



Parish Times

Senior Resource Guide
Pull-Out Section S1-S16

DECEMBER 2017

Living the Faith Together

FREE



Msgr. Ralph Kuehner

Msgr. Ralph Kuehner remembered for His Kindness, Advocacy for the Poor

By Melissa Egan

On Oct. 16, brother clergy, family, and admirers of Msgr. Ralph Kuehner bade farewell to the 93-year-old priest who helped establish charities serving the poor and homeless in the Washington DC area and advocated for the vulnerable before politicians and parishioners, alike. But, though

Continued on page 14



On the plaza in front of the Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary in Fatima, Portugal, the group from St. Mary's in Barnesville. Kneeling in front, Fr. Kevin O'Reilly. (L-R) front row: Kathleen Opincar, William Gordon, Darlene Baldwin, Meredith Hooley, Robin Dunnigan, Allison Cox Audrey Houser, Ann McManus Rice, Deborah Spencer, Joan Bentz, Paula Sayers, Kristine Kingery, Liz Smith; back row: Richard Opincar, Deacon Dave Cahoon, Robert Wojciechowski, Thomas Mahoney, Andrew Opincar, Msgr. Jack Macfarlane, Francis Mackie, John Houser, Madeleine Wojciechowski, Joe Murtha, Susan Ferrara, Brenda Murtha, David Lawrence, James Bowie, Michael Doherty, Bonnie Bowie.

Trip to Fatima caps year-long celebration of 100th Anniversary

St Mary's in Barnesville is the designated Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima for the Archdiocese, so the past year has been filled with events celebrating the visits of

Our Lady over a span of 6 months 100 years ago. In October, Father Kevin O'Reilly led a group of 33 pilgrims to the actual sites of the apparitions in Fatima, Portugal.

Arrangements were made through Catholic Travel of California.

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Celebrating Our Leaders Who Make Jesus Present

I was blessed to attend the Catholic Business Network's (CBN) annual gala in mid-November at the Bethesda North Marriott Conference Center. At this time of year when we try to be more thankful and better share our gifts with others, it was a great opportunity to spend some time with friends who exemplify both of those goals.



Fr. Enzler

More than 500 people from all over Montgomery County attended the gala, representing various businesses. It was clear once again how strongly these business leaders believe in the value of a Catholic education. We heard of the many gifts given to our schools and partnerships formed with our schools, and I was moved by the tremendous support of the business community in ensuring that our young people have access to high quality education. I was thankful that Paul Zurkowski founded the Catholic Business

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Birthe Lejeune Visits Visitation

By Brittany Yevoli,
Visitation '17

The Jerome Lejeune Foundation was created in honor of Professor Jerome Lejeune, the French geneticist who in 1958 discovered the extra chromosome, Trisomy 21, in Down syndrome patients. His remarkable discovery and ground-breaking work in genetics lead



to the identification of Down syndrome early on in pregnancies. Unfortunately, this led to many abortions. Dr. Lejeune, being Catholic, was heartbroken that his discovery was utilized to end life. He devoted the rest of his career defending the life of Down syn-

Continued on page 14

Mme. Birthe Lejeune with
Brittany Yevoli

Four Different Faiths' Viewpoints of "Law and Love"

Presented at B'nai Israel Synagogue

St. Elizabeth's pastor Monsignor Bill Parent was part of an interfaith symposium hosted by B'nai Israel Synagogue, located on Montrose Road just east of St. Elizabeth, running six Tuesday evenings

between October 24 and December 5. The event is called 'Encountering the Other: A Symposium of Law and Love - A Jewish View of Law and Love.' The event discussed topics such as: So what is the significance of law in the different Abrahamic

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Perfect Gifts

Wishing you a blessed Advent and Merry Christmas! As we think of gifts for family and friends, here's a Christmas giving reflection. The most familiar Christmas image is the Holy Family gathered at the birth of Jesus. Among the inspirations this heartwarming image suggests, is that of the perfect gift seen in each member of the Holy Family. Their gifts are the gift of themselves. Mary, in saying yes to the Holy Spirit's call to become the mother of the Savior, gave herself completely to God and her son. St Joseph gave the gift of himself by his faith in God and love for Mary and Jesus. And, through Jesus, God gave himself by revealing the Gospels and sacrificing His Son for our salvation. Sorry to raise the shopping bar, as if finding the perfect gift is not already hard enough!

To help us in our search, let's reflect on five local individuals who have given the enduring gifts of themselves in service and love to others. Three, who went to God recently, I consider "street saints" and too hard at work



Chuck Short

Continued on page 20

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Archdiocese of Washington Challenges Metro System's Advertising Guidelines

The Archdiocese of Washington filed a legal action in federal court on Nov. 28 challenging the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WMATA) advertising guidelines and sought injunctive relief after WMATA rejected the advertisement (above) promoting the archdiocese's annual "Find the Perfect Gift" initiative.

"The rejected ad conveys a simple message of hope, and an invitation to participate in the Christmas season. Yet citing its guidelines, WMATA's legal counsel said the ad 'depicts a religious scene and thus seeks to promote religion,'" said Ed McFadden, Secretary for Communications for the Archdiocese of Washington. "To borrow from a favorite Christmas story, under WMATA's guidelines, if the ads are about packages, boxes or bags ... if Christmas comes from

a store ... then it seems WMATA approves. But if Christmas means a little bit more, WMATA plays Grinch."

"We believe rejection of this ad to be a clear violation of fundamental free speech and a limitation on the exercise of our faith," said Kim Fiorentino, the Archdiocese of Washington's Chancellor and General Counsel. "We look forward to presenting our case to affirm the right of all to express such viewpoints in the public square."

"As the papers filed in Court today make clear, WMATA's rejection of the Archdiocese's speech amounts to a violation of the First Amendment, plain and simple. We are bringing this complaint to vindicate the basic principle that the government may not allow a wide variety of speech in a forum and then turn around and deny the

Archdiocese access because of the religious nature of its speech," said Paul Clement of Kirkland & Ellis LLP, who is serving as counsel to the Archdiocese in this case.

"Our ad was designed to be placed on metro bus exteriors to reach the broadest audience and to invite everyone to experience the well-accepted joyful spirit of the season, or to share their many blessings with others less fortunate through service opportunities. The Archdiocese wishes to encourage our society to help feed, clothe, and care for our most vulnerable neighbors, and to share our blessings, and welcome all who wish to hear the Good News," said Susan Timoney, Secretary for Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns for the Archdiocese.

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Cardinal Wuerl Issues Pastoral Letter on Racism

In November, Cardinal Donald Wuerl, archbishop of Washington released a pastoral letter, The Challenge of Racism Today, in which he calls for unity among all people to confront the "persistent evil of racism."

"Tragically, the divisive force of this sin continues to be felt across our land and in our society. It is our faith that calls us to see each other as members of God's family. It is our faith that calls us to confront and overcome racism. This challenge is rooted in our Christian identity as sisters and brothers, redeemed by the blood of Christ," he says in his pastoral letter.

On his blog introducing the docu-

ment, Cardinal Wuerl encourages all to read, reflect and share the letter with others. "It is my further hope that all of us in this archdiocesan Church might then join together in a renewed effort to confront what continues to be a grave evil and sin in our society, and to drive it and other intolerance out of our hearts, our lives and our community," he says.

A pastoral letter is typically released by a bishop to mark a specific event in the Church or to highlight a significant issue in the Church or culture. "We are all aware of incidents both national and closer to home that call attention to the continuing racial tensions in

our society," Cardinal Wuerl notes in the letter. "In spite of numerous positive advances and the goodwill of many, many people, too many of our brothers and sisters continue to experience racism."

Cardinal Wuerl indicates that the pastoral letter is not intended to be the final word, but rather, what he hopes is the start of robust dialogue that guides us toward reconciliation.

For links to the full pastoral letter in English and Spanish, visit: <http://adw.org/2017/11/01/cardinal-wuerl-issues-pastoral-letter-racism/>

OPT

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Take up and read

Christmas book suggestions from the Justice and Advocacy Council

Compiled by Anthony Bosnick

Members of the Justice and Advocacy Council recommend the following book as Christmas gifts or as some you might enjoy reading. We make these recommendations of books we have found helpful and thought provoking. They can all be purchased online or through a local bookstore. We have not listed publication information to save space.

Saints and Social Justice: A Guide to the Changing World by Brandon Vogt

Brandon Vogt, an award-winning Catholic author, blogger, and speaker, wrote this book to re-introduce Catholic social teaching to a world that has forgotten, misunderstood, or ignored it. He does this by unveiling it through the life of the saints. He frames the book using the seven major themes of Catholic social teaching, as defined by the U.S. bishops. For each theme he highlights two saints who especially embody it.

For his treatment of Option for the Poor and Vulnerable, Vogt selects Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati and Saint Vincent de Paul. He gives us three lessons that we can learn from the life of Saint Vincent de Paul. First, Vincent shows that the most effective form of charity is person-



Anthony Bosnick

al. Second, Vincent teaches us that an "option for the poor" involves not just helping the poor, but inspiring others to help the poor as well. Finally, Vincent's work shows how the "option for the poor" operates on many levels. All in all, this is a very readable introduction to Catholic social teaching.

Reviewed by Fr. John Dillon,
Pastor, St. Francis of Assisi
Parish, Derwood

Unbowed: A Memoir by Wangari Maathai

After years of struggling in many areas for justice – the environmental movement, women's and gender issues, human rights, good gover-

nance and peace, to name a few – Wangari Maathai's work was recognized by the Nobel Committee in 2004 when she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. This recognition linked peace, sustainable management of resources, and good governance. Hopefully by reading *Unbowed*, Maathai's memoirs, more people will come to know Maathai and the work she did in Kenya.

Unbowed provides a personal account of Kenya's history from colonial rule under Great Britain, the Mau Mau rebellion and the fight for independence, to the eventual progression to multi-party elections. Violence was prevalent during much of this history and Maathai was not spared. Her fight for justice took her into politics in her homeland, numerous arrests and imprisonments and the creation of the Green Belt Movement, recognition and awards from national and international groups and governments, culminating with the Nobel Peace Prize.

Reviewed by Charlotte Cook
St. John the Baptist Parish, Silver
Spring

Christian. Muslim. Friend: Twelve Paths to Real Friendship by David Shenk

This is very practical book on a challenging topic--talking with,

relating to, and becoming friends with Muslims. David Shenk has been involved with such interaction with Muslims in the US and abroad for over 50 years, including in some very challenging countries such as Somalia. He has spent nearly a lifetime as a missionary in Muslim-majority countries. This book reflects his very practical and lived-out experiences. With Shenk, this is not just theory, but lived reality.

The twelve points Shenk makes come from his own journey with Muslims. His "approach"--better word is "journey"--is Christ-centered, as an ambassador and friend of "Jesus the Messiah." He does not shy away from saying that all he does is through and for Jesus, which resonates with many Muslims because many are so faith-centered in their lives.

The book is rooted in Christian theology (of the Anabaptist tradition--Mennonite), but it can be helpful to a larger group of people not so faith-inspired.

Reviewed by Anthony Bosnick
St. Francis of Assisi Parish,
Derwood

The Man Without a Country by Edward Everett Hale

"The Man Without a Country" was first published in *The Atlantic* in December 1863. The

short story explores the anguish of a man who, when he was young, foolishly renounced his own country. For punishment, he is not only forever banned from the United States but also from hearing any news or mention of it.

So, for over 50 years he sailed the seas as punishment for his youthful renunciation. Although he bears his punishment with heroism and nobility, he never overcomes the pain of separation.

In reading the story, I was reminded of today's Dreamers. These are the young people who, through no fault of their own, were brought to the United States illegally as children. For many of the 800,000 young people, this is the only country they have ever known. Emotionally and psychologically, each of them is in danger of becoming, "The Man (Woman) Without a Country." Please get in touch with your Representative and Senators and urge them to pass the DREAM Act.

Reviewed by Larry Couch
St. Elizabeth Parish, Rockville

Anthony Bosnick is member of the Justice and Advocacy Council and is Director of Social Ministry at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Derwood.

St. John's College High School Recognizes Alumni on November 3

On Nov. 3, St. John's College High School honored four outstanding alumni with the President's Medal, awarded to distinguished alumni and friends of the school who have given extraordinary service to St. John's or to the world community. The celebration was held at the Marriott Marquis in

Washington, DC.

St. John's was pleased to welcome WUSA9 reporter and St. John's alumnus Chris Williamson '10 as the evening's emcee. All proceeds from the event are used to support scholarships dedicated to current St. John's students. This year's awardees were Michael

Harper '71, Brendan Quinn '89, Christopher Stevens '70, and MAJ Mary O'Donnell '02, MD.

O'Donnell is the first female graduate to receive the medal, which is especially fitting as St. John's celebrated the 25th anniversary of its first female graduates in 2017. She is currently deployed

with the Army, but her sister Norah O'Donnell, co-anchor of CBS This Morning, accepted the medal on Mary's behalf.

"Tonight, we honor the St. John's tradition that began in 1965 as we recognize four alumni who took their God-given talents and gave back to St. John's, gave of themselves to their families and communities and are making a difference in our world," said St. John's President Jeff Mancabelli. "From the very beginning, the Brothers knew that it was together and by association with others that the mission would thrive at St. John's."

We recognize these honorees and publicly express our gratitude not only for what they have given to St. John's, but for their commitment to so many other organizations. I want to thank each of you for all you have done and continue to do for St. John's and the greater community. Because of your efforts, St. John's is a vibrant learning community, a school stronger than it has ever been filled with students who appreciate the efforts and support of the greater St. John's community for all they have been given."

OPT



President Medal recipients (L-R) Christopher Stevens '70, Norah O'Donnell (accepting on behalf of MAJ Mary O'Donnell '02, MD), St. John's President Jeff Mancabelli, Brendan Quinn '89 and Michael Harper '71.

 **Parish Times**

Kathleen &
Lawrence Hamm
PUBLISHERS

Danny Gannon
Michael Roseleigh
DISTRIBUTION

Prepress by Electronic Ink
www.eink.net



Parish Community Services, Inc.

5212 Goddard Road Bethesda, MD 20814

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Carpenter of Peace

Joseph Francis Liekweg was a man of uncommon courage and heart. As religion teacher and guidance counselor at Holy Redeemer School for over 30 years he will be remembered as a caring educator, and a warm and generous colleague and friend who demonstrated an amazing sense of fairness and social justice.

Mr. Liekweg attended Gonzaga College High School and Georgetown University. He was a loving father and a devoted brother who never gave up hope. He was a man of strong faith who achieved a level of spirituality and humility that he carried into the classroom. As Father Mark Hughes stated at his funeral, "Joseph taught religion so his students could integrate it into their lives." He saw no boundaries between teaching and life outside of the classroom always fighting for the underdog. He understood the suffering of others and worked each day as an advocate for students.



Mr. Liekweg, HR's beloved teacher and friend

As found in Romans 14:7-9, "No one lives for oneself, and no one dies for oneself. For if we live for the Lord, and if we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's." For Mr. Liekweg,

he followed the teachings and light of Jesus Christ and this light led him to the Cross. His lasting legacy for Holy Redeemer Parish is a processional cross he made over the summer. He looked for the right piece of wood and constructed the cross to be plan, simple, genuine and rugged. This cross is used for every mass and is a true testament to a man of generous love and devotion whose everlasting patience has impacted the entire Holy Redeemer community.

The school will remember Mr. Liekweg by dedicating a student award in his honor. This award given annually will be given to a graduating eighth grader who has emulated a devotion of Christian service during their time at Holy Redeemer as well as consistently lived the Four C Values of Courtesy, Compassion, Community, and Commitment.

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The Vocation Chalice Program at Holy Redeemer

Holy Redeemer School had the Vocation Chalice for a week in early November. Mrs. Mary Harper, Middle School Religion Teacher, and sixth-grader Isabela Hurley received the chalice on behalf of the school after the 9:30 am Sunday Mass on November 5, 2017.

The Vocation Chalice Program at Holy Redeemer is adapted from a program recommended by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). As stated in the USCCB web site: "The purpose of the *Chalice Program* is to encourage families to pray and promote vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. The consecrated Chalice is a tangible reminder of this special intention for the Church. The Second Vatican Council highlights the responsibility of the laity to pray for and support vocations. This urgent call has been strongly affirmed in the writings and addresses of both Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.



Continued on page 20

Deacon Kyle Hannan with Fr. Declan Graham

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HR students
loved hav-
ing their
Grandparents
and Special
friends come
visit.

A Reflection on Grandparent's Day

By Miss Meredith Eib

I recently embarked on my first big HR adventure- putting on the annual "Grandparent's Day" concert. After

weeks of listening to the music and rehearsing it with the students, it filled my heart with so much joy to see Grandparents and families

Continued on page 20

Author George Weigel Provides Insider Insights into the Life of Pope John Paul II

George Weigel, a New York Times best-selling author and one of the world's leading authorities on the Catholic Church, spoke at the Annual Sodality Community Breakfast at Saint Jane de

Chantal in early November. During a delicious meal that was catered for this event, Mr. Weigel shared his insights as biographer of St. John Paul II. Mr. Weigel started chronicling the former Pope in 1995 at his request, citing that many others have reported about his life, but he wanted a testimony from the inside. Over the course of 15 years, Mr. Weigel was witness to a world-changing leader that was against the tyranny of "the way things are." The Pope challenged many long-standing beliefs, engaging young people in the life of the church by starting World Youth Day, being a key piece in the falling of the Berlin Wall, and addressing the sexual revolution. The Pope approached all these challenges in a prayerful manner, with Marian devotion at the core of his spirituality.



New York Times best-selling author, George Weigel, spoke at the St. Jane de Chantal Annual Sodality Community Breakfast.

Continued on page 32

Men's Ministry at St. Jane de Chantal Held a Fall Retreat

By Tim Gleeson

On Sunday, October 22nd, the St. Jane de Chantal Parish Men's Ministry held a fall retreat at the Parish's Seton Center. The event was well attended with a capacity crowd. The group met to share meals, prayers, and fellowship on the beautiful fall day. The program consisted of reflections from the Pastor, Fr. Giese, on the roles of men in the Bible, how a man prays, witness talks, confession, and Mass. There were also opportunities for social time and quiet reflection. The men's ministry has been meeting regularly for a number of years with current meetings being held on the first Saturday of each month from September through June.

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Attendees of the St. Jane de Chantal Parish's Fall Men's Retreat pose for a group photo outside of the Parish's Seton Center. Photo courtesy of Leo Kane.

Fr. Giese, Pastor of St. Jane de Chantal Church, held a mass for attendees of the Parish's Fall Men's Retreat. Photo courtesy of Leo Kane.



More St. Jane de Chantal News on Page 32

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

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St. Jane de Chantal School
Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton
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St. Raphael parishioners give generously for those in need

St. Raphael Parish has had a twinning relationship with St. Martin of Tours Parish in Washington for almost a quarter of a century (24 years this Thanksgiving). During November, we hold three drives to help the less fortunate in St. Martin's faith community and the general neighborhood located in Northwest, D.C. Although we had a slow start collecting canned and non-perishable foods and coats, parishioners came through on the final day of our multiple drives.



This year, we collected 348 frozen turkeys and 227 boxes full of canned food items that are traditionally served at a Thanksgiving meal. All of these donations were then transported to 1908 N. Capitol Street where gifts bags of groceries were assembled for families who are able to cook meals but often do not have enough money to purchase all the food. Fr. Mike Kelley, Pastor at St. Martin's stated that his goal was to distribute enough frozen turkeys and groceries for 250 people! Together, we surpassed that goal and then some! Nothing goes to waste; Fr. Kelly distributes all the food he receives, and the community is so ever grateful for the help!

We all have so many blessings for which we praise God in His infinite mercy! It is always amazing how much we receive from parishioners! Learning that we can trust in God's infinite mercy and love during times of great need is key to thanking Him!

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An Intergenerational Dialogue ...on the Sunday Gospels of Advent

Prayer, Gospel Reflection, Small Group Dialogue, Refreshments

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Each Wednesday the discussion will focus on the Gospel
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Nov. 29 Mark 13:33-37
Dec. 6 Mark 1:1-8
Dec. 13 John 1:6-8, 19-28
Dec. 20 Luke 1:26-38

What truth in this Gospel reading do I cherish?
What questions do I have about it?
For those who accept it, what difference does it make?



Bishop Robert Barron's *Word on Fire* Advent Booklets
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Parishioners Indah Oei, Anna Derry, Jessica Stecklein, Norma Saad, and Shirley Lee

St. Raphael Sodality Update

It was a busy season for St. Raphael Sodality as the ladies explored their faith formation with multiple speaker events.

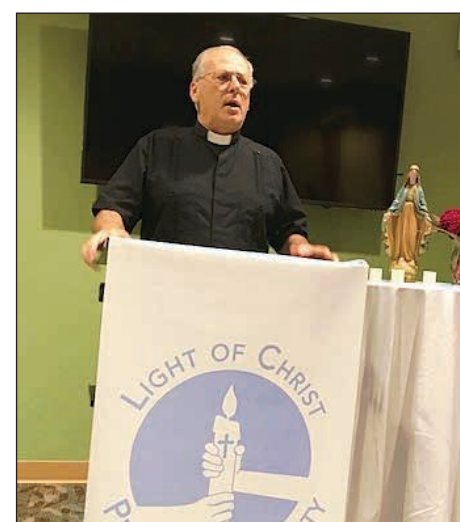
Sodality's annual holiday visit to Raphael House will take place next week on December 13. Sodality has been entertaining the resi-

dents of Raphael House for eight years now. Sodality visit with the residents, deliver individual gift bags that arrive on a toboggan, and sing along with St. Raphael School fifth grade students. It has become a wonderful tradition to share the Christmas spirit with our neighbors.

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Father Wells spoke to Sodality members in November about Mass as the Perfect Prayer. The Sodality executive officers assisted with the liturgy, and the congregation was blessed with music from singer Jessica Stecklein and pianist Addie Edelson. Father Wells' homily focusing on the beauty of Mass, the Perfect Prayer, and his Q&A session afterwards provided the group with a deeper understanding and love of the Mass.



In October the group spent an evening honoring the rosary with their pastor, Father Salah. Approximately 50 parishioners listened as Father spoke about his personal experiences praying the rosary. He educated and entertained the group with his stories, and encouraged them to be open to new experiences while praying the rosary themselves.



St. Raphael School



Eternal Memory, Monsignor Vincent Gatto

By Nina Cardillo

Monsignor Vincent Gatto, who lived in residence at St. Raphael Parish from the time of his retirement in 2005 until 2017, passed away on Oct. 24 at the age of 90. Msgr. Gatto was born on Dec. 5, 1926, in Troy, New York, and received a Catholic education. During his time at St. Raphael, he recounted many stories from the early formation of his faith, particularly reminding us to pray to the forgotten God, the Holy Spirit, who made an impression on him while in grade school. During his U.S. Army service



Msgr. Gatto: 1926-2017

in the Philippines, Msgr. Gatto received a calling to the priesthood and was ordained at the age of 28 on June 4, 1955, at the Cathedral of Saint Matthew the Apostle in Washington, D.C. His first assignment was parochial vicar at the Shrine of the Sacred Heart Parish in Washington, D.C. In 1969, Msgr. Gatto was appointed pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Potomac and, in 1983, pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Garrett Park, where he served until his retirement. He was named monsignor in 1984.

Family and friends, scores of priests, and countless members of St. Raphael Parish and

Continued on page 16



Mrs. Janice Canfield visits with her grandson, Nicholas.

Mary of Nazareth welcomes Grandparents to campus in celebration of Grandparents' Day

Mary of Nazareth Catholic School welcomed over 200 grandparents and extended family members just before the Thanksgiving holiday on November 20, 2017. Grandparents' Day is an annual celebration at Mary of Nazareth in which grandparents, extended family, and friends join students in their classrooms for a day of fun and fellowship.

Mrs. Janice Canfield, grandmother to Nicholas (seventh grade), Zachary (fourth grade), and Mackenzie (PreK) shares of her experience, "I enjoyed being at MON celebrating Grandparents' Day with three of my five grandchildren. The students, administration, and volunteers of MON made me feel special and important. Watching children and the senior grandparents interact is such a treasured example of respect."

Following classroom visits, Grandparents end their visit to the school by celebrating Mass with their grandchildren. Many thanks to all Mary of Nazareth grandparents who took part in our day.

OPT



Mary of Nazareth students enjoy spending time with their loved ones during Grandparents' Day.

School and Parish Partner Together to Build Mentorships between Students and Older Single Adults

Mary of Nazareth Catholic School in Darnestown has partnered with St. Mary's Shrine in Barnesville to create a program called "The Grand Difference Makers." Learning about living the virtues of Christ is simply to find the role models that live their lives in a virtuous manner each day. The widows and widowers at St.

Continued on page 16

More Mary of Nazareth News on Page 16

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

Principal: Mr. Michael J. Friel

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

Mary of Nazareth
OPT Editor: Sara Jamison,
sjamison@maryofnazareth.org

Website:

www.maryofnazareth.org

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



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Love to Camp? You Will Love Boy Scout Troop 440

Boy Scout Troop 440 has had two camping trips since the October edition of *Our Parish Times*. In October, we participated in the District-wide campout called Webelos Weekend where Boy Scout Troops host Webelos Dens (fourth and fifth-grade Cub Scouts) from around the area, and put on challenges and learning experiences for the Webelos. Troop 440 hosted the Monkey Bridge, which was also a well-loved activity at St. B's Fall Fest. In addition to Webelos, we had some Tigers (first grade) and some Lions (Kindergarten) participate on the Monkey Bridge.

In November, Troop 440 camped at Rodney Scout Reservation in North East, Maryland. While temperatures dipped into the low 20s, we were toasty in our cabin with



Boy Scout Troop 440 on one of our many camping trips.

its wood stove, although the scouts spent much time chopping wood to keep the fire burning. We also did some hiking, shotgun shooting, and archery. Because the cabin had a full kitchen, the Scouts made some

great meals, including home-made chicken wings with from-scratch Buffalo sauce. (Yes, I did say that the scouts did the cooking! It's an important scout skill, and some of them are really good at it!)

We're looking forward to our December campout in Williamsburg, this time in tents (brrrr...) where we'll spend the morning on Saturday working on our Citizenship in the Nation merit

badge in Colonial Williamsburg, and the afternoon enjoying the rides at Busch Gardens. Contact Carolyn Hoskinson if you'd like more information! carolyn.hoskinson@gmail.com

OPT

St. Bernadette Parish

70 University Blvd., East
Silver Spring, MD

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

301-593-0357

St. Bernadette School
Mr. Ted Ewanciw, Principal
301-593-5611

Kate Doyle Rodgers, OPT Editor
301-593-5611

Late-term Abortion Clinic Opens in Bethesda

Now is the Time to Witness to Life

Join us as we pray for an end to abortion.
Sunday, December 10, St. Jane de Chantal Church
Contact: prolife@adw.org or 301-853-5318
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Cub Scout Pack 440: Please Join Us!

Cub Scout Pack 440 is off to a great start for the year. We are meeting from 3:00–5:00 PM on the first and third Sunday afternoons of every month from October through May. We welcome new scouts at any time, so please feel free to ask about joining! We currently have about 25 Cub Scouts in five Dens from grades one through five.

On November 5, we did a hike in the Northwest Branch trail where scouts made and ate trail mix, did some scrambling over rocks, learned about plants and animals

native to our area, and about what to watch out for – like poison ivy! As a service project, Scouts all picked up trash from along the trail while we hiked.

At some of our previous meetings Cub Scouts learned about how to do a proper flag ceremony, and how to fold a US flag. We also did some fire building and cooking over a campfire, and played some outdoor games. It's always lots of fun with Cub Scouts! Contact Jonathan Champion if you'd like more information! jonathanchampion77@gmail.com

OPT

Please Join Us for Lessons and Carols

December 15 at 7:00 PM

The eighth-grade students and the student musicians of St. Bernadette School cordially invite you to attend a Service of Lessons and Carols on Friday, December 15, at St. Bernadette Church (70 University Blvd W in Silver Spring) at 7:00 pm.

The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, you will hear nine Scripture lessons which recount the Fall of man, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson will be acted out by eighth-grade actors, and will be followed by a piece of music reflecting on the scripture.

We welcome you to prepare your heart and mind for Christ's coming at Christmas by attending this beautiful service. Please contact Ms. Rogevich at srogevich@saintbernadetteschool.org for more information. All are welcome.

OPT



Don't miss our next
OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, January 28
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**FUTURE
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QUESTIONS?
Contact Kate Rodgers
301-593- 5611 x135

St. Bernadette



Fatima Anniversary Rosary

On Saturday, October 14, on the front lawn of St. Bernadette, 75 parishioners, families, and friends gathered to share the Fatima Anniversary Rosary. At 12:00 PM, noon local time, 22,000+ Rosaries were prayed across America in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun. Together, hundreds of thousands of people prayed the Rosary as Our Lady asked at Fatima. We prayed for America, for World Peace, for the Catholic Church and in reparation for all the offenses to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, as Our Lady requested at Fatima.

OPT



2017-2018 St. Bernadette School Student Council

Congratulations and best wishes to our newly elected 2017-2018 Student Council. We are so proud of these students as they learn to make informed decisions supporting the community they serve with wise, responsible leadership.

LAW AND LOVE

Continued from page 1

traditions? Who makes the law? How does law change? What does sin mean? These topics were presented from the Jewish, Muslim, Protestant and Catholic viewpoints from the presenters, Rabbi Michael Safra of B'nai Israel, Imam Mohamed Abdullahi of the Muslim Community Center, Silver Spring, Reverend Dr. Kathryn Woodrow, pastor of Faith United Methodist Church and Monsignor J. Wilfred Parent of St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church.

Rabbi Safra opened the discussion by addressing the stereotype that Jews are focused on law, that law being the Two Great Commandments, which themselves are based on love, of God and neighbor. Christians are focused primarily on love alone.

Imam Abdullahi spoke of the Muslim Sharia law, which he characterized as "more an academic pursuit than a practical legal system." For individuals' pastoral needs, the Imam said, Islam has a legal system just like other religions. It is something that Muslims take seriously because they take the prophet seriously and they take religion seriously, not because it dictates how they live their lives.

Pastor Woodrow based her presentation on the Bible and the teachings of Methodism founder John Wesley, who taught that the law and grace must work together in the life of the Christian. Gospel is the love of God revealed in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Law is the observance of Jesus' commandments.

Speaking from the Catholic perspective, Monsignor Bill presented

the view that we tend to key in on the divisions separating Judaism from Christianity, but in fact, he contended, there is more continuity than division between the two. Nor is law opposed to love. Every religion has laws and, in order to have a community, there needs to be some foundation of law. Christians view law in terms of their relationship with the Son of God, and this relationship makes it possible to follow the law. According to the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "The New Law is the grace of the Holy Spirit given to the faithful through faith in Christ." It works through charity; it uses the Sermon on the Mount, a lesson in love, to teach us what must be done and to make use of the sacraments to give us the grace to put Jesus Christ's words into action in our daily lives.

In their last session (occurring after OPT's December issue publication but before its release), the four prelates will join in a discussion of the four points of view, how they may differ and where they find common ground.

OPT



Thanksgiving Turkey Dinners

Through our social outreach initiative Greater Love, SBS was grateful to have the opportunity to provide 36 complete Thanksgiving turkey dinners with 35 additional bags of side dishes to support the tremendous good work of our amazing community partner, The Father McKenna Center. A heartfelt thank you to all who contributed so generously.

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Feast of Christ the King

By Katie Holland, OPT parish editor

This year, Christ the King witnessed a first in how we celebrate our parish Feast Day, and not just with the new banners hanging along the sides within the Nave! At the Saturday Vigil Mass, the Nguyen family joined all parishioners in the Baptism of their newest grandchild, Pia, during, and, beautifully woven into, the Eucharistic celebration. On Sunday, November 26, the parish had one Mass in English at 9:30am (merging the regular 8:30 and 10:30am English-language Masses) with the nationally renowned Gospel Choir from St. Augustine Parish in Washington (a former parish of CTK's current Parochial Administrator, Fr. Steve Carter, OFM) under the direction of Eddie Cromwell.

At this Mass, there were four former Ambassadors from the United States (to such countries as Bahrain)

and current Ambassadors from Ireland and Haiti to the United States. Before, during, and after all Masses throughout the weekend, our anniversary Commemoratives were made available to all parishioners for purchase (and will continue to be so via the new bookstore). New nameplates were purchased for the *In Memoriam* plaque hanging in the main entry of the Church.

After the special English-language Mass, a committee of parishioners led by Sue Deckelman, Chris Tan, and "parish chef" Ofilio Quezada held a very large, elaborate brunch for the guest Choir and its Liturgical dancers. The entire Colonial Room was uber-decorated by parishioner-party planner, Roxana Perez. The 9:30am Mass was then followed by the 12:30pm Spanish-language Mass after which parishioners then retreated to the Colonial Room for a celebratory Fiesta Patronal party. **OPT**



Above, St. Augustine Gospel Choir singing in Christ the King's Sanctuary as the 9:30am Mass Recessional begins for the parish feast day. Photo by Frank Deckelman



Fr. Steve, the altar servers and musicians during the 12:30pm Misa de Cristo Rey Fiesta Patronal. Photo by Reina Flores



One of the youngest Christ the King parishioners in the beautifully decorated Hall for the parish feast day Brunch and party. Photo by Reina Flores

Christ the King

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Fr. Stephen Carter, OFM, Cap.,
Parochial Administrator

Katie Holland,
OPT Editor

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Noteworthy Parish Events

Bookstore Opens! On Sunday, December 3, the first Sunday of Advent, Christ the King opened its first bookstore, of Bibles, books, religious articles and our remaining Commemoratives: CTK wristbands for the children, the stained-glass replica/suncatchers, notecards and Christmas cards bearing the image of the Christ the King stained glass window. The store is located in what was once the vestibule vesting room.

Plans are in the works between Deacon Molina and Fr. Steve to have an **Advent or Christmas concert** in the Church. Keep your eyes open for more details to come!

CTK will participate in a multi-parish **car raffle** in January (\$10 chance) when tickets will be available for purchase. Look for more information soon!

Colonial Room rentals have been reinstituted. The Msgr. John J. Dressel hall is reopened for rental for family events from Mondays through Fridays from 10am to 10pm and Saturdays from 6:30 to 11:30pm. Call the parish office in advance to check for availability and to obtain more information: by phone at 301-495-2306 or email at ctk.parish@icloud.com. **OPT**

Late-term Abortion Clinic Opens in Bethesda

Now is the Time to Witness to Life

Join us as we pray for an end to abortion.

Sunday, December 10, St. Jane de Chantal Church
following 12:00 Mass

Contact: prolife@adw.org or 301-853-5318
www.facebook.com/adwlifeissues

Grandparents Galore, Football, Gymnastics and a Musical Tribute to the Military



Mr. Long refereed as Monsignor Filardi and Dr. Capizzi looked on.



Graciela does her first cartwheel as Chloe, Layla and ZaNiyah look on.



Coach Kathryn Wasp gives Mrs. Hottinger some directions.

At Our Lady of Lourdes School, we packed as much as we possibly could into our last day of school before the Thanksgiving break. We started the day by welcoming grandparents to our classrooms. Many of our grandparents came from far away, and were thrilled to visit their grandchildren's classrooms. At ten o'clock sharp we began our football/gymnastics extravaganza by singing the National Anthem. The weather was perfect for a game, and the younger children were prepared to cheer for

their teams with signs and streamers. The teachers and alumni made a great showing this year, but they definitely missed Monsignor Filardi and Donovan Braithwaite in the lineup. The score was tied at half-time.

The Gymnastics Club appeared on the field in their new shirts, and entertained the crowd with some Irish dance moves, remarkable flips, and cartwheels. Mr. Dwyer and Mr. Roberts were challenged, once again, to match stunts with Michaela Harmon and Sidney

Nemitz. They didn't exactly match the form, but they did manage a pretty fair imitation of the girls' trick. The crowd loved the gymnastics presentation, and we are sure they will be back next year! When the game resumed, both the middle schoolers and the teachers played hard, but the game ended in a tie.

Soon, everyone was assembled before a packed house in the gym for our musical program. Georgia Myers and Ava Ruggieri presented a brief introduction to John Philip Sousa, and the program began. The

students enthusiastically performed their songs, beginning with the Little Group, PreK and Kindergarten, and ending with the entire school singing the Army song. As we all said goodbye for the long weekend, and thanked our grandparents for visiting, we were reminded that the children and adults of the Lourdes community are very special people, brought together by God to build up His Kingdom on the corner of Pearl Street and East-West Highway.

OPT

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

7500 Pearl Street
Bethesda, MD

Msgr. Edward Filardi, Pastor

301-654-1287

Patricia Kilroy McGann Principal

301-654-5376

Land Ho!

On Monday, November 20, the kindergarten classes at Our Lady of Lourdes put on a play telling the story of the first Thanksgiving. The play starred the kindergarteners acting as pilgrims and Native

Americans. The pilgrims sailed across the stage on the Mayflower and arrived at the New World. They struggle through the first winter because it was very cold and dif-

Continued on page 16



PreK students practice genuflecting together.

LOL PreK Students are Falling in Love With Jesus

By Mrs. Deirdre Walsh

The smallest members of the Our Lady of Lourdes School family have been busy this fall learning about all the gifts that God has brought them. As our

newest bulletin board in the Little Group and Pre-K states, they are "Falling in Love With Jesus." It is decorated with a large tree from which fall leaves and acorns made by

Continued on page 38

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC SCHOOL A 2015 National Blue Ribbon School

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As Weather Cools, St. Bart's Youth Group Heats Up

The always-busy St. Bart's Youth Group had a typically active Fall. Activities included Lazer Tag, Water Balloon Challenge, a Bonfire, a trip to a Nationals Game, Go-Karting, and multiple service events such as assisting at the St. Bart's Thanksgiving Food Drive.

The St. Bart's Middle School

Youth Group members are sixth, seventh, and eighth graders interested in serving their neighbor, playing together, and getting to know Our Lord Jesus Christ. All are welcome! If you would like to learn more, please email John & Maria Archer at 32kaufmann@cua.edu.

OPT



Above, St. Bart's Youth Group Cheer on the Nationals!

At left, Youth Group at Thanksgiving Food Drive



Parishioners and others crowd "Welcome Home" Mass at St. Bartholomew Parish.

St. Bart's Welcomes Parishioners Home with Opportunities for Faith and Service

On Sunday, October 22, 2017, St. Bartholomew Parish sponsored twin Masses in Spanish and English as a "special opportunity" to welcome home parishioners who may not have been attending Mass regularly. Father Mark Knestout, Pastor of St. Bart's, noted, "This Mass and social will give you a chance to reacquire yourself with our parish and see the changes we've made over the last few years and the many ministries that our people serve in."

The well-attended Masses were followed by a crowded Ministry Fair in the parish hall, where parishioners and others could explore the many opportunities for faith and fellowship at St. Bart's. Father Knestout commented: "We struggle to get to know the Lord and follow His guidance. Sometimes we do it well and sometimes not so well. We are on a spiritual journey here, knowing that we are loved and encouraged by God and supported by one another."

OPT



St. Bartholomew Parish

6900 River Road
Bethesda, MD 20816

Rev. Mark Knestout
Pastor
301-229-7933

St. Bartholomew School
Frank English, Principal
301-229-5586

Frank Maguire, OPT Editor
202-512-8226

Faith in Action

St. Bartholomew Steps up to Help the Hungry

Just how successful was St. Bartholomew's November campaign to provide food for hungry families? The church collected almost 7000 items for the District's Sacred Heart Parish, providing 51 families with two full weeks of food, plus gift cards to

buy turkeys. St. Bart's also added more than 150 canned goods to the Sacred Heart food pantry. The successful event brought together food furnished by school families, parishioners, and neighbors who left items on their porches as part

Continued on page 38

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Ministry Fair at St. Bart's

A Halloween Tradition Thrives at St. Bart's

St. Bartholomew's annual Trunk or Treat Halloween celebration showcased the spectacular creativity of its school and parishioners. The family event is an opportunity for kids to trick or treat out of the back of open car trunks, with prizes being awarded for best costumes and best trunks. While the candy is great, the real fun is seeing cars totally transformed.

This year's highlights included a car-turned-pirate's ship, a movie theater truck, Ghostbusters, and a Zombie Dog Inn, complete with two live dogs sporting animal-safe fur coloring for added effect.

OPT



"Zombie Dogs" are a hit at St. Bart's annual Trunk or Treat.

More St. Bartholomew News on Page 38

Honoring Our Blessed Mother with the Rosary

*"Let us invoke Mary's intercession.
May she help us to be open to God's surprises."
— Pope Francis, October 13, 2013*

The Third Grade class of Holy Cross' School of Religion made rosaries to honor Mary during the Month of the Rosary. The children meticulously strung and counted each bead of their rosary and were

happily surprised to have them blessed by Fr. Mathias, priest-in-residence at Holy Cross.

Fr. Mathias prayed over each child individually, entrusting each to the motherly care of our Blessed Mother Mary. The Third Grade class has made it their practice to pray a decade of the rosary at every class meeting.

OPT



The 2017-2018 third-grade class of Holy Cross' School of Religion of Holy Cross pictured with Father Mathias, their teacher Lisa Carlin, and a volunteer teaching assistance.



Holy Cross candidates for Confirmation listen as Colm Tuite, a fellow participant, shares a joyful retreat experience.

Holy Cross Parish Confirmation Retreat

Twenty-four Confirmation candidates gathered for their retreat at Holy Cross on November 4th. Members of the Campus Ministry of Catholic University facilitated the retreat. The day featured talks about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and how they are manifested in our families, schools, and greater communities. Small groups were formed to help the participants reflect on ways the Holy Spirit works in their lives. Students spent time in personal prayer, Adoration, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The candidates were met by their families at the 5pm Vigil Mass where the students participated as lectors, gift bearers, and singers. Many candidates expressed their gratitude for the retreat experience

while some said they were happy to be in the company of other young adults who were excited to share their faith and love for God! Prayers for the Confirmation Candidates of Holy Cross are appreciated.

OPT

Holy Cross Parish

4900 Strathmore Avenue, Garrett Park, MD

Fr. Robert Buchmeier, Pastor
301-942-1020

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

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



OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 28, 2018

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

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Pastor: Rev. Robert Buchmeier

Principal: Lisa M. Kane

Holy Cross School

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FR RALPH

Con't from page 1

his body rests in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, his spirit still soars with St. Francis parishioners who claimed Fr. Ralph as their priest in residence for the past 25 years.

Born in Scranton, PA, in 1924, Fr. Ralph knew struggle, having grown up as one of nine children during the Depression. St. Francis Social Concerns Minister Tony Bosnick recalls hearing Fr. Ralph testify that he learned justice and charity from his family. Practicing and pursuing these virtues became his life's work.

"I saw him over the years as a priest who understood the importance of the Church reaching out

to the poor and those on the margins of society," Bosnick said. "He understood that the Church's social teaching, when lived out in word and deed, was evangelizing because it showed the real-life and lived experience of the Church reflecting the life and love of Christ in the world."

After graduating from the Pontifical College Josephinum seminary in Columbus, OH, Fr. Ralph became a priest in 1950. He moved to Washington DC in 1967 and became an archdiocesan priest. As he notes in his autobiography, *Why a Servant Church*, it was his education on Washington DC streets that convinced him the Church should serve the needy.

In 1970, Fr. Ralph worked with Fr. Horace McKenna and other

leaders to start So Others Might Eat, a nonprofit that provides food to hungry people. Today, the community-based organization runs 38 programs and has expanded to provide clothing and healthcare to its beneficiaries, as well as other services. Two years later, Fr. Ralph helped start the Prince George's Community Ministry and its counterpart, Montgomery County Community Ministry. In 2008, the latter was renamed Interfaith Works, with a mission to pursue social justice for the poor by engaging county faith communities.

In the early 1970s, Fr. Ralph was serving as pastor of Our Lady of Victory Parish in Northwest DC. When one of his parishioners died of a heart attack while grappling with the prospect of being forced

out of her home, the experience spurred him and other Catholic leaders to found what became Victory Housing. The organization advocates for the elderly, builds senior housing, and rehabilitates existing properties for seniors.

The Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington, emerged in 1978, resulting from interfaith dialogue during the Washington DC riots. It was at this organization -- established so interfaith leaders could become acquainted and work on social justice issues -- where St. Francis parishioner Mike Goggin served on staff and witnessed Fr. Ralph as a gifted social activist.

"Fr. Ralph prided himself on his tenacity," Goggin said. "He spoke truth to power. He did not settle on taking no as the final answer.

He built coalitions of like-minded individuals and kept dialogue going with those who saw the world through a different point of view."

St. Francis parishioner Peggy Smith remembers her old friend as "gentle, kind, understanding, well-informed and very brilliant." She appreciated his Homilies, calling them "the best description of the Gospels that I've ever heard."

Having grown up during the Depression in similar circumstances, Smith said she, her husband Don and Fr. Ralph shared a special bond. Six months older than Fr. Ralph, Smith often teased him by calling him 'young man.' "His example to me and to Don were what we always thought a priest should be," Smith said.

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LEJEUNE

Con't from page 1

drome individuals. Jerome Lejeune went forth on this mission following Jesus' teaching, "Whatever you do to one of the least of my brothers, you do it to me."

Jerome Lejeune died in 1994. Birthe Lejeune, his widow, spends her time continuing her husband's mission in Paris, but came to the U.S.A. for a few days to announce the opening of the first Down syndrome hospital in Virginia. I volunteered to help with the Jerome Lejeune Foundation USA and was amazed by the assignments David Lejeune, President of the JLF USA, entrusted to me. I worked with the foundation to help orchestrate the visit of Birthe Lejeune to my high school alma mater, Georgetown Visitation, on October 18.

This was a once in a lifetime opportunity to host the wife of a man whose cause for canonization is in progress. Madame Lejeune, David Lejeune (President of the JLF USA), and Thierry de la Villejegu (Executive Director of JLF France), were amazed to see the whole school community come together. I think our standing ovation was a highlight in Madame Lejeune's visit. They all noted the importance of hope in the young generation and the students of Georgetown Visitation truly inspired them.

It was an incredible blessing to be in the presence of Madame Lejeune and feel the power of love glowing from her soul. Her visit to Georgetown Visitation was a life changing experience for all the students and I will forever remember her advice to, "Never be afraid to defend life."

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SFA Hosts Community Forum on Compassionate Responses, Tools to Address the Opioid Epidemic



Barbara Allen, founder of the James Place Advocacy Group, speaks at the community forum, "The Opioid Epidemic: A Compassionate Response," while her fellow panelists listen.

By Betty Baklarz and Deacon Dan Finn

On Oct. 26, the St. Francis of Assisi Health Ministry and Catholic Charities co-hosted a community forum on "The Opioid Epidemic: A Compassionate Response" to address the affliction of these highly addictive drugs that contribute to the deaths of 91 Americans each day, according to the Centers on Disease Control and Prevention.

Approximately 75 attendees heard a collective message from keynote speaker Dr. John Rosa and panelists that "it takes a village" to address the many challenges

Continued on page 20



St. Francis of Assisi parishioners enjoy a potluck lunch at the parish's celebration of its 45th anniversary and patron saint's feast day.

Church Celebrates 45 Years as a Parish Community

By Melissa Egan

In 1972, Joan Carpenter remembers sitting in a local church and hearing that a new parish would be opening in Derwood, MD. Like many Catholics, she and her family decided to try it because "it was available and convenient."

On Oct. 8, St. Francis of Assisi Parish celebrated its 45th anniversary as a faith community in concert with the celebration of its patron saint's feast day four days earlier. Bishop Barry Knestout celebrated the 11:15 a.m. Mass to a church full of parishioners, alongside Fr. John Dillon, Parochial Vicar Fr. Jack

Berard, and several other clergy. Parishioners then convened in the

Continued on page 16

Christmas Tree Sale

St. Francis parishioners set up trees Nov. 25 on the opening day of the church's annual Christmas Tree Sale. The lot, located in front of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Derwood, is open from 3-9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9-9 p.m. Saturday and Sunday through December 17, or until the last tree is sold.



St. Francis of Assisi Parish

6701 Muncaster Mill Road
Derwood, MD

Rev. John J. Dillon,
Pastor

301-840-1407

Melissa M. Egan
OPT Editor

301-972-4844

melissa.egan74@verizon.net



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Mary of Nazareth

Student-led service projects benefit local, regional, and international communities

Mary of Nazareth Catholic School's mission is to prepare students for lives of service to God and neighbor. By providing classroom instruction and volunteer opportunities, Mary of Nazareth's Social Concerns Program raises students' awareness of the plight of the poor and encourages students to fulfill their responsibility to help those who lack life's basic necessities. Students also have abundant opportunities to serve their communities through extracurricular clubs and activities. Just this fall, Mary of Nazareth students have aided in collecting monetary and material donations to benefit community members, service members, and individuals affected by natural disaster.

One of the largest social concerns projects this year helped to raise over \$2,500 for hurricane relief in Puerto Rico. Families baked and donated *polvorones*, a traditional Puerto Rican cookie, that were then sold within the local community. All proceeds were donated to Catholic Charities in support of hurricane relief efforts.

Mary of Nazareth's first grade class contributed to school service efforts with their "Candy for



First grade students and parents collected enough leftover Halloween candy for 69 service members who are deployed.

Our Troops" project. Following Halloween, students collected and bagged enough candy for 69 service members who are deployed.

Cub Scout Pack 76 participated once again with the Boy Scouts of America's "Scouting for Food Drive." The drive benefited St. Martin's Food Pantry in Gaithersburg. Thanks to the generosity of our MoN community, cub scouts we were able to deliver 41 boxes – over 1,600 pounds of food – to St. Martin's.

Finally, the Mary of Nazareth Social Concerns Committee held its annual winter coat drive during the holiday season to benefit St. Martin's parish. In total, 150 coats were collected to benefit local parishioners and families.

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crafts, cards or small gifts would be mailed to the parishioner's home. The opportunities would arise in homework assignments, morning meetings or as free choice literacy opportunities.

This partnership should allow students to understand more deeply how to live the virtues they are taught at Mary of Nazareth and in their personal homes. The parents of these children are overwhelmingly supportive. At student conferences the program was introduced and the parents were giving input and ideas about the chapel mass and reception to include older siblings that would perform their gifts and talents of Irish dancing!

This program of corporal mercy will allow young children to become the best stewards. The results will be rewarding for everyone involved. We look forward to sharing throughout the school year how our program evolves.

OPT

ST RAPHAEL SCHOOL

Con't from page 6

school all came to honor the life of Msgr. Gatto at the funeral Mass celebrated by Cardinal Donald Wuerl on Oct. 30. Fr. Jim Meyers had the honor of giving the homily, which paid a beautiful and touching tribute to his dear friend. Having been at St. Raphael Parish for the past 12 years and during the establishment of St. Raphael School, Msgr. Gatto was a part of many firsts, myriad traditions, and innumerable Masses. He will be greatly missed and always remembered for his remarkable and faithful service to the Lord.

New on Staff

Originally from Durban, South Africa, Alicia Madlala joins the SRS staff as third grade teacher. Madlala moved to this area with her family in 2009, continuing her higher education and majoring in psychology at the University of Maryland. As a former Catholic school student from first through 12th grades (Holy Family College), and again in graduate school (Marymount University, where she received a Master of Arts in school counseling), Madlala firmly believes in the rewards of a Catholic education.

Daniel Phillips joins the SRS staff as the P.E. teacher and SPARK instructor. Phillips is a native Washingtonian and a graduate of the University of Delaware. He has coached lacrosse at Our Lady of Good Counsel, St. Vincent Pallotti, and St. John's College high schools. He has instructed P.E. classes at Annunciation Catholic School and St. John's College High School and also taught business classes at St. Vincent Pallotti High School.

Angels on the Run

Almost 400 St. Raphael Angels were up and running at the sixth annual Angels on the Run Oct. 21, competing in a 5K race, a 1-mile run, and a cherub dash for kindergartners and preschoolers. School and parish families and friends came out to raise funds for SRS and be a part of the school tradition and community fun. Made possible by the many volunteers, sponsors, runners, and those who came out to cheer, this event was a winner from start to finish.



At the SRS Thanksgiving Feast, students give thanks for their many blessings – including friendship. Photo by Malu Powell

Knights in Shining Armor

Knights, serfs, kings, and queens appearing right out of Camelot were the disguised SRS fourth-graders who celebrated the conclusion of the Medieval Times Signature Unit. Their studies began at the fall of the Roman Empire and delved into the lifestyles of their characters, explored stories such as the legend of St. George and the dragon, interwove Gregorian chants, and researched castles and trebuchets through hands-on projects. The students enjoyed an authentic Medieval banquet and presented uniquely designed family shields before a court of proud parents and teacher, Michelle Roche. This noble gathering was indeed a feast fit for a king.

The Rest is Gravy

During this season of thanks, the students and staff enjoy many traditions at St. Raphael School and Nursery School. In gratitude, SRS joined together for a school Mass and a modest Thanksgiving meal. Preparing baskets of traditional foods for the Thanksgiving holiday allowed SRS families to extend blessings to the devoted maintenance staff, who are the unsung angels behind the scenes of all school and parish events. St. Raphael Nursery School students prepared baskets of fruit, which were brought before the altar for a prayer and then delivered to Stepping Stones Shelter. For the many blessings we receive and are able to share, we recognize that every good and perfect gift comes from God.

On the Way

Dec. 12: Mother Teresa Luncheon welcomes homeless guests from Washington, D.C., shelters for a hot meal and a festive gathering.

Dec. 18-20: SRS and SRNS Christmas Pageants celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Jan. 8: SRS and SRNS Double Open House invites interested parents to learn more about our schools and tour our campus. SRNS is at 9:15 a.m., and SRS is at 10:45 a.m.

Jan. 28-Feb. 2: Catholic Schools Week recognizes the value of Catholic education and those who make it possible.

For more information, visit our school website at www.straphael-schoolmd.org.

LAND HO

Con't from page 11

difficult to find food. Then, one day they met new friends called Native Americans. The Native Americans taught the pilgrims how to fish, plant corn, build houses, and live in their new home. Kindergartener Nina Rubio stated, "They all got along because the Native Americans taught the pilgrims how to do all different kinds of things."

At the end of the play, they decided to have a feast that lasted for three days. They wanted to celebrate all of the things that they were thankful for. It was known as the first Thanksgiving! Kindergarten student, Jack Reilly said, "I liked when we had the feast because the pilgrims and Native Americans all got to eat together."

After the play, the students gathered on the stage to sing a Thanksgiving song to God thanking Him for all of the wonderful things He has given us. They did an excellent job. All of their hard work paid off! The audience was filled with parents, grandparents, teachers, and siblings cheering on the kindergartners. After the play, there was a small reception with refreshments and coffee. It was a wonderful way to kick-off the Thanksgiving holiday with a little history and a lot of fun!

OPT

45 YEARS

Con't from page 15

Parish Center downstairs, for a potluck lunch and crafts and activities for the children. With parishioners numbering approximately 1,500 families, Fr. Dillon said the parish's diversity has grown over its tenure. In 2013, an archdiocesan survey reported that a third of parishioners were non-Caucasian.

Recently, the parish established a Neighbor-to-Neighbor Team, which is actively promoting the parish to people moving into the Derwood area. Their efforts included mailing out 1,800 postcards inviting new neighbors to the parish's Advent and Christmas Masses, as well as to other seasonal activities. "I think this will help us to grow as a parish community," Fr. Dillon said.

Carpenter said the parish's growing diversity has been one of its most appealing attributes over the 45 years she has worshiped at St. Francis. "When it first opened, we all looked the same," she said. "I think the diversity is marvelous. That's one of the parts that I've enjoyed about the parish changing."

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Our Parish Times

MENTORSHIPS

Con't from page 7

Mary's are perfect role models for these young children. They attend mass daily. These adults pray the rosary on a regular basis. They are a vital part of the community. What a better resource for teaching than to look within one of our own parishes? Saint Mary's has stepped up to support their Catholic School in hopes of being the inspiration of a wider partnership with other founding parishes within our diocese in the coming years.

Meeting with Fr. Kevin, we began talking about the program incorporating widows with students in my class. We collaborated ideas like letter writing, praying daily for one another, a reception in the spring with a chapel mass. The students will be welcomed to write to any or all of the older parishioners that joined. Weekly letters,

The Kindergarten class put on a play about the first Thanksgiving. Parents came to see the show and passed out pie and ice cream. Everyone enjoyed the Thanksgiving Feast. We can't wait for next year!



200th Anniversary of Our Lady's Chapel

On December 8, the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception, St. Mary's Parish will commemorate the 200th Anniversary of Our Lady's Chapel. Although the actual anniversary date of the Chapel is December 14, what better day to celebrate than a day dedicated to Mary.

There will be Chapel presentations after each of the Masses and a plaque dedication after the last Mass of the day at 7pm. A cookie/hot chocolate reception will follow in the Parish Hall following the 7pm Mass and dedication. All are welcome to join us on this day of celebration!

OPT



Happy Retirement, Mr. Jose!

Mr. Jose has worked for St. Mary's for more than thirty wonderful years, and is now retiring. Mr. Jose, the longest working maintenance worker at St. Mary's School in Rockville, made sure the school was clean and very enjoyable for all students and teachers from the preschool through the eighth grade. Our students remember fondly when he participated

in the Mustang Marathon and his enthusiasm for our annual eighth grade vs. faculty volleyball game. We will miss Mr. Jose dearly and wish him a happy retirement!

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St. Mary's Parish

520 Veirs Mill Road
Rockville, MD

Msgr. Robert Amey,
Pastor

301-424-5550

St. Mary's School
Mrs. Debby Eisel, Principal
301-762-4179

Maureen Stiles, Parish Editor
301-990-4329

NJHS Stepping up to Help our Community

This fall, 13 students were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. Students submitted an application to be considered for the NJHS and were chosen based on their academic performance, their character, their commitment to service and their leadership skills. All Members of the NJHS represent the four pillars of this honor society; Academics, Character, Service, and Leadership. Commitment to Academics shows how hard students work on homework, tests, and quizzes. Character represents the kind of person you are. Choosing kindness shows you are a model for others. Service represents the work you do to help people who are hurt, poor, or needy. Last, but not least, leadership represents making good choices and striving to take a lead in making a difference.

OPT



These students are continuing the tradition of giving to our local community by taking the lead on the collection of toys at St. Mary's School and Parish for the City of Rockville Holiday Toy Drive and working on collecting canned goods for our Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive on December 2.

Sunrise Interages Program at St. Mary's School

Each week, seventh grade and Kindergarten students walk from school over to Sunrise Assisted Living to spend time with the senior residents. Sunrise is an elderly home and is located right next to St. Mary's School. Before students arrive they say a pray and then greet the residents. Everyone is very welcoming at Sunrise. Fun activities are planned to help the students and the residents learn more about each other. The year culminates in a celebration where the residents and students can share what they have learned from each other through the year.

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Preschool
through
Eighth
Grade

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Sunday, January 28, 2018
10:00AM to 1:00PM



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Our principal, Mr. Spadoni, holds an outdoor prayer ceremony honoring our veterans.

St. Elizabeth Parish

917 Montrose Road
Rockville, MD

Msgr. J. Wilfrid Parent
Pastor

301-881-1380

St. Elizabeth School Principal

Vincent P. Spadoni

301-881-1824

Gerry Moore,
OPT Editor

202-887-6475

Immaculate Conception Masses

- Vigil: Thursday, December 7, at 5:00 p.m.
- Friday, December 8: 7 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

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St. Elizabeth's Christmas Season 2017 Schedule

Preparation for Christmas

Parish Penance Service:
Monday, December 11, 7:30pm
(several priests will be present)

Confessions:
Wednesdays, 7pm
Saturday, December 23, 4pm



Celebration of Christmas

Christmas Eve — Sunday, December 24

5:00pm	Parish Mass (w/ elementary pageant)	Fr. Chip
7:00pm	Parish Mass (w/ middle school pageant)	Msgr. Parent
8:30pm	Parish Mass (cantor/organ)	Fr. O'Brien
10:30pm	Carols	
11:00pm	Parish Mass (choir/instrumentalists)	Msgr. Parent

Christmas Day — Monday, December 25

9:00am	Parish Mass (cantor/instrumentalists)	Fr. Chip
10:30am	Parish Mass (cantor/instrumentalists)	Msgr. English
12:15pm	Parish Mass (cantor/instrumentalists)	Msgr. Parent

A note on seating for Masses on Christmas Eve and Day: we do not require tickets, first come, first seated, including in the overflow seating in the Commons. For the 5pm Mass, generally there are no seats left after 4pm; for all other Masses, if you arrive at least 15 minutes in advance of the Mass start, you should be able to find a seat. Please plan accordingly!

Special Note: Since Christmas Eve is on a Sunday, this can cause confusion with the regular 4th Sunday of Advent Mass schedule. Thus, note the following to plan your Mass attendance:

For the 4th Sunday of Advent, the Masses are:

Saturday, Dec 23 at 5pm

Sunday, Dec 24 at 9am, 10:30am and 12:15pm (no 7:30am or 6pm for the 4th Sunday of Advent)

Christmas Eve and Day Masses are as listed above. (Yes, if you come on Sunday morning the 24th, and like to come to a Christmas Eve Mass rather than Christmas Day, you will be attending Mass twice that day — in the morning for Sunday and in the evening for Christmas.)



Girl Scout Troop 2668 (from St. Elizabeth School) earned their Bronze Award by planning and providing an afternoon of fun and games at the Rockville Senior Center. "We recognized in our community that older people can sometimes be lonely. We spent the afternoon sharing conversation, crafts, and games and hoped they inspired others to play these new games with their friends. We learned about the people that came to visit us and we hope to have made the world a better place by keeping seniors occupied and happy!"



Over 100 golfers and supporters turned out for the annual St. Elizabeth Golf Tournament at Argyle Country Club.



Junior Kindergartners at St. Elizabeth School perform a variety of songs for their Grandparents.

Kenya Comes to The Woods

Since 2012, The Woods family – students, teachers, administrators, and parents – has joined hands with the Nyumbani Village community in Kitui, Kenya. This bond between the communities has included two Woods teachers visiting Kenya, several visitors from Kenya coming to The Woods, and an on-going Sister School Exchange Program between The Woods Academy and Hotcourses Primary located at Nyumbani Village as well as many gifts and donations flowing back and forth.

Justus Mwaka Musia from Hotcourses Primary visited all classes at The Woods on Tuesday, November 28 through Thursday, November



Seventh Graders Teddy Seitz (center) and Jack Powers (right) speak with Justus Mwaka Musia from Hotcourses Primary in Kenya about the letter they received from one of the Kenyan students.

Village. This was his third visit to The Woods and students of all ages adore him!

This holiday season, Woods students are preparing new backpacks and school supplies that will be brought to the students

and photographs, as well as hand-woven crafts from the students at Hotcourses.

In addition, the entire Woods community has been very generous in making donations to improve the quality of life for our Kenyan friends. Teachers have contributed extra school supplies and sports clothing as well as new cameras and refurbished computers. Students and families have donated clothing and shoes, not to mention the fundraising led by Student Council and the Community Service Club which aids with improvement in water management of the Maasai Pastoral Community Development Alliance.

Head of School Joe Powers remarks, "...our two communities benefit from this partnership. Thank you to all, Woods teachers and our friends at Nyumbani and Hotcourses, for making this work so well for all the kids."

To learn more about our partners in Kenya visit www.nyumbani.org.

OPT



Justus Mwaka Musia from Hotcourses Primary in Kenya tries his hand at some of the activities during PE class with the three-year olds.

30, 2017. He joined the Montessori Preschool students for PE, greeted students in the hallways, and taught lessons in some of the classes he visited. He focused on teaching about Kenyan Culture and the lives of our Sister School students at Hotcourses Primary in Nyumbani

at our Sister School who begin school in January. In the past, Woods students have sent videos of their school performances as well as letters and drawings to the students at Hotcourses Primary in exchange for videos of daily tasks, letters and drawings, books of stories



Justus Mwaka Musia from Hotcourses Primary in Kenya greets Ms. Debbie Dosh and her Third-Grade Students in the hallway during his visit to The Woods at the end of November.



Upper School Students (left to right) Ryan Curry (5), Becky Island (6), Michael Capuano (8), and Emma Shriver (7) with Dean of Students Mr. JP Clubbs (left) thank Command Sergeant Major Ross Bagwell (right) for presenting during Chapel on Monday, November 6.

Command Sergeant Major Ross Bagwell Addresses Upper School Students in Advance of Veterans Day

On Monday, November 6, Command Sergeant Major Ross Bagwell visited The Woods Academy to share with the students in Grades 5-8 about the essential qualities of good leadership and how he leads a life of significance. CSM Bagwell has served in a number of active duty and reserve assignments in both the Marines and Army.

CSM Bagwell took time to explain to the students that all good leaders must have purpose, direction, and motivation. He also helped the students define a good leader as someone who knows his/her entire team, someone who maintains a positive attitude, someone who better his/her environment, and someone who builds the next generation of leaders. He then encouraged the students to contemplate, "Why We do What We Do?"

It was a pleasure to host such a decorated

and knowledgeable leader from our military community.

OPT

The Woods Academy

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301-365-3080

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Joseph E. Powers

OPT Editor
Jodie Shoemaker
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& Alumni Relations
www.woodsacademy.org



THE WOODS
ACADEMY

Open House

January 18

9:00—10:30 AM



We are a private, co-educational,
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CHALICE

Con't from page 4

"Praying for vocations is the most powerful way to support vocations. A vocation is a call from the Holy Spirit, a gift from God that is nurtured in prayer. When we pray for vocations, we lift up to our Father those men and women whom He is calling to follow Him in a very special way. We hope that those who bring the cup home will continue to pray daily for vocations."

Holy Redeemer School assembled each school day for the week after November 5 to pray for an increase and perseverance of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Mrs. Harper used the opportunity to spend more time on religious vocations during religion classes in the middle school.

During the week, the Kindergartens learned more about the Mass and the importance of having a priest to celebrate it. They learned that during Mass the priest takes the bread and wine and consecrates them into the Body and Blood of Christ.

Kindergarteners acted out the Mass for their eighth-grade buddies and again for the second-grade classes. Kindergartener Declan Graham, nephew of Father David Wells, had his own vestments made for him by his mother.

This Vocation Week event at Holy Redeemer gave the students a greater awareness of how important it is for each of us to listen to God's call to serve His Church.

OPT

GRANDPARENTS

Con't from page 4

fill the HYA last Tuesday morning. I've always loved sharing music with my own grandparents, and thought I would take a moment to share why singing for and with my grandparents has become so meaningful to me.

I've been a singer for my entire life and music has always been a medium in which I have been able to connect in a very special way to my grandparents. My grandmother began showing signs of Alzheimer's when I was in middle school. By the time I had reached the 8th grade, she had moved to my small New Hampshire hometown from New York City so we could take better care of her. As her working memory faded, her musical memory did not. Even when she could hardly remember my name, she could remember the words of "The Sound of Music". We spent entire evenings singing and sharing music with one another hand in hand. When she moved



Mrs. Eib loved sharing her gift of singing with her grandparents.

into an assisted living home, and eventually nursing care, it filled my heart to sing at her various facilities and see her beaming face in the front row. She had not a clue as to who I was; but I am confident that she knew my voice, and to me, that was enough. Our shared love of music continued to create

memories during a time when it seemed like all the memories were disappearing.

Another profound example of my connection to my grandparents through music was this summer, when the only grandfather I ever knew passed away following a severe stroke. I spent a week with him in

the ICU, singing some of his favorite songs and feeling him squeeze my hands when one of his favorites would pour from my lips. I was even given the enormous gift of singing to him as he took his last breath—right at the end of the third verse of Amazing Grace; "Grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home."

Music has been the method in which my Grandparents were able to tell me about their childhoods, who they truly are and what matters to them. When it seemed as though we had nothing in common, there was always a song to share. Grandparents, it is my hope that you always choose to share your music with your Grandchildren. Students, it is my hope that you always take the time to listen to your Grandparents' music. It's amazing what you will learn about them, as well as yourself, when you open your heart to the melodies that fill theirs. "I will sing of your steadfast love and justice; to you, O Lord, I will make music." -Psalm 101

OPT

SHORT

Con't from page 1

to gain the title.

Msgr. Ralph Kuehner gave himself fully in service to the poor and vulnerable in our region. In life he was my wise and patient mentor. In death, I pray he will be my guardian. Fr. Ralph was an Old Testament scholar who ironically was a prophet of social justice in the modern world. He is revered by many for his steadfast and courageous passion for social justice. He is remembered by the faithful of St Francis of Assisi parish as a humble and loving parish priest. Fr. Ralph founded So Others May Eat, (SOME); Victory Housing; and the Welcome Home Prison Ministry. Poor and vulnerable people are more comforted because of Fr. Ralph's gift of himself to them.

Anne Schneiders never married and had no children of her own,

yet she gave herself completely in love and service to foster children and those who were neglected and abused. For many years she served on the Board of Directors of St Ann's Center for Children and Families. She was a Daughter of Charity, attorney and social worker who defended the rights and tended to the needs of vulnerable children as a determined advocate for reforms in legal and child welfare systems. One of Anne's "kids", Goldie who is autistic, told his story at her funeral. Everyone in his young life had given up hope for him including his birth mother. Anne took him on, found a supportive and loving adoptive home for him, prevailed upon a caring principal to admit him to Holy Trinity elementary school in Washington and mentored him through high school, college, and now he's on his way to a Master's in computer science. The enduring gift of her life to Goldie and count-

less others is **greater hope, justice and love for at-risk children.**

Many of us remember **Msgr. Vincent Gatto** as an ever-present loving parish priest. No doubt he rests in the arms of Christ today. Msgr. Gatto had no greater ambition than to serve the pastoral and human needs of his beloved parishioners. He believed deeply in Catholic education and stewarded Our Lady of Mercy and Holy Cross schools to enduring excellence. As a retired priest he adored the students at St Raphael's. Msgr. Gatto's door and heart were always open to comfort and counsel his parishioners. He will be remembered as a devoted priest who gave the gift of himself to his parishioners.

Now two living examples. Each year the Catholic Business Network honors a leader as Catholic Business Person of the Year. At its Gala, CBN honored **Geoffrey Gonella** (Holy Redeemer) for his contributions to the community. Geoff and

his wife LuLu are well known and admired parish and business leaders. The Catholic educational community has benefited from Geoff's active support and wise counsel as a board member and coach at local schools. He and LuLu recently were leaders in a compassionate parish effort to assist a local family in crisis. Geoff is in every sense a model Catholic leader. During a time when moral leadership is needed, Geoff's gift to us is his exemplary Gospel driven life.

Sandra McMurtie (Our Lady of Mercy) received the CBN Community Leader Award. Sandy is a devoted Catholic in action. She learned from the best, as a volunteer with Mother Teresa in Calcutta. She is devoted to Catholic education and often volunteers to assist her parish school, Our Lady of Mercy. Both Gonzaga and Stone Ridge have benefited from her astute business mind and wise advice. Yet leading our community to care more for the

poor and vulnerable are her greatest contributions. Her respected nonsense approach in service to others and insistence upon protecting the dignity of very vulnerable person gives strong voice to those in need. She is a founder of Potomac Community Resources and tireless advocate for homeless people and victims of domestic violence. Like Geoff, she is a model for us all. Our Catholic missions of education and compassion are enhanced each day by Sandy's gift of herself.

While reflecting on our gifts, consider the caution from artist Michelangelo, "The danger is not in setting goals which are too high and failing, but rather setting them too low and succeeding". We need not look any further for the perfect gift than our own hearts.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Chuck Short

Cshort5@verizon.net

EPIDEMIC

Con't from page 15

impacting the families affected by substance abuse. Dr. Rosa, an integrated medicine physician with Accessible Beltway Clinics, demonstrated how the overuse of legal prescription opioid drugs has created an unprecedented demand for opioids in ever increasing dosages. Legal distribution of prescription opioid drugs, coupled with illicit drug trafficking, has made the supply for opioids ample, cheap and lethal. This self-perpetuating cycle has claimed the lives of more Americans in less than two years than the Vietnam War did in 20 years.

Panelists at the community forum included James Place Advocacy Group Founder Barbara Allen; Judith Clarke of Women Who Care Ministries; Fr. John Dillon; Dr. Rosa; and Lt. Ronald Smith of the Montgomery County Police Department. The panel addressed questions from the audience, stressing the need for a multi-disciplined response to this epidemic.

In her opening remarks, Betty Baklarz, coordinator for the St. Francis Health Ministry, stressed the importance of building resiliency for life through strong faith and family bonds. In his remarks, Fr. Dillon explained the emotional challenges of working with families who have lost a loved one to an overdose.

Ms. Allen, who has lost three

family members to opioid abuse, explained her journey from grieving mother to executive director of James Place, which has as its mission education and the provision of scholarships for recovery services for the disease of addiction. She advised the use of a drug lockbox to safeguard prescription medicines at home and to dispose of unused prescription opioids through the county police department. Ms. Clarke, who is 21 years in recovery, shared her journey and outlined the services her ministry provides to care for women who are victims of abuse.

Dr. Rosa addressed the question of medical marijuana. Noting that there are mixed results as to whether marijuana is an effective treatment as some have claimed, Dr.

Rosa stressed that there's evidence marijuana may be a gateway drug to opioids. States that have legalized marijuana are experiencing employment issues and increased crime, he said.

Lt. Smith of the Montgomery County Police Department explained Maryland's Good Samaritan law and encouraged persons to call for help for suspected overdose. The Good Samaritan Law protects persons from arrest or prosecution when calling 911 for help during an overdose crisis so that no charges for use or possession of a controlled dangerous substance or drug paraphernalia or for providing alcohol to minors will be incurred, according to the Maryland Department of Health's Behavioral Health Administration.

The engaging question and answer discussion illustrated that the comprehensive approach to saving lives should include medical treatment, sustainable recovery programs, prevention education, effective public policy and law enforcement.

Fr. Dillon said the parish is still determining its role in continuing to support people and families whose lives have been impacted by opioid drugs. However, he said the parish will be involved in areas of prayer, support and education. For more information about resources for opioid recovery, contact Health Ministry Coordinator Betty Baklarz at lbaklarz@yahoo.com.

OPT



Above, Our Lady of Fatima statue was processed into the church with Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Honor Guard and hand carried by men of the parish to the side of the Altar for the commemorative Mass, Rosary and Benediction.

At right, a full church, remembering Our Lady's requests from 1917 in Fatima, Portugal and our hope for a future of peace on earth.



Knights of Columbus Pumpkin Party

By Terry Waters, Past Grand Knight

A warm and sunny late October afternoon provided the perfect setting for our Knights of Columbus annual Family Pumpkin Event! We hosted the event on the back deck of the Neumann House which was enjoyed again by kids of all ages! In fact, as one mom remarked, "Every fall my kids look forward to this party. They love the excitement of picking out their pumpkin and then getting creative when carving it!" And who could not get caught up in the fun, laughter, treats, and the happiness seen in the faces of so many youngsters!



The SJN Knights of Columbus hosted their annual parish Pumpkin party...kids of all ages enjoyed the weather, refreshments, carving challenges and being with one another.

Our Knight's Council provided over 40 free pumpkins, in addition to serving plenty of lemonade, cider, donuts and snacks. And Marlene Shoemaker added a special tasty treat-- her homemade chocolate chip cookies. Special thanks go out to Knights' GK Mike York, Jim Barr, Dan Cipra, Mike Donnellan, Tom Firestone, David Hightrink, Brian Hiles, Richard Joseph, and Ian Lansigan. Special thanks also to Jim Barr for his behind-the-scenes work in moving the activity to Saturday, knowing that the weather looked far too nasty for an outdoor event on Sunday. And of course, we always deeply appreciate the support and passion that Marlene Shoemaker brings to all our Knights' functions!



Parishioner Mary Louise Bernadette Mahoney brought her usual fun self to share in the Halloween festivities.

OPT

Fatima Ever Faithful 100 Years

On October 13, our parish came together to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the sixth and final apparition of Our Lady to the three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal. It was on this day in 1917 that over 75,000 people witnessed "the miracle of the sun", an apocalyptic foreshadowing of the final judgement, and received a confirmation of the Blessed Mother's requests for prayer and forgiveness to ensure

a time of peace in the world and in the Church.

Pastor Joe Rogers helped us respond to Our Lady's requests by celebrating the Eucharist, consecrating parish families to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary and praying the Rosary for peace and the family. The evening closed with solemn benediction followed by cake and refreshments in the Parish Center.

OPT



By The Westers

SJN 2017

*Oom-pah rang the tuba and the dance floor came alive!
Rockville German Band was playin', Parish halls shook side-to-side.*

*Everyone enjoyed the pretzels & delicious Bavarian brew.
Happy faces eating brauts & knockwurst, kale... potato salad, too!*

*Who could say "no" to mac & cheese, red cabbage & sour kraut?
Cherry topped Black Forest cake made everyone quite stout!*

*There is nothing better, for SJN to welcome in the fall,
Than filling up a room, with joy & smiles from wall-to-wall.*



Oktoberfest organizer Cheryl Harskowitch served up 224 meals this year and sends thanks to our Parish Priests, Luis Jovel, Sue Evans, Jennie Cullen Meyer, Vicky & Harald Schneider, Mary & Rick Busche, Jim Barr, Claudette Lease, Lee Hadisurya, Alex Kengne Tasinkam, Gary Guy, Audrey Linton, Dan Cipra, Simona el Hallal, Betsy Rayel, Kristy Burrows, Liz Cannon, MaryAnn Johnston, Terry Waters, Gloria & Steve Rhodes, Nick Hiles, Gloria Fernandez, Xiuzhi Chang, Maria Idoni, Maria Ortiz, Rebecca Tuban, Hector Ramos, photographer Jerry Kelley, Ed Grundler of EGI Printing and Larry Harskowitch.



Fr. Ken Gill talks to St. Jude Sodality members about the history of St. Catherine of Alexandria Catholic Church, located in Port Tobacco, Maryland.



St. Jude Sodality members (L-R): Front row, seated: Rose Campbell, Pat Wheeler, Grace Stover, Natalie Craven, and Madge McLaren. Second row: Peggy Barbera, Barbara King, Beth Wheeler (Sodality Prefect). Third row: Marta Custer Sanchez, Rita Roberts, Pat Black, Kathy Blasco, Susan Willcoxson, Peggy King, Betty Beltz, and Sabina Kisilu. Back row: Clare Kuzma, Nancy Biggin, Kalem Myeshanew, and Fr. Ken Gill. Not pictured, Irma Jean Baptiste.

St. Jude Sodality Road Trip to Southern Maryland

By Clare Kuzma

On October 21, 20 members of the St. Jude Sodality took a road trip to Southern Maryland to join Fr. Ken Gill (former parochial vicar at St. Jude) and his parishioners of St. Catherine of Alexandria (Port Tobacco) in their bible study. The group toured the historic church as well as traveled

the Religious Freedom Trail to the historic St. Ignatius Chapel in nearby Chapel Point. St. Ignatius is the oldest continuously active parish in the United States founded in 1662.

Fr. Ken shared the rich historic background of the area and the beginning of our Catholic roots here in Maryland. It was a picturesque day spent praying, learning, and sharing with a commu-

nity so steeped in history. It was a wonderful way to prepare for the St. Jude Novena, followed by All Saint and All Souls Day and into the Thanksgiving Season. The Sodality members who joined Father will no doubt be thinking of those who paved the way for our religious freedom in those small pockets of Maryland more than 350 years ago.

OPT

Confirmation Retreat: With Great Power

By Jane Soberano; photo by Tom Roach

“With Great Power” was the title of a Confirmation retreat held at St. Jude in early November. Nine leaders from the National Evangelization team led 40 St. Jude youth in reflection, prayer, and action in preparation for their upcoming Confirmation in April 2018.

Pictured to the right are Hasmin Ramos, Michelangelo Kery, and Edgar Esparza, who look as if there are playing rock, paper, scissors with the retreat leaders but, in fact, are participating in a very important lesson. The students took part in three stations and the rules were such that it was almost impossible to win. Every time someone would lose, the leader would say, “You can ask for help,” which most students would ignore. Finally, after getting very frustrated, some began to ask



for help and found out that there were passwords to victory: “You shall receive...,” “Power from on high...,” and “When the Holy Spirit comes upon you...” The talk that followed this activity pointed out

that so often we get frustrated when we can’t do things, or get rid of our bad habits and sins, or pray rightly and we forget to ask the help of the Holy Spirit.

OPT

St. Jude Parish Honors Jim Kuzma

The Shrine of St. Jude parish and school recently honored Jim Kuzma (St. Jude Catholic School Class of 1972) for his many years of dedicated service to the school and parish as coach, mentor, and parent. A display of trophies from past championship teams – built by Henry Mazariegos with project coordination by Otis Sangster – was dedicated in Jim’s name. Pictured below with Jim are a few of his teammates, classmates, and friends that he made from growing up in the St. Jude community. From left to right: Steve Orsini, Jim Kuzma, Bill Dankos, (forefront) Mike Lozupone, and Dan Harwood.

OPT



Biennial Gala Set for March 10

By Karen Sanders

A Tropical Evening Awaits the St. Jude community as they prepare to celebrate the spirit of “Ohana” (family) with a festive luau gala on March 10, 2018, on the not-so-sandy beaches of the Thaddeus Room of the school.

Following a similar format as galas of the past, the evening will include a 50/50 raffle, silent auction with new mobile and online bidding, buffet-style dinner, open bar, and live auction. Tickets are available at www.stjuderockville.org; click on “Giving” and then “Luau 2018”. Cost to attend is \$55 per person or \$100 per couple until Feb. 2, then pricing increases. All funds raised from the biennial celebration will be used to create a state-of-the-art STEM lab at St. Jude Regional Catholic School.

In the spirit of Ohana that the St. Jude community provides, former students are encouraged to contact the gala committee to provide testimony on the importance of their St. Jude science instruction and the influence of Ms. Hampe in their lives.

For more information, please contact Kim Lora at kiml119@msn.com.

OPT



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First Communion Rite of Enrollment

By Jane Soberano; photo by Tom Roach

“We Promise to help our children learn what it means to follow Jesus at home, school, and the larger community,” is one of the four promises that the parents of more than 100 children who are preparing for First communion made at Mass on Nov. 12. Father Shaun Foggo, Parochial Vicar at the Shrine of St. Jude, received their covenants as well as the promise of the children “to obey [their] parents, study hard in preparation for the Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist, and celebrate the Eucharist weekly with [their] family.” He then blessed and gave a St. Joseph Illustrated Bible to each child. This Rite of Welcoming helps the First Communion candidates understand that their preparation for these wonderful sacraments has truly begun.

OPT

More Shrine of St. Jude News on Page 34



Twinning Parishes build a new church in Haiti

St Mary's Catholic Church of Barnesville and St Mary of the Mills Catholic Church of Laurel have chosen Vanguard Light Gauge Steel Buildings (Vanguard) in Winchester, Virginia, to supply materials to construct a 3,600 square foot church (45'x 80') for their twinned parish of St Joseph's in Carcasse, Haiti, at a cost of \$150,000. The new church will replace the one destroyed by Hurricane Matthew.

Vanguard Light Gauge Steel Buildings – Winchester, Virginia

- Manufactures light gauge steel framing members
- Incorporates hurricane and earthquake resistant construction
- Includes reflective insulation and internal passive ventilation system

The steel framing members can be incorporated into wall and floor components, roof panels and trusses. The resulting building is highly resistant to hurricanes and earthquakes and is inherently impervious to termites, mold, mildew, and fire. Vanguard's Haitian subsidiary, Shelter2Home-Haiti (S2H), has built indi-



St Joseph's church after Hurricane Matthew

vidual homes, an orphanage, a church, three schools, and a variety of other buildings after the 2010 earthquake.

When asked how the S2H structures fared in the wake of Hurricane Matthew, company owner Donald Stevens said, "We

conducted an in-country assessment after the storm and learned that there was zero damage and no one injured inside [our buildings]."

The new church will serve as a place of worship for St. Joseph's parishioners and as a shelter for all inhabitants of the Carcasse community. Currently, there are very few structures sturdy enough to withstand hurricane force winds in Carcasse, as evidenced by the fact that 90% of the structures there were destroyed or significantly damaged by Hurricane Matthew.

The St. Mary's parishes plan to finance the construction of the new church by fundraising (50%) and outside grants (50%). To donate, please send checks with "Haiti Church" on the memo line to:

St. Mary's Barnesville – P.O. box 67, Barnesville MD 20838 Phone: 301-972-8660

St. Mary's Laurel – 106 Saint Mary's Place, Laurel, MD 20707 Phone: 301-725-3080

To donate online, visit: www.stmaryonline.com/donatetostjosephs/



Chapel construction at Meyotte by S2H



Chapel at Meyotte finished by S2H



New Church Rendering

Eighty-Eighth Annual Ham and Turkey Dinner in Barnesville

by Liz Smith

Parishioners welcomed 900 guests from all over the state to our Annual Ham and Turkey Dinner. Each year those interested in a beautiful drive in the country with a destination for a homecooked meal, head to St. Mary's. Families upon their arrival share stories of generations of their families coming for this spectacular event.

Many first timers marvel at the bounty of the meal and wonderful fellowship. The menu includes unlimited ham, turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, yams, green beans, sauerkraut, and rolls. Once finished, those who still had room, purchased dessert at the Baked Goods stand or tried their luck at the Cake Wheel.

The venue also boasts a Country Store with fresh canned jams, Craft Stand, and Christmas Shop. Guests as they departed for the day grabbed a pumpkin to take home and a Take Out for their meal the next day! The weather, food, and satisfied guest made for an outstanding event.

OPT



The sit-down dinner is served family style.



Folks of all ages climbed aboard the hay wagon for a lovely trip around the grounds.

St. Mary's to hold discount bridal sale to raise funds for twin parish in Haiti

by Laura Wright

A sea of glittering white silk wedding dresses are beginning to fill up the bedrooms of Susan Jamison's home, and rooms in homes of several other parishioners of St. Mary's Parish in Barnesville.

With the help of their chosen patron saint, St. Philomena, this year Jamison and other parishioners hope to collect more dresses than ever before to sell at their first regional discount bridal sale.

Six years ago, Jamison, a parishioner of St. Mary's parish in Barnesville, founded the parish's efforts to sell bridal gowns and special occasion dresses to raise money for their "twin" parish in Haiti, St. Joseph's Parish in Carcasse, under the title Brides for Haiti. St. Mary's parishioner Patti Bohr ran the program for the last five years, selling dresses to raise funds for St. Joseph's.

But last year – after Hurricane Matthew devastated much of the

infrastructure that St. Mary's helped build in the Haitian community – Bohr, Jamison and other parishioners decided to increase their bridal gown sales to help rebuild St. Joseph's destroyed church.

Haiti Twinning Coordinator Jack Reid who spearheads several other fundraising efforts – along with parishioners Diana Snouffer, Deacon David Cahoon and others – said, "The wedding dress fund has allowed St. Mary's to do more than support the primary and secondary school in Carcasse. Recently, we paid for two wells to be dug in

Continued on page 34

St. Mary's Parish

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International Night at St. John the Baptist School



St. John the Baptist Catholic School celebrated the cultural heritage of its families with meals, songs, dance and dress on International Night. More than 17 countries were represented by families that set up tables with delicious food and displays. Parents and children were encouraged to view the displays and sample the food. This year, SJB International Night featured a Parade of

Nations. Students paraded around and the gymnasium and gathered for a cheer on the school stage. Next came songs by the SJB advanced eighth-grade band. The students in SJB's new pre-school sang "Its A Small World" for the crowd, and Addy Hwang (Grade Three) and her friends performed a traditional Korean dance with the Buk wooden drums.

All of the performances were very entertaining and showcased the school's diversity.

This year, there was a mix of some old groups and some new groups. Gloria Quezada's Latin American folklore group returned to SJB for the second year in a row and the girls danced to music from Colombia, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Puerto Rico that expressed passion and honor for their coun-

tries. Royce Nazir (Grade Two) ended the evening singing and break dancing to popular pop music. He was able to excite the crowd and had all the kids on stage dancing along with him.

International Night is an annual event at SJB. We look forward to hosting it again next year.

OPT



At far left, the Parade of Nations ends with a celebration on the SJB stage.

At left, SJB family celebrates traditional Korean dress, flag and food on International Night.

Parent-funded Playground Equipment Debut

By Merianne R. Spencer

Students from Saint John the Baptist (SJB) school had been eagerly awaiting the installation of the new playground equipment, which was positioned on school grounds this past October. Since the playground's appearance, children have been enjoying the new look and recreation, and are

perhaps unaware of the additional benefits in this investment.

"There won't be any more puddles once [the new playground] is installed," Brian Blomquist stated at a recent school event, as dozens of children and parents cheered in awaiting the playground's forthcoming appearance.

The old playground equipment, which was over 20 years old, had been gradually deteriorating over the last several years, and was in dire need of many substantive fixes, including drainage repairs, and resurfacing renovations. After rainstorms, puddles could remain on the grounds for many days after, which often meant that children had to play on the parking lot for recess. Especially with the new preschool opening this year, new equipment was more necessary since the old equipment was not catered to younger ages.

"With this foundational investment, we now have a safe and dry playground for years to come," Mr. Blomquist said. "This could not have been possible with-



out the fundraising dollars raised by the Home School Association through the Spring Gala."

Anne Thomas, President of the Home School Association noted, "Our school families and community are incredibly generous, and this was a fun goal to support. It was such good timing because the new equipment can be used by our new preschool students as well."

Toddlers, preschoolers, and older children of SJB can all enjoy the new equipment, and kids are often found climbing and sliding on the equipment during recess, after school, and during weekend activities, such as soccer practice. "The playground is the parents' gift to the children, the school and the parish," Mr. Blomquist said, expressing his thanks to the SJB parents and community.

OPT

SJB students pose on their new playground slide. Photo by Hilary Lappin

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Principal**
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St. Martin's Dominican Sisters of Fatima Host Vocational Encounter

By Sr. Judith Maldonado

To celebrate National Vocational Awareness Week, St. Martin of Tours Church and the Dominican Sisters of Fatima held a Vocational Encounter Night for Women on November 8.

Sister Judith Maldonado, OP, Sister Maristella Maldonado, OP and Sister Cruz Vega, OP invited girls, teens, youth, and young

adults between the ages of 9 to 23 years old.

Sister Judith opened the night with a group talk explaining all vocational possibilities and what means to have a religious vocation. The 24 participants were divided in groups according to their ages to hear the story of the sisters' vocation; how to discern a vocation; ask questions etc. The night included prayers and finished with dinner.

OPT



Srs. Maristella and Judith Maldonado with the young women who attended Vocational Encounter Night. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's Parish.



St. Martin's 8th graders visit the U.S. Supreme Court. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.

Eighth Graders Visit the Supreme Court

By Ian Javelosa, Eighth Grader

The last phrase to the Pledge of Allegiance is "with liberty and justice for all." I have never really thought of the words of the Pledge of Allegiance. What do these words mean? What did Francis Bellamy mean when he wrote the Pledge of Allegiance? If anyone wonders what "liberty and justice for all" means, he or she can ask the eighth-grade class of St. Martin's School who made a visit to the Supreme Court on October 26, its meaning.

The eighth grade started our morning by meeting at the Shady Grove Metro Station. Then, we commuted to Washington D.C. and got off at Union Station. We saw

some of the Nation's Capital and began our tour of the Supreme Court by watching a video about the building itself and the justices' jobs. After that, the eighth grade sat in the Supreme Courtroom and learned how one becomes a Justice and how a case comes to the Court. Although we did not get to hear a case argued, our tour guide encouraged us to come back for that, and many of us are eager to do so.

Afterward, we sat in conference room in which paintings of many historic justices including the first Chief Justice John Jay, President then Chief Justice William Howard Taft, and the Great Chief Justice John Marshall hung. We learned about symbolism built into the

building. For example, the hidden lions symbolize the fierceness of the law, owls represent the wisdom of those who carry out the law, and turtles allude to Aesop's fable "The Tortoise and the Hare" and imply that even though the path to true justice may be long and treacherous, justice will come to those who truly deserve it. The Supreme Court Building was not the only sight the eighth grade visited. We also visited the US Botanical Gardens and Capitol.

The Supreme Court Field Trip was a great learning experience for the SMS eight Grade Class of 2018. I hope that this will persuade anyone who reads this to learn about how the government works.

OPT

Field Trip on Baltimore's *Lady Maryland*

By Teeya Sabni, Eighth Grader

Each year Saint Martin's 8th graders go on an invigorating field trip to Baltimore on *Lady Maryland*, a puny schooner where students learn about the Chesapeake Bay through hands on

When we first came on the boat, the whole class got the chance to put up the sails, a task that required more muscle than we thought. After this we moved on to our activities. At one activity station we learned about navigation and how to find location from a map by using landmarks. At another station we learned about fish and oysters and actually touched the animals! In between these activities we all got a chance to steer the boat in pairs. Each team designed a team boats out of foil, popsicle sticks, and tape and after

the water. It was disappointing to learn was about how dirty the Bay is and how high its pH level is.

At the end of the day we reviewed all that we learned and said bye to the crew. This field trip was amazing because we explored some very interesting facts and had some great new experiences.

OPT



Lady Maryland

activities. This year, the 8th graders went to the trip in September instead of May. This made a significant difference because it was warmer and less windy which made the trip much more enjoyable.

lunch, there was a contest to see which design could hold the most cargo before sinking. We checked the water's pH level and learned which microscopic beings live in



Robert McMillin was inducted into the Catholic Business Network Montgomery County Youth Coaches Hall of Fame on October 13, 2017. Rob coached CYO basketball for six years at St. Martin's. Two of the teams he coached were undefeated and one had only one loss. In the off season, Rob ran a girls' basketball clinic for all players in the parish interested about learning more about basketball. Rob was a great asset for the St. Martin's basketball program, and he will be greatly missed this season. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.

Late-term Abortion Clinic Opens in Bethesda Now is the Time to Witness to Life

Join us as we pray for an end to abortion.
Sunday, December 10, St. Jane de Chantal Church
following 12:00 Mass

Contact: prolife@adw.org or 301-853-5318
www.facebook.com/adwlifessues

More St. Martin of Tours News on Page 34

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Betty Nedd-Pierre was recently recognized by the Montgomery County Community Action Agency for her 20-plus years of volunteer work supporting the Takoma East Silver Spring Center and the community. Her efforts and service have provided critical assistance to Montgomery County residents in need. Betty also volunteers at Shepherds Table and is a member of Matthew 25 at St. Michael the Archangel.



Attend Marriage Prep at St. Michael's

By John Webster

Planning a Spring or Summer 2018 wedding? Join us at St. Michael's Parish for your required Marriage Preparation classes. The Marriage Ministry at St. Michael's, in partnership with the Archdiocese of Washington Family Life Office, will be offering Marriage Preparation classes during February 2018.

The classes will present materials from the newly developed Transformed in Love (www.transformedinlove.com) program and will be held from 9AM until 1PM on four successive Saturdays (February 3, 10, 17, and 24). For more information and to register, email the Family Life Ministry at flm@adw.org or call the Events Office at 301-853-5337.

OPT



St. Michael the Archangel Knights of Columbus 2017 Star Council presentation

St. Michael's Knights of Columbus Council Honored

By Charles Hayes

On October 28, St. Michael the Archangel Knights of Columbus was given the select honor of Star Council. The coveted plaque was presented to past Grand Knight Antonio Calaro by State Deputy Stephen M. Cohen. The award has only been given to 15% of the 149 Knights Councils

in the State of Maryland in recognition of the council's outstanding achievement in membership, insurance, and service activities.

In addition, Charles Hayes, our past District Deputy, was awarded Star District Deputy along with only two other District Deputies out of 35 in the State of Maryland. This honor was achieved, in large part, with the help of the District Warden, Andy Michaels, who is the current District Deputy.

The Officers and members of the St. Michael the Archangel Knights of Columbus appreciate the continued support of our pastor, Monsignor Tolentino, the supporting clergy and the parish members in our efforts to strengthen the parish by practicing the principles of the Knights of Columbus: CHARITY, UNITY, FRATERNITY AND PATRIOTISM.

OPT

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St. Michael the Archangel's Call to Service Retreat

By Lisa Taylor

From November 3 through November 5, the leadership of St. Michael the Archangel's Parish conducted its annual retreat at Seton Heritage Retreat House in Emmitsburg, Md. This year's theme for the retreat was Righteousness, Justice, & Leadership to Service. Guided by prayer and the words of the holy bible, Monsignor Eddie Tolentino and Father Alberto Biondi led the Parish Council, Finance Council, and staff on a crusade to realize the seven principles of Catholic social justice. The Parish will dedicate this church year, beginning on the first Sunday of Advent to Service and is asking every member of the church to take a pledge of service.

The retreat was a time for the church leadership to reflect and pray on the best ways to use St. Michael the Archangel for the service of others. During the retreat, the participants reflected on each of the principles of social justice, including (1) the Life and Dignity of the Human Person; (2) a Call to Family, Community,



Members of the St. Michael's Parish Council, Finance Council, and staff plan and reflect on the parish's upcoming Year of Service.

and Participation, (3) Rights and Responsibilities, (4) Option for the Poor and the Vulnerable, (5) the Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers, (6) Solidarity, and (7) Care for God's Creation.

After prayer and reflection, the retreat attendees came up with a robust list of more than 90 service projects for the parish. The retreat also identified several churches and

Catholic organizations available for partnership in service. These projects were also proposed with the consideration that every person could give of himself or herself through prayer, time, talent, or treasure. The retreat was an opportunity to bring the leadership of St. Michael the Archangel together to walk in faith through service.

OPT



Service Retreat participants

Michaelmas Celebration

The Devil was about to be "All Shook up"

By Cecilia Flores

The voices were strong and the percussionists maintained the rhythm and energy as the parishioners and choir sang while they waited for the mass to begin in celebration of Michaelmas! Yes indeed, folks walking or driving outside on Wayne Avenue could hear the church reverberate with song of rejoicing and prayer as St. Michaels gathered to celebrate mass in honor of its patron, St. Michael the Archangel. The happiness was so profound it made a body want to weep with joy.

The mass began with a Procession of Flags from every country, representing our diversity, followed by



Blessing of the Parish council and Ministry Leaders at Michaelmas 2017.

Continued on page 28



Fall Open House: Mercy Students Shine

The first school Open House was held on October 5. We were excited by the turnout of prospective new families, with children ranging in age from Pre-K through middle school! These families had an opportunity to meet the staff, see the classrooms, and hear why our school is so special. Assisting our parent volunteers, Mercy 8th grade students functioned as Open House Ambassadors, accompanying prospective new families on their school tours. These students were a clear reflection of all that is exceptional about Mercy!



Friday Night Lights – A night to remember!

Mercy families and staff enjoyed an evening of music, food and fun under the lights on October 27. Friday Night Lights, an annual tradition, offers fun for the whole family: pizza dinner, the Good Humor ice cream truck, a DJ playing great tunes and the open road of the Mercy blacktop for kids to zoom around on with their scooters and bikes decorated in Mercy swag. New to the event this year was the Mercy Cornhole Tournament. Students paired up with teachers, prayer partners, and parents to compete for the coveted Mercy Cornhole Cup! Over 60 teams competed in a single elimination bracket. Mercy First Grader Molly Dugan and her father John tossed their way to victory, winning the championship!

Mercy Drama Club Presents Peter Pan!

Starting in mid-September, 33 student cast members and 10 student crew members spent more than 30 hours rehearsing for this year's show. Their hard work and dedication were evident during all three performances of Peter Pan! Spectators filled the gym and were transported to Neverland by an incredibly talented group of performers. Bravo!



Seventh-Grade Outdoor Education

Mercy seventh graders took on the great outdoors last month at Echo Hill Education School in Chestertown, Maryland. Located on the Chesapeake Bay, Echo Hill offered our students the opportunity to learn about Native American dwellings and survival skills, building a fire in a rainstorm, and working as teams canoeing on the Chesapeake. Along with their Principal, Mrs. Thomas, and Athletic Director, Mr. Treadwell, the students enjoyed songs by the campfire, respectful debates about the merits of business and environmentalism, and laughter under the night sky.

Extensions and Enrichment Program

Under the direction of Vice Principal and Teacher Mrs. Christine Green, Mercy is able to offer students of all ages, a broad array of educational and extra-curricular classes and activities. Our year-round programs include: Choir, Instrumental Band, Leadership, Student Council, Makerspace, and Scouts. In addition to these, Mercy offered a variety of other opportunities for extended learning this fall including: Lacrosse, Learning by Logic, Chess Club, Drama Club, and Art Appreciation workshops.

Mercy Dad's Club

Kickoff of the newly formed Mercy's Dad's Club was held on October 18th. Over 75 Mercy dads joined our Pastor, Father Bill Byrne, for an Oktoberfest event with dinner, drinks and cigars. The goals of this monthly social club are to build community, build fraternity, and build better dads.

Mercy Parents Show their Pride!

We have reached more than 90% participation in our MPTO (Mercy Parent Teacher Organization) this year!

Many Helpers Make an Impressive Contribution

The helpers are here all year round, but in the space of time between the start of school and

Our Lady of Mercy News

Thanksgiving, they are very busy as projects abound. For example, The October blood drive at Our Lady of Mercy was a great success. Many thanks are extended to Richard Sinatra who took the initiative several months in advance to plan the drive and organize volunteers to recruit donors. The sixty pints of blood collected was the second greatest amount in Our Lady of Mercy Blood Drive history.

In early November, the Langley Park winter coat, hat and glove drive was also very successful. Winter coats filled the boxes to overflowing outside the Kennedy Room and the entrance to the church.

Also in November Thanksgiving baskets were on many peoples to do list. Thanks goes out to Lisa Tuchtan for her work on the Thanksgiving Basket Project which provided meals to families in Assumption Parish in Washington, DC, the Multicultural Center and the Scotland Community. Also, thank you to Coughlin busses for transporting the baskets to the organizations.

Feeding Children in Haiti

The second collection in November was designated for the children of the Immaculate Conception School in Milot, Haiti. In 1968, the brothers of the Sacred Heart, Montreal Province began work building roads, wells, and several co-operative ventures to help the people of Northern Haiti. A hospital was built and in 1993, the CRUDEM foundation (Center for the Rural Development of Milot) continued and expanded work in the area of Milot. In addition to the hospital, a school was begun and work within the community is guided by Sister Ann Crawley, a Sister of the Congregation of St. Joseph of Peace who has been in Milot since 2009. Many of the children are severely undernourished and it was difficult for children to learn while feeling the pain of constant hunger.

Last year, Mercy donated a second collection to Immaculate Conception School which was designated to provide a meal for the children. Sister Ann wrote a thank

you letter stating, "We started our school dinners today and the children were literally 'over the moon with joy'. We had three hurricanes in a row which washed away everything and tore down very many fruit trees and very many houses. Many people are suffering from pangs of hunger and literally the whole of Haiti is crying out for food. Today is a day to remember...Haiti kids had dinner!"

A Mass of Remembrance

On Saturday November 14, at the five PM Mass, parishioners who had died during the previous year were remembered. Candles were lighted by family and friends during the Mass, as the names of the parishioners who died were read by Father Bill Byrne. A choral prelude began at 4:50 PM and the Parish Choir sang the Faure Requiem accompanied by a chamber orchestra. The Mass was followed by a reception in the Kennedy Room.

A Festival of Lessons and Carols for Advent and Christmas

A concert will take place at Our Lady of Mercy on December 17, 2017 at 2 PM. The concert will include The Children's Choir, the Hand bell Choir, The Parish Choir and the music of brass instruments. The concert is a special treat for anyone who needs a fresh dose of Christmas Spirit between shopping and football games. The concert is free and other positives are 1. You don't have to drive downtown and look for parking. 2. You will be home in time for dinner.

OPT

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Children dressed as saints introduce themselves after All Saints Mass.

It pays to advertise in Our Parish Times

Smell Like Your Sheep

By Sherry Moitoza, Adaptive RE Program Coordinator, Director of Social Concerns

"Be Shepherds With The Smell of Your Sheep"

Last month some parishioners and staff, attending a conference in Rome on Catechesis and Persons with Disabilities, had the unique and surprising experience of meeting Pope Francis. After the Papal address at Clementine Hall it became apparent that the four hundred participants were not only going to get to listen to the Holy Father speak, but were also invited to greet him afterwards. I found myself with butterflies beginning to multiply in my stomach while waiting in line from the back of the hall. The image of this experience that will stick in my mind forever was watching how the Holy Father met each delegate, often reaching out to greet them with both hands. When my turn finally arrived I noticed his endearing eyes, his smile genuine and when I asked if I could give him a hug, he didn't flinch.

The full title of the conference in Rome this past October was "Catechesis and Persons with Disabilities: A Necessary



Inside the lecture hall, Mary O'Meara is presenting her session and previewing the mini-documentary we created on the Adaptive RE Program.

Engagement in the Daily Pastoral Life of the Church". The event, sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Promoting the New Evangelization, gathered people from all over the world to dialogue about the theological background that ought to ground our response

to all persons made in the image of God. Each day began in prayer led by a community actively engaging those who are Deaf or have disabilities in the life of the church. Prayer was followed by clergy, doctors, professors, professionals and lay people offering presentations on what it means to catechize and engage persons with disabilities in the life of the church.

Archbishop Rino Fisichella began with a keynote speech grounding the conference in the scriptures - reminding that God chooses the way in which he will reveal himself to each person, the time and the ways are HIS ways. No one is excluded from God - this encounter of pure love should be difficult for us not to respond to. Fisichella said that ultimately, the goal of catechesis is "to make it so that God seizes everyone, whatever state they are in, because the primacy lies with him, God finds the most adequate means to communicate his life of love and to make the love he invests in a person felt."

A particular highlight for the group from our parish was revealed when examples of good prac-



Our delegation on break at the conference at the Pontifical Urbanianum University in Rome. Sherry Moitoza, Father Mateo Ayala, Sheila Shea, Molly Herrera-Gradowski.

tices in ministry highlighted the Adaptive Religious Education ministry at Saint Rose of Lima. Mary O'Meara, Executive Director of the Archdiocese of Washington Department of Special Needs Ministries, spoke about the collaborative peer mentor program and previewed the mini-documentary of the ministry with the delegates. The documentary, viewable on the parish website (www.strose-parish.org), was created to help other parishes see how teenage faith mentors are sharing their own faith journey and communicating the love and life of Christ to young people who learn best in a small group or in one-on-one settings.

Teenagers...leading the way in our parish, showing us how to "be Shepherds with the smell of sheep." This phrase that the Holy Father uses to encourage priests to reach out and grasp the hand of the poor, offer a hug to the lonely, and an endearing and welcoming smile for those on the outskirts of life applies to each one of us too. Teenagers at Saint Rose are responding to what the Pope said to the delegates, "Catechesis, in a special way, is

called to discover and experiment with coherent forms so that every person, with his or her gifts, limits and disabilities, even serious, may encounter Jesus on the way and abandon himself to him with faith." (21 October 2017.) Nobody embodies this more than the Pope who discovers ways to recognize Christ in others every day. I saw it happen first hand, I experienced his touch and I will be forever challenged to reach out to those I serve in creative, inclusive and selfless ways so that they will encounter Jesus on their journey.

OPT



The cross that Father Mateo gave the Pope is from the wood of the oak tree that was on the property of St. Rose and is no longer standing due to disease. Vatican Photo Service, used with permission

St. Rose of Lima

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FATIMA

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We were nestled next to the Plaza where daily devotions in all languages could be heard from the hotel window and we made excursions through the countryside to take in the cultural and religious sights of Portugal. Daily Mass and Rosary at the beautiful churches of Fatima, Nazarre, Obidos, and Lisbon served to enhance the faith life of all present. Intentions gathered from parishioners were placed on altars across the country as we prayed together.

Our guide Maria had exceptional knowledge about the history and cultural significance of the sites we visited; her Catholic faith was evident as well for she joined with us as a 34th pilgrim participating at Mass and prayers. Msgr. Jack McFarlane and Father Kevin O'Reilly are seasoned travelers and they inspired us with their homilies but their comfort in traveling together made it feel more like family.

OPT

ALL SHOOK UP

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parish youth dressed as angels, and the entrance procession. Together we sang "He's got the whole world in his hands" and from there the mass only got better. Readings were proclaimed in English and Spanish, and hymns were sung in French, Spanish and English during the multicultural mass. Parish Council and Ministry leaders were introduced to the congregation and given a blessing by Monsignor Tolentino. We ended the mass with all singing the hymn 'With One Voice - we'll pass the word along; with one voice, bring justice to the world'.

After mass, parishioners gathered in the Williamsburg Room to dine on a Pot Luck dinner generously provided by parishioners from the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, Latin America, North America and the Philippines. We laughed at the antics of



Marimba music was provided by Our Lord of Esquipulas Group

Alex the magician, enjoyed the music of Marimba Linda Xelaju and our very own youth jazz ensemble. Our youth dancers performed Irish Step Dance a traditional dance form Ireland, as well as folk dances from El Salvador and Africa; other dance performances included a Filipino modern dance and the Young at Heart perform-

ing American tap dance. A soloist sang to remember those devastated by hurricanes in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, neighboring islands and Texas. The night's entertainment concluded with music DJ and dancing.

It was a wonderful day of community and celebration of Michaelmas. This was a day that the Lord had made, and we were glad!

OPT

Solemnity of All Souls Memorial Mass

By Mary Beth DeLuzio

On the Solemnity of All Souls we celebrated all of our loved ones who have passed away. In a special way we honored our parishioners who have passed in the last year. They each have a sanctuary candle with their name on it. It burns for 5 days in front of the Altar. As the names were read a family member came up to light the candle. The families either took them home after Mass or

picked them up after the 5 days.

This year we added votive candles for anyone to light in remembrance of their loved ones from past years. This is a very beautiful Mass. The music and instruments add so much to the solemnity of this celebration. Following this Mass, we have a bulletin insert with all the names of the deceased from this year, for the parishioners to continue praying for them during the month of November.

OPT



Candles for those who departed this past year were arranged in front of the pulpit while candles for those who received Mass of Christian Burial at Mother Seton within the last year were arranged in front of the altar.



Our Lady of Fatima candlelight procession

Our Lady of Fatima

By Dorrette Paulin

One of Our Lady's messages to the shepherd children Jacinta, Francisco and Lucia in Fatima was: "Say the Rosary every day to obtain peace for the

world. After each decade say the following prayer: "O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who have most need of Thy mercy." In keep-

ing with the spirit of this message and to ensure a meaningful celebration, on Friday evening, October 13, members of various Mother Seton Parish organizations prepared

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Adaptive Needs Faith Formation program receives Open Hearts Award

The Inclusion in Worship Ministry of Pathways.org, a Chicago based not-for-profit, is recognizing Mother Seton Catholic Church with a 2017 Open Hearts Award cash grant to support their efforts to welcome individuals of all abilities. Mother Seton Parish started an Adaptive Needs Faith Formation program in the fall of 2016. The program is tailored to each individual student's needs and abilities. Some of the students find sustained activities challenging so the program director wanted to provide quality sensory materials for breaks for these students. Religious themed puzzles and games, therapy putty, kinetic sand, scooters and balls are some of the items that will be purchased with their Open Hearts Award grant.

"We are so proud of all our student's accomplishments this past year. We had three students receive



Three students from the Adaptive Needs Faith Formation program were confirmed this past year.

Confirmation, five students receive First Eucharist, and four students receive First Reconciliation. These are sacramental blessings their par-

ents felt were unavailable to their children in the past," said Mary Beth DeLuzio, parish nurse and religious education coordinator.

OPT

Out of Love, Let it Be

By Todd Levitas, Youth Minister, Middle and HS Faith Formation Coordinator

"Yes, the Lord shall comfort Zion and have pity on all her ruins; her deserts he shall make like Eden, her wasteland like the garden on the Lord." These words from prophet Isaiah (51:3) shed light, courage and consolation on those souls who, especially when tried in the dark

pit of spiritual trust, find a renewed vigor that always flourishes from the shadows of The Cross. But what is it? What are those gifts that the Prophet surmises that are capable transforming a dry and oft-times dreary soul into a spirit of confident vitality and surging growth?

He continues, "Joy and gladness shall be found in her, thanksgiving

Continued on page 30



De Colores Mexican Dance Group

All Saints International Festival

By Juliana Ordoñez

On October 30, Mother Seton Parish had the opportunity to celebrate their third 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 Fr. Benjamin Garcia, 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 performance from Mexico, Ireland and 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

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Mother Seton Youth having fun during a NET Ministries Ice-Breaker Game

LET IT BE

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and the sound of song.” Certainly, Mother Seton parish and her youth have been blessed with these gifts this past fall, from NET retreats to NCYC, from Youth Group gatherings to parish feasts. We pray that we persevere in gratitude to the

Lord, that we find new life in Him and (through his Blessed Mother) only in Him! And all this out of pure love for Jesus Christ, for whom all yearnings seek and from whom all graces flow! As our holy patroness instructs us, “Faith lifts the soul, hope supports it, experience says it must and Love says...let it be!” Mother Seton! Pray for us!

OPT



Mother Seton Youth w/ NET Ministries preparing for their Confirmation with time of prayer

St. Elizabeth

St. Elizabeth students enjoy a perfect day for our Halloween Day Parade.



St. E's faculty and staff are “Pretty in Pink” to show their support for Breast Cancer Awareness.

ENZLER

Con't from page 1

Network – and was also the original editor of *Our Parish Times*; he has done so much for our community.

Another good friend, Geoff Gonella, was named the Catholic Business Person of the Year. Geoff has been a strong supporter of Catholic education his whole career. He currently chairs the board of directors at Washington Jesuit Academy, a school for boys from low-income communities, and has served in that same capacity at Mater Dei in Bethesda. Geoff and his wife, Lulu, have been involved in many organizations and activities through the years that have helped bring God to others.

I was also honored to introduce this year's Catholic Community Leader of the Year, Sandy McMurtrie. Sandy has been a longtime friend to me personally and a vocal advocate for everything the Catholic Church does in our community. It was my pleasure to highlight her work as to how we can use what God has given us to help others.

Sandy also has a great love for our schools, and she backs it up with a

desire to help as many people as she can who desire a Catholic education. Her children all attended Catholic schools, and she has been a strong supporter for years of Our Lady of Mercy, Stone Ridge, Gonzaga, Dom Bosco Cristo Rey School, and others.

Sandy enjoyed a unique and close relationship with Mother Teresa, visiting her often in Calcutta and traveling with her on many humanitarian missions. She continues to support her Missionaries of Charity, particularly here in the Washington area. She is also a big supporter of all we do at Catholic Charities DC, and has been a guiding force behind our efforts to serve the hungry in our community, especially with our St. Maria's Meals program. Sandy's desire to feed the hungry is a tradition she carries on from her father, Dwayne Andreas, whom she loved so much and who just died a little more than one year ago. He was passionate about feeding the hungry both personally and in his role as chairman of Archer Daniels Midland, the big grain processing company that has been called the supermarket to the world.

A number of years ago, Sandy's father also created a program in

honor of Mother Teresa to enable one priest and three seminarians to go to Calcutta for a month to work with the poor. I was the first priest to go, and it was a life changing gift. The three seminarians and I worked in a home for the dying, visited a leper colony, spent time with the sisters taking care of little children, visited a place where many women were recovering after living on the street, and more. It was only one month of my life, but the experience changed me. It allowed me to see firsthand the needs of our world and how much of a difference we can make just by reaching out and helping our brothers and sisters on their journeys.

These three people, Paul, Geoff and Sandy, were rightly honored for all the good that they do, and they were surrounded by others who also share their time, talent and treasure in service to God and neighbors. In this season of love, Thanksgiving and charity, we should all reflect upon how we serve our Lord, our family, our church and our community. As we again prepare for the birth of Jesus at Christmas, may we rejoice in the opportunities we have to make Jesus present to all those who come our way.

OPT

The Woods Academy



Third-Grade Students at the 2016 Annual Christmas Concert

Save the Date: Annual Christmas Concert is December 19

The Woods Academy's Annual Christmas Concert will be held Tuesday, December 19 at 1:15 PM in the gym. This year's theme is “**Christmas around the World.**” Students in all grades will share songs and performances in English, Spanish, and French. Music Teacher Sharon Pabon and the Arts Team have prepared a beautiful celebration of the holiday season for The Woods community.

Fifth-Grade Art Students Inspired by the Season of Christmas

Our Fifth Grade Arts students spent the last month painting canvases adorned with the Virgin Mary as well as Angels. Currently, they are painting ceramic sculptures of the Holy Family which will be ready just in time for Christmas.

OPT



Clockwise from top left, “The Virgin Mary” by Gabriela Pabon, Grade 5

Fifth Graders Maggie Kelly (left) and Sibel Ozan paint their Holy Family ceramic sculptures.

“Angel” by Matthew Karrels, Grade 5



Attendees used props to create festive holiday photos at the Photo Booth

Christmas Bazaar Ushers in the Holiday Season

Keeping alive a long-standing tradition, St. John the Evangelist volunteers orchestrated another successful Christmas bazaar. The annual event began on Friday, November 10th, with an adults-only event with on-site babysitting available. Peg Daly, a lead volunteer for the bazaar, commented that the turnout on Friday night passed all

expectations as many parishioners and community members got a jump on holiday shopping while enjoying food and beverages.

Vendors provided a variety of gift options from jewelry to art work and from books to hand-made soaps. Saturday activities were focused on providing an enjoyable outing for the entire family. In addition to visiting

all the vendor tables, attendees could purchase raffle tickets for theme baskets, buy their favorite home-made baked goods, and peruse the books, CDs/DVDs, and household goods available in the Treasure Trove and Book Room. Children could try their luck in the game room, get their face painted, make a craft, and buy presents for their parents in the Secret Santa shop.

This year many attendees enjoyed dressing up and getting a photo taken in our Photo Booth. And to keep up everyone's energy, our hard-working kitchen crew provided nourishing lunch options for purchase.

As always, the Christmas Bazaar could not have succeeded without our many volunteers that helped with set-up, clean-up and staffing the tables and activities. Thanks so much for all your help. We also thank the vendors for bringing such lovely wares and all those who donated items for our baskets, treasure trove, and book room. We hope everyone found something special at the Bazaar and will join us again next year to get their holiday shopping off to a great start.

OPT



Nathan Incognito, John Lynagh, and Nathaniel Rogers, SJE Class of 2008, returned to their alma mater as vendors. The three friends make soap and sell it under the name of Peak Essentials. The bars were a big hit and some of the most popular soaps sold out.

Launching a New Way to Raise Funds

The students at St. John the Evangelist School wanted to do something for disaster relief for all those affected by the recent hurricanes, fires, and earthquakes. Along with the good spirit of teachers and staff members, the students held a raffle to see who won the honor of "pieing" each teacher. Amid great laughter and good cheer, 18 lucky students launched 18 whipped cream pies at 18 accommodating teachers and staff. The outcome: the students raised \$700!

OPT

A student and teacher share laughter and surprise after throwing/receiving a pie in the face.



New Monthly Spanish Mass Offered at St. John the Evangelist

Nueva Misa Mensual en San Juan el Evangelista

St. John the Evangelist now offers Mass in Spanish on the first Sunday of the month, at 1:30pm. The Spanish Mass is held in the main church, located at 10103 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD. This Mass supports the Hispanic community in our area and we welcome newcomers to celebrate the love of Jesus with us. We look forward to seeing you at Mass with your family and friends.

La Iglesia Católica San Juan Evangelista ofrece la sagrada misa en español el primer domingo del mes, a la 1:30 pm. La misa española se celebra en la iglesia principal, ubicada en 10103 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, MD. Esta misa apoya a la comunidad hispana en nuestra área y damos la bienvenida a los recién llegados para celebrar el amor de Jesús con nosotros. Esperamos verlos en la misa con su familia y sus amigos.



Fr. Cusick and participants enjoy a reception after Mass. Photo by Carla Klein

OPT

Walking to Support a Parish Ministry

On Friday, November 3, the entire school participated in a Walk-A-Thon to benefit St. Joseph's House. St. Joseph's House is run by our own parishioners, the LaHood family, serving children and teens with intellectual and developmental disabilities. For two hours, the school children continuously walked around the school grounds to raise money for St. Joseph's House. Parents, faculty, staff, and parishioners opened their hearts to help this wonderful ministry. The students' efforts paid off as they raised \$3,500.

OPT



LaHood family members and children from St. Joseph House join the Walk-A-Thon.

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St. Jane de Chantal

St. Jane's Environmental Committee Hosts Fall Shredding Event

By Steve Boehm and Maureen Wilkerson

At the end of September, a paper shredding event took place at St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish in Bethesda. The Parish's Environmental Committee sponsored the event, which took place throughout the morning. At a shredding event, people bring in sensitive paper documents that they wish to shred for security reasons. The shredding event thus serves two purposes, to give members of the community an opportunity to securely dispose of sensitive papers such as old tax returns and to recover the paper for recycling.

The shredding truck of the ECO-Shred company of Cheverly, Md., arrived early and took up a position in one of the church's parking lots along Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda. By this time a line of ten to 15 cars had already lined up to drop off paper. Two members of the Parish's Environmental Committee were on hand to witness the event and lend their hands as needed.

A contingent of Boy Scouts of the Parish's Troop 461 and their adult leaders, as well as members of the Parish's Young Adults group,



Cars lined up in the church's parking lot to drop-off their sensitive papers for shredding and recycling.

went to work approaching cars and picking up containers of paper and carrying them to a special bin. The driver of the truck attached the bin to a mechanical device that hoisted the bin up and dumped the paper into the truck's storage compartment. Some volunteers assisted by directing cars on their approach to the recycling truck.

The Parish's Pastor, Father Samuel Giese, stopped by during the event to talk with volunteers and thank them for the work they were donating to the parish. Father

Giese and the Pastoral Council had approved the shredding event project at a Council meeting several months earlier. Other members of the Parish stepped up as sponsors to defray the costs of the truck rental. Another donor provided signs for the event and safety vests and gloves for the volunteers in the parking lot. The parish administrative staff handled the paperwork needed to contract with ECO-Shred for their services and to make sure the required insurance policies were in place.



Members of the St. Jane de Chantal Environmental Committee and all their helpers posed for a group photo in front of the shredding truck. Photos courtesy of Maureen Wilkerson.

The work went on until early afternoon as scheduled. The Environmental Committee members thanked the truck's drive for his cheerful cooperation.

The St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish Environmental Committee has been active in its present form since March 2016. Its mission is to raise the awareness of the St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish community that all creation is an expression of the glory of God and is a gift from God in which we live

and breathe and have our being. Its members are dedicated to promoting the protection of the natural environment in line with the social teachings of the Church and the urgent pronouncements on this subject by Pope St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis. Parishioners expressed their appreciation to the committee and all the volunteers who made this event such a success.

OPT

Fr. John McKay Retires After Over 44 Years of Priesthood

After more than 44 years of service as a priest in the Archdiocese of Washington, Fr. John McKay retired on November 30. Fr. McKay has spent most of his life as a member of the St. Jane de Chantal Parish. He joined 58 years ago with his family and grew up in the neighborhood. He joined the school in the seventh grade, becoming one of the first group of graduates from the new St. Jane Francis de Chantal School. After ordination to the priesthood, he served in several parishes until his return to St. Jane de Chantal Church about 8 years ago.

Cardinal Wuerl accepted Fr. McKay's request to retire after turning 70, but he won't be going very far. He will be living in his family's house about 1 mile from the church, and he will continue his ministering to the sick in nearby Suburban Hospital. As he says, a priest never really retires, and this can be seen in his plans to continue serving some weekend masses in the Archdiocese, as needed, perhaps even some of them in Spanish, a language he speaks perfectly. But he also adds that he is looking forward to having some more free time to do many of the other things



he enjoys, like cooking, taking long walks in the neighborhood, and going on excursions.

The St. Jane de Chantal Parish honored Fr. McKay with farewell parties after all the weekend masses of November 18-19. Most parishioners attended these celebrations to thank Fr. McKay for his service and to express their best wishes to him. In addition to the happy festivities, there was also a sense of sadness with the realization of how the Parish will miss such a beloved priest.

In his final Sunday mass on November 26th, in what was an emotional last homily, he summarized his many years of service, saying that for the last 45 years he tried to be a happy, joyful, and faithful priest. Members of the St. Jane de Chantal community would without question agree that he has not only achieved his goal, but has greatly surpassed it. He will certainly be missed, and the congregation looks forward to his continued prayers and future visits in support of the Parish.

OPT

WEIGEL

Con't from page 5

"No coincidence is in Providence," was the conclusion that St. John Paul II came to after a bullet didn't end his life by a matter of a few millimeters. Mr. Weigel reported that the conversations he had with the Pope, along with access to his private life in the Vatican, changed him and made him look at his life in a different way. Thanks to these experiences, Mr. Weigel started to see the work of Providence in his own life, and his perspective and insight changed forever.

After this very interesting and inspiring presentation, parishioners asked questions ranging from the actual height and weight of the Pope to Mr. Weigel's opinion on the retirement of Pope Benedict XVI, and what he thought the opinion of Pope St. John Paul II would be about Pope Francis. Following the presentation, Mr. Weigel was available to sign copies of his book about St. John Paul II and many people took advantage of this special opportunity.

OPT



Fr. John McKay delivers an emotional homily during his final mass at St. Jane de Chantal Church.

It pays
to advertise
in Our Parish
Times

Preparing Children to be Saints at SFIS

The fall at Saint Francis International School is a time of focus on the holy men and women that we call saints and the heroes who work to make our world a better place. On October 4 each year the Church celebrates the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. This year, Saint Francis International was blessed that their patron saint's feast fell the same day as their weekly school mass. Cardinal Donald Wuerl made a pastoral visit and celebrated the feast day mass this past October.

As part of the mass, SFIS and St. Camillus Church unveiled a new 14-foot wide mural that will hang outside near the entrance to the school. The mural includes a new image of St. Francis surrounded by children from around the world which was painted by a young woman who served at the parish and school last year as a Franciscan Volunteer Minister. The image of the saint is surrounded by words in many languages drawn from the Peace Prayer of St. Francis, many of the words were designed by SFIS students in art class.

Cardinal Wuerl challenged the students to learn about holiness from the life of St. Francis of Assisi and throughout the month of October students spent time in religion and language arts classes honing their non-fiction reading skills as well as the presentation skills by studying the lives of the of many saints, especially by reading biographies.

Third and fourth graders had a special chance to learn about the Fatima apparitions and the whole school held a special multi-lingual rosary after a mass celebrated by Fr. Tam Tran from Our Lady of Vietnam parish on October 11. Later that week the entire third and fourth grade classes traveled to the National Shrine for a special Eucharistic Holy Hour in honor of the 100th anniversary of the miracle of Fatima. At the Holy Hour, four members of the SFIS middle school represented different regions of the world and led the world-wide rosary and three SFIS middle school students portrayed the Fatima visionaries Lucia and Sts. Jacinta and Francisco. The entire Holy Hour was broadcast on EWTN globally and many of the classes back at school participated via smart screens in their classrooms and the school cafeteria.

At this year's annual Halloween costume parade students in Pre-K through fourth grade came dressed



Cardinal Wuerl celebrates mass on the feast of St. Francis at SFIS.



Students and parishioners share photos of loved ones for All Souls Day at St. Camillus.



Catholic principal and Lutheran asst. principal portray each other's "holy heroes" for All Saints Day.

as saints, biblical characters, and modern day heroes like police officers and fire fighters and even fictional heroes were ok for the youngest kids. On All Saints Day, all of the students with saint costumes got to wear them and participate in the homily at the holy day mass. Even the principal, Toby Harkleroad, and assistant principal, Adam Kampia, got into the spirit as Mr. Harkleroad (a Secular Franciscan) dressed as Martin Luther and Mr. Kampia (a Lutheran) dressed up as St. Francis since Halloween this year was also

the 500th anniversary of the start of Protestant Reformation when Martin Luther posted his 95 Thesis. Students from SFIS participated in the All Souls day mass at St. Camillus and this year they especially remembered Ms. Bernice Ware who had passed away just days before. Ms. Bernice was 93 years old when she died; she had retired from working part-time in the SFIS Extended School Program when she was 90! In total, Ms. Bernice put in 23 years caring for "her babies" in the aftercare pro-



Fr. Francisco Aguirre from St. Catherine Labouré blesses some of the items donated by SFIS students for parish food pantries.



SFIS students portray the visionaries in the Children's Eucharistic Holy Hour for the 100th anniversary of Fatima.

Catholic School, celebrate one of the November masses during which he talked about the importance of Catholic education in the lives of so many young people and also drew a direct connection between St. John de Matha and St. Francis of Assisi who founded the Trinitarian and Franciscan Orders at the same time.

On November 11, while most students were off for parent-teacher conferences, some students whose families are from El Salvador and other Latin American countries traveled to the Shrine of the Sacred Heart in DC as the guests of the students of Sacred Heart School for a special mass with Cardinal Gregorio Rosa Chávez, the first cardinal from El Salvador. Cardinal Rosa Chávez was a co-worker with Blessed Óscar Romero before his martyrdom. The mass, completely in Spanish, was another opportunity to learn about holy men and women around the world.

The fall's focus on saints and heroes ended with the newly elected members of the SFIS Student Senate leading a drive to collect for the St. Mark and St. Camillus parish food pantries. During a two week period, SFIS students brought in over 800 canned and boxed food items to donate. On November 21st, as part of the school's Elders Day celebration, Fr. Francisco Aguirre from St. Catherine Labouré led a prayer service during which the donations were blessed. After the prayer service grandparents and elders from students' families and communities joined the students and staff for a Thanksgiving feast; in total over 700 people were fed at the annual meal!

As Advent begins, SFIS students will continue their journey towards holiness with a focus on recognizing Jesus as Emmanuel, "God with us," and continuing to practice how to make God present in our world for one another!

OPT

St. Francis International School

www.saintfrancisinternational.org

Tobias A. Harkleroad,
Principal

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

St. Mark Campus
7501 Adelphi Road
Hyattsville, MD 20783

grams at St. Mark School and then at SFIS, all after she retired from a successful career as bank executive. She was a beloved elder and grandmother (perhaps even great grandmother) figure to many students for a generation. Her photo was included on the Dia de los Muertos altar in St. Camillus Church along with hundreds of photos of recently deceased parishioners and their loved ones.

It was a great joy to have Fr. James Day, the Trinitarian who serves as the president of DeMatha

Shrine of St. Jude

Vocations: A Journey of Discernment

By Michelle Ardillo

On Tuesday, November 7, 2017, the St. Jude Regional Catholic School students in grades 5-8 were treated to a morning of talks by speakers from many of the different vocations from which Catholics have to choose. The middle school assembly, organized by Assistant Principal and middle school religion teacher Jeanne Donatelli, was to celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week November 5-12, 2017, where clergy and religious are called to reflect on how their love of God is lived out each day. Speakers for the assembly included Seminarian Alexander Wyvill, Amelia Hoover of the Consecrated Women of Regnum Christi, Xiomy Esteban, a lifelong parishioner of the Shrine of St. Jude who is engaged to be married, Sr. Mary Mother of Faith, SSVM Vocations Director (who spoke along with Sr. Mary Infant of Prague and Raquel Garcia, a postulant with the Servants of the Lord), and Seminarian Patrick Mullan, who was also raised in the parish of St. Jude.

Students listened eagerly as each speaker spoke of their own personal discernment journey. Amelia Hoover, a native of Louisiana serving in youth ministry here in the DC area, said of her own journey, "It is much less about what I am giving away and more about what I am gaining." Xiomy Esteban told the students that she had the perfect game plan for her life, but it wasn't working out how she had



Left to right: Alexander Wyvill, Amelia Hoover, Postulant Raquel Garcia, Sr. Mary Infant of Prague, Sr. Mary Mother of Faith, Xiomy Esteban, Patrick Mullan

envisioned. By listening and trusting God, she discerned that her vocation was to the married life, saying "in the end, it came through prayer, some suffering, and my 'B.A.S.I.C.' crew, my brothers and sisters in Christ that supported me and prayed for me."

Seminarian Alexander Wyvill spoke of the prayer and silence that was required for him to hear what vocation God was truly calling him to, telling the students that, "Discovering your vocation requires prayer, through which we set aside the world's noise and invite God into our day. It is in this silence that we encounter God personally—not as a Sunday ritual or a family tradition. It is within this personal encounter that God calls us to our deepest happiness, lived out

in a specific vocation."

Sr. Mary Mother of Faith gave a lively presentation of her order's work, giving the students a strong visual to help them with the discernment process. She said, "The more we stare at our own belly-buttons, the less we see our neighbor, the less we hear God's voice, the less we recognize the blessings He has given us! The sadder we become!" She and her fellow sister, Sr. Mary of Prague, closed by telling the students, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and everything else will be given to you besides."

The closing speaker, Seminarian Patrick Mullan, spoke from the heart with his own unique sense of humor. His message, however, was clear: "When there are only

good options [for a vocation] on the table, the only thing left to do is be open. Don't take anything off the table out of fear." He went on to talk to the students about Pope Benedict XVI, where he spoke of Pope John Paul II's call to the young. Pope Benedict XVI said, "Are we not perhaps all afraid in some way? If we let Christ enter fully into our lives, if we open ourselves totally to Him, are we not afraid that He might take something away from us? Are we not perhaps afraid to give up something significant, something unique, something that makes life so beautiful? Do we not then risk ending up diminished and deprived of our freedom? And once again the Pope (JP2) said: 'No! If we let Christ into our lives, we

lose nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great. No! Only in this friendship are the doors of life opened wide.'"

A question and answer period followed the formal presentations. After the assembly Seminarian Patrick Mullan shared his thoughts: "I would simply mention how impressed I was with the students. They were so attentive over such a long period of time. Working with young people played a huge part in getting me to reconsider the priesthood and they remain a big motivator for me to keep going. I love working with and talking to young people and St. Jude's 5th-8th graders were wonderful."

OPT

Shrine of St. Jude 2017 Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve

5:00 p.m. – Mass with children's pageant
7:00 p.m. – (Spanish) Mass with children's pageant
8:30 p.m. – Mass with music
10:00 p.m. – Prelude Program
10:30 p.m. – Midnight Mass with music

Christmas Day

7:00 a.m.
8:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m.
12:30 p.m. (Spanish)
Please note: No 5 p.m. Mass

St. Martin of Tours

St. Martin's families came together to celebrate their cultural differences during the annual International Dinner. Attendees sampled ethnic food, listened to traditional music, viewed artwork and clothing from the various cultures within the community. The dinner followed the vigil mass for the feast day of St. Martin of Tours. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.



Principal Sahadi congratulates Julie Stinger who was named Archdiocese Teacher of the Week. Ms. Stinger was cited for her the many hats she wears at St. Martin's School: art, religion, and 6th grade homeroom teacher; book fair organizer; Book Club co-lead, and club leader for "Knitting for a Cause." Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.

HAITI

Con't from page 23

Carcasse!"

St. Mary of the Mills Parish in Laurel partners with St. Mary's in Barnesville in supporting or "twinning" with St. Joseph's.

The first discount bridal sale will be at St. Mary of the Mills on Jan. 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jamison said this will be the first in a series of Brides for Haiti discount bridal sale events in the region that

sell donations received from bridal salons and brides nationwide. The other event dates will be listed on the group's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/bridesforhaiti/.

"We will have hundreds of wedding dresses and special occasion dresses with the top price on wedding dresses being \$150, no matter the designer, and the top price on special occasion dresses being \$30," Jamison said. Veils will sell from \$10 to \$25, and shoppers purchasing 10 or more dresses will receive 20 percent discount during

the last hour of the sale.

Jamison said, "We have been so blessed by the many generous bridal boutique owners and brides who have donated gorgeous dresses to our cause. This sale will be a wonderful opportunity for brides to buy a stunning wedding dress at a very low cost while at the same time helping a great cause. And by the way, donations of wedding dresses and special occasion dresses are greatly appreciated."

She said they carry many different styles and types of dresses

— including high-end designers such as Maggie Sottero, James Clifford and Mon Cheri.

Dawn Darling, a bride from Glen Burnie, saw a Brides for Haiti wedding dress advertised on Facebook. After trying it on at Jamison's home, she immediately purchased it. "I absolutely love, love, love this dress. I saw it on the Internet. They had it. I'm in love with it. It had that wow factor. And it went to a good cause and that is what is most important," she said.

Jamison said brides should wear

fitting clothes under their normal clothes in order to easily change in and out of wedding dresses because changing space is limited during the event.

Brides will have the option to pre-register for the event, by contacting Jamison on the Brides for Haiti Facebook page or by emailing her directly at Susansfo@msn.com. A limited number of spaces will be reserved for pre-registered brides during the first hour of the public event.

OPT



Father Barry chats with Parishioners from the Riderwood Community

Father Barry's 35-35-35: A Meet and Greet

By Susan Ahearn

The new Parish Administrator of the Church of the Resurrection in Burtonsville is trying a new approach to meet members of the parish community. Father John Barry has created what he calls 35-35-35, which allows him to meet a large number of parishioners in a short time. "I genuinely want to meet as many as possible before Christmas. I want the members to know how each of them are important to me," said Father Barry. He explained how it works. "I figured that if I could host 35 households in one, thirty-five-minute period, then I could say hi and get a photo and start matching names and faces better than in taking 35 visits out to individual homes. The thing is, to reach 1000 households a pastor/administrator then has to see 35 different sets of people," explained Barry in an email interview.

According to Father Barry, it's very important for him to meet the people who worship at Resurrection. "In my last parish, even after a decade there, I was

still meeting people to the end or else not ever getting to know them, besides being a face in the crowd," he explained. Father Barry says he enjoys getting to know parishioners, and it's something he has done at his previous assignments. "I have done lots of visitations to people, I think as inspired by faith to do it. I have a good record for it, but this parish is, quite large, so I needed a clever opening approach," described the new Resurrection Parish Administrator.

Father Barry says during the 35-35-35 sessions, he meets and mingles with individual parishioners, who can also get to know each other. Father Barry said he's been inspired to reach out to parishioners by two priests, Father Andrew Cassin a retired priest in Waldorf and the late Father Bill Finch who practiced such interest in the parishes they served. He says the goal is "...finding a way to see at least 1000 households in less than a month and a half." Those 35 sessions turned into 48, and may increase to 50 before Father Barry's "getting to know you" effort is finished. **OPT**

Awakening Faith Series Calls Catholics Home

By Susan Ahearn

The Church of the Resurrection was the scene of a six-week series called "Awakening Faith: Reconnecting with Your Catholic Faith" in October and November. The series, was developed by the Paulist Evangelization Ministries (PEM).

Paulist seminarian Richard Whitney said by email that the effort was aimed at Catholics who are inactive in their faith or disconnected with their faith. "It specifically looks to serve the needs of those Catholics who have, for whatever reason, just stopped practicing their faith," explained Whitney. Whitney said Resurrection's new Parish Administrator, Father John Barry, welcomed the effort developed by the Paulists, including Father Frank DeSiano, who has presided at weekend Masses

at Resurrection for a number of years. "So this seemed like a great opportunity to do specific outreach at Resurrection. We thought it might be a model for other parishes," described Whitney. He said between eight and 12 individuals attended the sessions, which included meditation, prayer, reading and discussions.

Whitney said the Awakening Faith Series allowed participants a chance to talk about the practical aspects of being a Catholic today. "...connection with the Holy Spirit, reconciliation, sin, understanding God, all those topics vital to our faith that can be quite challenging to really grasp without talking about them. Awakening Faith creates just such a dialogue," he said. More information about the Awakening Faith series is available at pemdc.org **OPT**

Hearing God's Call in Africa

'Ad Deum qui latificat juventutem meam. To God my exceeding joy. The unfamiliar words were mumbled by most of the altar boys but not Young Clement Attia Chuo. He loved the Latin responses and spoke them clearly from memory. Those around him felt he was called to a vocation.

Born and educated in British Cameroon, Father Clement's natural language abilities led him to become fluent in French to serve the spiritual needs of Catholics throughout Cameroon and guided his religious ministry for almost forty years. Since June, he has made Resurrection his home parish while he is staying with his sister in Burtonsville. Fr. Clement has been concelebrating daily Mass, assisting at other liturgical celebrations, and administering the Sacrament of Reconciliation. His reverent, humble and dignified presence belies a life filled with many interests and a passion to continue ministering even in his retirement.

Father Clement grew up in British Cameroon in a village called Aghem-Wum situated in the North-West region of Cameroon. His parents and grandparents were pagans but the Catholic missionaries from both France and England had been in Africa since the 1860's and so he had the good fortune to attend Catholic school. He converted to



Father Clement Attia Chuo with parishioner Gracy Mathews

Christianity and then inspired his seven siblings and later his parents to do the same.

Father Clement first joined a Trappist monastery. When French speaking Catholics would visit the monastery, no one was able to communicate with them. He felt called by God to learn the language, so he asked his superiors to allow him to live in French Cameroon. He discovered the same problem there. English speaking Catholics had no priest who could communicate with them. With the permission of his superiors, he left the monastic life and became a parish priest in 1985 in the diocese of Bafoussam in western Cameroon. He started by teaching catechism to children

there and formed an English singing choir. He worked as spiritual director in a seminary, was a chaplain to both religious and prisoners and for almost thirty years he served the people of that agricultural region.

Fr. Clement's call to serve the people of both French and English-speaking Cameroon, ministered to the larger problem caused by colonialism. Cameroon was first a colony of Germany but as punishment after WW I, was stripped from Germany's possession and then divided between France and Great Britain with the larger portion going to France. Both countries impressed upon the African people their distinctive European culture and language thus making them Francophones and Anglophones.

In 1961, France and England relinquished their hold to allow for independence. The smaller English-speaking region was united with the larger and more prosperous French region in the Plebiscite of 1961 with the assurance that the Anglophones would have equal rights and could continue the language and customs they had enjoyed as British subjects. Gradually this understanding was undermined. Political powers and laws shifted to erode the English speaking minority's

Continued on page 38

Riderwood residents and young people from the Religious Education program pose with some of the 350 socks collected, assembled into packets with Care Cards, and donated to S.O.M.E. in Washington, DC.



The Annual Taste of Resurrection was a big hit this year. Parishioners gathered to share favorite dishes from all different cultures found in our diverse community.

Celebrating John Paul II's Feast Day with Apostolic Nuncio

*By Bozenna Buda and Edwarda
Buda-Okreglak, M.D.*

Beautiful sunny weather prevailed on the Feast Day of St. John Paul II as more than a hundred guests gathered to celebrate “Wadowice on the Potomac” on Sunday afternoon, October 22, 2017, at the Gala Reception of the Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Washington, DC Chapter. Held this year at the beautiful Residence of HE Piotr Wilczek, the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Washington, DC, the event commemorated the birthplace (Wadowice, Poland) and the papacy of Karol Wojtyla who became the most famous son of Poland and world-renowned Pope John Paul II, and served to support



Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, HE Theodore Cardinal McCarrick, HE Ambassador of Poland Professor Piotr Wilczek, HE Archbishop Christophe Pierre, Apostolic Nuncio to the USA, President Bożenna Buda. Photo by Dominik Mikołajczyk



Fans of St. John Paul II, including several OLQP parishioners, gathered earlier this Fall at the Catholic Information Center (CIC) in Washington, DC, to hear renowned papal author George Weigel give an inspiring talk about his latest book entitled *Lessons in Hope: My Unexpected Life with St. John Paul II*. (L-R) Jacek Marczynski, George Weigel, Joan Weigel, Bozenna Buda, Karol Klonowski, Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, Margaret Rogovsky.

the John Paul II Foundation begun by him.

The Guest of Honor, HE Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the Vatican Apostolic Nuncio to the United States, was welcomed at the entrance by HE Ambassador Wilczek and escorted inside the Residence by members of the Color Guard of the Knights of Columbus dressed in their resplendent regalia.

Our Lady Queen of Poland (OLQP) parishioners and sisters Bozenna Buda and Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, of the Friends of John Paul II (JPII) Foundation, Washington DC Chapter, organized this year's "Wadowice on the Potomac" gala. OLQP Pastor Rev. Jerzy Frydrych, S.Ch., who offered the closing prayer at the gala, is DC Chaplain of the organization.

Ms. Bozenna Buda, President of the Friends of JPPII, thanked HE Ambassador Wilczek for his gracious patronage of this event and welcomed HE the Nuncio and other honored guests and attendees, including HE Theodore Cardinal

McCarrick. Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, Master of Ceremonies and Chair of the Event Committee, reflected in her presentation on how Wadowice, where the young Karol Wojtyla spent the first eighteen years of his life, was also the town where, "the boy who would become one of the most consequential figures of his time, and a saint (guided by the central figure in his life, his father) learned his first lessons in fatherhood, religious tolerance, patriotism, and the transformative power of suffering borne in faith and hope"(City of Saints by George Weigel). Dr. Marek Michalski, of the Friends of JPPI and an OLQP parishioner, introduced HE Abp Pierre and also spoke of the work of the Foundation begun by Pope John Paul II and the current programs to continue that legacy, grounded in the respect of the dignity of every human being and the merciful and forgiving love of God.

HE Abp Pierre spoke movingly about "John Paul II and the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000" and the

Continued on page 39



Polish Christmas Traditions at OLQP

Rev. Jerzy Frydrych, S.Ch., Pastor, and the Parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Poland and St. Maximilian Kolbe R.C. Parish in Silver Spring, Maryland, Extend Warm Wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year 2018

*“Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i Szczęśliwego
Nowego Roku”*

and invite you to join us in celebrating
Polish Christmas traditions:

- Christmas Bazaar & Polish Food Sale, on Sun., Dec. 17, 2017, from 9 AM to 2 PM in Parish Hall
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve “Shepherds’ Mass” Pasterka at 12:00 Midnight, followed by Dec. 25 Christmas Day Masses at 10:00 AM and 12:00 Noon
- Mass on Dec. 26, 2017, feast of St. Stephen, at 7:30 PM
- New Year’s Day Mass on Jan. 1, 2018, at 12 Noon
- Epiphany, Jan. 7, 2018, Masses at 10 AM & 12 Noon, followed by singing of Christmas Carols Koledy after the noon Mass
- Traditional Parish “Oplatek” Dinner with Christmas play Jaselka will be on Sunday, January 14, in the Knights of Columbus Hall after Mass at 12:00 Noon. All Parishioners and Friends are invited. For reservation & tickets contact Mrs. Izabela Macander: 301-770-7086 (until January 7)

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Polish Christmas Wafers Oplatki are available
after Mass on Sundays.



Students from the Polish Saturday School recalled their heritage and commemorated Polish Independence Day on Nov. 11, 2017, at the school by reciting verses and singing songs to an appreciative audience composed of parents, grandparents, and friends.



A Visit to Emmitsburg

The fourth-grade class traveled to Emmitsburg to visit the National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. They viewed a movie on her life, toured the Basilica, her houses, the museum, gift shop and the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph cemetery. Inside the Basilica, the students were thrilled to view a first-class relic of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. After lunch, St. Patrick's pastor, Msgr. Charles Parry joined them and arranged a tour of the Mount St. Mary's Seminary, where the students learned about the daily life of a seminarian. Msgr. Parry accompanied the students to the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes for prayer and meditation. All were inspired by the life of Elizabeth Ann Seton, who was so instrumental in Catholic education.



St. Patrick's School Mind Masters Club with kindness rock garden.

Kindness Rocks at St. Patrick's School

The Mind Masters Club initiated a Kindness Rocks program. Led by the afterschool mindfulness group, the campaign encouraged students and teachers to decorate rocks with positive messages and leave them for someone else to find and consider. Porter Bagdon, 4th grader, commented "The world can use more kindness and we are going to start right here." The Club designed 150 rocks for an inspirational rock garden and then an additional 400 rocks were submitted by the school community. On November 27, 2017, a "recess rock hunt" was held so students could find a rock with a message that speaks to them.

Michelle Brown, parent-leader of the Mind Masters Club encour-

ages kindness meditation among the group, where one sends positive thoughts to yourself or others using inspiration phrases like "Let me be strong" or "Let me be at ease." Her goal was to extend the idea of kindness meditation to the entire school community. The original Kindness Rocks program was started by Megan Murphy in Cape Cod, MA three years ago as a way of coping with the loss of her parents. She left messages on the beach for others to find. Since that time, the idea has spread to many communities across the country with thousands of rocks being created. Mrs. Brown commented, "I am especially proud to see rocks with faith-filled messages like 'Have faith in Him.'"

OPT

Building Bricks of Science

St. Patrick's School offers two programs to combine science, technology, and real world problem-solving to students. The First Lego League (FLL) Junior includes a team of six students (grades K-3) to explore a current scientific problem. They create a "Show Me" poster to describe their scientific journey and they construct a motorized model of their solution using Lego elements. The current challenge is "Aqua Adventure". Teams are learning about water sources and uses in daily life and how water travels to our homes. The St. Patrick's Team will participate in an FLL Jr. Expo on December 2, 2017 at the Glenelg



Students inspecting a robot mission field to solve a "hydro dynamics" problem.

Country School.

For the older kids, First Lego League offers an opportunity for teams of ten students (Grades 4-8) to apply science, technology, engineering, and math plus imagination to solve a problem. The FLL Challenge for this year is "Hydro Dynamics." As part of their exploration, the team visited a WSSC water treatment plant on November 22, 2017. They will compete in a qualifying event at the Rockville Science Center (Johns Hopkins University Montgomery County Campus) on January 13, 2018.

OPT



Students creating a motorized lego model to solve an "aqua Adventure" challenge.



Students hide more than 500 kindness rocks such as these for other students to find.

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St. Bartholomew



St. Bart's seven & under soccer players are all smiles.

CYO Sports are Booming at St. Bart's

The squeak of gym shoes and thump of basketballs are a constant in the St. Bart's gymnasium this time of year. The parish's booming CYO sports program finds itself with more than 50% of its students choosing to participate.

"At St. Bart's there is only one class per grade, so it really gives students the opportunity to do things with classmates and to have a lot of pride," says the school's CYO Director, James Strother.

With Faith Formation and other parish children participating, it also forges new bonds within the community. Lastly, notes Strother, the benefits of the program extend to the many parents who volunteer as coaches. "It's a chance for parents to work with their kids. Education, faith, and sports all work together." St. Bartholomew participates in CYO cross country, soccer, and basketball.

OPT



St. Bart's staff and students are all smiles after the game.

Score One for School Spirit at St. Bartholomew's Teachers vs. Students Turkey Bowl

It is unlikely NFL contracts will be handed out anytime soon at St. Bart's, but there was enough laughter and cheering to fill FedEx Field when the school's staff took on the eighth grade in the inaugural two-hand touch Turkey Bowl. "I have been doing this since I started as a teacher in 1983," said Interim

Principal, Mr. Frank English. "Kids get to see teachers in a different light. It's community."

With Pre-K through seventh grade crowding the sidelines waving handmade signs, early money was on the eighth grade. However, PE teacher-turned-QB Jay Matula, combined with Assistant Principal Christine

Davison and Parochial Vicar Father Tim Daniel, used speed and skill to lead the staff to a 13-0 victory. "All the students got to work together to try to beat the teachers," said eighth-grader Jennifer Shanklin, and with eager seventh-grade athletes waiting in the wings, the buzz around school is *wait till next year...*

OPT

AFRICA

Con't from page 35

cultural identity and created injustices and inequality between the two regions. Now there is increased social unrest and violence. Political tensions have heightened as elections in 2018 draw nearer. The realities of a region so far away from Montgomery County and Resurrection Parish are made visible by people from Cameroon in our parishes and communities.

In 2011 Fr. Clement felt the call from God to return to the English-speaking diocese of Buea in the southwest region of Cameroon. He recently retired and resides at Holy Trinity Parish, Bota-Limb.

His vision has been to lead a rich and meaningful priesthood and so Fr. Clement is still active. He says daily Masses in both languages, is chaplain to various church groups and an orphanage. He is writing and recently recorded children saying the Rosary in their native tribal dialect and hopes to make it available to a wide audience bringing to light the cultural riches that were buried by colonialism. He hopes to do more Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy in response to the unrest and injustice in his country.

In writing about his time here at Resurrection Parish, Father Clement said, "It has strengthened in me the sense of the church as a family, the family of God; wherever we find ourselves in the world be

it Japan, the Philippines, or India, when we are in the church among Christians, we are in our family, all the Christians we meet there are all our brothers and sisters," and "My presence in this parish has not left the Christians indifferent: spiritual conversations have taken place giving birth to lasting friendships, barriers have been broken down, differences ironed out and we found ourselves standing in the common ground of our humanity and Christianity." Having Father Clement among us has opened eyes and hearts. It has made us more aware of the lives of our Cameroonian brothers and sisters in the pews next to us and in far off Africa.

OPT



Fourth-grader Sophia Smith and eighth-grader Madeline Haverback sort food.

FAITH IN ACTION

Con't from page 12

of the Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive.

"An estimated 130 volunteers worked tirelessly to canvass neighborhoods, package up materials, count and sort donations, and box everything for delivery," said Barbara Henry, chair of St. Bartholomew's service committee. "In addition to helping fami-

lies in need, the most rewarding part of this effort is having our whole community of parishioners and school families join together to serve others. We are a service-based community and this effort is one of many things we do together as a community." Eighth-grader Madeline Haverback was one of those volunteers. "It makes me feel as though I'm doing something important," she said. "This is amazing. We're making a big difference."

OPT

JESUS

Con't from page 11

each of the students. The children are learning about the change of seasons, and they are coming to appreciate that God gives us the glorious autumn colors and beautiful fall days to enjoy.

Every morning as we arrive and each evening as we prepare to go home, our principal, Mrs. McGann, reminds us that we need to thank God for the gift of this day. This always encourages the children to

tell each other and their teachers about the things in their life for which they are grateful. During morning announcements with the entire school, they have the courage to raise their hands and announce where they see the Face of God, whether it be in their parents, siblings, teachers, friends, or complete strangers whom they witness showing any act of kindness toward another. And they hear about our "Saint of the Day" from our eighth graders.

We make visits to Church and learn about God's House, and

how happy He is to see His children come to visit. On occasion, Monsignor Filardi gives the children a more personal view of their church, and he explains things like the Tabernacle, Altar, votive candles, and the meaning behind each of the stained glass windows. We pray together as a class, and we sit quietly, learning to talk to God in our hearts and minds.

We are thankful at Our Lady of Lourdes to see God through the eyes of these young children as they help all of us fall more deeply in love with Jesus.

OPT



14U Girls Soccer Team proudly show their SJE colors. Photo by Nick Carrescia

Successful Season for St John the Evangelist CYO Soccer Teams

SJE had a thrilling soccer season this fall with four teams making it to the playoffs. The 12U Boys, coached by Mike Bruckwick and Matt Hoefling, won the Silver Tournament Championship game. Playing during the same time slot, the 14U Boys were not as fortunate. They lost in the semi-final round of their

tournament.

The 14U Girls, coached by Scott Campbell and Tom Gilgunn made it to the Championship match which had to be postponed twice. Unfortunately, when the girls finally played St. Jane de Chantal, they lost 3 to 2 and came in second overall.

The 12U Girls were in the city

title tournament and were eliminated in the first round. Tim Comello and Kevin Carey coached the 14U Boys team. Tom Gilgunn and Phil Droege coached the 12U Girls team. We are proud of all of our players for their teamwork and effort during the season. We thank all the coaches for the generous gift of their time and talent!

OPT



12U Boys are 2107 Silver Tournament Champs. Photo by Nick Carrescia

FATIMA

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feverishly for what would be indeed a joyful and jubilant remembrance of the Centennial Apparition.

The Environment Ministry decorators adorned Our Lady's carrier with yellow and white roses, members of Sodality and Legion of Mary set up the parish center for the

reception, arranged the luminaries on the church steps and the walkway, and choir members arrived for rehearsal. By 7 p.m., the time of the evening Mass, a throng of parishioners arrived anticipating the celebratory Mass and candlelight rosary procession and they were not disappointed.

At the end of Mass, the congregation, with lighted candles followed Deacon Maseko, the Altar Servers,

Father Benjamin Garcia, the Men's Group and the Knights who carried the statue of the Blessed Mother around the parish grounds praying the rosary interspersed with the singing of Ave, Ave Maria. The procession and the rosary concluded on the steps of the church with the chanting of the Salve Regina and the recitation of the Memorare. The evening ended with refreshments in the Parish Center.

OPT

FEAST DAY

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symbolic exhortation of Pope John Paul II who began his papacy with the words, "Be not afraid! Open wide the doors to Christ," and the concept of Divine Mercy, which guided this Pope who lived through the Nazi occupation of Poland during World War II and later years of Communism.

President Bozena Buda and Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak presented HE Archbishop Pierre with a memento in the form of an engraved three-dimensional laser art crystal containing images of St. John Paul II and that of the Archbishop.

Two young OLQP parishioners, Adam Hawiger and Aleksandra Parczewska, dressed in traditional gorale costumes, lent their respective talents in playing the accordion and in leading the audience in singing the favorite songs of Pope JP II, which included "Abba Ojciec" (Abba Father), "Góralu, czy ci nie żal?" (The Mournful Mountaineer), "Czarna Madonna," (the Black Madonna) and the all-time favorite, "Barka," (the Barge) in English and in Polish. It was a delightful, energetic, and inspiring afternoon with an attentive audience who came from near and far to celebrate and honor St. John Paul II, a son of Poland and a saint of the world.

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