelessness. I am proud that Catholic Charities provides thousands of meals to home-

bound seniors to help them stave off hunger, as well as work to identify housing for homeless seniors as an especially vulnerable population in the shelter system. But the urgency must be there for all of us.

This holiday season if you have parents or grandparents who are aging, be sure you make time for them with visits, phone calls and meaningful focus. And if you can, consider adding a "ministry of presence" through visits to a local retirement community. It is not a huge commitment, and I can assure you it will be worth it for you and the seniors you get to know.

If you need guidance on where to visit, Victory Housing (VictoryHousing.org) has multiple assisted and independent living facilities in Montgomery County operated with a Catholic focus, and there are many other nursing homes

and apartments throughout the area. If you're not sure of a good place to go, check with your parish priest. I know priests would love to have families step forward and say they would like to visit seniors.

If you have kids to bring, all the better. They can be such instruments of joy and love and an easy conversation ice breaker. I also know how much holiday treats are appreciated, so you may consider bringing Christmas cookies or candy to enjoy as you talk for a few minutes.

Of course, call ahead wherever you decide to visit and find out the best way to work with an assisted living facility. Most facilities have a staff member who handles guests and entertainment and would love to help provide some guidance or direct your efforts where they are most needed.

Mother Teresa said, "The most

terrible poverty is loneliness and the feeling of being unloved." I would submit that it's also the easiest for us as members of the Church family to fix. It's simply a matter of us making the effort.

This is a season of visits. The angel visited Mary to tell her she would give birth to the Son of God. Mary visited Elizabeth to help her older cousin who was pregnant with John the Baptist. The wise men and shepherds traveled to visit Jesus at his birth. I'm sure you will both visit and be visited by family and friends this holiday season. Can you find it in your heart to add a few more visits to seniors who may otherwise not have company? You will meet Jesus in them, they will meet Jesus in you, and you may well be an answer to a prayer.

OPT

Cardinal Dolan Calls for Renewed Fight against Doctor-Assisted Suicide

DC law the most dangerous so far

The Washington DC City Council and the voters of Colorado both recently acted to legalize doctor-prescribed suicide. Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York, chair of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, called for increased efforts to fight against assisted suicide, saying it must be "opposed with renewed vigor." Following are excerpts from Cardinal Dolan's statement.

Seven jurisdictions in the United States have now opened the legal door to this dangerous abuse of medicine, an alarming trend that must be stopped for the sake of human dignity and the sacredness of life.

In Colorado, Proposition 106 legalized the ability of a doctor to write prescriptions for the sole pur-

pose of killing another human being, and the ability of insurance companies to refuse treatment of patients they consider terminal. The DC law is the most expansive and dangerous so far. It goes beyond assisted suicide by allowing third parties to administer the lethal drugs opening the door even further to coercion and abuse.

Every suicide is tragic, whether someone is young or old, healthy or sick. But the legalization of doctor-assisted suicide creates two classes of people: those whose suicides are to be prevented at any cost, and those whose suicides are deemed a positive good. We remove weapons and drugs that can cause harm to one group, while handing deadly drugs to the other, setting up yet another kind of life-threatening discrimination. This is completely unjust. Our inherent human dignity does not wane with the onset of illness or incapacity, and so all are worthy of protection.

The act of prescribing a fatal, poi-

sonous dose, moreover, undermines the very heart of medicine. Doctors vow to do no harm, and yet assisted suicide is the ultimate abandonment of their patients.

What seriously ill – and often depressed – patients need is authentic support, including doctors fully committed to their welfare and pain management as they enter their final days. Patients need our assurance that they are not a burden – that it is a privilege to care for them as we ourselves hope to be cared for one day. A compassionate society devotes more attention, not less, to members facing the most vulnerable times in their lives.

So doctor-assisted suicide must now be opposed with renewed vigor. Catholics must join medical professionals, disability rights groups, and other concerned citizens in fighting for the authentic care of those facing terminal illness.

OPT



How Money Is Raised For Needy Students

The CBN-MC Gala's Needy Student Scholarship Fund auction is dependent on gala attendees giving cash at levels they can spare. Rob Smith of Fitzgerald Auto Malls, CBN-MC's auctioneer, is shown here with Sue Palka, CBN-MC's long-serving Emcee, and a parent of two children in Catholic schools in the County. Rob offers dinner attendees the opportunity to contribute to the needy Student Auction Fund in steps starting at a \$5,000 donation level down to \$50 level. Over 100 Gala attendees made donations to this fund-auction in 2016.

OPT

Long-Term Volunteers are Essential at SFIS

Every morning, a mass of volunteers descends on Saint Francis International School. Working cheerfully in a myriad of classrooms throughout the Pre-K through 8th grade school, it can be difficult to distinguish staff members from volunteers.

On any given day, Franciscan Volunteer Ministers, affectionately referred to as “the FVMs”, may be found tutoring children after school, reading to elementary school students in the library, and conversing with middle schoolers over lunch. Students from the Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School Work Study program dart between the school’s offices delivering messages, organizing papers, setting up assemblies, and decorating bulletin boards. Capuchin Corps volunteers play jump rope with second graders on the playground during recess,



A Franciscan Volunteer Minister reads with a student at SFIS.

greet Pre-K parents dropping off and picking up children, and tutor middle schoolers in math one on one. Franciscan Postulants help fifth graders pack their backpacks during afternoon homeroom, edit eighth graders’ high school application essays, and substitute for

absent teachers. On special days, parents of Saint Francis students help children get ready for presentations, supervise class parties, and attend field trips.

Don Bosco High School sophomore volunteer Veronica finds the time she spends at Saint Francis

very meaningful, “It feels good to know that I’m able to help out kids in the classroom, and knowing that the kids and teachers can benefit from me volunteering here.”

Assistant Principal Adam Kampia strongly affirms the importance of volunteers for the day to day operations of the school. A core part of Mr. Kampia’s work is organizing and supervising the many long-term and day-to-day volunteers at Saint Francis. The FVMs, Cap Corps volunteers, Don Bosco Cristo Rey student workers, and Franciscan Postulants are unique because they are at Saint Francis nearly every week, and some even work every day, throughout the school year and they have the opportunity to build up strong relationships with students and teachers.

Principal Tobias Harkleroad feels

that the volunteers help the school live out its Franciscan mission because St. Francis himself gathered many different types of followers who all worked together towards a common aim. The Franciscan family of religious orders shows that the Franciscan mission can just as easily be carried out in a cloistered monastery of Poor Clare nuns as in a soup kitchen run by Secular Franciscan laypeople. The vision of St. Francis is that many people in different ministries and lifestyles come together to make Jesus’ love known in the world!

Volunteers are always welcome at Saint Francis International School. The school is currently searching for more volunteer substitute teachers. If you wish to get involved at St. Francis, either as a substitute or in another capacity, please contact Adam Kampia, Assistant Principal for Student Life at akampia@sfismd.org

OPT

Giving Thanks is at the Heart of Everything at SFIS

In early November, Msgr. John Macfarlane, the Interim Secretary of Education for the Archdiocese of Washington, celebrated the weekly mass at Saint Francis International School and he reminded the students that the Eucharist, the very heart of our Catholic communities, means to give thanks. As Msgr. Macfarlane asked the students which families speak other languages at home, hundreds of students raised their hands to share how the word “thanks” sounds in the families’ languages. There was *merci* and *gracias*, but students also shared how to say thanks in the Ethiopian language Amharic and the South Asian language Bangla among others.

Throughout November, the idea that living our thanks through actions, like the holy men and women that were celebrated on All Saints Day, has been a major focus. Students have been challenged to live mercy in their actions and to go beyond just being good and nice in their families and classrooms, but to think about those in need in the larger community. This year the annual Thanksgiving food collection at SFIS brought in over 1,500 items that were shared with the food pantry at St. Mark the Evangelist parish in Hyattsville as well as at the food pantries operated by St. Camillus parish.

The whole spirit of giving thanks was brought together and celebrated on one special day. On Tuesday, Nov. 22, the entire day was spent celebrating and giving God thanks for all of the



In November SFIS students gave thanks for the ministry of school co-founder Fr. Mike Johnson who is moving on to a new Franciscan ministry in Massachusetts after nearly 16 years at St. Camillus Church.



Members of the Student Council and confirmation class at SFIS prep plates to serve their youngest schoolmates.



Pre-K students are all decked out to enjoy Thanksgiving at SFIS.

blessings we have received as well as those we provide for others. Hundreds of grandparents and elders from students’ families and communities joined the students of SFIS for a special prayer service and assembly where students recited poems, sang, and even danced to demonstrate the meaning of giving thanks and the Thanksgiving holiday. After the prayer and assembly, the elders joined the entire SFIS community for the annual Thanksgiving Feast. Parents and teachers worked hard in the weeks leading up to prepare a delicious meal and student leaders and parent volunteers worked throughout the feast to serve the meal for the community. Every student from 3 years old to eighth grade, every volunteer and staff member, and hundreds of grandparents and elders had the opportunity to share time together at the table and to feel God’s love and presence while giving God thanks!

Even after the Thanksgiving break started, eighth-grade students continued giving thanks by giving of themselves by volunteering at the annual Trot for Hunger sponsored by So Others Might Eat in DC.

St. Francis International School

www.saintfrancisinternational.org

Tobias A. Harkleroad,
Principal

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Silver Spring, MD 20903

St. Mark Campus
7501 Adelphi Road
Hyattsville, MD 20783

OPT

St. Bartholomew

St. Bart's Blessed with Beautiful, Bountiful Bees!

Over the past few years, St. Bartholomew Parish has supported active bee hives, which have blessed the parish with a natural curiosity as well as supply of honey. The western honey bee or European honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) is the most common of the 40 species of honey bee worldwide. The genus name *Apis* is Latin for "bee." Dr. Randy and Kameha Bell, parishioners and local beekeepers, donated the hives to St. Bart's.



St. Bart's hive stands close to the rectory. Fr. Mark Knestout, Pastor of St. Bart's told OPT, "The hives have been a blessing for St. Bart's." Father Knestout advised that a previous attempt to establish a hive failed when the hive suffered "hive collapse," but that last summer 50 pounds of honey was collected. Fr. Knestout reports that he has never been stung. The bees' labor came to fruition at Thanksgiving, when the Parish was able to supply small bottles of honey to Mass attendees.

OPT

St. Patrick



Sending Hope with Soap

Third grade students in Katy Hilley's class at St. Patrick's School conducted a toiletry drive during the month of October to benefit Life Connection Mission in Montrouis, Haiti. Toiletry items are always in great need, but especially following the devastation of the recent Hurricane Matthew. More than 500 pounds of items were collected including soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, and hand sanitizer. The toiletry items were shipped so they would arrive for Christmas distribution. Third graders kicked off their drive with a skit performed in front of the entire student body and hung posters in all classrooms. Third grade students were happy to surpass their goal of 500 pounds and help the people of Haiti. Alex Guarini thanked his fellow students for their generosity, "All the St. Patrick's students did a great job in getting toiletries for Haiti." Joe Fangmeyer enjoyed being in the skit at school to kick-off the campaign, "It was fun because we got to hold Haiti flags and wear Haitian bracelets." Pictured are 3rd grade students with some of their collections.

Annual Advent Wreath Workshop Kicks Off Christmas Season

On Sunday, November 27, St. Bartholomew Parish held its annual Advent Wreath workshop in the Parish Hall. The workshop provided an opportunity for parishioners to make a beautiful evergreen advent wreath for their homes and to provide a focal point for families' spiritual preparations for Christmas.

The wreaths were blessed by Fr. Tim Daniel. Fr. Daniel told OPT: "I was happy to bless the wreaths, which are a traditional way of marking the weeks of Advent and looking forward to Christ at Bethlehem, in our souls, and at His second coming. It's important to retain customs like this as we are body-soul beings in need visible and tangible signs of what we believe."

OPT



St. Bart's Sponsors Popular Fall Lecture Triad

This Fall, St. Bartholomew Parish sponsored a well-attended, three-part lecture series, addressing current theological and historical topics. First, on Thursday, October 6, Knight of Columbus, John Vivian, PGK, lectured on "Christians at Risk in the Middle East, as the World Remains Silent." Mr. Vivian addressed alarming problems faced by Catholics and other Christians in the Middle East, exacerbated by ongoing conflict in that area of the world.

On Tuesday, October 18, Dr. John Haight, Distinguished Research Professor at Georgetown University, presented a lecture on "Science, Theology and Pope Francis's Ecological Vision." Dr. Haight has authored numerous articles and reviews and also lectures internationally on many issues related to science and religion. He proposed that "unless we feel that we truly belong to the natural world, as Pope Francis points out, we will lack sufficient incentive to take care of it as our home." He stated that there is now a broken connection between humans and



Dr. Stefan Megyery presents a two-part lecture on "Martin Luther and the Church."

nature.

Finally, on November 5 and 12, Dr. Stefan Megyery, formerly at St. Bart's, presented a two-part lecture on "Martin Luther and the Church." The lecture

provoked a lively discussion among the audience regarding Catholic teachings in comparison to related Protestant teachings, especially during the Reformation.

OPT

St. Bart's Celebrates New Sanctuary and Crucifix

Parishioners filled St. Bartholomew Church for the vigil Mass on Saturday, November 26 at 5.00 p.m. when Assistant Bishop Barry C. Knestout joined the parish in celebrating St. Bart's new sanctuary and crucifix. After about a year of small projects, with the assistance of Liturgical Designers Gardiner & Hall, including redesigning the floor and sanctuary steps, painting, adding symbols of the archdiocese and the parish patron, a new custom designed carpet for the altar area

as well as a newly carved crucifix from Austria, St. Bartholomew celebrated a Saturday Vigil Mass and blessing with Bishop Knestout.

The dozen or so donors were present to enjoy the moment with their pastor, Fr. Mark Knestout, the bishop's younger brother. Fr. Knestout was so pleased that so many were able to attend the Mass to offer Thanksgiving to the Lord for a beautiful and newly decorated sanctuary and he was delighted to host his brother. It was a wonderful way to begin Advent.

OPT



Bishop Barry Knestout celebrates Mass at St. Bartholomew Parish with St. Bart's new Sanctuary and Crucifix in the background.

Our Lady of Lourdes

Lourdes Students on the Run!

This fall, our students in grades 3-8 have chosen to add to their already busy sports schedules with a little extra conditioning. On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, you can see and hear Mr. Long and a crew of middle schoolers running up and down Pearl Street or on the nearby Capital Crescent Trail, or down in the cafeteria doing strength work. What began as a way for the older students to get in shape for high school sports has turned into a fantastic and fun chance for all of our middle schoolers to stay active, year-round. The students often start and finish their workouts before the sun is up, and all are welcome as long as they give their best effort.

In the lower grades, we have had a fall season of *Lourdes on the Run* on Monday afternoons. Led by Ms. Jakovics, Ms. Skelly, Ms. McGann, Ms. Green, and Mrs. Imwalle, girls in grades 3-5 are increasing their distance and working on pacing to build endurance. All of the girls involved have worked their way up to running three miles without stop-



Girls and teachers of Lourdes On The Run

ping, and we couldn't be prouder of their hard work and perseverance. We will miss our Lourdes on the Run practices during the cold winter months, and are excited to

start training again in the spring for two races: for our annual 5k, the Lions' Roar, on April 29, and the Race4Respect in Washington, DC, on June 3.

OPT

FAITH

Con't from page 10

He certainly brightens up the room when he is in it.

Since I arrived at Lourdes I feel I have grown in my faith more than before. Monsignor Filardi, with his occasional lessons in the classroom, has helped build a solid foundation in my belief in Jesus Christ. His homilies on Sundays and during the school Masses are inspiring and wonderful. He is funny, generous

and gentle. He and other priests at Lourdes – Monsignor Beattie and Father Diaz – are great, holy men of the Church.

Mr. Long is certainly a generous and funny man. When taking us on surprise trips, giving us ice cream or popsicles, tag days and no homework, as well as telling us unbelievable (but entertaining) stories, he is a great teacher in all subjects! The one thing I like best about Mr. Long is his inspiring and educational talks. One day I went home and told my parents that Mr.

Long had given me the best history lesson of my life. In those two classes he talked about Ancient Rome, modern day politics and pop culture. It was so inspiring! Mr. Long is a man of strong faith and, sometimes I think, underestimated. Mr. Long is a wonderful part of Our Lady of Lourdes School.

These teachers have helped me to become the best version of myself in my education, my faith and my behavior.

OPT

Joy and Happiness

Monsignor Edward Filardi, Pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Bethesda, gestures as he speaks on "Joy and Happiness" November 15, 2016, to friends and members of OLOL's Ladies of Lourdes which meets once a month at the Library/Media Room of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School. Photo by Angelyn Tugado-Marzan



BIRTHDAY

Con't from page 22

Françoise in Paris (Linguistic studies), and Georgetown University in Washington DC (Master of Arts). After immigrating to the United States from communist-ruled Poland, Mrs. Wolanczyk worked as a freelance sports editor for Voice of America (VOA) in Washington DC. VOA was the American radio station that people in communist-ruled Poland wanted to hear because it provided real world news, instead of the Soviet propaganda.

For more than 30 years she was a teacher at the Foreign Service Institute in Washington DC. She

taught Polish language and culture to American diplomats and prepared them for their postings in Poland. She gave lessons in Polish language to, among others, the US Postmaster General and several American consuls before their departure for Poland. She helped them write their speeches in Polish, also. One of her students, former American consul in Krakow Mr. David Summers, came to celebrate Krysia's birthday. He still remembers Krysia's unforgettable lessons in Polish culture and ethnic customs. They continue to be in contact today as friends.

Doctor Lucas Kulczycki, professor emeritus of pediatrics at Georgetown University, who

belongs to our Parish and is now our super-senior at 105-plus years young, also attended the birthday celebration.

Knowing that Krystyna likes Polish music and poetry, the Polish Drama Club presented a program in her honor which featured Warsaw Uprising songs, pop-music hits, and poems from her younger years in Poland. Selected facts from her life were also presented to the audience. Flowers and birthday wishes were accompanied by energetic singing of "Sto Lat" to our Jubilarian. The artistic aspects of the celebration were prepared and acted by members of the Polish Drama Club, a non-profit organization.

OPT

ANGELS

Con't from page 18

ties, with a traditional holiday meal. In addition, nursery school students filled baskets with fruit before the church altar. These donations were offered to Stepping Stones Shelter, which supports homeless families with children in their transition to a stable home environment. Taking the time to thank God, spend time together, and share with others prepared our hearts for the beginning of the Advent season and the coming of our Savior.

In Due Time

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

- Dec. 13: Mother Teresa Luncheon provides a warm welcome and a hot meal to homeless guests from Washington, D.C., shelters.
- Jan. 9: SRS and SRNS Double Open House invites interested parents to tour our campus and learn more about our preschool and K-8 school.
- Jan. 13: SRNS registration for 2017-2018 opens.
- Jan. 29-Feb. 3: Catholic Schools Week celebrates the value of Catholic education and honors all who make it possible. New and gently used winter coats will be collected during the prior week for the Archdiocese of Washington Coats of Many Colors Drive. Your donations will be greatly appreciated!

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The 2016 Annual CBN-MC Foundation Gala Celebrates raising \$100,000 for:

- 2016 High School scholarships to Parish School rising eighth graders
- 2016 Need-Based Parish School 1-year Scholarships @ about \$5000 each;
- 2016 Development Grants to assist Catholic Schools for as-needed projects.

John Treseler CBN-MC 2016 Catholic Business Person of the Year

Michael Ridgway (right) with 2016 Catholic Business Person of the Year John Treseler. John is Executive VP, John C. Grimberg Co., Inc., Contractors-Engineers, serves clients in Mid-Atlantic area. As a St. Mary's parishioner, he has done almost everything: Building Committee, Finance Council, Strategic Planning, Capital Campaign, Auction, Principal Selection, Marriage Preparation Sponsor, CCD teacher and CYO Coach, for all of which he received the Archdiocese "Medal of Merit for Faithful Service." He also has been active with Gonzaga College High School, Georgetown Visitation. His service on the CBN-MC Board has seen him create "Need Based Scholarship" program. He has won the CBN_MC "trifecta:" the CBN-MC Business Partner Award, the Paul G. Zurkowski Founders Award and now the 2016 CBN-MC Catholic Business Person of the Year Award. John and his wife of 28 years, Peggy, have four children, John, Patrick, Christine Cloran and Maura Celine.



See page two for professional bio and family photograph of Michael Ridgway, CBN-MC's 2016 Community Leader of the Year.

2016 School Business Partner of Year Eddie Velasquez and his "Fun Kids Jump" Wins!



Sue Palka, Emcee, Channel 5 Weather Person, presents Our Lady of Lourdes nominee Eddie Velasquez the 2016 School Business Partner of the Year award. He delivers to Our Lady of Lourdes school his "Fun Kids Jump" services such as water slides, moon bounces, cotton candy machines, popcorn machines and more ... "whatever it takes to make our events special for our children."

2016 Needy Student Scholarship Auction Bud & Maureen Giblen Liberate the 'Treseler Select' Wine Basket

The 2016 Needy Student Scholarship Auction included a new feature of a huge basket of "Treseler Choice Select Wines" donated by Mr. Treseler. John loves wine. He shares this love with CBN-MC members by donating a "select" bottle for a drawing at CBN-MC monthly Second Friday Breakfast meetings. It all goes to help raise \$70,000 or more to fund scholarships to help families in need keep students in Catholic school.



CBN-MC Founders Award

Msgr. John F. MacFarlane Receives 2016 Paul G. Zurkowski CBN-MC Founders Award

Since 2009 CBN-MC was relied on Fr. Mac's active involvement and guidance as its spiritual advisor and chaplain. Gratitude and appreciation is reflected in awarding Father MacFarlane the 2016 Paul G. Zurkowski Founders Award for his creativity and leadership skills he has provided CBN-MC. Those same pastor-like skills have been honed over 50 years in the priesthood specifically at St. Elizabeth Parish for 24 years and before that for 12 years as the founding Pastor at Resurrection Parish.



2016 Schools Volunteer of the Year Steve Szot, Technology inspired Volunteer



CBN-MC President Lance Ford presents St. Peter's School nominee Steve Szot the 2016 School Volunteer of the Year. For St. Peter's School facing problems in integrating technology into the curriculum, Steve Szot is their "go to" man. He can be found almost any day in the Technology Committee, the School Advisory Board, tirelessly building the school's new website, or doing the work of a CYO basketball commissioner giving his all for St. Peter's school.



Who ran the Gala! Gala Organizer Stars

The Committee that created and ran the 2016 Gala also produced this Gala Night tribute to those who made sure it came home a winner. They are (l-r): Chair Lance Ford, 2016 CBN-MC President, Palm Facility Services and, Co-Chair Barbara Murphy Kromer, Past President 2015, Snyder Cohn, PC; Co-Chair Anita Segreti, President Elect 2017, Anita Segreti Insurance, and Julie Beavers, CBN-MC Administrator. For CBN-MC, its "Wheels-Up" for 2017!

Photos by Fredde Lieberman, 240-274-2824

CBN-MC Gala story by Paul G. Zurkowski, CBN-MC Founder, 301-595-5562