



Parish Times

Senior Services Guide
Pull Out Section S1-S16

DECEMBER 2019

Living the Faith Together

FREE

Kindness Together

A blessed Advent and Christmas season to all. Together we give thanks for God's many blessings; for distracted lives calmed and warmed by affection with friends and family; and celebrate with joy and kindness those we know and those we don't. It is a most wonderful time of the year.



Chuck Short

We'll pick up with our reflections on kindness later in the column. First, let's celebrate a couple of things. In November,

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Let's Keep Christmas

If it feels like we turned extra quickly from Thanksgiving to Christmas this year, it's because we did. Thanksgiving fell on its latest possible date, so we have the fewest days we ever get between it and Christmas.



Fr. John Enzler

In just a few short weeks, we celebrate the great feast of the Nativity of the Lord. We hear about and feel the pressure to get ready, and

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Keeping an Eye Out for the Glitter

Two of my grandsons spent the day with me last week. We made art projects with paint and glue and glitter. Oh, the glitter – it's everywhere – glitter on my clothes, glitter in the seams of my hardwood floor, glitter in the most surprising places. When I walk into a room or open a drawer it shines in the corner of my eye – it sits on the periphery, asking me to



Patricia McGann

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The St. Michael's pilgrims visit Rome

St. Michael the Archangel Parish Pilgrimage to Italy

By Debra Rodney

This November of All Souls, St Michael the Archangel Parish of Silver Spring had an eleven-day pilgrimage to Italy led by Fr. David Khan and Deacon Curtis Rodney. The 34 pilgrims who traveled by bus throughout Italy attended Mass at St. Mark's Basilica in

Venice one week before the flood. Three couples in the group renewed their marriage vows at the Basilica.

In Florence, the group visited the beautiful Cathedral of Santa Maria del Fiore (Cathedral of St Mary of the Flower) and celebrated Mass at one of the oldest and most beautiful churches in the world. The pilgrims also saw Michaelangelo's

David at the Accademia Gallery while in Florence. Everyone prayed for a strong passage at the Basilica of St Anthony de Padua as they headed for the province of Perugia, home of the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi. The humility in the air in Assisi was experienced by the group as they followed the steps of St Francis.

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Small Groups Blossom at Parish with Time, Promotion

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

Two-and-a-half years after focusing on growing Small Groups at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, the seed has taken root and the plant is beginning to bloom.

This fall, nearly 60 parishioners signed up to study the Gospel of Matthew in Small Groups, which represents a tripling of Small Group participants over last fall.

It's a positive sign for the growth of Small Groups, which have largely retained gatherings of people that formed in the past two years and blossomed organically with other connected groups of people within the St. Francis community.

Tony Bosnick, the parish's director of adult faith formation, said the parish-wide growth of Small Groups has been

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Participants in Gospel of Matthew Small Groups at St. Francis of Assisi Parish flank Fr. John Dillon, who is holding a copy of the study guide for the Small Groups.



Sister Marian Brady

Bartholomew House resident exemplifies living the faith

Sister Marian Brady, SP, may be retired – at age 92 – but she is still active in the service of others. Sister Marian, a member of The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, resides in Bartholomew House, the assisted living community on

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U.S. Bishops issue statement on nuclear weapons

Mutual, verifiable nuclear disarmament is the goal.

Bishop David J. Malloy of Rockford, Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace, issued the following statement in late November.

"'Protect All Life' was the poignant theme of Pope Francis' Apostolic Journey to Japan this past weekend. In Nagasaki and Hiroshima, the Holy Father gave a powerful witness to the grave threat poised to human life by nuclear weapons. Following in the footsteps of Saint John Paul II, and reiterating the teaching of his predecessors, Pope Francis called for a world without nuclear weapons.

"For our part, the Catholic bishops of the United States remain firmly committed to global nuclear disarmament. We declared in 1993: 'The eventual elimination of nucle-



ar weapons is more than a moral ideal; it should be a policy goal."

"The United States and Russia have over 90% of the world's nuclear weapons. This fact alone calls for our nation to exercise global leader-

ship for mutual, verifiable nuclear disarmament. The extension of New START Treaty with Russia would be a prudent next step."

OPT

Maryland Catholic Conference Appoints New Executive Director

Jennifer Kraska has been appointed as the new executive director of the Maryland Catholic Conference, effective October 21. Kraska has served as executive director of the Colorado Catholic Conference for the past 12 years, and brings extensive experience representing the public policy positions of the Catholic Church on a broad range of issues. She holds a law degree, as well as a Master of Arts in Catholic Studies, from the University of St. Thomas in Minnesota, her native state. She has served as past president of the National Association of State Catholic Conference Directors, as well as on numerous committees for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Archbishop William E. Lori, archbishop of Baltimore and chairman of the Maryland Catholic Conference, noted that the bishops



Jennifer Kraska

of Maryland's three (arch)dioceses were impressed with Kraska's grasp of issues and ability to engage diverse communities.

"We are delighted to have a person of Jenny's caliber and expertise

leading the work of the Conference and are confident she will quickly earn the respect of her new colleagues in Annapolis," Lori said.

Kraska's collaborative approach distinguished her career in Denver politics, where she is known for her ability to work "across the aisle" on numerous issues. She was instrumental, along with leaders from other faith traditions, in creating a series of "Faithful Tuesdays," which brought together legislators and faith leaders across a broad spectrum of perspectives to discuss and advocate for issues of common interest.

"I believe the great success of Faithful Tuesdays is in providing a witness, amidst a divisive political environment, of collaboration, and the ability to see past some very serious differences to focus on the good that can be accomplished when we speak with a united voice on issues where there is agreement," Kraska commented in an article in Colorado Politics.

OPT

Source: Maryland Catholic Conference

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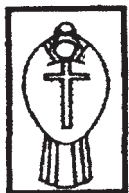
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Justice & Advocacy

These are challenging times

By Anthony Bosnick

The days in which we live bring to my mind the words of Charles Dickens, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. . . ."

Dickens continues this opening sentence from *A Tale of Two Cities*, with these words: ". . . it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." In many ways, times like our times.

What can alleviate us from the incredulity, darkness, and despair many people feel as they watch the

events in Washington, and beyond, at this time? What can bring us the belief, light, and hope for which we yearn?

A healing balm. There is a remedy, a healing balm, Catholics can turn to in these times . . . and all times. Once again, we remind ourselves of the principles of Catholic social teaching (CST). Some have come to refer to these principles as "Catholic moral and social teaching," for as Pope Francis writes, "everything is connected . . . everything is related" (*Laudate Si*, nn. 91, 92).

The more I see and experience of life and situations while interacting with people on the margins of soci-

ety in need of our concern, help, and love, the more I see how true it is that the principles of moral and social teaching go hand-in-hand.

These principles apply at all levels, and one might argue especially at the local level since "all politics is local," as Tip O'Neill, former Speaker of the US House of Representatives, once declared.

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* gives us a good definition of CST: "The teaching (social doctrine) of the Church on the truth of revelation about human dignity, human solidarity, and the principles of justice and peace; the moral judgments about economic and social matters required by such

truth and about the demands of justice and peace" (CCC, p. 899).

Principles of Catholic Social Teaching

Catholic moral and social teaching is a balm which heals the wounded soul, personality, and society. CST is commonly presented in seven points, although this is not a fixed number, which can range for four or five to ten or so.

Below is a list in summary form which many find useful.

- Life and Dignity of the Human Person. Human life is sacred and must be protected. Every person has God-given dignity.
- Call of Family, Community and Participation. Strong families are the cornerstone of our communities and need to be nurtured. We are called to participate in community life and work for the common good.
- Rights and Responsibilities. Our rights as human persons call us to be responsible members of

Continued on page 14

St. Jane de Chantal Hosts "40-Days for Life" Activities

By Carol Ramirez

St. Jane de Chantal celebrated a Mass for Life at Noon on October 6, and it was immediately followed by a peaceful Rosary Procession to the Cathart late-term abortion clinic at Wildwood Shopping Center, where approximately 50 parishioners of St. Jane's and neighboring parishes gathered to pray and sing hymns.

Fr. Giese, Msgr. Filardi (Our Lady of Lourdes), and Ms. Mary Forr (Archdiocese of Washington) stated that the prayers and show of Pro-Life support are having a measurable positive impact on the community and they are resulting in women deciding against abortion to give life to their unborn children.



Participants prayed on the sidewalk outside the clinic and displayed placards for passing cars to raise support and awareness of their cause.

OPT

Simbang Gabi Heralds Christmas for Filipino Catholics

By Angelyn Tugado-Marzan

With family and friends, Luis Gorres, Ike Lazo, Froilan Manansala, Perfecto Paras, Corazon Tesnado, Lem and Becky Ramos all trek to churches in Montgomery County and neighboring areas celebrating Simbang Gabi (Filipino for Night Mass) for nine days before Christmas Day.

"It's a Filipino tradition," whisper cousins Cely Bunayog and Lita and Flora Arancon, devout churchgoers of Our Lady of Lourdes in Bethesda, Maryland. They feel the Christmas Season starts with Simbang Gabi.

"I strive to attend the Simbang Gabi for my special request to God this Christmas," reveals prayerful Lourdes Epstein of Christ the King church in Silver Spring. She fol-

lows the belief of devotees that if they complete the said series of nine nightly masses, a request made as part of those masses will be granted.

Indeed, Simbang Gabi is a Filipino tradition that originated in the 17th century during the Spanish rule over the Philippines. It was meant for farmers who began work before sunrise to avoid the noonday heat in the fields. In anticipation of Christmas Day, it was held from December 16 to December 24 anytime from 3 to 5 in the morning while it was still dark.

Through the years, the time for the Simbang Gabi has changed and instead held in the evening between 6 to 8 so churchgoers from work or school could participate in this series of novena masses

before Christmas Day. Other churches like St. Charles Church (3304 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia), still have their Simbang Gabi at 5:00 in the morning from December 16 - 24.

Devotees can attend Simbang Gabi in churches in Montgomery County, including Christ the King Church (2301 Colston Dr., Silver Spring) at 8:00 p.m. from December 15 - 23 and at St. Mary's Church (520 Veirs Mill Rd., Rockville) at 7:00 pm from Dec. 15 - 23. Jun Ronquillo who heads the Filipino Association at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament (5949 Western Ave., NW) says their Simbang Gabi starts at 7:00 pm from December 14 to 22.

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Radio Station WGTS Visits Our Lady of Lourdes School

By Bridget Launi

Around Veteran's Day, the words in the Pledge of Allegiance, "One Nation under God, Indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for All" take on even more significant meaning. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited reverently each day at morning assembly by the students at Our Lady of Lourdes School. On Friday, November 15, the pledge was said

as it always is but something was different. That something was visiting radio station WGTS 91.9! Arranged by 7th grade teacher, Ms. Maria Vivanco, WGTS 91.9 visited our school to record OLOL students reciting the pledge during assembly. In addition to the assembly recording, WGTS also recorded grades 7, 5, 3, and 1 reciting the pledge as a class. Each recitation was dedicated to a U.S. military service member for their selfless service to our country. The dedicated service members were chosen by our school.

Every week, a WGTS producer visits a different school in the Washington, D.C. area and records students reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The recordings later air on the Morning Show with Jerry and Blanca. If you tune into WGTS on weekday mornings, you will hear this simple, yet powerful, display of gratitude to our country's service men and women.

OLOL students were honored to be one of the schools selected to share their allegiance to this country with the listeners of WGTS. Shortly after the station's producer finished

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Fr. Ubau poses with OLOL preschool students during his recent visit to their classroom.

A Big Preschool Welcome for OLOL's New Priest, Fr. Jorge Ubau

By Deidre Walsh

The start of November brought a new priest to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. We are happy to have Fr. Jorge Ubau as our new Parochial Vicar and this happiness was on display as the preschool children recently welcomed him to their classroom. Fr. Jorge was most recently at St. Peter's Church in Waldorf. He was born and raised in San Salvador and has one sister. At the age of 17, while attending a two-day retreat, he heard and

answered Our Lord calling him to the priesthood after a moving sermon. He traveled to the United States and entered the Redemptorist Mater Missionary Seminary of Washington in 2004 at the age of 18.

The children wanted to learn more about Fr. Jorge, especially his likes and dislikes. He patiently answered all their questions. We learned that he does not like cookies, but loves Doritos, lasagna, and Coca Cola. His favorite color is blue, his favorite candy is Twizzlers and his favorite dog is a Jack Russell Terrier. Rome is his favorite city to visit and

Spain is his favorite country.

Fr. Jorge wanted to be a teacher and knows that his vocation as a priest gives him the opportunity to teach children and adults every day. He recited to the children his favorite prayer from the Gospel of St. Luke, "Lord Jesus, have mercy on me, a sinner." He was born on the Feast of St. John Bosco, the patron saint of schoolchildren, whom he told the students is also his favorite saint. We are so grateful to have Fr. Jorge at Our Lady of Lourdes and look forward to learning from him about our Catholic Faith.

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OLOL students recite Pledge of Allegiance at morning assembly.

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Msg. Filardi and eighth graders visit with Sister Mary Margaret of the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Eighth Graders Organize Thanksgiving Collection for the Little Sisters of the Poor

By Eighth Graders, Angie Guevara & Charlie Malkus

The Little Sisters of the Poor is a religious group of nuns that help the elderly and the poor. Every year, Our Lady of Lourdes School has a donation drive for them. We collect food, utensils, and other

necessities.

The first Little Sister of the Poor was Saint Jeanne Jugan. She grew up in a place where practicing your faith was dangerous. One night, Saint Jeanne took a blind and elderly woman home because the elderly woman had nobody to care for her. She believed that the blind woman introduced her to Jesus. God led many more elderly to St. Jeanne's doorstep, along with many generous young women anxious to help her. Originally, the religious group of nuns was called Servants of the Poor, but the women wanted a name which defined their meaning and what they wanted to do for God. The name they chose to represent themselves was The Little Sisters

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

7500 Pearl Street
Bethesda, MD

Msg. Edward Filardi, Pastor
301-654-1287

Ms. Amy Moore, Principal
301-654-5376

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Our Lady of Mercy School News

Mercy's First Annual 5K Run/Walk a Huge Success!

THANK YOU to all the runners, walkers, volunteers, spectators, and sponsors for helping make the first Mercy 5K a huge success! We had 300 registered participants, which is truly incredible for a first-year race. The course was a beast – but our runners were up for the challenge, posting great times across every age group. Thanks to our entire community, the net proceeds were \$39,000!

We were thankful to have had almost the entire school staff involved as volunteers, runners, or both! Mercy has shown its heart and spirit once again in this, our 60th anniversary year! #MERCYWE #ONESTEPCLOSER

Mercy Drama Club is "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious"!

Starting in mid-September, Mercy middle school students spent more than 30 hours planning and rehearsing for this year's show, *Mary Poppins, Jr.* Their hard work and dedication were evident during all three November performances. Spectators were engaged and entertained by an incredibly talented group of performers. Bravo!

Parents Help Build Community

Mercy parents have always worked hard to plan special events and activities for students

and fellow parents, and this year is no different! In addition to organizing Friday Night Lights, the Father-Daughter Dance, and a Mother-Son Event, our parents are bringing some new "Ho-Ho-Ho" Fun to December! Each week during the month, students will participate in a fun Christmas activity, including Santa Hat Day, Marshmallow Tossing, A Birthday Party for Baby Jesus, and a visit from Mrs. Claus. Students will also get to vote on the winning sweater during the staff ugly sweater contest! Each of these activities will involve our NJHS and Student Council students as "Elf Helpers", working with the parents to organize the activities, and helping to surprise the younger students.

UDL at Mercy: Meeting the Learning Needs of Every Child

Parents attended a presentation last month on Mercy's Universal Design for Learning (UDL) program. To ensure all students achieve their greatest potential, from enrichment to those needing support, Mercy teachers are immersed in a year-long professional development project on UDL. Vivian Nourse, a Mercy teacher who has specialized in designing lessons and classroom environments for all learners, highlighted UDL at Mercy in a presentation and Q&A session.

Continued on page 38



Mary Poppins is brought to life by Mercy's Drama Club.



Congratulations to Mercy's first National Junior Honor Society inductees of the 2019-2020 school year.

Food Collection

Congratulations to Boy Scout Troop 706. They collected more than 1600 pounds of non perishable food for the Manna Food Center. The food drive was held at the Potomac Safeway. Cash donations of \$300.00 were received in addition to the donated food and the Scouts purchased additional food with the money. **OPT**

Our Lady of Mercy Parish

9200 Kentsdale Drive
Potomac, MD

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301-365-1415

Our Lady of Mercy School
Ms. Deborah Thomas, Principal
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Gerry Burgess, OPT Editor
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More Our Lady of Mercy News on Page 38

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Advent Giving at St. John the Evangelist

During this Advent Season, we prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior. People prepare in different ways, including

extending acts of kindness and generosity to each other. Our school is the recipient of many of these acts, and we try to return them in kind.

Our parishioners are always good to our school, whether supporting us financially, spiritually, or in giving of themselves. One parishioner in particular has a special place in our hearts. Mrs. Margaret Robinson is a former Kindergarten teacher who has never lost her touch with that age group. "Nana," as our school children call her, came to help out in our Kindergarten. She worked with children who needed a little more one-on-one time to master their basic skills. After years in the kindergarten classroom, Nana was "promoted" to Junior Kindergarten. She comes in on Wednesdays and reads stories to the little ones. Then she does finger play and sings songs. She comes for class parties, plays, and graduations. She is our own celebrity. Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren have attended our school.

Another parishioner who never stops giving to our school is Mrs. Anna Colella. She was our school Administrative Assistant for 45 years. But she has never truly left us. Besides playing at Mass every Sunday, every First Friday Anna plays the piano for our school liturgy. She also accompanies our school children as they perform the Christmas Concert and Spring Show. She says that God gave her a special talent, and she wants to share that talent as long as she is able. We could not ask for a better role model for our children.

During this season of giving, Archdiocese of Washington ele-



SJE's very own celebrity - Nana Robinson

mentary schools also practice the gift of giving. Holy Trinity School in the District of Columbia was kind enough to give St. John the Evangelist three charging carts. When our Assistant Principal went to pick them up, she was warmly welcomed, and school personnel helped her load the carts. This generous act helped our holiday season get off to an excellent start. We are so grateful to our fellow ADW school for sharing with our school.

Now comes the challenge to fill those carts with iPads or Chrome Books for our students. They will be a great addition to the technology we already have, which we use to help differentiate in our classrooms. As a part of this giving season, and in celebration of our

school's upcoming 70th anniversary, we have launched a campaign to give \$70 for 70 years. As our generous community supports our school, we hope to have those carts filled in no time!

Our students also found a way to give to those in need. Wanting to help the firefighters who are battling the fires in California, the Student Council sponsored a Pie-a-Teacher raffle. For several weeks, students purchased raffle tickets in hopes of being chosen to treat a teacher to a pie in the face. Our brave teacher volunteers helped make this fundraiser a big success.

St. John the Evangelist School wishes everyone a happy Advent Season—one filled with hope, love, and the spirit of giving.

OPT

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Mrs. Margaret Durney,
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A pie well placed

In Memoriam

Sister Celestine Costello, OSU, the founding principal of The Woods Academy passed away on October 19, 2019. Sister Celestine led The Woods from 1975—1982 and was known as “the glue that kept the school together” during these very early years. Since Sister Celestine was so devoted to religious life, her family requested donations to the Ursuline Provincialate in lieu of flowers. If you would like to honor Sister Celestine in this way, gifts may be made to the Ursuline Sisters Retirement Fund at the Ursuline Provincialate, 1338 North Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10804.

“I remember many things about Sister

from the time I worked at Woods with her. It must have been difficult for her to be the founding principal of a newly formed school. As you know, when Ursuline Academy closed, parents got together and decided to start the new school as Our Lady of the Woods Academy. Since it was ‘parent owned,’ there were many challenges for Sister Celestine to navigate, but I was most impressed by her always putting the student’s first, no matter what! She will be missed by all those who knew her.”

Submitted by Yvonne Pelaia, French Teacher (1977-2012)



Sister Celestine in 1982 with Andrew Fedders and Amanda Burns Woods Montessori Preschool students at the time.



Sixth-grade Students and Teachers on the Ferry to Ellis Island on November 15

What Do We Do with a Difference?

Sixth Grade Explores New York City

The Sixth Grade explored the question “What do we do with a difference?” in Language Arts class as they read *Seedfolks* by Paul Fleishman. In the literature, students were introduced to 13 people from very diverse backgrounds who learned how to appreciate and cooperate peacefully.

Students continued the theme, as they traveled to New York City to first enjoy a meal together, and then to see *Wicked* on Broadway. Students thoroughly enjoyed the production, and had many rich follow up discussions about what we as a society do with a difference.

The ultimate culmination of our theme of the melding together of diverse cultures came when our final destination of NYC was Ellis Island. The students found the

visit to be a powerful experience as we had been examining the lives of immigrants who had risked everything to come to a land unknown. Students saw the wall of so many who had passed through Ellis Island and felt very humbled by the experience.

Students also incorporated their faith into this trip as they prayed together in St. Patrick’s Cathedral, and lit a candle for a loved one. Thereafter, they played together, as they experienced the magic of FAO Schwarz.

In NYC, Sixth Graders prayed together, played together, immersed themselves in the theme of “what we do with a difference, and in the end, through all of these experiences, became closer as a school family!

OPT

November is Candy Time in The Woods Montessori Preschool

Meaningful holiday activities engage interest, appeal to senses, offer active participation, and encourage curiosity. After celebrating Halloween, our Montessori Preschool students collect candy. This candy will ultimately be donated, but not before the students spend time counting, sorting, organizing, and packaging it all.

Each student brought some candy from Halloween trick-or-treating to add to the collection. Then the students got busy sorting the candy. Is this chocolate? Is this chewy? Decisions, decisions! They counted lots of chocolate bars.

Next they created gift bags. When packing a bag for a gift, be sure to include a variety! Think: What would you like to receive? And, don’t forget a lollipop! The students filled many gift bags and hope everyone enjoys a sweet treat!

Some of the bags of candy will be delivered to Gift of Peace House in DC, a nursing home run by the Missionaries of Charity. This holiday activity and tradition of giving is more than a decade old now. We know the sisters appreciate the children’s generosity, and even more importantly, they appreciate the love and care each child put into packing the gift bags.



Montessori Preschool students Connor Oleszkiewicz (left) and Benjamin Worobey (right) pack candy gifts bags to be delivered to Gift of Peace House in DC.

The Woods Academy

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After 36 Years Finns Heed God's Call to Serve in Hoosier State

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

During 36 years as members of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Deacon Dan and Georgana Finn could usually be found leading out front or behind the scenes. For him, ministry life involved chairing the Parish Pastoral Council and cantoring. For her, service meant teaching religious education, supporting young parents forming their faith and helping engaged couples understand the ups and downs of married life.

Yet, a few years after retiring from their careers, the Finns began feeling a tug to move as their friends relocated to new communities and their adult children scattered across the country. The need for a low-maintenance yard and a one-level home added weight to the pull. And some well-placed signs from the Lord sealed the deal.

"Part of it was prayer and discernment and listening to God's call about what we should do," Deacon Dan said recently. "It was God affirming what we should do."

In mid-December, Deacon Dan and Georgana will move to West Lafayette, Indiana, bringing their talents to St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, the Catholic center for Purdue University. It will be a dual homecoming for Deacon Dan, who grew up in the Hoosier State and is a Purdue graduate. But it's a loss for the parish and archdiocese, where Deacon Dan also served as Director of Human Resources and on the Diaconate Council and Lay Retirement Board.

The couple married in 1973 and moved to Derwood in 1983. They arrived around the same time St. Francis founding pastor Fr. John Stack departed the parish and felt especially at home, with the arrival of Fr. Don Worch in 1985.

Georgana called the parish "a wonderful place" to raise their six



Deacon Dan and Georgana Finn stand beside a statue of St. Francis of Assisi outside of the Rectory at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Derwood.

children. "A lot of our kids' best friends were here, and we made a lot of friends," she said. "The kids were involved, they were in Religious Education, they were altar servers and the last one was in the choir. They had to put in two years of some service to the Church."

After being ordained in 2010, Deacon Dan took on roles that carried meaning for him and played to his professional experience in leadership and training. He helped found Upcounty Community Resources, a nonprofit organization providing programs, events and social opportunities for adults with developmental differences in central and

northern Montgomery County. He also led St. Francis' Build Up Our Church initiative from 2014-2018, which helped expand welcoming ministries, communications, and outreach at the parish.

The Finns said they will especially miss their Small Groups and the parish's children with special needs, for whom Georgana served as a catechist on a bi-weekly basis. The couple hopes that their long-time church home continues being a welcoming and joyful place to worship. "I hope it's a place where people in their busy lives choose to make it a priority in their lives," Deacon Dan said.

OPT

SMALL GROUPS

Con't from page 1

slow but steady, as existing groups mature and more people learn about them. In addition to the Gospel of Matthew Small Groups, there are also three longtime Small Groups that meet to discuss spiritual texts, books and media; a Dining Disciples group that meets for dinner and discussion; and a financial planning group that discusses the importance of God in one's financial priorities.

"It takes a lot of organizational work and enthusiastic facilitators who think through a lot," Bosnick said. "Successful leaders look to

find ways to encourage people based on where people in their group are."

Peg Smith, a founding member of the parish, decided to host and facilitate a Gospel of Matthew Small Group this fall on Thursday nights. Although her group has just four people, Smith said she enjoys hearing about the participants' different impressions of the Gospel readings. As a lifelong Catholic, Smith said the parishioner-led discussion of Scripture deepens her Catholic faith in a different way than hearing the Gospel explained by a priest might.

"It becomes more instilled in what we're doing," Smith said. "I'll start thinking about the meeting and the discussion I've had. Getting it

down to our level is good and helps understanding."

The parish's Small Group Committee decided to study the Gospel of Matthew this fall, because it comprises the Gospel readings for the new liturgical year that started on the First Sunday of Advent. Participants' discussions are guided by a study guide in the Little Rock Bible Study series published by Liturgical Press, which helps give structure and insight to the Small Group discussions.

"The general expression we've heard is that exploring the Gospel readings gives a better understanding for the Sunday readings," Bosnick said.

OPT

Gift Giving Service Projects Offer Lessons in Sharing One's Blessings

By Melissa Montealegre Egan

Through partnerships with area Catholic organizations, more than 180 children in the Washington DC area will receive Christmas gifts this season, thanks to the generosity of St. Francis of Assisi parishioners.

Two Advent traditions at St. Francis – the Spirit Tree and the Christmas Stocking Help Line – offer families the opportunity to buy and wrap gifts for children in need and learn the lesson of gratitude that comes with sharing one's blessings with others.

Bobbie McLaughlin, ministry coordinator for the Spirit Tree ministry, said the service project benefitting the Pope Francis Outreach Center at Assumption Catholic Church in Washington DC is nearly 30 years old and has gifted more than 10,000 Christmas presents from parishioners to children and adults since its onset.

The current program, which McLaughlin began coordinating in November, started with receiving 140 children's names from the staff at the Pope Francis Outreach Center. McLaughlin's daughter then creates a spreadsheet of the names and prints out labels affixed to ornaments that can be hung on a Christmas tree in the parish's Gathering Space. Parishioners then select

an ornament off the tree, buy and wrap a gift for the child they've selected and return the gift to the Gathering Space by the first weekend of December.

"When we hear conversations around the tree, I hear parents tell their kids, 'I'm going to take an ornament off the tree for a boy your age and buy a gift you might like,'" McLaughlin said. "I've heard that conversation many times over the years."

Children in the parish's Religious Education Ministry also have a separate opportunity to purchase additional gifts for children receiving services from Catholic Charities of Montgomery County, said Director of Religious Education Susan Anderson. This year, the children and their families are buying 82 gifts for 41 children whose names were affixed to paper Christmas stockings and hung outside of Religious Education classrooms in mid-November.

The project is highlighted as part of a gathering for elementary-aged students and catechists also reinforce the service lessons during their Advent sessions with the children.

"As Catholic Christians, we live a life of service, especially caring for those most in need," Anderson said.

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Parishioners at St. Francis of Assisi Parish take a break from making Christmas wreaths on Nov. 30 in the Rectory's Youth Room. The Christmas wreaths are sold at the parish's annual Christmas Tree Sale, which is taking place Nov. 30-December 15 or 22 in front of the church.

**St. Francis
of Assisi Parish**

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Derwood, MD

Rev. John J. Dillon, Pastor
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OPT Editor**

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It pays to advertise in Our Parish Times

SJN Trunk or Treat – Fun for All

By Gina Nino de Nightingale,
photos by Karla Ramirez

I love trying to engage my children in the life of the Church and trying to get as many other people as I can to do the same! Last year, when I



a little altar laid out with a mass kit! Inside, families were carving pumpkins and decorating loot bags with instructions on how to pray for holy souls in purgatory throughout November (and savor



Church calendar or ask families to overcommit. It is a beautiful and truly Christian effort to take a look at what other ministries are doing, and see how we can combine our time, talent, and treasure and work together to create fun, evangelizing, and catechizing family opportunities!

This year was our second trunk or treat. Outside the weather was a little drizzly, silly Halloween music was blaring, and kids were walking car to car dressed up as bishops, dragons, princesses, and unicorns! Cars were decorated in themes like Frozen (with a live beautiful queen), spooky witches, and pumpkins with blessings. The vocations committee even had a car with seminarian posters and



that Halloween candy!). Toward the end of the event the middle school youth ministry dressed up as saints, told stories about their lives and passed out more treats to the children! I think with so much happening at the event, we are going to need a new name, a larger space, and your family to join us next year!

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Over 200 guests filled the Parish Center with hearty appetites for an evening of Bavarian delights. Photos by Gerry Kelley

Oom-pah-pah...bring on the Wurst and Wiesnhendl!

SJN Oktoberfest Event Coordinator Cheryl Harskowitch congratulated her crew for such a fine 2019 event, bringing hundreds of parishioners together for great fun, food, and dancing:

"We get to say it again this year – It was the BEST Oktoberfest EVER! From the bottom of my heart – so many thanks and prayers are being sent your way. This year's Oktoberfest was totally out of the park, phenomenal, wonderful, joyous and just downright fantastic..."

all because of each of you.

From our ticket sellers, donations of flowers and utensils, beer stein

Continued on page 20

St. John Neumann Parish

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Msgr. Robert Panke
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More St. John Neumann News on Page 20



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St. Mary's Helps to Bring Christmas to Haiti

By eighth-grade student Siena Do
with special contribution by Johnny McCormick
and the McCormick Family

When winter approaches, so does the holiday season. On Christmas, we gather with our closest friends and family over a bountiful table to celebrate our Lord, Jesus Christ, coming into the world as a newborn baby. We probably take for granted all the wonderful things we have during the holidays, from the presents under the Christmas tree decorated with ornaments, to the delicious food on our tables, to even the burning logs in the fireplace and our ugly Christmas sweaters!

We, here in the States, are generally truly blessed to have all these things – because that is not the case for most adults and children around the world. However, thanks to giving people like the McCormick Family, some of those less fortunate than us can also have the opportunity to enjoy the holidays.

The McCormicks are part of Life Connection Mission, or LCM. LCM is a

volunteer-run interdenominational Christian organization dedicated to providing our impoverished brothers and sisters in Haiti with food and a good education. The organization helps these Haitians by giving them medical care, career preparation, humanitarian outreach, and, above all, evangelizing the Word of God. LCM sponsors several programs in Haiti, including ministry and training for pastors and other community leaders, food distribution, medical services, building and agricultural programs, and food for the schoolchildren. For more than twenty prayer-filled years, Life Connection Mission has changed for the better the lives of thousands of the body of Christ.

The McCormick family – mom and dad, Mary and Matt; and children Elizabeth, Patrick, Megan, Kevin, and John – found out about the Life Connection Mission from some of their friends at St. Patrick's Parish and School. St. Patrick's School principal, Christie Anne Short, is also the Executive Director of LCM. The McCormicks saw this as a perfect opportunity for them, since they were already looking for a family mission trip around the holidays. Since 2015, the family has been on four trips to Haiti, plus separate trips to El Salvador and



St. Mary's School principal Debra Eisel and student Johnny McCormick with the Haiti donation collection barrel.

New Orleans. Each trip lasts, on average, five to six days, including the travel time to and from Haiti from the United States. The McCormicks and the other volunteers with LCM give food and Christmas gifts to the schoolchildren, and in the mountains, they hand out food and donations to the people living there. The one thing about Haiti that strikes the McCormick family the most is not the rampant poverty surrounding them; instead, it is how joyful and kind the people are, despite the hardships that they go through every day. Their ultimate hope for the mission is "To help the kids in the community get educated and try to have a better life."

In the two months or so before Christmas, the families of St. Mary's School cooperate to fill up a huge barrel or two with items ranging from soccer balls to acetaminophen that get shipped to Haiti. This year's collection was no different. The barrels have already departed but to find out how you can help, go to www.life-connectionmission.org. And in the meantime, while the McCormick Family prepares for their trip and as we await the birth of our savior Jesus Christ, let us remember especially the good people of Haiti and the mission of LCM in our prayers.

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More St. Mary - Rockville News on Page 20

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The fourth and fifth grade students at St. Mary's in Rockville visited Jamestown and Williamsburg, Virginia, on October 18, 2019. It was a beautiful, sunny day and it brought to life the curriculum the fifth-grade students were learning in the classroom. Here, some of the students stand in front of the Governor's Palace in Colonial Williamsburg.



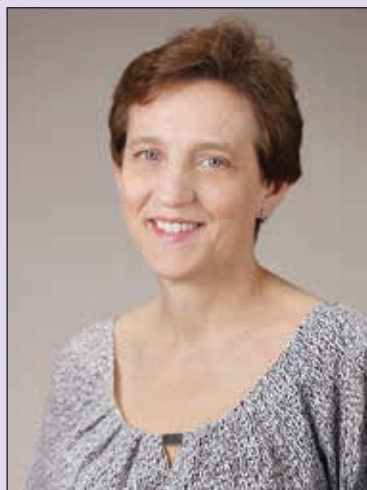
Some of the ladies of Sodality at St. Mary's in Rockville model fashions at their annual fashion show. This year, the fall fundraiser was on October 13, bringing the women of the parish together for fun, fashion and fellowship.

St. Jane de Chantal Sodality Kicks Off New Year of Activities

By Helen Bollwerk

The women of the St. Jane Frances de Chantal Sodality have kicked off a very busy schedule of activities for the 2019-2020 Sodality year. In September, the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Unit of Sodality coordinated a parish-wide drive for school supplies to support the religious education program at St. Jane's sister parish, the Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Washington, DC. The drive was very successful, and the Shrine's pastor sent a heartfelt letter of gratitude thanking the St. Jane community for its generosity. On October 3rd, Sodality held its first Mass and general meeting of the year and hosted its annual lasagna dinner for Sodality members and interested women of the parish. As a related service project, nonperishable food donations were collected at the dinner for the Shrine of the Sacred Heart community pantry. The well-attended evening featured a delicious Italian meal and joyous fellowship and yielded a bounty of food for the Shrine pantry.

On October 27, Sodality held its annual Communion Breakfast for the parish after the 10 AM



Dr. Colleen Hadigan, Parishioner and Sodality member at St. Jane de Chantal, gave an inspiring talk entitled "A Journey of Motherhood" at the Sodality's Annual Communion Breakfast Mass in October.

Mass. The breakfast's speaker was St. Jane's parishioner and Sodality member, Colleen Hadigan, M.D., M.P.H., a pediatric gastroenterologist at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. Dr. Hadigan's talk was entitled, A Journey to Motherhood, recounted how her faith and the example of the Blessed Mother inspired

her to become a single adoptive parent and led her to Ethiopia to find her son. Dr. Hadigan's moving and engaging account of how she and her son formed their family offered a warm and uplifting message that her audience will not soon forget.

Sodality's next project is the Advent Giving Tree, which will run from Thanksgiving weekend to mid-December. The gathering space of St. Jane's Church will be filled with Christmas trees decorated with brightly colored, paper tags listing the Christmas wishes of hundreds of needy members of our community. Sodality works with 18 local charities to identify the gift requests of their clients, and the generous St. Jane's parishioners make these wishes come true by purchasing the gifts. A dedicated team of Sodality members will shop to fulfill last minute needs, sort the hundreds of packages, and deliver them to the respective charities in time for Christmas. This holiday program is a much-loved St. Jane de Chantal tradition.

The Sodality has many more activities planned for 2020,

Continued on page 30



Some of the new and continuing members of the St. Jane de Chantal Pastoral Council pose for a group photo with Pastor Fr. Giese at a reception following the special Commissioning Mass.

St. Jane de Chantal's Pastoral Council Commissioning Mass

Soon after starting their annual dedication of volunteer work for the parish, newly installed members and returning members of St. Jane de Chantal Pastoral Council were commissioned at a Sunday mass during the month of November. At the mass, Pastor Fr. Giese asked the Pastoral Council members to make a commitment to serve the parish faithfully, truthfully and prayerfully to which all members responded with a heartfelt "yes". After the mass, there was a social gathering giving parishioners an opportunity to meet and talk with members of the Pastoral Council and to learn more about the work they do for the parish.

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

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

Susana and Mario Cerritelli,
OPT Editors

More St. Jane de Chantal
News on Page 3 & 30

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SHORT*Con't from page 1*

the Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County (CBN) held its Twenty-Sixth Anniversary Gala. Hundreds of Catholic business leaders came together to celebrate and support Catholic schools and individuals who have made significant contributions to CBN's mission. Let's acknowledge them not only for their leadership in supporting our schools but especially for their Christian example for all of us. CBN contributed over \$75,000 to local schools for scholarship assistance this year and well over one million dollars since it began its mission! CBN was founded by the

same visionary who founded this paper, Paul Zurkowski. Thank God for the kindness and perseverance of the CBN.

The 2019 Business Person of the Year is Jim Boland, Boland Trane Air Conditioning and Heating. He is honored for his service to Georgetown Prep and Mater Dei, several other local nonprofits, including those charged with feeding hungry families and providing school supplies and toys for children in need. Msgr. John Enzler, no stranger in service to the most vulnerable, is recognized as the Catholic Community Leader of the Year. As priest, pastor, and CEO of Catholic Charities, Fr. John leads many others in community service. At a time the Church needs

examples of Christ-like priests, the Holy Spirit gives us Fr. John. How proud Paul Zurkowski must be of Gerard McLaughlin. A successful banker at Founder's Bank, Gerard demonstrates the fusion of faith-inspired work life and spiritual life. He shares his professionally admired business skills with community organizations to assist them in achieving worthy mission objectives. I'd be remiss if I didn't note the lively emcee for the evening, Eileen Whelan. A graduate of St Bernadette's, Silver Spring and the Academy of the Holy Cross, she knows a thing or two about Catholic education and clearly appreciated the opportunities she received from her education. Congratulations to all at CBN for their enduring sup-

port for Catholic schools and other community services.

The holiday issue of Our Parish Times annually celebrates the wonderful contributions older Catholics make to their communities and informs about services some older parishioners may need to remain healthy and active. This issue and the Christmas season are opportunities for us to continue our reflection on the need for greater kindness with a unique focus on kindnesses done together especially among the generations.

Intergenerationalism can be defined as social engagement and interaction that bring together multiple generations for a common purpose. Intergenerational activities build on the strengths that each gen-

eration has to offer, nurture understanding and mutual respect, and challenge stereotypical perceptions. All parties have the opportunity to give as well as receive and to experience the joy of thriving together. Intergenerational activity aims to put a smile on everyone's face.

Once upon a time, older generations were much more involved with younger people, and vice versa. But times change. Parents are having children later in life, and children are living greater distances from their parents and relatives. Not to mention that lives seem busier nowadays. The regrettable result is more children and grandparents, uncles and aunts, missing out on loving, joyful and productive time together. Add to this that our lives are becoming more segregated. Accommodations for older people are often set apart from where younger generations live. These factors make kindness among the generations more challenging and can unfortunately drive a wedge between generations. Isolation may creep in along with a poorer understanding and awareness of each other. It's a downward spiral where negative stereotypes and attitudes can take hold all too easily and loneliness can take root. Data from Montgomery County show these things are happening here now, at a time when the two fastest growing populations in the County are older and younger people, a time both could benefit from intergenerational relationships.

But it doesn't have to be this way. The Justice and Advocacy Council of Montgomery County, our local Catholic advocacy group for social justice, has made promoting and supporting intergenerational activities in parishes and other Catholic communities one of its highest objectives. Wisely, they have joined forces with Msgr. Enzler and his dedicated parish outreach team at Catholic Charities to focus on this potentially life and parish changing perspective. Their goal is to help all of us imagine collaborative Catholic communities which function more like intergenerational villages. Older adults, millennials, grade and high-schoolers, families, those with differing abilities, skills, and financial capacities, immigrants and refugees working together in acts of service and kindness to each other. Parishes committed to uniting Christian communities around the vision that each member of the parish is valued. Each person has gifts to share with others to enhance the quality of their spiritual and earthly lives, eliminate isolation and loneliness, and open hearts to the joy of thriving in kindness together.

We will be learning more about this in the weeks to come. In the meantime, mark your calendar for March 21, 2020. That's the day of the first Montgomery County Catholic Convocation on Engagement Across Generations. Have a blessed Advent, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year with all of your loved ones!

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St. Raphael Sodality Celebrates 25 Years

Over 60 Sodality members and guests helped St. Raphael's Sodality celebrate its 25th Anniversary on November 13. We began by praying the Holy Rosary to honor and thank our Blessed Mother for her intercession and protection. Msgr. Michael Wilson, Sodality's first Moderator, was our special guest and speaker. He reminded us to remember that each of us is given a gift to contribute to the building up of Christ's Church.

Our current Moderator and pastor, Fr. Michael Salah, and retired priest, Fr. Tom Morrow, joined in the celebration of renewing friendships and sharing memories of prayer and service through the years.

We honored fourteen Sodality members who were members of the original Sodality - 25 years ago! And twelve women who served as Prefects through the years were recognized and received a special gift. We also remembered, recognized, and prayed for the souls of our departed sister Sodality members.

It was a beautiful day of sisterhood, and we enjoyed reminiscing over photos of past Moderators, Prefects, members and activities.

In December, St. Raphael's Sodality members will contribute to the many charitable activities held by our parish - the Mother Teresa luncheon, the Christmas party for St. Raphael's assisted living residents,



Past and present Sodality Prefects (L-R): Rosemarie Buckley; Mary Ann Greene; Louise Cox; Eleanor Bell; Janet Leonard-Walker; Betty Gill; Edith Galvin; Martha Verme; Linda Trinh; Rosie Bird; Adrienne Willich (for her mother Bonnie Prokop); and Ronnie Heller.

the Advent giving tree, etc.

On January 15 at 7pm in the parish library, Fr. Tom Morrow will speak with us about how to make a good confession. And mark your calendar for the Annual Sodality Tea on February 12th at 2:00 pm in the parish library.

We thank the women who have supported St. Raphael's Sodality through the years. Our motto is "To Jesus through Mary." To join Sodality please send a \$30 check payable to St. Raphael's Church (note Sodality dies in the memo line) to Aleta Phillips, 304 Winter Walk Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.

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St. Raphael's original Sodality members pose with their original and current moderators (L-R): Barbara Lynch; Eleanor Bell; Kathy Stetson; Rosemarie Buckley; Fr. Tom Morrow; Martha Corrado; Dee Bogart; Martha Verme; Edith Galvin; Sally McClean; Fr. Mike Salah; Jean Tan; Mary McGowan; Msgr. Michael Wilson; Rosie Bird; Ronnie Heller; Mary Ann Greene.



Eighth-graders Maddie Foulkes, Douglas Rohrer, Andy Dulcey, Declan Healy, Kate Gregory, and Luke Malanoski display their math contest third-place honors. Photo by John McCutcheon

What's Ahead

- Jan. 13: Preschool open house invites interested parents to a presentation and tour of our campus at 9:15 a.m. K-8 open house begins at 10:30 a.m.
- Jan. 17: Preschool registration for 2020-21 opens at 10:30 a.m.

For details about these events and more, visit our website at www.straphael-schoolmd.org.

St. Raphael Parish St. Raphael School

1513 Dunster Road
Rockville, MD

Rev. Michael Salah, Pastor

Teri Dwyer, Principal

MJ Zafis-Garcia,
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ENZLER

Con't from page 1

we hear homilies every year telling us to "keep Christ in Christmas." We all need that reminder amidst our busyness, but as a priest, I see the other side of that as well. I see many people who's spiritual lives are enriched and who do focus on drawing closer to Jesus.

I know our to do lists and our calendars seem full right now. If you have little children, I'm sure you're fully engaged in waiting for Santa and all the love and effort that goes into buying gifts for each other for the Christmas season.

Many families with older children look forward to them coming home from college or where they now live. They treasure the time together and great conversations about life and what's important. Still others enjoy the gift of Grandma, Grandad, or both, who, while aging, are still full of the Christmas spirit that's so much a part of our traditions and our families.

As a priest, I do not have children, but Christmas remains very special to me. When I was assigned to parishes, it was probably my favorite time of the year. The holiday season was an opportunity to spend time with people in a more joyous and festive way.

There always are a fair number of gatherings during the holiday season. They are a chance to see many parishioners at the same time, not in the more formal atmosphere of the liturgy but in people's homes – a chance to just enjoy quality time together. It's always fun to see peo-

ple dressed in Christmas garb, all celebrating the season in a beautifully decorated home and enjoying the beauty of simply being together.

I also notice that people seem to come to church more often during the holiday season. There's a stronger sense of wanting to enjoy the festivities that are part of parish life, not just on Christmas Day itself but in the days and weeks around it. I hope and pray that is part of your experience as well.

I am also uplifted in the holiday season that people seem to be more prayerful. They make a real effort to focus on Jesus, his birth, and what's most important. I see more smiles and tranquility even with the busy season.

These are my experiences of the last number of years, and I think they speak about the need for more joy in our lives, a sense of celebrating God's gift of Jesus for all of us. There's just something about Advent and Christmas that allows us to look beyond our individual struggles and the world's struggles to recognize the good around us and the blessings we have together.

I also know that for many among us, this is a time when their faith comes alive more than ever. I pray that you have that same experience this year and that it leads you and your family to a great season together and even greater service to others.

Finally, I think we should ask ourselves why we can't be this joyous, this service oriented, and this committed to others all throughout the year. Why limit it to weeks from Thanksgiving to Epiphany?

I've preached about this in many homilies over the years, and I love

to quote Henry van Dyke on what he calls "keeping Christmas." Here is a short excerpt:

But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is, keeping Christmas...

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world – stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death – and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love? Then you can keep Christmas.

And if you keep it for a day, why not always?

But you can never keep it alone.

If I had one request to make of all of us, it would be that Christmas would stay a part of our lives throughout January, February, March, and each day of the year.

Each of us has our own blessings and burdens this holiday season, and we all have our hopes and dreams as we approach Christmas. I pray for better attendance and more participation at Mass for all of us, a stronger sense of who we are as Catholics, and a greater commitment to serving the poor.

I pray that we keep the spirit of love and service alive as individuals and as a community all throughout the year. It is through the joy and happiness of participation that we begin to form the community that we are called to be. The better our communities are, the better we are able to live our faith and serve those in need.

May God bless you with a vibrant spirit of Christmas this holiday season and throughout the coming year.

OPT

J & A

Con't from page 3

society. We are called to care for others.

- Option for the Poor and Vulnerable. The test of a just society is how the poor and vulnerable are treated. We are called to put the needs of the poor and vulnerable first.
- The Dignity and Rights of Workers. Workers should be treated fairly and justly compensated for their labors.
- Solidarity. We are one human family and called to love and respect our neighbor, despite racial, ethnic, national, or economic differences.
- Care for God's Creation. We show respect for our Creator by our stewardship of creation and care for the environment where we live.

For more information on these principles, search the web for "USCCB Catholic Social Teaching." There is much helpful material on this topic.

A unified view of life. Many Catholics are concerned about the 50 to 60 million abortions in the US since 1973 (depending on the

report). They see this as a human slaughter. Others may focus on the death penalty, indifference to and abandonment of the poor, children living in poverty, hostility to refugees, or unjust and inadequate wages. CST can give us a unified overview as we consider these varied issues.

CST helps us to see how all these issues are related and guides us in formulating public policy options. It is helpful to us when reflecting on building a more just society at all levels. Through CST, Catholics can offer life-giving principles to our communities, churches, and families at all levels—local, state and national. In these challenging times, they have the potential of bringing light and hope to public policy issues now characterized by incredulity, darkness and despair.

Consider joining us at our next J&A Council meeting on January, 22, 2020. Call J&A chair Brian Dorsey at 240-888-4736 for more information.

OPT

Anthony Bosnick is a member of the Justice and Advocacy Council and of St. John Neumann parish, Gaithersburg. He is director of social ministry at St. Francis of Assisi parish, Derwood.

COLLECTION

Con't from page 4

of the Poor. They were recognized as a pontifical institute by Pope Pius XI on July 9, 1854. On March 1, 1879, Pope Leo XIII approved their constitution. They came to the United States in 1870 at the request of Bishop Amadeus Rappe.

The Little Sisters Of The Poor continue to care for the elderly, including priests, nuns, bishops, and cardinals, and also for the poor. Every November, just before Thanksgiving, the eighth graders, along with Mrs. Stallsmith and Monsignor Filardi, bring the Sisters canned goods, hams, turkeys, toiletries, food, paper plates and napkins, coffee, stamps, and other items. The eighth graders load and unload the bus that transports the donated goods.

We chatted with the residents, who were all nice and welcoming. Sister Magaret Mary also talked to us about the history of Little Sisters of the Poor and about Jeanne Jugan. We sang patriotic songs for the residents, and many of them sang along. Monsignor Filardi showed us a first class relic of St. Jeanne Jugan, and next to it was a

paper containing the names of all of the past residents who had gone to heaven. There was a mass at 11:00 a.m. and we were able to attend and pray with the residents. Then we escorted the residents to their lunchroom. Sister Constance gave each of us a prayer card and some buttons for our grandparents as we said goodbye. This was a meaning-



Loading donations: Msgr. Filardi and eighth graders unload donations for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

ful experience and our class loved every second of it! We had an amazing time and hopefully many of us will go back one day and volunteer again.

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**24th Annual Patricia Sullivan Benefit Dinner
Saturday, March 14, 2020 (see back page)**

Saint Peter's STREAM Lab Opens

By Erin Pant

On September 24, members of Saint Peter's faculty, staff, students and parents gathered to cut the ribbon and officially open the new STREAM Lab. STREAM stands for science, technology, religion, engineering, arts and math. The new lab is a dedicated makerspace, providing all students from pre-kindergarten to eighth grade a space to engage in exploration, problem solving, building and creating.

The lab is a culmination of work that started six years ago when Saint Peter's began executing its STEM program. The first component was implementing the Project Lead The Way STEM curriculum. With the curriculum now successfully employed in grades kindergarten through eighth grade, the makerspace was the next step.

"We are blessed to have this space," said Mrs. Fran Natalicchio, Saint Peter's STEM coordinator. "For a STEM teacher this is the ultimate!"

The lab offers space and materials for a multitude of activities. Features include a Lego building wall, a light table, a water table, easels and different problem-solving games. Throughout the room are different stations with prompts



First grade students spend the morning building, hammering, coding, experimenting, sewing, painting and learning in the new STREAM lab.

that present challenges for students to solve. Students are encouraged to explore all of the different areas within the lab and work together to accomplish a task or activity.

On a recent morning, first graders came to the

Continued on page 32



St. Peter's Church
2900 Sandy Spring Road
Olney, MD

Rev. Thomas Kalita, Pastor
301-924-3774

St. Peter's School
Mary Elizabeth Whelan,
Principal
301-774-9112

Sheila Pfeifer, Parish Editor
301-570-5551
www.stpetersolney.org

Students Focus on Flight

Saint Peter's third grade class is learning about Sir Isaac Newton's laws of motion and the forces involved in flight as part of the Project Lead The Way curriculum. In October, the students had two special opportunities to hear from experts in the field and gain a greater understanding of the science of flight.

On October 22, students took a field trip to the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly,

Virginia. During the visit, the students saw aircraft and spacecraft that span history, beginning with early aviation prototypes and ending with the Space Shuttle Discovery. Expert docents, many of whom were former pilots, led the tour and shared vast amounts of flight knowledge. A highlight of the trip was when the students got to create and test paper airplanes. The activity allowed them to learn about the center of gravity on a plane

Continued on page 32



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In Memory of Mrs. Jennifer MacDonald

Mrs. Jennifer MacDonald, a long-time member of Saint Peter's Parish and School, passed away after a valiant fight with cancer on November 3. Mrs. MacDonald served Saint Peter's in many roles including as a parent, educator and volunteer for over twenty years. She will be remembered for her love of children, dedication to her community, service to others, and devotion to her friends and family. Throughout her life she served as an inspiration to others and leaves a lasting legacy.



Mrs. MacDonald, a beloved and integral member of Saint Peter's School and Parish.

The Saint Peter's community prays for the soul of Mrs. MacDonald, and for the comfort of her family.

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St. Bart's eighth graders sort food before boxing it for delivery

St. Bart's Eighth graders take leadership role in Thanksgiving food drive

This November, St. Bartholomew School and Parish provided Thanksgiving meals plus an additional two weeks' worth of food to 50 families at its sister parish, the Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Northwest Washington. In what has become a fall tradition at St. Bart's, eighth graders took the lead in organizing, sorting, and boxing the hundreds of bags of food that came to the school through the collection. Dozens of bags arrived daily in the week leading up to a big Saturday of sorting. Eighth graders were charged with bringing food to the gym and creating systems of organization. "They get all excited," says eighth grade homeroom and religion

teacher Germania Rebaudengo. "I say, 'I need this done, you take it over and you decide how you're going to do it. You be the leaders,' and they just bloom."

Students appreciate the opportunity to have service work as part of their religion curriculum and as a part of daily life. "Service work is important to me because it helps me and my friends get out into the community and help people," says eighth grader Zoe Brown. "St. Bart's helps us by having all of the classes incorporate the service projects that we do." Adds eighth grader Angel Bryant, "When I'm working on a project like this it makes me feel happy because I know that I'm making a difference in my community."

OPT

St. Bartholomew School launches innovative Minecraft Education platform with help from tech-savvy alumnus

Between managing his senior year course load at St. John's College High School and preparing college applications, St. Bart's alumnus Preston Hull helped bring a game-changing learning platform to his former school. The technology? Minecraft Education Edition – a versatile, game-based learning platform that engages students and ignites their passion for learning across many subject areas. It is a natural fit for St. Bart's, which has a growing focus on STEM education, collaborative learning, and problem solving. With Minecraft Education Edition, multi-layered learning takes place while children feel like they are just playing a game. "I believe that students learn best when they enjoy their learning. The game has no end, and it is a limitless sandbox for the player (or players) to explore, build, and design at their leisure," says Hull. The 17-year-old is already a season computer programmer and app developer. He pushed to bring



St. John's Senior Preston Hull stands in front of his alma mater, St. Bartholomew

Minecraft to St. Bartholomew when he learned that the school is working to boost enrollment. His idea was met with universal enthusiasm, and his family has stepped up to purchase licenses for the learning platform, which teaches coding, math, science, history, and more.

With the launch of the program on December 1, St. Bartholomew becomes the first parochial school within the DC metro area to offer Minecraft Education, which is used in more than 115 countries. Studies show that students who use the immersive learning tool show significant increases in problem solving, collaboration, creativity, and computation skills.

For Hull, who plans a career in computer science, sharing his growing technology insight is part of giving back to the school he loves. "It is undeniable that St. Bart's has played a major role in my current personality and character," says Hull. "St. Bart's offers a warm, welcoming community to all. Even now, four years since I last attended St. Bart's as a student, I still consider myself a part of its community. I feel it is necessary to give back to the community and to give the students a new and exciting way to learn."

OPT

Amazing healing Mass at St Bartholomew

Fr. Ubald Rugrigangoga from Rwanda Celebrated a healing Mass on October 30 at St. Bartholomew Church with 85% of the church filled. The music was the word "Jesus" sung to the Amazing Grace tune.

After the Mass Fr. Ubald went through the congregation blessing all with the Eucharist in the monstrance. After the blessing Father described the issues some in attendance had come to be relieved of. One was a father who was concerned that his



Fr. Ubald Rugrigangoga

sons would grow up without their Mother who had Cancer, But Father said worry not she is cured. Many

other concerns were described with comments. Even hard-core skeptics came to believe Father's gift of discernment which was reinforced by owners of some of the issues joining the priest and confirming his description. Father described five keys to unbound freedom and healing: faith, thanking the Lord for forgiveness, renouncing evil, deciding to change, blessing in the name of God, turning away from the seven deadly sins.

"Fr. Ubald has a beautiful healing gift and his focus is on healing and evangelization wherever he goes. There are many documented cases of physical healings, spiritual healings, healings in relationships and emotional healings through his prayers. It is not uncommon for him to do a healing service in his country where anywhere from 10,000-60,000 people will be in attendance."

—The Center for the Secret of Peace web site: <https://frubald.com>

Fr. Ubald made his first trip to the United States in 2009, at the request of genocide survivor Immaculée Ilibagiza, author of *Left to Tell*, who currently resides in the United States.

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301-229-7933

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

Peter J Mermagen, OPT Editor

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stbartparishtimes123@gmail.com

A Trip Back in Time

Mrs. Falk's third-grade class took an interesting trip back in time to the Baltimore Museum of Industry. There, they learned about the value of the Inner Harbor to the commerce, industry, and labor force of our region. They saw functioning printing presses, and experienced life as a cannery worker in the 1910s through a simulated factory setting with props, job titles, and varied compensation.



We Love Our Grandparents and Special Friends!

More than 400 student, grandparents, and special friends filled St. Patrick's Gym for the biennial Grandparents Day Celebration. The event began with mass where students from all grades led the singing and participated as lectors and gift bearers. Following mass, the large group enjoyed coffee, donuts, and juice. Essay contest winners were announced, and the group enjoyed the debut screening of the school's new video. Afterwards, guests had an opportunity to tour



What My Grandparent Has Taught Me

At Grandparents Day on November 13, Principal Christie Anne Short announced the winners of the biennial essay contest, sponsored by Home Instead Senior Care. The topic this year was "What My Grandparent Has Taught Me." Congratulations to the grade level winners of the essay contest: Shannon Boyle (Kindergarten); Eva Glomb (first grade); Ignacio Salvado (second grade); Andrea Figallo (third grade); Kelly Landers (fourth grade); Molly Schmidlein (fifth grade); Morgan Shannon (sixth grade); Kiley McEnerney (seventh grade); and Tommy Brown (eighth grade).

St. Patrick's Parish

4101 Norbeck Road
Rockville, MD

Rev. Msgr. Charles J. Parry
Pastor
301-924-2284

St. Patrick's School

Ms. Christie Anne Short, Principal
301-929-9672

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Eighth graders at the Mexican Cultural Institute in Washington, the former embassy of Mexico.

A Mexican Experience Close to Home

By Alejandro Carr

On November 14, 2019, the eighth graders who study Spanish visited the Mexican Cultural Institute in Washington D.C. The Institute was actually once a mansion designed by Emily MacVeagh, the wife of Secretary of Treasury in 1910. After living in the mansion for five years, Mrs. MacVeagh died, and her husband then leased the mansion to the then Assistant Secretary of State. In 1921, the mansion was purchased by the Mexican Government to be used as their embassy in the United States.

Murals were later painted by many Mexican artists. In 1989 the embassy was relocated leaving the mansion to become the Mexican Cultural Institute. Inside the surprisingly large four-story mansion, we

saw many murals adorning the walls showing Mexican culture. We also saw many cultural sculptures like recreation of Aztec totems. Lastly, we saw an altar for the day of the dead exhibit similar to those found in the movie *Coco*. The altar was dedicated to the people in the El Paso shooting and famous Mexicans who died this year like the singer José José. One important thing to note about the day of the dead is that it isn't about mourning the dead but about celebrating their passing into the afterlife.

This is a beautiful and interesting museum that really shows and represents the Mexican culture. If you want to visit, it is located at 2829 16th St NW. Be sure to check out the website at www.instituteofmexicodc.org for more information.

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Did You Hear That? St. Bernadette Rings in Inaugural Echo Dinner!

By Kate Rodgers, SBS Director of Marketing, Enrollment and Alumni Engagement

On Saturday, November 16, St. Bernadette celebrated its inaugural Echo Dinner. The Echo Dinner is a newly created event intended to provide the opportunity for parishioners, alumni, school families, neighbors, friends and all who love St. Bernadette, past, present and future to

reconnect and engage with one another at a dedicated time on an annual basis. The name of the event was selected after "The Echo" which originally was a monthly newsletter published by the parish from the 1950's through the 1980's. Just like the resounding sound of an echo, the time was right to bring the sentimental memory of The Echo back for such an important cause.

All proceeds from The St. Bernadette

Echo Dinner go to support the newly created initiative called *Fund A Scholar*. *Fund A Scholar* was created and launched by the St. Bernadette Class of 1962 in December 2018, initially in memory of their deceased classmates and then grew into a community-wide annual giving initiative to provide small need based grants, to help close the remaining gap after alternative sources of tuition assistance have been awarded, for any student, new or returning, who wishes to have a St. Bernadette education and experience. Our inaugural Echo Dinner raised over \$21,000 for *Fund A Scholar*.

The evening began with the weekly Saturday 5:00 PM mass. St. Bernadette School students then greeted guests as they made their way from the church to the school hall. Once in the school hall, decorated so beautifully with flowers, archived photos and bathed in fairy lights, Corcoran Caterers served a delicious dinner. Our guests were entertained and impressed by the sweet singing of our school choir led by music teacher Madeline Belknap. Local artist, member of the St. Bernadette Class of 1968 and guest of The Echo Dinner, Jim Haynes, created and donated a watercolor of the original school building to be raffled off to assist with raising additional funds. The Class of 1962 was



Members of the SBS Class of 1962 in attendance at The 2019 Echo Dinner L-R: Rick Brown, Tom Dillon, Susan Fitzgerald, Mary Lou Goehrung, David McClay and Bill Nolte

honored as a collective 118 member graduating class as they were the 2019 inductees into the St. Bernadette Alumni Honor Roll. The evening concluded with dancing with crowd favorite songs supplied by DJ Mike McKee.

St. Bernadette offers our grateful appreciation to all who helped bring this inaugural event to life with a special nod to the planning committee. We offer an additional and sincere thank you to our event sponsors: The Magnolia Family of Companies and The Magnolia Family Foundation, Kelly HVAC, Palm Facility Services, Manders Decorating Company, The Quinn Family and Signs By Tomorrow. Save the Date information for our Second Annual Echo Dinner 2020 will be released soon.

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St. Bernadette School Grades K-8

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Contact Kate Rodgers at 301-593- 5611 x135
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The St. Bernadette Tuesday Club Annual Advent and Christmas Gathering

By Mary Ann Fitzgerald, St. Bernadette Tuesday Club Travel Committee Chair

The senior club is putting together our annual December catered luncheon to wrap up

the year in grand style. Our club members and guests look forward to this event with great anticipation so we always get a fabulous turnout. The club also invites and provides for our pastor Monsignor Smith, the priests, the rectory staff and the school principal.

This year we will serve a menu popular with the club which will be: appetizers, tossed salad, stuffed roast pork, crispy chicken wings, meatloaf, string beans almonidine, scalloped potatoes, holiday sweet potatoes, rolls, and apple pie, along with wine, coffee, tea, and soft drinks. We will have poinsettias for every table, which will then become door prizes, and a cash 50/50 drawing. After the meal, we will show a DVD of a Radio City Music Hall Christmas Spectacular. We fest-

Continued on page 34

St. Bernadette Parish

70 University Blvd., East
Silver Spring, MD

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

Kate Doyle Rodgers, OPT Editor
301-593-5611

More St. Bernadette News on Page 34

The MSP Quilting Angels create Quilts of Valor and Quilts for Kids

Parishioners at Mother Seton Parish in Germantown witnessed a time-honored tradition on Saturday, November 9, 2019. Fr. Louis Faust, an Air Force Veteran and the senior priest, blessed over 100 quilts at the morning Mass. The quilts are hand-crafted by members of the MSP Quilting Angels, an inter-faith group, that gather monthly at the Parish Center. At their meetings, they create quilts that, once blessed, are awarded to a veteran or service member touched by war or to a child with a pediatric illness. The MSP Quilting Angels create Quilts of Valor (QOVF.org) and Quilts for Kids (Quiltsforkids.org). They donate their time and talents to create these quilts knowing that their recipients will receive

comfort and healing from these talented quilters.

All are invited to join the Quilting Angels on the National Sew Day, Saturday, February 1, 2020, between the hours of 9:00 am and 2:00 pm in the Parish Center at Mother Seton Parish, 19951 Fr. Hurley Boulevard in Germantown. The Quilting Angels have several free quilting demonstrations occurring throughout the day's activities. There will be quilting patterns, fabric painting, and an assortment of different sewing/quilting techniques. All the patterns, fabrics, thread, tools and machines will be provided. This is your opportunity to try your hand at preparing a section of a quilt top.



OPT

Fr. Lou Faust blessing quilts for veterans, service members and children with pediatric illnesses.



De Colores Mexican Folk Dance Company

All Saints International Festival

By Juliana Ordoñez

On November 17, Mother Seton Parish had the opportunity to celebrate our fifth annual All Saints International Festival. There were representatives from twenty different countries who shared their faith, food, and culture. The celebration started with an All Saints International Mass celebrated by the Fr. Lee Fangmeyer, where children and adults participated while dressed up in their native dresses. After the Mass, 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 dance performances from Bolivia, Mexico and Colombia.

Congratulations to Bolivia for winning the best country display. It was such a beautiful afternoon to



Above, Bolivia, Winners of Best Country Display!

At right, Rumba Dance Academy from Colombia



celebrate the rich diversity of our parish. The All Saints International Festival Committee wants to thank all who participated in the festival by sharing their faith, food, cul-

tures, and talents with us! The success of this festival was made possible by our parish coming together as One Family in Faith.

OPT

Mother Seton Parish

19951 Fr. Hurley Boulevard
Germantown, MD

Fr. Lee Fangmeyer, Pastor
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Brenda Rosado
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St. Mary - Rockville



On November 2, All Souls Day, parishioners from local parishes including St. Mary's Rockville, St. Raphael and Our Lady of Mercy, gathered in front of LeRoy Carhart's office off Old Georgetown Road to prayerfully protest in connection with the 40 Days for Life international Fall 2019 campaign.



St. John Neumann



SJN Parish chili aficionados had over 16 versions of chili to taste and enjoy from the kitchens of the Knights and their families.

Knights Chili Cook-off and Box of Joy Charity

By Terry Waters, photos by Jerry Kelly

It was a packed house at St. John Neumann Parish Center on the evening of November 16 as Our Lady of Guadalupe Council 12127 hosted its annual Chili Cook-off competition. Monsignor Panke opened the dinner by offering grace welcoming over 75 guests. It was our largest chili gathering in over a decade!

With 16 chili entries from which to choose, guests were treated to a wide variety of homemade concoctions ranging from those that merely tantalized the taste buds, to those that absolutely scorched them! In any case, the delicious recipes more than satisfied the festive crowd who roared their approval when the winners were announced.

"Celebrity" judges included SJN Seminarian Danny Baxter, Box of Joy Program Chairman Jimmy Young, and Maryland State Deputy



Before dinner, Chili guests assembled *Boxes of Joy* filled with gifts for later distribution to impoverished children in numerous Third World countries.

ly participated in assembling good-will kits as part of Cross Catholic Outreach's (CCO) 'Box of Joy' program. Each box was stuffed with various gifts for children such as small toys, school supplies, socks, and hygiene items. Once completed, these will be shipped to CCO's headquarters in Florida and then by Christmas distributed to impoverished children living in numerous Third World countries. Knight's Dale Trott and his wife, Linda, shared with attendees their experience in personally delivering Box of Joy kits to children in Guatemala last year.

The Chili Cook-off was another reminder of the blessings we experience when we gather together to celebrate an evening of good food, warm camaraderie, and the joy of helping others. No one goes home hungry and everyone leaves a winner!

Dale Trott. The winners they chose:
First Dan Cipra
Second Maureen Joseph
Third Bob Breiner, Denise Madaras (tie)

This year's chili-cook featured a special community service activity and one which the Knights now passionately support. Attendees eager-

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Rockville German Band was back to fill the air with music that made feet want to move!

OKTOBERFEST

Con't from page 9

lender, MC, shoppers, setup, clean-up, servers, cooks, prep cooks, chef, baker, 50/50 runners, bar tenders,

spouses, photographer, behind the scenes help (like credit cards, setup, supplies, flyers, etc.) – you name the job at hand and you guys did it – tirelessly and with such enjoyment to serve our parishioners.

Everyone leaving the event stopped by the table to tell me how

wonderful the night was, how great the food was, and just how much they enjoyed this year's Oktoberfest. Monsignor was very impressed and had a great time. Considering this was his "first" event, we have really set the bar very high for all future events – yikes!"

OPT

Simbang Gabi 2019

By Froilan Manansala, CTK Music Director and LIMS 2019 Leader

Simbang Gabi is a Filipino Christmas tradition. It is a series of nine Masses on the days leading up to Christmas. The Masses this year at Christ the King will start on December 16 and end at midnight on the 24th of December, Christmas Eve. The Vigils, from 8 until 9pm, December 15 through 23,

at Christ the King parish will be as follows:

- Sunday, Dec. 15, sponsored by the family of Marlon and Sonia Deausen; celebrated by Fr Andy Gonzalo, with TLIMS Choir.
- Monday, Dec. 16, sponsored by Gweene's Dessert; celebrated by Fr Andy Gonzalo, with St. Jude's Filipino Community Choir.
- Tuesday, Dec. 17, sponsored by

Pink & Purple; celebrated by Fr Art Mallari, with Fey Pabalan & friends as Choir.

- Wednesday, Dec. 18, sponsored by the families of Greg & Ving de Lope and David & Annie Spencer and Angie Aranas; celebrated by Fr Andy Gonzalo, with ME4 by BLD as Choir.
- Thursday, Dec. 19, sponsored by BLD and Janet Fields; celebrated by Fr Art Mallari, with the BLD Choir.
- Friday, Dec. 20, sponsored by Mr & Mrs Jeff & Cathy Lazanas; celebrated by Fr Paul Aquino, with St. Jude's Filipino Community Choir.
- Saturday, Dec. 21, sponsored by Elisa Cabanban; celebrated by Fr Andy Gonzalo, with I-Care Choir.
- Sunday, Dec. 22, sponsored by the Caguiat Family; celebrated by Fr Art Mallari, with Circle of Friends Choir.
- Monday, Dec. 23, sponsored by The Lord Is My Shepherd prayer group; celebrated by Fr Andy Gonzalo, with The Lord Is My Shepherd Choir.

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The Lord Is My Shepherd Choir hosting Simbang Gabi at Christ the King



Chris and Annop Tan before Mont-Saint-Michel

A Childhood Dream Realized

By Christine Tan, CTK parishioner

When I was eleven I read a mystery set on Mont-Saint-Michel in Normandy, France and I resolved to visit one day. Little did I think that I would celebrate my seventy-fifth birthday there.

Mont-Saint-Michel is the most frequently visited site in France outside of Paris. It is unique because at low tide, it is connected to the coast of Normandy and the high tide cuts it off. This made it a fortress against invading armies for hundreds of years.

The first construction on the

mount was an oratory built in 906 by St. Aubert. During the eleventh century the Benedictines arrived and their abbey is the centerpiece of the mount. There is a village and a parish church, St. Pierre.

The medieval architecture of all the buildings is breathtaking and worthy of the UNESCO World Heritage designation.

Tradition has it that St. Aubert was commanded to construct the first chapel by St. Michael the Archangel himself. Today, on a spire high above the abbey, there is an amazing bronze statue of St. Michael, guarding the coast of France.

OPT

Venerable Msgr Aloysius Schwarz

By Lou Schwartz, parishioner

On Friday November 29 a Holy Mass of Thanksgiving was Celebrated by the family of the Venerable Aloysius Schwarz in Chevy Chase, Msgr Mariano Bulbago was Celebrant. It was attended by members of Christ the King's Filipino community and parishioners as well as the family, followed by coffee and desserts.

His brother, Lou Schwartz (this author) initiated a prayer service glimpsing Fr Al's life, a number of years ago. One Saturday evening before the 1992 anniversary of his death, March 16, 1992, parishioners and family gathered around the bedside of his sister-in-law, Helene Schwartz, to honor his birthday. Charismatic parishioner Carol Gass had prepared a spiritual prayer service with songs and praise and petition, before an improvised altar.

Father Al has been canonically

proffered for Sainthood in the Latin Rite Catholic Church, this due to his deep, all-consuming spirituality, his heroic Christian virtues and the visible fruits of his wholesome personal surrender to Jesus Christ. History of these spiritual fruits of his life include the seven "third-world" nations which have been reconfigured by Grace, that is, Korea, the Philippines, Mexico, Brazil, Guatemala and Honduras. After Fr Al's arrival in Busan, Korea as a lone parish priest December 8, 1957 at least 150,000 direly poor children have been rescued from their Smokey Mountains garbage dump habitats and awarded renewed lives. Over time they have become magically reconstituted: humanely, culturally, economically, and most importantly, spiritually. The Kingdom of God is being miraculously populated.

Working singlehandedly, Fr Al became inspired to effect the insti-

tution of two orders of religious congregations: the Sisters of Mary and the Brothers of Christ. No mean accomplishment. Both would be critical to his ministry. The angelic Sisters would be consumed with being surrogate mothers of the children, while the education and overall development (music, vocational, athletic, etc) would be provided by paid professionals. Fr Al's ministry provided free hospitals, clinics, assumed ownership of shelters for the casted-away elderly men. Also, the Sisters of Mary provided care for the discarded physically, mentally disfigured children, shelter for unwed mothers and the like. In his spare time, Fr Al managed to write and publish five highly revered spiritual books. Yes, indeed, impossible for one person to accomplish. Only the grace of God through surrender to the Holy Spirit! Praise the Lord.

OPT

Christ the King Parish Notes

Thanksgiving Mass at Christ the King was very well attended! For those wishing to begin their day of praise for the liberty of religious freedom, it was a reminder of God's gift to this country, providing a place, more than 400 years ago, to which people fled to escape the tyranny of a "divinely appointed" King James. Afterwards, through the gracious offerings of parishioner Sue Deckelman, the parish gathered for its annual light breakfast, a tradition

that is more than 35 years old.

From the Deacon, Nehemias Molina, primarily geared to the Spanish language community:

Legión de María (Presidio hispano "María, madre de Cristo Rey") Diciembre 7 de 8 a. m. a 2 p. m. - Fiesta general anual a nivel de la Curia arquidiocesana, en la parroquia San Miguel Arcángel en Silver Spring.

Dec 7 from 8am-2pm: Legion of Mary, annual general party at the level of the Archdiocesan Curia of

the Spanish language community for the Legion at St. Michael the Archangel Church in downtown Silver Spring

Celebración de la Inmaculada Concepción de María en la Iglesia Cristo Rey Diciembre 8-, iniciando con la Santa Misa a las 12:30 p. m. y la "gritería" después en el salón colonia o entresuelo del templo.

Dec 8 the Celebration of Feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, starting with Holy Mass

Continued on page 30

The Presence of the New Archbishop

Christ the King Church was blessed with the presence of the new archbishop of Washington, DC for its Feast Day November 24th, the Feast of Christ the King. Archbishop Wilton D Gregory Celebrated the 9:30am combined English Mass (of its 8:30 and 10:30am Sunday Masses) and the earlier-timed 11:30am Spanish Mass (normally at 12:30pm) followed by the opportunity of a social and breakfast (lunch, after the second Mass) with parishioners in the Msgr. John J Dressel Colonial Room. Parishioners dressed in a more formal manner in the colors white, gold and yellow for the Feast Day. The largely Filipino community The Lord Is My Shepherd Choir sang at the 9:30am English-language Mass, with its African Community making the Presentation of Gifts, along with liturgical dancers. The Central American community provided the music for the 11:30am Mass in the Spanish language.



Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory at the Recessional. Photo by Suzanne Y. Sigüenza

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OPT



Special Olympians enjoy Knights' Halloween Dance Party

Knights Host Halloween Bash for Special Olympians

"Spook-tacular!" is how Grand Knight Tom Moschella, of Our Lady of Fatima Council, described the Knights' annual Halloween Dance Party for regional Special Olympians at St. Mary's church in Barnesville.

Over 100 athletes and partygoers—dressed in their best Halloween costumes—attended the 2 November event in the Father Reid Pavilion, which included a lot

of dancing to "Disco" Dan Dean's thumping tunes, as well as free food and drinks. Over a dozen Knights worked hard to successfully host the three-hour event.

Toward evening's end, Knights awarded top-prizes to several Special Olympians for wearing the best Halloween costume, which was a very difficult task based upon the large number of high-quality of costumes.

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Our Lady of Fatima's Knights Memorialize Passing of Two Distinguished Knights

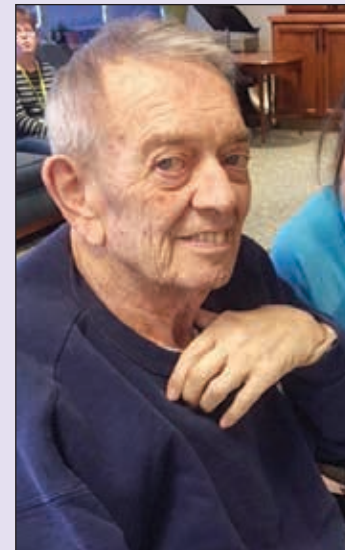
At a Memorial Mass at St. Mary's church in Barnesville on November 9th, Our Lady of Fatima Council #6901 of the Knights of Columbus remembered two distinguished Brother Knights, who passed over the last year. As each Brother Knights' name was called, a Knight carried a red rose slowly to the altar in remembrance of their life of charity on earth, during prayers of the faithful. Moreover, it was fitting to remember each of these Knights on Veterans Day weekend, as both were veterans.

Sir Knight Peter R Davio (PSD, PGK, CPFN) – June 12, 1942 to September 6, 2019 – was a Navy submariner. He served Fatima council as Grand Knight. He was also a Former District Deputy, was the Charter Faithful Navigator of Archbishop Fulton J Sheen Assembly of the 4th Degree of the Knights of Columbus, and was the State Deputy of Maryland from 2010 - 2012.

Richard T Twigger – March 3,



Above: Sir Knight Peter R Davio (PSD, PGK, CPFN)



At right: Brother Knight Richard T Twigger

1935 to November 4, 2019 – was an Army veteran who served in the 82nd Airborne Division. He went on to join the D.C. Fire Department, where he served from 1960 to his retirement at the rank of Captain in 1989.

In addition to these two Knights, roses were also pre-

sented to remember all deceased Brother Knights and their families.

Finally, the Knights of Columbus presented a rose to represent families of all present, who suffered a loss; those in the book of remembrance; and the unborn children, lost this past year.

OPT

90th Annual Ham and Turkey Dinner

Parishioners welcomed guests from all over the state to our Annual Ham and Turkey Dinner on Saturday, October 26. Fortunately, the weather provided a beautiful day. Every year, families from around the area interested in a beautiful drive in the country with a home-cooked meal as their destination head to St. Mary's. Upon their arrival they share stories of generations of their families coming for this spectacular event. Many first timers marvel at the bounty of the meal and the wonderful fellowship.

The sit-down dinner is served family style. 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



St Mary's parish youth decorate pumpkins as they set up for the annual dinner



The Ventimiglia girls staff the serving line for the dinner.



Guests enjoy the feast.

RESIDENT

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the campus of Saint Bartholomew Parish in Bethesda, where she was assigned by her Order. Sister reads Bible stories to other residents of Bartholomew House as well as to some members of the staff. Saturdays she also leads the rosary.

Sisters of Providence work in the areas of education, health care, peace and justice, social services, and spiritual development throughout the US and Asia. As a former high school president and teacher of English and Philosophy, Sister Marian spent her professional life furthering the mission of the order.

Sister was born in Somerset, Chevy Chase, to a large family who were members of St. Ann's parish. She has two brothers and one sister: Msgr. John B. Brady (Archdiocese of Washington), Rupert J. Brady a retired patent lawyer, married and father of eight children (all former students at St. Bart's), and Theresa Brady Donahue.

After St Ann's Sister Marian attended Immaculata College High School in Tenleytown, which was operated by the Sisters of Providence, and then graduated from Trinity college in Washington. After college she joined the Sisters of Providence.

For 12 years Sister Marian was president of Immaculata. The high school had students from six continents. A bittersweet assignment, sweet as the location and its curriculum and students were highly developed (many still attend an annual lunch). Bitter as the Order

sold the property at Tenley Circle NW in June 1986 for \$7.6 million to American University. The funds were needed to support aging Sisters.

Sister Marian then expanded her education. Assigned to Catholic University, an opportunity to study Philosophy arose while waiting to start on a degree in English. Completing her English work but showing strong aptitude for Philosophy she continued to a doc-

torate at Catholic University. Sister Brady taught Philosophy – including biomedical ethics to graduate nurses – at Catholic University for 35 years.

Throughout her life Sister has been fascinated with understanding what motivates people. How fortunate that her academic subjects lead to examples of motivation in literature and behavior justification in Philosophy. While working on her dissertation she discovered that concepts of self are what drive persons' choices throughout their lives. Education, social and family relations help to develop appreciation of good and bad choices.

Sister Brady is happy to be residing in St. Bartholomew Parish where her brother used to say Mass and where a nephew works on the parish grounds. And all the residents and staff at Bartholomew House are happy that she is there with them.

OPT

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Student as Artist

Opening the Door to Discovery

By Laura Schneider, art teacher at Mary of Nazareth Catholic School and Maryland licensed clinical professional art therapist

When students enter the art room at Mary of Nazareth Catholic School in Darnestown they are regarded as authentic artists. Encouraged to envision, plan, create, and reflect upon their personal artistic aspirations, students are taught from a perspective known as TAB (Teaching for Artistic Behavior).

Over a decade ago researchers from Harvard University began a study called "Project Zero" in an effort to improve arts education in the United States. They identified eight Studio Habits of Mind (Observe, Express, Envision, Develop Craft, Engage and Persist, Stretch and Explore, Understand the Art World, and Reflect), as a framework to help students think like artists and become more mindful of their creative process. This educational approach supports student-directed learning, as control shifts away from the teacher and onto the student. This method provides a multi-modal learning experience to meet the varying abilities and interests of each student. This approach differentiates art education by meeting each individual where they are and helps promote their acquisition of new skills.

Teaching for artistic behavior requires the establishment of a studio environment set up to support a variety of media centers carefully designed and maintained to promote autonomy. Centers such as drawing, collage, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and fiber arts can be set up permanently or maybe utilized temporarily throughout the year. Art materials in each center are available for use by all students and students may work in different centers at different times in their creative process. The art studio is a fluid environment and allows for flexible seating options both



Kindergarten uses watercolors to paint fall leaves.

for individual work or in groups. Students are taught to plan, set up their work area, and care for materials and studio space by cleaning up after themselves and taking personal responsibility. There are many benefits to this approach as it taps into student's innate potential for self-expression, exploration, and problem solving, while nurturing their sense of wonder and desire to imagine beautiful outcomes. The art studio allows a playground of sorts to experiment within and fine-tune art skills. Completed artwork is diverse in content and the process allows artists to pace themselves according to personal work habits

and areas of strength. Less focus is placed on mass production of the same product and more focus is placed on originality and process.

In 1999 on Easter Sunday, the late Pope John Paul II, presently Saint John Paul II, composed a *Letter to Artists*. Pope John Paul II, a poet and artist himself, reflected upon the value of artists and the need for humanity to manifest the beauty of our Creator through creative expression. He states the following:

The artist and the common good

"Society needs artists, just as it needs scientists, technicians, workers, professional people, witnesses of the faith, teachers, fathers and mothers, who ensure the growth of the person and the development of the community by means of that supreme art form which is 'the art of education'. Within the vast cultural panorama of each nation, artists have a unique place. Obedient to their inspiration in creating works both worthwhile and beautiful, they not only enrich the cultural heritage of each nation and of all humanity, but they also render an exceptional social service in favor of the common good."

The artist, image of God the Creator

"That is why artists, the more conscious they are of their 'gift', are led all the more to see themselves and the whole of creation with eyes able to contemplate and give thanks, and to raise to God a hymn of praise. This is the only way for them to come to a full understanding of themselves, their vocation and their mission."

The Church needs art

"In order to communicate the message entrusted to her by Christ, the Church needs art. Art must make perceptible, and as far as possible attractive, the world of the spirit, of the invisible, of God. It must, therefore, translate into meaningful terms that which is in itself ineffable. Art has a unique capacity to take one or other facet of the message and translate it into colors, shapes, and sounds which nourish the intuition of those who look or listen. It does so without emptying the message itself of its transcendent value and its aura of mystery.

"The Church has to need especially of those who can do this on the literary and figurative level, using

the endless possibilities of images and their symbolic force. Christ himself made extensive use of images in his preaching, fully in keeping with his willingness to become, in the Incarnation, the icon of the unseen God."

Saint John Paul II had a clear vision for the arts in catholic education and church teachings. He eloquently expressed this message in his *Letter to Artists* and, in so doing, established a strong defense for arts education in catholic schools. Building a solid foundation and appreciation for the arts in catholic schools opens the door to discovery. We are endowed with the gift of artistic creativity from God Himself and have a certain responsibility to nurture this in our children, our students, and in ourselves so that we may bear witness to and share the awe-inspiring Beauty of our Creator.

Citation: Katherine M. Douglas and Diane B. Jaquith, *Engaging Learners Through Artmaking: Choice-Based Art Education in the Classroom (TAB)*, 2nd Edition, 2018

OPT

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 Visitation, Darnestown.

McGANN

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pay attention. I plan to keep the glitter around as long as I can, at least through Advent.

Advent is a season of hope. Pope Francis tells us, "Advent increases our hope, a hope which does not disappoint. The Lord never lets us down." Advent is also a season of glitter. Tiny, shiny moments that ask us to look again - to take a second - to stop and pay attention because something important

is happening, and we don't want to miss it.

When we teach our children about Advent we remind them that we are preparing ourselves for the birth of baby Jesus. We remind them that when someone important is coming to our home, we make sure that everything is neat and clean for them - and we need to prepare our hearts in the same way. Children can understand that this is about more than presents and decorations. We can teach them about opening our hearts and our eyes to the gifts of the season - to the hope

that Christ brings to the world, and to the precious moments he gives us every day. But what about us? Do we appreciate the significance of Advent in our lives? Do we see it as another chance to become more? Do we take notice of the glitter? Do we think about what it means that Jesus came to us as a baby?

When we are expecting a new baby in our families, we are hopeful and excited, we prepare a space for him and we imagine what it will be like to have this new presence in our lives. Then, that baby finally arrives, and our hearts are

wide open; we are overwhelmed with the optimism and love that he brings to our lives. We hold that tiny child with both hands, focusing only on him. We know we have to pay attention and hold him with care and tenderness. He is counting on us.

During Advent we get a chance to refresh our hearts and realign our priorities as we wait for the birth of Christ. We have an opportunity to stop and appreciate the shiny moments we are given every day - the laughter of our children, the brilliant winter sun, the smile

of a stranger. We can find some patience and make ourselves still in the middle of an impatient world. We can make the time to pray, to ask God to give us back the hope that's so hard to find in a world full of anger and self-indulgence. Advent gives us another chance to be the people we want to be, to be innkeepers who have room in our hearts for the love and hope that Jesus is offering.

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Merry Christmas from Our Parish Times

St. Martin's Parish Centennial Year

Emotions filled St. Martin of Tours Church in Gaithersburg, Maryland, as the former pastor, now bishop, processed in for the annual Tri-lingual Mass on November 10th, kicking off the parish's Centennial Year.

Bishop Mark Brennan of Wheeling-Charleston, West Virginia, who was St. Martin's pastor from 2003 until he was named an auxiliary bishop of Baltimore in 2016, served as the main celebrant. Concelebrating with Bishop Brennan was parish administrator, Rev. David Wells, Parochial Vicars, Rev. Jonathan Vanegas and Rev. Tony D'Souza, and Rev. Richard Gangayco, who served as St. Martin's pastor from 2016 to 2018.

First in English, Spanish and then French, Bishop Brennan spoke about how St. Martin's parish has always reflected the mission of their patron saint by focusing on the needs of the hungry, the homeless and the immigrants. The theme for the Centennial Year highlights the overall mission of the parish these past 99 years. "...as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord," taken from Joshua 24:15.

Closing the Mass, the men from the Knights of Columbus led a procession carrying the image of St. Martin of Tours, to the newly



St. Martin's Parish celebrates the Feast of St. Martin of Tours and its Centennial Year with a tri-lingual mass. Bishop Mark Brennan of Wheeling-Charleston, former St. Martin's pastor, served as the main celebrant. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's Parish.

renovated parish hall.

"This is a great day," one parishioner said

to his daughter as they processed to the hall where Bishop Brennan blessed the facilities.

Following the procession, parishioners and guests crowded into the school gym to watch a re-enactment of the life of St. Martin of Tours.

"Many people know the story of the cloak, but there is so much more to the story of St. Martin," said Sister Ester, who wrote, organized and directed the production, complete with brilliant costumes and thrilling sound effects. Families from the school, youth group and altar servers came together to act out scenes from St. Martin of Tours' life.

The rest of the afternoon was filled with laughter and hugs over a potluck dinner as parishioners from the past and present exchanged memories of the parish. Even the priests and Bishop Brennan could not finish their plates, taking the time to visit with everyone who came to their table.

The parish has many more events planned throughout the Centennial year and we invite you to join us. Visit us on our website at stmartinsweb.org or stay connected with us by joining the St. Martin of Tours Flocknote. Text the words SaintMartin (one word) to 84576 to automatically sign up for Flocknote to receive parish news, alerts and upcoming events by text or email.

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St. Martin's Recognizes Tanya Milton as Volunteer of the Year

By Anne Gemunder

The 2019 Volunteer of the Year at St. Martin's School is Tanya Milton. She was honored at the Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County Annual Gala in November at the North Bethesda Marriott Hotel. Tanya has made a remarkable impact on St. Martin's School during her years as a parent volunteer. While inspiring others, she provided passionate yet sensible leadership as Home and School Association ("HSA") President and School Advisory Board ("SAB") member.

Tanya and her husband Mark enrolled their son Aaron at St. Martin's in Kindergarten. He is now a junior at Georgetown Preparatory School. Their son Ethan and daughter Leah are currently in the fourth grade. While it was important to them for their son to have a faith-based education, they specifically chose St. Martin's at the time because of the location, the affordability, and the international community. Aaron had only been at

St. Martin's a year when Tanya joined the SAB. She served as a board member for 5 years and represented the HSA on the board for an additional two years. On the school board, Tanya proposed and championed exit interviews for students and their families leaving St. Martin's School, and strongly supported the creation of a homework helpline for the Spanish speaking community and efforts for St. Martin's to become a Blue Ribbon school. Her focus at the time was to help maintain our academic excellence and family satisfaction with the school. Tanya stressed, "The importance of community and building relationships with teachers and staff."

As a member of the Home and School Association, Tanya served as Secretary, Vice-President, and then President. During her tenure as President, HSA Bylaws were drafted and adopted; an online central repository for organizing annual school events was created; and the New Family Mentor Program was revitalized.

Among her other contributions were an increase in volunteerism, improved communications, and greater family participation in activities. Tanya organized HSA Meet & Greets, a Christmas Cookie Exchange, and an ice cream social. When asked why she devoted such considerable time and effort to St. Martin's, she said, "I want to do for those parents who cannot. I want to make things happen so their children can be happy too." St. Martin's extends heartfelt gratitude to Tanya Milton. We are pleased to honor her as our Volunteer of the Year.

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St. Martin's families enjoy a "boo-tiful" night at Trunk or Treat featuring fantastic creativity and "spooktacular" efforts. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.



St. Martin's students enjoyed the school's first Fall Fun Day, held at Bohrer Park in Gaithersburg on Columbus Day. It was a day of school spirit, friendly athletic competition, and good fun. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School.

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**24th Annual
Patricia Sullivan
Benefit Dinner**

**Saturday,
March 14, 2020
(see back page)**

Knights of Columbus Supreme Council Recognizes St. Michael the Archangel Council #15084

By Ana Maria de Jesus EPS DC15

The Supreme Council of the Knights of Columbus reserves an honor called Star Council Award to local councils of the United States and councils around the world for conducting the required charitable and fraternal programs in the "Faith in Action" categories, that is, in addition to having met their membership and insurance quotas for the fraternal year. The Star Council Award is the highest distinction available to any local K of C council.

In Maryland, only St. Michael the Archangel K of C #15084 received the Double Star Council Award. Moreover, this is the second consecutive year that St. Michael the Archangel K of C has received



St. Michael the Archangel Knights of Columbus volunteers are seen here in-action repairing the pot holes in the school parking lot. L-R: SK Alfonso de Jesus PGK, SK Erwin Howard, SK Charles Hayes DW, and SK Ramon Melendez. Photo by SK Mike Spraggins GK

a Double Star Council Award. For the fraternal year 2018-2019, there were 1,317 councils that earned this distinction. Countries, like the Philippines, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Canada, and Poland are among those with Star Council Awards.

The "Faith in Action" Programs have four categories: Faith, Family, Community, and Life. While fraternal programs are participatory programs in the "Faith in Action" categories already mentioned and are dedicated to providing charitable services including war and disaster relief, on the other hand, charitable programs include, among others, donation of money and time from the council or the individual members. However, aside from program performance, the punctual and accurate reporting of the activities

is also required.

Of the 1317 councils with Star Council Awards from around the world including the United States, only 38 local councils were from Virginia, 4 local councils were from the District of Columbia, and 9 local councils were from Maryland. In addition, of all the Star Council Awardees, 202 councils received a Double Star Council Award for achieving 100% of their insurance quota and 200% of their membership quota. For the mentioned fraternal year, only one local council each from Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Maryland received the Double Star Council Award.

To the members of the Knights of Columbus of St. Michael the Archangel Council #15084: Congratulations!

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Marriage Ministry Update

By John Webster

The Marriage & Family Life Ministry at St. Michael's offered its fourth Marriage Preparation class on October 26 and November 2, helping to prepare 16 engaged couples for the Sacrament of Marriage. Participating couples were motivated by the class to pray more often, attend Mass on a regular basis, and go to Confession more frequently.

On October 23, the Ministry hosted a workshop on "Understanding and Coping with Addiction: A Spiritual Perspective," featuring a presentation by Rebecca Mullan of

the St. Jerome Parish Counseling Program. This workshop helped those struggling with addictions and the people who love them gain a better understanding of the addiction process, how to break the cycle of addiction, and the healing the Church offers to addicts and their families.

Upcoming Ministry events include a Prayer Breakfast meeting on March 7, 2020. Our prayer leader for this event will be Fr. Peter Hopkins, Program Director at Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center. Also, the Ministry will offer its fifth Marriage Preparation class on April 18 and 25, 2020.

OPT

Michaelmas Celebration



The church was full of parishioners for the Michaelmas

PILGRIMAGE

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The pilgrimage ended in Rome, where the pilgrims visited and prayed at the Borghese Chapel



The St. Michael's pilgrims receive a blessing from Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square

in the Basilica of Santa Maria di Maggiore. At the Vatican, the pilgrims had Mass at the tomb of St. John XXIII and prayed at the sacred tombs of St. Peter at the Basilica

and St. John Paul II. They were amazed by Michaelangelo's sacred works at the Sistene Chapel and offered prayers in required silence. On their final journey, the pilgrims battled the rain as they waited for their audience and Blessings from the Holy Father, Pope Francis at St. Peter's Square. As they traveled throughout Rome, the Dome of St. Peter's Basilica was visible, reminding everyone not to forget.

The pilgrims also took in the sights, enjoying the food and wines of the different regions of Tuscany, Assisi and Rome as they visited the catacombs at the church of San Sebastián and prayed for the souls at the Roman Coliseum. Feeling hopeful after an eleven-day journey they threw their last Euro

coins into the Trevi Fountain. The pilgrims felt that their journey to Italy was prayerful, safe, and peacefully blessed by the rain as they made their way home.

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By Janice Hamilton Outtz

Michaelmas is the annual feast day celebration for St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Silver Spring. We celebrated with a multi-cultural mass followed by a potluck dinner and entertainment for all. The Mass began with a parade of flags from the more than 100 countries represented by our parishioners. Our

Pastor, Monsignor Eddie Tolentino, celebrated Mass along with Father Santiago Martin. Parts of the mass were spoken in the various languages of our parishioners. There were more than 600 in attendance.

The potluck dinner focused on five regions: Europe/USA, Latin America, Africa, Caribbean, and the Philippines. It was a joy watching

people to sample the different foods. There were many smiles and full stomachs! In addition, there was singing, dancing, drums and a magician. It was truly an enjoyable evening.

As part of celebrating Michaelmas, we also hosted several service projects throughout September which included collecting 80 bags of groceries, cleaning 150 desks for our students' use, re-upholstering 138 chairs, and volunteering at Shepherd's Table serving the homeless and vulnerable population. We are already looking forward to next year's celebration.

OPT



Young parishioners enjoy the magic show during Michaelmas

St. Michael's Parish

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Silver Spring, MD

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Pastor

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65 Years on These Sacred Grounds



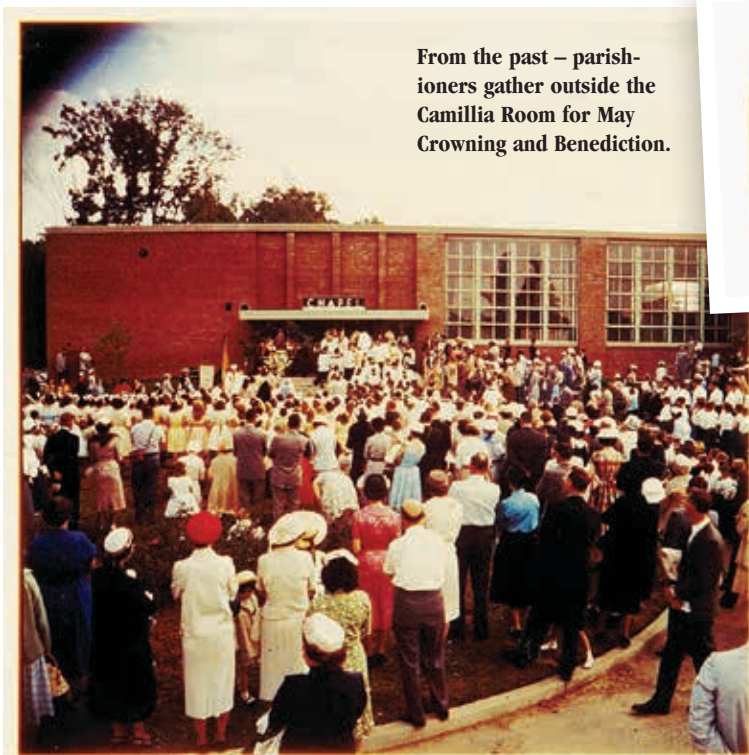
Abpve. One of the first and one of the most recent Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur who have served at St. Camillus accept recognition as “co-founders” of the parish. At left, the St. Camillus community gathers around the same altar that the Sisters and the founding pastor celebrated the first mass in the building 65 years ago.

St. Camillus parish was established in 1951 and it's first pastor, Fr. James Grace, led the parish in an aggressive and innovative effort to move from a decree from Cardinal O'Boyle to a vibrant community as quickly and as creatively as possible. This ethos and mission is still at the heart of St. Camillus parish today!

The parish began operations in a large house on Carroll Avenue in Takoma Park. Fr. Grace celebrated the first baptism in the parish immediately after the first Sunday mass on November 25, 1951. Fr. Grace and parishioners scoured the new neighborhoods along University Blvd. and New Hampshire Avenue as their first priority and found at least 875 Catholic families with over 1,200 children already living within the new parish boundaries.

Quickly, there was not enough space for Sunday masses in the large house. For Christmas in 1951 the parish borrowed the brand new 973 seat movie theater in Langley Park for Midnight Mass and six masses from 7 am to 1 pm on Christmas Day. By March of 1952, St. Camillus parish began celebrating mass in the Langley Theater every Sunday!

It was clear that this parish needed space to grow. Land was found a little further up New Hampshire Avenue and plans were drawn up to build a building that could serve as a school and a worship space. Already in the fall of 1953, the parish borrowed a classroom at Our Lady of Sorrows School and a lay



From the past – parishioners gather outside the Camillia Room for May Crowning and Benediction.

teacher convened the parish's first class of 2nd graders. Meanwhile, the parish broke ground for their new home in Silver Spring on February 20, 1954.

Even though the convent was not yet complete, St. Camillus School opened on September 23, 1954, with 456 students in Kindergarten through 4th grade. The Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur commuted every day from Trinity College and were joined by a lay teacher until on October 18, 1954, they moved into the finally completed convent attached to the school. The priests would not move to the property until 1956. Over the coming years, the building would be expanded several times and when the final wing was completed in 1960 there were 1,277 students enrolled in St. Camillus School.

On the morning of October 19, 1954, Fr. Grace joined the Sisters of Notre Dame in their new convent chapel and together they celebrated the first mass ever on the sacred grounds which have now served as the home of St. Camillus parish for 65 years.

On October 19, 2019, Franciscan Fr. Chris Posch, the current pastor,

gathered with priests, sisters, brothers, and hundreds of parishioners in the Camillia Room around the altar believed to have been the same altar from convent chapel that Fr. Grace and the Notre Dame Sisters surrounded exactly 65 years earlier. The Camillia Room is the space that from November 1954 until the church was completed in 1970 served as the primary worship space for the parish.

After the 9 am anniversary mass on October 19th, which included a children's choir, a symbolic procession led by families from several different cultures, and prayers and songs in seven different languages, the daily mass goers hosted a coffee lounge as they do most days. The celebration moved into the original wing of the school for an open house featuring the major ministries that currently use the school building along with displays about some of the cultures which make up the parish. Meanwhile, cultural dances and a fashion show kicked off a block party on the road in front of the entrance to Saint Francis International School. Parents from Saint Francis International School and St. Camillus' family cateche-

sis program came together to provide a multicultural feast while the Knights of Columbus grilled hot-dogs and hamburgers and the St. Camillus Youth Ministry and SFIS Student Council provided games and face painting for children.

The big anniversary day ended with a Founders Dinner in the Camillia Room on the evening of October 19th during which many co-founders of the parish were honored including long-time parishioners, the first permanent deacon in the parish, and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Each of the founders was given a certificate and a brick that had been part of the building for 65 years. Each of the memorial bricks were hand painted by Saint Francis International School students and decorated with the year “1954.”

This special day served to inaugurate the “Remember-Renew-Rebuild” campaign, which will last through the parish's 70th anniversary in 2021. In addition to remembering the history and the heroes of the parish's past, leaders within the community are calling on current parishioners and school families to commit to renewing and strengthening their relationships with the parish.

For the last eight months, parishioners have worked to restore a statue of Mary that stood outside of the Camillia Room since 1954. In the spring a parishioner repaired and refinished the 65 year old concrete statue of Our Lady of Grace and another parishioner built a new wooden pedestal for the statue. That statue is now in the church where it can be kept safe from the

weather and be available to parishioners. Meanwhile another group of parishioners with trade skills have been rebuilding the area where the original statue had been to turn it into a beautiful shrine with professional paving and landscaping. Through a grassroots fundraising effort, a very similar concrete statue of Our Lady of Grace was obtained for the shrine in time for the anniversary weekend.

On Sunday, October 20, Bishop Mario Dorsonville celebrated a special multicultural mass that included prayers and songs in the major languages of the parish, an African procession of the Scriptures, and a Bangali dance as part of the offertory. St. Camillus has celebrated masses in multiple languages since 1970. In the homily, Bishop Dorsonville urged the parish, one of the largest in the Archdiocese of Washington and one of the most diverse in the country, to keep building and welcoming in Christ's name.

While the new shrine is not yet complete, after mass Bishop Dorsonville prayed a blessing and sprinkled the statue of Mary with holy water that mixed with the pouring rain. Inside the Camillia Room, surrounded by many parishioners, Bishop Dorsonville completed the anniversary weekend by rededicating the building built between 1954 and 1960 as the St. Camillus Parish Life and Education Center and praying that God will continue to use the people, the ministries, and the resources of St. Camillus parish to build up the Kingdom of God for many years to come.

OPT

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The Arts are Thriving at St. Jude Regional Catholic School

By Michelle Ardillo

St. Jude Regional Catholic School (SJRCs) is proud to have a serious and broad focus on the arts. Students in Pre-K to Eight attend art and music classes weekly.

Art

In art class, students work on projects that decorate the hallways throughout the year. In the lead up to the school's annual International Day, students work on art unique to the country their class studies, and students also contribute personalized art to serve as decorations for the biennial gala. Students also participate in the school's art club, moderated by art teacher Ms. Olga Paz, which gives students additional time to work on more sophisticated art projects, while the smaller group size gives them better access to the art materials.

Music

Music class, taught by Mrs. Amy White, not only teaches students the fundamentals of music, but it also prepares them for various events throughout the school year, including the Christmas pageant and International Day, where music and dance take the school community around the world. In eighth grade, students participate in the annual long-standing tradition of a Dance Competition, performing four styles of ballroom dance, taught to them by professional dancers under the coordination of Mrs. White. On Fridays, students in the flourishing Children's Choir don burgundy robes and choir stoles to lead the parish in song at the weekly 9 a.m. Mass. The Children's Choir, open



Members of St. Jude's drama club meet weekly for acting exercises, improvisation, and team work.

to students in grades three-eight, also sings monthly at a 10:30 a.m. Mass for the parish, of which Fr. Paul D. Lee, STD, Pastor, is particularly proud. Middle school choir members attend weekly practice to become cantors, leading to more youth involvement in the parish choirs and music ministry.

Theatre/Drama

Study of the arts would not be complete without theatre. SJRCs's technology coordinator and computer teacher Ms. Rebecca Sella moderates the school's very popular drama club, which begins in the fall with weekly meetings where students work on acting exercises, improv, team work, and being comfortable in the spotlight. Just before Christmas break, things really heat up with auditions for the school's annual spring musical, directed by Ms. Sella. Currently 32 students from grades six-eight are

actively involved, with most ready to audition for this year's musical, Disney's High School Musical Jr. (April 3-4, 2020). Ms. Sella recounts that "the overall quality of the drama club productions has gone up each year," in part to the financial commitment made by the school and parish community through fundraising and donations, allowing the purchase of new ceiling-mounted stage lights, rental of sound equipment, and monies to hire professional musicians and sound technicians. Together with Ms. Sella's hard work and dedication, the school has significantly increased opportunities to enhance the confidence of SJRCs students, demonstrated by the number of former drama club members who go on to participate in their high school drama programs, and those who return to SJRCs to help with productions at their alma mater.

OPT

Shrine of St. Jude Pro-Life Committee Donates DVDs to Parish Library

By John Naughton

The Shrine of St. Jude Pro-Life Committee has donated two DVDs to the parish library for the convenience of parishioners, and to provide a better understanding of Planned Parenthood's evil operations and the unsanitary conditions at the killing places. The movies are titled, *Unplanned* and

Gosnell.

Unplanned is the true story about the conversion of Abby Johnson from a Planned Parenthood facilities manager to a pro-life activist. She became Catholic, has a large family and manages an organization, And Then There Were None, to help abortion workers leave the industry and find other employment. In an interview, Ashley

Bratcher, who plays Abby in the movie, told how her mother was going to abort her but changed her mind at the last minute.

Gosnell is also a true story about a Philadelphia abortionist who was sentenced to life in prison for killing babies born alive after surviving abortion. He discriminated against people of color, and his abortionary was absolutely filthy.

OPT

WGTS

Con't from page 4

ished the recordings, students were asked what Veterans Day means to them. Here is a sampling of some of their answers:

"Veterans Day is a time to respect our veterans for what they've done

for our country."

"We honor the sacrifice veterans made for our freedom."

"Veterans Day is a time of peace for those who have risked their lives for their country."

"We honor and remember those who served us."

Long past the excitement of having the radio station WGTS visit our

school, the students at Our Lady of Lourdes will continue to honor our Veterans with the daily recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Coming together during morning assembly to give thanks to God and to give thanks for this country is one of the many traditions we hold dear at Our Lady of Lourdes School.

OPT

St. Jude Regional Catholic School Student Ranked Nationally in Tae Kwon Do

Congratulations to St. Jude Regional Catholic School seventh-grader Gavin Bragg, who over the summer participated in the USA Taekwondo Nationals Competition in Minneapolis, Minnesota, earning a gold medal in sparring in the cadet (12 to 14 years old) feather weight division. As 2019 is a talent identification year, USA Taekwondo is inviting the color belt gold and silver medalists to development camps to work with the National Team coaching staff to help them progress their Taekwondo journey, and Gavin is among the invitees. We are proud of how well Gavin represents SJRCs in his sport.



Advanced Technology Lab at SJRCs Seeks to Improve Students' Digital Literacy

By Karen Sanders

The St. Jude Regional Catholic School (SJRCs) Advanced Technology Lab, designed to foster independent access to cloud-based applications already in use at the school, will be the focus of the parish's 2020 gala set for next March. With the gala proceeds, the updated lab hopes to provide modern, flexible work stations with large monitors and Smart boards that will encourage group work efforts and simulate technical environments that St. Jude students are sure to encounter as they transition to high school, higher education, and, ultimately, professional employment opportunities. According to Rebecca Sella, SJRCs technology teacher, "Our students already possess a baseline understanding of our digital world. Our goal is to improve their digital literacy exponentially by fostering greater awareness of the multitude of applications for their technological skills. Providing an environment for students to expand their 'device literacy' while promoting soft skills development will give our students the foundation for a successful education and professional career."

In addition to infrastructure improvements within the Advanced Technology Lab, gala proceeds will augment the purchase of additional devices already in use in the K-8 classrooms, such as Chromebooks and iPads. An anonymous donation from a parish Knights of Columbus member enabled Ms. Sella to purchase four Sphero robots, allowing increased hands-on technology time while building students' coding skills. St. Jude students have participated in the "Hour of Code" for the last several years and are able to extend those skills with the Sphero education app to program the robots with an endless array of coding and

gaming capabilities across all grade levels. Ms. Sella also stressed that the students are eager to focus on developing their coding and robotics skills. "Last year, students had the opportunity to participate in an extra-curricular Robotics Club for the first time, which is exposing more of them to robotics and getting them excited about what we do in the Advanced Technology Lab."

"Denim and Diamonds" is the theme for the 2020 gala at St. Jude Regional Catholic School, with all proceeds allocated to improvements for the Advanced Technology Lab. The close-knit St. Jude community will come together in the Thaddeus Room at St. Jude for a casual evening of dinner and dancing on March 21, 2020, to support the efforts of Ms. Sella and the St. Jude administration for creating a first-class Advanced Technology Lab. With live entertainment from Doctor's Orders, silent and live auctions, a Jeep Renegade raffle, and online and mobile bidding, this event is sure to be an extravaganza that supports our students. For more information, to purchase event or Jeep Raffle tickets, or to make a donation, please visit <https://bit.ly/37UTjr2>.

OPT

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Fifteenth Anniversary of Eucharistic Adoration at Holy Cross

Fifteen years ago, the Respect Life committee of Holy Cross realized that more prayer was needed to promote the culture of life and to stand against the culture of death. Parishioners Elizabeth Troy and Yolaine Watkins spearheaded the idea to use the vacant convent chapel in Quinn Hall for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. To bolster participation, Monsignor Vincent Gatto, who was pastor at Holy Cross at that time, gave his permission for a missionary priest from the Missionaries of the Blessed Sacrament to preach at all Holy Cross Masses. Inspired, Holy Cross parishioners embraced the idea. One-hundred twenty parishioners to pledge a holy hour of Adoration once a week, as well as others who agreed to be substi-

tute adorers when needed.

In the Fall of 2004, the parish began a three-day per week Eucharistic Adoration time in Quinn Hall Chapel. While some of the original group of parishioners have passed away to enjoy His Presence in Heaven and others have come forward to keep vigil with Our Lord, sixteen parishioners have kept their faithful vigil with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament for the past fifteen years. Since its inception, more and more people have discovered the little chapel on Strathmore Avenue where Jesus is waiting to be with them. Numerous people stop in on their way to and from work and school for this opportunity to adore, love, and lay down their burdens.

OPT



Holy Cross siblings were happy to welcome their grandparents on Grandparents' and Special Friends' Day! Photo by Christine Zalewski

Holy Cross School Welcomes Grandparents and Special Friends

Submitted by Christine Zalewski

The faculty and students of Holy Cross were excited to welcome nearly 150 grandparents and friends for a special event during November. This beloved annual event celebrates the distinctive bond these friends and family members have with the children in their lives. Additionally, it gives the students the opportunity to showcase what they've been learning, share more about Holy Cross School and collaborate with their loved ones in a meaningful way.

Guests gathered with the entire

student body and parish community to start the day with the celebration of mass. An all-star performance followed the conclusion of mass, where guests were treated to the singing talents of each grade through a lively concert. Afterwards, grandparents and special friends stopped by Lewis Hall to fuel up with coffee and an array of delicious pastries before heading off to the classrooms.

Each class had fun and engaging activities such as family interviews prepared for the children to complete with their special friends and grandparents. Custom made photo frame props were circulated throughout the school to help capture amazing images of guests and their students. To make things even more exciting, prizes were awarded to the guest that had traveled the furthest distance and to the guest that had attended the event for the most years! Mrs. Kane summed up the successful event by stating, "What a blessing it was to have so many grandparents and special friends visit Holy Cross! It was truly a day filled with fun, family and love!"

OPT

Holy Cross Church Keeps Christ in Christmas

Holy Cross hosted a Wreath Making Event to help parishioners prepare for Advent. Parishioners gathered in prayer with an exhortation from Fr. Mathias Njong. It was a beautiful sight as Fr. Mathias blessed the wreaths and attendees. Couples and families of multiple generations came together for pizza, fellowship and quality time working on their wreaths. There were smiles all over the hall as personal touches were proudly added to the Advent Wreaths they brought home.

In this time when presents and holiday parties tend to overshadow spiritual preparations, volunteers planned the event to help parishioners direct their lives towards prayer in anticipation of the coming of Jesus. Emilia Grove chaired the event and organized students preparing for Confirmation. She said it was reminiscent of her own preparation for Confirmation.

The students were involved in different aspects of the event from preparation to clean-up. They even made 25 wreaths to sell on the first day of Advent. As a project that keeps on giving, the proceeds from the wreaths sold will be donated to the Little Sisters of the Poor.

OPT



Above, three generations uniting to commemorate the beginning of Advent with a traditional Advent Wreath.



Above, school and Church families come together to make their Advent centered in prayer.



At left, sparkles, berries and candles complete this family's Advent Wreath.



Oreo Cookie Challenge at Holy Cross



In the practice round, two students are ecstatic with the number of Oreos stacked to make their tower!



A nerve-racking decision confronts this group of students: Do they dare to add just one more Oreo to their tower?

OPT

More Holy Cross News on Page 34

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Blood Drive Collects Lifesaving Supplies in Support of Injured Parishioner

By Kathleen Seiler Neary

After Dr. Grant Bonavia was seriously injured in an accident on October 23, he received 15 blood transfusions. His family's request for those looking for a way to support him was simple: Donate blood to replenish the supply. The Holy Redeemer community rallied around the Bonavia family and organized a blood drive on November 14 that collected 139 pints of blood, which translates into lifesaving supplies for 377 people in need.

Dr. Bonavia, a Holy Redeemer School parent and Holy Redeemer Church parishioner who is a radiologist at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center and a commander in the Navy, was waiting to cross Connecticut Avenue in Kensington while riding his bike home from work when he was pinned against a utility pole by a truck involved in a three-vehicle accident. He suffered severe injuries and is still recovering.

The close-knit Holy Redeemer community came together and showed its support at the blood drive. "Grant and his wife, Mattie, have both been such an important part in so many people's lives at Holy Redeemer – this was one small gesture people could make to support them both," said Elizabeth Rembold, a Holy Redeemer parent and parishioner and one of the organizers of the event.

The American Red Cross originally scheduled the drive

At right, 139 pints of blood were collected, which translates into lifesaving supplies for 377 people.

Below, Blood drive organizers surround Mattie Bonavia (in tan coat), wife of Dr. Grant Bonavia.



Above, eighth-grade students held a bake sale at the blood drive in support of the Bonavia family.



At left, donors check in at a registration table run by volunteers from the Holy Redeemer community.

with 75 slots. Those were quickly filled and 90 more slots were added – and they also quickly filled. The drive was scheduled for six hours but workers stayed through the last donor, about three hours later than planned.

Donors included neighbors, friends, parishioners, school parents, teachers and those who've never met the Bonavias. Some were first-time donors,



while others showed up with donor cards in hand. Volunteers worked at registration and in the food and drink area, where donors spent time recovering. Students ran a bake sale and pitched in with setting up the tables and chairs in the auditorium.

"It was a quiet, unspoken, faithful moment where everyone could come and help in whatever way they could," said Holy Redeemer parent and parishioner Emily Dunigan, who donated blood. "When things happen to people and life changes, it is a blessing to know the strength and love that is present."

Holy Redeemer Welcomes New Technology Teacher

In its continued dedication to bring 21st century technology skills to students, Holy Redeemer School is pleased to welcome Marianne T. Green to the faculty. Ms. Green is an award-winning K-12 educator specializing in educational technology and digital resource implementation within classrooms. She collaborates with the Diocese of Reykjavik, Iceland, working on media content to expand their catechetical outreach. A quarterly web writer for *Today's Catholic Teacher Magazine*, she focuses on interdisciplinary connections. Her new role is Technology Teacher for students in grades two-eight and assisting all students and teachers as they enter into the world of Google for Education.

OPT

Technology teacher Marianne Green



Father Ebuka – a Welcoming Presence at Holy Redeemer

By Ann M. Enkiri

Most school-day mornings, Holy Redeemer students arrive to an enthusiastic welcome from Father Ebuka Mbanude. Father Ebuka high-fives the children and offers happy greetings, encouraging them to have a great day of friendship and learning. The smiles of children and parents say it all, "Wow! We are blessed to have Father Ebuka as our parochial vicar."

The first African priest ordained to serve in the Archdiocese of Washington, Father Ebuka grew up in Onitsha, a major commercial city in Nigeria where his father operated a book and stationery business. His parents, Edwin and Regina, led their seven children in early Morning Prayer every day, nurturing Ebuka's love of sacred scripture and personal prayer life. Young Ebuka liked going to school at Christ the King College, where he followed the math and science curriculum, especially enjoying the study of Biology.

After completion of his undergraduate degree here in Washington, D.C., Ebuka prayed to discern his vocation: pursue a medical degree or answer God's call to the priesthood. Thankfully, the fall of 2013 found Ebuka at Mount St. Mary's Seminary. Ordained just this past June, Father Ebuka sincerely seeks to offer all the gift of "the availability of Christ." Father does this through his welcoming pastoral presence at church, at school, and on the athletic fields.

Father Ebuka is enriching our faith life here at school, where he celebrates school Masses, hears confessions, and also leads us in



Father Ebuka Welcomes Students

monthly Adoration. The faculty found encouragement and grace in retreat with Father Ebuka this fall and now our eighth graders are blessed to have Father Ebuka joining them on their upcoming retreat. We began our Advent journey with Father Ebuka's blessing of the classroom Advent Wreaths and look forward to sharing with him Christ's hope, peace, joy and love as he helps us prepare for Christmas.

OPT

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St. Jane de Chantal

St. Jane de Chantal Supports “2019 Run for Vocations”

By Eve Marie Szczepanski

For the past decade, the DC Priest Team composed of priests, seminarians and lay people from parishes forming the Archdiocese of Washington gather on the last Sunday in October to run in the Marine Corp Marathon 10K. The pouring rain in the 2019 Run for Vocations did not deter the DC Priest team from running at 7:55 am. Cheerleaders and sponsors from local parishes such as Saint Jane de Chantal Catholic Church in Bethesda were on hand to support the DC Priest team. Prayer warriors prayed at church or in the privacy of their homes. Sponsors of the runners advocated for the names of the seminarians enrolled in Archdiocese of Washington Seminarian Program for 2019 - 2020. All were prepared thanks to the administrative support for DC Priest headquartered in the Saint John Paul II Seminary where these seminarians are discerning their vocation.

The Saint John Paul II Seminary, located within walking distance to the National Shrine of Saint John Paul II, the Catholic University of America and the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, is filled with young men discerning whether a calling to the sacred priesthood of Jesus Christ is their life-long vocation. Their discernment is counter cultural as they now know, unlike their pre-Second Vatican Council peers, that they are being called to discern a sacred vocation not



Runners from the 2019 Run for Vocation and those that supported them pose for a group photo at the event.

an ecclesiastical function. They are continually challenged to be sure that the mediating priesthood of Jesus Christ for others is their sacred calling. Their post-Second Vatican Council formation program is more rigorous in stressing the centrality of spiritual formation in addition to an equally demanding academic formation program steeped in philosophy and theology at the Catholic University of America. As men for others, in the spirit of Jesus Christ, they know they need to prepare themselves

to serve the legitimate needs of the most well-educated laity in the history of Christianity. These seminarians realize that those who lack intellectual maturity along with an ongoing interest in theology, philosophy and religious literacy may be unable to make the Gospel a credible source of truth to the communities as “Men for Others”.

The entire community forming the Archdiocese of Washington D.C. stands united in supporting the Saint John Paul II program as these young men and the communi-

ties they serve represent the future of our universal church. Their formation program is grounded in Pastores Dabo Vobis [I Shall Give You Shepherds]; Saint John Paul II's most comprehensive statement on the nature and function of the Priesthood Formation according to George Weigel, a Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington D.C.

Saint John Paul II, himself, was the best Director of Vocations in the history of the Catholic Church according to Joaquin Navarro-

Valls, the journalist, physician and academic who had served as the Director of the Holy See Press Office for over two decades (1984 to 2006).

Our seminarians enrolled in the 2019-2020 program need continuing support. They will know that their efforts to become a member of the mediating priesthood of Jesus Christ is fully endorsed based on the prayers and activism as evidenced in the successful 2019 Run for Vocations.

OPT



St. Jane de Chantal School Choir, directed by Mrs. Morales, sang festive Christmas songs on the stage overlooking the bazaar sales floor of the gymnasium.

St. Jane de Chantal School's Christmas Bazaar

Adapted from Catie Skibo

St. Jane de Chantal Home and School Association parents put on a fabulous Christmas bazaar for the school, church, and community. Over 30 vendors came to sell their wares along with a fabulous book fair set up by Mrs.

Guerrier, the school librarian. An army of parent volunteers helped set-up the shopping extravaganza, run the now-famous thrift shop, sell hostess items, and organize this massive fundraiser for the Home and School Board. Santa came by to visit, and Christmas trees full of gift cards and lottery tickets were

raffled off. Delicious treats were also sold in the bake shop. To make the event even more festive and enjoyable, the school choir sang beautiful Christmas carols allowing everybody to get into the spirit of the Christmas season.

OPT

SODALITY

Con't from page 11

including a Lenten Morning of Reflection, its annual Fashion Show and Luncheon fund-raiser, the Anniversary Brunch for parishioners marking milestone wedding anniversaries, the parish Red Cross blood drive, the annual plant sale,

and the Junior Sodality eighth grade essay contest for a scholarship to a Catholic high school. Through all of these activities, as well as monthly Sodality Masses and Rosaries, the women of Sodality seek to serve the parish and community and encourage devotion to the Blessed Mother and Her Son.

OPT

NOTES

Con't from page 21

at 12:30 p. m. and the “griteria” after Mass in the Colonial Room of Christ the King following tradition of the Spanish language community.

Celebración de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe Diciembre 11- 6:30 p.m. Santo rosario 7:00 p.m. Santa Misa y seguidamente las mañanitas con mariachi y socialización en honor a nuestra madre en el entresuelo del templo.

Dec 11 6:30pm Holy Rosary followed at 7pm Holy Mass and then the light of day, the socialization with mariachi in honor of our mother's conception

“Caminando con María”.

Diciembre 14 a las 11:30 a. m.-

Actividad arquidiocesana saliendo de la parroquia Sagrado Corazón de Jesús- Washington en procesión hacia la Basílica de la Inmaculada Concepción de María, donde habrá una Misa en honor a la Emperatriz de las Américas

Dec 14 11:30am Archdiocesan, multi-parish walk with Mary from Sacred Heart parish, on 16th Street, NW to the Basilica lead by Bishop D'Orsonville

El presidio de la parroquia “María, Madre de Cristo Rey” invita a participar de sus reuniones semanales, todos los domingos a las 10:30 a. m. en el comedor de la oficina parroquial. Son todos y todas bienvenidos.

Every Sunday morning parish meetings beginning at 10:30am in the parish dining room. Everyone is welcome.

OPT

Tolton, From Slave to Priest

By Jocelyn Olympio

On All Saints Day, the Resurrection family, their guests, and members of the community were treated to the play *Tolton: From Slave to Priest*. The live multi-media production featured the incredible true story of a young boy Augustine Tolton who with his mother and two siblings escaped slavery in Missouri to Illinois. Augustine's

mother pushed him to get an education, despite the prejudice and rejection he faced, he persevered. Augustine later wanted to join the priesthood but met strong opposition in the United States. He was by turned down by one seminary after the other, and then finally had to go to Rome to be ordained.

Father Tolton returned to the United States as its first black Catholic priest. Renamed Father

Augustus Tolton, he ministered to former slaves. In spite of this accomplishment, he continued to face prejudice, poverty, and hardships.

From the very first minute, the actor Jim Coleman drew the audience into the 1800s and into the life of Father Tolton. The songs were powerful, every emotion was felt. For 75 minutes, people sat up straight or leaned forward; hanging on to every word. It was riveting! How could a one-man show be so compelling?

It was apropos to watch the play on All Saints Day because Father Augustus Tolton is likely to become the first African-American saint. Earlier this year, Pope Francis put Father Tolton and seven other candidates on the path to sainthood.

St Luke's productions did an amazing job bringing to life the struggles and the faith of the Augustus Tolton, the first African-American priest, who started his life as a slave. **OPT**



Pictured with Jim Coleman as Father Tolton is Resurrection parishioner Sabine Paul



Religious Education students signing-up to work as volunteers for parish activities.

Advent – A Period of Waiting

By Ana Maria P. de Jesus EPS DC15

The new ecclesiastical year has just begun and Advent is here to start a period in the new cycle of the liturgical calendar. All children are familiar with January 1 as the day that ushers the new year in a regular calendar. However, as to the question of the first day of the liturgical calendar, the answer often eludes even the brightest of them. Perhaps the fact is that this movable date is difficult to determine, then it will be reason enough to overlook their obliviousness. The question that follows now is: what is this period called Advent?

Most of our seventh-grade Religious Education Program students are familiar with the word Advent. In fact, some students, when asked about it, can even relate it to the Hebrew exodus story of the Old Testament. What is clear to them is that Advent is a pre-Christmas period of waiting. As my eleven-year old granddaughter defines it, "Advent is a four-week period of waiting for the birthday of Baby Jesus."

What matters now is how to keep our youngsters' long anticipation and preparation rooted to our faith by focusing Christmas on Jesus'

Continued on page 37

Cameroon Catholic Community Celebrates their Faith at Resurrection

By Jocelyn Olympio

The Cameroon Catholic Community Washington DC (CCCWDC) is one of the most vibrant Catholic organizations in the metro area. Its mission is to bring together Cameroonian Catholics in the region and promote the practice of the Catholic faith in their lives.

On the last Sunday of each month, the CCCWDC hosts an afternoon mass at Resurrection

Catholic Church where the group worships. Cameroonian priests from different parishes and dioceses participate in the highly anticipated services which are renowned for powerful sermons, inspiring music, and festive atmosphere.

The CCCWDC hosted an early Thanksgiving Mass on Sunday, November 24th which coincided with the feast of Christ the King. Bishop Michael Bibi, the



Bishop Michael Bibi

Continued on page 34

Resurrection Parish Community brings Thanksgiving to 75 families!

By Jocelyn Olympio

This Thanksgiving, adults and students collaborated in meaningful service to others. Leading up to the holiday, members of the parish dropped off dry and canned goods, and the Monsignor Pennington Knights of Columbus #9808 Council donated 10 fresh turkeys. On November 24th, adults arranged the food on tables, and sixth graders from the Religious Education Program filled 75 totes donated by Wegmans Food Markets.

The beneficiaries of this generous effort were Montgomery County Catholic Charities, John S. Mulholland Holiday Food Drive, and families in our community that



Sixth graders from the Religious Education Program worked hard to fill totes with food for 75 local families.

needed uplifting. We hope activities like this will cultivate a lasting sense of giving in our youth.

OPT

Proudly sporting their school colors, alumni of the Christ the King School in Sierra Leone pose for a photograph with friends and family members.



Christ the King Sunday

By Jocelyn Olympio

On Christ the King Sunday, it was fitting that Alumni from the Christ The King School in Sierra Leone gather to honor the true king and

remember their alma mater. Founded in 1954, the school has maintained its reputation as one of the most prestigious schools in West Africa. Members of the group live and work in the Washington metro area. **OPT**

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3315 Greencastle Road
Burtonsville, MD

Rev. John M. Barry, Pastor
301-288-4662
Jocelyn Olympio
Parish Editor
240-205-3195

End of Life Issues

A Panel Discussion

at
St Raphael Church
1513 Dunster Rd, Rockville, MD 20854
Thursday, February 20, 2020 – 7:30-9:00 PM

Distinguished Panelists will address legal, medical, pastoral, and domestic issues related to the “end of life.” These topics are not just for seniors anymore. Suicide rates among the young increase; middle adults scramble to save money so they can retire and also carve out time to support elderly parents; many older adults face increased isolation and poverty. On the other hand, as awareness increases, more people are involved in making physically, mentally and spiritually healthy choices related to end of life issues. All ages and stages of adulthood are involved.

In their individual professions the Panelists frequently deal with end of life issues.

Daniel M. Flores, Esq. is a longstanding member of the Maryland and District of Columbia bars and serves as a counsel in the United States Congress. *Thomas J. DeGraba, M.D.*, is a board-certified Neurologist, a nationally recognized physician and clinical neuroscience expert in Stroke, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and Psychological Health (PH). *Carol DeGraba, RN*, is experienced in medical and surgical nursing, coronary and intensive care, post anesthesia care, home health, and school nursing. With the assistance of Hospice, she cared for both of her parents during their end stages of life. *Father Dan Gallagher* grew up in the western U.S. and in Europe. After earning a BA at Wheaton College, Illinois, and working several years in D.C., he entered Mount St. Mary's Seminary and earned a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Theology. Since 2009 he has served in parishes as a parochial vicar.

During this discussion the Panelists will touch on topics related to end of life issues, such as:

advance directives and living wills, Maryland law, assisted suicide, medication, pain, mental state, Hospice, long/short term care, housing, personal support, family, friends, finance, personal choice, pastoral care, sacraments, faith, and Catholic teaching.

All are welcome. There is No Fee.

Hosted by St. Raphael Religious Education and Adult Faith Formation

For more information please contact:
Mary Beaudoin, DRE - mbeaudoin@straphaels.org
or Suzanne Nelson, AFF Coordinator –
suzanne.nelson2@gmail.com

St. Raphael parishioners generously give for those in need

The St. Raphael Parish has had a Twinning Relationship with St. Martin of Tours for over 25 years this Thanksgiving. During the month of November, we hold three drives to help the less fortunate in St. Martin's faith community and general neighborhood of St. Martin's Parish. Although we had a slow start to collection canned and non-perishable foods and coats, parishioners, true their generosity, provided more than what was needed!

This year, we collected 339 frozen Turkeys and 187 boxes full of canned food items that are traditionally served at a Thanksgiving meal. All of these donations are then transported to 1908 N. Capitol Street, N.W. to assemble grocery gifts bags. They are given to families who are able

to cook the meal but often do not have enough money to purchase all the food typically prepared for Thanksgiving. 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 our parishioners! Learning that we can trust in God's infinite mercy and love during times of great need is key to thanking Him!

OPT

St. Raphael Honors Volunteer and Business Partner of the Year

By Tiffany Murphy

On Nov. 14, St. Raphael School announced the SRS Volunteer of the Year, Francine Krivka, and SRS Business Partner of the Year, Roger Pardo of Cisco Technology Solutions. Both Krivka and Pardo were honored at the Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County's annual gala on Nov. 22. “Francine has been instrumental in organizing and vitalizing our CYO program,” SRS Principal Teri Dwyer wrote in the nomination submission for CBN. “Francine also takes the lead on our biannual book fairs. We are most grateful for all the hats Francine wears, but the one that fits her best is SRS champion!” Of Pardo, Dwyer wrote: “With Roger's help, we have equipped St. Raphael School with Cisco routers and switches, allowing us to interconnect our computers and phones. In essence, with Roger's help Cisco has revamped our total school and parish communication.”

Congratulations to the team of SRS eighth graders for bringing home the third-place trophy from the 46th annual Middle School Math Contest hosted by



Francine Krivka, SRS volunteer of the year



Roger Pardo, SRS business partner of the year

Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. Without using calculators, they battled other area Catholic schools as they raced the clock to solve challenging math problems. This is the second math trophy won by SRS, which placed third in the competition in 2017. St. Raphael School, in conjunction with its parish and parents, provides children with an engaging and inspiring academic program infused with strong Christian morals and

virtues. The 2020-21 open houses for both preschool and K-8 are set for Jan. 13. Our parish priests, administration, faculty, and staff are committed to supporting the mission of the school and fostering the development of faith and reason in every child. If the open house date does not work for you, call 301-762-2143 to schedule a tour or request one online at www.straphaelschoolmd.org.

OPT

STREAM

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lab in small groups and spent time; learning how to code with Ozobot robots, practicing their hand-eye coordination by hammering pegs into a pumpkin, and experimenting by trying to build an earthquake resistant tower. They also had an opportunity to do a search-and-find

game, a seasonal craft or paint.

“These types of activities provide students a chance to use higher-level thinking skills and in doing so, they incorporate math, science, and technology skills,” said Natalicchio. “The ultimate goal is to get the students to think creatively, to solve problems and to do that working together.”

Natalicchio explained that as technology changes so rapidly, the

majority of jobs that students will be doing in the future, don't exist yet. “We are preparing them for the future, yet we don't know exactly what the future looks like,” said Natalicchio. “The best thing we can do is to provide these critical skills that they can apply in any situation, so that when they go into the workforce that know how to think creatively, solve problems and work well with their peers.”

OPT

FLIGHT

Con't from page 15

and explore the forces of thrust, drag, lift and weight.

“This is the third year that my class has visited the Udvar-Hazy Center,” said Mrs. Beth Bieberich, Saint Peter's third grade teacher. “We are grateful that we have these

types of hands-on experiences where students can stand alongside historic aircraft and speak directly to subject matter experts. These experiences are very important in supporting what we learn in the classroom.”

Then, on October 29, the class welcomed guest speaker, Mr. Matt Bartlett, a pilot for Southwest Airlines. Bartlett discussed his career and answered questions. One

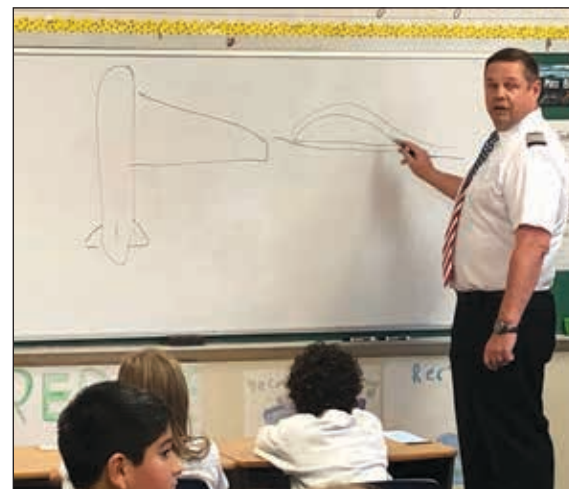
important takeaway for the students was learning that strong math skills are critical to becoming a pilot.

Students will be able to take what they have learned from these experiences and apply it in the classroom. The students are currently underway on designing, building and testing their own model gliders and their study of flight will continue into the spring when they will build rockets.

OPT



Third grade students had several opportunities to learn about the science of flight including a special guest speaker and a field trip to the Udvar-Hazy Center.





Right before Thanksgiving break, we launched our Annual Fund campaign at St. Elizabeth School. Students were treated to an assembly as we celebrated our school spirit and launched our annual contest. Grades and classes are hoping to win one of our top prizes--pizza, ice cream, and Chik-Fil-A parties! Our goal is 100% participation through monetary donations or gifts of prayer.



Congratulations to our eighth-grade team who competed in the Good Counsel Math Competition in November. We are so proud of how these students represented our school.



Students and faculty came together for a special Advent prayer service to light the first candle of the school's Advent wreath. With Father Stefan leading everyone in prayer, we celebrated the beginning of this special season as a school community.



A great night at the Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County Gala was had by all as we celebrated our Volunteers of the Year, Mrs. Tiffany Albina & Mrs. Colleen Schrier, and Business Partner of the Year, The Goehring Family at Signs by Tomorrow!

Joy Lunch Club

St. Elizabeth launched a new ministry to build community for older parishioners. The JOY (Just Older Youth) Lunch Club, as a monthly lunch for the 65 and older community. Staff and volunteers helped to provide lunch and had the opportunity to learn more about long time parishioners of St. Elizabeth. The event was followed by a raffle of the table flowers and anticipation for the next lunch club in December.

OPT



Above, Charles and Dorothy Bradford, long-time parishioners, enjoy their time at the Joy Lunch Club.



At left, Parishioners gather together for lunch.



Greg Gannon Kick Off: This Advent season, our school families are collecting canned goods for the Greg Gannon Food Drive. Our goal is to collect 15,000 cans for those in need. Our Saints are ready to fill the truck and help the Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive collect their 2 millionth can!

Barbara Bausch Champion of Good Character Award Each fall, teachers nominate students for the school's Barbara Bausch Champion Award. We are so proud of these students, as they were recognized for the example they set in our school each and every day.



St. Elizabeth Parish
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Rockville, MD

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Pastor
301-881-1380

St. Elizabeth School Principal
Mary Penny
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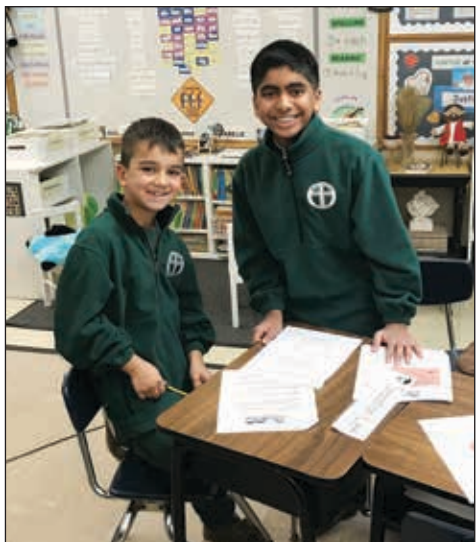
Holy Cross



A second-grade student and her seventh-grade buddy consider options of their feast.

Planning a Budget-Friendly Repast with Buddies

On a school day just before Thanksgiving, Second Grade students at Holy Cross planned a Thanksgiving feast with the help of their Seventh-grade buddies. Students were given a menu of food items with prices, and a budget. The goal was to plan a well-balanced dinner complete with entrée, side dishes, vegetables, and dessert while staying within a \$25 budget. “We like to plan Math activities that allow students to practice skills in a real-life circumstance - it was a fun way for the Second Graders to use skills to add and subtract money,” said Second Grade teacher, Mrs. Falcone. “The turkey



Two buddies seemed pleased with their menu!

was \$5, but time spent with their older buddies was priceless!”

OPT



Three students take a pause from planning their Thanksgiving menu to smile for the camera.

ADVENT

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tively decorate our parish meeting room and tables. We also display a beautiful and elaborate Advent wreath which one of our talented members made.

Everybody really enjoys the

party and it is always a wonderful time. We have a committee and other helpers who do all the work to purchase items, provide the decorations, set up the room, serve the beverages, and then clean up afterwards. We are greatly indebted to these outstanding volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the club.

OPT

St. Bernadette



Watercolor of original St. Bernadette School created by local artist and SBS Class of 1968 Jim Haynes. Prints are available on the school website for \$25



Through our school-wide social outreach initiative called Greater Love, Our community collected and provided 36 turkeys, 72 bags of sides and a \$270 donation for families and neighbors in need who were served by The Father McKenna Center in Washington, DC. We were proud and honored to make this contribution to the overall 250 meals that were distributed at this time of gratitude and Thanksgiving.



The Saint Bernadette Home and School Association hosted a packed school/parish hall at our 2019 Bingo Night on Friday, November 22. There will be another fun filled evening of Bingo in 2020, dates and details to be provided soon.

CAMEROON

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Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Bamenda, Cameroon presided over the service. He was assisted by Father John Barry and 13 Cameroonian priests, to include our associate pastor Rev. Michael Niba. Over 400 people were in attendance, and what an incredible celebration it was!

People were dressed in beautiful

traditional attire, and members of different alumni associations wore their uniforms. The fragrance of burning incense filled the church, giving it an increased air of reverence. The joint choir of St Cecilia and Holy Trinity Church inspired and uplifted us songs in English and in Latin. Catholic norms and the Cameroonian culture blended seamlessly to yield a memorable experience. At times it could have been a pontifical high mass at the Vatican, and sometimes you thought

you were at a joyful celebration in a cathedral in West Africa. It was incredible; three hours flew by quickly!

Bishop Bibi preached on the Kingship of Jesus Christ. He also addressed the need for members of the CCCWDC to form strong bonds and to support and encourage each other. He urged continued prayer for a resolution to the violence and human rights crisis in Cameroon.

OPT

Commemorating Poland's Independence Day

By Bozenna Buda, ED

November 11 is a special day for Poland and the Polish Diaspora. This year, it was the 101-st anniversary of the regaining of Polish independence. On that day in 1918, Poland again came into existence as a state after 123 years of being absent from the map of Europe.

Poland was founded as a Christian nation in 966 A.D. Throughout its history, even under extremely difficult circumstances, Poland stayed true to its Catholic roots and traditions, and has produced heroes and saints.

One of the best known, perhaps, is Pope St. John Paul II, who was born Karol Wojtyła in Poland, and who noted that freedom is rooted in the truth and "freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought."

OPT



At left, students from the Polish Consulate Saturday School were present at the Residence of the Ambassador of Poland in Washington, DC, on Nov. 7, 2019, to commemorate Poland's Independence Day. They sang the national anthems of Poland and of the United States, to the delight of the distinguished guests and audience. The student singers and accompanists on the piano were directed by OLQP parishioner Krzysztof Psurek.

Below, OLQP Polish Saturday School students commemorated Poland's Independence Day at the school on Nov. 9, 2019, at a spirited school assembly. Dressed in Polish regional costumes, they recited poems and sang songs to the appreciative applause of the audience. A smaller group of students from the school also presented a short program in church after Mass on Nov. 10, 2019.



At left, Rev. Jerzy Frydrych, S.Ch., Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, Silver Spring, celebrated a special Holy Mass to commemorate the 101-st anniversary of Poland's regained independence on Nov. 10, 2019. Participants included the color guard of the St. Maximilian Kolbe Council of the Knights of Columbus, students from the OLQP Polish Saturday School, and representatives from the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, Polish Legion of American Veterans, and Polish Scouting Organization-ZHP.

Walking with John Paul II – A Pilgrimage of Faith

On October 26, 2019, participants of all ages gathered on the grounds of Our Lady Queen of Poland (OLQP) Parish in Silver Spring, to begin their 12-mile pilgrimage to the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, DC. OLQP Pastor Rev. Jerzy Frydrych, S.Ch., prayed and blessed the crowd with holy water as they prepared to embark on their pilgrimage. Clergy, nuns, and laity from near and far took part, and included OLQP parishioners. Rev. Frydrych was joined by other priests, including Rev. Jose Maria Cortes, chaplain of the St. John Paul II National Shrine. Both OLQP Parish and JP2 Shrine are repositories of the relics of St. John Paul II.



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 extend warm wishes for a

Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year 2020
Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku
and invite you to join us in celebrating Polish Christmas traditions

Announcements and Upcoming Events

Polish Christmas Wafers *Oplatki* are available after Mass on Sundays.

Christmas Bazaar & Polish Food Sale, on Sun., Dec. 22, 2019, from 9 AM to 2 PM in Parish Hall

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve *Pasterka* Shepherds' Mass at 12:00 Midnight, followed by Dec. 25 Christmas Day Masses at 10:00 AM and 12:00 Noon

Mass on Dec. 26, 2019, feast of St. Stephen, at 7:30 PM

New Year's Day Mass on Jan. 1, 2020, at 12 Noon

Epiphany, Jan. 5, 2020, Masses at 10 AM & 12 Noon, followed by a concert of Christmas Carols *Koledy* after the noon Mass Parish Traditional Dinner *Oplatek* with Christmas play *Jasielka* will be on Sunday, January 12, 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 Jan. 5).



Principal of OLQP Polish Saturday School Is Honored

On November 24, 2019, the Polish American Congress Washington Metropolitan Division (PACWMD), honored the principal of the Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish Polish Saturday School, Mrs. Ewa Chlebowska, at a dinner in Washington, DC. Thaddeus Mirecki, president of the PACWMD, presented OLQP parishioner Mrs. Chlebowska with a plaque in "recognition of her many years of service to the Polish American Community." Mrs. Chlebowska, who was born and educated in Poland, has been a teacher at the school for almost thirty years. She has been principal of the school for the last twenty years. Along with the parish, the school helps to nurture and educate youth in Polish language, culture, history, and religion. We congratulate *Pani Ewa* and wish her *Sto Lat!*

**Our Lady
Queen of Poland**
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A Hidden Life: Screening in the Vatican

A screening of A Hidden Life, the life of conscientious objector Franz Jägerstätter, takes place in the Vatican with renowned writer and director Terrence Malick present on Wednesday afternoon

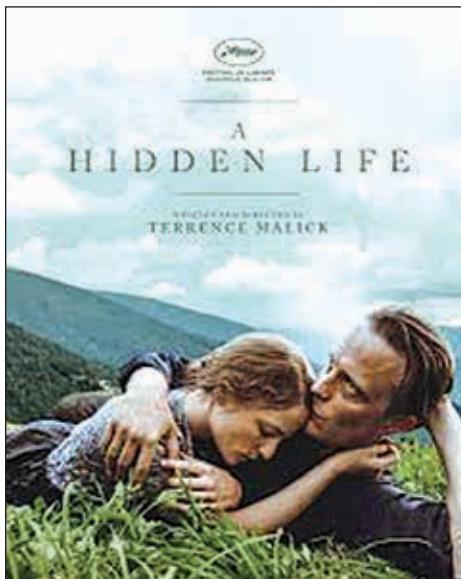
By Sr Bernadette Mary Reis, FSP

A *Hidden Life*, a film written and directed by Terrence Malick, can be summed up with the phrase: No one on earth is freer than someone who searches for the truth and banks his life on it.

In a rare public appearance, Terrence Malick joined invited guests on Wednesday afternoon in the Vatican for its screening. The film is based on the life of a World War II Austrian conscientious objector Franz Jägerstätter. Paolo Ruffini, the Prefect of the Vatican Dicastery for Communication was also on hand to introduce the screening. In his opening remarks, the Prefect situated the screening within the 60th anniversary of the Vatican Film Library. He also drew attention to the value of the film itself, saying the film tells a story that challenges our souls, our consciences and our fears and puts into play our tendency to forget the past so as not to take responsibility.

The meaning of a life

Throughout the film the contrasts raging around Franz Jägerstätter are powerfully por-



trayed: the horror of war and the beauty of his family and rural life; the facile acceptance by so many and the interior agony of the one in the face of serving a tyrannical regime. In a scene reminiscent of the baptism scene in

The Godfather, Malick captures the essence of any Christian surrounded by images of a “comfortable Christ with halos over His head” which create “admirers instead of followers”. The Christian named Franz is able to break free of the now-obvious hypocrisy and chooses instead to “walk the talk”.

The choice

The choice that faced Franz Jägerstätter was that of swearing an oath of loyalty to Hitler, which in conscience he could not do if he wanted to remain a member of the Kingdom of God. We see him struggling with that choice and its consequences in one scene after another with a minimum of words, powerful images, and poignant music. Through the script, the viewer is privy to the dialogue Franz and his wife kept up through letters during his military training and eventual imprisonment. The viewer is accosted with a recurring question: what do a person’s individual choices matter in the grand scheme of things.

A legacy

Franz confronted that question and was

condemned to death without knowing the impact that his choice would have on the Church, whose representatives had encouraged him to do his duty and serve the regime. It would be a Jesuit Archbishop of Bombay, Thomas Roberts, who two decades later would propose a change in the Church’s teaching regarding conscientious objection. The man who had been considered a traitor by his neighbors and fellow Austrians was declared a martyr by Pope Benedict XVI and beatified on 26 October 2007. His feast day is 21 May, the day he became a member of that Kingdom he considered his true “fatherland”.

A project of faith

Elizabeth Bentley, one of the producers who was also present for the Vatican screening, characterized the project as an “experience of faith”. She has been working on the project from 2007, but had known about Franz since her childhood. “This is the story I wanted to tell”, she told Vatican Radio. During the years that she has been working on the project, she told us that she got to know many people in the “Jägerstätter com-

Continued on page 37

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Catholic Leaders Voice Concern over New Asylum Rules

On Monday, November 18, the Administration published two notices in the *Federal Register* to implement asylum cooperative agreements with Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. The rules would allow the U.S. government to send asylum seekers to the three Central American countries without the opportunity to access asylum in the United States, and require the respective Central American governments to adjudicate asylum claims and attempt to provide protection.

Bishop Mario E. Dorsonville, auxiliary bishop of Washington and Chairman of the Committee on Migration for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Sean Callahan, President and CEO of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), issued the following statement in response:

"Vulnerable individuals seeking protection and safety in the United States should be welcomed and given the chance to access the protection that our laws provide. If implemented, we fear that the asylum cooperation agreements would leave many helpless people, including families and children, unable to attain safety and freedom from violence and persecution. The governments of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras do not have the resources nor the capacity to safely accept, process, and integrate asylees. There are numerous concerns with the implementation of these agreements which have also been voiced . . . by the Catholic Church of Guatemala. Furthermore, these agreements do not address the root causes of forced migration and could further endanger the lives of people fleeing a region that con-

tinues to have some of the highest homicide rates in the world.

These rules, combined with the implementation of the Migration Protection Protocol and the continued hold of humanitarian and development assistance to Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, undermines U.S. moral leadership in protecting vulnerable populations and risks further destabilizing the region. To preserve and uphold the sacredness and dignity of all human life, we cannot turn our back on families and individuals in desperate need of help. In light of the Gospel, let us always remember we are invited to embrace the foreigner and to take care of this human person. Let us move ourselves from a culture of indifference to a Christian culture of solidarity. We can and must do more."

OPT

Huma's parents appeal to Pope: "Francis, help us!"

The parents of a 14-year-old Christian Huma Younas have asked Pope Francis and civil authorities for help after their daughter was kidnapped and forced to marry one of the kidnappers. "The interest of the international community is crucial," says a lawyer who is following the case

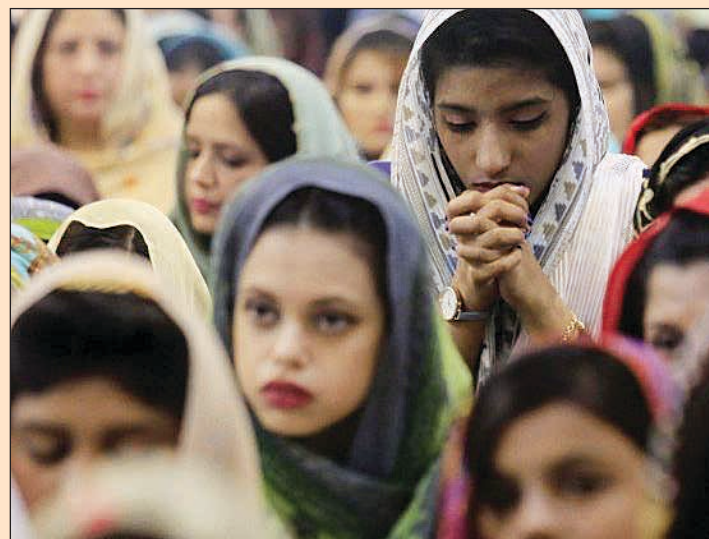
By Vatican News

Huma Younas' parents are pursuing every avenue that could help them secure the release of their daughter, even appealing to "the Holy Father Francis". Their 14-year-old daughter was kidnapped two months ago in Pakistan, and now they are launching a video calling for help to media outlets throughout the world. Their anxiety has continued to increase day by day after Huma was forcibly converted to Islam and given in "marriage" to one of the kidnappers. Seeing the impact of international pressure in the case of Asia Bibi, they hope that raising awareness might help in their case as well.

No response

Huma is just 14 years old and is likely to have fallen victim to the lucrative practice of trafficking in human beings, particularly women, by Chinese and Pakistani criminals.

The case of Huma is being followed by lawyer Tabassum Yousaf on behalf of the archdiocese of Karachi. Yousaf reports that five appeals made to the courts in Karachi have had no effect. Adding insult to injury,



Pakistani Christians in prayer for Huma Younas.

the kidnappers themselves have now appealed to the High Court, asking the justices to free the girl from her parents' authority, claiming that she is of age. But Huma was born in 2005 and is simply a teenager who wants to experience life like her peers.

Video appeal

In the video in which Huma's parents ask for Pope Francis' solidarity, they also address the inter-

national community as a whole, as well as the authorities in their own country, from the head of the government to the chief of the armed forces. In particular, they appeal to politician Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the son and heir of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, who was assassinated in 2007.

OPT

ADVENT

Con't from page 31

Nativity and not focusing it on commercial celebration of the date. Over her many years of service, Helene Stever, Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry, has compiled together different Advent materials for distributions to our RE students. In it are information and proposed activities for children that are appropriate for the season. One ancient tradition, practiced in many countries and suggested every year, is the lighting of the candles of the Advent Wreath.

The Advent Wreath is a green circular structure from fresh or simulated evergreen leaves with four candles attached to it. Three candles are purple (or white with purple ribbon) and one is pink (or white with pink ribbon) and each

is lighted every day for a week until the following week when the next is lighted subsequently with the previous one. The first candle to be lighted is always the one opposite the pink candle as the pink is only lighted on the third week. The beauty of this tradition lies in the symbolisms of the colors, the geometry of the structure, and the number of the candles in the wreath. The four-week waiting is associated with the ancient Hebrew four-decade-wait to reach the Promised Land.

Over the years, a variety of Advent activities such as the Jesse Tree, the Advent Calendar, and the family Advent Prayer have been included in the Advent package for students, to share with their families at home to celebrate the Joy of Advent and the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

OPT

HIDDEN LIFE

Con't from page 36

munity", including his wife who was 97 years old when Elizabeth met her in 2010. "She gave me her blessing to make this story and that has surrounded me through the entire process". Personally speaking, Elizabeth acknowledged that making the film has been life-changing.

Choosing Terrence Malick

After "pushing the story and the script around with a lot of rejection", Elizabeth discovered

that Terrence Malick knew Franz's story. "A number of things fell into play", she says. Terrence "made a lot of decisions that are perfect", she continues, including the actors and the score. "It was a wonderful decision to bring Terry on, and I learned a lot".

Other information

A Hidden Life stars August Diehl and Franz Jägerstätter. His wife, Franziska (Fani) is played by Valerie Pachner. It premiered at the 72nd Cannes Film Festival in May 2019 and will begin its international release on December 13.



Would you say that to my face?

Would you tell me that I never should have been born?

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Our Lady of Mercy

Our New Neighbors

There is a beautiful new house at the top of Mercy Hollow Lane. It fits seamlessly into the neighborhood and yet it stands out. The house was the project of Potomac Community Resources in partnership with the Archdiocese of Washington, which provided the land and the State of Maryland and Montgomery County which provided funding. The house is now home to three women with developmental differences and a Residential Counselor.

On October 13, 2019, was a very exciting day when Elizabeth Grimberg, Diana Krolkowski and Deborah Lim along with PCR welcomed family and friends to the blessing and dedication of the James M. Sullivan Memorial House. The house honors the memory of James Sullivan who co-founded PCR in 1994 and served in leadership positions for 25 years.

The events of the day included remarks by Monsignor John J. Enzler, Chair of Potomac Community Resources, and Reverend William D. Byrne, Pastor of Our Lady of Mercy as well as a Blessing by Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory. The James M. Sullivan Memorial Plaque was unveiled by Joan G. Sullivan. Following the ceremony,

the Archbishop was the principal celebrant at the 11:00 AM Mass at Our Lady of Mercy.

What sets the house apart, as the program of the dedication ceremony states, "Residential opportunities for persons with developmental differences are few and far between? Individuals want, and deserve, homes that are safe and comfortable, where they can lead lives of independence and dignity, included fully as members of our community."

Robert and Lori Krolkowski, Diana's parents say Diana is settling in well. She likes the home a lot and she is proud of the fact that she is independent. Her Dad said she is experiencing a lot less homesickness than they thought she would. A typical day begins with a trip on Metro Access to her to her placement as a nursing home volunteer and a return trip about 2-3 PM with time to unwind when she gets home. There are lots of activities available to her like yoga and the Salt and Light group. Her life in her new home is busier than her life with her parents was. Her father said this suits her because she likes being busy. Her parents say that they are very blessed that Diana has become a member of the Sullivan House community.

OPT



Runners of all ages get ready to start at Mercy's first annual 5K Run/Walk!



Mercy 5K Kids Dash runners enjoy post-race fun.



Mercy runners compete at the National Cross Country Championship.

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Member St. Jude's Parish

One Step Closer

Father Bill is encouraging members of Our Lady of Mercy Parish to take the One Step Closer Challenge. The challenge honors the sixtieth anniversary of the parish and it encourages parishioners too take One Step Closer to Jesus by participation

in at least one new spiritual activity. There is a chart on the parish website that is organized to make active participation easier as it includes the name of a contact and a phone number or email for that person. Fifty one activities are listed. One activity celebrating the parish anniversary was the First Annual Mercy 5K Walk/Race. The event had 300 registered participants and the proceeds amounted to nearly \$39,000.

OPT

SCHOOL NEWS

Don't from page 5

Mercy Runners Compete at National Championship

Our Lady of Mercy had six Cross Country athletes continue their training into the post season in order to compete in the 2019 Cross Country Coaches Nationals Youth Championships in Indianapolis on Saturday, November 23. Mercy athletes came up big competing against some of the best runners in the country. Congratulations Grace Love, Clara Aschenbach, Bentley Salina, Owen Heilman, Tyler Coffey, and Bryce Coffey. Grace Love finished fourth overall in 8U

girls, and Owen Heilman finished seventh overall and fifth in the 10-year-old age group out of 281 runners!

Service at Mercy

Service projects are integral to Mercy's program and are a visible extension of our Pillars. Our National Junior Honor Society chapter, Student Council, and Leadership Seminar students (Grades Seven & Eight) will be integrally involved in planning, supporting, and implementing outreach activities. During the year, our school community will support a host of service initiatives that include:

- assisting with the Langley Park Coat Drive

- organizing and participating in the Special Olympics basketball game
 - participating and delivering food and toys for the Christmas Assumption collection
 - supporting the Baby Bottle Campaign to benefit the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center
 - organizing an Easter toiletry drive
 - collecting food for the "Souper Bowl" collection, St. Martin's Pantry
 - organizing a winter food drive to fill the pantry, McKenna Center
- We are amazed every year at our students' ability to successfully support each of these very important service initiatives.

OPT

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Our Parish Times**

Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County 26th Anniversary Gala

Business Person of The Year
Jim Boland, Boland Trane

Community Leader of the Year
*Msgr. John Enzler, Catholic Charities
of the Archdiocese of Washington*

Paul Zurkowski Founder's Award Winner
Gerard McLoughlin, Founders Bank

Catholic Schools Volunteer of the Year Award Winner
Rob Smith

Catholic Schools Business Partner of the Year Award Winner
Joseph Vaghi



CBN-MC Past Presidents Lance Ford and Anita Segreti



CBN-MC Paul Zurkowski Founder's Award Winner and CBN-MC Past President Gerard McLoughlin, CBN-MC President Jay Long



CBN-MC Board of Directors

Above: Back: Hugh Carroll, Ana Morales, Danielle Tenney, Courtney Lodico, Meagan Sexton, Joe Powers, Anne Gemunder, Ana Chapa;
Front: Father Michael Conway, Jay Long (President), Andrew Ryan (President Elect), Chris Kelly, Pete Hodgson (Past President), Geoff Gonella, Bill Gessner (Past President)

Mistress of Ceremonies Eileen Whalen, with CBN-MC President Jay Long and Community Leader Award Winner Msgr. John Enzler



CBN-MC Catholic Schools Volunteer of the Year Award Winner Rob Smith, CBN-MC Board Member Joe Powers, Mistress of Ceremonies Eileen Whalen



CBN-MC Catholic Schools Business Partner of the Year Award Winner Joseph Vaghi, CBN-MC Board Member Joe Powers, Mistress of Ceremonies Eileen Whalen



CBN-MC Board Member Ana Chapa, Business Person of the Year Award Winner Jim Boland, CBN-MC Board Member Anabel Quintero

CBN-MC Awards \$72,000 in Need-Based Scholarships in 2019!

The Need-Based Scholarship Program was initiated by CBN-MC in 2007. The Scholarships are awarded to Montgomery County Catholic Elementary School students / families with financial, physical or learning challenges.

This program is funded completely with donations

from the Gala. CBN-MC was able to award a scholarship to every applicant this past year. In fact, CBN-MC has awarded a scholarship to every applicant in the twelve years of this program.

Thanks to generous donations by John C. Grimberg Co.,

Inc and last year's guests, in 2019 the scholarship committee has been able to award tuition scholarships totaling \$72,000 to students at Catholic elementary schools in Montgomery County.

Photos by Fredde Lieberman, 240-274-2824



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Michael C.T. Gardner
Outstanding PCR Staff Member

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Tickets are \$250/person. Sponsorship Opportunities are available.

Purchase tickets online at www.pcr-inc.org, or contact Steve Riley at sriley@pcr-inc.org.

Thank you for supporting Potomac Community Resources, Inc.

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