



Parish Times

Senior Services Guide
Special Pull-Out Section

DECEMBER 2013

Living the Faith Together

FREE

Grateful Aging

By Chuck Short

Merry Christmas to all! It's a wonderful time of the year to celebrate family and friends and give thanks for our many blessings. I have an exciting celebration to share. A few weeks ago, Fr. John Enzler, former pastor and current President and CEO of Catholic Charities, was presented with the Robert Cohen Award for Outstanding Service to People with Developmental Disabilities. Little surprise that Fr. John would receive an award for service, but certainly amazing that he received the award from the Jewish Foundation for Group Homes! Remarkable to say the least to see a Catholic priest address the audience at the Strathmore Music Center filled with two thousand mostly Jewish supporters of The Foundation. In his characteristically humble manner, Fr. John honored others for the award. He honored those who support and work for the Jewish Foundation which provides homes for adults with developmental disabilities; he thanked Vivian Bass, the CEO of the Jewish Foundation not only for her many years of service to the Foundation, but especially for her role as a founder and sustainer of Potomac Community Resources(PCR). Fr. John started PCR while pastor of Our Lady of Mercy to support parents of disabled adult children. We've been reflecting recently on the diversity of religion in Montgomery County and their similar tenets. Well, the ecumenical duo of Fr. John and Vivian Bass is a shining example of our shared values and the power of collaboration in living these values.



Chuck Short

This issue of OPT is the annual Senior Citizen issue. Throughout the paper, Parishes share interesting, informative and inspiring stories of their activities associated with the elderly. For our reflection I'd like to focus on the gift of aging. Do you remember The Beatles song, "When I'm Sixty-Four"? Its amusing lyrics and whimsical melody overshadow the tune's darker message in which the aging narrator questions his usefulness, even his worthiness to be loved. He ends the song by referring to himself as "Wasting Away". When I was younger, I thought of the elderly as retired, not employed, often frail and disconnected from the mainstream of community life. I pictured people with chronic illness in need of care and dependent on family or government. By both The Beatles' and Social Security's definition, I'm now among the elderly ranks and find that few of my youthful perceptions of the elderly apply to me or to most aging people I know.

In Montgomery County, there are about 120,000 senior citizens. We know from census and other data, that most of us are relatively healthy, mobile, and economically self-sufficient, although there are about 22,000 seniors

Continued on page 5



Architectural Rendering of New Parish Center at St Patrick shows the main entrance facing the main parking lot. Two covered side and rear doors will furnish access from the school, rear parking area and athletic field to various service and storage spaces within the building.

Cardinal Wuerl to Dedicate New Parish Center

By Richard Beiter

Opening New Doors at St Patrick

Barely fifteen months have elapsed since August 2012 when construction began on the new Parish Center at St Patrick in Norbeck.

At 1:30 PM on Sunday 15 December, parishioners will gather around Archbishop Donald Cardinal Wuerl at the front entrance for the dedication of the newly-constructed facility. Parish priests will join Cardinal Wuerl to celebrate Mass at 12:30 PM that day as a prelude to this special event. Actual occupancy

and use is expected to begin by January 2014.

Plan and Purpose

A new version of the Parish Center has been erected in order to provide a facil-

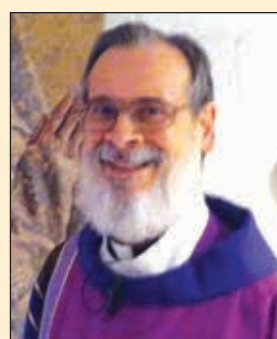
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Msgr. James Beattie



Fr. Arnold Deporter



Fr. John McCay

Senior Priests Serving Seniors

By Andrew Hamm

Senior priests, active and retired, play a vital part in the Church's ministry in Montgomery County. For this year's Senior Services issue, three priests shared their experiences ministering to senior citizens in their parishes.

Though now retired at Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Bethesda, Msgr. James Beattie keeps busy helping out the pastor, Msgr. Edward Filardi, however he can. That often means he's in the confessional or attending to school children, working professionals, and especially the residents of the many assisted living homes around the parish. "We have more confessions here

than any place I've been," Msgr. Beattie claims, but he's happy for the time there because "you help more people in the confessional than anywhere."

Now retired at Our Lady of Grace parish, Fr. Arnold Deporter finds himself particularly well-suited for serving seniors, saying, "That's why they built this church at Leisure World; it's for the people who are here." Aided by a high number of extraordinary Eucharistic ministers, Fr. Deporter brings the sacraments to those who cannot bring themselves to church, offering Mass not only at Our Lady of Grace, but also in living rooms within Leisure World, and hearing

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I spoke with Giants Cornerback Prince Amukamara. It Reminded Me of Christmas

By Rev. Msgr. John Enzler

Despite my best efforts, I like the New York Giants' starting cornerback Prince Amukamara. Now, if you know me, you know that I'm a lifelong Washington Redskins fan. So you know I am not saying this lightly.

Early in the NFL season, I read an article about Prince and his devout Catholic faith. It's not the kind of thing you read often, so on a whim and a prayer, we contacted the New York Giants and asked if we could do an interview with Prince, not really knowing what to expect.

He called us back two days later.

We talked about his family, who came to the US from Nigeria seeking a better life. His father joined the Army and eventually became a citizen. Prince was the first child of five to be born here as they raised their family.

Continued on page 9



Rev. Msgr. John Enzler

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Men of the Murray Family Celebrate Dad's CBN-MC Founder's Award

Michael Murray, Blessed Sacrament parishioner and V.P., Payroll Network, is joined by his five sons in celebrating Dad receiving the Paul G. Zurkowski Founder's award at the November 2013 Catholic Business Network Gala in Rockville. They are (L-R): Bo Murray, St. Bernadette Parish and DePew Orthodontics; Jeff Murray, St. Elizabeth Parish and First Financial Group Benefits; Joe Murray, St. Francis of Assisi Parish and Colonel, USMC; Michael Murray, Blessed Sacrament Parish; Matt Murray, Blessed Sacrament Parish, Surgery, Sibley Hospital; and Tim Murray, St. Elizabeth Parish and Limbach Mechanical Contractors. Michael and his wife Pat have one daughter, Erin Murray, a Special Ed teacher in the Baltimore School system. Neither Pat nor Erin was available for the picture. Congratulations all around. Sounds like they are all following in Michael's "Founder's Award" seven-league footsteps.

The social event of the year for the Catholic Schools and Businesses 20th Anniversary of Catholic Business Network celebrated at 2013 CBN-MC GALA

By Paul G. Zurkowski, CBN Founder

It is hard to believe how far CBN-MC has come since its founding in the early 1990's. At the same time it is joy to behold and to realize how the Catholic Business community has come together to support 110% Catholic education.

In the past 10 years alone, CBN-MC has raised and contributed over \$700,000 to Catholic Education in Montgomery County;

In the past year CBNMC has raised and provided to Elementary School principals \$32,000 to help families keep their children in Catholic Schools through tuition assistance administered confidentially out of respect for family privacy;

CBN-MC has also raised and donated over \$38,000 to Montgomery County Catholic schools to provide funding the needed facilities, equipment and

teacher training for things outside the school of the school tight budgets;

Fourteen Eight-graders received Scholarships for Catholic High School Tuition totaling over \$14,000;

Recognized community support for schools to thank volunteers who contribute their efforts to the success of the school and parish businesses who provide free or low cost services needed by the schools;

These achievements help the organization grow with over 170 company members and over 200 business categories, as represented by this year's membership directory distributed at Gala;

Fifty to eighty business people have attended each of the CBN-MC monthly breakfasts, to engage in networking and to hear the area's business leaders address developments and basic techniques for success as well as social and ethical

matters.

It is a "fur piece" from those beginning efforts in the early 1990s to today's growing list of magnificent achievements of today's CBN leaders and volunteers. Congratulations to all who have brought us so far in supporting Catholic education and each other.

OPT



CBN-MC President Gerard M. Loughlin, Jr., opened the Gala event with a flair as the Gala itself swiftly touched all the bases, supported by a program book and membership directory offering extensive advertising from county and regional companies reflecting a new source to revenue to support CBN-MC's commitment to every dollar raised going directly to Catholic education. It was a lively event, shedding for the first time the live and silent auctions. The result was a spectacular fast-moving and disciplined event telling the story of Catholic Schools – with a great video featuring students from parochial schools in Montgomery County – highlighting how CBN-MC has in the past 10 years contributed over \$700,000 to Catholic schools serving families in Montgomery County.

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Religious Freedom and the People of Maryland

The Most Sacred of All Property

Maryland's bishops call on Catholics and all Marylanders to reaffirm and uphold America's First Freedom and the foundational principles upon which its democratic society is built. "Religious liberty – a right rooted in our human dignity and protected by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution – is being silently and subtly eroded," wrote the bishops of Maryland in the statement. "[I]n recent years there has been a subtle promotion of the idea that religious liberty should be restricted to Sunday morning worship."

The Most Sacred of All Property: Religious



Freedom and the People of Maryland is signed by Washington Archbishop Donald Cardinal Wuerl, Baltimore Apostolic Administrator Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, and Wilmington Bishop W. Francis Malooly. The statement was issued with input from a task force chaired by John Garvey, President of The Catholic University of America, which included experts in legal, theological, and historical issues.

A copy of the complete statement along with additional resource materials may be found at www.mdcathcon.org/religiousfreedom.

OPT



The UpCounty Community Resources Special Needs Ministry put on a Hoe Down Dance on Saturday, September 28 at the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Center in Derwood, MD. About 130 teens and young adults with and without disabilities got together to chow down on hot dogs, beans and chips and dance to the music put out by Kit Kat Productions.

The Upper County Resource Group is an organization of persons who believe that diversity in our community enriches us all. Our next event will be a Winter Dance. If you would like more information about our group and the upcoming dance, contact Sylvia Jones at 301-762-6564 in the evening.

OPT

Find the Perfect Gift

In conjunction with the beginning of Advent, which started Dec. 1, 2013, the Archdiocese of Washington has launched its annual "Find the Perfect Gift/Regalo Perfecto" initiative, which encourages individuals to share the joy of knowing Jesus and the difference he makes in their lives.

In the Catholic Church, Advent is the period of preparation before Christmas, the birth day of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The archdiocese is using television and radio commercials as well as a social media campaign that includes Twitter parties and video testimonies to encourage people to visit the interactive websites for Find the Perfect Gift, www.findthepperfect-

gift.org, and Regalo Perfecto, www.regaloperfecto.org. The television commercial can be viewed at <http://youtu.be/p8xKPZuhcRU>.

At the websites for Find the Perfect Gift/Regalo Perfecto, users can discover ways to donate their time and resources, find daily reflections and invite others to share in the joy of the season. There is also a list of events around the archdiocese that are open to anyone wanting to celebrate the season with sacred music, prayer and service. More information about the Find the Perfect Gift/Regalo Perfecto initiative is available at www.adw.org, www.findthepperfectgift.org and in Spanish at www.regaloperfecto.org.

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 **Parish Times**

Kathleen &
Lawrence Hamm
PUBLISHERS

Danny Gannon
Michael Roseleigh
DISTRIBUTION

Prepress by Electronic Ink
www.eink.net



Parish Community Services, Inc.

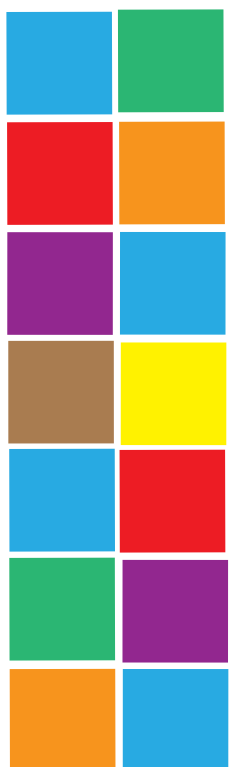
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All Welcome at the 20th Anniversary Christian Unity Service at Holy Cross Church

Catholic congregations will join together with other Christian denominations in the Bethesda/Rockville area in observance of the annual world-wide Week of Prayer for Christian Unity on Sunday, January 26th at 3:00 P.M. at Holy Cross Church.

The 2014 theme is: "Has Christ been divided? (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:13).

The homilist for the 20th anniversary service will be Bishop Richard



Clergy pray for Christian unity at St. Luke's Episcopal Church.

Graham, Metropolitan D.C. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The service will highlight the spiritual gifts that each participating parish brings to our area. Special music will be provided by the combined choirs of the participating churches and the Trinity Lutheran Church Handbell Choir. A freewill offering will benefit Interfaith Works. A reception and fellowship will follow the service.

The annual commemoration began as an initiative of the Holy Cross Social Concerns Committee when Msgr. Vincent Gatto was Pastor of Holy Cross and has continued under the guidance of the present Pastor, Msgr. R. Cary Hill. The location of the annual services during the past 20 years has alternated between Catholic churches

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Holy Cross Parish

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Garrett Park, MD

Rev. Msgr. Cary Hill, Pastor
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Holy Cross School

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More Holy Cross News on Page 9

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Leisure Club Always on the Go!

The Leisure Club of St. John the Baptist parish is a club for adults age 50 and older who enjoy socializing at meetings as well as going on regular out-



Valentine's Day 2012, musicians entertain the Leisure Club with love songs through the years!

ings to restaurants and overnight trips to interesting and fun places. Members usually bring a brown-bag lunch to meetings at which rotating hostesses provide beverages and delicious desserts, but there are also club-provided special

lunches of pizza and subs from time to time. Highlights on the calendar are the annual Christmas Gala party with the singing of carols and the St. Patrick's/St. Joseph's Day Celebration with Irish entertainment, both of which include a delicious catered luncheon.

Meetings usually begin with the rosary and occasionally Mass. Following a brief business meeting, an interesting speaker may address the club or special entertainment may be on that day's program. The club also sponsors monthly "Golden Gathering" lunches at local restaurants at moderate cost. Each spring, the club sponsors a 3-day trip to an interesting place in the Delmarva or the surrounding area and in September members look forward to their annual trip to Ocean City. We urge those entering their golden years to join the Leisure Club and join the fun! **OPT**

More St. John the Baptist News on Page 35

SHORT

Con't from page 1

who are poor. Senior adults have many skills and valuable experience. The condition of the elderly in Montgomery County is quite good and significantly better when compared to other parts of the United States. Most of us who fall into this category have much for which we should be grateful and sharing our talents and time with others is a great way to give thanks to God for the gift of aging. The Thanksgiving Gospel told the story of Jesus healing ten lepers. Of the ten, only one returned to thank Jesus for the gift of restored health. Jesus asked, "Where are the other nine who received the gift?" I am not comparing older adults to lepers, but the lesson is the same. Of thousands of seniors who are given the gift of health and independence in long life, too few return to Jesus and offer genuine gratitude and glory by sharing their time, talent and experience through sustained and substantial works of love, service, and justice.

A few examples of those giving thanks and glory to the Lord in their elder years through sustained works of service, love and justice are notable. At 91, Roland de Cesare of Mother Seton parish has been volunteering at the Lord's Table soup kitchen at St Martin's in Gaithersburg for more than twenty years! I asked him when he was going to stop and he cheerfully replied, "When I

get old." Each week, several seventy-plus volunteers make the trip downtown from St Camillus Food Pantry to the Capital Area Food Bank to pick up hundreds of pounds of fresh vegetables for the poor in Langley Park. They love the service so much that they barely notice their aches after the heavy lifting. Not so retired Brian Crowe has been making weekly trips from St Elizabeth's in Rockville to Langley Park to teach immigrants English as a second language, critical to their ability to work and support their families. He also delivers the monthly parish food collection to the St Camillus Food pantry. Several of our region's most experienced retired doctors and nurses spend time each week volunteering at the (Our Lady of) Mercy Health Clinic for uninsured people. Fr Ralph Kuehner at near ninety is an active and convincing advocate for vulnerable people in Montgomery County. Just give him a cause for justice, get him a driver, and he's ready to serve.

There are many, many other examples, yet the need for assistance to the poor continues to outpace those of any age willing to serve. The Christmas and New Year's season is a wonderful time to celebrate the many gifts the Lord has given us and the perfect time to give thanks and glory for these gifts by engaging in sustained activities of service, love and justice.

God Bless, Merry Christmas, and Blessed New Year! **OPT**

SENIORS

Con't from page 1

confessions in apartments. He works hard to adapt his evangelization to the people there, with emphasis on Christ's birth and His life within all of us as God's children.

Fr. John McCay, in active ministry at St. Jane de Chantal in Bethesda, which serves Suburban Hospital and five nearby nursing homes, finds that "visiting the hospitals is an

opportunity for reaching out, of letting the Spirit of God work." Once after praying with and anointing a Catholic patient, the neighboring patient asked him, "How do I become a Catholic?" The man was received into the Church as a result of that encounter. As Fr. McCay emphasizes, and as we can all remember this Advent season, "the Lord does work with each of us, and it is just a matter of being open." **OPT**



Performers on Stage

Around the World at St. John's

By Caroline Ionata

Congratulations to St. John the Baptist school for hosting its third bi-annual International Night. Every other year SJB has an event that celebrates the different cultures that make up its diverse community. This year 14 different countries were represented. There were various items that highlighted each country and food samplings provided by the volunteers. Soda bread from Ireland, pierogies from Poland, biscotti from Italy, appetizers from Vietnam – all helped attendees travel around the globe.

Along with food, there was great entertainment. An amazing bagpiper, violinist, and harpist provided music along with the SJB Advance Band members. Following those were dancers. De Colores, a Mexican dance group, performed after a group of Irish dancers. A new

element to the evening was the Parade of Nations, a fashion show of sorts that had students modeling outfits from different nations. SJB was fortunate to have so many of its talented students participating in the evening's entertainment.

International Night was very successful this year. Along with many volunteers and the

special help of Ms. Marianne Moore, Ms. Carol Schwab, Mrs. Katty Banderas & Mrs. Barbara Cygnarowicz, this event was able to run smoothly. International Night was a great way to bring everyone closer together as a community. St. John the Baptist is looking forward to another successful event in 2015. Bravo! **OPT**



Sharing a taste of International Food.

Good News People Gather at St. John's

By Richard McGinnis

At St. John the Baptist Catholic Community, Silver Spring, adult parishioners have been joining groups this fall to deepen their spirituality and explore putting faith into action more fully as disciples of Christ in contemporary times. A dozen groups have been formed so far with more than 70

participants signed up.

The groups are using "Good News People," a program of JustFaith Ministries. The program uses written materials and DVDs to guide groups of up to ten persons through fourteen 90-minute sessions that focus upon central aspects of faith using prayer, Lectio Divina, and sharing personal faith

stories. Supplemental material is provided for reading, journaling and reflecting at home and for putting specific virtues into action. In addition, the program calls for an "Immersion Experience" to a local service organization to learn how people of faith are bringing good news to others through service. **OPT**

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The Lord's Table

By Catherine Cooksey

Mother Theresa of Calcutta said, "Each of them is Jesus in disguise." The Lord's Table has been embracing this philosophy for the last 29 years as it has provided hot meals to those in need.

The Lord's Table began as a way to help a group of homeless men who were living under the 355 bridge in Gaithersburg. At the time, its establishment was extremely controversial, but under Fr. Americo DiNorcia's guidance, St. Martin's Parish and surrounding churches agreed to support the cause both with money and volunteers.

Today, it serves 4 course meals to guests at 3:30pm, Monday through Saturday from September through June. Guests are treated to a sit-down dinner with servers delivering



Roland de Cesar celebrates 20 years of service at the Lord's Table and his 97th birthday with Chuck Short, Special Assistant to the County Executive; Mary Canapary, founding member of Our Lord's Table; and Msgr. Mark Brennan, pastor of St. Martin's Parish. Photo courtesy of Gina Woods Mastromarino

plates of hot food and removing dishes once guests are finished. Mary Canapary, one of the founding members of the Lord's Table, says the goal is always to respect the dignity of the person.

The soup kitchen is an all-volunteer organization, except for two positions, kitchen manager and security guard, both of which were added as paid positions in recent years. Eighty-eight different churches provide support for the Lord's Table, including funding, food, and volunteers. The complete roster of volunteers numbers approximately 280 people.

Some of those volunteers include area students, such as a group of eighth graders from St. Martin's School who serve the guests of the Lord's Table once a month as part of their Confirmation service requirements. Matthew McVeigh, an eighth grader, says the students

who offer their time at the Lord's Table find that "it is a great way to help those who are less fortunate." McVeigh adds that "it is really rewarding when a Lord's Table guest walks up to you and compliments how well-behaved you were and how well you served them. We need to help those out in need because they are family."

The Lord's Table does not receive government funding for its operations. Canapary is pleased by this fact because it enables the Lord's Table to remain a truly Christ-based ministry. In the early years, Canapary served as the kitchen manager and volunteer coordinator. Now, she is most grateful to serve in an outreach position, greeting guests and helping them to connect with community resources that can address their needs.

OPT

The Recognition of a Crusader

By Kaley Bell, Eighth Grader

At St. Martin's School, we want to encourage our students to perform acts of kindness. With our new principal, Mr. Andrew Piotrowski, we have found a way to bring that principle into action with kindness referrals. Kindness referrals are recommendations given to chosen students at the end

of the week for their kindness. The teachers choose children that have portrayed kindness in any way and write them a kindness referral. Students have been recognized actions such as helping a classmate with a difficult assignment, volunteering to help younger students at one of our clubs, or assisting a teacher. Along with the Kindness

Continued on page 29

Making a Difference

The students at St. Martin's School turn their attention to helping others. Look at what they have accomplished in the past few weeks!

- St. Martin's School raised over \$1400 for the relief efforts in the Philippines.
- Students have donated many hats, scarves, and gloves, including over 140 hats made by members of the Knitting Club, to be distributed to families in need.
- Each of the students has written and decorated a card for one of our soldiers in the military.
- During our pre-Thanksgiving

food drive, students brought in 959 cans of food.

- The Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts collected over 1,000 pounds of food for the pantry through the Scouting for Food program.
- The eighth-grade students collected everyone's extra Halloween candy and took it to Village Orthodontics. The candy will be delivered to Operation Gratitude to be used in care packages for our military troops. In appreciation for their donation, the 8th graders received \$111, which they donated to the St. Martin's food pantry.

OPT

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Creative Club

By Emily Walsh, Eighth Grader

Amazing Afternoons is one of the many after-school clubs offered by St. Martin's this school year. Amazing Afternoons was created to give extra, enrichment activities for students to have fun. It gives children a chance to express their creative ability as a community. This club is moderated by Mrs. Redmond and Mrs. Feudale and is supported by a grant from the City of Gaithersburg. The generous grant provides supplies to expand the types of activities undertaken.

Amazing Afternoons is for kin-

dergarten through eighth grades, depending on what activities are planned. Mrs. Redmond says, "Each session is geared for different grades at an appropriate level for the students." Sessions are "focused on different topics," such as art, math, science, or photography. Every time Mrs. Redmond or Mrs. Feudale starts a new session, flyers are distributed to participating grades. The first two sessions were for kindergarten and first grade followed by second and third grade. They were based on the illustrations of Eric Carle. In these

Continued on page 29

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St. Martin's parishioners carry a painting of their patron saint during a procession prior to a mass honoring the feast day of St. Martin of Tours. Photo by Carlos Monzon

Community Supports Shepherd's Table through Toiletry Drive

By Devin Whalen, SJE eighth grader

This November, St. John the Evangelist School participated in a charitable drive for Shepherd's Table. The students, Boy Scout Troop 466, and the residence of the Indian Spring neighborhood donated toiletries. Devin Whalen, a St. John's eighth grader and a Star Scout in Troop 466, organized the drive.

There was tremendous participation on all sides. Together, we collected over 600 items, including 205 tubes of toothpaste, 55 sticks of deodorant, 120 bars of soap, and 60 bottles each of shampoo and conditioner. Neighbors and Scouts also donated more than \$100 in cash,



Sam (left) and Devin Whalen (right) unload over 600 toiletry items collected from St. John the Evangelist School, Boy Scout Troop 466 and Indian Spring residents.

which was used to purchase some of the items.

Located in Silver Spring, the mission of Shepherd's Table is to help people who are homeless or in need by providing basic services, including meals, social services, medical support, clothing, and other assistance in an effective and compassionate manner.

The toiletries

will be distributed during shower time and used to improve the daily lives of our clients and dinner guests, said Haile Gebregziabher, director of operations for Shepherd's Table. "The drive was a success, and the short hours to collect all the items were impressive. It was well planned and implemented," Mr. Gebregziabher added

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Pastor

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More St. John the Evangelist News on Page 30 & 35

Meeting the Needs of the Sick & Elderly

Here at St. John's, senior parishioners in need of the companionship and assistance of the local community can seek help through the Ministry of the Sick & Elderly-- run by two special parishioners, Tom & Joan Palmer. The Palmers were kind enough to share a few words about their involvement in this exceptional parish ministry.

How long have you been parishioners at St. John the Evangelist?

We have been parishioners for 10 years. The first time we came to Mass at St. John the Evangelist, everyone was so friendly and we heard a great Homily and so we decided to become parishioners. I have been working at Our Lady of Good Counsel's Campus Store for several years and it turned out that I knew a lot of SJE Moms already. We volunteered with Bingo and again met so many wonderful and welcoming people.

How did you and Tom first get involved?

Sister Theresa who had done such a wonderful job with this Ministry for so many years retired. We had been talking about doing something together that would be of service to the Parish so we talked to Monsignor about taking over her responsibilities.

What makes this ministry so special to you?

Tom and I were both very close to our Grandmothers and after we were married we became guardians of a close friend of my family, Gertrude, who had developmental issues and lived at a nursing home. We became used to how nursing homes were run. It was always fun to be with Gertrude; she brightened our lives. And, as my mother aged, I would go over to read to her and I loved when she told me stories of the past. She passed away eight years ago and, this past summer, Tom's Mother passed away at age 97. We were also with her quite a bit and loved hearing about her

life's adventures. We've learned so many lessons from those we visit and they have truly enriched our lives.

What words of encouragement might you have to those thinking of getting involved in this ministry but might believe that they are not "qualified" or are "too busy"?

It has been a blessing to get to know the people in the nursing home and those that we visit at their homes. They really minister to us as we see them dealing each

day with all they might be going through and yet they still have a smile for us when we come to see them. Tom and I agree that you don't need special training and the time you spend with each person is such a blessing because you are bringing Our Lord to those who can't attend Mass. We welcome anyone who wants to be involved with this Ministry and assure you that you can spend as much time as you are able to give!

For more information on this ministry, please contact Tom and Joan Palmer at: 301-946-3980.

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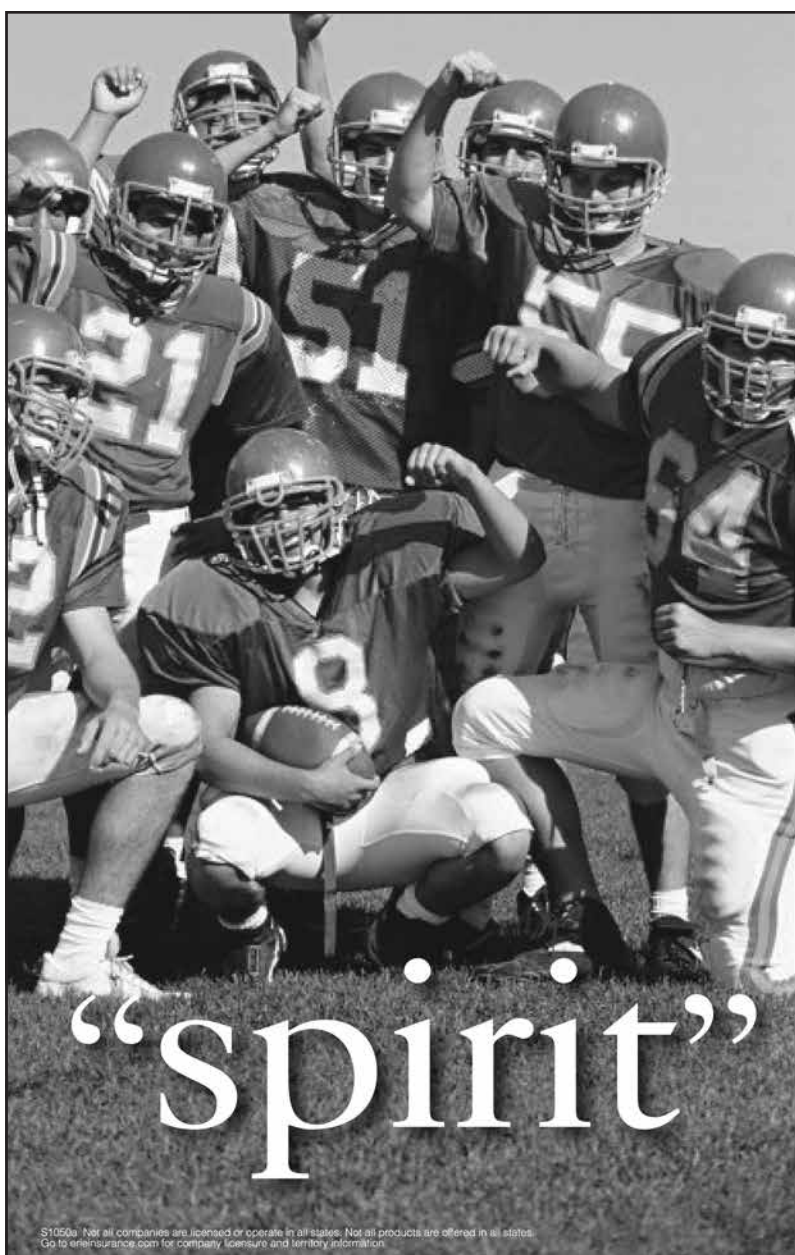
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Shrine of St Jude Catholic Church News



Flags of many countries adorned the walls at the St. Jude International Festival held in November. Photo by George Warholic

International Festival Showcases Diverse Community at the Shrine of St. Jude

By Ken Kovack

The International Festival, preceded by a beautiful International Mass, was everything that parishioners would enjoy. The Mass readings, in several languages, moved the congregation, as did our young gift bearers in ethnic dress, as witness to the diversity and culture of St. Jude.

Following Mass, all in attendance moved to the Thaddeus Room and feasted on a bountiful selection of ethnic recipes from around the world, donated or prepared by the parishioners. International music added to the festive ambiance.



Dana D'Avella finishes preparing meatballs for all to enjoy at the St. Jude International Festival held last month. Photo by George Warholic

Parishioners moved in the appropriate rhythm to the various musical offerings arranged by the DJ, and people of all ages showed their diversity on the dance floor.

The Festival was sponsored by the Pastoral Advisory Counsel and Chaired by Frank Carroll. The Thaddeus Room was decorated in multi-colored tradition of eight identified global regions and sub-regions, allowing parishioners to identify and sample the ethnic delights more easily. It was a wonderful event thanks to all the volunteers that put it together and donated the various ethnic foods.

OPT

Christian Spirit Tree Program: 30 Years of Giving and Caring

By Fran Sloan

Thirty years ago, the Shrine of St. Jude began a project to help the needy and less fortunate and named it the "Christian Spirit Tree." The project involves the providing of clothing and personal and food items requested by needy individuals in parish families and local community organizations. Currently, the project is providing help to nine organizations and over 50 families.

When Sandy Longcor, an original founder of the program, passed away in 2007, the program was renamed the "Sandy Longcor Christian Spirit Tree."

Numbered envelopes with first names and gift request information are written on the outside of the envelopes, which are hung on

Christmas trees in the church. All parishioners are encouraged to select an envelope or two, purchase the gifts requested, and wrap them in Christmas paper with the numbered envelope securely attached to the outside of the package. Gifts are returned to church on the designated "return weekend." By Sunday afternoon, gifts are ready for pick up by volunteers from local community organizations and parish families.

St. Jude has found another price-less benefit of this project—the sense of parish family involvement that blossoms on return weekend. It takes a tremendous amount of time and effort to undertake such a project. It could not be done without the help of the many volunteers who do so much behind the scenes work. It is truly a parish effort!

OPT



St. Jude Students Shine at Our Lady of Grace in Leisure World

In late October, several St. Jude Regional Catholic School students took part in the 5 pm mass at Our Lady of Grace in Leisure World. Msgr. Essex celebrated a beautiful mass and the children did a wonderful job as lectors and altar servers as well as members of the choir and presenters of the gifts. Pictured from left to right are: Bottom row: Christian Scopelliti, Matthew Scopelliti, Nagomi Myers, Jennifer Nance, Nicholas Scopelliti. Second row: Shawn Mashburn, Isabelle Scopelliti, Andrew Rapisura, Sean Lowey-Ayala, Sequoia Santoro, Mary Sheetz, Caroline Bloodgood. Third row: Brigid English, Kaelyn Mashburn, Mark Villegas, Samantha Santoro, Katherine Kuzma, Keely Mashburn. Top row: Msgr. Essex, Johnny English, Valerie Kuzma.

STJUDE
REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

St. Jude Regional Catholic School News

Gala Set for March 1

Put on your cowboy boots and saddle up as St. Jude Regional Catholic School invites you to its biennial gala – Kickin' It Up at St. Jude – on March 1, 2014. Proceeds support the school and its mission to educate the whole child, delivering academic excellence within a Catholic community of faith.

Along with dinner and dancing there will be a silent auction. To attend this event, please pre-register on the school's website, www.stjudeschool.org. Cost: \$55/person or \$100/couple before Jan. 31 or \$65/person and \$125/couple after Jan. 31.

There is still time to donate to the silent auction and/or take out ad space in the 2014 Gala Program. Forms can be found on the school website or contact Ashley Bettis ashleybb@outlook.com or 240-821-0107; or Margy Crivella margy.crivella@stjuderockville.org or 301-946-7888 ext 106.



Student government students with SJRCS Principal Glenn Benjamin.

Coat Drive Exceeds Goal

St. Jude Regional Catholic School took part in Catholic Charities' "Coats of Many Colors" drive last month and far exceeded its goal! Student

government students counted 230 coats, more than double its goal of 100. Way to go St. Jude students and families! Pictured above (from the left) are Deborah Alexander, Jenny Sella, Aidan Connolly, and Julie Kilmer.

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Cupcakes for Life

Shrine of St Jude Pro-Life Committee will hold a cupcake fundraiser the weekend of January 18/19 to help pay for a bus to take parish and St. Jude Regional Catholic School students to the March for Life in DC on Jan. 22. Delicious, home-baked cupcakes will be sold in the breezeway after all the Masses. Help support this important mission.

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Living the Words of Jesus Christ

Until last year, Sister Maris Bonnett, CSC, could be found each day at Holy Cross School teaching Religion to our Sixth Grade students. Now, you will find her volunteering at Catholic Charities' Choice Food Pantry, one of the many services offered at the Maryland County Family Center on Georgia Avenue in Silver Spring.

Sister Maris explained how she became involved with the food pantry by sharing a prayer by St. Anselm of Canterbury that incites us to seek God, to find God, and to love God. "O my God, teach my heart where and how to seek You, Where and how to find You . . . Let me seek You in my

desire. Let me desire You in my seeking. Let me find You by loving You. Let me love You when I find You." Sister Maris added that "In time, we learn all people are children of God. All are in need of encouragement, of friendship, and of love. Sometimes we need to step outside of our usual path of life to seek God. A desire to seek God is to find God in reflection, understanding, and living the Words of Jesus."

The Holy Cross community knows that Sister Maris is a blessing to all who encounter her, helping us each to see God in her words and actions. Her blessings are now being witnessed at the food pantry through her presence there.

OPT

The Gift of Warmth

Facilitated by our Social Concerns Committee, Holy Cross Parish and School participated in the annual Coats of Many Colors coat drive, sponsored by Catholic Charities. The program collects and distributes new or gently used coats for adults and children. A prayer or faith-inspired picture created by Holy Cross School students was tucked inside a pocket of each coat collected by our parish.

OPT

ANNIVERSARY

Con't from page 4

(Holy Cross, St. Jane Frances de Chantal, St. Bartholomew) and four Protestant churches. In recent years, additional Protestant, Orthodox, and Catholic congregations, including St. Patrick's and St. Elizabeth's, have joined in the celebration.

The development of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity by the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement began in 1908 at the Graymoor Spiritual Life Center in Garrison, New York. The World Council of Churches and the Vatican began collaborating in providing a common international text for worldwide usage for the annual event. Recently,

Pope Francis spoke on the hope for Christian unity: "Certainly, there are and there will be difficulties, which will require further patience, dialogue, and mutual comprehension, but let us not be afraid! Unity is not primarily the result of our efforts, but of the action of the Holy Spirit, to which we must open our hearts with trust in order that it might lead us along the paths to reconciliation and communion."

All are welcome to join in the January 26 celebration of song, scripture, and prayer in fulfillment of the Lord's will "that all may be one." Further information may be obtained from Joe Weiss at (301) 942-4183 or: thattheyallmay-beone@gmail.com.

OPT

ENZLER

Con't from page 1

We spoke about the importance of service and volunteering. "I think my parents instilled [service] in me at a young age, to always help out, do the right thing. And just growing, maturing in my faith, I realized that it is a lifestyle. Not just something that is a means to an end."

He talked about a time in college, through Campus Crusade, that Prince and a teammate went to Wal-Mart with gift cards. He ended up giving his to a single mom and her two children.

He talked about staying true to his faith in the NFL, where the locker rooms and spotlight can make it much harder. So, even though the Giants just came to town and rallied to win over my beloved home team, I'm feeling pretty inspired.

Maybe that's because, despite how our burgundy and gold's season has gone, I still go to work the next day and hear about how our Catholic Charities Enterprises program is providing meals to homebound seniors. I love this program, since we are able to employ a number of our clients who have struggled with mental illness in the kitchen, being part of the service. Then we deliver the meals, sometimes the only meals and contact our elderly neighbors might have.

The holiday season is upon us. There's shopping to do, gifts for our loved ones, meals to plan, decorations to hang, travel plans to be had, and more. Whew, I get a little stressed just thinking about it. When you get stressed, remember first and foremost, that we celebrate the birth of Christ, and that we are His. If a guy like Prince Amukamara can keep his faith and balance in the year-round pressure cooker that is the NFL, we too can keep the Christmas season special and close.

I might be a little biased, but I'd highly recommend some family volunteering. We have a many great opportunities this season, but we could especially use your help with our annual Christmas Angel Tree, which has 594 names of children in our programs or whose families have called us already asking for help. Can you and your family adopt one or two kids this holiday season? I promise you'll enjoy the time spent together. Visit www.CatholicCharitiesDC.org/ChristmasGiving.

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Karol Wojtyla's "Our God's Brother" performed at OLQP

By Anna Janiak (translated from Polish by Anna Sobczynski)

OLQP parishioner Anna Janiak, Ph.D., is a scientist by profession. Her current pursuits include serving on the Parish Council and being active in the Polish Drama Club.

On Sunday, October 27, 2013, in the Knights of Columbus Hall in Silver Spring, Maryland, parishioners and friends of the Parish of Our Lady Queen of Poland and St. Maximilian Kolbe attended a performance of the play "Our God's Brother." The play

was written in 1949 by the young priest, Father Karol Wojtyla, who later became Pope John Paul II, and who will be canonized on April 27, 2014.

The work embraces a full range of poetic musings on the subject of vocation: whether it be a calling to art, to revolution, to love/compassion. The play, which was a great success, was staged by the Polish Drama Club under the direction of OLQP parishioner Dorota Ponikiewska, who also adapted the text of Wojtyla's play.

The Polish Drama Club is an amateur theater group in existence for about a decade. It has been associated with the Polish Parish in Silver Spring, MD, for the past several years and performs in collaboration with the Polish Library in Washington, DC, and with the Polish Weekend School attached to the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, DC. Parishioners and students, as well as OLQP Pastor Jan Fiedurek, had roles in this play.

The theme of the play is the life and spiritual transformation of Polish painter Adam Chmielowski



Cast members of "Our God's Brother" from left, Laura Migasiuk, Mirek Podloch, Aleksander Psurek, and Igor Czerbniak.

(played by OLQP parishioner Mirek Podloch), better known today as Brother Albert, who lived from 1845 to 1916. He was the founder in Krakow, at the beginning of the twentieth century, of the Albertine Brothers and Sisters, an order devoted to works of charity. His life served Wojtyla as a canvas on which to explore the ways one can live a life of holiness in the

contemporary world.

As an 18 year old student, Adam took part in the Polish Uprising of January 1863 against the Russian Empire [which was occupying Poland at that time]. He was gravely wounded and lost a leg. After studying art abroad, he returned to Krakow. Adam engages in endless philosophical disputes with Gierymski (Psurek), who does not understand Adam's transformation and tries to convince him that an artist's calling is solely one's personal success. During this time he paints his masterpiece, "Ecce Homo" ["Behold the Man"]. The painting is considered to be the best of all of Adam Chmielowski's artistic works.

Adam describes that while working on this painting, which depicts a suffering Christ wearing a crown of thorns, his spiritual transformation was so complete and fundamental that he ultimately became a "brother" to the homeless poor. He forsakes a promising painting career to devote himself entirely to the poor, to serve as their protector and benefactor.

Albert's point of view, the conviction that one can give without



Mirek Podloch (in the title role as Adam Chmielowski aka Brother Albert) next to a reproduction of the Ecce Homo artwork which was painted for the play "Our God's Brother" by Laura Migasiuk.

expecting anything in return, is what inspired young Karol Wojtyla. It became his personal beacon. During his pontificate, he beatified Brother Albert in 1983 and canonized him in 1989.

The complete text of this edited version, as well as the list of actors and credits, is found at: www.klubteatralny.com/2013_11_01_archive.html.

OPT

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Cast members of "Our God's Brother" from left, Jarek Trocki, Mirek Podloch, Anna Janiak, and Dorota Ponikiewska.



OLQP Pastor Jan Fiedurek with concelebrants Rev. Radoslaw Pasztaleniec and Rev. Pawel Bortkiewicz, Ph.D., and parish youth after the noon Mass on Nov. 10, 2013, at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish in Silver Spring, MD, commemorating Polish Independence Day. Not pictured are the representatives from the Embassy of Poland, Polish Legion of American Veterans, and Polish Scouting Organization USA.



Decorated OLQP parishioner Walter Wladyslaw Zachariasiewicz, who celebrated his 102nd birthday on Nov. 7, 2013, stands with His Eminence Adam Cardinal Maida, Archbishop Emeritus of Detroit, who was a celebrant and homilist at the Mass and dedication of the Blessed John Paul II mosaic (pictured) at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington DC, on Oct. 20, 2013.

Polish Christmas Traditions at Our Lady Queen of Poland

Rev. Jan Fiedurek, S.Chr., Pastor, and the Parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Poland and St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Silver Spring, Maryland, extend Warm Wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year 2014 "Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia i Szczęśliwego Nowego Roku" and invite you to join us in celebrating Polish Christmas traditions with:

- Polish Christmas Food & Bake Sale, on Sunday, Dec. 22, 2013, 10 am - 2 pm
- Traditional Polish Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, "Pasterka," on Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2013
- Parish "Oplatek" Christmas Dinner on Sunday, January 5, 2014, at 1pm

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St. Bartholomew's Youth Group Rules the Dark Night!

St. Bart's Youth Group keeps warm on a cold night with a bonfire and cookout on November 9. In addition to sports, pizza, prayers and discussions, the Youth Group had a busy schedule of special activities during October and November, including a hike at Lake Frank on October 27, packaging meals for Catholic Charities "Cup of Joe" for the homeless on November 3, and assembling Thanksgiving Baskets for the Little Sisters of the Poor on November 24.



Advent Wreath Workshop Starts Advent Season at St. Bartholomew Parish



On Sunday, December 1, St. Bartholomew Parish kicked off the Advent Season with its annual Advent Wreath Workshop. The workshop was held in the Parish Hall and all supplies, instructions, and help were provided to make a beautiful advent wreath. The wreaths were sure to become a focal point for families' spiritual preparations for Christmas.

Family Bingo Night at St. Bartholomew Parish Attracts Throng!

On Saturday, November 16, the St. Bart's Parish Hall was rocking to the sounds of St. Bart's annual Family Bingo Night. In addition to exciting Bingo, the event featured pizza, soft drinks, a raffle, and treats for sale. The annual event supports the St. Bartholomew School Sixth Grade outdoor education program.



St. Bartholomew Hispanic Community Holds Annual Sale

The St. Bartholomew Hispanic Community held its Annual Bazaar and Flea Market. The all-day event (8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.) was held in the Church Hall. Items for sale included antiques, books, crafts, clothing, electronics, jewelry, house items, toys and games, food and beverages, and much more.

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

St. Bartholomew Holds Annual Book Sale

By Louise Canavan

On November 3, St. Bartholomew School hosted its annual Book Fair. Families from the parish, school and community came out to support the students and their school library. In keeping with their "Reading is Magical" theme, the school had Michael Cantor, renowned magician, perform at the event much to the delight of the crowd. Guests were thoroughly entertained while they shopped for books, toys, jewelry and crafts.

In addition to the vendors present, students from St. Bartholomew's Third Grade class manned two booths to benefit charities in the area. Abigail Canavan and Magdalena Robinson raised \$110 for the Greentree Shelter in Bethesda through their popcorn and pretzel sales. Greentree Shelter provides transitional housing and basic support for homeless families in our area. Jack Gallagher and Liza Jane TriandaFilou raised \$50 to support Breast Cancer Awareness through



Magician Michael Cantor, "Conjurer Extraordinaire," entertains at the annual St. Bartholomew Book Sale. Photo by Louise Canavan

their sales of paracord bracelets. This donation is in loving memory of Helen Wareham, a former St. Bartholomew teacher who died of breast cancer in December 2012. The school and church were proud and honored to support the children's initiatives.

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Celebrating Girl Scouts' Founder's Day

By MaryGrace Gagliardi, Junior Leader,
Girl Scout Troop 3567, St. Elizabeth School

All kids know that October ends with Halloween. Girl Scouts also know that Halloween is special because their founder, Juliette Low was born on that day. Every year, Girl Scouts come together to have Juliet Low celebrations. Forty-one St. Elizabeth Girl Scouts, ranging from Kindergarten to fourth grade had their celebration this year on Friday, October 18th.

Juliette Low thought it important for girls to know about first aid, and first aid became our celebration theme this year. Fourth Grade Junior Troop 3567 started the evening for everyone with a flag ceremony. The girls were then divided into three groups and rotated through three stations to earn their respective First Aid Badges. At the first station, Cadet Girl Scout Kristin D'Souza taught the girls the 3Cs--Check, Call and Care. She and her mother, Gwen D'Souza also helped the girls make personal first aid kits. At the second station, Dr. Rojack Tan and April Tan, RN. cautioned the girls about allergic reactions and instructed the girls on the uses of epi pens, pen size injectors for treating severe allergic attacks. At the last station, Junior



A small group of the Girl Scouts from Troop 3567 who participated in the celebration for Girl Scout Founder, Juliette Low. Junior Leader, MaryGrace Gagliardi, is in the background on the left.

Leader MaryGrace Gagliardi taught the girls the procedures for taking care of a sick child. They also participated in a relay race at the last station. After their last rotation, the girls gathered together to sing Girl Scout songs.

Then at last, our special guest, Sandra Araujo, an EMT (emergency medical technician) for over 10 years, arrived. The girls could barely contain their excitement. Sandra

described what she did in her job as EMT with the Kensington Volunteer Fire Department. She went through her whole bag of equipment with the girls, describing each item and how it was used.

At the end of the evening, April Tan and Anita DeMino were each presented with the Girl Scout Excellence in Volunteer award for their dedication to the girls of Junior Troop 3567.

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St. Elizabeth Collects Toiletries

In keeping with the focus on seniors in this issue of *Our Parish Times*, the St. Elizabeth community collected items for the residents of Jeanne Jugan Residence in Washington, D.C. Thousands of toiletries and the like were collected by the school community.



Congratulations to our St. Elizabeth Good Counsel Math Competition team who placed **FIRST** in this year's competition. L-R back: Thomas Penny, Patrick Howley, Connor Starkey, and Matthew Musselman; L-R front: Maggie Hansen and Kerry Pullano

Advent and Christmas at St. Elizabeth's

By Katheryn Swartz, Pastoral Associate

Here at St. Elizabeth's, we kicked off the season with a visit from Cardinal McCarrick, who presided at the 10:30am Mass, then blessed our brand new Visitation statues under our bell tower. And, of course, our Christmas tree stand is now open and doing a brisk business. Stand hours are noon to 9pm weekdays and 9am to 9pm both Saturday and Sunday. Fresh cut trees, wreaths, roping and other miscellaneous Christmas decorations may be purchased.

The seasonal penance service will take place on Monday, December 16th at 7:30pm and a



Visitation statues were blessed by Cardinal McCarrick on the first Sunday of Advent

number of priests will be available for those wishing to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Confessions will also be heard on Saturday, December 21 between 3:30 and 5pm and on Monday, December 23rd between 7 and 9pm. Our annual parish Christmas concert will take place on Sunday, December 22 at 2pm and all are welcome to attend.

The Mass schedule for Christmas includes a children's Mass at 5pm on Christmas Eve, followed by 7pm, 8:30pm and 11pm vigil Masses. Christmas carols will be sung beginning at 10:30pm to lead into the 11pm service. On Christmas Day, Masses will be celebrated at 9am, 10:30am and 12:15pm.

We all wish you and yours a blessed Advent and Christmas season!

OPT

Meeting Poverty Face-to-Face

By Jeannette Korczak,
St. Elizabeth parishioner

I recently returned from my second trip to the developing world to meet some of the children I sponsor through Compassion International (www.compassion.com), a Christian organization that has worked for the past 61 years to "release children from poverty in Jesus' name." It currently partners with local churches in 26 countries in Africa, Asia, Central America and the Caribbean, and South America to accomplish the organization's objectives. I sponsored my first Compassion child almost 5 years ago and currently sponsor five children, two in Ghana, two in Haiti, and one in



Jeanette Korczak and Juline during Fun Day at Club Indigo in Haiti

Bolivia. Through Compassion's sponsor tour program, I recently traveled to Ghana and Haiti to meet my original children there (Deborah in Ghana and Juline in

Haiti) and sponsor new children while on tour (Gloria in Ghana and Marie ("Nayline") in Haiti); next, Bolivia beckons me to meet my fifth child, Jhery.

Sponsor tours offer an opportunity to see the conditions of extreme poverty under which sponsored children live, where extended

families may share a single room that is mostly used for sleeping and storage of possessions, while most daily life activities, including cooking, take place outdoors.

Sponsorship allows children an opportunity to rise beyond their challenging circumstances, to learn about Christianity and develop spiritually, receive a regular education, medical care, and meals, and take part in social and recreational activities until they reach adulthood, thereby in the process, hopefully breaking the cycle of poverty. Both in Ghana

and Haiti, sponsors were provided ample evidence of these efforts in progress at several church-based child development centers.

There were also opportunities to sponsor and meet additional children while on tour, and I decided to sponsor Gloria during my Ghana tour and Nayline while in Haiti.

Of course, the main attraction for sponsors is the opportunity to meet the children and spend a "Fun Day" with them, strengthening relationships already developed through correspondence occurring prior to the tour. These "Fun Days" take place in park-like settings and include prayer

Continued on page 13



Gloria and Jeanette meet in Ghana

St. Elizabeth Parish
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Pastor
301-881-1380

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

Gerry Moore,
OPT Editor
202-887-6475

SSt. Patrick's Pre-Kindergarten (4+) Program

St. Patrick's School was established in 2004, and upon the success of our first kindergarteners graduating in 2013,

having truly grown up with us, it was decided that St. Patrick's should offer a Catholic education to younger siblings of our school families, young students in our parish, and to our neighbors at an even earlier age! In September 2014, St. Patrick's will welcome our littlest students! The hope would be that they grow in our loving, safe, nurturing, and faith-filled environment for ten more years and become a part of our community of excellence!

Want to learn more about the new pre-kindergarten (4+) program at St. Patrick's School, please join us for one of our open houses: Friday, January 10, and Friday, January 31, at 9:00 a.m.

OPT

St. Patrick's Parish

4101 Norbeck Road
Rockville, MD

Rev. Msgr. Kevin T. Hart
Pastor

301-924-2284

St. Patrick's School
Ms. Susan Splendido, Principal
301-929-9672

Richard Beiter, Parish Editor

301-460-3971

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mtbrhb@verizon.net

St. Elizabeth



On Friday, November 22, 2013, the preschool and kindergarten classes at St. Elizabeth School celebrated the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday with a feast of their own. Popcorn, chicken nuggets, holiday costumes, and a visit from Tom Turkey himself made the holiday festivities extra fun!



Our hugely successful fourth and fifth grade musical, *Consideration*, under the direction of Mr. Mark Crimans and Mr. Gregory Casement, made its debut before a student and parent audience on Wednesday, November 20, 2013. 44 students participated in this amazing production, comprised of songs, poems, and skits that encouraged kindness, acceptance, and consideration of others. Congratulations to the St. Elizabeth cast and crew of *Consideration*!

POVERTY

Con't from page 12

and play, lunch, recreation, and lots of opportunities for interaction. As you might expect, sponsors bring lots of gifts for their children and family members, with the children having a once-in-a-lifetime experience of feeling like "kings and queens for a day." Needless to say, this is also a rare opportunity

for sponsors as well, with only about 1% of the children having the chance to meet their sponsors face-to-face.

For me, these tours provided an exceptionally poignant and meaningful expression of faith in action. It was also an invaluable opportunity to further strengthen relationships with the children I sponsor. For more information about this ministry, Jeannette can be reached at korcakj@comcast.net.

OPT

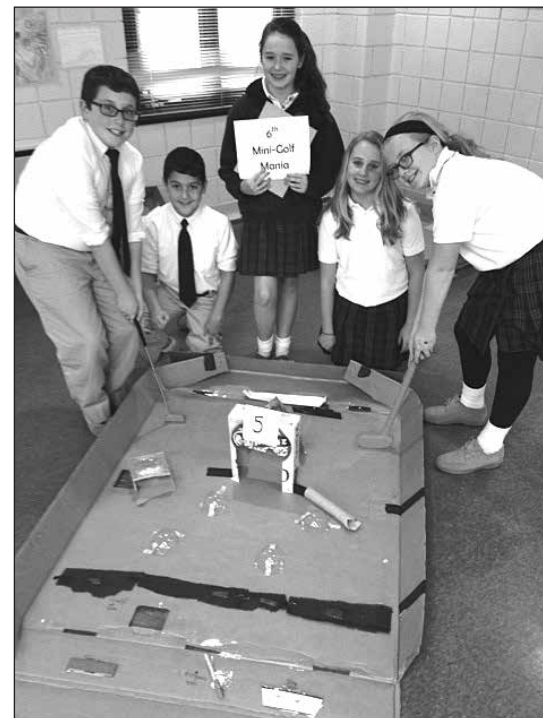
First Annual Invention Convention

As part of St. Patrick's initiative to promote hands-on learning and innovative thinking, we hosted our first ever Invention Convention Family Night on Monday, December 2. Some of the highlights included visiting the "Edible Inventions Hall of Fame," checking out the student invention display zone, and testing your luck with a Rube Goldberg wacky invention.

Students and parents were able to try their hands at launching a homemade catapult, making a toothbrush robot, and the most fun came from playing student designed cardboard arcade games. Our cardboard arcade games were created in school with very little teacher direction. Classes were all chal-



These third-grade friends have created this very cool robot at the first St. Pats Invention Convention.



These students proudly show off hole #5 in the mini golf course created by the whole sixth-grade class and made out of all recycled cardboard boxes!

lenged with the same task, worked in small groups, and given similar cardboard supplies to create amazing and working games that resemble those of real arcade games typically played on the beach boardwalks. Children enjoyed the morning creating and playing and the evening proudly showing off their game and their gift of creativity!

St. Patrick's has taken part in Caine's Arcade Global Cardboard Challenge. Caine's story has sparked a worldwide movement focusing on the importance of play in learning and we are very excited to be part of it.

OPT

PARISH CENTER

Con't from page 1

ity which can serve the growing and various demands of on-going functions for the entire parish community, as well as to accommodate same-time events, ministries and activities for 2500 families. The new building has been constructed on the pre-existing site of the former one-story structure which had been built, primarily, to provide a place to operate a School of Religion in 1968.

Design concepts have now incorporated the challenge of fulfilling all of those basic educational programs, plus ministerial programs and other added features of parish life in the 21st century. There are both large and small meeting rooms, plus additional office spaces and storage areas in a two-story structure. However, there's much more.

A centerpiece of the new facility will feature a large two-story, multi-purpose room for three-way use as a gymnasium, an auditorium with stage, and a large gathering space. A kitchen space, with warming-only equipment, adjoins that multi-purpose room for parish-related events. The area, however, is not currently intended to be used for rental activities.

The Funding and Process

An early and special gift of \$3.0 million provided an obviously-large and generous impetus to launching into this ambitious, but very needed 5.5 million project for the parish. At this point, approximately 75% of the required money has already been secured. The remaining amount is still forthcoming in the continuing process of pledges from

parishioners during the "Journey of Faith" campaign, which had been announced and set in motion by Msgr Kevin T. Hart only two short years ago.

Barbara Seligson and Dennis DiLizzio have coordinated the project from the firm of DiLizzio Architects and Planners. Bailey Sheibel Construction Company has served as primary contractor.

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LESSONS and CAROLS

All are invited to the Annual Festival of Lessons & Carols celebrated on Sunday, December 15, at 4:00 pm in the church.

The promise of the Messiah and the birth of Jesus as told in nine Scripture readings, with the singing of Christmas carols and hymns in English and Spanish by our Music Ministry choirs.

The service will be followed by light refreshments. All are welcome.

OPT



To the parish community of St. Catherine Labouré Church:

The love and support that you gave the Little Sisters of the Poor was a sign of your genuine Charity. The collection amounted to \$6,258.00. Your gifts are truly a sign of God's loving and caring Providence, which will help us provide the best possible care for many elderly in need who come to make

their Home with us. Thank you all!!

Our residents join with us in promising you our daily prayers for all your many intentions. God bless each and every one of you!

The Little Sisters of the Poor and Residents of the Jeanne Jugan Residence, Washington, DC.

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Advent Morning of Reflection *ALL Parishioners Invited*

Saturday, December 14, Russell Room, 9:30 AM – 12 Noon
Free – but registration advised

Join fellow parishioners in spiritual preparation for Christmas with scripture readings and reflections.

Bring your neighbors, friends and family to this short, intense preparation for the Christmas holy day. Help to strengthen your priorities with a half day of true spiritual reflection.

Continental breakfast at 9:30 AM. Mass at 8:30 AM, recommended but not required.

Sponsored by the Sodality for the SCL Community.

For more information contact: Lena Grayson, 301-942-8523, or Ellen-Jane Pairo, 301-933-3546.

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Volunteers needed!

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January 21 – 23, 2014

Would you like to help fight for life?

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Contact Stephanie at
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Celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe *Patroness of the Americas*

Join the celebration on Sunday, December 15. The SCL group will make a presentation at 10:00 am in the Claridge Room on the apparition of the Blessed Mother at Tepeyac Mountain in Mexico. After 12:30 PM Mass, we will conclude our celebration in the Claridge Room with traditional Mexican food and Mariachi music.

All are invited to come in traditional dress. With everyone's participation, this will be a grand celebration!

OPT

St. Francis International



Teachers and staff who came from St. Catherine Labouré School gather with Sr. Mary Gilbert and other Daughters of Charity after the special Mass at SFIS honoring St. Catherine Labouré and the Daughters of Charity. Photo by Javier del Angel, Franciscan Postulant

St. Catherine Labouré joins SFIS

By Ismael Hernandez-Cruz, Cap Corp Volunteer

Saint Francis International School serves a diverse community of students and parishes. This summer the school grew to include another parish and school: St. Catherine Labouré.

The Daughters of Charity founded St. Catherine Labouré's parish school in 1953. Most notably, this year would have been the sixtieth year of the parish school. The Daughters of Charity are well-known nationwide for their efforts to found schools and serve their communities through education. One of their founders, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, started the first Catholic school in the country. At St. Catherine Labouré, they used the parish school to teach students and guide them in their growth as students and children of God for many years.

Now, St. Catherine Labouré

Parish has joined the Saint Francis International School community to continue that mission. It becomes the fourth parish to support SFIS, joining St. Camillus, St. Mark the Evangelist, and Our Lady of Vietnam. SFIS has welcomed staff and students to the community, including Mrs. Patty Ruppert as Assistant Principal for Academics, Ms. Marcy Aguilar as a Pre-K 4 teacher, and Ms. Amy and Nurse Connie, who staff the health room. "I think the transition has gone very smoothly because Mr. Harkleroad, Brother Gerald, and Mrs. Galginaitis worked very closely with me in July and August to help me to get to know the school building, to get to know some of the teachers, to help me prepare for my responsibilities as the assistant principal," Mrs. Ruppert attests.

To commemorate this transition, Saint Francis hosted a special Mass celebrating the life of St. Catherine

Labouré and the legacy of the Daughters of Charity. At the school Mass, a student dressed up as St. Catherine Labouré, wearing the traditional habit of the Daughters of Charity. Sister Mary Gilbert, the last Daughter of Charity to serve as principal of St. Catherine Labouré School, spoke after Mass about their service to the school. All of the students received Miraculous Medals as well, and some have been seen in the following days and week still wearing them on their uniforms.

We at Saint Francis are excited about our new bond with St. Catherine Labouré. Mrs. Ruppert's first impression of Saint Francis was "that it was a very tight-knit community that included family, students, faculty, and staff." We hope to continue to this atmosphere of welcome in our growing SFIS community!

OPT

A Story about Stories: National Novel Writing Month

By Ismael Hernandez-Cruz,
Cap Corp Volunteer

The eighth graders at Saint Francis International School have become authors this past month, writing novels for the Young Writers' Program through National Novel Writing Month. This nationwide project allows students to write down the stories from their imagination and see their work turned into books.

The classes spent the final days of October preparing to begin writing. Mrs. Kara Cheek and Ms. Danina Garcia, the two language arts teachers at Saint Francis, walked them through the process of brainstorming and planning to write a story. Once the calendar reached November 1st, the clock starts: they must write ten thousand words before November 30th.

A week into the challenge, the students were doing well. Mrs. Cheek attested, "They're very excited about it at this point. They're having a lot of fun starting their story." One of her students, Sam Anyaibe, had gotten off to a particularly strong start. His story focused on a son whose father has just died and learns that he has inherited his father's kingdom. His favorite part of National Novel Writing Month was "getting to tell the world whatever you want to write about."

As National Novel Writing Month continued, the students' determination and drive were tested. However, the program

includes tools to motivate them. "The cool thing is: once they start hitting their 25% and 50% goals, they have badges they can earn, and they get bonus points for those badges," Mrs. Cheek described. "One of the fun motivators is that at a certain point they put their hand in a bag and pick out a problem and tells them something like include a hurricane in their story, and then they have to go in and add these things to their stories in order to get the badge and the bonus points."

The month closed with the students gearing up for the deadline. "The kids are experiencing the roller coaster of doing a creative project under a time crunch. From day to day, any given child is exhilarated and jumping up and down or grinding their teeth, stressed out. The next day will go right back in the other direction," observed Ms. Garcia. Luckily, the eighth graders had each other as a support system. Sarah McDuff actually chose this interaction as her favorite part: "The other people in my class have amazing writing skills, so it's really interesting to see what they write." The main character of her story is a girl battling cancer and trying to complete a bucket list before she loses her battle. "I think it's really fun," she added. "I like it because I've never written a book before, and this is a nice experience. I might do it again."

OPT

Celebrating Saint Francis

By Ismael Hernandez-Cruz,
Cap Corp Volunteer

Friday, October 4, was the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi. Here at Saint Francis International School, the entire week turned into a celebration of the popular saint's legacy. Different events for each age group allowed the students to learn about animals, Earth, or our school's patron saint.

The first events of the week were on Tuesday, and Saint Francis Week started out with a bang! Fourth through eighth grades participated in "Green Jeopardy," a series of activities all day, culminating in a game, similar to the popular television show, featuring questions about the environment. Mbatoma Kpolie, an eighth grader at Saint Francis, learned about the harm that hair-spray and foam cups do to the ozone layer of the atmosphere. "Saint Francis Week is all about how Saint Francis is the patron saint of ecology, and he also took care of some animals. We should also take care of the Earth and



SFIS Co-Principal Br. Gerald Hopeck watches as the Pre-K students experience farm animals up close in honor of the feast of St. Francis. Photo by Javier del Angel, Franciscan Postulant

what God has given us," she explains.

On the same day the two and three year olds in pre-kindergarten program had farm animals come to the school to visit them, giving the students the opportunity

to see and feel different creatures, such as an alpaca, a miniature horse, and a tortoise. "The students saw the importance of being gentle with the animals, pieces of God's creation, and, for many, this event was the first opportunity to see live farm animals instead of on television and in books," says Mrs. Jan Whitley, who teaches the three-year old students. "Especially on a beautiful day with the church in the background, we felt God's presence as this spiritual experience gave us insight into Saint Francis's love for nature."

Saint Francis Week also had some religious commemorations of the saint. The Feast Day Mass took place on Wednesday, and the homily focused on how we can be stewards of the world like Saint Francis.

On the Thursday evening, the Saint Francis International School Choir joined the St. Camillus Multicultural Choir to serve as the music ministry at the special Transitus prayer service which

Continued on page 32

Pat Bulman SFIS Volunteer of the Year

Pat Bulman started teaching at St. Camillus School in 1972, and Saint Francis is lucky that she is still serving our school community today. Over the years she has helped in numerous ways, blessing our students and staff with her presence.

Mrs. Bulman has been working and serving here for many years, but she is originally from Troy, NY, outside Albany. Her small family, with one sister and one brother, lived in this small community, very different from the D.C. metropolitan area in which she now works. After attending a Catholic high school and Nazareth College in Rochester, NY, Mrs. Bulman took classes towards her state certification at the State University of New York (SUNY) in Rockport. She taught fourth grade in a small school in the small town of Waterloo, NY, before returning to Rochester to teach middle school for two years.

Continued on page 32



Mrs. Pat Bulman, beloved volunteer at SFIS, serves ice cream as one of the many incentives she provides to help students get excited about helping to fundraise for the school through Box Tops for Education, Coke Rewards, and Labels for Education. Photo by Javier del Angel, Franciscan Postulant

St. Francis International School

www.saintfrancisinternational.org

Tobias A. Harkleroad,
Principal

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For Further Information Please Call 301-942-3701, ext. 100

**In case of inclement weather, the Annual Open House will be Wednesday, February 12.*

Academics across the Curriculum!

By Michelle Ardillo

Holy Redeemer Spanish Teacher Señora Cofiño reports that the Holy Redeemer Spanish students have been hard at work thus far this year. Fifth graders have done research on the Explorers while sixth graders researched the cultures of the Aztec, Mayans, and Incan civilizations. Seventh graders worked on learning more about the history of Spanish speaking countries while the eighth grade worked on the lives of the saints in preparation for receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in May.

Fifth-grade teacher Mrs. Anita Woll and her class of student scientists created "solar cookers" on the front lawn of the school. Once the construction was complete, students then made "s'mores" using their energy efficient ovens. Mrs. Woll's class also earned distinction



5A making s'mores with their solar cookers

at the school's recent book fair, raising the most money of any class in the school!

On October 21, 2013, six eighth-grade students participated along with thirteen other local middle school math teams in the 40th

Annual Good Counsel Math Contest, placing seventh in the contest. For the competition, students completed a 45-minute challenging written test without the aid of a calculator. Participants Ally Bonavia, Alex Matta, Teresa Rozier, Grace Walsh, Konrad Wampler, and Devin Willsey attended the math competition held at Good Counsel High School along with Holy Redeemer middle school math teachers Mrs. Linda Grant and Mrs. Lisa Capobianco. Future math team member Brooks Capobianco attended with his mom! Social time after the test allowed students to enjoy some refreshments and chat with other teams while the tests were being scored. Teachers were able to discuss their individual programs and share resources with other instructors while students were taking the exams.

OPT



5A wins Holy Redeemer book fair contest!

Service to Others, a Priority at Holy Redeemer

By Michelle Ardillo

The entire Holy Redeemer student body worked together during the month of November on a school-wide Thanksgiving food drive to benefit families served by the food pantry at St. Camillus located in Langley Park, Maryland. Students in each class were assigned specific food items to bring in so that each classroom filled a box of staples for two different families. The school food drive brought in enough food to supply 26 different families with food for a complete Thanksgiving meal. Students also brought in monetary donations so that turkeys could be purchased by the food pantry for each of the boxes. Each family also



Members of HR Religious Life Committee making trail mix for S.O.M.E.

received a \$30 grocery store gift card. Delivery of the filled boxes was accomplished with the help of

Mrs. Colleen Ryan, HR Principal, and HR parishioners Mr. David

Continued on page 34

November the Month of Saints at Holy Redeemer

By Michelle Ardillo

Third and fourth graders at Holy Redeemer recently completed research on saints, using biographies, reference books, and Catholic saint websites. Each student was assigned a saint to research and learn about. The projects completed by the students were displayed in the hallways and garnered quite a bit of attention, especially the full-size portraits of saints done by the third graders, such as third grader Milena Coiliani who was assigned St. Camillus de Lellis.



HR 3A Student Milena Colaiani with her portrait of St. Camillus de Lellis

OPT

Our Lady of Lourdes Eighth Grade Students, Mrs. Stallsmith, Monsignor Filardi and Father Michael with the Little Sisters of the Poor and Cardinal Baum.



Eighth Graders Collect for Little Sisters of the Poor

During the month of November the eighth grade students put boxes in every classroom at Lourdes. They distributed lists to the classes of items that they should bring in for the Little Sisters of the Poor. Students filled and refilled their boxes with salad dressings, paper towels, soaps, lotions and more. On Monday, November 25, the eighth graders consolidated all the items and loaded up the bus.

Many families brought in frozen turkeys and hams for the Little Sisters, too. These items sat on the seats with the students as they traveled downtown to deliver their

goods. After the students had unloaded everything, and filled the Sisters' pantry and freezers, Monsignor Filardi and Father Michael joined them, the Little Sisters and their residents for a wonderful Mass.

One of the highlights of this trip each year is the opportunity the students have to meet and visit with Cardinal Baum. At this time of Thanksgiving, the students of Lourdes are so grateful for the gift of the Little Sisters of the Poor in our community. They care for those who have no one else to care for them, and they provide us with a model of true charity.

OPT

What Makes the Difference?

What is it about Catholic schools that makes the difference? Montgomery County schools are known for their challenging academic programs, their beautifully renovated facilities, their programs for gifted and talented youth and their academic support services. So, when parents come to us and ask, "Why should I send my child to a Catholic school where I have to pay tuition, when the nearby elementary school is free, has good teachers, a nice library and high test scores?" how do we answer?

While Catholic schools in the Washington area have outstanding test scores, talented, dedicated and certified teachers and nice libraries, too, none of those are good enough reasons to choose them. Some parents say they choose Catholic schools for the "discipline", and the "order" they see in the hallways and the classrooms. We don't, though, want to be known for our discipline or our quiet hallways. There's more to us than test scores, teachers, discipline and academics.

What makes the difference is

Continued on page 33

A Food Fast With Some Twists and Turns

On Friday, November 22, Middle School students and several teachers came together to perform service, to learn and to pray. After breakfast that morning, the students began their fast. When the other students were in the cafeteria for lunch, sixth, seventh and eighth graders loaded onto the Long Summer Bus and headed off to Rock Creek Park where they picked up trash and garbage. One enthusiastic trash-hunter fell into some muddy water, but otherwise, the clean up was a great success. The children and their teachers returned to school where they sorted and organized the coats for our coat drive, and made

sure every coat had a prayer in the pocket. They then played manhunt to keep their minds off of their grumbling stomachs. Later in the evening, they talked with Mr. Long

Continued on page 33

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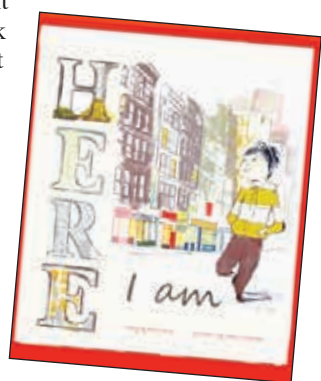
Local Author Visits St. Bernadette School

Local author Patti Kim presented her children's book "Here I Am" to the kindergarten, first and second grades this past week at Saint Bernadette's. Kim's book recently reviewed by the New York Times tells the tale of a new child in a new land.

The St. Bernadette School children were immersed in the story and had great points to make and great questions to ask. Kim, a resident of University Park wrote the story that mirrors her coming to America experience. Kim says "after reading to the children all afternoon I nearly lost my voice but they were so wonderful." The very weekend after her reading Kim attend-



Local author Patti Kim pictured with second grade students at Saint Bernadette's.



ed the St. Bernadette's Holiday Marketplace where the children sought her out for an autographed book copy. Kim's also mentioned that one mom cried reading the book cover to cover at the vendor fair. "That was overwhelming," she said.

OPT

First Annual Fund a Success for SBS

"The 2013 Annual Fund was a true success! Thanks to all who generously donated to last year's Annual Fund. We exceeded our goal!" said Shelby Wittier, Director of Development, "While we would have welcomed more school family participation, 54% participation isn't too shabby for our first year." Wittier credits not only the parent community, but also the St. B's alumni must be acknowledged with the Class of 1962 contributing over \$1,400 to the Annual Fund.

The Science Lab renovation was completed over the summer in record time. The project stayed on schedule, thanks to our tireless Vice-Principal, Ted Ewanciw. After some demolition work, completed by St. B's Dad Nick DeSarno



Eighth grader Olivia McCullough, enjoys the Science Lab, which was funded via the school's 2013 Annual Fund.

of Rock Spring Contracting, LLC, new flooring and cabinets were installed for a fresh, modern

look. St. B's parent David Fricke of EcoElectric, completed some extensive electrical updates in the lab. The icing on the cake, carpentry and painting, were provided by St. B's Dads, Mike Mullally, Byrne Peake and Mike Sippel. Thank you to all who made this renovation possible!

Students were excited to use the renovated Science Lab when they were welcomed back to school in August. St. B's middle school Science teacher, Mrs. Gina Riazzi, was able to purchase new spring scales, hot plates, graduated cylinders, pulleys, dissecting, scissors, spectroscopes, prisms, thermometers, disposable gloves and more. The lab will now enable the students to perform more physics and chemistry experiments.

OPT

Making a Stronger St. Bernadette CYO Brick-Buy-Brick

Since the 1950s, thousands of St. Bernadette parish children have participated in the *Catholic Youth Organization (CYO)* athletic programs. Promoting good sportsmanship, perfecting athletic skills, and building outstanding character within a faith-based community have been the hallmark of our successful CYO sports program.



Families have been meeting up at St. Bernadette's Snack Shack for close to 50 years.

While some of the details aren't exact, it was in the late 1960s, when parishioner **Glenn Hilliard** recognized the need for parish youth to practice and play on a "home" sports field. The original Snack Shack was set up and operated by the Maureen Billerbeck for more than eight years. Later, the **Fernando Adami** family also stepped

Continued on page 30

St. B's Students Embrace Service to Others

Entering into its third year in existence, Greater Love is St. Bernadette's program to encourage student participation with charitable works for those in need in both our local and global communities. "The primary goal of our program is to involve students in helping their commu-



nity as well as learning compassion and gratitude by being exposed to those less fortunate than themselves." Said Kate Rodgers, Greater Love's Parent Liaison, "The name Greater Love comes from John

15:13, *Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.* To ensure the success of the program, we collected ideas from the students themselves

about projects they would like to do." This year, the activities are integrated the various projects within the SBS House program. SBS House Families within each House have selected an activity to sponsor and facilitate. This way, every student in the school will have an opportunity to participate.

"We have had a busy fall! Of our 24 activities planned for the school year, we have completed nine so far!" Rodgers reported. "We

Continued on page 19



SBS student member of Greater Love sort and package candy and handmade cards for shipment to members of the US Military serving in Afghanistan.

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Pastor

301-593-0357

St. Bernadette School
Mrs. Wood, Principal
301-593-5611

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

**More St. Bernadette
News on Page 30**

The St. Mary's Running Club participated in the Rockville 10K/5K on November 3rd. Over 30 runners of all ages took to the streets including (L to R) Miles Gilroy, Drew Bell, Sean Gilroy, Pat Bell, Casey Gilroy and Colin Bell. Organizer Karen Gilroy designed the light blue t-shirts for the running club formed in honor of the Parish Bicentennial.



Pictured above, the kindergarten class performed their annual Thanksgiving play on Thursday, November 21. The entire school was treated to pie and ice cream to celebrate that very first gathering. Half of the class wore Indian costumes and the other Pilgrims to honor the traditional feast. At right, Kindergartener Paige Kaluzienski as a Pilgrim.



St Mary's By the Numbers

The school and parish have coordinated several outreach campaigns recently:

- Filled 50 Thanksgiving baskets for Rockville FISH
- Donated 50 Giant Food Gift Cards
- Gave 115 coats to a Title I local school
- Packed and Mailed 118 Shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child
- Created 400 tags for the parish Advent giving tree for local charities
- Distributed 5000 bags to kick off parish participation in the Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive

OPT

SERVICE

Con't from page 18

have held bake sales and tag days raising an impressive \$3,500 to support various causes including: Breast Cancer, victims of the typhoon in the Philippines, the local homeless as well as our particularly special, community connected LilaBean Foundation for Pediatric Cancer research. We collected

our extra Halloween Candy and shared it with two groups very much in need of care packages: a military unit of troops currently deployed in Afghanistan as well as the Carroll House Homeless Shelter for Men right here in Silver Spring." The SBS Greater Love program's most recent project included school-wide participation as students created 28 complete Thanksgiving dinners for donation to McKenna's Kitchen in Washington.

OPT

Bicentennial Gala Huge Success

By Maureen Stiles

Manor Country Club in Rockville was transformed by a sea of St. Mary's blue in honor of the parish's Bicentennial Gala on November 9th. A sell-out crowd dined, caught up with old friends and danced the night away to the sounds of "The Fabulous Hub Caps", the featured performers.

What made this event so unique is that a true cross section of parishioners, representing many generations, attended allowing new families to mingle with long-time St. Mary's members when they otherwise may never have had the opportunity to meet.

The Bicentennial Steering Committee headed by Mr. and Mrs. George Griffin, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Funkhouser, and Mr. and Mrs. Victor Muzzatti has spent the better part of a year planning events.

"The parish has embraced this celebration of 200 years of faith in our community and the parishioners are taking part in many bicentennial events like the Gala," said George Griffin.

Karen Gilroy is leading the effort for the Bicentennial Social Committee and the feedback from the Gala has been very positive. "Folks had such a good time that they requested that we do it again and not wait for a special occasion," adds Griffin.

Attendees received commemorative wine glasses as favors but it is the food, friendship and faith that guests will be toasting for years to come.

OPT

St. Mary's Parish
520 Veirs Mill Road
Rockville, MD

Msgr. Robert Amey,
Pastor
301-424-5550

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

Maureen Stiles, Parish Editor
301-990-4329

Casey Aiken

Attorney at Law

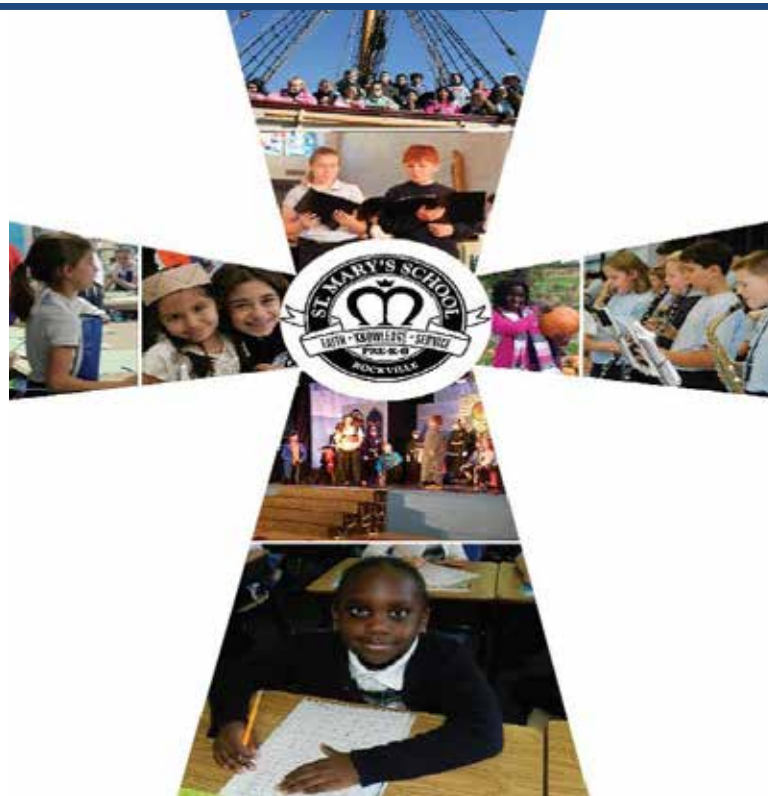


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Our Lady of Mercy Helps Homeless

Sixth graders proudly display their banner at the annual Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Mini-Walk, hosted by Our Lady of Mercy sixth grade class. Each year Fannie Mae awards a grant to the sixth grade charity, Interfaith Works. The walk is a kick off for the sixth grade homeless shelter project, directed by teacher Jenny Nachbar, which concludes with students serving a week of dinners at the Community Based Shelter in Rockville.

Potomac Day Parade

Mercy students proudly represent their school in the annual 2013 Potomac Day Parade. Pictured L to R: Bridget Bayles, Erin Dougherty, Gryphon Breckstein, Josie Finnell, Ryan Breckstein, and Tess Bayles



Eucharistic Ministers at Mercy

Several times a week, Eucharistic Ministers serve the Catholic population at several facilities for the elderly in the Potomac area under the leadership of Trina Hope. Frequent visits are made to Byron House, an assisted living facility which is located on the parish grounds, and Manor Care a nearby nursing home. Byron house has a communion service on Monday and Wednesday and a Mass is celebrated there on Friday. There are also several residents who walk across the parking lot to attend Mass on Sunday, and a few who attend daily Mass at Mercy. Five Eucharistic Ministers serve Byron House. Manor Care is a large facility where sixteen Eucharistic Ministers serve on a rotating basis. A weekly communion service takes place on Sunday and Mass is celebrated on Tuesday.

Another nursing home, Emeritus, has a communion service three times a month and Mass once a month. Eight Eucharistic Ministers serve the facility on a rotating basis.

Senior housing in the area is served by four Eucharistic Ministers. Lakeview has a communion service once a month and a Mass is celebrated at Victory Housing once a week.

Alzheimer's residences are also served. Arden Court has in room communion. Hillwood House and Rebecca House are also visited on an as needed basis depending on whether Catholics are in residence.

There is a team of 10 Eucharistic Ministers who visit the home bound. This service is not limited to the elderly, but is in place to serve anyone who cannot leave home to attend Mass. Cynthia Chappelle is the contact person for this group. She stated, "One of our youngest ministers has been visiting a couple every week for three years, ever since she was a new EM. I am so proud of her. There are times when I try to discover who is close to the parishioner and ask them to visit. Once, I put a team together so a woman received communion three times a week for four years. I am also always surprised to learn that friends and neighbors just step up and do it themselves."

The faith of seniors in the Mercy community is nurtured by many dedicated people.

Our Lady of Mercy Parish
9200 Kentsdale Drive
Potomac, MD

Rev. Msgr. William English
Pastor
301-365-1415

Our Lady of Mercy School
Ms. Joan Hosmer
301-365-3104

Gerry Burgess, OPT Editor
301-330-5676

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Mercy Student Council Supports Breast Cancer Research Foundation

Mercy students enjoyed a pink free dress day while supporting the Breast Cancer Research Foundation at the same time. Students who donated \$2.00 to dress in pink received an Estee Lauder gift bag, thanks to the generosity of Mercy parent Alison Morrison, a managing director at Estee Lauder. Eighth grade students filled each gift bag with a pink ribbon, breast cancer awareness information, and a small sample of products. Above Mercy eighth graders (L to R) Clare Richards and Anthony Falcone deliver bags to classrooms.



Mercy Students Commit to Help Others

In a major school-wide project, the "Cup of Joe" Breakfast Program created by Catholic Charities, eighth grade students guide prayer partner grades K and 4, 3 and 7 as they assemble bag breakfasts for low barrier shelter residents (residents who are given shelter between 7 PM and 7 AM) who currently receive one meal in the evening. Mercy students have made a commitment to provide breakfast for Dorothy Day House in Rockville, a shelter for abused women, one week per month throughout the school year. Eventually, participation in the program will filter down to all primary grades when students work with their younger prayer partners to create the bags. Mercy prayer partners (L to R) Cross Pratapas, Dutch Hahn, Harrison Hall, and Patricio Fraga-Errecart prepare bag breakfasts.



Mercy Students Attend Book Signing

Mercy second grader Peggy Lannan proudly looks on as famed author and illustrator Tomie dePaola signs a copy of his newest book *Stregna Nona Does it Again*. A group of Mercy students attended the after-school book signing at Cabin John Mall in Potomac.

Caritas Ceremony

Three volunteers from the Mercy community were honored at the Caritas Ceremony for Catholic Charities Volunteer Recognition. Dr. Constance Battle who has volunteered at the Kennedy Institute's Early Head Start Program for over five years, Dr. Paul Melluzzo who has volunteered at the Catholic Charities Medical Clinic since 2006 and Joan Glasgow a volunteer with the SHARE Food Network. Congratulations and thank you for supporting the health, welfare and faith of our community.

OPT

More Our Lady of Mercy News on Page 30



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St. Raphael School News

By Nora Stephens

The holiday season is upon us, which means the halls of St. Raphael School are about to be lined with bulletin boards decorated with Christmas scenes and filled with the sounds of sweet voices preparing for the annual pageant. December is such a joyous

Manor Country Club in memory of our late pastor, raised thousands of dollars for our Educational Building fund. It is a wonderful event for our entire church community, but the students play a special role. Each participant receives a handwritten card from a student as a special note of thanks for helping to make Fr. Bill's dream a reality.

Feast Fit for a King...or a Serf

Capping off a fascinating signature unit about the Middle Ages in England, the fourth grade hosted a Medieval Feast with their families. Students dressed in a variety of costumes ranging from queens to knights to lowly serfs and explained their roles within the feudal system to guests. Later, everyone enjoyed a wonderful lunch comprising foods most commonly enjoyed by people of that era. Thankfully, this feast had the added benefits of such modern conveniences as electricity and heated buildings!

A Push for the Maryland Education Credit

Our student council represented St. Raphael School in November at a local legislative open house, aimed to introduce state legislators to the Maryland Education Credit, which will provide a tax credit to businesses that donate to nonprofit organizations that support public and nonpublic school students. The student council members spoke to legislators about how St. Raphael School participates in the community at large.

Giving Thanks

Thanksgiving was celebrated with a beautiful school-wide Mass before break. The youngest students took turns coming up to the altar and placing a piece of fruit in a basket, symbolizing the bounty that we have in our lives as well as the need to support others less fortunate. Every year, St. Raphael Church participates in a collection to benefit our twin parish, St. Martin's

Continued on page 23

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Eighth graders Schuyler Johns, Emily May, and Megan Witt represent St. Raphael School at the Legislative Open House at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School.

time of year, and we are all happy to be together as a school community celebrating the Advent season.

Picture Perfect Golf Classic

The Fr. Bill Finch Memorial St. Raphael Golf Classic was another rousing success. October's annual event, held at

Raising Breast Cancer Awareness

In early October, our school held its first tag day of many throughout the year when the student body wore pink for breast cancer awareness. As is the tradition at SRS, in lieu of a monetary donation, students "pay" for an out-of-uniform day by bringing in a canned good that is donated to Stepping Stones Shelter.

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Thanksgiving Blessing Baskets

St. Raphael Church is proud to have a special relationship of 25 years with St. Martin of Tours, our twin parish in Washington, D.C. Ursula and Larry Boesch have been volunteering on the "twinning committee" for 19 years and each year work hard to help make Thanksgiving a memorable one for parishioners in need.

This year, the Boesch's helped coordinate the Blessing Baskets that were delivered to St. Martin's. These baskets included a dona-

tion of 359 turkeys and 300 bags of food. The Sunday before the holiday, volunteers assemble the bags at St. Raphael to be delivered to the District. The next day, Fr. Michael Kelley, pastor of St. Martin's, distributes the turkeys and the blessing "bags" to families in the community.

Ursula Boesch says that the day before Thanksgiving, volunteers at St. Raphael collect cooked turkeys, gravy and pies to be served at a holiday feast after a morning Thanksgiving Mass at St. Martin's. People from both parishes join together to serve the guests of this wonderful community meal. Ursula mentioned that one of the most special things about this meal is that people of all ages participate in this annual tradition. From teenagers to senior citizens, everyone comes together to work as a team, and as extensions of each other's parishes, to make it a memorable holiday. Members of our community who were in need during this season were able to enjoy a delicious, traditional meal and others had the opportunity to give back by spending part of their holiday serving others.

St. Raphael Church thanks Ursula and Larry Boesch for all they did to make this tradition happen again in 2013, and for coming in at the end of the meal to clean up and put everything in the St. Martin's kitchen back in its original place.

OPT

St. Raphael Parish St. Raphael School

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Rockville, MD

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www.straphaelschoolmd.org
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On the Road to Discover a Rich Catholic Heritage

The first of two installments about St. Michael the Archangel Sodality's Year of Faith Pilgrimage Series

St. Michael the Archangel Sodality journeyed to four parishes designated by the Archdiocese of Washington as pilgrimage churches for the Year of Faith and learned a great deal about the early Church and the roots of

Catholicism in this country. The culmination of the Series occurred on November 17, 2013, with a bus trip to locations in southern Maryland. Each pilgrimage included Sunday Mass, and the pilgrims enjoyed sharing with the local parishioners that they were visiting during the Year of Faith.

The Sodality initiated its Year of Faith Pilgrimage Series in the

summer with a car caravan to the Franciscan Monastery, where a group of about ten Sodalists were delighted on arrival to see colorful banners proclaiming the Year of Faith on the lamp posts near the Monastery. They experienced Mass, a visit to the grotto and gardens, prayer of the Rosary in the Monastery portico, and a tour of the catacombs to relive the persecution and endurance of the early Church. During the walks and climbs through the grounds on a hot, muggy day, as well as to the underground catacombs, the Sodalists experienced a small sacrifice and recalled this is part of a pilgrimage of faith.

This inaugural visit was followed by pilgrimages in subsequent months to Sacred Heart Church in Bowie and St. Mary's Church in Rockville, both of which, like the Franciscan Monastery, were among the churches designated by the Archdiocese as pilgrimage churches for the Year of Faith. In July, a small group visited Sacred Heart Church, first stopping at the original church built about 1741. The Sodalists discovered that this Chapel is still in use for weekday Masses, and they saw the cemetery which goes back to the 1700s. The group of four marveled at the

fact that the Catholic faith persisted in Maryland through the use of private chapels like Sacred Heart when it was illegal to be a Catholic. A drive up the road took the Sodalists to the current church site. The pastor Monsignor Charles Parry invited the group to enjoy their visit. They prayed after Mass and noted the inspirational stained glass windows which portrayed several Saints of the Church. Each Saint's name was etched in the multi-hued glass, although many could be known by their appearance and the theological symbols associated with them. A couple of the Sodalists then explored the road leading from the rear of the church to the outdoor Stations of the Cross, which were portrayed in settings of large stone monuments. Descending further along the road quite a distance, the pair arrived at the grotto of Our Lady of Rock Springs built in 1856 after the apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes in 1854, inspired by that miraculous event. Another pilgrimage drew to an end with many blessings.

The following month Sodalists traveled to St. Mary's Church where Monsignor Robert Amey is the pastor. This parish was canonically established in 1813 and is the oldest

church still in use in Rockville. After Mass, the group enjoyed speaking with the priest who was principal celebrant and homilist. Much of the original church remains today, and a bronze plaque in front of the historic church informed the visitors that St. Mary's became the church from which other up-county mission churches sprang, quite a testimony to St. Mary's role in the spread of the faith. The original church seats 150 people. The pilgrims visited the quiet cemetery next to the historic church. They wondered what parishioners might have seen from the church steps in those early days, where now a traffic-filled Rockville Pike is only a short distance away.

OPT



Fr. Saulo and some of the staff from St. Michael's parish wish you all a Merry Christmas and hope to see you at St. Michael's services in December. For the complete Advent and Christmas Week schedule, visit www.stmichaelarc.org. (Absent: Msgr. Tolentino, Deacon Ron Ealey, Deacon Carlos Hernandez, Deacon Stephen Frye and Kitty Ealey)

St. Michael's Parish

805 Wayne Avenue
Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Msgr. Eddie Tolentino,
Pastor

301-589-1155

Joanie Heavey,
OPT Editor

301-5891155 ext. 21

Mother Seton

Seton Seniors: A Social and Spritual Organization

Mother Seton Parish's Seton Seniors is a social and spiritual organization. All members of Mother Seton Parish over the age of 50 are welcome to join this church ministry. Non-Catholics, who are spouses of church members, and non-parishioners - Catholic or non-Catholic - are also welcome to join. Non-Catholics must be sponsored by a member of the Seton Seniors. We currently have about 60 members.

The Seton Seniors meet on the second Wednesday of each month from September to May. This meeting consists of a business meeting and luncheon and an educational speaker or entertainment. Speakers for our business meetings come from diverse backgrounds, such as health professionals, financial experts, travel guides, community volunteer workers, prison guards, just to name a few. In June, we go to the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Basilica in Emmitsburg, where we have Mass, venerate her relic, and have the installation of our officers for the upcoming year. We then attend our



The Seton Seniors had a big turnout recently for their first meeting of the year. Membership is open to everyone age 50 and over. Monthly meetings feature a speaker and lunch. It's a great way to make new friends!

final luncheon for the year.

The fourth Wednesday of each month is our social outing. Our social outings include attending various theaters in Olney, Frederick, and Lancaster, Pa. One of our favorites is the Sight & Sound Theatre - the nation's largest professional Christian theatrical company. You can experience great stories of the Bible through spectacular shows

filled with gifted actors, elaborate sets up to 40 feet high, hundreds of costumes, live animals and incredible special effects. In May 2014 we will be seeing "Moses". This month, we have a Christmas luncheon with music, singing and a gift exchange.

A majority of our members participate in other church ministries such as the funeral committee, Arimatheans, lectors, choir,

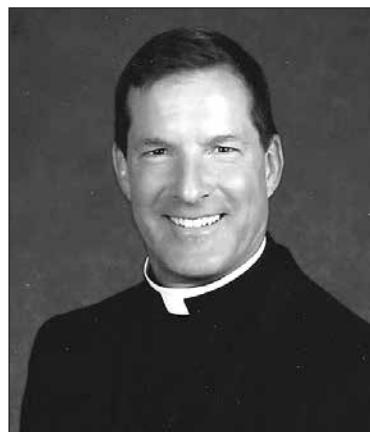
Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Guild, Sodality, and the Knights of Columbus. Even though we are seniors we strive to remain active physically and mentally.

We have given monetary donations to charitable organization such as Germantown Help and others. Recently we initiated a project called "Operation Gratitude". Our seniors will be sending letters and parcels to troops around the world. Our small contribution expresses our deep appreciation of the sacrifices that our Armed Forces endure during their service time overseas.

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

If you are interested in joining the Seton Seniors, please contact the Mother Seton Parish office, 301-924-3838.

OPT



Fr. Lee Fangmeyer

Fr. Lee Fangmeyer, New Pastor of Mother Seton Parish

Mother Seton parishioners warmly welcomed Fr. Lee Fangmeyer as our new pastor when he arrived Nov. 13, 2013. Fr. Fangmeyer was formerly pastor of St. Michael's Parish in Ridge, Maryland, and also previously served as pastor of St. Francis of Assisi in Derwood. Prior to that, he directed the archdiocesan Office of Youth Ministry and served as associate pastor at the Shrine of St. Jude in Rockville.

Fr. Fangmeyer is a Washingtonian, a graduate of Our Lady of Good Counsel High School when it was still located in Wheaton. A graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park, he attended Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg. Fr. Fangmeyer was ordained in 1989 in the same class as Bishop Barry Knestout and our former pastor, Fr. Ron Potts.

OPT

NEWS

Con't from page 22

in Washington, D.C. Our school has an additional, smaller collection to provide complete Thanksgiving dinners to the wonderful people on our maintenance staff. Right before break, the eighth-graders gathered together to assemble boxes filled with all the fixings necessary for the

traditional Thanksgiving feast.

Luncheon for Special Guests

Another highlight of December is our annual Mother Teresa luncheon, held this year on Dec. 10. The Sisters of Mercy accompany people in need to the St. Raphael campus for a Christmas lunch and also give them personal necessities to take with them. The middle school students serve the meals to our most

special guests, and students provide musical entertainment as well. It is without question one of the loveliest days of the year.

Winter Coat Drive

St. Raphael School is proud to be a participant in The Coats of Many Colors Drive. During December, students are collecting coats for children, women and men in need. The students write messages and

slip them in the pockets for the people who receive the coats. This is an archdiocese and Catholic Charities joint initiative. If you have a coat that you would like to donate, please deliver it to the school lobby at 1513 Dunster Road in Rockville by Dec. 19. "I needed clothes, and you clothed me." ~ Matthew 25:36

The students, faculty, and staff of St. Raphael School wish you and yours a blessed Christmas season.

OPT

Mary of Nazareth School Open House Schedule

Thursday
October 10, 2013
9am-11am

Sunday
January 26, 2014
1pm - 3pm

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

Principal: Mr. Michael J. Friel

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

Mary of Nazareth
OPT Editor: Heather Long,
301-869-0940 ext. 6

Website:

www.maryofnazareth.org

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Barnesville; St. Rose of Lima, Gaithersburg;
St. Paul, Damascus; Our Lady of the
Presentation, Poolesville; Our Lady of the
Visitation, Darnestown.

By Megan McGregor, Mary of Nazareth
Kindergarten Teacher

November 3rd was the Western Maryland's Walk to Defeat ALS, the ALS Association's largest annual fundraiser. It brings people together to celebrate the spirit of hope for those living with ALS and their families. I was honored to walk with so many to bring awareness and raise money to make a difference in the fight against Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Last year, since I taught a student whose father was battling ALS, I decided to join the walk in his honor. This year, there was an outpouring of support from Mary of Nazareth families and it was an amazing experience. Many school families, friends, and co-workers joined to support not just the Schaefer family, but everyone who has been touched by ALS.

The Schaefers are one amazing family. I am truly blessed to know them and to have them as a part



Mary of Nazareth School community members walk to make a difference in the fight against ALS.

of my life. Even though I am the educator, they are the ones who have taught me so much. Most importantly, they have taught me to live for the now and to enjoy every minute that you have. With this motto, I decided that I could give back to the family by organizing the Frederick, Maryland walk for our

team, All Love & Support.

Amazingly, our Mary of Nazareth School team was comprised of over 150 individuals and raised more than \$10,000 in hopes of finding a cure for those battling ALS. More importantly, I was able to raise awareness within our own school community, and begin a wonderful

new tradition that I hope will continue to grow each year. I am very thankful for the love and support that was shared with me as we made a difference in the lives of others. I am already looking forward to next year's walk. Remember, live for the NOW and enjoy ALL the minutes that you have

OPT

Celebrating Our Community of Givers

By Michael Friel, Mary of Nazareth School
Principal

Friday, November 22, I had the honor of attending the Catholic Business Network annual Gala with Mr. and Mrs. Sweeney and Mr. and Mrs. Virkar.

It was a wonderful evening celebrating Kristin Sweeney and Hemant Virkar as the 2013 Mary

of Nazareth School Volunteer and Business Partner of the Year.

Mrs. Sweeney, our Volunteer of the Year, has worked tirelessly, year after year, to serve our faculty, staff and students. As her youngest child is graduating this spring, it is the perfect send off for someone who has committed herself to our community in every possible way. Mr.

Virkar, our Business Partner of the Year, was the donor of the iPad lab for the students and assisted with the transformation of our computer lab. He also wrote the software and implemented the use of a new carpool application that has significantly improved our accuracy and efficiency of daily dismissal.

We are pleased to announce that

Mr. Hemant Virkar was selected as the overall Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County Business Partner of the Year – what an amazing achievement! When asked about how fulfilling this achievement is to him, Mr. Virkar responded, "My father would always say that giving is generative.

Continued on page 29

Mary of Nazareth

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Math Olympics

By Caroline Isaacs, Mary of
Nazareth Second Grade Teacher

Long jump, discus throw, high jump, shot put and javelin were all part of the "athletic" fun at Mary of Nazareth School's Math Olympics held this fall in second grade. Our students received a gold medal in learning how to measure distances while thoroughly enjoying themselves.

Both second-grade classes competed in the Math Olympics, a rigorous pentathlon of measurement. After creating number lines that would help the students to measure their various accomplishments in each event, they put their brains, and their bodies, to work! Our Olympians worked together to measure the different lengths in inches in all five events. In the long jump, students jumped as far as they could



Mary of Nazareth second grade students, Noah Englebrecht and Dylan Rosia, compete in the long jump event.

and logged their distance. The athletes then jumped as high as they could next to a vertical number line for the high jump. The discus throw required the students to throw a paper bowl in a straight line, a feat much easier said than accomplished. Finally, they concluded their Olympiad by competing in the shot put and javelin events where they threw a puff ball and a straw, respectively, as far as they could.

Not only did the students have an exciting day of mathematics, but they also demonstrated excellent teamwork and cooperation.

In each event, one athlete would complete the activity, such as throwing the "discus", while their teammates would hurry to measure the distance that had been achieved. All of our athletes finished with a winning smile. Congratulations to all our gold medal winners.

OPT

2013 MoN Geography Bee Finalists

Mary of Nazareth School held its third Annual Geography Bee on Monday, November 18. All students in grades 4-8 competed in their classrooms and the winning student from each of the eight home-rooms will compete in the final school-wide competition on Wednesday, December 18.

Congratulations to this year's semi-finalists: Frank Brown (4-1), Harrison Cerone (4-2), Reilly Vich (5-1), Alex Castro-Conroy (5-2), Julia Nonnenkamp (6-1, 2012 Finalist), Jim Juhring (6-2), Thomas Kallarakal (7-1), Gina Fookes (7-2), Brigit Rogers (8-1) and Sam Hyat (8-2).

OPT

Togo Missionary Father Ryan Presides at Mass at St. Rose

St. Rose Parishioners Look Back on their Visit to Father Ryan's Mission

By Mary Zoccola

Recently, Father William Ryan presided over Mass at St. Rose of Lima Church in Gaithersburg. Father Ryan does amazing missionary work in Togo, which is partially supported by St. Rose.

Father Ryan's visit was particularly pertinent to St. Rose parishioners Sue and John Clark. The Clarks visited Father Ryan's mission in Togo a few years ago. While they were there, the Clarks were invited to stay in Father Ryan's residence, located in a Togolese village of a few hundred that is part of his mission. The Clarks were treated as important guests and were greeted personally, en



On their first day, Sue and John Clark are greeted by the village elders and other members of Atchanve village in Togo. Photos by Alan Pogue



Center, John and Sue Clark are welcomed at Mass. They are wearing Togolese outfits they received as presents from local villagers. Photos by Alan Pogue



Left to right, John Clark, Sue Clark and Father Ryan in front of the birthing room in a Togolese medical clinic. Photos by Alan Pogue

masse, by the entire community. Then, the Clarks were ushered to meet with village elders, who had donned their robes in honor of the Clarks' arrival and presented them with gifts on behalf of the village. "Everywhere we went, they gave us gifts," Sue Clark said, adding that the warmth and generosity of the Togolese was remarkable. Gifts were usually pineapples, peanuts or a fermented, alcoholic beverage made of pine nuts that are grown in Togo.

On the first day of their stay, the Clarks attended two Sunday Masses, where the congregation gave them Togolese-style clothing to wear, made out of their brightly colored material. During the remainder of their visit, the Clarks were able to see first-hand all of the work of Father Ryan's mission including installing solar panels for power, erecting water

towers for clean water, building schools for education, improving medical care for health and cassava farming for economic progress. Particularly noteworthy for the Clarks were projects made possible, in part, by the Gaithersburg parishes of St. Rose and nearby St. Martin. "The ingenuity of the villagers in scratching out a living in their surroundings with their agriculture was impressive," said John Clark.

Father Ryan has been instrumental in helping local villages transition from subsistence to cash-crop farming. Many villages in Father Ryan's mission generate a small income by farming the cassava plant. Cassavas are grown locally and the villagers make it into flour that they can sell at a nearby market. However, the process of harvesting cassavas and turning them into flour is labor intensive. Father Ryan

mechanized the process by buying presses that squeeze moisture from the cassava. At first, Father Ryan found funding for one press for one village that resulted in improved productivity for the village. Based on the success of that one press, St. Rose gave Father Ryan money to buy a half dozen or so presses for other Togolese villages in his mission. Additionally, St. Rose has funded a dedicated childbirth room, in a village medical clinic, which provides pre- and post-natal care to village women.

St. Martin of Tours in Gaithersburg has been especially generous to Father Ryan's mission in Togo. St. Martin has funded an entire school and has been actively involved in gathering and shipping items to Togo. Items that St. Martin has gathered have included large items like furniture and equipment for the Father Ryan's mission in

Togo, including the rectory, schools and churches. Thanks to the help of parishes like St. Rose and St. Martin, Father Ryan has been able to accomplish much more in Togo than other local priests, who don't have the connection to resources that are found in the United States, especially an affluent area like Montgomery County, Maryland.

Last but not least, Father Ryan is spreading the Catholic faith in Togo. Many of the villagers aren't Catholic, but practice Islam, Voodoo, and Pagan traditions, or are unchurched. "People are being drawn to the faith because they are seeing how their kids are being impacted through the school and the betterment of the community," Sue Clark said adding that Father Ryan doesn't just go off and do these things by himself, he involves the local communities.

OPT

St. Rose Filipino Community Aids Typhoon Victims in the Philippines

By Cezarina Cornejo Alzona

Many Filipino-Americans (Fil-Ams) in the DC Metro Area, felt deeply affected by the recent Typhoon Haiyan, also known as Yolanda in the Philippines. Not necessarily because they had family or friends in the hardest hit location, but because Fil-Ams everywhere feel a sense of compassion for their "Kababayan" or compatriots back in the Philippines.

St. Rose is a host parish of an active Filipino Community. Because of Kababayan, St. Rose Fil-Ams sympathize with Philippine residents, who were impacted by the typhoon. St. Rose Fil-Ams have different stories the direct effects of the typhoon. Cezarina Alzona sent funds immediately to her parents in the Philippines to help her mother's caregiver, Beni, who lost her 35 year old daughter, Rosario. Rina Viqueira's uncle in the Island of Cebu, Victor Viqueira, lost the roof to their family home and his in-laws lost much of their property. Roselda Lao, another St. Rose Fil-Am member, had friends and co-workers with family hard hit by the typhoon.



St. Rose parishioners busy making colorful Parols at Lumpia Pansit fundraiser held December 1.

For more than 30 years, Fil-Ams have volunteered in nearly every capacity possible at St. Rose, including lectors, cantors, choir members, Eucharistic Ministers, acolytes, ushers, greeters, as well as finance and pastoral council members. Currently, Bing Inocencio and Cezarina Cornejo Alzona serve on the St. Rose of Lima Pastoral Council.

In 2014, the St. Rose Filipino Community will celebrate the 20 year anniversary of the Filipino Mass, usually the second Sunday of each month. Four times a year, there

are special celebrations: Santo Niño (Holy Child), Flores de Mayo (May Flower – Mother Mary procession), September Anniversary Mass and Pistahan Pasko (Advent Mass).

Since the Typhoon, many churches, including St. Rose, have participated in special collections for the victims. In addition, St. Rose of Lima's Fil-Ams participated in fundraisers in the DC Metro area. Specifically, a group of St. Rose Fil-Ams attended Philippine Medical Association (PMA) dinners held at Lumpia Pansit on November 23 and December 1.



Cho Ortega and Cezarina Alzona. Photo by Regina Viqueira

The Fil-Ams realize that the relief effort for the Philippines needs to be a sustained effort. In that vein, a reception will be held after the St. Rose of Lima 5 p.m. Filipino Mass on December 8. At the reception, donations will be collected for the typhoon victims. The St. Rose Filipino community made "Parols" (traditional Filipino Christmas Stars) as thank you gifts for those who donate during this event. As for all activities at St. Rose of Lima, "All are Welcome" at the Filipino Mass. For more information, please go to www.filipinomass.com.

OPT

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More St. Rose of Lima
News on Page 30



Feeding the Flock

St. Francis of Assisi Feast Day Parish Picnic

By Sylvia Jones

The Annual Parish Picnic was held on Sunday October 6, and, for the first time in years,

it did not rain. This meant that the Moon Bounce and slide and all the other crafts and games were held outdoors. Youth Minister Director,

Sue Lea, and the St. Francis high school youth group, set up shop on the grass and painted faces, pumpkins and all sorts of crafty things with the kids. The traditional Blessing of the Animals was well-attended under sunny skies.

Continued on page 30



Father John Dillon blessing the animals with Deacon Jim Datovech assisting



Crafter Sara Becker (L) at St. Francis booth; Bazaar volunteer Sylvia Jones (R)

Holiday Bazaar

By Rose Attig

Sunshine and a crisp fall chill filled the air, on November 9th, for the annual St. Francis of Assisi Holiday Bazaar. The Bazaar, a major fundraiser for the

Parish, has been a tradition for over 25 years. Many crafters, and parish volunteers, along with outside vendors, contributed to another successful year.

The Silent Auction with many donated theme baskets, services, vacations, and home decor, was open to bids throughout the day. For the day, the lower level of the Rectory was transformed into a buyers haven for White Elephant items. Many buyers lined up early for the best items at very nominal prices.

The Jewelry Boutique, headed by Linda Call, remained a huge success. Many shoppers waited in line for their turn to browse among the many items, mostly donated and gently used, in search of val-

Continued on page 27

Café Leon – Helping Haiti Coffee Growers Help Themselves

By Dan Cardile, Co-director of Café Leon

In April, 2013, our parish teamed with the non-profit group "Just Haiti" to organize coffee growers in Leon into a coffee association, with the goal of increasing their incomes. The Leon region is important to us as we are "twinning" with St. Paul's parish as part of the Parish Twinning Program.

"Café Leon" was formed to sell Just Haiti coffee (Kafé Solidarité) after all six Masses on one weekend of each month. The Café also brews coffee for the parishioners to enjoy for free. The first weekend, we sold out our 50 bag inventory after 3 Masses; the response was so positive, we quickly realized we needed to place larger orders. The following month, we sold 90 bags, and, over the ensuing six months, have sold an average of 100 bags per month.

Working with programs like Just Haiti is important because it helps stimulate sustainable economic development. Even small increases are a vital part of the effort to ease the crushing poverty



Happy Café Leon Volunteers. L to R – Mary Kate Ryner, Dan Cardile, Anne Cardile, Sylvia Jones



Fellowship over Just Haiti Coffee at Café Leon

in Haiti. Coffee growers in Haiti typically get less than \$1 per pound they sell as individuals in traditional markets. The growers connected with Just Haiti receive about \$3-4 per pound. This helps them pay for the basics of food, education and health care for their

much they enjoy the coffee, and how happy they are to contribute to the Just Haiti mission. To learn more, or to purchase bags of Kafé Solidarité, visit www.justhaiti.org. Or, stop by St. Francis after any of the masses during the first full weekend of the month.

OPT

Bishop Decoste of Haiti visits St. Francis

By Pat Labuda

Bishop Joseph Decoste S.J., the Bishop of Jeremie in Western Haiti, celebrated the vigil mass at St. Francis of Assisi parish on Saturday November 16. The diocese of Jeremie is twinned with the Archdiocese of Washington. Six parishes within the Archdiocese are currently twinned with parishes in the Jeremie diocese. They include, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Theresa of Avila in Anacostia, Jesus the Good Shepherd in Owings, St. Mary's in Barnesville, St. John the Evangelist in Clinton, and Holy Trinity in Georgetown. During his 10 day stay in Washington, he celebrated weekend Mass at all 6 of these parishes, thanking the people for their support and solidarity with of Haiti.

St. Francis began their twinning program in 1987 and is twinned with the parish of St. Paul's in Leon, Haiti. During the years St. Francis parishioners have provided funds for a school, student sponsorship, teachers' salaries, clean water, sanitation and other infrastructure projects. Also, a medical mission



Father John Dillon and Bishop Joseph Decoste after Mass

was started 18 years ago and has grown to five weeks each year serving around 1,000 patients each week. All this thanks to the generosity of our parishioners and other benefactors. Check our website containing more information: www.sfadw.org/haiti.php.

Bishop Decoste arrived in Washington on November 8. He was greeted at the airport by a dozen members from four parishes. During the week he met with Cardinal Wuerl and Bishop

Knestout, and other members of the Archdiocesan staff, he also visited CRS headquarters in Baltimore, met with the Jesuit Conference, Georgetown University, the president of Gonzaga College High School and several other groups, such as the Archdiocesan Haiti Committee, and members of the Archdiocesan Global solidarity committee. He invited people "to come (to Haiti) and see".

The twinning program is a wonderful opportunity for people to get directly involved with our Haitian Catholic brothers and sisters who are very close geographically but very far in having the same opportunities.

Haiti is a Catholic country where the church needs support to carry out its mission. It is right off the shores of the richest country in the world. If you are interested in becoming a part of this program contact Tony Bosnick, Director of the Department for Charity and Justice at bosnicka@adw.org or phone 301-853-5340 or Cynthia Bowie, Coordinator of the Haiti Archdiocesan Committee at cbowie2@verizon.net.

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Expanding Our Home

...Building a Bridge to Tomorrow

By Rus Wester

This December 150,000 special Christmas music CDs will be arriving at homes around the world. They're a gift from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and they deliver a message of joyous anticipation as Catholic families prepare for the celebration of our Savior's Birth.

This musical gift featuring the Basilica Shrine's Choir also acts as a commemoration, inviting the millions of pilgrims who have visited

the Shrine during Christmas and throughout the year, to remember their life-changing sojourn to this impressive structure.

One hundred years ago, after Pope Pius X himself approved the plan for building the Shrine, he opened his desk drawer and took out his personal contribution to the project. Millions of the faithful, young and old, sent their contributions, as well. A few short years later, the cornerstone was laid for constructing what is today the largest Catholic Church in America and the tenth largest in the world—wel-

coming all who cross the threshold of this church honoring the Blessed Mother of Our Lord.

This all took place because of the vision, dedication and sacrificial gifts of those who cherished their faith and who wanted to share it far beyond their lifetimes with all who would come to this special place of worship in Washington, DC.

Now, we each have the same great privilege and gift being delivered to us in Saint John Neumann Parish—a gift that carries the same joy as the Shrine's music. We're being asked to share a vision, dedicate our focus to making a sacrificial gift to build and preserve a special element of our faith.

Plain and simple, our place of worship, and the facilities where we meet to learn about and share our faith, needs help to grow, for today and future generations.

SJN's Mark and Mary Nishan are helping coordinate the parish fundraising effort. Parishioners since the 90's, the Nishans have a daughter who was an altar server at St. John's and was the recipient of a Tania Varrieur Reese scholarship. "She's in her final year at my old alma mater, Notre Dame," said Mark. "So you can see why I might be big on creating legacies. When we're gone, we can't take anything with us. But what we leave behind,



SJN Church and multi-purpose facilities dating to 1982

besides our kids and their legacies, is that we were members of a faith community, who made a difference in the larger community."

"Saint John Neumann is just over 35+ years old," said CCS/SJN Campaign Manager, Lisa McElhenny. "Modest beginnings meant Mass was celebrated in a neighborhood movie theatre, a Village school, then eventually in the current church location—on donated land only large enough for a church and parking." In time, the Catechetical Center was added as part of the church building. The Rectory, church offices and other needed meeting spaces are still located a half mile from the church building. "There's great need to consolidate the church properties and to design and build new spaces to continue the work of the parish," said Ms. McElhenny.

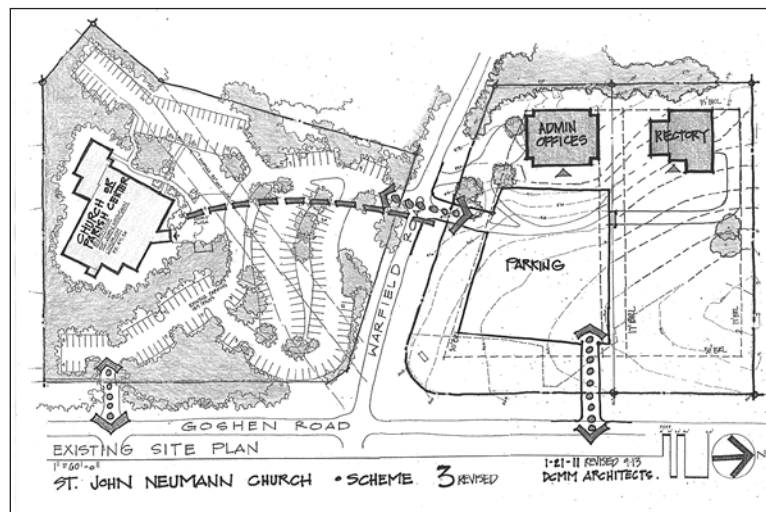
The "Expanding Our Home" initiative you've been hearing about will help us establish a parish cam-

pus type of environment, where parish-function will be greatly improved.

As pledges continue to be made and fulfilled, Father LaHood reminds us that "every dollar pledged and given for this capital campaign stays in the parish. Nothing is retained by the Archdiocese, who does require us to raise 75% of the projected cost (\$2.5 Million) before major construction can proceed. We've already received parishioner pledges for over 70% of our goal. We're very hopeful!"

Our Patron, St. John Neumann, was sent to this country to build up the Church. As bishop, he built a Cathedral, Churches and Schools. It is fitting to beg for his intercession as we plan and build the facilities needed to preserve our faith and continue to be a welcoming place for current and future parishioners.

OPT



Site planning for expansion of the parish Neumann House property, to include new construction of parish offices and Rectory



October the Knights of Columbus staged its annual Soccer Shootout at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. District Warden, Terry Waters, again ran the event with over 22 youngsters participating and several from Our Lady of Guadalupe Council moved on to Maryland State competition. Knights and families helping to officiate included: Mark Dwyer, Dan Cipra, Mike Donnellan, Curtis Abod Family, Eugene deRibeaux Family, Mike and Mary Helen Amery Family. Photo by Mary Helen Amery

BAZAAR

Con't from page 26

ues and gifts, at modest prices. Millie's Bake Shoppe, forever a hit, attracted young and old alike, to place a quarter bet for a chance to win a delicious cake, at the spin of the wheel. Shabby Chic, headed by George and Barbara Beall, had wonderful gifts and treasures, and some higher end items, donated throughout the year, all available at super bargain prices.

The Cafe Assisi was a resting and warming stop, for shoppers, to enjoy some morning coffee and donuts and, later, lunch. The raffle, this year, headed by Linda Foster, sold many tickets for monetary prizes.

It was a wonderful day, bringing a sense of community and fellowship not only to our Parishioners but also to our neighbors and friends. Many thanks to Anne Culver and her teams for another great Holiday Bazaar for 2013.

OPT

Mary Ann Samorajczyk

"May perpetual light shine upon her always"

By Sandy Wester

"Upon this rock I will build my church" could easily apply to Mary Ann, as she and a small number of Catholics broke ground in 1982 for St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Montgomery Village. Mary Ann received a MERIT AWARD from the Archdiocese of Washington for her work with the "formed in faith community." Mary Ann was a smiling, joy-filled person who befriended everyone and showed virtue in her faithfulness. Former SJN Pastor, Monsignor Michael Fisher, said in his eulogy, "she was a special gift to all her parish priests."

On November 5, 2013, her priests came to concelebrate Mary Ann's Memorial Mass: Father Thomas LaHood, Father Rory Conley, Father John Dakes, Father William Brailsford and Deacon Gene Cummins came to lead all in a prayerful farewell. Monsignor Michael Fisher presided and shared his fondness for Mary Ann as he told the gathering that she would always, "Tell me like it was!"

After a committed career as an Army nurse stationed in Hawaii, Mary Ann came to back to settle in Maryland. She quickly became part of the fabric of Catholic life in the



burgeoning area of Montgomery Village and took on the duties of Parish Secretary to SJN's founding Pastor, Father Ralph C. Torsiello.

Close friend and fellow sports fan, Mary Louise Mahoney, was often with the parish's first secretary. "She just couldn't get enough of her beloved John Paul II, they were both Polish. After the Holy Father, her favorite person in the world was Derek Jeter. She was a serious Yankees baseball fan... wore the hat, wore the pins, knew the stats," recalls Mary Louise. "It was her way of relaxing after long hours of parish work."

Mary Ann will always be remembered as the originator of the Polish Christmas Wafers (*opłatek*) tradition, which she helped her SJN parish family adopt years ago. Oplatek wafers are available again this Advent in the church lobby.

As Monsignor Fisher finished final prayers at the cemetery, he realized that Mary Ann's final resting place would be a high-level tier of a garden-side mausoleum, overlooking the graves of noted priests and bishops of the Archdiocese. "That's the Bishop who married my parents," said Monsignor. "Well, she's still at it---watching over a group of priests."

Mary Ann was a shining light with her example of faith for all who knew her. May unending light shine upon her.

OPT

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No longer a pipe dream

When St. Jane de Chantal's church was going through its redesign process more than a decade ago, there was one important piece of its completion that its planners knew the parish would have to wait years for. Now, as the church prepares to debut its new pipe organ on Nov. 17 with

a pipe organ in their church, the sound might indeed be like coming home, though Weismann says pipe organs aren't as unusual as they might seem. "There are a number of them in the D.C. area; really, D.C. is a town where there's a pipe organ on every block. We're very fortunate," he said.

The process of installing the organ is a meticulous one, due in part to the thousands of working parts it contains. While the organ was made by a specialized company in Virginia, the pipes themselves had to be shipped over from the Netherlands and assembled in Virginia, then installed and voiced in the parish in a process that takes months. The voicing itself

adjusts each of the organ's pipes to the church's unique acoustics to produce the correct tone. Weismann says pipe organs themselves produce very different sounds based on the country in which they are produced; he said the de Chantal organ has a very English sound, "very full with exceptional volume control." He said he finds the English sound the best for churches.

The pipe organ's debut on Nov. 17 featured a blessing by Cardinal Wuerl, who celebrated Mass at 10 a.m. Later that day, at 2 p.m., Weismann gave a recital on the organ. A reception followed in the church's Caulfield Hall.

An important component of the instrument's sound – the clarinet pipes – is on hold since the organ pledges weren't enough to cover them. "The clarinet pipes are vital to the organ's sound," said Weismann, and donations are being sought to cover the cost of completing the instrument. If you can help out, contact Russell Weismann at the parish office, (301) 530-1550.

OPT



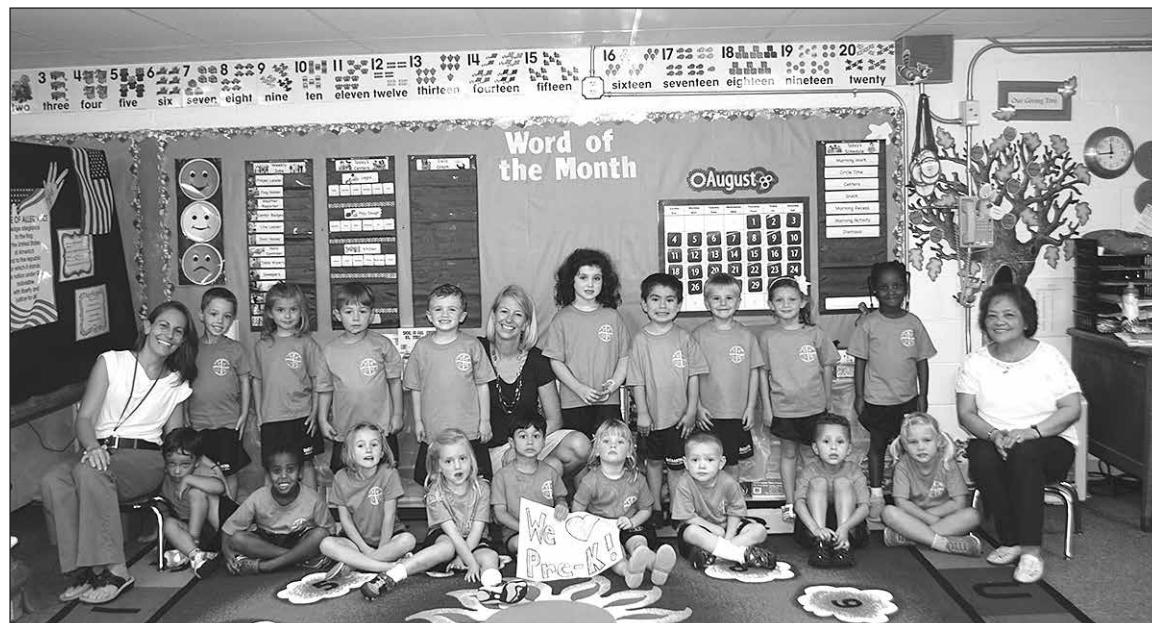
St. Jane de Chantal's director of music and liturgy, Russell Weismann, poses with the church's new pipe organ which debuted Nov. 17 with a Mass and blessing by Cardinal Wuerl.

a Mass and blessing by Cardinal Wuerl, the picture is nearly complete.

The Lively-Fuelcher pipe organ that was installed this summer and is currently being adjusted for sound – "voiced" in music terminology – has been long-awaited and is eagerly anticipated by many, not least of whom is the parish's new music director, Russell Weismann. Weismann has years of training with the instrument, having begun the process as an eighth-grader at his home parish in Pittsburgh and most recently having served as associate director of music for the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. He said the sound can't begin to compare with its electric counterpart.

"We live in an age where synthetic sound is becoming more and more acceptable, and that's sad," he said. He likened the pipe organ's difference in sound to a hug: "The sound wraps around you. It's a whole different acoustic experience."

For those who grew up with



St. Jane de Chantal's first preschool class poses with teachers Colleen Kish, far left, Johanna Goetcheus and aide Becky Cruz in their brand new classroom.

De Chantal welcomes preschoolers to first-ever pre-K program

Eighteen very young students made history at St. Jane de Chantal School on Aug. 26, the first day of school, as the first-ever class of preschoolers at de Chantal. Located on the lower level of the main school, the brand new full-time pre-kindergarten classroom offers a range of opportunities for the children to explore the world around them and engage in a variety of hands-on learning activities.

During their first week of school, the 4-year-olds met new friends, listened to stories, learned new prayers, explored learning centers, and began what was expected to be a lasting school experience. Seventh graders served as a PIT Crew (Patrols in Training) to help the preschoolers walk from carpool to their classroom.

Besides regular classroom activities, the preschoolers days include yoga, music and even cooking classes. Each week the class studies a new "letter of the week." During "D" week, they gave their lessons a themed twist, making "dinosaurs" out of tortillas, with triangle cheese slices for the spikes, raisins for the spots, and mini marshmallow teeth. Teacher Colleen Kish offered a "dance" party and had the children try some "downward dog" poses during yoga class.

The full-day program means busy days for the smallest de Chantal students, with rest-time after lunch every day, but the preschoolers are adapting like pros. "They're all settling in really well," said Johanna Goetcheus, who co-teaches the class with Mrs. Kish. "They are

bonding with one another, and you can see friendships forming that could very well last for the next nine years, if not a lifetime."

In addition to the two teachers, full-time aide Becky Cruz brings years of experience as a preschool teacher to the classroom. Mrs. Cruz, who for years has done the music at de Chantal's folk Mass with her husband, George, is using her guitar talent to teach the children songs for each letter of the alphabet.

The pre-K teachers aren't the only new members of the school's faculty this fall. Also joining the staff are Tom O'Brien, who teaches junior high math, Eileen Veith, who teaches first grade, and Mary D'Antonio, who is teaching kindergarten.

OPT

De Chantal Fourth-graders featured as KidsPost Class of the Month

St. Jane de Chantal fourth-graders in Mrs. Carole Cooper's class recently earned the honor of being named October's Class of the Month in The Washington Post's KidsPost section. On Oct. 6, The Post featured a photo of the class with their teacher and the students' responses to a questionnaire. Gushed the article, "These kids are individuals, not afraid to be the only one to mention an author or a game" in their questionnaire answers. Indeed it seemed the paper at times had difficulty finding a quorum for questions like, "What's your favorite TV show?" and "What's your favorite game?"

Among the things they revealed about themselves: their favorite websites are YouTube and educational site Sumdog; their favorite authors are "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" creator Jeff Kinney, J.K. Rowling and "Heroes of Olympus" author Rick Riordan; the biggest problems in the world today are global,



Fourth-graders in Mrs. Cooper's class at St. Jane de Chantal School on a recent field trip to Baltimore. The class was named October's Class of the Month in the Washington Post's KidsPost.

including war, pollution, terrorism and hunger, and their favorite career options range from professional athlete to veterinarian and dolphin trainer. Perhaps the most positive answer for the school: Among the 31 students, only 2 had their own

cellphones. The school has long asked parents to rein in the amount of technology young students have access to, and bans cellphones in the classroom.

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Left to right: Justin Bustamante, Haley Krause, Mason Schwartz, Mary Claire Basso-Luca, Jack Cottle, and Leslie Fontaine

Bandz For A Cause

Last November 8, the Philippine Islands were struck by Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest typhoons ever recorded. It left approximately 10,000 people feared dead and millions without food and shelter. Inspired by their plight, and with a true sense of compassion and concern, a group of our Seventh Grade students, led by Justin Bustamante, came together wanting to make a difference. Having family in the Philippines and knowing that several other students have family there as well, Justin organized his classmates and put together a proposal that he presented to the administration. "Bandz For a Cause" was born.

With the support of the Student Council, the students are making the very popular "rainbow loom bracelets" in the colors of the Philippine flag. The bracelets will be sold for \$2.00 each and sales will continue until the Christmas holiday. All proceeds will benefit the victims in the city of Tacloban, Philippines, through the Catholic Relief Services. Students will be encouraged to wear these bracelets in support of those affected by the typhoon. We are so proud of our young adults who are truly living their faith and sharing their blessings with others, especially during this very special time of the year.

OPT

CRUSADER

Con't from page 6

certificate comes a free ice cream, a Chick-fil-a coupon, or a chance for the student to not wear uniform for one day. When Mr. Piotrowski describes the kindness referrals he says that they are "designed to build good citizenship in the school. When students do good acts, we hope other students will see them and want to do kind acts as well."

Getting a kindness referral is not only about getting the recognition; it's also about showing other children how they should behave. It's about "creating an environment where bullying and name calling are not acceptable," says Mr. Piotrowski. It's a way for students to feel proud of something that they

did and give them the want to strive to get a kindness referral.

At the end of the month, three students are chosen to be a Crusader of the Month. The Crusader of the Month not only gets a dress down day, but they also get a chance to eat lunch with Mr. Piotrowski. "At the end of the month, I go through all the kindness referrals and choose a person from Kindergarten through Second Grade. Then another person from Third Grade through Fifth Grade, and another from Sixth Grade through Eighth Grade to be the Crusaders of the Month," says Mr. Piotrowski. "This gives me an opportunity for me to stay connected with the students during the lunch."

Through every kind act there is a reward.

OPT

CREATIVE CLUB

Con't from page 6

sessions, students watched a video about the illustrations of Eric Carle, ate a delicious snack, and began their project. In October, as part of this program, a Family Math Night was held for families to explore problem-solving strategies and math games. Sessions in November included a fourth through eighth grade Weaving Wonders and a kindergarten through second grade

Thanksgiving Traditions.

Every student gives their creation his or her personal spin on it. The work is independent but seventh and eighth grade volunteers and teacher moderators introduce students to sharing or helping each other, whether it's lending some paper with a peer or giving a friend some ideas and tips. "Children in Amazing Afternoons really enjoy every bit of it," said Leslye Villavicencio, an eighth-grade volunteer.

OPT

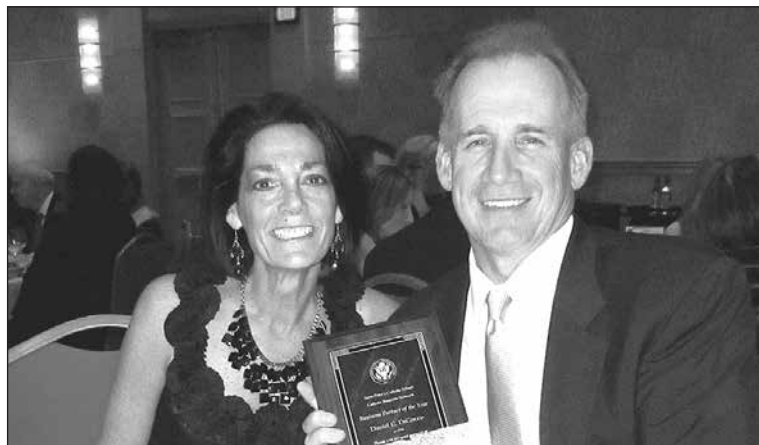
Saint Peter's Honors Two Families

St. Peter's School honored two supportive families at this year's Catholic Business Network (CBN) of Montgomery County's 20th annual gala. The event is a fitting way to recognize business and volunteer leaders in our school communities.

St. Peter's was pleased to name Dan DiCocco of DiCocco Allstate Insurance Agency as its Business Partner of the Year. Dan and his wife Wanda have been the title sponsors for the school's fundraising gala for the past three years. Their generosity has served as the financial foundation that helps our Home and School Association produce a wonderful event for our school families.

Andi Elliott was honored as the school's Volunteer of the Year. She chaired the annual gala for two years, and along with her husband Bob, organized a special sacramental memory book project for our second and eighth grade students. The CBN gala was held at the Bethesda Marriott Conference Center where the families enjoyed a delicious meal and fellowship with other school supporters.

OPT



Above, Wanda and Dan DiCocco; Below, Bob and Andi Elliott



Saint Peter's Fiesta Gala Es Muy Magnifico!

An authentic mariachi band greeted guests who arrived at Saint Peter's on November 16 for the annual fundraising gala, this year featuring a fiesta theme. The music was just one authentic element that helped transform the ordinary parish hall into a South American plaza for one amazing night. Décor included traditional papel picador draped from the ceiling, serapes draped across rustic tables and enormous, colorful tissue flowers tucked into every corner. A simulated shop front with tiled roof housed raffle prizes.

No fiesta is complete without a traditional menu to feast on. Puttin' on the Ritz created a spread complete with fajitas and guacamole. Open bar featured, what else, margaritas. A popular stop during the evening was the margarita cantina serving a hand-crafted pomegranate margarita in a souvenir glass. The glasses flew off the shelves, in part because the glass purchase entitled the guest to an entry in a drawing for an at-home catered, margarita

St Peter's parish hall was transformed into a Mexican cantina for the annual fundraising gala.

party.

The highlight of the evening was the live auction. A dedicated staff of volunteers secured many new items for the auction lineup including a limo package for a group to attend an opening night showing of

Catching Fire, a week at a resort in Orlando Florida, and two different weekend getaways. The most popular items in the live auction were the "P.E. Teacher for a Day" and the "Week on a Beach in Cozumel". As you can see there was something for everyone in the auction.

An evening packed with this much fun must surely have a purpose. Saint Peter's annual gala has become a venue that generates an outpouring of financial support from our own community members and from guests outside Saint Peter's community. The 2013 Fiesta did not disappoint. The gala committee, chaired by Katie Ronca, and featuring the organization and decorating talents of Stacy Mercado and Jennifer Horich, was proud that this year's gala profits exceeded

\$100 thousand dollars. Muchas gracias!

OPT

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OPT

GIVERS

Con't from page 24

I never really understood the profound wisdom in those words when I was growing up, but as I reflect on them today, I now get it. Seeing the quote from Francis of Assisi 'For it

is in giving that we receive' at the CBN gala only strengthens me to do more."

On behalf of the entire school community, I thank Mr. Virkar and Mrs. Sweeney for their willing spirit, overwhelming generosity, and unyielding support.

St. Cecilia's Day Festival at Brookwood School

Brookwood is a singing school. Students set their Latin parts of speech to music. They sing during recess, practicing new harmonies. They sing during class. They sing in English. They sing in Italian. Often, the faculty sings with them. They sing because they are cheerful. They sing because Brookwood puts such a strong emphasis on musical training.

On November 26th, the entire school showcased its cheerful singing spirit at the eighth annual St. Cecilia's Day festival and Talent Show. The festival is a beautiful tradition that not only marks the beginning of the holiday season but also honors the patron saint of music, St. Cecilia, whose feast day is the 22nd of November. The afternoon festival consisted of grades 1-12 singing songs they practiced in their music classes, reciting poems



they learned in their English classes and showcasing various musical talents in a musical talent show.

The upper school music teacher, Joy Stevans, organized the event with the help of English teacher Alison Solove and the

lower school music teacher, Grace Gilday. Each grade sang a song prepared in music class for the festival. The juniors and seniors sang two classical songs, "Alleluia round" (based on W. A. Mozart's exultate, jubilate) and "Gloria Patri" (G. Palestrina), while the seventh and eighth graders sang "The Blessing" by Katie Moran Bart. Many students stayed true to the Brookwood motto, "Nolite Timere," (Be not afraid) by volunteering to share their talents with the audience of parents, faculty, alumni and students.

The open section of the festival featured performances of Bach's "Prelude" on the cello (Paula Muller, Upper Schooler), Beyonce's "Halo" on the piano (Phoebe Gersten, Upper Schooler), Zedd's "Clarity" on guitar (Caroline Lawson, Middle

Continued on page 32

St. Rose of Lima



Deacon John Liu chats with Parish Youth. Photo by Mischa Bolton



On December 2, volunteers at St. Rose unload a truck of nearly 700 Christmas trees for the annual Christmas Tree Sale. About 60 volunteers (both parishioners and non-parishioners) came to help with the arrival of the Christmas trees. It took just over an hour to unload all of the trees.

Our Lady of Mercy



Mercy Saints March In

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

Fall Fun for Mercy Prayer Partners

Older Mercy students joined their younger prayer partners for the Annual Mercy Pumpkin Patch on the school's grounds. As part of the harvest activity and in response to God's call to serve others, students donated canned goods to St. Martin's Food Pantry. (L-R): Grace Carnathan (sixth grade) and prayer partner Morgan Summers (second grade)



FEAST DAY

Con't from page 26

There were plenty of side dishes and desserts provided by the parishioners. Grill masters Deacon Dan Finn and his wife Georgana came early to cook up the hamburgers, hot dogs and sausages in time for lunch at 1:30 to feed the hungry

150 plus parishioners. The "Make Your Own Ice Cream Sundae" was a big hit thanks to Alicia Church and Arlene Hall who scooped a mountain of ice cream.

A lot of hard work went into this event, which illustrates the heart of the St. Francis community. Many people deserved special thanks: Rick and Cathy Cornwell, Larry Pinto and Isabel Seyed-Ali who

organized the games and crafts; Agnes Dagadya and Maria Estela who came in early to set-up; the decorating crew who came in Saturday afternoon to transform the Parish Center into a Fall Festival. Also, appreciation was due to the servers, clean-up crews and many others who made this year's picnic extra special.

OPT

St. John the Evangelist



Altar Server Investiture Mass

On November 24 at the Noon Mass, many of St. John the Evangelist's altar servers gathered together to renew/make their commitment to this ministry of service to the parish. There are about 90 SJE parish boys and girls participating, ranging from 5th grade through high school age. Following the Mass, the servers and their families enjoyed a pizza lunch in the school gym.

St. Bernadette



AIA Northern Virginia held its 38th annual Chapter Meeting, October 8, 2013. The 2013 Craftsmanship Award was awarded to the Washington National Cathedral stone carvers and masons. Carver Sean Callahan, center right, is a member of the St. Bernadette Parish and a St. Bernadette School parent.

STRONGER

Con't from page 18

up to the plate and helped build a permanent **Snack Shack**. The end result was the St. B's sports field where our children play today, and for close to 50 years, families have been meeting up at the St B's **Snack Shack** for *Fridays Night on the Field*.

The Silver Spring Saints Football Program also calls the St. B's field home. In 1952, CYO football was introduced at St Bernadette's. When the Archdiocese of Washington suspended football in 1995, the Saints continued to provide a rich tradition of football within the CYO philosophy. As a community based organization, the Saints continue to contribute in many ways to the school and parish.

Much has changed over the years, but our strong faith-based community has remained the same. Priests still throw out the first pitch of the season. Parents still volunteer countless hours coaching on our sports field. Weekend afternoons are still spent watching our children score goals, run bases and hit home-runs. Our values of sports, family, and friendship have remained the same.

In August of 2013 the patio was

built by Macpeak Landscaping, a parishioner owned landscape company. After construction, the building had a great new paint job by parishioner, Byrne Peake. The change was immediate. Sales at the snack shack have been more robust and people are staying longer on Friday evenings. Parishioners



SBS students not only loaded the cars but also helped with delivering 28 cartons containing complete turkey dinners to McKenna's Kitchen. From Left to Right: Katie Kernan, Maddie Rodgers, Daniel Smith and Katharine Duke.

and visitors alike love the changes and the engraved bricks and pavers aren't even in place yet! This spring the CYO looks forward to an opening ceremony when we can invite the whole parish, but especially those who have donated to this exciting project. The before and after pictures say it all; we look forward to the next fifty years on the field with this great patio!

OPT

Former Parishioner Authors Book for ESL Teachers

Clare Roach, fifth daughter of parishioners Frank & Sue Deckelman, was baptized, confirmed, and married at Christ the King Church. She taught in the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) program after graduating from Notre Dame in 1999. She has most recently co-authored *English Oral Language Assessment*, a formative language assessment designed to show student progress in English listening and speaking skills. The assessment provides Catholic schools with a cost-effective tool to determine the language needs of their English language learning students.

A graduate of ACE 6, Clare taught 9-12 grade Spanish, government, economics, and religion at St. Jude Educational Institute



Clare Roach, M.Ed.

in Montgomery, Alabama. She continued teaching Spanish for several years before giving birth

to the first of her four children. It was then she segued from teaching Spanish to teaching English to Spanish speakers.

While her oldest was just a baby, Clare began teaching ESL to immigrant mothers in a center run by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Memphis, TN. Upon moving to South Bend, Indiana, she took up the call to help ACE's English as a New Language Program prepare Catholic school teachers to more effectively teach English language learners.

Clare holds a B.A. in political science and Spanish and a M.Ed from the University of Notre Dame. She resides in Granger, Indiana with her husband, Brandon, and their children, Jeremiah, Jude, Marie, and Daniel. **OPT**

Seniors Among Us

By Christine Tan, CTK parishioner

Christ the King parishioner, Elizabeth LaRocca, mother of Marie McKeon, turned 99 on Sept 20th followed by two Christ the King parishioners who celebrated their 90th birthdays in October 2013: Santana Bayerle, PhD, on the 3rd and Paul

McCloskey on the 26th. Dr. Bayerle was born in Bari, Italy and Mr. McCloskey in Philadelphia, Penna. All three are long time residents of Maryland. "Signora", as she is known to her friends, gives private lessons in the Italian language and faithfully attends exercise classes. Paul is a faithful volunteer at Shepherd's Table (both shifts), helps count the offertory funds and is a Lector at weekday Masses. Signora and Paul are real inspirations to our community. Coming up is a February birthday for soon-to-be 99 year old Dr. Tom Edwards! **OPT**

The Workcenter at Christ the King

By Katie Holland, CTK parish editor

A group of Catholic friends in the Washington Metro area have started a charitable gesture called WorkCenter with the aim to help those needing assistance finding employment and preparing for interviews. It grew from their desire to face the personal responsibilities, challenges and opportunities of the working environment in light of the encounter with the Christian event, to help one another discover the meaning of work in the challenges that are faced. It is a non-profit associa-

tion of professionals and business people who share a concrete and human desire to promote the dignity of the person in all its dimensions, work included.

The group meets at Christ the King every first Saturday 9:30-11:30am in the Rectory meeting room. There is no fee for participants and all mentors are volunteers from different walks of life who provide mutual support in preparing for interviews, mentoring in rethinking career paths, providing professional contacts (starting from their own business network),

reviewing CVs and resumes, organizing meetings and seminars on networking and financial business management issues, organizing lectures and seminars with professionals and sharing experiences to guide the personal development of the individual. The group welcomes those who work for companies in active hiring to attend the meetings to offer advice and to talk about employment opportunities at their companies. For both job seekers and potential volunteers, contact Stefano at rattigno@yahoo.com. **OPT**

News of Note at Christ the King

October - Christ the King Church sponsored a "Pennies From Heaven" drive. Parishioners could take home donation cans to drop in their spare change during the month of October. The cans were returned in early November. \$2336 was raised for the chosen beneficiary, The Little Sisters of the Poor in Northeast Washington, DC.

November 2 - Concert of Remembrance was given at Christ the King on the evening of All Souls' Day 2013 with professional singers making up the choir, under the direction of our Music Director, John Henderson, Fauré's Requiem in D minor.

November 30 - Christ the King's annual "Giving Tree" appeared on the weekend of November 30/December 1. Parishioners were encouraged to take an ornament list-

ing an item hoped for by a person in need. Gifts are to be returned to the church December 14/15 and will be distributed before Christmas. The parish participates most enthusiastically in this project each year.

December 6 - Shepherd's Table in downtown Silver Spring turned 30! This kitchen serves a warm meal to the homeless every evening. Christ the King has been a supporter since the beginning providing volunteers to set up and serve dinner every 4th Thursday of the month. Parishioners unable to go to the kitchen help by picking up pans at Church on the first weekend of each month, preparing a nutritious casserole (recipe provided) and returning the completed dish the following week. The Fourth Thursday Group of Christ the King volunteers set up from

4-5:30pm with serving and cleanup 5:30-7:45pm. Parishioners wanting to join in for either timeslot may contact Liz Weiss at 301-588-6726.

December 7 - Christ the King held its Advent Morning of Recollection this past Saturday in the Church, providing parishioners with an Advent preparation for Christmas. We began with 8:30am Mass, coffee & doughnuts in the Vestibule afterwards until 9:45am when there was Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by Reflection given by our Pastor, Fr. José Maria Cortes, FSCB. At 10:30am there was Holy Hour with the Sacrament of Confession available, then Questions and Reflections at 11:30am concluding with the Angelus at noon. **OPT**

What to Do with Mom?

By Marie McKeon, CTK parishioner

What to do with mom? That was the first question that came to mind after my father's death. He had made known his desire for us to bring her into our home. Just as Jesus asked John to care for His mother, my dad at his death was concerned for her welfare because he knew that he was going to be ok. I thought, what a brave man! So the reality now struck me: as an only child, this was my total responsibility. How would I do it?

Well, fortunately, mom was still in good health, had a nice comfy home and friends at Leisure World and was able to get around even though she did not drive. She wanted no part of moving in with us. So we stayed in touch regularly, visited often and brought her to our house and closer to our new family. She was a blessing for us, helping with babysitting so we could have some adult time or just so we could get errands done. Then came the fall and mom broke her hip and decided it was time to move in with us.

After we constructed a second level on the house with the help of her gift, she moved in and we now became an extended family. Mom was helping with the house work so I could go to work everyday and being there for our two children as they grew. The years have passed and mom is now fragile, less mobile, has memory problems and needs supervision but she is still in our home, where she is loved.

I thank the Lord every day that I have her with me and that I have the ability and knowledge to help her. Is it perfect? No. Do I give up a lot? Yes. But I have the knowledge that I am doing for mom what she has always done for me - caring, loving, guiding. We are reaching another phase in this relationship and that is the point where I have become the mother to my aging mom, with all that this implies. I pray daily that God will guide me in knowing when mom needs to move to more skilled care so that she is safe and happy. For now, we take advantage of home care services where we can find them. It has been a journey for us all. **OPT**

Magnificat Day

Many are familiar with "Magnificat", the monthly publication containing Morning, Evening, Night and the Mass prayers for each day as well as reflections and beautiful art. In 2012, the first "Magnificat Day" was held in California. On November 9, 2013, parishioner Chris Tan attended the second in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Well over two thousand people filled the Pennsylvania Convention Center to hear speakers Father Robert Barron, author of the Catholicism series, and Father Peter Cameron, OP, Editor of "Magnificat", speak. There were also opportunities to participate in Morning, Midday and Evening Prayer, go to Confession,

attend Eucharistic Adoration and venerate the relics of St Thérèse of the Infant Jesus and her parents, Blessed Zelie and Blessed Louis Martin. The Martins may become the first married couple to be canonized by the Church.

Throughout the day, selections from Handel's "Messiah" and other great works were presented by Tempesta di Mare, the Philadelphia Baroque Orchestra. The day ended with a candle light Eucharistic procession from the Convention Center to the Cathedral of Sts. Peter and Paul. For more information about the publication visit www.magnificat.com. **OPT**

The Feast of Christ the King 2013

By Katie Holland, CTK parish editor

The Feast Day of our parish is a normally busy time for all, usually celebrated by an open-to-the-community Bazaar, where neighbors, parishioners and former parishioners, children-who-grew-up-here, gather. This year we held our "regular" celebration of sales and sharing with Central American foods joined by West African foods. Noticeably absent were Filipino foods. The rages of Typhoon Haiyan mobilized our Filipino-descended parishioners to hold a fundraiser in our Colonial Room, and thus, most involved in that planning could not participate in the Bazaar. AND, the fundraiser was held directly after the Bazaar in the same room!

Earlier in the morning at our 10:30am Mass Auxiliary Bishop Martin D. Holley Celebrated 10:30am Mass with Confirmation

of 8 parishioners (with one being received into the Church)! The newly Confirmed, their families and friends gathered in the Rectory Meeting Room for a reception. All the while, our Bazaar was going on! The Bazaar was a huge success, the fundraiser added to special 2nd collections for the Philippines drew over \$5000! And, we received new members into the Church. Can we celebrate a parish feast day any-more fully than that? **OPT**

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Christ the King

Were You Once a Christ the King Parishioner?

By Katie Holland, CTK parish editor

Christ the King has installed a new In Memoriam plaque identical to the one erected by and in memory of parishioners in 1961 when we were established. We have opened the availability of these nameplates to all whose families or parents may have once been a part of the parish. You may want to consider having one of these bronze nameplates made in honor of *your* family. And for the Advent and Christmas season, the cost of a nameplate has

been reduced half price! Take advantage of this now; Epiphany is our deadline! Nameplates take about 3-4 weeks to be produced and shipped to the Church where it is then installed on the Memorial Plaque (and we notify you in the event you wish to attend the installation). You are invited to contact the Christ the King editor at the email and phone number listed on Our Parish Times' page for Christ the King, or you may call the Rectory at 301 589-8616 Monday through Friday between 9am-5pm.

OPT

STORIES

Con't from page 15

With these experiences, Mrs. Bulman wanted to teach in a Catholic school, so she began looking for positions available. The timing was right, and she came to St. Camillus in 1972 to teach fourth grade. Teaching this age group was such a joy for her; she enjoyed helping them grow in their reading ability as they grow in independence. She also taught science for the second grade classes and would eventually become an assistant principal at St. Camillus.

Mrs. Bulman retired as the fourth grade teacher and assistant principal in 2003. However, she wanted to stay involved in the school family, and she loved working with the kids. "It's a great place to be. There's been lots and lots of chang-

es, but it's a great place to be," Mrs. Bulman explains. So many people still see her helping out with Box Tops and around the front office, still serving the school here.

St. Camillus School has transformed into Saint Francis International School, but Mrs. Pat Bulman is still a familiar face here. The school has gone through many changes, but the one constant factor has been strong leadership. "Everyone has had a strong area that has brought something to Saint Francis. It's been different, sometimes tough, but each of our leaders have had an area where they led the school to growth." Through all of the changes that Saint Francis has undergone, Mrs. Bulman should be included in those positive leaders she described and has been an admirable example and blessing for all students and staff.

OPT

ST FRANCIS

Con't from page 15

celebrates the passing for St. Francis from this life to the next. Hundreds of Franciscan friar, sisters, and lay people from throughout the Washington region came together at St. Camillus Church for this annual event that is so important within the Franciscan family. On Friday some students went to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception to celebrate Children's Holy Hour with schools across the Archdiocese of Washington. Many of the students dressed in the attire of their native culture, and all present prayed for Pope Francis, who also shares Saint Francis as an example.

The week ended with performances geared to the different age groups. The fourth, seventh, and eighth grades saw a presentation by Oran Sandel, a professional performer for school groups, about Leonardo da Vinci and learned about his work. "The performance of Leonardo not only taught them more information about da Vinci, but also help

them realize how much they already knew," says Ms. Rochel Jeffrey, the Events Coordinator at Saint Francis. Preschool through third grade witnessed a different show on the science of flying. "The kids really enjoyed Mr. Wingnut and the Flying Machine," Ms. Jeffrey observes. "It was fun and educational. They learned about the way planes move through a fun song."

The Saint Francis Week celebration even continued into the following week! On Wednesday, October 9, the Maryland State Department of Natural Resources presented its Scales and Tales Program to the students. Hearing the animals' stories allowed them to see the impact that humans have on the rest of the environment. The four-year-olds also took a field trip to the farm to see animals in their living environment. Both of these experiences revealed the important relationship people have with the world around them, and, with these lessons, the students of Saint Francis should now know better how to be successful stewards of the world, just like Saint Francis was.

OPT

Shrine of St. Jude

St. Jude Athletic Association

Great Season of Soccer for St. Jude Teams

St. Jude CYO soccer teams had their most successful soccer season yet. This past Fall marked the second year in a row we had combined soccer teams with St. Patrick's (Rockville), with nearly 140 kids playing on 10 teams (3 lit-

tle league teams and 7 CYO teams).

The CYO Boys JV team had an exceptional season under head coach Paul Perkins and assistant coach Mike Bader. With just one loss during the regular season, they advanced all the way to the City

Title game, losing to San Miguel in the championship, bringing home the runner-up trophy.

The CYO Girls JV Soccer team, under head coach Larry Kilmer, finished with a second-place trophy in the CYO Silver Tournament. **OPT**



St. Jude CYO Girls Varsity Soccer team had an outstanding season under the guidance of head coach John Sella, including winning the CYO Bronze Tournament. Additionally, mid-fielder Jenny Sella and goalie Katherine Kuzma were named to the CYO All-Star team. Pictured in front row, left to right: Deborah Alexander, Annie Marcolin, Katherine Kuzma, Sara Castellano, Savini Perera, Lucy Young, Jocelyn Neubauer, and Julie Kilmer. Second row: Mary Rowedder, Michelle Kilmer, Siobhan Murray, Brigid English, Mariam Solomon, Isabel Morris, Catherine Mabry, Caroline Dhakudel, Kylie Hatch, Rebecca Welton, and Jenny Sella. Back row: coaches Larry Young, Loudom Bekingalar, Brian Neubauer, George Welton, John Sella, and Elizabeth Hatch.

FESTIVAL

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Schooler), Irish Step-Dance, "Two Hand Reel" (Elizabeth Higgins and Josephine Rakow, Middle Schoolers), and a skit from Sponge Bob Squarepants (Fifth Grade Group) among others.

In addition to the talent portion of the festival, there were poetry recitations. A few of the grade recitations were "The Raven" (6th grade), "Turkey Dinner" (1st and 2nd grade), "George Washington" by Rosemary and Stephen Benet (4th grade) and, impressively, "Caedmon's Hymn" in Old English (Freshmen). Mr. Joseph McPherson, Brookewood's headmaster, shared with the audience John Dryden's poem "A Song for St. Cecilia's Day."

The afternoon ended with a performance by the Sophomore Class of a Zambian Hymn, "Bonse Aba." The English translation of the "Bonse Aba's" lyrics are "All that sing have the right to be called the children of God," a beautiful and joyful reminder of the power of song. Such lyrics summarize the spirit of the afternoon. After singing the "Salve Regina" together, a famous Brookewood tradition, classes were sent off to begin their Thanksgiving break with students joyously humming the songs they just shared.

OPT



Students, Teachers Pack 10,000 Meals for Homeless on Founders Day

On Thurs., Oct. 24, Visitation celebrated Founders Day by focusing on service – not just the school's history of service, but also doing service. Together all students, faculty, staff members, and several Georgetown Visitation Sisters packed 10,000 meals for Catholic Charities' Cup of Joe program.

The Cup of Joe program provides healthy "breakfast-to-go" bags for the 1,000 women and men who stay in Catholic Charities' overnight shelters. The 10,000 meals Visitation assembled will provide more than one week's worth of breakfasts to the five Catholic Charities shelters. In addition to the meals, small cards with St. Francis de Sales' Direction of Intention were included in the breakfast bags.

"I think that incorporating service into a school-wide event is essential in communicating to the students our goal of teaching them to integrate service into their lives," said Christian Service Director **Hadley Walsh**. "To be able to have the opportunity to come together as a school community in service is a true gift. Visitation has many traditions; one of them is service. Today brings that into a more tangible reality by incorporating it into Founders Day."

The day started with an assembly organized by students in the Salesian Spirituality Homeroom on the history of Visitation service. This year, all Visitation schools are sharing a theme of "shepherding the flock" through servant leader-

Continued on page 34



Father Dan Leary leads the discussion at a recent Men's Group Meeting

Men's Group Meets Weekly

For the past year and a half, a group of men at St. Andrew's parish in Silver Spring has met on Saturday mornings to spend time together and grow in their faith. These 7:30 a.m. gatherings, which have grown steadily in popularity at the parish are now a weekly staple not only for the men of St. Andrew's but also for their friends acquaintances, and co-workers—many traveling from other areas to spend time with other Catholic men who are seeking to live the fullness of their faith. Evangelization begins with personal conversion, and it is at these Men's Group meetings that many of the husbands and fathers of St. Andrew's have deepened their personal relationship with Christ through the camaraderie and witness of their fellow parishioners.

Gospel.

The meetings have established connections in a parish where several years ago, many knew few if any of the men they saw every Sunday for mass. On a typical Saturday, one will find doctors, policemen, firefighters, plumbers, teachers, and professors; men young and old, married and single, fathers and sons, from all walks of life. The amazing array of ages and experiences that come together over coffee and donuts in the early morning are partly to thank for the popularity of the group—the young learn from the wisdom presented by their elders, the elders are inspired by the zeal of the youth.

The parish has found the Men's Group has been a powerful apostolic tool—every Saturday morning the parish



Jaime Narbon and Mike Lewis are among the regular participants at the Saturday morning meetings

The Men's Group was an early initiative of St. Andrew's pastor, Father Dan Leary. The meetings were initially intended to take place on Saturdays during Lent in preparation for Easter. When Lent 2012 came to a close, the men of the parish decided to continue meeting during the Easter Season and beyond. These weekly gatherings have continued since, in large part because those attending have found them to be of such value to their faith and family life. Each week, Father Dan leads the group in prayer in discussion around the Sunday readings and

receives visitors, some Catholic, some not, but all with an invitation to "come and see" and spend time with other men who are trying to live their faith. According to Father Dan, "the Men's Group has been a blessing for the men of St. Andrew's, serving primarily as a means of increasing the faith and knowledge of those in attendance, specifically with the regard to their vocation as Catholic Christian men. The group can serve as an example for other parishes who want to initiate more community-driven evangelization efforts."

OPT



Grandparents gathered in the All-Purpose Room to enjoy breakfast and entertainment on Grandparents Day 2013

Grandparents Feted

On Friday, November 1, St. Andrew Apostle School celebrated Grandparents Day. Grandparents and/or "Significant Elders" were invited to breakfast, classroom visits and an all-school Mass. A festively decorated All-purpose Room was the setting for the delicious breakfast where musical entertainment was furnished by talented Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and First Grade classes.

Afterwards, grandparents were invited to tour the facility, visit classrooms where they were able to get a sense of the curriculum and school day as well as meet teachers and classmates. The morning ended with an all-school Mass during which Father Dan Leary gave a moving

homily on the importance of Grandparents and how best to honor them. It was a wonderful morning with over eighty five attending and everyone is looking forward to repeating the success next year.

OPT



Principal Susan Sheehan leads the applause as the Pre-Kindergarten class takes a bow

December School Happenings

The annual Christmas Pageant and Concert will take place on December 9 at 1:30 pm and 6:30 pm in the Church. On December 14, beginning at 9:00 am, there will be Breakfast with Santa and an opportunity to visit the Secret Santa Shop.

Plans are underway for the annual Christmas appreciation luncheon for faculty and staff and a separate party for individual grades/classrooms which will take place before school closes for Christmas vacation.

OPT

DIFFERENCE

Con't from page 17

our commitment to providing our students with a strong foundation in the Catholic faith. We teach our children how to add and subtract, how to parse a sentence and write a research paper. We teach Science and Spanish and French and Art. We teach our students to love learning. Most importantly, though, we teach our students how to live. We teach them how to treat everyone they meet with respect – to see the

Face of God in everyone; we teach them the dignity inherent in hard work; we teach them to turn to God when things are difficult and to see God's hand at work when things are wonderful. We work hard to provide our students with the resources they will surely need to survive in a world that pummels them with language and visual messages that threaten their very souls.

Our Catholic schools educate children to carry on the faith – to share it with others through what they do and what they say. In the Catholic schools parents can find

true partners; teachers, administrators and priests who share with them the belief that we are all responsible for providing our children with an outstanding education that is founded in the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Blessed Basil Moreau stated so well, "How we educate the mind will change with the times; how we cultivate the heart is and will remain timeless." It is this timeless and relentless commitment to educating the minds and hearts of our students that makes the real difference.

OPT

FOOD FAST

Con't from page 17

and Mr. Dwyer and alumna Margaret Capizzi about the effects of poverty and homelessness on people's spirits, and discussed our responsibility as Catholics and Christians to reach out to the poor in our communities.

Monsignor Filardi joined the group and celebrated a beautiful candlelight Mass with them. In his homily Monsignor talked about how

oftentimes, prayer isn't enough. As Catholics, we are called to take action – to do more. The children found themselves inspired to reach out to those in need, and recognized the many blessings they have to share.

A late night trip to see "The Hunger Games, Catching Fire" was a great adventure. Somehow the students had convinced Mr. Long that the movie was actually about "hunger"!

When the students returned to school, they enjoyed a huge breakfast prepared by Dr. Capizzi and Mr. Hudak. It was a long day and a

long night for hungry students and tired grown-ups. The sacrifices were worth it, though. The middle school students will never forget the experience of the Food Fast, nor will they look at their brothers and sisters who experience homelessness and poverty in the same way.

The adults were encouraged and inspired by their students' willingness to sacrifice and pray to help others, and they will catch up on all that lost sleep over the Thanksgiving holidays.

OPT

St. Andrew Apostle Parish
11600 Kemp Mill Road
Silver Spring, MD
Rev. Daniel P. Leary,
Pastor
301-649-3700 ext. 311
St. Andrew Apostle School
Susan M. Sheehan,
Principal
301-649-3555



Enjoying the many dishes at the "Taste of Resurrection" international potluck dinner were, back from left, Abner Cauton, David and Rachel Cabiles, and Carmen Chang, and Liz Balbago; front from left, George and Mary Brummel, Percy and Nane Tiglaio, and Belen Policarpio; standing on right, Sammie Young, Dan Correya and Mike Stempihar. — Photo by John Small

Parishioners Enjoy Palate-Pleasing Fare at International Potluck Dinner

More than 90 diners with hearty appetites and a taste for adventure gathered at the Resurrection parish hall Nov. 2 for the annual "Taste of Resurrection" international potluck dinner — featuring dishes from around the world.

On the menu were favorite dishes from the Philippines, India, Poland, Italy, Lithuania, Cameroon, and Ireland, as well as dishes representative of various U.S. states and ethnic heritages.

Just to name a few of the palate-pleasing items: Shepherd's Pie and Guinness Stew (Ireland); Spinach, Smoked Fish, Palm Oil, and Cocoyam Leaves and Ground Melon (Cameroon); Chicken Adobo, Minudo, Egg Rolls, and Bean Curd and Bok Choy (Philippines); Bill's Famous Chili (Texas); Eggplant Stew (Guyana); Butter Chicken (India); Shrimp Fried Rice (Vietnam); Eggplant Lasagna and Eggplant Parmesan (Italy); Kielbasa and Sauerkraut (Poland); Cabbage Rolls (Lithuania); and Fried Chicken (Maryland).

The event, which has been held for a decade at Resurrection, was organized by Ginger and John Kessler, assisted by Cynthia and Richard Holgash, Stephanie and Tim Kelcher, Mary Ann and Gary Katski, and Nancy Schreider.

"It's a great way to celebrate our life as a community and to show concretely the universality of the church," said Fr. Scott Hahn, the Resurrection pastor, who attended the event and sampled a good selection of the many available dishes.

Church of the Resurrection Parish

3315 Greencastle Road
Burtonsville, MD

Fr. Scott Hahn
Pastor

301-236-5200

Parish Editor
John Small

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Parish Sends 65 Thanksgiving Baskets

About two dozen youth and adult volunteers prepared Thanksgiving baskets for 65 families in need in the Burtonsville area, where Resurrection Church is located. The baskets were assembled Nov. 24 by the volunteers under the direction of Sister Rita Ricker, R.J.M., the parish director of social justice/outreach. The youth volunteers in the project were Alie, Eric and Xavier Barley; Sean Bryant; Anna and Joe Bufalini; Alim Farma; Irene Park; Maureen Salita; Brandon Sandoval; Cassie Sanidad; Mary and Will Shawhan; Ben, Sam and Sarah Sheppard; and Zach Stango. The parish has been involved in holiday food-giving projects for more than a dozen years. Photo by Michael Bufalini



About 40 members of Resurrection Church gathered Oct. 5 for the fifth annual Blessing of the Animals. — Photos by John Small

Fifth Annual Blessing of the Animals

The annual Blessing of the Animals was held at Resurrection Church on Oct. 5, the day after the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of the environment.

"Brother Sun," as St. Francis called our sustaining star, shown brightly as parish Deacon David Suley conducted the fifth annual event at Resurrection attended by about 40 parishioners—and a raucous assembly of their dogs, cats, birds other furry creatures.

The Resurrection Integrity of Creation Committee sponsored the ceremony, with committee members Akisha Townsend organizing the liturgy, and Sally DeSavage and Sue David performing the biblical readings and prayers.

The event included personal testimonies by attendees as to how their pets—past and present—have given them a fuller appreciation of creation and thereby brought them closer to God.

The ceremony noted that Pope Francis took his name because of his admiration for St. Francis, known for his love of all creation, including creatures great and small, and for his work among ordinary people and the poor.

FOUNDERS

Con't from page 32

ship as understood by St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane de Chantal. The presentation traveled from the Visitation Order's founding to Georgetown Visitation's present. There was special emphasis on how the school has served the community, and how the community helped the school, especially 20 years ago when a fire ravaged the building now known as Founders Hall.

"I hope this day helps the girls understand that they are a part of a powerful tradition, not about self, but about others, and recognize that what has come before them is also a part of them," says Visitation Salesian Network Representative and English Department Head Laurie Quirk '74, who planned the



Siegel '70 who works for the Georgetown Visitation Monastery, **Katie Sullivan '91** from Franciscan Volunteer Ministry, **Ellen McGovern Hatherill '99** from So Others Might Eat, and **Cassie Clemente '02** from Jesuit Volunteer Corps. They discussed how Visitation influenced their desire to do good in the world and work for a service organization. All four emphasized the importance of following your passion and doing what you are called to do.

The morning finished with the White Team winning the student-loved Gold-White Faculty/Staff Tug-of War. After lunch, there was Mass before the girls went off to their final Marshmallow Roast practice. That night the Class of 2015 juniors took home the title of Marshmallow Roast 2013 winners.

day's activities with Walsh and religion teacher **Elise Italiano**. Laurie continues, "I also hope that they feel called to service themselves, not just to get hours, but for it to take root in their lives."

After the presentation, the girls heard from four alumnae who were called to service vocations. The panel featured **Mary Smith**



Members of St. Camillus Food Pantry and contributors gather to pray over the donations from Holy Redeemer's School Wide Food Drive

PRIORITY

Con't from page 16

Bonfiglio and his sons (former HR students) Sam and Matt, Mr. Doug Davidson, and Mr. Alan Pumphrey.

The Religious Life Committee, under the direction of faculty member Mrs. Pam Hurley, collects fruit on the second Thursday of each month for S.O.M.E. (So

Others Might Eat). Students support this endeavor by bringing in the designated fruit each month during the school year. Religious Life Committee members go to each classroom and collect the fruit which is then delivered by parishioners. Recently committee members met after dismissal in the school kitchen to make trail mix for delivery to S.O.M.E.



Above, Super Bowl Winning Hawks.
Above right, Fourth Grader Sam Curley Heading for the Goal Post



Super Bowl Sunday and Chili Cook-Off

By Julia Hippchen

On Sunday, November 24, St. John the Baptist had their first **Flag Football Super Bowl** and **Chili Cook-Off**. Not since the 1960s has SJB hosted flag football. Even with freezing temperatures and strong winds, the community cheered four teams of boys and girls from grades three through six through the playoffs and the Super Bowl. Nearly thirty seventh and eighth graders followed with their own final game after a six-week season. Flag Football was started by SJB parent Doug

Palmer, assisted by Linda Sigg, Peter Hippchen and many other volunteers. Athletic Ministry Director, Mr. Tom Cygnarowicz, generously gave of his time to line the field and help each week.

DJ Jimmy Carr kept the afternoon exciting by announcing plays and playing music. Fourteen chilis were entered in the cook-off, with the winning recipe created by Vicki Reed. Her delicious White Chili was made with chicken and cannellini beans. Football cookies and cupcakes, cornbread, hot dogs, and lots of hot chocolate were enjoyed by all.

Father David Brault led the prayer before the final game. The Hawks defeated the Panthers 28 to 21, with an exciting touchdown scored in overtime by Tahj Johnson. When asked how he felt about winning the Super Bowl, Hawks coach Mike Diokno said, "Winning the Super Bowl was a great experience for the girls and boys - it taught them to play hard and enjoy football even in playing conditions comparable to the frozen tundra at Lambeau Field. SJB has such a storied football history, so it was truly special to see football back on the field again."

OPT



The St. John the Evangelist (SJE) 14U/Varsity Boys soccer team defeated Mary of Nazareth 3-1 on Sunday, November 3rd at the Soccerplex stadium in Germantown, MD to win the 2013 Washington CYO City Championship. With the victory, SJE succeeded in capturing the 2nd Varsity City Championship title in SJE history, and a back-to-back City titles. SJE broke out to an early lead but MON countered with a goal late in the first half and the score was tied 1-1 at the break. After the half, SJE really began to pour on the offense, netting two goals over the opening 12 minutes. MON tried furiously to rally for the remainder of the half but could not break SJE again. SJE was undefeated on the season and only yielded four goals all year.

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2013 CBN-MC Gala - Celebrating Catholic Business Support of Catholic Education

Photos by Mark Gregory, Gregory Fine Portraits • Copy by Paul G. Zurkowski, CBN-MC Founder



Craig Ruppert, Catholic Business Person of the Year 2013

Every year the CBN-MC Board of Directors selects a Montgomery County business person with a glowing record as a human being, a Catholic and a strong supporter of Catholic Education. This year, the Board selected such a very special person well worthy of the Award's title, The Catholic Business Person of the Year, 2013. Craig Ruppert, is president of the Ruppert Companies, which include Ruppert Landscape, with 15 branch offices employing over 850 in the mid-Atlantic region, Ruppert Nurseries, a wholesale tree growing operation with over 70,000 trees, and Ruppert Properties, which owns, develops and manages select commercial properties on the East Coast. His soft spoken words of support for family, church,

Catholic education and the CBN-MC idea and role rang true and were an inspiration to the gathered community. It was easy to see how this man-of-his-word approaches life.



Three Popular Montgomery County Leaders kick off the 20th CBN-MC Gala Celebration, Friday evening, Nov. 22, 2013

CBN-MC President Gerard M. McLoughlin, Jr. received Montgomery County Council Proclamation from regular CBN-MC Gala attendee, County Executive Isiah "Ike" Leggett proclaiming November 22, 2013, as Catholic Business Network-MC Gala Day. Sue Palka, Gala Emcee, added her enthusiasm to the excitement of the event.



Schools Business Partner of the 2013

Selected from among 10 nominees submitted by Catholic schools for Catholic Schools Business of the Year, Nominee Digital Infusion, Inc, is The Catholic Schools Business of the Year, for Montgomery County, 2013. Digital Infusion's founder, Hemant Virkar accepted the award from (left)

Anita Segreti, Anita Segreti Insurance Innovations, Inc., and long time CBN-MC Board Member and (right) Sue Palka, CBN's Gala Emcee and Channel 5 Weather expert. Digital Infusion wrote software for and installed a program for the daily carpool dismissal process. He has graciously provided time, talent and resources to a grateful Mary of Nazareth School. His company provides support for research centers and healthcare organizations. All ten nominees provided extensive and personalized support for their respective schools. Claire Wyrsh, Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School, chaired the Award process for The Business and Volunteer Awards.



Schools Volunteer the Year 2013

Eleven Schools submitted nominations for Schools Volunteer of the Year. Nominated by St. John the Evangelist School, Peg Daly is the Schools Volunteer of the Year for Montgomery County 2013. Highly involved in the school and parish for over

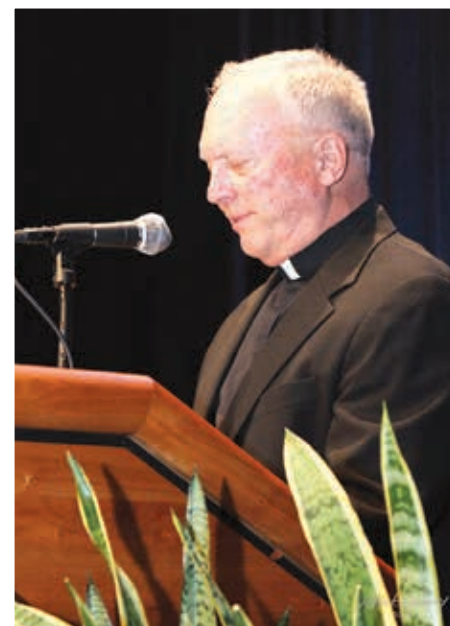
20 years beginning in the early 1990s, her three children have long since graduated but she continues to coordinate the Confirmation Program for the parish, teaches CCD and volunteers to do whatever she can to help the school with enthusiasm and love. Peg Daly (center) accepts the award and recognition from Anita Segreti (left) and Sue Palka (right).



Michael Murray receives Paul G. Zurkowski Founder's Award

Michael Murray is a sustaining participant in many Catholic Communities: Blessed Sacrament Church where he, his wife Pat are members; Blessed Sacrament Grade School where he and Pat and all six children attended and graduated; Gonzaga High School where he achieved Alumni Hall of Fame status; Carmody Open Scholarship Fund Golf Tournament, and twenty years with Payroll

Network. His sense of loyalty and his long-term commitment have added credibility to his involvement and eight years of Board service with CBN-MC. His personal following within the Catholic community has immensely helped move CBN-MC forward as he applied his honor and skills as Treasurer and Director to sustaining and growing CBN-MC. Here, he accepts the Paul G. Zurkowski Founder's Award from (right) CBN-MC President Gerard M. McLoughlin, Jr. and (left) CBN-MC Founder Paul G. Zurkowski.



Monsignor Macfarlane

Monsignor John F. Macfarlane, Pastor, St. Elizabeth's Parish and CBN-MC Spiritual Advisor provided the Invocation. His presence throughout the year's CBN-MC programs continues to be an inspiration to members and guests.