



Parish Times

Senior Services Guide
Special Pull-Out Section

DECEMBER 2014

Living the Faith Together

FREE

St. Elizabeth Guest Speaker

Noted Vatican Correspondent John Allen on "The Francis Effect"

By Kathryn Swartz, Pastoral Associate, St. Elizabeth Church

Pope Francis is currently the most popular religious figure on the planet – 12 million follow him on Twitter alone. In the US he has an 88% approval rating among all people and a 91% approval rating among Catholics.



John Allen at St. Elizabeth Church address

As fellow members of the Church Pope Francis leads, we need to seize the opportunities he presents by his amazing charism – he offers evangelization opportunities that we need to capitalize upon.

This is what Vatican correspondent (currently as Associate Editor of the Boston Globe and its Web site, Crux) John L.

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Generations Together

Happy Holidays! I hope your Advent season is filled with joy and the magical anticipation that only the celebration of the birth of the world's Savior can bring. 'Tis the season to be joyful. Cherish your loved ones; bring joy to those you meet; comfort to those who suffer; pray more; rest much and limit stress.



Chuck Short

Our parishes helped provide Thanksgiving dinner for thousands of poor families and others in need as part of the Montgomery County Holiday Giving program. For thirty years, volunteers have collected, cooked, served and delivered Turkey dinners during the week of Thanksgiving. The project is coordinated by the nonprofit, **A Wider Circle**, and several of our parishes serve as major distribution sites. I visited one of them, St Patrick's in Rockville, this year where 800 families came to gather the fixings for Thanksgiving festivities. Scores of parish volunteers of all ages served elbow to elbow greeting, packing,

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A new altarpiece, floor and pendant lights are prominent additions to St. Andrew Apostle Church.

New Look for St. Andrew Apostle Church Interior

"In order to communicate the message entrusted to her by Christ, the Church needs art," Pope John Paul II wrote in his 1999 Letter to Artists. "Art must make perceptible, and as far as possible attractive, the world of the spirit, of the invisible, of God."

In this spirit, St. Andrew Apostle pastor Father Daniel Leary has marshaled parishioners' time, talent, and treasure to beautify the church building. Thanks to generous donors, and the skills and efforts of some parishioners, St. Andrew Apostle has been renovated from apse to nave and from floor to ceiling.

The old altarpiece, more or less plain white wall paneling, has been replaced by an intricate wooden piece. Parishioner Nicole Bourgea, a professional portrait painter, painted a triptych, with the center panel painted with lines on a blue background, sug-

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Adult and youth volunteers at Resurrection Church prepared about 100 Thanksgiving baskets this year for families in need in the Burtonsville and surrounding area. Photo by John Small

Resurrection Parish Prepares Thanksgiving Baskets for Families in Need

In a parish-wide effort, adult and youth volunteers at Resurrection Church prepared about 100 Thanksgiving baskets for families in need this year.

All the food was donated by parishioners, either by direct donations or by financial contributions, through the ongoing food pantry operated by volunteers under the leadership of Albert Klavon and Sharon O'Brien.

The Thanksgiving baskets were prepared by adult and youth program volunteers and distributed beginning Nov. 23. Donated food items included mashed potatoes, cranberries, stuffing, turkey gravy, corn, beans, peas, yams, and pumpkin, cherry and apple pie fillings and crusts.

The parish has been involved in holiday food-giving projects for more than a dozen years.

OPT

My Christmas Wish

Well, we've now finished eating our Thanksgiving meal and spending time with those we most love, and even enjoyed some leftovers. I now begin December with another year of fond family memories. It is my favorite month each year, one that starts with the last Thursday of November and lasts through Christmas. So many memories are created each year with family, friends, and now as President and CEO of Catholic Charities, those in need who come to us each day. And quite honestly, many times these children of the Lord help our staff and volunteers more than we assist them in creating life-long memories and finding the true meaning of the season.



Rev. Msgr. John Enzler

And already, like every year that I have been at our agency, many of you have asked me, "What does Catholic Charities need this Christmas season?"

Many of us can't imagine as children waking up on a Christmas morning with no gifts under a tree to open. Last year, I remember how inspiring it was to watch as parents arrived late in December and to see

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Public Libraries Offers New Online Driving Test Resource

Montgomery County residents can now take free online Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) practice tests thanks to a partnership between Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) and Driving-Tests.org that allows access to the test at <http://montgomerymd.driving-tests.org/maryland/>.

The new service includes free tests, specifically based on Maryland State DMV materials, and acces-

sibility tools that allow users to hear selections read aloud, make them into MP3s, translate pages into other languages, magnify text and mask sections of the screen for greater visibility.

For more information on other services available from Montgomery County Public Libraries, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library.

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Gathering the Wisdom of Women Third Annual ADW Women's Conference

SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 21, 2015 for the third annual Archdiocese of Washington's Women's Conference: Gathering the Wisdom of Women. The conference will be held at Church of the Resurrection in Burtonsville Maryland from 8:30 to 3:00pm.

There will be an English and Spanish track. The keynote speaker in English is Colleen Carroll Campbell, journalist and author of "My Sisters the Saints" and the keynote speaker

in Spanish – back by popular demand – is Lucia Baez Luzondo, the founder, with her husband Ricardo, of the *Renovación Familiar*. Ricardo will also be on hand this year to do an afternoon Spanish workshop.

The day will also include Mass, Confessions, Eucharistic Adoration a fabulous lunch and 6 afternoon workshops.



Colleen Carroll Campbell

Office of Family Life, 301 853-4499 or at hammm@adw.org.

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Cost is \$25, 5 tickets for \$100 when purchased as a group. there will be free child care and a bus shuttle service from the Silver Spring metro for those that sign up in advance. For further information contact Maria Suarez Hamm at

Luau dance at St. Francis of Assisi

The UpCounty Community Resources Special Needs Ministry held a Luau dance at the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Center on Saturday, October 13. More than 120 teens and young adults enjoyed pizza, snacks and music. The Upper County Resource Group is an organization of persons who believe that diversity in our community enriches us all. Our mission is to promote faith based and social opportunities for individuals with and without developmental differences in a community that values each member. If you would like more information about our group and the upcoming dance, contact Sylvia Jones at 301-762-6564 in the evening.



Shrine of St. Jude

Blessing of the Animals

By Sr. Vincent de Paul

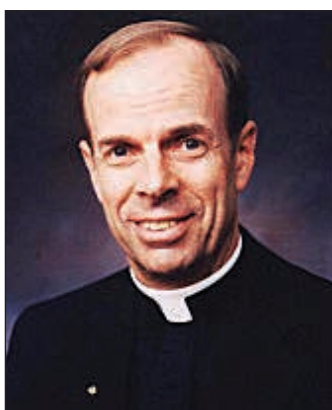
On Oct. 4, many "blessings" were bestowed on Shrine of St. Jude! Bringing back the wonderful pious custom of the St. Francis of Assisi "Animal Blessing," Fr. Kenneth Gill, our Parochial Vicar, held the event in the St. Francis Circle between the rectory and convent, where the outdoor statue of St. Francis stands. It was blessed in 1981 by our former Pastor, Msgr. Madigan, and was dedicated to all the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters who began the formal Education Process in 1956 at St. Jude Catholic School and who still work in the parish.

Fr. Ken started the event with the story of "St. Francis and the Wolf of Gubio." His para-liturgical service continued with the help of Pedro Esteban, Spanish Ministry Coordinator, and a responsorial prayer that all the "participants" joined in; the four legged ones, especially the dogs, with loud barking. Father then blessed individually every pet and owner and did a lot of "paw shaking" and animal greetings to the birds, bunnies, cats and other pets. And lastly, a "Birthday Blessing" was bestowed on Fr. Ken by a joint effort of singing Happy 52nd Birthday Father Ken, also on the Feast Day of St. Francis.

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Heaven, Hell & Purgatory Topics of Speaker Series at St. Jude

As part of the Shrine of St. Jude Speaker Series, Fr. Thomas G. Morrow will speak on Heaven, Hell, and Purgatory. The first talk about Heaven and Hell was already held in November; however, his second talk on Purgatory will be on Thursday, Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Thaddeus Room at the Shrine of St. Jude Catholic Church, 12701 Viers Mill Rd, Rockville. There is no charge, and everyone is welcome.



Fr. Thomas G. Morrow, STD

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Parish Times

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Picturing Mary: Woman, Mother, Idea

Meet Mary at the Women's Museum

The Virgin Mary has been one of the most iconic and popular subjects in Western art for millennia.

More than 60 stunning depictions of Mary, many never before seen in the United States, have traveled from the Vatican Museums, the Louvre in Paris, and the Uffizi in Florence, among others, to their temporary home at Washington, D.C.'s National Museum of Women in the Arts.

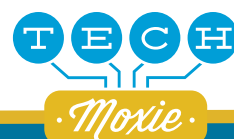
Picturing Mary: Woman, Mother, Idea celebrates the Virgin Mary through beautiful art that visually captures her importance to the Catholic faith. It includes an ori-

entation gallery with depictions of Mary from around the world, but the main event is the opportunity to meet Mary as she was imagined by some of the world's greatest artists.

This spectacular exhibition will not travel. It is only on view from December 5, 2014, through April 12, 2015, at NMWA. Your chance to meet Mary is included as part of regular museum admission: \$10 for adults, \$8 for visitors 65 and over and students, and free for NMWA members and youth 18 and under.

See more at: <http://nmwa.org/picturing-mary-tickets#sthash.IeNYM8Db.dpuf>

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Attending the Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County's 21st Annual Gala in November are, from left to right: Jennifer and Mario Silva, Master of Ceremonies for the evening Sue Palka, and Tom and Maureen Striegel.

CBN-MC Recognizes Two Members of the Holy Cross Community

Tom Striegel of Davis Buckley Architects and Planners was named the Catholic Schools Business Partner of the Year at the Catholic Business Network of

Montgomery County's annual Gala and Award Ceremony on November 21. Over the past fourteen years, Mr. Striegel has generously shared his time and expertise with the Holy Cross community, overseeing projects big and small to maintain and improve our campus. Whether he is designing walkways, handicapped accessible ramps or more complex projects like the renovation of Lewis Hall, our multi-purpose social hall and kitchen, Mr. Striegel oversees all aspects of the project. He is often at the school meeting with contractors or electricians, and it is not uncommon to see him atop a ladder, measuring tape in hand, considering the best approach to a new project. Most recently, Mr. Striegel designed a new brick

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Holy Cross Parish

4900 Strathmore Avenue
Garrett Park, MD

Rev. Msgr. Cary Hill, Pastor
301-942-1020

Holy Cross School

**Lisa Maio Kane,
Principal**
301-949-0053

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

Race for Education

The entire Holy Cross School community participated in the Race for Education on Thursday, October 2. The Holy Cross Hawk led students in fun-filled warm-up exercises before students proceeded to the starting line – an archway bedecked by green and white balloons – and onto the race course

through the campus.

Stephanie Kolevar, P.E. teacher at Holy Cross worked closely with Kirsten Howard, one of our school parents to plan and organize the event which even included a visit from Chuck E. Cheese to cheer the students on! "It was a great day for our Holy Cross community, raising just over \$11,000. The weather was perfect, and we had a lot of supportive parents and family cheering on all of the students as they walked or ran their laps



around the school. Thanks to all of our family, friends and community sponsors for making this another successful fundraiser!" Mrs. Kolevar said. All photos by Alexei Dmitriev

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Science at St John the Evangelist School

Sarah Kolosky, SJE's new 6-8th grade science teacher, is excited about all of the topics she has covered in the first semester of this school year. The sixth grade celebrated Earth Science week in October. They learned about rocks and minerals and created an original rock cycle skit during class. Pictured is a photograph from the rock abrasion activity in the sixth-grade science lab class. The seventh graders studied Genetics; they worked on a Monster Genetics project involving Punnett Squares. And the eighth-grade recently had a unit on Chemical Reactions, using their math skills as well as their science skills to balance chemical equations.

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SJE Girls Complete Girls on the Run 5K

It is a cold morning on November 16 at 7:00 am, but eight girls and their families rise early and head to Montgomery Mall for the Girls on the Run 5K. They have been preparing for this since September and today is the day. Everyone is super excited and just can't wait for the race to start. There is a DJ playing music and thousands of girls and their families from schools all over Montgomery County are bouncing up and down just ready to run. Some of the girls aren't sure if they will run the whole way or if they will have to walk, but everyone is encouraging. Near the finish line are a few parents cheering on our SJE girls as they get to the end of the race. After they finish, they gather to cheer on the rest of the girls. The smiles are amazing. Each girl receives a medal and a certificate after the race.



SJE Girls on the Run participants hold up their certificates.

This is the second session of Girls on the Run at Saint John the Evangelist School, which was started last spring. Megan Raines, a student at SJE, had participated in the program at another local

school and loved it so much she asked her mom to start it at St. John's. Maureen Raines and Mary O'Neill Wood, another SJE mom, got the ball rolling and brought the program to St. John the Evangelist. Last spring there were twelve girls from third to sixth grades and this fall eight third and fourth graders participated.

The program runs for ten weeks and consists of fun activities to teach the girls self-esteem, including positive self-talk, how to stand up to their friends, treating their bodies in a healthy way, good body image as well as training for a 5K. The 5K is so fun and empowering everyone just feels great when they finish, they feel like they can do anything they set their mind to. The feedback from the girls and

Continued on page 23



SJE Girls gather with their Girls on the Run leader, Maureen Raines

"I'm Still Here"

St. John's Seniors Thank God for Long, Good Lives

Though none of them was born into the parish, Liz Mescher, Richard Podarksy, Lolita Jardeleza, and Robert Jackson have been parishioners at St. John the Evangelist for a combined total of 195 years. Among them, they have taken part in just about every parish ministry, and they are all still as active as their health and circumstances allow.

Liz Mescher will celebrate her 94th birthday shortly before Christmas. She arrived in the parish as a bride in 1947. She has always been active in parish ministries. Now, "winding down a little," she still embroiders names on the baptismal cloths and counts money from the collection baskets.

She sang in the choir for 35

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Maureen Hathway (mother of Caroline and Maggie Hathway), John Caulfield (uncle of Caroline and Maggie Hathway) Caroline Hathway (author) and Kathleen Caulfield (aunt of Caroline and Maggie Hathway) at the Tour de Cure

DC's Tour de Cure

By Caroline Hathway

On Saturday, September 27, 2014, almost 1,000 riders lined up on Pennsylvania Avenue, ready to ride our bikes in the Tour de Cure, to stop diabetes. Our mission: to raise money for research and education for Type 1 Diabetes.

I rode with my mother, my aunt and my uncle who has diabetes. There were three routes to choose from and the distances were 13 miles, 35 miles or 50 miles. Every rider had to raise a minimum of \$250 for the American Diabetes Association to ride! If you had diabetes, you were named a "Red Rider" and you were given a special red biking shirt. I have 2 sisters with diabetes, and an aunt and another uncle, and two cousins, and two great uncles and a grandmother, all who have Type 1 diabetes. Every mile I rode, every dollar I asked people for was for them. I received many generous donations from members of the St. John's community with additional fundraising support from teachers.

During the ride, my 35-mile

route led us down the Clara Barton Parkway, into Maryland and eventually into the highest part of DC - Glover Park. Thirty-five miles may seem overwhelming, but with the many riders that were riding with me, plus the motivation and hope to relieve people of diabetes, I rode and did not stop!

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Caroline Hathway and her big sister Maggie Hathway pose at the Tour de Cure finish line.

St. John the Evangelist School



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Principal

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Kate Droege, OPT Editor
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St. Patrick's in Rockville celebrates Catholic Charities Day with Ministry Fair in new Parish Center

St. Patrick Ministry Fair

The St. Patrick ministries came together for a day of celebration as they invited parishioners to find a ministry to join and ultimately serve with their time, talent, and treasure. Over 50 ministries that embodied the Five Indicators of Vitality of administration, worship, community, education, and service participated in the fair. Parishioners visited various ministry booths to pick-up materials, sign-up as volunteers, and learn more about the life of the parish.

The Social Concerns Ministry presented opportunities to serve in the various holiday food drives, provide shelter meals on an ongoing

basis, put together shoe boxes for SOME, and even advocate for pro-life causes. Also present were the Religious Education Program which serves over 300 students in their faith formation from K-8 and consists of 30 catechists; the Adult Faith Formation Ministry that offers various programs for Bible study, catechism classes, small groups for men and women, RCIA, and retreats; and the ever growing Youth Group that hosts weekly gatherings with socials and intentional catechesis, retreats, and other special events.

The St. Patrick School accepted applications for admissions and highlighted their service efforts in Haiti. The Worship Ministry successfully recruited lectors, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, ushers, and choir members. Community building ministries such as the CYO and Hospitality Committee were also on hand to welcome parishioners and sign-up youth and coaches. The Pastoral Council featured a slideshow presenting the various activities that contribute to the vibrancy of the parish.

The ministries listed are only some of the many ministries run by dedicated and faithful parishioners of St. Patrick. The clergy and staff thank all those who contributed to making this effort a spirit-filled success!

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St. Patrick's Parish

4101 Norbeck Road
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St. Patrick's School
Ms. Christie Anne Short,
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Parish Editor
New Volunteer Needed
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More St. Patrick News
on Page 26



St. Patrick Parish Confirmation Students Go On Retreat

November 8 marked this year's Confirmation Retreat. This year's theme was *"Let yourselves be loved by Christ, he is a friend that will not disappoint"* taken from the Youth Welcome Address of Pope Francis in Rio. Students spent the day in the beautiful Shrine of St. Anthony in Ellicott City where they attended Mass, reflected on scripture, and listened to powerful personal witness of accepting God's love. The Confirmation students were joined by our parish priests, sisters from the order of Sisters Servant of the Lord, school teachers, and parish catechists. Kindly keep our Confirmation students in your prayers.



We can do it! St. Patrick's Parish in Rockville participated in the Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive (GGCFD) on Saturday, November 15, 2014. For the second year in a row, more than 300 members of the parish and school distributed collection bags to the surrounding parish neighborhoods and then collected and counted cans. An astounding 16,796 cans were collected! Full trucks of food were sent to the food pantries at St. Martin of Tours in Gaithersburg, Assumption Parish in DC, Olney HELP, the Capital Area Food Bank and the Montgomery County Family Center. Pictured are student participants in the GGCFD from St. Patrick's School along with Deacon Jim Nalls (on left) of Catholic Charities DC.

St. Patrick's Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive

We have all seen the sobering statistics about the many men, women, and children who go hungry, many of whom live in our communities or nearby. This autumn, St. Patrick's

wanted to make a difference by helping to serve their needs.

On November 15th, we had ourselves a chilly day that turned into an absolutely delightful day. St. Patrick's Greg Gannon Canned

Food Drive collected approximately 17,000 canned goods, reaching close to 4,000 homes mostly in the community of our parish. With the help from so many individuals

Continued on page 26

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2nd Annual Global Cardboard Challenge

St. Patrick's School participated in the Global Cardboard Challenge for the second year in a row this November. They are proud to be one of only a few schools in the state of Maryland that participate in this global event. The Cardboard Challenge was inspired by the "Caine's Arcade" documentary which featured a nine-year-old boy who spent months creating an elaborate cardboard arcade in his father's auto parts store. The film inspired a worldwide kids' creative movement.

On November 21, St. Patrick's held its Cardboard Day of Play in which students from Pre-K through 8th grade created inventions and creations using recyclable and reusable materials. They created inventions such as boats, pizza box games, arcade games, and Rube Goldberg contraptions.

On Monday, November 24, more than 300 parents and stu-

dents assembled for the Invention Convention and Maker Faire. This evening highlighted the creative work of the students and featured all cardboard creations on display. Attendees also witnessed the first-ever cardboard fashion show in which fifth and sixth graders presented fashion creations made entirely of recyclable materials in a runway-style show.

The Invention Convention also offered opportunity for creative activity stations where students made ooey gooey slime, magnet LEDs, and CD hovercrafts. There was also a fascinating demonstration of a 3-D printer in action.

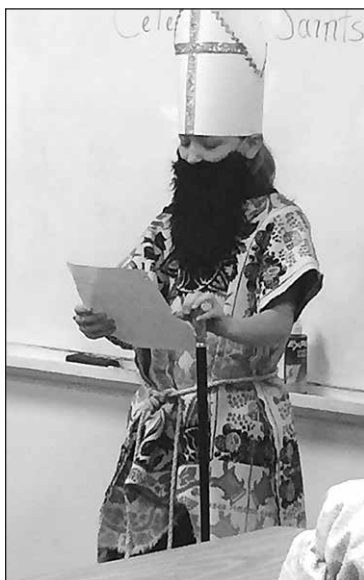
Michelle Brown, organizer of the event, loves seeing the pride of the students showing off their creativity to their parents and peers. "It is amazing to see four year olds through fourteen year olds enjoy a single event that is fully kid-produced," Brown commented.

OPT



Sixth grader Eileen sporting her glamorous trash bag shirt and shawl with cardboard skirt and adorable duct tape clutch. Her sidekick, Nick, also in sixth grade, is all dressed up in his trash bag tuxedo with tinfoil tie and handkerchief. Both designers made their fashion debut on the St. Patrick's Invention Convention runway!

St. Bernadette



Celebrating Our Saints

Family and friends gathered November 25 at St. Bernadette Fourth Graders presented their Celebration of Saints. Earlier in the month students each selected a saint to research, write about and present. Most students opted to dress as their selected saints while presenting their research. Pictured is Josie Burke as St. Augustine of Hippo.

Pilgrims and Native Americans Feasting Together

November 25 was a historic day at St. Bernadette. It was the day Native Americans (SBS Kindergarten) and Pilgrims (First Graders) sat down together to celebrate a feast. After weeks of learning about the original event, working with their teachers to design and create their costumes, and helping their parents prepare food items, the children sat down to a meal of turkey, potatoes, vegetables, popcorn and a sweet treat. Parents served as wait-staff. After the meal honored guests, including St. Bernadette Parish Pastor, Monsignor Smith, St. Bernadette School Principal, Mrs. Wood, Vice Principal, Mr. Ewanciew, and many of the students' grandparents, were treated to Thanksgiving songs performed by the children.



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St Bernadette Kindergarten and First Grade re-enact the first Thanksgiving

NEW LOOK

Con't from page 1

gesting both stars of heaven and a fisherman's net, in honor of Saint Andrew. The side panels feature angels, facing the tabernacle, thus standing in worship of Christ in the Eucharist. The artist, never having witnessed any angels herself, based her depiction on the accounts of saints who *have*—the angels hold spears, as Saint Teresa of Avila described them, and their wings are brightly colored, as Saint Cecilia saw them.

Carpenters resurfaced the altar, adding a carved relief of the Last Supper on the front, in a style matching the statues of Joseph and Mary that flank the sanctuary. Those statues have been removed from their wall mounting, and placed on pedestals—the setting for which they were built.

A new lectern graces the dais, fronted by the parish's crest—an X symbolizing the shape of the cross on which legend holds St. Andrew was martyred, with fish in each quadrant. That same crest now also adorns the doors through which parishioners enter the church from the outside.

The old track lights on the ceiling have been replaced with large pendant lights. The Stations of the Cross along the church walls now have red backings to make them more visible.

Previously, the aisles were carpeted (and though fairly new, they already sported burn marks from incense spills), while the floors under the pews were linoleum tiles. Now, large porcelain tiles cover the aisles (punctuated with cross shapes), while worshipers stand on new carpet that covers the pew areas.

"I wanted to restore the original vision of Monsignor Coyne," Father Dan said, referring to the parish's first pastor, Monsignor Joseph Coyne. The overall plan was conceived by David Gardiner of Gardiner Hall Inc.

While many elements are new, some of the changes—such as the pendant lights, and an ornate altarpiece with two adoring angels facing the tabernacle—are revisions to the way the church looked in 1960.

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Polish Christmas Traditions at OLQP

Rev. Jan Fiedurek, S.Chr., Pastor,
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and St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish
in Silver Spring, Maryland,
Extend Warm Wishes for a Blessed Christmas
and a Happy New Year 2015

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

1. Polish Christmas Food & Bake Sale, on Sunday, Dec. 21, 2014, 10 am - 2 pm.
2. Traditional Polish Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, “Pasterka,” on Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2014.
3. Concert of Polish carols “Kolędy” performed by Violetta Brzezińska, on Sunday, January 4, 2015, after the 12 noon Mass.
4. Celebration of Parish “Opłatek” Christmas Dinner on Sunday, January 11, 2015, at 1pm.



OLQP's most senior parishioner and centenarian Dr. Lucas Kulczycki celebrated his 103rd birthday this past August 19th. He is pictured here with OLQP Pastor, Rev. Jan Fiedurek, S.Chr., and Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak on Oct. 5, 2014 at the Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish picnic, Silver Spring, MD.



On October 5, at Our Lady Queen of Poland & St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Silver Spring, H.E. Thomas Wenski, Archbishop of Miami, Florida, concelebrated the noon Mass with OLQP Pastor, Rev. Jan Fiedurek, and confirmed the candidates. The Confirmandi are: Maria Armstrong, Alexandra Barrett, Konrad Bledowski, Anastazja Kolodziej, Antoni Roden-Burns, Krystian Ochman, Marta Maliszewska, Milena Munoz, Montague Nagel, Janusz Pazgier, Malgorzata Psurek, Pawel Sloboda, Klaudia Sulima, Julia Stefanska, Julia Syska, Klaudia Weidlich, Bianca Zeigler, Logan Zeigler, Olga Zeleznik, Jacob Zorniak.



OLQP senior parishioner and centenarian Walter Zachariasiewicz celebrated his 103rd birthday while commemorating Polish Independence Day at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Washington, DC, on Nov. 7, 2014. He is seated with his wife Sandra and friends Teresa Buckoski, Bo enna Buda, Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, and Vera Szerszen.

The poetry of Fr. Jan Twardowski

“Let us hurry to love people, they depart so quickly...”

By Bojenna Buda, ED.

What a timely reminder, especially on the eve of All Souls' Day, “Zaduszki,” to cherish people and to treat them with kindness. Earthly life is impermanent. The Polish custom is to remember and pray for deceased family members and friends privately and publicly, as when the priest reads out their names at “Wypominki” in church during the month of November.

How appropriate that on November 1, 2014, the Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish Hall was

transformed into an intimate gathering for a Poetry Reading that celebrated Father Twardowski's life and works in poetry and song. Organized by the Polish Drama Club (www.klubteatralny.com), the event drew a crowd that filled the hall to capacity.

Father Jan Twardowski (1915-

2006) had a pastoral ministry and wrote that he was primarily a priest. His short poems reveal his observations of nature, everyday life, and spirituality. They appear simple, yet are replete with philosophical reflections as well as with faith, hope, and charity. “God smiles and has a sense of humor,” he report-



Drama Club Poetry Night

Polish Drama Club cast members at the Poetry Reading on November 1: Filip Golebiowski, Violetta Klimek, Laura Migasiuk, Miroslaw Podloch, Marion Raczek, Bea Slawicka, Jaroslaw Trocki, with director Dorota Ponikiewska and OLQP Pastor, Rev. Jan Fiedurek, S.Chr.



Fr. Fiedurek at Poetry Reading

Rev. Jan Fiedurek, S.Chr., Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, shared some of his favorite Twardowski poems at the Poetry Reading on November 1.

edly said shortly before his death.

The multi-generational audience was captivated with the poetry readings, which were in Polish and English. After the cast concluded their part of the program, OLQP Pastor Fr. Jan Fiedurek, who was also present, shared some favorite Twardowski poems from his own well-worn copy.

The collection where many of the poems can be found is the bilingual edition (2006) *When You Say / Kiedy mówisz* by Jan Twardowski, who received the PEN Club's Robert Graves award in 1980, Order Uśmiechu (Order of Smile) in 1996, the IKAR prize in 2000, and the TOTUS prize (“Catholic Nobel”) in 2001.

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As “ambassadors” for Catholic Charities at Resurrection Church, Kate Windsor and Calixte Paul spoke at masses about their work in the archdiocesan-wide charity programs.



Seven Resurrection Youth Serve as ‘Ambassadors’ for Catholic Charities

By John Small

Several youngsters at Resurrection Church served as “parish ambassadors” for the Washington Archdiocese Catholic Charities program during masses the weekend of Nov. 15-16.

The seven youngsters spoke at six masses at Resurrection and the Riderwood seniors community about their involvement in Catholic Charities activities, including work in prison outreach and providing food for the needy.

The purpose of the “ambassadorship weekend” at Resurrection was to “increase awareness and help educate our community about the work of Catholic Charities in our diocese,” said Helene Stever, the parish’s Director of Religious Education/Youth Ministry.

Kate Windsor, one of the youth ambassadors, told the parish about her work with the Catholic Charities-sponsored SHARE Food Network as part of her service in

preparation for Confirmation next year. The food program distributes affordable, nutritious groceries that are sold through volunteer-run location throughout the Washington area.

Three other youngsters, Calixte Paul and Joseph and Anna Bufalini (brother and sister), spoke at several masses about their work with the Welcome Home Re-Entry Program in Montgomery County. Their involvement was part of the Summer Service Work Camp at Resurrection, and included preparation of more than 90 “Welcome Home Kits” for men and women returning from prison, as well as hearing in-depth presentations about the outreach program.

Three other youngsters, Sam Sheppard and his sister Sarah and brother Ben, told the parish about their work during the Summer Service Camp with Cup of Joe, a Catholic Charities-sponsored breakfast-packaging program that provides food for some of the 1,000 men and women staying in D.C.-area shelters each night.

During the summer camps, Resurrection youth helped prepare more than 900 breakfast bags for Cup of Joe and delivered them to shelters.

Also during the Nov. 15-16 weekend at Resurrection, adult volunteer Sharon O’Brien spoke about a Catholic Charities program to address domestic violence.

For more than 80 years, Catholic Charities has assisted families, children and adults in need. In 2013,

Continued on page 25



Seventh Annual Blessing of the Animals

Some three dozen parishioners at Resurrection Church (and their pets) participated in the 7th annual Blessing of the Animals on Oct. 4, the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. Deacon David Suley presided over the ceremony, which included personal testimonies by attendees as to how their pets have given them a fuller appreciation of creation and brought them closer to God. Among the participants in the ceremony were Robin Vestal (front row, right) and her pair of white Samoyeds, named “Tatanka” and “Sakari.” Photo by John Small



International Potluck Draws Diners

More than 100 diners attended the annual Taste of Resurrection International Potluck Dinner on Oct. 18 to celebrate the parish’s geographic and ethnic diversity. The diners, including adults and youngsters from many backgrounds, were treated to tasty dishes from around the world, including items from the Philippines, India, Poland, Ireland, Italy, Cameroon, Central and South America, and dishes representative of various U.S. states and ethnic heritages. The event, organized under the leadership of Ginger Kessler, included a visit by Fr. Scott Hahn, the Resurrection pastor, who sampled a good selection of the many available dishes. Photos by John Small

Pre-Schoolers Have Halloween Fun

Children attending the Resurrection Pre-School donned their favorite costumes for a Halloween party on Oct. 29. The youngsters were joined in the Halloween fun by Pre-School Director Susan Quinn and teachers Mary Depenbrock and Betty Kibbey, wearing their favorite costumes as well. Photo by Sally DeSavage



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Blessing of Pets

On October 4, the Church celebrated the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. Fr. Cusick offered a blessing of pets outside of Caulfield Hall to mark the remembrance of this beloved saint. Parishioners and their pets lined up in the parking lot outside of Caulfield Hall to receive the special blessing. Among those waiting, there were dobermans and doodles, cats and even a hamster in a ball! The sun had come out and both two legged and four legged attendees were well behaved.



Parishioners mingle at the reception for the new parishioners.

New Parishioners Welcomed with Special Blessing, Recognition Mass, and Reception

On Sunday, October 26th, St. Jane Frances de Chantal Parish returned to the tradi-

tional custom of celebrating new parishioners through a welcoming ceremony. Parishioners who have joined St. Jane since the beginning of 2014 were invited to attend this special event. It started with a recognition and blessing during the 10:00 am Mass, followed by a reception in Caulfield Hall. After introductions of Pastoral Council members, Fr. Giese welcomed the new members of the parish.

The focus of the event was to introduce each other, build community, and inform them about the many wonderful opportunities that St. Jane has to offer. New parishioners were encouraged to get involved and participate in church and school groups and Parish Life. After the brief presentations,

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

Susana and Mario Cerritelli,
OPT Editors

**More St. Jane de Chantal
News on Page 28**

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Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Enjoyed by All

On the evening of October 17, active volunteers of the parish and school, along with their guests, were invited to attend the biannual St. Jane de Chantal Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Over 300 attendees were treated to an evening of cocktails, dinner and dancing at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel and Conference Center. Following the cocktail and hors d'oeuvre reception, Fr. Giese, the Pastor of St. Jane, welcomed the volunteers in the grand room and thanked everyone for their services because without them the parish and school could not function. Fr. Cusick blessed the meal, after which everyone feasted in the wonderful dinner. Everyone had a great time talking, dancing, and enjoying the music of the DJ until late into the evening.

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Following the dinner, dancers filled the dance floor enjoying the varied selection of music.

Christmas Bazaar Draws Record Crowd of Holiday Shoppers in Support of the School

On November 15, the ninth annual Christmas Bazaar at St. Jane Frances de Chantal School in Bethesda drew its largest crowd ever, with over 1,400 enthusiastic holiday shoppers. The chilly, crisp seasonal weather and the wide variety of vendors and attractions put everyone in the right mood for holiday shopping.

The school gym was transformed into a festive winter wonderland, thanks to decorations generously provided by White Flint Mall and Nordstrom. Santa made his first appearance of the season, posing for photos and handing out candy canes, while Mrs. Claus sat and read stories to the little ones on the stage by the book fair display.

More than 38 vendors signed



Shoppers packed the school gym in search of holiday treasures, treats and prizes, while enjoying the festive winter wonderland atmosphere arranged by the Home and School Association.

up to sell their wares at this year's Bazaar, offering a variety of hand knits, jewelry, fine art, women's accessories, personalized gifts and holiday decor. Many of these vendors, some back year after year, are

from the Bethesda community.

American Plant in Bethesda donated dozens of flowering plants and evergreens, giving bazaar customers an opportunity for a jumpstart on winter gardens. In the lower level of the school, shoppers browsed the Bazaar's Thrift Shop. There was also a school sponsored bake sale and Christmas tree raffles that included a tree covered in gift cards with a value totaling more than \$1,000. This event, open to the public, was

held under the sponsorship of the St. Jane de Chantal Home & School Association for the benefit of the 61 year-old pre-K through grade 8 school.

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Supporting a Happier Marriage through Laughter

On Sunday, November 9, St. Jane de Chantal parish held its first Marriage Retreat, entitled "A Happier Marriage through Laughter". Pastor, Fr. Giese, who is also an active military chaplain, along with his colleague, Chaplain King, led the event. Twenty-seven parish couples spent the afternoon at the Rock Creek Council of the Knights of Columbus, where the retreat was held.

The retreat focused on the importance of communication, listening, and laughter. Participants learned about one another through ice breakers, playing games, and practicing communication using a "talking stick" method. It also highlighted marriage enrichment through the bible and the importance of aiming to improve oneself as life progresses.



Fr. Giese leads the inspiring and entertaining marriage retreat, the first of its kind at St. Jane de Chantal.

es. Mass was held for the group, followed by a delicious dinner. The common theme in couple's feed-

back was the need for more retreats of this type in the future. The event was a great success.

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Fr. Tim Daniel talks with members of the St. Bart's Youth Group. Photo by Maria Kauffman

St. Bartholomew Youth Group Hears from Fr. Tim Daniel

This past fall the St. Bart's Youth group enjoyed some fun outings (they went hiking and go-karting), they got involved in the St. Bart's community (the attended the truck or treat event and raised funds for the Sacred Heart Camp), and they heard two enriching talks (a safe environment talk by Cathy Mills and a vocations talk by Fr. Daniel). Fr. Daniel's talk was one of the highlights of the fall.

Fr. Daniel asked the children what they wanted to be when they grow up. Some said doctors, others professional athletes or astronauts. But Fr. Daniel asked them, had they every considered what God would like them to be and do in life? It would seem Scripture has a specific vocation in mind for each one of us. And God, as our Father, wishes us to cooperate in fulfilling that role in His plan by praying to know His will. Fr. Daniel recommended the time-tested practice of three Hail Mary's prayed daily to discover one's vocation.

Looking ahead the group will kick start 2015 with a bowling event and March for Life activities.

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Bargain Hunters Scour the Tables at St. Bart's Rummage Sale and Flea Market.

Rummage Sale and Flea Market Successful at St. Bart's

On Saturday, November 15, St. Bart's held its Rummage Sale and Flea Market, featuring "everything you didn't know you needed" and "one of a kind finds." A crowd was waiting outside in the brisk fall weather for the doors to open for this popular event.

Parishioner Amy Smith told OPT, "The Book Fair and Rummage events were designed to bring together the entire St. Bartholomew community, far and wide. Representatives from the Home & School Association, St. Bartholomew Church, the Hispanic Community and the Bannockburn neighborhood were all well represented and the sense of partnership was palpable! The Book Fair earned over 120 new books for the school library as well as some profit for the Church & School."

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More St. Bartholomew News on Page 28



New Girl Scout Troop Offers Leadership, Friendship, Adventure, and Fun

After a year of planning and consulting and informational sessions, Girl Scout Troop No. 0619, sponsored by St. Bartholomew Parish, is off to a great start. Lynn Johns, Diana Carter, Gizelle Bryant, Susan Freese, and Katie Loughran are the new troop's leaders. Troop 0619 welcomes members from the St. Bart's School and Parish and its neighbors. Photo by Lynn Johns

St. Bartholomew's Sister Nena Retires

More than Sixty Years of Service to the Church and Community

A retirement Mass and reception was held for Sister Nena Larocco at St. Bartholomew Parish on October 18, 2014. Hundreds of parishioners, friends, and former students joined to celebrate her life of service.

Sister Nena was born and raised in Chicago. In 1953 when she was 17, she entered the novitiate of the Sisters of St. Francis of Our Lady of Lourdes in Rochester, Minnesota. The Sisters of St. Francis had been her grade school teachers and she found them to be "real and happy people." After a year at the College of St. Teresa and two years at the motherhouse of her order, she took her first vows in 1956 and began teaching almost immediately. She taught at



Sister Nena Larocco serving as a Eucharistic Minister at St. Bartholomew Parish.

various schools in Minnesota and Ohio, before coming to the Washington area in 1970, where she taught fourth, fifth, and sixth grades at St. Andrew the Apostle School in Wheaton.

In 1984, she came to St. Bartholomew

School, where she has taught almost every grade and also had responsibility for activities such as Outdoor Education, the school Liturgy Committee and several other school committees. She continues to serve St. Bart's in several capacities, including as a Eucharistic Minister. Kathleen Miller, former Principal of St.

Continued on page 28

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Parish Picnic Enjoyed by All

By Sylvia Jones

The Annual Parish Picnic was held on Sunday, Oct 5 – the celebrated day of our patron Saint. It was a perfect day with

blue skies and high puffy clouds. The young people enjoyed the moon bounces, sand art, decorating pumpkins, face painting and

Continued on page 30



The Chef's (L-R) Al and Doris Chung, Chris Gonzales, Cesar Arias



Above left, Pumpkin painting



Above right, Parishioners enjoying themselves



At right, Blessing the Animals- left to right Seminarian Matt Gworek, Father John Dillon, Deacon Jim McCann



Will and Lourdes Garcia

Congratulations to Parishioners Accepted in Diaconate Program

By John McCarthy

In early November, our parish was delighted with the news that parishioners Wendel Hall and Wilberto (Will) Garcia were accepted as Aspirants in the

Archdiocesan Permanent Diaconate Training Program. They began their formation November 22. This first phase of the program will finish May 31, 2015.

Wendel and Arleen Hall, and their children, have been members of St. Francis for 14 years. Wendel has been very involved in the parish activities, such as: active with the teen's program, formed the Men of Emmaus scripture discussion group (known as "The Church Guys"), a Eucharistic Minister and Lector, and, a recent member of the Parish Council, where he is promoting faith formation for teens, young adults and families. He and his wife received the "Manifesting the

Continued on page 25

Another Successful Holiday Bazaar

By Anne Culver, Bazaar Chair

The Holiday Bazaar has been a tradition at St. Francis for over twenty five years. This year it was on November 8, a beautiful, crisp, fall day. People were lined up waiting for the doors to open, and a steady stream of visitors came throughout the day. There were 15 vendors and 20 St. Francis parish tables.

There were many beautiful, and unique, handmade crafts and ornaments made by several of our parishioners—Jane Tom, Geri Prelewicz, Sara Becker, Doris Chung and Mary O'Sullivan. The always favorite, Millie's Bake shop was a hit with the children. Even though Millie is no longer with us, her tradition continues with her daughter, Mary Frances, and her many friends.

Shabby Chic had wonderful gifts and treasures for everyone, thanks to the Beall family. Karen Mason, as always, had many interesting religious items at her table. The Jewelry Boutique, headed by Linda Call, was also a big hit.

Other features, and their coordinators, were: the Silent Auction (Debi Dicello), the Raffle (Linda Foster), the Flea Market (Pat Badolato), Café Assisi (Nadine Edwards), coffee and doughnuts table (Sylvia Jones). There was also a visit from Santa Claus, aka Father John!

Many other volunteers helped setting up and cleaning up. It takes many volunteers to run this event, without who there would be no Holiday Bazaar. My heartfelt thanks to all. It's a yearlong process of planning and making crafts. This year's Bazaar was a success, and a good time was had by all.

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Bazaar Chair, Anne Culver and volunteer crafter Sara Becker



A portion of the St. Francis craft table



Shoppers at the Flea Market



Mary Francis Bussard at Millie's bake shop

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St. Andrew Apostle School News and Notes

St. Andrew Apostle's "multi-purpose room" lived up to its name this fall, hosting an Oktoberfest, a country-western dance party, and a music-filled brunch for grandparents.

Silver Spring babysitters were in high demand on the evening of October 25th, as parents at St. Andrew Apostle enjoyed an evening of grown-up revelry, together

with other adult parishioners at Oktoberfest, which is becoming a parish tradition.

Bratwurst, weisswurst, frankfurters, sauerkraut, potato salad, red cabbage, and pretzels sated the hunger of the nearly 100 attendees. German beverages were served, and polka music filled the multipurpose room. We also had a few friendly (or not so friendly) games of corn



Third through Eighth Grade Choir prepares to sing at Grandparents/Elders Day



Congratulations to the St. Andrew Apostle Varsity Soccer Team, championship winners on a cold November evening



Costumed third graders smile for the camera after the Halloween Day Parade

hole.

King Tiger Martial Arts on New Hampshire Avenue—long involved with the parish—held a kids' movie night until 10 pm that evening, giving parents of older kids a unique babysitting option.

Oktoberfest, organized by St. Andrew school parents Lisa and David Luksic, isn't a fundraiser, but is held as a community-building event aimed at bringing parents at the school with other parishioners in a fun adult atmosphere.

The annual Halloween costume parade took place the morning of October 31. Everyone got into the spirit, even the young participants from the Early Learning Center. The homemade costumes were very creative. The most popular were Ninja's, Mutant Turtles and, of



Square dancing at the surprise dance party, part of the "Mystery Assembly"

course, Elsa and Anna.

Students got to party in the multipurpose room the following week,

when they were treated to a surprise dance party by square dance caller,

Continued on page 29



Scouts furnished helping hands to receive boxes filled with ingredients for a bountiful Thanksgiving feast with all the trimmings. The three hundred thirty boxes collected were sent to Catholic Charities to be given to the needy in the Archdiocese. Pictured are (left) Webelos scout Jimmy Kmetz and Boy Scout Stephen White.



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Livin' on a Prayer SJB's High School Student Fall Retreat

By Alison Fram

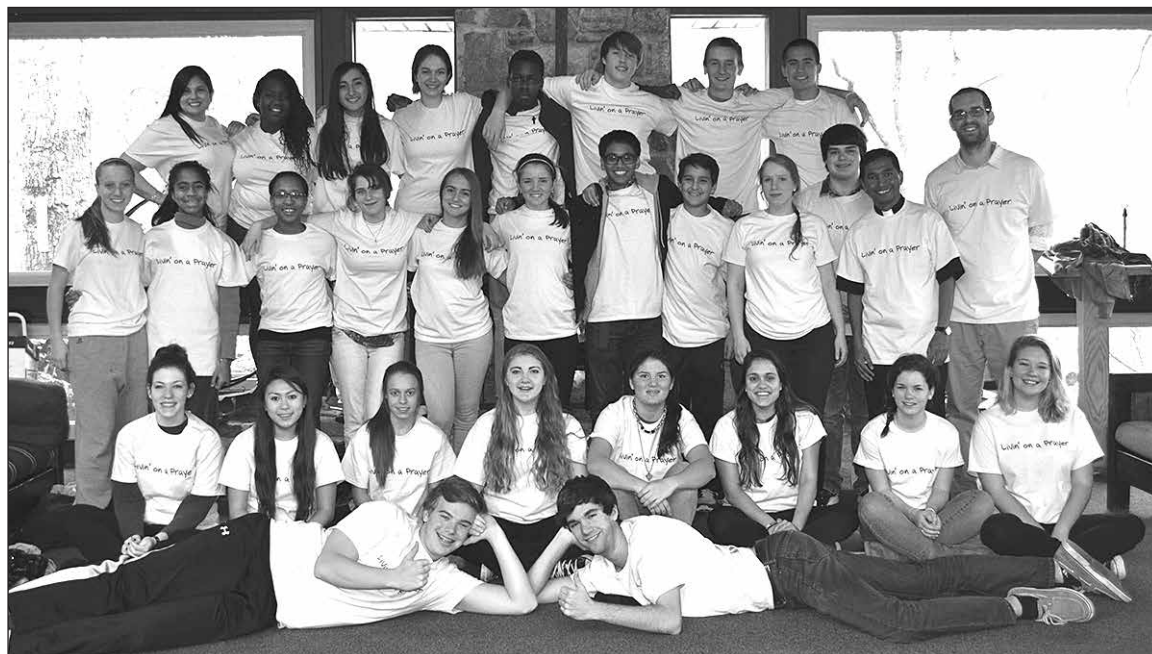
From November 14-16, twenty-eight St. John the Baptist's high school students attended their Fall Retreat. Held at the Columbia Baptist Retreat Center, this year's theme was "Livin' on a Prayer". Our goal was to encourage the teens to recognize that interacting with God in prayer is the best way to develop a lifelong relationship with Him.

Throughout the weekend, Retreat leaders guided the students in different types of prayer that they might incorporate into their own lives. For example, we had a meditation where the students placed themselves in a Biblical story, and Praise and Worship where they experienced prayer through music. We also had Eucharistic Adoration, during which

the students were encouraged to have a conversation with Jesus.

We were fortunate to have our Associate Pastor, Fr. Tony D'Souza, join us for the weekend. We had Mass each day, and offered time for confessions and Eucharist Adoration. A favorite memory for many of the teens was when Fr. Tony played football with them during free time and made his first touchdown!

We had four talks during weekend, each one given by a different young adult leader. Each leader's talk touched on a different aspect of prayer, including: How to reach out and make the first step towards talking to God, Different ways to actually "talk" in prayer, What to do if you feel your prayers aren't answered, and finally, How to reflect on the difference prayer



SJB Teens Attend SJB High School Retreat

can make in your life. The leaders shared personal stories from their own lives to demonstrate how prayer has affected them, and the teens seemed to really respond to these real-life examples.

There was time for the teens to participate in small group discussion. They had a good deal of free time when they could go on a hike, play football in the large field, or just spend time by the fireplace

playing music and board games.

And yes, the Bon Jovi song "Livin on a Prayer" did make it into our retreat experience throughout the weekend!

OPT

SJB Scholastic Book Fair raises nearly \$2,500

A Long-Standing Tradition Supporting the Library

By Molly DiPippo

At St. John the Baptist School, the annual Scholastic Book Fair is a major fundraiser for the library. This year's successful event was held November 6, 9 and 11, and raised nearly \$2,500 in cash and Scholastic books, all of which benefit the library.

The book fair's main day, November 11, coincided with the SJB Parent Teacher Conferences, enhancing shopper traffic and sales on that day.

SJB Librarian, Cristina DalMolin, described the benefits the book fair brings. "Since the library budget is less than half of what a public school of our size might have access to, the annual book fair has been of immense help in providing support to the library and school."

"Over the more than twenty years I have been here, funds raised by this parent-run event have been used to automate library technology, add resources supporting Arts and Academics projects, and expand the collection of novels used in lower-grade classes," Mrs. DalMolin continued.

The many volunteers were critical to the success of the book fair,



Fifth-grader Cheyenne DeGross helping out at the book fair with her grandmother, Mrs. Jane B. Rice

according to multi-year co-chairs Dianne Branch and Debbie Heinle. The planning process starts one year in advance of the event, including reserving dates with Scholastic. One month before the book fair, Mrs. Branch requests parent and student volunteers.

The book fair is set-up and then Preview Day is held. According to Mrs. Heinle, "Those cases are quite large and can be hard to roll into position. I'm always worried about dinging the newly renovated

walls. On top of those cases are dozens of boxes full of books. Those boxes need to be carried into the Study, unpacked and displayed on tables. Thank goodness for the volunteers, who range in age from second graders to grandparents, who help to set up after school. Even with their help, it takes over two hours to complete."

Mrs. Branch added, "On Preview Day, volunteers assist the lower

Continued on page 30

Celebrating Diversity at St. John's

By Cameron McFeeters

St. John's brings together Catholics from 87 different countries. Those of us who have attended Mass abroad know that it feels familiar and different at the same time, but how do those who are immigrants to the U.S. perceive those differences?

This year St. John's hosted an African Mass to commemorate Ugandan Martyrs' Day. After the Mass, members of the African Catholic Community gathered at Burtonsville Park. I attended both the Mass and the community meal following. I spoke with people about how they felt about Catholic traditions here and in their home countries.

As a person born and raised in the U. S., I found the African liturgy very expressive and lively. Those attending the Mass were well-dressed and many were wearing cotton dresses and shirts in brightly-colored African prints. I was glad that I had taken the time to change into nice clothes before coming to the Mass even though it meant that I arrived late. Many came much later than I. People trickled in long after the Liturgy of the Word, but everyone was wearing their Sunday best. Clearly appropriate dress is valued over punctuality.

The African Choir was led by a woman with a clear strong voice. They sang African songs in Swahili, as well as songs that are traditional in America. Drums accompanied the singing and supplied a beat for liturgical dancers. During the Homily, there was a lot of nodding and

"Amen's" from the congregation. People seemed more connected and engaged in the Mass than what is typical in the U.S.

After Mass, I met several of the Mass-goers and asked them if the Ugandan Martyr Mass was similar to what they experience in their home country. Whether from Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria, Congo or Ghana, everyone said, "yes, that is what Mass is like in Africa." Their impressions matched mine - Mass in Africa is more expressive than in America. People were careful not to insult the way things are done here, but when I asked, "Do you find Mass in America a little bland?" they all said, "Yes!"

The supper itself is part of the African Catholic tradition. People leave Mass (which is usually longer than one hour) and gather for a pot-luck supper. The priest attends and he might engage folks in a conversation about the readings or about the homily. In Africa, all of Sunday is celebrated as the Lord's day - first in Church and then with the Community. In America, we are busy - Mass for an hour, then on to other things.

The point isn't to promote Catholic customs in one part of the world over those in other parts, but to examine and celebrate the differences. The Catholic Church is also a (small c) catholic Church, which means we can find the same joy in our diversity that, no doubt, God does. As Fr. Businge, homilist at the Ugandan Martyrs Mass said, "If we are not united, I don't know where we are going."

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Dan O'Donoghue prepares the St. Bernadette CYO Christmas Tree.



St. Bernadette Celebration of Saints: Fourth grade "Saints" anxiously await a turn to present.

Fun and Games via Christmas Tree Sales

Dan O'Donoghue looks out from the sales shed to survey what was the beautifully manicured front lawn of St. Bernadette's Parish. For the next 5 weeks, this shed and that the newly erected Christmas Tree Sales lot will be his home away from home. O'Donoghue, his wife, Beth Anne, and their two children, SBS fourth grader, Daniel and first grader, Catherine, accepted responsibility for overseeing the Christmas Tree Sales project last year, "It was so much fun, we immediately signed up to do it again this year!" O'Donoghue said.

Managing the Tree Sales Lot, a volunteer position, includes responsibility for ordering the trees, wreaths, and roping; designing lot layout; ensuring proper lighting; monitoring volunteers as they sign-up and work the Tree Sales lot, and – most importantly – praying that the Sales Goal as set by the St. Bernadette's CYO Board, is reached. Thankfully, O'Donoghue doesn't shoulder this responsibility alone, CYO President, Tony Zanger, and Communications Director, Jen Herlihy, along with the other Board Members, give him their full support; for the St. Bernadette's CYO, this one of their largest fundraisers each year. All profits earned from the Christmas Tree sales are used to off-set CYO expenses and ensure that all who wish to participate in CYO activities may do so.



Christmas Tree Sales brisk on opening day of St. Bernadette CYO fundraiser.

The 2014 Christmas Tree lot features over 825 trees – 200 Frasier Fir trees priced at \$65 each; the rest are Balsam Fir \$30 - \$60 each depending upon height, wreaths priced at \$25, and pine roping priced at \$0.50/foot or \$30/roll. The sales lot will be opened and staffed November 30 – December 24, weekday hours are 3:00pm – 9:00pm; weekend hours are 9:00am – 9:00pm.

OPT

More St. Bernadette News on Page 7

St. Bernadette Parish

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

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**More Holy Redeemer
on Page 35**

Eighth Graders explore *Table of Plenty* on Overnight Retreat

By Michelle Ardillo

This year's eighth-grade overnight retreat, *Table of Plenty*, invited the Class of 2015 to "come to the feast" and embrace their spirituality on a daily basis. Led by recent college graduate Maddie Ardillo, the retreat helped the eighth graders relate their spiritual needs and hunger with their physical needs such as three meals a day, exercise, and sleep. Maddie Ardillo used metaphors, short talks,

music, personal journaling, team building activities, and studies of the lives of three saints to lead the students through the two-day retreat.

The overnight retreat was held on November 13 and 14 at the Bishop Claggett Retreat Center in Buckeystown, Maryland, set amidst the backdrop of the beautiful mountain scenery and brisk fall weather. Highlights of the retreat included a trust walk, an activity where students made a time line of their future lives as adults, Adoration and Confession with Holy Redeemer's Fr. Samuel Plummer, and a bonfire complete with s'mores. Maddie Ardillo was assisted by Holy Redeemer's principal Colleen Ryan and faculty members Michelle Ardillo, Danielle Trotta, Matt Smith, and Joseph Liekweg.

The retreat ended with a beautiful closing Mass, celebrated by Fr. Plummer, followed by a commissioning ceremony where each



Holy Redeemer Class of 2015 on steps of Bishop Claggett Retreat Center

eighth grader was presented with a wooden cross on a leather cord, complete with calligraphy by faculty member Mary Ruth Clark. **OPT**

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Holy Redeemer parishioner
& school parent



2014 Winter Play another Smash Hit

By Michelle Ardillo

What happens when you combine murder, mystery, comedy, grandiose delusions, and time travel? *The Secret Case of Sherlock Holmes* by Craig Sodaro! A cast and crew of 19 seventh and eighth graders worked eight weeks on the HR Drama Club's winter production, which was performed on November 21, for an all school assembly at 1:15 PM and an evening performance for families and friends at 7:00 PM.

Directed by Michelle Ardillo, greatly aided by assistant director Danielle Trotta and costume and props designer Cathleen Farr, the play introduced the young actors to a variety of acting techniques including physical comedy, choreographed stage fighting, and British accents. During the final week of rehearsals, cast and crew were treated to dinners before dress rehearsals which were catered by parents of the students involved in the show.



Cast and crew of HR Drama Club's 2014 Winter Play

The Drama Club's winter play was its first production using the newly renovated backstage rooms complete with a dressing room and dedicated storage for costumes and props. Actors were supported with wireless body microphones and hanging mics set up and managed by Joe Ryan, a Holy Redeemer parent who is also Director of Music and Liturgy for the parish.

Cast and crew included:

Stage Manager Nick D'Avella, Stage Crew/Sound Tech Rafael Rodriguez, Jo Matta, Katy Foxman, Emma Mitchell, Marin Larkin, Jackie Gonella, Lauren Gaston, Eliza Henne, Ella Keegan, Lucy Daignault, Siobhan Wampler, PJ McMahon, Patrick Sheehan, Dominick Welsh, Bill Smolskis, Kevin Harper, Dylan Hitt, and Alex Domenech.

OPT

Third Graders Live the Lives of Saints

By Michelle Ardillo

On November 18, Holy Redeemer third graders each presented a report to their class on a saint that they had chosen to research and write about. Students were given the choice of dressing up as a saint or creating a life-sized poster of their chosen saint. Third-grade teacher Elizabeth Bedell reports that the project was a huge success, evidenced by the posters lining the hallway outside the doors of the third grade classrooms. These third graders are well on their way to the careful study of the life of a saint required by Holy Redeemer's eighth graders as they prepare for Confirmation in May.



Holy Redeemer third graders living the life of a saint for a day

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*In case of school cancellation due to inclement weather,
the Open House will be held on Wednesday, February 4, 2015.

Advent Activities at Our Lady of Lourdes School

By Maureen Skelly

The season of Advent is upon us! With just 14.5 school days this month, our schedules are jam-packed with Christmas preparations and celebrations. In the Little Group, our three-year-old program, students will make keepsake ornaments. In Pre-K, we celebrate Christmas Around the World. We are lucky to have a diverse student body, and we are able to invite our parents in to teach about their family traditions and how they celebrate the holidays. The Little Group and Pre-K will work hard to learn songs for their special Christmas show on the last day of school before break. The Kindergarten classes participate in the school-wide Christmas Pageant for the first time, and they couldn't



The Elf on the Shelf lands somewhere new each morning!

be more excited. Students in grades K-8 are working together to learn songs which they will perform for families and friends on Thursday the 18th at 7pm.

In the third grade we are expecting the Elf on the Shelf to fly in



each day to keep watch for Santa. We love seeing where our elf lands each morning, and what mischief he's gotten into! In the fifth grade, students spend the month writing

Continued on page 30

A Time to Share

It's not officially Thanksgiving time at Our Lady of Lourdes School until the Long Summer Bus is loaded up with paper towels, lotions, detergent, turkeys and hams, and of course, eighth graders. The bus took off again this year on Monday morning, November 24, headed for the Little Sisters of the Poor Jeanne Jugan Residence. The students have been collecting supplies for the Little Sisters all month, and today many families brought in turkeys and hams for the residents of the Jeanne Jugan House.

After they unpacked the supplies and put them on the shelves of the Sisters' supply room, the students sang for the residents, and attended Mass with the Sisters and Monsignor Filardi, our Pastor.

It is always a special day for our eighth-grade students. They appreciate this opportunity to share what they have and to pray with the Sisters and their residents, and they have an opportunity to meet and talk

with Cardinal Baum while they are there.

OPT



Kindergarten Thanksgiving

Kindergarten students from Our Lady of Lourdes presented their parents with a wonderful dramatic depiction of the First Thanksgiving. Their program began with a song accompanied by signs.

Ms. Camisa and Ms. Addison, their teachers, read the story of the first Thanksgiving as the children acted it out with great expression. All of our young Pilgrims and Native Americans did a wonderful job. Afterwards, they shared a lovely meal with their moms and dads.



Pilgrims Victoria Lopez, Charlotte Harrison, Daniel Weller pray with Native American Julie Darling



Pilgrims Cecilia Andrews and Peter Capizzi with Matthew Robinson in the background

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

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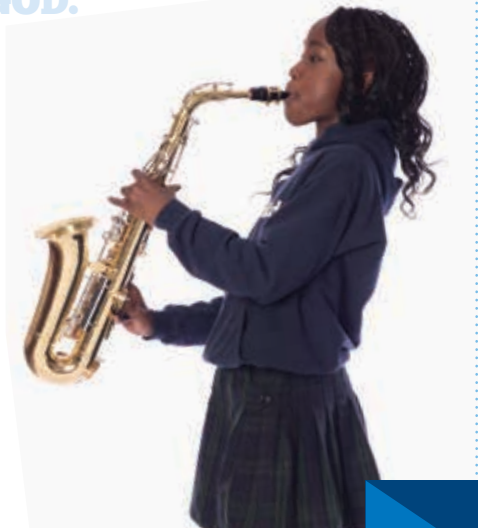
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**More Our Lady of Lourdes News
on Page 30**

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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. Students enjoyed decorating pumpkins and making scarecrows under the guidance of their prayer partners.



Student Council Supports Breast Cancer Research Foundation



Mercy students enjoyed an accessorize-in-pink day while supporting the Breast Cancer Research Foundation at the same time. Students who donated \$2.00 to accessorize 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 pin and a cosmetic bag with a sample of products.

Above Mercy second graders proudly pose with gift bags for their moms.



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Our Lady of Mercy Students Commit to Help Others

In a major school-wide project, the "Cup of Joe" Breakfast Program created by Catholic Charities, fourth-grade students guide kindergarten prayer partners as they assemble bag breakfasts for low barrier shelter residents (residents who are given shelter between 7:00 pm and 7:00 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



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Rev. John Dakes
Pastor

301-365-1415

Our Lady of Mercy School

Ms. Joan Hosmer

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Gerry Burgess, OPT Editor

301-330-5676

Mercy teacher Betsy Foley, and 4th graders Sofia Cerbone and Francesca Azcarate help Kindergartners Brynn Ligon and Ella Beahn assemble breakfast bags.

per month throughout the school year. Grades K-8 participate in the program with students working with younger prayer partners to create the bags.

OPT

More Our Lady of Mercy News on Page 35



On November 16, St. Elizabeth's Youth Ministry volunteers led the distribution of the parish's successful collection of jackets and other winter clothing for the Catholic Community of Langley Park. Five youth volunteers (accompanied by four parents) transported the clothing from St. Elizabeth to Langley Park where they worked with youth from St. Camillus in arranging the clothing in specially marked tables for distribution. Our volunteers worked side-by-side with people seeking clothing, helping them to choose the most appropriate size and style they needed. Close to 200 men, women and children coming to the event were provided with at least one item of clothing that will help keep them warm during the cold weather. Participating in the distribution were St. E's volunteers, left to right: Alex Constantino, James Doyle, Maria Doyle, Raphael Caicedo-Borja, Hilda Borja, Elizabeth Ledan, Katie Contreras, and Janice Joseph.

St. Elizabeth Parish Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary

Cardinal Wuerl joined St. Elizabeth parishioners in celebrating their 50th Anniversary since the founding of the parish, with a Mass on November 16th. Joining Cardinal Wuerl at the altar:

Fr. Paul Lee, Fr. Leo Glueckert, O.Carm; Msgr. Jack Macfarlane (current pastor), Deacon Levi Hartle, Fr. Kevin Fitzgerald, SJ; Cardinal Donald Wuerl, Fr. Bruce Steggert, SJ; the MC, Fr. Jacob George (current associate), Deacon Kevin Byrne, Fr. Frank DeSiano, CSP and Msgr. Jim Lockman.



Founding parishioners Barbara and Peter Weidenbruch, who were present at the first Mass 50 years ago, are pictured with Cardinal Wuerl, following the celebration Mass.

Coming up soon at St. Elizabeth Parish

DC HOOD Basketball at St. Elizabeth Parish – SAVE THE DATE!

St. Elizabeth continues to celebrate its 50th Anniversary with a basketball game featuring the DC Hood (parish priests) basketball team in a spirited game against St. Elizabeth parishioners. The event is on January 23rd from 6:30-9pm and it promises to be a grand evening for everyone. St. Elizabeth will field a team of players to compete against the DC Hood and hopefully bring home a win for our parish! Everyone is being asked to wear blue and white to support our team. Food will be available for purchase. Don't miss it!

50th Anniversary Christmas Concert

All are invited to St. Elizabeth Church for their annual Advent/Christmas Concert on December

14th at 2pm. Featured, in addition to the parish's adult choir, will be the parish and school children's choirs, and various instrumentalists. All are welcome; the concert is free, and a complimentary 50th Anniversary Christmas ornament will be provided to all who attend!

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St. Elizabeth Parish

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Rockville, MD

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Pastor

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Vincent P. Spadoni

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Gerry Moore,
OPT Editor

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St. Elizabeth School News



Above, Thank you, Monsignor Macfarlane and Father Jacob, for leading St. Elizabeth School in prayer for the Blessing of the Animals.



At left, St. Elizabeth School's Santa's Workshop is here!



St. Elizabeth School "ROCKS THE PINK" for breast cancer research!



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Sri Lankans Celebrate Special Holy Mass for Unity

By Dr. Gregory Fernandopulle
and Mr. Edward Peries

In early October, Sri Lankan-Americans of the Greater Washington area held a special Holy Mass for Peace and Unity in Sri Lanka for the 26th year in succession at the Shrine of St. Jude Catholic Church. It was presided over by Auxiliary Bishop Martin D. Holley of the Archdiocese of Washington, with Fr. Percival D'Silva (Blessed Sacrament Shrine) and Fr. Kenneth Gill (St. Jude) assisting.

The Charge d'Affaires of Sri Lanka, Mr. K. Don Ranjith, representing His Excellency Prasad Kariyawasam, Ambassador for Sri Lanka to the United States, read the Ambassador's message:

"The Catholic community enjoys a pride of place in the multi-religious society of Sri Lanka. The contribu-



Auxiliary Bishop Martin D. Holley of the Archdiocese of Washington along with Fr. Kenneth Gill (St. Jude) and Fr. Percival D'Silva (Blessed Sacrament Shrine) celebrated a special Holy Mass for Peace and Unity in Sri Lanka.

tion made by the Sri Lankan Catholic community for the well-being of the people of Sri Lanka, especially the field of education and social development, is well known and appreciated islandwide. Since independence in 1948, the Sri Lankan Catholic community has contributed immensely towards nation building. During the period when Sri Lanka and its people suffered immensely due to terrorism, efforts by the Catholic community to promote peace and for protecting the vulnerable have been widely appreciated. In this context, a Special Holy Mass for Peace and Unity in Sri Lanka that has been held for 25 years without interruption is a landmark achievement. It is yet another manifestation of the commitment of the Sri Lankan-American Catholic community in Greater Washington area to contribute towards peace and harmony in their motherland. After the end of the conflict, as Sri Lanka marches forward towards a society that reflects unity in diversity,

this special religious service for the unity in Sri Lanka becomes a doubly important encouragement for the people of Sri Lanka."

The theme of Fr. D'Silva's homily was "contentment," citing the 2nd Reading from Philippians, and elaborated on the need to be content with everything you've got by the grace of God.

The congregation prayed for His Holiness Pope Francis and his entourage heading to Sri Lanka in January 2015, at which time His Holiness is to proclaim the canonization of St. Joseph Vaz as Sri Lanka's First Saint.

The all-volunteer Sri Lankan choir, led by Director Ms. Melita Ethelbert, sang hymns in English, Sinhala and Tamil. Ms. Anjalika Silva (a Buddhist invitee) was a key singer. The readers were: Ms. Bernadine Karunaratne; Mr. Harisha Bastiampillai, and Ms. Champa d'Soyza. Altar servers were Ms. Nikki Perera and Ms. Nethalie Don.

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More Shrine of St. Jude News on page 3 & 28



St. Jude Students Tour JPII Shrine

Last month, seventh- and eighth-grade students from St. Jude Regional Catholic School toured the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington and attended mass in the chapel. Mass was celebrated by St. Jude Parochial Vicar Fr. Ken Gill. Pictured above are the students and Fr. Gill as well as Brandon Brown from the JPII Shrine.

Parish Christmas Concert Dec. 13

Get into the Christmas spirit early! The Shrine of St. Jude Music Ministry continues a long-standing Christmas tradition on Saturday, December 13, when the choirs of St. Jude will present a variety of Advent and Christmas music in the church sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. Musicians include singers, pianists, guitarists, and, for the first time this year, a marimba player. The concert is perfect for all ages; a reception follows.



Baby Bottle Campaign Raises Funds for Pregnancy Center

St. Jude Parishioner Bernard Wicks (left) returns his filled baby bottle to Tom Pretzfelder in response to the Shrine's annual Baby Bottle Campaign held during October's Respect for Life Month, which raises funds for Shady Grove Pregnancy Center.

Shrine of St. Jude Parish

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Pastor
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Pictured here is a sampling of the costumes from this year's Halloween parade to Sunrise Senior Living. After the parade, each class enjoyed only treats (NO TRICKS!!) and some focused on service projects in lieu of a party. It was spook-tacular!



Art Show

Our budding artists showed off their creations at the year's first Art Show. Fantastic teacher, Mrs. Keating, guided the classes through projects utilizing various mediums. Pictured here are a few of the platters made by the seventh-grade class fresh from the kiln.

It's Always Sunny at Sunrise

By Maureen Stiles

The Sunrise Senior Living facility is located just at the end of the St. Mary's driveway. And each Tuesday students make that short walk there to visit with the residents.

As such, the seniors have become a part of the St. Mary's school community. The kindergarten and seventh-grade classes are the most involved at Sunrise with scheduled visits and events. Sitting with the residents gives our children – some of whom do not have living grandparents – a glimpse into another generation.

Through the shared activities the students inevitably hear stories about the old days, surprise about how things have changed and see the joy that comes from having visitors.

The entire school processes to Sunrise as part of the Halloween parade (see photo on this page). The kids love sharing their costumes and the residents revel in all the excitement even if they don't "get" some of the costumes.

These youngsters are learning compassion through this experience. The giving of one's

time to be with those in need is at the heart of what the school teaches every day.

I have often heard my children in the car after a Sunrise visit sharing an experience with their siblings. The loving tone in their voices as they recount the story is evidence that children have such a capacity for giving and are open to experiences that promote emotional and spiritual growth.

I know that Sunrise is grateful for all that the children bring to their facility but we at St. Mary's feel blessed to have them as part of our community as well.

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



The Thanksgiving play and feast is a beloved tradition at St. Mary's. This year's kindergarten class did not disappoint as they offered their rendition of the first Thanksgiving. The entire school then enjoyed pies and ice cream. The event is held in conjunction with a food drive to help local families with their Thanksgiving meal.



'Tis the season of giving and children and teachers alike got into the spirit. The school kicked off a canned goods drive with a Tag Day on December 2 and the teachers cooked up casseroles for SOME.

HOLY CROSS

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and mortar entrance sign for the church and school, currently under construction. Mr. Striegel's contributions to Holy Cross extend to the classroom as well. He works with our Middle School Math and Science teachers to create real world architecture and structural engineering connections to classroom instruction.

Mario Silva, a dedicated and active member of the Holy Cross Parish community as well as a school parent for the past 14 years, was nominated as the Catholic Business Network's Volunteer of the Year. Mr. Silva

has held numerous volunteer positions over the years and is currently the chairman of our School Advisory Board. His quiet but effective leadership in that role has been invaluable to Holy Cross. Mr. Silva has been instrumental in establishing various school committees, staffed by volunteers from within the school and parish with related professional expertise, that provide guidance on everything from technology needs to building and grounds projects. The result is a highly-efficient and successful method to establish and attain short and long-range goals that benefit the entire Holy Cross community.

Our entire school community is blessed by the contributions of both Mr. Striegel and Mr. Silva and we are proud to honor them both for their selfless and generous service.

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St. Mary's School Mass and Open House

January 25, 2015

9 am Mass

10 am – 1 pm Open House

600 Veirs Mill Road

Rockville, Maryland

301-762-4179

USDE Blue Ribbon School





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UPCOMING EVENTS



*The Academy of the
HOLY CROSS*

Tartan for a Day Visit
Monday, January 26

**International Baccalaureate
(IB) Diploma Programme
Information Meeting**
Wednesday, February 4
7:00 pm

**Performing Arts
Night for Middle
School Students**
Thursday, February 12
7:00 pm

Register for all events at ACADEMYOFTHEHOLYCROSS.ORG/ADMISSIONSEVENTS
All-Girls, Grades 9-12 • 4920 Strathmore Ave, Kensington MD • 301.942.2100

St. Martin's School News and Notes

November 25, 2014 Grades K, 1, 2, and 3 shared a Thanksgiving "Break-feast" on with each other and their families. Each class contributed a dish to the feast: corn bread, pumpkin pudding, apple sauce, popcorn, and gingerbread cake squares. Yum!

December 6, 2014 St. Martin's School hosted a Saturday with Santa for school and parish families. The event included a continental breakfast, photos with Santa, arts and crafts, and Santa's Secret Workshop.

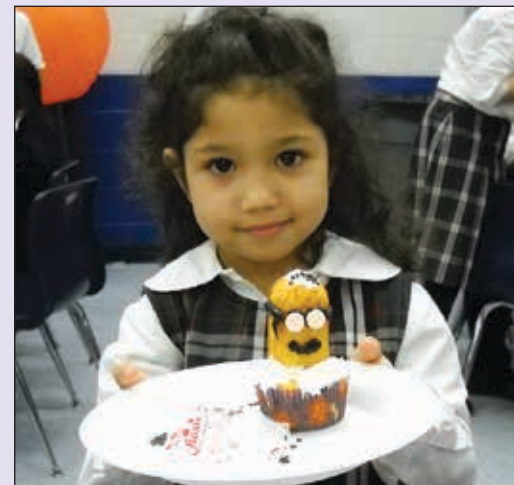
December 16, 2014 Join us for a fun-filled evening of music. St. Martin's Christmas program will feature our concert bands and songs sung by every grade. The event will take place in the school gymnasium at 7 pm.

January 27, 2015 Are you looking for a Christ-centered environment where your child can grow emotionally and intellectually? Then, come visit St. Martin's School during our Open House. From 9 am to 1 pm, seventh and eighth-grade students will lead tours of the school. The principal, Mr. Andrew Piotrowski, and current parents will be available to answer questions. For more information, please contact the school at office@smsmd.org or 301-990-2441.

OPT



St. Martin's math teacher, Mrs. Katie Cain, joins five of her advanced math eighth graders at the Annual Our Lady of Good Counsel Math Competition. Photo by Lisa Schuler



St. Martin's student creates a minion cupcake to celebrate the season of Halloween during an after-school program. Photo by Julie Stinger

New Clubs Add Fun and Service Opportunities for Students

By Janet Martins and Theresa De Leon,
Eighth Graders

St. Martin of Tours Parish

201 South Frederick Ave.
Gaithersburg, MD

Rev. Msgr. Mark E. Brennan
Pastor
301-990-3203

St. Martin School
Andrew Piotrowski
Principal
301-990-2441

Catherine Cooksey
Parish Editor
240-477-8706
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Now in its second year, after-school enrichment programming continues to be a big hit with St. Martin's school children. Students can choose among various physical, academic, and artistic activities as well as service and faith-based opportunities. The popularity of these activities with students, and teachers alike, has sparked new clubs. Two of the newest additions are M2: Math and Munchies and Outreach Club.

Mrs. Joseph and Mrs. Cilia host the math club M2: Math and Munchies for students in Grades 4 and 5. Each week, new concepts and skills are given to the children for basic learning. Some of the topics are basic multiplication, probability, estimation, graphing, and geography.

Recently, there was an afternoon

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**More St. Martin of Tours
News on Page 30**

SHORT

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carrying and driving for the families who traveled miles, often using public transit, some elderly, others toting young children to collect their holiday meal. In the midst of the activity and desperation, a great sense of joy prevailed. Christ was surely there; in the poverty of those in need and in the love of those who served. Our Catholic parishes are the Lord's Thanksgiving kitchens and Christmas workshops, and those who serve, His dedicated workforce. If you missed the opportunity to serve at Thanksgiving, there's still time to find a place in Christ's workshop building a festive and joyful Christmas for your vulnerable and poor neighbors.

Other builders include the Catholic Business Network (<https://cbnmc.com/>) which held its annual Gala recently raising funds to assist Catholic education and honoring this year's Catholic Business Leader of Year, Donald Urgo, Sr., President and CEO of Urgo Hotels. He was honored for his enduring commitment to Catholic education. Also building was The Catholic Coalition for Special Education (<http://www.ccse-maryland.org/>) which held its annual Believe in Me awards program at which it distributed \$80,000 to local Catholic schools to support their efforts to include students with special needs. You can help CCSE by supporting its March 13, 2015 annual fundraiser.

This is the annual Senior Citizens issue of OPT. Thanks to publishers Larry and Kathleen Hamm for creating this valuable guide for our local parishes to assist in locating and accessing needed activities and services for senior parishioners.

A few observations lead to one senior related reflection. Our parishes are becoming increasingly "grey" with older members; many seniors desire to "age in place" (despite stereotypes that they want to go south!); and, to age in place, seniors need services and assistance. Add to these the fact that most Catholics who leave the faith decide to do this by age 23. The potential synergy in these observations came to mind as I witnessed the St Patrick's parish Thanksgiving distribution. The Parish volunteer corps was a truly intergenerational group. School children, young families, and seniors served together toward the Christian objectives of feeding the hungry and welcoming the stranger. I can't help but reflect upon the capacity for service and fellowship intergenerational activities promises.

How might more intergenerational ministries impact the two challenges of encouraging young Catholics to remain in their "faith

homes" and older parishioners remain in the beloved neighborhood homes? Much research has been undertaken at Temple University regarding the value and potential of intergenerational activities (<http://templeigc.org/training/intergenerational-program-development>). The bottom line is that when older adults and children and younger people work together toward shared goals, all benefit socially, emotionally, and often, economically. I would add the assumption that they benefit spiritually as well.

Most parish ministries are organized in the traditional "smokestacks" of youth ministry, CYO, religious education, elementary schools, various adult ministries, and senior ministries. Finding innovative ways to unite these into intergenerational ministries may facilitate new parish activities with different perspectives and renewed energy. Here are a few examples:

An intergenerational **parish chore ministry** to assist elderly and disabled parishioners with major household chores and minor repairs to enable them to age in place.

An intergenerational **parish mentoring ministry** to provide tutoring and enrichment classes for parish school children, computer literacy for those who want to use email and internet for communication and shopping (particularly important for isolated elderly) and English as a second language for immigrants.

An intergenerational **parish social outreach ministry** to identify isolated parishioners and help engage them in social and recreational activities (especially needed to engage elderly and disabled people in the parish community).

An intergenerational **social service ministry** to provide a variety of essential services to people in the parish including transportation to shopping and medical appointments, financial advice, (ever read a communication from Social Security or Medicare?), food shopping or simply a regular friendly visit.

For more ideas, contact the Heyman InterAges Center in Rockville, www.accessjca.org/programs/interages/

These are much needed ministries of love. They help people to realize their wish to age in place and they help those often living in the shadows to join the warmth and fellowship of sustaining parish life. They welcome and encourage young Catholics and may inspire them to a lifelong vision of meaningful faith and service. All this, made better through shared wisdom, knowledge, experience, imagination, energy, and enthusiasm of generations working together.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

OPT

program. Another thing that makes the program unique is that it is a family activity. At the 5K, every girl needs a buddy to run with, so sometimes the whole family comes out together in support of their runner. It is just a great feeling to share this moment with your daughter or sister!

OPT

Hallowe'en Dance

October 25 was the night Christ the King celebrated the eve of All Hallows, in costume and on the dance floor!

OPT



Manuel Ruiz and our ever-costumed Pastor, Fr. Jose Cortes



Etienne Lamoreaux and Liz Weiss



Maria Kendall and Erlinda Basamot in "religious" costume

As We Close Out the Year of Grace

By Katie Holland, CTK editor

On Saturday November 29 Christ the King gathered, after morning Mass, for a Day of Recollection in the Chapel. It began with the Prayer to the Holy Spirit and closed with The Angelus at noon. There were far more parishioners in attendance than planned, but that is a good thing! Fr. Jose Corte titled it, The Seven Churches of the Apocalypse. "It is important to learn how to wait" and in explaining, Fr. Jose identified this goal with our prayer-

ful path during Advent, "Jesus is really coming, it is not just poetry". His last Biblical citation Rev 22:20, repeats the prayer we say during Advent, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

At Christ the King, Confessions will be available during Advent on Saturdays 3-3:45pm, Thursdays 8-9am, during all Sunday Masses when announced as well as during the December 10 Penance Service. Mass for the Holy Day of Obligation, The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, Monday, December 8, will be 9:15am in

English and at 7:30pm in Spanish.

There will be the regular Wednesday morning on December 24. Christmas Masses begin with an Organ Prelude that evening at 5:15pm, followed by the Vigil Mass for Children, 11pm Carol Sing-along and Solemn Mass at Midnight which will be bilingual (English and Spanish). The 7pm Vigil Mass for The Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God will be followed by Te Deum. On Thursday, January 1, this Holy Day of Obligation, will follow the Sunday Mass schedule.

OPT

Christ the King Advent Concert

An interview with Katharine Yeago, CTK music director

Christ the King will continue its Advent Concert Series Sunday December 21 at 4pm in the Church. The concert will be a charity Christmas concert followed by a reception in the vestibule of

"cheer".

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a centuries' old English tradition narrating the whole of salvation history through Biblical readings, Gregorian chant traditional

carols and choral music. The prelude this year will be Viderunt Omnes by Perotin, a twelfth-century piece from the Cathedral of Notre Dame. It is the oldest type of polyphony known. This particular piece is famous among Church historians and musicians. The choir sings slowly with the soloists riffing in. There will be hymns for the congregation to sing, motets by the choir.

All are welcome to participate as singers and/or lectors. Our former Music Director, John Henderson, will join in the choir this year.

OPT

Worthy of Note

Christ the King will once again offer the Memorial nameplates for our In Memoriam plaque at a Christmas discount: \$250 until January 6, 2015. Order forms can be found in the vestibule of the Church, on the parish web site and on the parish Facebook page. Three lines of writing for a lifetime and beyond in memory!

Christmas cards, note cards, and suncatchers, which capture the image of the stained glass window of Christ, are also available through the Rectory at a discounted price through Epiphany 2015.

OPT

Upcoming Events of Note at Christ the King

The Lord Is My Shepherd prayer group will host Simbang Gabi beginning Monday, December 15 through Tuesday, December 23, at Christ the King. This Filipino tradition is Night Mass at 7:30pm each of the nine nights to await the birth of Christ. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

Christ the King is considering a Mardi Gras costume ball Saturday, February 14, 2015 in the Msgr. John J. Dressell Colonial Room from 6-10pm. More on this in the next edition of *Our Parish Times*.

OPT

5K

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their families has all been very positive. One mom commented that this was the best activity her daughter has done. It is so great to see the values that our school and families teach, reinforced in this

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2301 Colston Drive
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Rev. Jose Maria Cortes
FSCB Pastor

Katie Holland,
OPT Editor

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Fr. Saulo blesses the "Kids Helping Kids" Walkers and the event.

An Autumn Glory "Kids Helping Kids" Walk-A-Thon

By Stephen P. Holowenzak, GK, Co-Chairmen, Charles J. Hayes, PGK and James Robertson, PGK: Knights of Columbus, Council 15084

How does a child cope when dad is not only absent but is incarcerated? How can one help this child know that they are loved and that they have a dad who loves them? How does one help the incarcerated father see that he is also a Dad?

in Youngstown, Cumberland and other prison sites. Then the program helps the children and parent maintain contact through letters, phone & closed circuit TV.

The event started with an opening prayer and send-off blessing given by Father Saulo Vicente of St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church and word from Carol Fennelly, Executive Director, and Hope House to the participant



These are questions that St. Michael the Archangel Knights of Columbus No. 15084, Silver Spring, and District #11 addressed with their walk-a-thon: Kids Helping Kids. The Knights asked families and others to walk Sligo Creek Park trail for the benefit of children of the incarcerated. Proceeds from this walk, held on Saturday, October 18th, and was given to Hope House, a 501C3 non-profit corporation – dedicated for 14 years to answering these questions with an action program. The Hope House program is anchored in structured visits of child to parent in summer camps close to Federal prisons

walkers, sponsors, and volunteers.

Afterwards, participant walkers "Kids" presented Carol Fennelly with School Backpack Sacks – in colorful geometric, star, and floral patterns and filled with school supplies (donated by Office Depot's Silver Spring Manager, Jessica Tircuit-Peitso) for "Kids" enrolled in the Hope House Camp Program.

The walkers (youths, children, adolescents), individual sponsors (adults) with escorts walked or strolled their selected distances (1K, 3K, 5K and 10K) at different start times throughout the morning. Their sojourn took them from the St. Michael's school yard on Wayne Avenue to the main Sligo Creek Park Trail (furthest point: Colesville Road) and return.

All registered Walkers received a bright new K of C Kids Walking Kids walk-a-thon T shirt as they started their journey, and after finishing their "Walk for Others" a medal was presented to them for their generous "Spirit and Energies to Others" by K of C SK Steve Holowenzak GK and SK Curtis Rodney for Council No. 15084 and lunch. The "little ones" traveled 1K and 3K while the older "Kids"

completed the 5K or 10K distance.

Making Things Happen. St. Michael the Archangel parishioners, friends, and Silver Spring Corporate Sponsors: Monument Bank, Member FDIC, Bell Flowers, Office DEPOT, Giant Foods, The Greek Place, Faro Systems, and Meg Finn Realtors, Whole Foods) all saw the importance of project and helped to make this joy filled event happen on that beautiful Autumn Glory Day, October 18, 2014.

OPT

Saint Michael the Archangel Parish Advent and Christmas Schedule for 2014-2015

"O People of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations." [Isaiah 30:19]

With Advent we begin our celebration of a new Liturgical Year. By re-hearing the revelation of God through Word and Sacrament we are called to follow Jesus Christ now more closely and faithfully. Begin this New Year and season renewed in prayer, repentance and faith, ready to celebrate the incarnation.

MASS SCHEDULE:

Weekdays: 7:45am and 12:05pm Monday-Friday
Weekend: Saturday at 7:45am Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00pm and 6:00pm (Spanish) Sunday: 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am, 1:00pm (Spanish) and 7:00pm
CONFESSIONS: Saturdays 2:45pm - 3:45pm
Mondays and Fridays during Advent - 11:30am-12:00pm

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Nov. 29 & 30

Second Collection: Priest Retirement
Blessing of the Advent Wreath
Sunday: (Mathew 25 - Remove an ornament from **The Giving Tree** to purchase a gift for a needy family or child; return by the week of December 13 & 14 to the Rectory).
Christmas Bazaar 2014 (December 5, 5:30pm-9:00pm, December 6, 9:00am-8:00pm, and December 7, 8:30am-4:00pm in the Williamsburg Room)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Dec. 6 & 7

Regular Mass Schedule
December 8 (Rectory offices closed)
Immaculate Conception
7:45am, 12:05pm & 7:00pm (English)
8:30pm (Spanish)

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Dec. 12

7:45am & 12:05pm Mass (English)
7:00pm Holy Rosary (Spanish)
7:30pm Mass (Spanish)

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Dec. 13 & 14

Regular Mass Schedule
Second Collection: Retirement for Religious
December 13
4:00pm Anointing of the Sick (English)
6:00pm Anointing of the Sick (Spanish)
December 15
7:00pm-9:00pm Bilingual Celebration of Reconciliation

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Dec. 20 & 21

Regular Mass Schedule
December 21
2:30pm Christmas Party (Spanish) (Williamsburg Room)
5:00pm Mass (Tagalog)
Christmas Party (Williamsburg Room)
Dec. 22 & 23 Mass at 7:45am and 12:05pm

LIKE US on Facebook and receive updates for the holidays
<https://www.facebook.com/St.Michaels.Silver.Spring>

Or visit us at our website at www.stmichaelsilverspring.org

Dec. 24 Morning Mass at 7:45am ONLY

Christmas Season

December 24 (Rectory offices closes at 12:00pm)
(Religious Ed Christmas Break begins Dec. 21, 2014 to January 4, 2015)

Vigil Masses:

4:00pm Mass with Children's Pageant (Youth Choir & Dance Ministry)
8:00pm Mass (English) (Choir & Organ)
The doors of the Church will open at 7:00pm for the Christmas Concert at 7:30pm
12:00pm Mass (Spanish) (Choir & Instrumentalist)
The doors of the Church will open at 11:00pm for the Christmas Concert

December 25

Christmas Day (Rectory offices closed)
10:00am Mass (Choir & Instrumentalists)
1:00pm Mass in Spanish (Choir & Instrumentalists)

Christmas Week daily Mass – 7:45am ONLY
(December 26, 27, 29, 30, 2014 – January 2, 2015)

Solemnity of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph, Dec. 27 & 28

Regular Mass Schedule
Catholic Charities Food Collection weekend
So Others Might Eat Program – Take a casserole and return it on Sunday, January 4, 2015

December 31

7:45am Mass followed by all day adoration
7:00pm Mass (English)
8:30pm Mass (Spanish)

SOLEMNITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

January 1, 2015
10:00am Mass (English) (Cantor & Organ)
1:00pm Mass (Spanish) (Hispanic Choir)

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD JAN. 3 & 4, 2015

Regular Mass Schedule

Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord Jan. 10 & 11

Regular Mass Schedule
January 10, 2015
6:00pm Celebration of Baptisms (Spanish)
January 11, 2015
11:00am Celebration of Baptisms (English)

St. Michael's Parish

805 Wayne Avenue
Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Msgr. Eddie Tolentino,
Pastor

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Joanie Heavey,
OPT Editor

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Boy Scouts of America with their St. Michael the Archangel medals

ENZLER

Con't from page 1

the relief on their faces as we are able to give them a Christmas gift for their children. Our Angel Tree returns again this holiday season, with more than 600 names of local children. Some of these are families in our programs, where their parents are getting assistance. And others have called us, desperate to make sure their child has something under the tree. You can only dream of the excitement you bring to a child by providing a Christmas they would not have otherwise.

We have also brought back one of our most popular programs, Joseph's Coats of Many Colors Coat Drive. Last year we collected and distributed over 9,000 coats to help keep our neighbors warm through the harsh winter months. So this year, again in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Washington Catholic Schools, we are bettering the community by collecting coats all the way into February and getting them in the hands of who need them most.

This time of year is also a great time for reflection and it makes me immediately think, not only of what we need, but of how much we've already been given this year. We had an astounding 8,764 volunteers work with us in the past year. We are so grateful to all who have said "Yes"—giving of their time and

talents to ensure the best service for our clients.

In September, more than 1,000 uninsured patients received free dental care in our second annual Mission of Mercy event, this time partnering with the University of Maryland to see even more people than in 2013. Over the two days, patients received more than a million dollars worth of desperately needed services at no cost to them.

And in February of 2014, we celebrated the one year anniversary of Cup of Joe two by packaging our 100,000th breakfast bag for the homeless to take with them in the morning. Our Catholic Charities Health Care Network marked 25 years of service to the community, built on the generosity of doctors, medical specialists, and local hospitals to see patients who badly need the medical care, but can't afford it. Our employment programs helped 680 people get started in a new job. These are only a handful of the examples I could name as the list goes on and on.

So I leave you with my ultimate Christmas wish and memory for this season. That all of us see the image of Christ in all who we encounter and do for them what you hope they would do for you. When witnessing our brothers and sisters in need, lend a hand up to inspire hope and build brighter futures. Merry Christmas and God bless each and every one of you. And a Happy New Year, too.

OPT

CHARITIES

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the organization conducted 65 programs in 47 locations in Washington area, serving more than 116,000 individuals of all economic, religious and social backgrounds.

Stever said that for the past two years, Resurrection youth who attended the high school and middle school Summer Service Camps have participated in the Welcome Home Re-Entry Program and Cup of Joe, and have sponsored their own walk-a-thon to raise funds for

Catholic Charities.

Also, each year the parish's Confirmation Candidates participate in the SHARE Food Network and Joseph's Coat of Many Colors program, she said.

Among its programs, Catholic Charities provides assistance in the areas of shelter and housing; employment and adult education; food for the needy; medical, dental and mental health care; children and adults with disabilities; immigrants and refugees; substance abuse; prison outreach; and general help in emergencies.

OPT

DECONATE

Con't from page 12

Kingdom" award from Cardinal Wuerl on January 5, 2014 for their exceptional service to their parish.

Will was born in the Dominican Republic. He came to the U.S. with his parents when was a year old. He



Wendel and Arleen Hall

was raised in New York City, and studied at NYU and the Stevens Institute of Technology, across the river in NJ, where he received his B.S. and M.S. in computer science. He's been a member of St. Francis since 1998, the year he and his wife Lourdes, and two children, moved to Maryland. They have been very active volunteers with the Friends in Action ministry, a family mentoring group that provides outreach to needy families in our community. A few weeks ago, they were blessed with their first grandchild – a boy.

Prayers are with Wendel and Will as they continue their journey responding to God's call.

OPT

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur laid the foundation for Saint Francis International School

Sr. Patricia Schwartz was there in 1954 when the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur arrived at Saint Camillus Parish to set up the new school. Seven Sisters and a lay teacher welcomed 456 Kindergarten through 4th graders to the new school in Silver Spring on September 23, 1954. Sr. Patricia was a novice who was just helping out in 1954, but she went on to serve as principal of Saint Camillus School twice, included a long stint from 1975 to 1985.

Over the last 60 years over sixty Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur have served at Saint Camillus School and Parish. This year on November 19th, Sr. Patricia and sixteen other Sisters of Notre Dame came to Saint Francis International School for a special school mass celebrated 60 years of Catholic education at Saint Camillus Parish.

The Sisters were joined by former faculty members and alumni and many priests that have served at Saint Camillus over the years. Fr. John Dakes, an alumnus of



Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur spend time with the students of Saint Francis International School.

Saint Camillus School, celebrated the mass and preached a wonderful homily.

After mass the Sisters and many of the guests joined the Saint Francis International School students for breakfast at the school. The Sisters were overjoyed as they toured the

school and met students and got to see that their hard work and legacy are still being carried out.

Saint Francis International School is proud to continue the legacy of Catholic education that the Sisters of Notre Dame began at Saint Camillus six decades ago!

OPT

Giving Thanks, SFIS Style!

A traditional has grown over the last five years at Saint Francis International School where the grandparents and other honored elders join the students of students and faculty for their Thanksgiving celebration.

This year was no different as over a hundred grandparents and other guests joined the Saint Francis International School community for a special prayer service and festivities on November 25th. As part of the morning prayer service the student council led the school community in blessing to



SFIS community members celebrate the annual Thanksgiving feast.

over 40 cartons of food that the students donated to the Saint Mark and Saint Camillus parish food pantries.

After the prayer service students in Pre-K through 4th grade performed songs and poems to celebrate their grandparents and honored elders.

The grandparents and guests then joined the students and faculty for a full scale Thanksgiving feast including 20 turkeys donated by Shop Rite of Cherry Hill. The Thanksgiving feast shared with grandparents and other honored elders is a lot of work, but as always it was a wonderful way to kick off Thanksgiving break by celebrating family and friendship!

OPT

The Bus Pioneers of SFIS

This fall the Montgomery County Department of Transportation is experimenting with a pilot program at several local non-public schools, including Saint Francis International School and Saint Jude Regional School, where the county is partnering with

parents to provide affordable bus service.

At Saint Francis International School bus service is happening in the afternoon with two routes. One route takes students to Hyattsville and the other route stops on Cherry Hill Road and in Burtonsville.

Each afternoon bus riders gather for a snack and homework time before they load the buses to head to the drop off locations. The students are excited to be riding the bus every day and they hardly realize that they are actual pioneers of this new idea in Montgomery County.

OPT



Some SFIS students load up as part of the Montgomery County busing pilot program.

St. Francis International School

www.saintfrancisinternational.org

Tobias A. Harkleroad,
Principal

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

St. Mark Campus
7501 Adelphi Road
Hyattsville, MD 20783

St. Patrick

FOOD DRIVE

Con't from page 6

als and families, St. Patrick's was a can-collecting colossus, outstripping the number of canned goods collected last year, when we had debuted the initiative. This was St. Patrick's second year of participation in the GGCFD, launched by Blessed Sacrament more than 25 years ago in honor of Greg Gannon, who had been an active member of that parish, and we far exceeded our expectations. Everyone involved in this community-wide effort proved how true it is that "many hands make light work."

Once the food items were collected, volunteers sorted them at the St. Patrick's Parish Center, and then distributed them to six recipients: St. Patrick's Holiday Giving baskets; St. Patrick's Food Pantry; St. Martin's Food Pantry; Assumption Parish Food Pantry in Washington, D.C.; Catholic Charities' Montgomery County Family Center; and Capital Area Food Bank, all of which serve individuals and families in need.

From the Boy Scouts, to the St. Patrick students, to the parishioners, we turned out in spades to work hard! Through charitable contributions from several local companies in our area, we were able to offset expenses. And thanks to Elite Image, everyone was outfitted in specially made GGCFD T-shirts on collection day, fostering spirit and sense of community.

Perfect weather and cooperation. All in all, November 15th was a day to be grateful

OPT

Haiti Yard Sale Exceeds Expectations

A yard sale benefitting Life Connection Mission in Haiti was held at St. Patrick's Church on October 18, 2014. Through the donation of many "treasures," the Sale raised more than \$34,000, far exceeding this year's goal of \$28,000. Monies will be used by Life Connection Mission to purchase a piece of property which will soon be the home to a trade school in Montrouis, Haiti. Previous yard sale proceeds were used to construct and outfit a free medical clinic in Montrouis. Additionally, yard sale funds have been used to construct a higher learning and computer center. Christie Anne Short, Principal at St. Patrick's School and organizer of the Haiti Yard Sale, is grateful to the many parishioners and members of the St. Patrick's community who donated items, volunteered to set up the sale and manned the sales floor for hours. Ms. Short stated that the volunteers were amazing and she is grateful to the parents who work hard for this special cause. She is also proud to see so many St. Patrick's students and alumni donating their free time to help the poor in Haiti. She commented that, "This is a community with a lot of love to share and we are changing lives, building futures, and providing hope to the children in Haiti."



Students at St. Patrick's School attend a University of Maryland basketball game on November 14, where the Lady Terps hosted the Mountaineers of Mt. Saint Mary's University. Grades 2-8 participated in this "surprise" field trip to celebrate a successful first quarter of academics. The University of Maryland prevailed over Mt. Saint Mary's by a score of 109-45. One lucky child from every class was chosen to serve as a "mop boy/girl" during the game to keep the court clean.

Toiletry Drive

The Third-Grade Class at St. Patrick's School conducted a toiletry drive as their October service project. They collected more than 500 pounds of toiletry items which will be donated to needy children in Montrouis, Haiti. For several years, the school has partnered with Life Connection Mission to work with this community. Members of the parish will travel to Montrouis in June 2015 for a mission trip. Toiletries will be distributed at that visit. The third graders are pictured here with their teacher, Miss Katy Hilley.



STILL HERE

Con't from page 5

years and chaired the Ladies' Guild, which raised money for various causes. She cooked for large church events, for visiting priests, and for cardinals at Confirmation. She especially remembers a yearly event called Project Parent, "where kids celebrated parents and parents celebrated kids" with a Mass, dinner, dancing and a slideshow. She and her husband also took care of the rectory garden and worked with others to get the new church built in 1962.

What is she grateful for? "I'm thankful that God put me here in this parish, in a Catholic community in a decent neighborhood. We're just a big family here now." And what gives her the greatest satisfaction? "I think maybe it's the knowledge that whatever God put me here for, I've been able to do it. I've had open heart surgery and all that kind of business, but I'm still here."

Richard Podrasky (age 80) worked as an electrical engineer, and two of his three children attended the parish school. He has been an usher at the Historic St. John's (built in 1894 but founded more than 100 years earlier by members of the Carroll family) for more than 40 years. "People come up to me



Above, Robert Jackson with his three daughters: (L-R) Julie Somers, Pattie Snowden, and Peggy Tyler
At right, Liz Mescher

after Mass and say they have been away for 30 years, and they are happy to see that I am still here."

Richard grew up in Johnstown, PA, where, in 1889, at the age of 17, his grandfather saved his 15-year-old future wife from the Johnstown Flood. "They met a few years later at church, recognized each other, and eventually married." As the youngest of five siblings, he was "spoiled by his sisters and pressured by his brothers."

Looking back, he is grateful for his religion, which has helped him through a lot of hard times. "If you

fall down," he tells younger people, "just pick yourself up and trudge ahead."

Lolita Jardeleza, age 82, is the mother of 11 children plus an informally adopted 12th. She has 49 grandchildren and 24 great-grands at last count, with more births and marriages on the near horizon. A Secular Franciscan, she works five days a week as Prayer Minister, teacher, mentor, and all-around role model at the Academy of the Holy Cross in Kensington, and she's active in the parish CCD.

"When our family was outgrow-



ing our first house, a 3-bedroom rambler, we specified to real estate agents that we needed a big house that we could afford in St. John the Evangelist Parish. One such agent said it would have been easier if we had asked for the moon. In 1961, God, in His loving Providence, gave us the house I live in still. It is large, we could afford it, and it is in ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST PARISH, praise Him!"

Looking back, what gives her the greatest joy? "All the evidences of God's kindness and generosity to us, generation after generation.

Praise Him!"

Robert L. Jackson, age 79, is a retired journalist with a master's degree in political science from St. Louis University. In the early 1960s he was a Fulbright Scholar in Copenhagen, and his wife and daughters came along for the assignment. The family came here when he was assigned to cover the Washington scene for the *LA Times*, and he and his wife moved into the parish in 1984. After his retirement he served as a Fulbright teacher in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Highlights of his long career include covering the Watts Riots in 1965 and the Watergate scandal between 1972 and 1974. What he remembers most fondly, though, is holding the communion paten for St. Louis Cardinals baseball player Stan Musial as an altar boy at St. Joan of Arc Church, then later interviewing Musial as a journalist.

Today he looks back with gratitude for all the wonderful people he got to meet, for his three daughters and their husbands, for his beloved wife, who retired as principal at Steven Knolls special education school in 1997 and died earlier this year, for his kind hospice nurse Elsa Habtu, and for Fr. Calis, who visits him regularly. The holidays will be different this year, but Jackson says he looks forward "to creating some new traditions."

OPT



Fr. Mateo blesses the animals. Photo by Christine Jeffrey

Saint Francis inspires us still

On October 4, the feast of St. Francis, Fr. Mateo, accompanied by Deacon John Liu and Deacon Leo Opendaker, blessed the animals. Many parishioners brought their pets to be blessed; dogs, cats—even turtles. There was also a blessing for the new St. Francis statue.

Following the blessing of the animals, everyone processed to the newly installed St. Rose Native Plant Garden. Having installed the requisite features, the St. Rose Eco Action Team's garden qualified for certification as a Monarch Butterfly Way Station. The team distributed flowering milkweed plants for home garden

culture after the blessing. These plants abet the presently endangered annual monarch migration by providing the monarch's sole egg-laying sites.

OPT



Fr. Mateo blesses the statue of Saint Francis. Photo by Christine Jeffrey



Christmas Shop

The St. Rose Christmas Shop features a wide variety of Christmas trinkets, jewelry and religious artifacts. Photo by Mary Zoccola

St. Rose House Anniversary Celebration

The St. Rose of Lima Community gathered together for a Mass of thanksgiving on Sunday, November 16 to celebrate the fifth anniversary of St. Rose House, a home for three adults with developmental differences located on the parish grounds. St. Rose House is operated by Rosaria Communities, Inc., a nonprofit associated with the Archdiocese of Washington. It is the first of three homes opened using the model of



Participants with differing abilities who participated in Mass were given a "Bells and Smells" Tour of the Sacristy and Sanctuary the day before Mass. Photo by Sherry Moitoza

connecting housing for adults with special needs to local parishes.

The Mass, celebrated by St. Rose Pastor Fr. Agustin Mateo, also marked the start of a new parish

ministry called "Accommodating Hearts." The ministry seeks to connect parishioners who have need

Continued on page 30



Every year, St. Rose parishioners and the Knights of Columbus sell Christmas trees as a fundraiser. Photo by Mary Zoccola

Giving Tree

To remind us of the meaning of the season, a giving tree is centrally located in the Christmas Shop at St. Rose. Photo by Mary Zoccola



St. Rose parishioners turn out to venerate the image of Christ known as Señor de los Milagros – the Lord of Miracles. Photo by Christine Jeffrey

St. Rose celebrates El Señor de los Milagros

The Lord of Miracles (in Spanish: Señor de los Milagros de Nazarenas) is Jesus Christ's painted image that is venerated in Lima, Peru. Painted by an African slave, the painting dates back to the 17th century. The feast is the main Catholic celebration in Peru and one of the largest processions in the world. The painting shows Christ enduring the pain of crucifixion. The Holy Spirit and God the Father are above the painting. The lower right of the painting shows Jesus's mother, the Virgin Mary, her heart pierced by a metaphorical sword of sorrow. St. Mary Magdalene is shown kneeling and

weeping at the foot of the cross.

The name, El Señor de los Milagros, originated in the 18th century during an earthquake, which destroyed most of the city, leaving only that mural standing. This is considered a miraculous occurrence by many living there.

In October, annually, religious processions are held in the streets of Lima, with hundreds of thousands of participants hailing from all sorts of racial and economic backgrounds. Boulevards are decorated in purple on October 18, 19, and 28 to celebrate the Lord of Miracles.

OPT

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St. Jane de Chantal

Happenings In Our Blue Ribbon School



St. Jane's Students Going Places

The fourth grade spent the day exploring in Baltimore (shown above). Elsewhere, the fifth grade took a trip to Mount Vernon, where they learned about George Washington and his life during and after his Presidency.

St. Jane's Students Place High in County's Sumdog Math Competition

Many St. Jane de Chantal School students participated in the Montgomery County Sumdog contest. Over 700 children participated countywide. St. Jane had 16 students place in the top 20. Room 16 placed second in the county. Room 12 placed third.

All Saints in the Fourth Grade

The fourth graders prepared saint reports in conjunction with their recognition of All Saints Day. The students researched and wrote about the saint of their choice. They also prepared oral presentations and dressed up as their saints. During the day, the "saints" paraded around the school visiting the different classrooms and sharing some facts about their saints.

Learning about Living Creatures

The fourth grade hosted a guest speaker from the Montgomery County Beekeepers Association who informed the students about honeybees. The children enjoyed learning about the tools beekeepers use in taking care of their bees, why bees are so important to our world, and about the different types of bees and their jobs in the hive. The kindergarteners were also busy and had their first field trip to learn about arachnids. They visited the Museum of Natural History to see the tarantula feeding in the insect zoo. The tarantula was hungry and captured his cricket in about one second. The students enjoyed learning about arachnids on this exciting and informative trip.

Spirit Week

The school celebrated Spirit Week with Pajama Day, Duke Day, Wacky Wednesday, and Blue/White Day, which included a pep rally, 8th grade cheerleaders, outdoor games, and prizes. The week concluded with Halloween costumes, class parties, and trick-or-treating by the Pre-K and Kindergarten.

Disciples in Service Ceremony

Students and teachers assembled in the church for the annual Disciples in Service Ceremony to commemorate all of the St. Jane de Chantal School community service programs. The ceremony began with a procession of beautiful banners made by the students to depict the thirteen organizations the school supports. Following the procession, students introduced each service program through the reading of a Bible passage or inspirational saint quote. These acts of charity and service are rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and are foremost in the religion curriculum for each grade.

Cross Country Champs

St. Jane de Chantal School's Cross Country team competed Saturday, October 18, in the Archdiocese Championship Meet. Out of the 24 teams competing, St. Jane was the most awarded. Of the four possible championship categories, St. Jane brought home titles in each: three first-place titles and one second-place title. The Varsity boys, led by Matt King, placed first in their division. The JV boys, led by Eamon Smith, and JV girls, led by Chloe Rickerby, also each placed first in their respective divisions. The Varsity girls led by Cady Hyde, won second place. The championship titles show the hard work and dedication of the entire St. Jane Cross Country team, which is an impressive 100 runners strong!

WELCOME

Con't from page 10

there was plenty of time for the new parishioners to talk with the Council members and to ask questions. Information was provided, along with friendship, in a relaxing atmosphere. The reception was considered a great success, and everybody left happy.

Many of the new parishioners echoed the feeling that St. Jane was a very warm and welcoming community, and they expressed a desire to get more involved. With this feedback, the Pastor and the Pastoral Council decided to make the New Parishioner Welcome Reception an ongoing event. Welcoming ceremonies will be held about three times a year, with the next one planned for March 2015.

OPT

St. Bartholomew

SR NENA

Con't from page 11

Bartholomew School, told OPT: "Sister Nena is the kind of teacher every school would love to have. She teaches children to live their faith. She encourages them to care for others and care for the environment. As students graduated from St. Bart's they were quick to attribute their academic and personal success to the skills they learned from Sister Nena."

Sister Nena told OPT that she has "many good memories" of her

years of service and recalls "many wonderful people," especially principals and fellow teachers, who helped her and guided her along the way. She told OPT, "In my first year of teaching, the kids sat still, their hands folded, but 'children are now much more active. Children will question much more now.'" In addition to teaching, Sister Nena also frequently spent her summer "vacations" working with the poor. She has been involved in Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) poverty programs in South Carolina, Washington, D.C., and Minnesota, as well as Summer

Migrant Programs in the Arkansas Valley in Colorado.

Fr. Mark Knestout, Pastor of St. Bart's, told OPT, "Sister Nena has always been a great asset to the parish. We will miss her and the many ways in which she served at St. Bart's." Sister Nena offered her thanks to all for her "wonderful retirement Mass and reception." She said, "I am overwhelmed by your love, gifts, and donations, prayers and good wishes. You have brought joy and many happy memories to take with me on my journey. May God bless you abundantly."

OPT



St. Bart's Bazaar and Book Sale at St. Bart's

Book lovers and bargain hunters rubbed shoulders at St. Bart's Bazaar and Book Sale on November 9. Offered for sale were an excellent selection of well-chosen books, toys, and artisan crafts from local vendors.

Bingo Night Rocks at St. Bartholomew Parish

By Barb Henry

St. Bartholomew's School sixth-grade class hosted Bingo Night at St. Bart's on October 3. This year's turnout was the biggest crowd ever with over 250 school and parish attendees. The Parish Hall was at full capacity and everyone had a wonderful time. The proceeds from the night (roughly \$1800 after expenses) will help defray the costs of sixth-grade outdoor education in the spring. The sixth graders put a lot of effort and work into making the night an entertaining one for all and it was a wonderful kick-off event for the school year that brought our



Fun-Loving Crowd Rocks the House at St. Bart's Bingo Night. Photo by Dana Jackson

Parish, CCD and School communities together for a wonderful family night of fun.

OPT

Shrine of St. Jude

Youth Group Visits Gate of Heaven Cemetery on All Souls' Day

By Xiommy Esteban (SJ Youth Group, young adult volunteer)

On Sunday, Nov. 2, All Soul's day, 30 teens from the St. Jude Youth Group gathered for a day of prayer and fellowship. They attended 12:30 pm mass together then took a trip to Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Silver Spring, where they participated in a prayer-filled two hour procession.

Despite the windy and chilly fall weather, the teens walked the majority of the cemetery grounds in a cross-led procession, stopping at 15 graves, including those of St. Jude parishioners and relatives of the teens, to pray for the souls of the faithful departed. The group was led in prayer at each grave by youth group director, Fr Raul DeLeon. At



Fr. Raul DeLeon of the Shrine of St. Jude leads parish teen group members in prayer during an All Souls' Day Procession at Gate of Heaven Cemetery. Also pictured on right is Michael Craven, a St. Jude parishioner, who helped map out the graves of St. Jude parishioners and their families.

several of the graves, relatives of the deceased St. Jude Parishioners awaited the group and prayed along with them. At the end of

each prayer, a teen placed a rose on each grave. The relatives expressed great gratitude to the teens and Fr. DeLeon for their intercessory prayer, and the teens also seemed moved by the experience, as evidenced by several hugs given to family members at the grave sites.

The afternoon was made possible with support from Michael Craven, a St. Jude parishioner, who took the time to map out and find the parishioners' graves to be visited, as well as lead the procession throughout the vast cemetery. The afternoon concluded back at St. Jude with a soccer game organized against the Our Lady of Sorrows youth group, a barbecue, and fellowship!

OPT

ALLEN

Con't from page 1

at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in Rockville, last November 5. He came as guest speaker as part of the parish's 50th Anniversary celebration. Francis is the third Pope Allen has covered, and Allen is giving witness to U.S. Catholics to what he believes is a truly blessed Pontiff in his presentation he calls "The Francis Effect."

Pope Francis' personal simplicity has so impressed the world. However, beneath this simplicity lies the mind of a brilliant Jesuit politician. There is a game plan in everything he does. He wants us all to think in terms of service, not power. He doesn't want leaders "who have the psychology of princes" but rather "pastors who carry the smell of their sheep". Simplicity is to apply to all Church leaders—lay and cleric alike.

A missionary conception of the Church is paramount in this Papacy. Pope Francis does not think of himself as a manager or a politician. He thinks of himself as missionary-in-chief. And he wants to light the missionary fire in each and every one of us. He wants priests to get out of their sacristies and into the streets. He wants them to take to the people in their various walks of life the message of God's love and compassion.

When Francis speaks of a Gospel of Mercy, he wants us to acknowledge flesh-and-blood people who are in front of us now and see them as our opportunities to do mission. He wants us to ask, "Who is the person in my sphere who needs compassion today? Who needs me to be the presence of Christ today?" We already focus a lot on mission programs and plans – but we also need to bring it down to the here and now.

And the opportunities to do mission embrace events outside our immediate spheres, also. He vis-

ited the the impoverished refugees in Lampedusa to point out the desperation of those driven from their homelands and to condemn the world's indifference to their plight. He condemned the civil war in Syria and brought diplomatic pressure to bear to successfully contain the scope of the war. And he orchestrated a meeting between Israel and Hamas in a desperate effort to stem the recent violence in Gaza.

Mercy is the spiritual cornerstone of Francis' Papacy. The Lord never tires of forgiving. (Rather, we are the ones who tire of asking for forgiveness.) Pope Francis asks us to make decisions based on mercy. It is the theme of every talk and all his writing. As bishop of Rome, in his first homily as Pope, which he gave at St. Anne's, he said the strongest message of the Lord is mercy and as Pope he has a passion for the Sacrament of Confession.

In everything Francis does, from the reform of the Vatican Bank to Communion for divorced, he wants everyone to see the Church as a community of mercy. John's prediction is that Pope Francis, in fact, will be remembered and loved as the Pope of Mercy.

Francis is our current Pope. What missionary advantage will we as Church draw upon from his leadership? Which will we be? A community striving to come together as a hospital offering healing mercy? A community that welcomes open dialogue and understanding among all? Or will we rather be a debating society where we argue and fight about everything the Pope says with those whose views won't change? We need to make the New Evangelization our highest priority in this troubled world. We must not lose this opportunity, with a Pope and his views so highly regarded by so many, to make this a more merciful world. All eyes are on us as Catholics – what do we want them to see?

OPT

NEWS & NOTES

Con't from page 13

Kenny Farris. Students were invited to wear country-western garb to school in lieu of uniforms that day, and then they were brought into the multipurpose room for a mystery assembly. There, Mr. Farris led them in square dancing, line dancing, and other classics like the Hokey Pokey. Some older children received lessons in polka dance.

Two weeks later, in the same room, about 120 grandparents and elder friends and relatives of St. Andrew's students gathered for Elder Day brunch. After that, St. Andrew's classes from pre-K on up serenaded the crowd with songs they had practiced in music class for weeks. The school choir performed "Whom Shall I Fear."

All-school Mass followed, where 8th graders and the choir, together with bell ringers, gave a special performance of "We Are Thankful."

OPT

Grandparents and other elders also got a chance to see their youngsters in action in class throughout the morning.

Grandparents came in from as far away as Washington State, Florida, Pennsylvania and even Jamaica.

Santa will be the next big attraction in St. Andrew's multipurpose room, at the December 13 Breakfast with Santa and Secret Santa Shop. There will be two seatings—9:30am and 10:30am—for a homemade breakfast of pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, and sausages, plus coffee, donuts, and juice.

The Secret Santa Shop will be open for Christmas shopping from 9:00am until noon.

Please save 1/31/15 on your calendar as it will be the annual Adult Bingo Game Night & Silent Auction! We will only be selling 190 tickets this year and they go on sale on January 5th, 2015. Get yours early to join in the guaranteed fun!

The Roots of Mother Seton Seniors

By Darla Shebadeh & Roland DeCesare

Where else can you go and meet a former FBI employee who was betrayed by his best friend who turned out to be a notorious Russian spy; a woman who lived through the horrors of the Second World War and watched her brother shot by the Russian "liberators"; or a doctor who lived and practiced in Rockville in the 1800s? Well, if you are a member of the Seton Seniors you will run into those people and many more interesting characters at their monthly meetings held at Mother Seton Parish in Germantown.

Why is there a need for a senior group at Mother Seton Parish? As a person ages it doesn't automatically mean that one's mind slows down, even if the body does start to betray. In fact, the desire to learn becomes more intense. No one is more aware of that fact than the Seton Seniors of Mother Seton Parish. That is why it is so important to have programs that inspire, not just an opportunity to gather, to gab, and eat. Although that is also an important aspect of the group.

In 1989, the pastor of Mother Seton Parish designated Alexander and Sarah Messier to organize a senior club for members of the church. The Messiers



didn't waste any time and the basic group was formed. The only membership requirements were to be 50 years young and available to meet during day. Approximately 12 parishioners attended that first meeting in the chapel of the original rectory and the Seton Seniors were on their way.

Today the group has expanded to over 60 members. On the second Wednesday of each month, the group gathers in the Parish Center for a meeting which often includes a speaker on an interesting topic, a business meeting, and lunch. The group also plans very special outings during the month which always feature lunch at some point during the day. The

group does love to eat. The outings include trips to historic sites, dinner theaters and the annual Mass in June at the Shrine of our patron saint, Elizabeth Ann Seton, in Emmitsburg. There the group celebrates their closing Mass of the season, installs the new officers and then goes to a local restaurant ...of course.

In the past 25 years, we have had many wonderful people belong to this special group of mature adults who have formed life-long friendships. You can always find one of our group counting money, working at the soup kitchen, selling baked goods, or volunteering in any of our parish activities. The fellowship and support of our parish and each other has always been the cornerstone of the group.

The Mission Statement of the Seton Seniors

The member of Mother Seton Parish's Seton Seniors, a social and spiritual group, will endeavor to live exemplary Christian lives by cultivating a loving relationship with Christ. We will be ready to serve each other, our pastor, his associates, and our church when needed. We extend our friendship, love and prayers to all in our parish and community.

OPT

Mother Seton Parish Launches Faith Community Nursing

By Mary Beth DeLuzio, R.N.

Mother Seton Parish is pleased to introduce a new parish-wide ministry called Faith Community Nursing. This new initiative is targeted toward parishioners who are ill, homebound, or bereaved, as well as those who care for them. The whole person will be cared for with focus on the spirit through prayer, listening, and love.

While new to Mother Seton, Faith Community Nursing is a recognized specialty by the American Nursing Association. The ANA defines the specialty as "...the specialized practice of professional nursing that focuses on the intentional care of the spirit as part of the process of promoting holistic health and preventing or minimizing illness in a faith community."

The Faith Community Nurse (FCN) must have an active Registered Nurse (RN) license in his/her state, and have completed the basic preparation class called Foundations of Faith Community Nursing.

Mother Seton has announced that Mary Beth DeLuzio, RN, RCN, will serve as its first faith com-

munity nurse. Mary Beth can be reached at mspfaithcommunitynurse@gmail.com or 301-924-3838. Mary Beth will work closely with the Health Ministry and the Social Concerns Coordinator, Toni Woods. She will submit reports and monthly statistics to the Pastor, Fr. Lee Fangmeyer, and to Ms. Woods.

Mother Seton hosted its FCN kickoff weekend Oct. 18-19. At that time, the committee recruited volunteers to assist with blood pressure screening, visits to the homebound, caregiver respite, and bereavement support. In addition, the ministry identified the initial needs of the parish membership.

The FCN ministry has scheduled monthly blood pressure screenings which began in November. During our first weekend of screenings, we took blood pressure of 30 parishioners.

The FCN bereavement committee sponsored a Memorial Mass Nov. 4 for parishioners or their family members who have passed away in the last year. The Mass was beautiful and will become an annual event. Some families decided to take their family members' candle home with them. The rest decided to leave the candles in front of the

Church altar to burn for 8 days.

FCN has also formed a Caregiver Support committee, which had their first educational evening recently. Our guest speakers addressed the practical and emotional sides of being a caregiver/well-spouse. The Bereavement and Caregiver committees would also like to establish support groups in the future. This effort is ongoing, so please stay tuned for more information. Please email Mary Beth if you are interested in joining one of these groups.

Mother Seton Parish is excited to begin this new ministry of Faith Community Nursing/Parish Nursing. We appreciate your support!

OPT

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BOOK FAIR

Con't from page 14

grades with completing their wish list. During the book fair, volunteers then help with finding the books for the parents, and with cashier tasks."

Two of the most popular books sold this year were *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* and *Sisters*. The students who attended the book fair were mostly in Kindergarten through fourth grade.

According to Mrs. Heinle, the mood at the book fair was excitement, for the children. "Some kids fill the front and back of their wish lists on Preview Day. I love books, and it's wonderful to see students excited about them too!"

Mrs. DalMolin concluded, "The support of the school community is the reason for St. John's success over all these years. The volunteer time that parents have given to this and other events has allowed a larger vision for our school on so many levels. I am truly blessed to be of service in such generous community."

OPT

PICNIC

Con't from page 12

balloon art created by Chuckles the Clown. Thank you to Sue Lea and the St. Francis Youth group who worked hard at the many craft stations. And, there was the annual blessing of the animals.

There were plenty of salads and desserts provided by the parishioners, along with hamburgers, hot-dogs and chicken spiedies grilled by our "Master Chef", Chris Gonzales, with assistance from Doris and Alex Chung and César Arias.

A lot of hard work by many volunteers went into this event, which illustrates the heart of the St. Francis Community. Acknowledgement is due to Maria Estela and her decorating crew, who transformed the Parish Center into a Fall Festival., and the servers, cleanup crew and many other volunteers, who made this year's picnic extra special.

OPT

MORROW

Con't from page 3

Fr. Morrow, who is a retired priest of the Archdiocese of Washington in residence at St. Catherine Laboure Parish in Wheaton, MD, holds a Licentiate of Sacred Theology (STL) in Moral Theology from the Dominican House of Studies and received his Doctorate in Sacred Theology (STD) from the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family. In addition, Fr. Morrow is the author of several books: *Christian Courtship in an Over Sexed World*, which is published in English, Spanish and Portuguese, *Achieving Chastity in a Pornographic World*, *Be Holy: A Catholic's Guide to the Spiritual Life*, and *Who's Who in Heaven*.

For more information, please call the Shrine of St. Jude Catholic Church at 301-946-8200.

OPT

ACTIVITIES

Con't from page 17

anonymous letters to their classmates. These letters share fond memories and celebrate each student's unique traits and talents. Students are encouraged to wait until Christmas to open their box of letters, but some can barely contain their excitement! Whether they read them in the first minutes of break or on Christmas morning, these notes leave the students with full and happy hearts.

Our eighth graders really shine in Advent. They will lead us in special Advent prayers on Monday mornings, lighting a new candle each week on our Advent wreath. On December 6, we celebrate Saint Nicholas Day, and our eighth graders deliver student-made stockings full of treats to all of the children in our school. This year, our Christmas assembly on the last day of school will feature a new tradition, as our eighth graders perform their own production of *A Christmas Carol*, teaching Scrooge (and all of us!) the real meaning of Christmas.

We take great joy in our Advent service projects. Students perform all kinds of random acts of kind-

ness, and give what they can to support people in need. In the past, we have used our Pennies from Heaven collection to purchase school and soccer supplies for children in Iraq, to support an orphanage in Kenya, to buy Christmas gifts for local families in need, and more. This year, we will have a giving tree in our lobby, to purchase gifts for the families of soldiers at Walter Reed. Mrs. McGann provides our parents with at-home Advent celebration ideas, which reinforce the real "reason for the season".

This year we are thrilled to announce our **first annual Christmas Tree Sale**. Parents, students, and teachers will come together to sell the best trees and wreaths; and enjoy the best hot chocolate, and baked goods in Montgomery County on the following dates: Friday, November 28 from 8am-9pm, Saturdays 11/29, 12/6, 12/13, and 12/20 from 8am-9pm, Sundays 11/30, 12/7, 12/14, and 12/21 from 8am-6pm, and with special extended hours on Friday, December 19, from 10am-4pm. We hope you will stop by to buy a tree and join in our Christmas cheer! Merry Christmas from everyone at Our Lady of Lourdes School!

Our Lady of Lourdes

All Decked Out

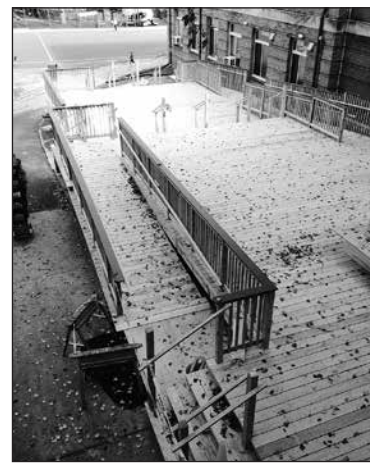
Outside the cafeteria at Our Lady of Lourdes School there is a magnificent oak tree. The tree has been there since the school opened in 1941. Its roots, though, have created a tripping hazard for the children as they dash from the cafeteria to the playground.

In May we had plans drawn up for a small deck to be built around the tree. The deck would cover the roots, and provide us with a nice area for picnics and even for classes to meet outside under the tree.

It took months for the county to give us a permit, and by the time we made the required changes to our plans, the deck was a bit more elaborate than we had planned.

Mr. Leo Miller, the parent of Brett Miller, a 2013 graduate of Lourdes, volunteered his time and talents to oversee our deck project. He surely had no idea of the time this project would take!

This week, we will hold our inaugural event on the deck – a cookout for our young alumni of the classes of 1997 – 2010. The deck provides a large and lovely space for outdoor parties and receptions, and it will



easily accommodate two classes at the same time. There are two ramps to make the deck accessible to wheelchairs and strollers, and a lovely bench around the trunk of the oak tree.

This project was made possible by the generosity of our families, parishioners and alumni. Their donations to our Annual Fund and the Lions' Roar Kate Truax 5K paid for the project.

We thank Mr. Miller for his generosity of time and talent, and we congratulate him for being named the Catholic Schools Volunteer of the Year by the Catholic Business Network.

OPT

St. Martin of Tours

Building a Stronger Sense of Community

By Catherine Cooksey

In the face of nation-wide trends of declining church attendance, St. Martin's Parish is actively working to build strong connections among its parishioners. Parish leaders hope that an improved sense of community will sustain its population and help it grow.

During the past year, St. Martin's has initiated two efforts aimed at building community. The first is the Ministry of Greeting. This ministry coordinates volunteers to stand by the entrances of the church before the English-language, Saturday vigil and Sunday masses. Volunteers greet attendees, opening the door for them. It is a simple act of kindness and welcoming that helps establish a friendly environment in which to worship.

The second effort, Communio, is

a campaign to unify and strengthen the culturally diverse congregation through one-on-one relational conversations. Communio is the Latin word for community. The conversations serve as a tool for building a more open and caring fellowship.

To organize and facilitate these conversations, a leadership team for Communio was formed, composed of parishioners representing the English, Spanish, and French language communities at St. Martin's. The team recruited 75 volunteers who attended a training course to learn how to have personal, meaningful conversations. These volunteers then committed to having a number of conversations with willing parishioners.

During the 3 month campaign, which started in June 2014, there were over 600 one-on-one conversations between parishioners.

OPT

CLUBS

Con't from page 22

centered on a fall-favorite food, pumpkins. The students estimated how many seeds were in a pumpkin. They used the situation to guess and check to see how close their estimates were. The students also used pictographs to plot out the number of seeds. Then, the students decided to use a pumpkin twice as large as the original pumpkin to see if the number of seeds would be double. Afterwards, they snacked on candy corn and donuts.

Led by Pre-K teacher, Mrs. Mohrbacher and students from

Grades Pre-K to 3 have the opportunity to serve others while having fun during Outreach Club.

Mrs. Mohrbacher knows that students, despite their age, have the ability to help others beyond just bringing donations from home. Since she likes to volunteer herself, she wanted St. Martin's students to get interested and teach them to help others. "I want kids to learn from Outreach that it's enjoyable to help others and that it makes you feel good," says Mohrbacher.

From its beginning in October, Outreach Club members have weeded the St. Martin's School garden and made cards for the Gaithersburg police officers.

OPT



Mike Glickman receiving a blessing after bringing up the gifts. Photo by Jack McKinney

ROSE HOUSE

Con't from page 27

of a support or accommodation to parish liturgies, services and events. Part of the mission is to deepen the connection between the parish and the residents of St. Rose House. Faith formation is also a key to this new effort, as well as providing access to faith such as ASL interpretation at the 11:15 am Sunday Masses.

Fr. Mateo reminded us of "the faith, work, enthusiasm and prayers invested by many that gave light to a project inspired by the Lord's teaching that God is love, and its purest expression is compassion, appreciation and inclusion of all." This was demonstrated by those in the St. Rose Parish who have differing abilities participating in various ministries at the Mass including greeters, ushers, gift bearers and lectors. Sherry Moitoza, Director of Social Concerns, expressed that "this Mass was an expression of

God's church, recognizing those in our midst who need to be appreciated and enabled so they can share their different gifts and talents within our community."

Families and advocates from many communities were present at the Mass and at the ministries fair and reception afterward, hosted by the Knights of Columbus. Peg Kolm, from the Archdiocese of Washington's Department of Special Needs Ministries, attended and commented that St. Rose is a "model of the New Evangelization." In our baptism, she said, "we all belong to the Body of Christ. Ministries such as the Accommodating Hearts help connect those persons who feel isolated by their situations with this warm and welcoming parish community of St. Rose."

The new Accommodating Hearts Ministry meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm. ASL Interpretation is now provided at the 11:15am Sunday Mass.

OPT

Mary of Nazareth Catholic School Celebrates 20 Years

Jubilee, Celebration, Milestone! The foundation of Mary of Nazareth School was laid 20 years ago. Happy Anniversary! James Cardinal Hickey had the vision to build the first Catholic School in the Archdiocese in 30 years. An unwavering commitment from the pastors allowed for our seven parishes to become the cornerstone of this institution.

In 1994, Mary of Nazareth School opened its doors to 50 students; 20 years later, over 500 students walk through our doors every morning. It is amazing to think that the first classes took place in a converted barn on the property. Through the years, we have grown in size and faith.

On Friday, November 14th, Mary of Nazareth School commemorated the 20th Anniversary. Our morning began with a Mass in the new chapel for select students, current and former board members, Archdiocesan dignitaries and invited guests. The celebrant was The Rev. Dr. Raymond

Fecteau, one of the schools founding pastors. We were extremely excited to have as our guest for the day, Sr. Elaine Bebyn, a founding teacher and former principal of Mary of Nazareth School.

Later that evening, the school opened its doors to over 250 alumni and current families and friends to celebrate this monumental event. Guests were encouraged to walk the halls and visit the newly renovated chapel, library and media center. They were treated to a "stroll down memory lane" with a speech from Sr. Elaine and the current principal, Michael Friel, shared his *Ode to Mary of Nazareth School*. "The most rewarding part of the festivities came from the response of past community members who were overwhelmed by the school's evolution," said Mr. Friel. "They were amazed by the upgrades to the facility and thrilled to have the opportunity to reconnect with so many old and new friends."

OPT



Fr. Ray greets former Principal Sr. Elaine Bebyn after the mass celebrating our 20th Anniversary.



Fr. Milton Jordan visits with former board members Dr. Dennis Stiles and Mrs. Isabel Gomez.



Sr. Elaine Bebyn and Vice Principal Rosemary Adams share memories of Mary of Nazareth School.

St. Raphael



Jack and Marty Singleton with their fifth grade SRRE class

Catechists Bring Their Faith and Wisdom

Each Monday night Jack and Marty Singleton share our faith with a group of fifth graders in St. Raphael Religious Education (SRRE). Jack and Marty raised two children of their own; they now have four grandchildren. The Singletons are a great example of how retired adults are mentoring a new generation of Catholics in their parishes through the ministry of catechesis.

Jack says that his favorite thing about being a catechist is seeing

and feeling the enthusiasm the fifth graders have for learning. "It is very rewarding," he said. Marty enjoys seeing that young people today are really no different than when she was their age. They are still very courteous to adults.

The Singletons, like so many catechists, find that this ministry increases their own faith in Christ and enlivens their hope for a better world.

OPT

Sleep in Solidarity. Donate for a Dream.

By Lisa Griffin

Last year, Mary of Nazareth Catholic School began our partnership with A Wider Circle, a local charity dedicated to ending the cycle of poverty. Students learned about the root causes of poverty and ways to improve the lives of others. This year, the school decided to kick it up a notch. It was one thing to learn about poverty, but an entirely different thing to share in the experience of poverty. In October, the school asked students to give up for just one night an item that many people living in poverty go without every night – a bed. The name of the event was *Sleep in Solidarity. Donate for a Dream*.

"The event consisted of two parts," explained teacher and social concerns coordinator, Megan McGregor. "First, students slept on the floor in solidarity with those in poverty, and they then discussed their experiences in their classrooms. Second, the students donated \$1 of their own money, which the school will put toward buying new mattresses for A Wider Circle." The event gave students a glimpse into the lives of those less fortunate.

"Sleeping on the floor with my brothers for one night was fun, but when I think that some children do that every night because they don't have a bed, that made me sad. Everybody should have a bed to sleep in," said Hackett Rascher, 6th grade student.

The event was a great success. "For our students, the effort to raise awareness and funds went a step beyond compassion," said Mary of Nazareth School Principal, Michael Friel. "Children who slept on the floor giving up their mattress for a night developed a sense of empathy for others. There is nothing like a hard floor and sore back to understand and share the feelings of those we serve through our association with A Wider Circle." All told, Mary of Nazareth students raised over \$650 during the event. The mattresses purchased will move a family up off of their floor and give them the comfort and revitalization of a good night's sleep.

OPT

Mary of Nazareth School Open House Schedule

Thursday, October 9, 2014
9am-11am

Sunday, January 25, 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)
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Mary of Nazareth OPT Editor: Heather Long,
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Maria Idoni and Steve Castellano welcomed neighbors to St. John Neumann during the Montgomery Village New Resident Welcome Reception

Evangelizing Our Neighborhood

Every week folks show up at SJN—for Mass, other sacraments and to grow in their walk of faith. But sometimes, we take the church to the people.

On Thursday, November 13, the Montgomery Village Foundation held its annual New Resident Welcome Reception at North Creek Community Center, located off Arrowhead Road. And our parish was there! MVF Board President, John Driscoll, was joined by members of the Village community, including our state senator and delegates, and district police captain to help newcomers get settled into their new neighborhood.

Our SJN Evangelization group, headed up by Maria Idoni and Steve Castellano, invited guests to learn

more about our parish. “We saw SJN parishioners, people of other faiths and newly arrived Catholics to the neighborhood, who now are being welcomed into the parish fold,” said Maria Idoni.

“Our Pastor, Fr. Joe Rogers, saw the event as a great opportunity to spread awareness of the parish to new residents, nearly all of whom live within the parish boundaries,” said Steve Castellano. “It was a great experience. We look forward to next year’s reception and to similar events where we may encounter more residents who are yearning for God’s love in their lives.

Know of any other places we should go? Contact me (Steve Castellano) at the SJN Rectory.

OPT



File photo from SJN Choir and Pilgrim travels in 2001 – shown here in St. Peter's Square of Vatican City following their singing at the Basilica (background) for the Feast of the Chair of Peter.

Majestic Italy – Make it yours in November 2015!

Ever feel like you still have one more international trip in you? Even if you don't, who could refuse a jaunt to Italy? And especially on tour with our Director of Music, MaryLu Hartsell.

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through Italy, or just tag along with the group as a pilgrim, visiting the country's most majestic cities and churches.

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OPT

St. John Neumann Parish
9000 Warfield Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20882

Fr. Joseph Rogers,
Pastor

Rus Wester,
OPT Editor
301-330-0047



Thanks to the Knights of Columbus, the art of “live puppeteering” continues as Bob Brown's amazing marionettes returned to SJN. Photo by Susan Firestone

Knights Bring Puppets Back

By Carmine Castellano

Nearly a hundred members of the audience were in place as Master Puppeteer, Bob Brown, converted their anticipation into wide-eyed, open-mouthed, thoroughly entertained families. There was a point in this year's show when the talent of the performer (Bob Brown) truly came into play when he lined up 7 penguins in a row, each one ice skating onto the stage, until all were performing alongside the puppeteer. Folks are still wondering how he manipulated the strings to whirl, skew, jump and even do 360 rolls & still maintain

control.

Bob Brown started his creative career with Jim Hensen's Muppets and Mr. Roger Neighborhood TV series. Brown has performed for hundreds of thousands of children and their families for over 55 years, designing and building all his puppets, wardrobe and theatrical sets. On hand to help punctuate this year's show, our Past Grand Knight Ron Bauer family (Ron, Raelene and Marla) was joined by Grand Knight, Tom Firestone, to gift every child with a stuffed animal, which the Bauers win at Hershey Park all throughout the year.

OPT

Corpus Christi Feast Day Celebration

By Rus Wester

The celebration of our Feast of Corpus Christi was made in heaven. Perfect weather for the outside procession that began with the congregation praying the Rosary in the church following the 11:15am Mass. Then everyone made a grand procession, following the Blessed Sacrament in a Monstrance, with a compliment of Priests, Deacons, Altar Servers, Knights of Columbus Color Guard and parishioners chosen to carry the processional canopy above the Blessed Sacrament.

“It was our way of continuing an ancient tradition and confirming belief in the Real Presence



The Corpus Christi Feast Day Celebration offered the parish a grand way of telling our community that Jesus Christ is here and available to them.



of Jesus in the Eucharist,” said Father Joe Rogers. “The diversity of our parish brings such richness to our practices of faith. The Corpus Christi Feast Day Celebration offered the parish a wonderful way of telling our community that Jesus Christ is here, and available to us all.”

One month prior to the Eucharistic procession, Our Lady was crowned at the Neumann House property so the future of the parish would be entrusted to her Immaculate Heart, for the reign of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus.

OPT

St. John Paul II Comes For a Visit

By Rus Wester

During his pontificate, Pope John Paul II traveled to 129 countries outside of Italy, more than all previous popes combined. One of his first trips was to Mexico. Praying before the sacred image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, he understood her to say "I want you to be a missionary Pope, a Pilgrim Pope." It's why he went all over the world, as a witness to love, to truth and hope. John Paul said to her in response: "I am with you. I always remember you. I am attentive to your voice." And his world travels seem destined to continue.

On November 12, a great assembly came together at St. John Neumann Catholic Church in Gaithersburg to welcome the relics of the pilgrim Pope, now St. John Paul II. Pastor Joseph Rogers reminded all in attendance that night "as you approach the altar, know that John Paul is here in his relic. He remembers us and it's why he has come to visit us, and he is attentive to our voice, to take our petitions to our Lord."

During celebration of Holy Mass, Father



St. John Paul II's relic is a vial of blood, which was taken as part of his last hospital stay. The vial is embedded in a sculptured book resembling the Gospels. Photo by Susan Firestone

Rogers' homily helped the congregation see deeper into the visiting saint's mission: "God came to be with us. He does things to remind us that He is here. One of His great gifts, after the Sacraments, are the gifts of His Saints... hearts filled with Divine Love. John Paul II was such a person. We are blessed to live in the era of this wonderful Saint. He knew and often expressed that 'man cannot live without love... and family is the center and heart of the civilization of love'. John Paul shows his love by coming for this visit to our Parish."

While coordinating a two-month tour of the Americas, the blood relic of St. John Paul II is entrusted to the religious order **Servants of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary**, based in Florida. "The relic we brought is a vial of John Paul II's blood, in liquid state, embedded in a sculpted book reliquary. Book page relief art reminds us of him and his work... a sign of the presence of the saint in our midst," said the order's foundress, Mother Adela Galindo, SCTJM.

Each pilgrim relic tour begins with the Sisters of Pierced Hearts traveling to Rome to retrieve the suit-cased reliquary. "John Paul is comfortable evangelizing anywhere," said Mother Galindo. "On the Washington flight, we witnessed John Paul reaching out to fellow passengers. While boarding the plane we were asked what was in our carry-on suitcase. Once flight attendants knew it was the blood relic of John Paul II, and expressed a special affection for him, we offered to open the case. Suddenly, over the loudspeaker came, 'Attention please, we have with us a passenger we probably will never have with us again. It is an honor. Most of you knew Pope John Paul II. We have a relic of his.' Unprompted by our Sisters, they then invited anyone who wanted to venerate the relic to form a line toward the front of the plane. Some fell to their knees as they approached. The line was still long by landing time, so we decided to set up at the arrival gate to accommodate everyone. We learned that John Paul lifts all limits to touch people's hearts and bring healing wherever he goes."

After the 7pm St. John Neumann Mass, parishioners were still on line until almost midnight, making their way to the altar for an intimate moment with St. John Paul II and to be blessed by and with his relic. "Miracles are common among those venerating this relic. Physical, spiritual, families and relationship healings," said Sister Ana, pilgrim coordinator. "St. John Paul II feels free to release the power of his intercession. He's a Pope who knows you. He lived in our time."



This official relic for the postulation of St. John Paul II, Pope of the Family, travels around the world, venerated in each parish with Holy Mass and the Rosary, while meditating on the legacy of the "Pilgrim Saint". Photo by Jerry Kelley



This image accompanies the "Pope of the Family" on every pilgrim journey. The faithful are given a Holy Card of the image to touch to the first-class blood relic, which creates a third-class relic for taking to family, friends, the poor, prisons and the ill to pray for St. John Paul's healing intercession. Photo by Jerry Kelley



"John Paul had a heart filled with Divine love. He shows that love tonight in coming to be with us." Photo by Jerry Kelley



Following Mass, above, everyone was encouraged to approach the altar to venerate the relic and ask for the intercession of the Saint. The faithful brought rosaries and other sacramentals that could be touched to the relic. Photo by Susan Firestone

At left, Nuns of the Pierced Hearts of Jesus and Mary brought the relic of St. John Paul II to the Washington area from Rome. The relic's current, two-month pilgrimage will include many cities, reaching thousands with the legacy of St. John Paul II. During each stop, the relic will be raised from its stand and placed near children, on pregnant mothers, with the infirm and disabled. Photo by Jerry Kelley



The St. John Neumann Choir accompanied the Holy Mass welcoming St. John Paul II to the parish with entrance-hymn words "Open the doors to Christ... Do not be afraid: open wide your heart to the love of God." Photo by Jerry Kelley



Hundreds Gather for Religious Education Each Week

St. Raphael Religious Education (SRRE) classes began in mid-September with 50 class sections over three days. Each week more than 500 children gather to be

formed as disciples of Jesus. In SRRE classes they come together with their peers to grow in knowledge of our faith, to celebrate sacraments, to learn how to live like Jesus, to pray

together, to be a part of their parish community, and to go out as faithful Christians in society.



Eighth graders enjoys coming to SRRE.



Grade 5 students with catechists Carmen Collazo and Alonso Garcia



Sixth graders studied illumination



Ashley Tanjutco meets Pope Francis and receives a special blessing.

Ashley Tanjutco Meets Pope Francis

In September, Ashley Tanjutco traveled with her family to Rome. Ashley had written a letter to Pope Francis and she hoped she might have the opportunity to meet him in person. Here is Ashley's letter.

Most Holy Father, Pope Francis:

I am Ashley Tanjutco. I am 16 years old and am a little person born with primordial dwarfism, the smallest form of dwarfism. There are only about 100 of us in the whole world. We live with a lot of medical problems, the most serious being multiple cerebral aneurysms. Two years ago, I had to undergo brain surgery to clip one of my aneurysms. My doctors said I have 7 more that they have to take care of. I am also hypertensive, diabetic and recently I was diagnosed with chronic renal failure. Our life span may not be like most people, but we try to live well just like everyone else.

My faith is strong and I know God will see me through. I have made an altar beside my bed and every night I pray to thank God for all my blessings and to keep me strong.

I am thankful for what I have. A family and a dog that loves me. I have many friends. I have a house to live in. I am able to take trips with my family. I get good care from all my doctors. I am in high school with straight A's. I actively participate in my church, St. Raphael in Rockville, Maryland, and St. Raphael's youth ministry group. I have great support from my primordial family. I don't let little things get me down.

I admire everything that you do. I even follow you on face book. I hope to visit the Vatican and pray with you someday. Meeting you would be one of the most special moments in my life.

I love you. Pls. pray for me as I pray for you that you may continue to touch our lives and inspire me in all that you do.

You're Holiness' most obedient and humble daughter,

Ashley Tanjutco

On September 3, Ashley's family found out that they had been invited to have a special meeting with Pope Francis.

OPT

All-Star Event in the Works

Preparations are well under way for the 2015 St. Raphael School Gala. The theme is "All-Star Gala," and proceeds benefit St. Raphael School. We are beyond excited for this event, which is scheduled for March 14! Watch www.straphaelschoolmd.org for details.

OPT



Raphael House Brings Together Several Generations

St. Raphael Church is blessed to have Raphael House right next door. Children, teens, and adults frequently visit Raphael House residents. There is a feeling that we are all neighbors and that we care for each other. Here children are preparing to present a nativity play and to go caroling at Raphael House.

St. Raphael School Reaches Out to Those in Need

By Emma Kaibni and MJ Zafis-Garcia

St. Raphael School is known for its loving environment, which not only fosters learning but also teaches students to live the values of our Catholic faith. An important component of that faith is reaching out to those in need. Our school community had plenty of opportunities to help others during the months of October and November.

Fr. Bill Smiles Down on Golf Classic

The St. Raphael community celebrated the sixth annual Fr. Bill Finch Memorial St. Raphael Golf



St. Raphael School eighth-graders prepare warm jackets for the annual Coats of Many Colors Drive. The school collected about 100 coats for the cause. Photo by MJ Zafis-Garcia

Classic Oct. 29 at Manor Country Club. Hosted by PGA caddie



One of the perks of participating in the St. Raphael Golf Classic is the opportunity to meet renowned PGA caddie Mike "Fluff" Cowan, center. All golfers received a commemorative photo of their foursome with Cowan. Photo by Ann Gleavy

and SRS parent Mike "Fluff" Cowan, this annual event is a favorite among parishioners and draws participants from all over the area. This year, 120 golfers registered to play in the tournament, which was followed by a reception honoring our late pastor. An enthusiastic team of about 50 volunteers—almost all school parents—made sure the day went smoothly. Even a little rain didn't dampen spirits! Thanks to the tournament organizers, the amazing team of volunteers, our generous spon-

Continued on page 35

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**More St. Raphael News
on Pages 31 & 35**



And they're off!

Go Red, Go Cardinals!

By Michael and Andrea Heyl

On November 8, Holy Redeemer Catholic School held its annual Cardinal 5K road race. The race celebrated its eleventh year and was blessed with a beautiful, but brisk and sunny day. School principal Colleen Ryan sounded the horn to start the race. This year's run saw over 275 run-

ners cross the finish line. In addition to the 5K race, over 200 runners participated in a Half-Mile Fun Run led by the school mascot, the Cardinal.

After the races, over 700 runners and spectators enjoyed a wonderful spread of food, including hot pizza, as part of the post-race carnival in the school parking lot. The carnival included moon bounces, a rock

climbing wall, a face painter and a DJ who raffled off prizes and led many other fun contests and activities with race sponsors.

The race is one of the school's largest fundraisers, but more importantly, brings the entire Holy Redeemer community together for a morning of fitness, fun, and fellowship.

OPT

Mercy Represented in US Polo Tournament

Mercy eighth grader Patricio Fraga-Errecart officially represented Our Lady of Mercy School in the United States Polo Association Middle School Tournament at Marlan Farms Polo Club in Freeland, Maryland. This polo match was the first ever Middle School Tournament in the U.S. sponsored by the USPA. Fifth, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders from all over the east coast represented their schools in this tournament. "I hope that more children become interested in polo," says Patricio. "It is very fun to play and to learn. Many of the people I play with are adults, so it's nice to play with kids my own age, especially those who love horses like I do."

OPT



West Shore team players from left to right: Chase Baker, Patricio Fraga-Errecart (representing OLOM), and Sarah Lynch.

sors, and friends of our parish community, the event was a success and raised funds to go toward our gorgeous Educational Building – the dream of Fr. Bill – which opened in 2011.

Coats Collected to Keep Others Warm

In November, St. Raphael School and Nursery School joined other schools in the Archdiocese of Washington in partnering with Catholic Charities for the annual Coats of Many Colors Drive. In just 20 days, SRS and SRNS collected almost 100 new and gently used winter coats to help keep those less fortunate warm during these cold months. Students wrote notes of encouragement or prayers, and

our eighth-graders tucked the notes inside the pockets to lift up the new owners of the coats.

Special Thanks for Special People

In what has become a favorite tradition at SRS, members of the school community donated items to put together complete Thanksgiving meals for the families of the school's beloved maintenance staff. Every year, each member of maintenance crew fills out a Thanksgiving dinner wish list, and the school community comes through in filling those lists, from stuffing to turkeys to apple pies. A team of school parents joyfully presented this year's Thanksgiving

blessings to these special members of the SRS community as a way to thank them for everything they do for the school. As organizer Lisa Rhody says, "Each staff member leaves that day with a big box of food and a huge smile." Giving back doesn't get any more rewarding than that.

As the winter months approach, SRS will continue to reach out in various ways, including helping at the parish's annual Mother Teresa Luncheon. We invite 130 guests from two shelters run by the Missionary of Charity, and our honored guests arrive by bus to celebrate Mass with us and enjoy a Christmas luncheon served by our students.

OPT

St. Raphael



Families gather for St. Raphael's third annual Advent Fair.

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21st Catholic Business Network-MC Gala Celebration

Friday, November 21, 2014 • Marriott Conference Center, Rockville

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

CBN-MC's 2014 Business Person of the Year: Mr. Donald J. Urgo, Sr., at right, founder of Urgo Hotels, here with President Scanlon and Emcee Sue Palka. He said it all for CBN and then urged Catholic students to consider a post-graduate year of service to Catholic Education. The Urgo family of Don & Carolyn and their ten grown children are business leaders who support Catholic Education.



Monsignor Robert G. Amey, at right, pastor of St. Mary's Parish shared the Cardinal's blessing for the 21st Annual CBN-MC Gala celebration.



When CBN-MC Speaks, People Listen



Robert Scanlon, CBN-MC President, Anderson and Quinn, Attorneys, and Anita Segreti, Segreti Insurance, listen when Sue Palka, Channel 5 Weather Woman, the 2014 Paul G. Zurkowski Founder's Award winner, speaks. She has graced CBN's gala as our spectacular Emcee, *bon vivant*, and friend. Her joyous and heartfelt words have thrilled and delighted fans of CBN-MC.



Everyone listens to Auctioneer Rob Smith, Fitzgerald Auto Malls, as he seeks scholarship funds to help keep as many needy students in Catholic Schools as possible. This year he matched his many earlier successful efforts. When combined with CBN-MC's project contribution, the 2014 total was \$47,970.



CBN-MC Presidents, 2008 and 2003, respectively, John F. Tressler (l) and John Matteo, have avid listeners.



Thomas Striegel of Davis Buckley Architects and Planners, Washington DC, donated an infinite amount of his time designing and overseeing every kind of school improvement project at Holy Cross School for since 2000.



Leo Miller volunteered at Our Lady of Lourdes School as a construction project manager, from finding contractors, coordinating contractors efforts, and getting project approval from county offices since 2003.



CBN-MC's First President Mark E. Johannessen, Sullivan, Bruyette, Spiros & Blayney, Inc., can be seen towering on the left, in discussion, while Charles Wolf II, Payroll Network, holds the attention of a rapt listener.



Justin Silvers, Eagle Bank and CBN-DC President, fresh from the stunning \$52,000 fund raising CBN-DC Gala in September; Gerard McLoughlin, Bank of Georgetown, 2013 CBN-MC President and James Randisi, Randisi and Assoc., and CBN-Baltimore founder & President, all vibrant evangelists for Catholic Education.



Mr. & Mrs. Joe Palka and Monsignor Amey, St. Mary's Parish, Rockville. Elizabeth and Nora, Sue & Joe's two daughters, left the fun night to their folks.



Catholic Education Boosters: John Matteo, Jackson & Campbell, PC (l.) and Mike McCartin, McCartin Insurance, chair of the Scholarship Awards Committee. Matt Edwards, St. Elizabeth School, and Brigid English, St. Jude School, each won a \$2,500 Merit Scholarship. Nine \$1,500 and four \$750 scholarships were also awarded at the Spring 2014 Luncheon.



2015 Senior Services Guide

Affordable Independent Senior Living Community Planned for Silver Spring

Montgomery County-owned land near the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and Colesville Road, adjacent to a new police station, will be the location of Victory Crossing, the next independent senior living community to be built by Victory Housing, the development arm for affordable housing of the Archdiocese of Washington.

The project will serve seniors in an area of Montgomery County with a demonstrated need for affordable senior apartments.

The new community will serve a mix of incomes. Units will be set aside for residents with between 40% - 60% of area median income. There will also be 10 market-rate units. Income limits for a one-person household: 40% - \$29,960, 50% - \$37,450, and 60% \$44,940. Victory Crossing's apartments will be a mix of one (80) and two-bedroom units (25). Rents



Victory Crossing will be an affordable, 105-unit midrise apartment building for mixed-income seniors developed on 2 acres of land, which will be leased from Montgomery County. The property will be financed, in part, by a HUD-insured FHA 231 mortgage, a County loan, CDA financing, and 4% Low-Income Housing Tax Credits.

for one-bedroom apartments are projected to range from \$659 - \$1,040; rents for two-bedroom apartments are projected to be \$1,235 for a 60% unit and \$1,683 for a market-rate unit.

Though intended to serve seniors who can live independently, the property is designed as a supportive environment for

Continued on page S8

Handy New Booklet for Seniors Tells How to "Get Out & Stay Active"

With a copy of "Get Out and Stay Active: Living and Thriving in Montgomery County," seniors can learn about programs and services in the County such as: active adult programs for those 55+; senior centers; fitness and sports; travel; tips and tours; volunteering; and transportation options.

The 22-page booklet was published by Montgomery County Recreation in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Aging and Disability Services.

Available online at: www.montgomerycountymd.gov/senior/Resources/Files/Get-out_Stay-Active_Part1.pdf

Montgomery County
Department of Recreation
4010 Randolph Road
Silver Spring, Maryland 20902
240-777-4924

OPT



Sorting Through the Maze of Assisted Living Options When Does a Smaller Facility Make Sense?

By Joan Hyman, Vice President,
AlfredHouse Eldercare

Making the decision to help a family member move to assisted living is often challenging. Deciding which type of assisted living setting will meet your family member's healthcare

needs, cognitive and memory requirements, lifestyle, personality, cultural background and financial constraints can be even more challenging.

In Montgomery County, we are fortunate that our community hosts

Continued on page S11

Facebook: It's more than what your friends had for breakfast

When discussing social media I frequently hear complaints that Facebook has turned us into a self-absorbed society. And to some degree that may be true. The Selfie certainly drives that point home.

But think about your social interactions when out and about, perhaps picking up groceries or celebrating a friend's birthday. We make idle chit chat without giving it a second thought: Sure is hot out there...Did you see the game last night?...Can't wait till Friday...Have a nice day. These conversations may be a bit light, but nevertheless bring us a small and important sense of civility and



Continued on page S4

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Article 1



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Assisted Living Primer

How are you doing with your ADLs? The term “activities of daily living,” or ADLs, became widely used by gerontologists starting in the 1980s to refer to the basic tasks of everyday life, such as eating, bathing, dressing, toileting, and transferring (e.g. from a bed to a chair). Helping seniors with their ADLs is the purpose of assisted living.

When people are unable to perform these activities, in order to cope they need help, either from other human beings or mechanical devices or both. Although persons of all ages may have problems performing the ADLs, prevalence rates are much higher for the elderly than for the non-elderly. Measurement of the activities of daily living is critical because they have been found to be significant predictors of the use of paid home care, alternative living arrangements, nursing homes, physicians and hospital services.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s the assisted living industry – blending aspects of both the hospitality (hotel) and the healthcare industries – evolved to provide assis-



tance with ADLs in private-pay, congregate-living settings. Sunrise Senior Living in McLean (Va.) was the industry pioneer and is one of the largest providers of assisted living in the United States with more than 400 communities in 37 states. In addition to help with ADLs and assistance with medication, most assisted living communities provide three meals a day in restaurant settings, leisure activity programs, and limited transportation services.

It's important to know what assisted living is not. It is not skilled nursing, and it is not regulated by the Federal government. Residents of assisted living communities who develop needs beyond help with ADLs and medications – who need the constant care and supervision of healthcare professionals – may have to be discharged to nursing homes.

Maryland has developed a three-tiered approach to licensing and

regulating assisted living facilities. The major variable is the type and degree of assistance with medications that is authorized. Level I licensees (mostly smaller group-home facilities) may only provide “assistance with taking medication or coordinating access to necessary medication and treatment.” Level II licensees are permitted to “administer necessary medication and treatment, including monitoring the effects of the medication and treatment by staff.” Level III licensee responsibilities may include “monitoring or arranging for monitoring of the effects of complex medication and treatment regimens, ongoing therapeutic intervention or intensive supervision to manage chronic behaviors.”

In practice, this means that only Level III facilities are qualified to provide care for Alzheimer's sufferers.

Because assisted living commu-

nities frequently charge extra fees for their various services, comparing per diem rates can be misleading. Many facilities have cafeteria plans based on levels of service.

Each Assisted Living residence is required to complete a Uniform Disclosure Form describing its services and policies. Fee structures for assisted living vary, with some facilities charging a single fee based on the resident level of care while others provide an “a la carte” menu of services. It is important to understand what is included in the base monthly rate, what services require an additional charge, and circumstances under which fees may increase. The Uniform Disclosure Form includes fee information and is required to be filed with the Office of Health Care Quality as part of an application for licensure. The Uniform Disclosure Form must be made available upon request or be part of the Assisted Living marketing materials.

The Maryland Health Care Commission maintains an excellent web-based Consumer Guide to Long Term Care (<http://mhcc.maryland.gov/consumerinfo/long-termcare/>), which includes helpful facility Search and Compare features and links to several consumer checklists.

Assisted living facilities in Montgomery County with three or fewer residents and those with

18 or more are inspected every year. Facilities with more than three but fewer than 18 are inspected at least once every three years. Inspections (called “surveys” in the health care industry) are performed by Montgomery County's Public Health Services acting as agent for the state's Office of Health Care Quality (OHCQ). The most recent survey will be made available to a prospective resident by facility's administrator upon request.



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Comfort & Consolation: Care of the Sick and Dying

A Pastoral Letter from the Bishops of Maryland

This 48-page booklet helps Catholics think through the often difficult questions that arise in times of grave illness and impending death.

Developed in light of Catholic teachings and in accord with Maryland law on advance directives, Comfort & Consolation includes a practical four-page form, the Catholic Declaration on Health Care Decision Making, which Catholics can use to tell health care providers how they wish to direct their care. It covers spiritual support, nutrition and hydration, pain-relieving medication, terminal illness and pregnancy.

The basic principles of Catholic teaching are often misunderstood. Because the Church opposes both euthanasia and assisted suicide, it is often said that we believe that all possible measures should be used to keep individuals alive. This is decidedly not the case.



Individuals and caregivers have a responsibility to preserve human life through care and medical science. However, this responsibility has moral limits. Extraordinary means that may

not alleviate the underlying condition and may excessively burden the patient are not obligatory. Moral decisions about the extent of care should be made in terms of the benefit that may be offered and the burdens that may be imposed, assisted by the medical professional's judgments and a person's sense of what is appropriate.

In addition to the booklet, two new supplementary brochures have been developed:

- Summary Q&A - outlines the main points of Comfort and Consolation
- Legal Guide - provides practical advices for completing an advance directive that properly reflects Catholic principles and that also includes the Catholic Declaration on Health Care Decision Making

To order one or more print copies of Comfort & Consolation, please call 410-269-1155 or 301-261-1979. The booklet is also available free online at: www.mdcathcon.org/endoflife.

OPT

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Facebook: More than what your friends had for breakfast*Con't from page S1*

connection.

So, back to Facebook. Before the internet age, I was horrible at keeping in touch with people, even those whose friendship I cherished. Time and distance always seemed to get the best of me. Through Facebook, I get to "visit" with friends with whom I would otherwise have long lost touch. Seeing friends' updates and photos is like running into them at the grocery store or having a brief chat after mass. We have a chance to catch up. Through Facebook, I know a bit about how their family is doing, where they went on vacation, and perhaps when a loved one has passed.

Yes, there are some who post too much personal information, overdo the selfies, and who are uncomfortably boastful. But these are the same people who tell you the gruesome details of their gall bladder surgery in the checkout



line, talk during movies and whose Christmas letters read more like resumes. Social media has its etiquette as well – most are well-behaved but there may be a few who are not.

Perhaps most importantly, Facebook can reduce social isolation for those who may have difficulty getting out and about.

Visiting with friends and family on Facebook helps maintain a sense of connection to the outside world. Studies have shown that connecting via Facebook can reduce depression and loneliness in those who are physically isolated from family and friends. Facebook is also a great way to maintain spiritual connections as many churches now

have Facebook pages that are regularly updated with parish news, prayer and photos.

What about privacy? This is an important consideration. When you sign up for a Facebook account, the set up process walks through the privacy settings. As with any social media, just be careful to share only information that you would be comfortable if it accidentally found a wider audience than you intended. Keep in mind that you do not have to "share" on Facebook to enjoy it. Many people rarely (or never) share photos or other updates. Use it only as you are comfortable.

So go ahead and try it – sign up, share a photo or some news. Go to Facebook.com to get started.

OPT

Pam Holland teaches technology to adults. She can be reached at Pam@Tech-Moxie.com or on the web at Tech-Moxie.com. SEE AD PAGE S3.

Montgomery County Hospices**Holy Cross Home Care and Hospice**

11800 Tech Road,
Suite 240
Silver Spring, MD 20904
(301) 754-7740
Contact: Margaret Hadley
SEE AD PAGE S3

Jewish Community Hospice

6123 Montrose Rd
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 881-3700
Contact: Tal Widdes

Montgomery Hospice, Inc.

1355 Piccard Drive,
Suite 100
Rockville, MD 20850
(301) 921-4400
Contact: Ann Mitchell
SEE AD PAGE S2

Montgomery County Assisted Living Facilities**LEVEL TWO FACILITIES****Bartholomew House**

6904 River Road
Bethesda, MD 20817
(301) 320-6151
Contact: Joseph Hanle
Capacity: 33

Byron House

9210 Kentdale Drive
Potomac, MD 20854
(301) 469-9400
Contact: Sharon Borowiec
Capacity: 33

Grace House

3214 Norbeck Road
Silver Spring, MD 20906
(301) 924-4424
Contact: Meg DeSchraver
Capacity: 32

Landow House, Inc

1799 East Jefferson Street
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 816-5056
Contact: Heidi Brown
Capacity: 98

Marian Assisted Living, Inc

19109 Georgia Avenue
Brookeville, MD 20833
(301) 570-3190
Contact: Marcy Hunter
Capacity: 41

Raphael House

1517 Dunster Lane
Rockville, MD 20854
(301) 217-9116
Contact: Melissa Thomas
Capacity: 31

Rebecca House

9910 River Road
Potomac, MD 20854
(301) 656-8823
Contact: Georgia Weiss
Capacity: 31

**LEVEL THREE FACILITIES
(Capacity >20)****Arden Courts of Kensington**

4301 Knowles Avenue
Kensington, MD 20895
(301) 493-7881
Contact: Ann McDermott
Capacity: 64

Arden Courts of Potomac

10718 Potomac Tennis Lane
Potomac, MD 20854
(301) 983-3620
Contact: Joshua Weiberg
Capacity: 84

Arden Courts of Silver Spring

2505 Musgrove Road
Silver Spring, MD 20904
(301) 847-3051
Contact: Toni Benton
Capacity: 52

Asbury Methodist Village

333 Russell Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
(301) 216-4303
Contact: Susan Boettger
Capacity: 164

Aspenwood

14400 Homecrest Road
Silver Spring, MD 20906
(301) 598-6424
Contact: Helen Ray, NHA
Capacity: 55

Bedford Court

3700 International Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20906
(301) 598-8801
Contact: Donna Ryan-Rupprecht
Capacity: 76

Brighton Gardens At Friendship Heights

5555 Friendship Boulevard
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

(301) 656-1900
Contact: Wesley Street
Capacity: 154

Brighton Gardens of Tuckerman Lane

5550 Tuckerman Lane
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 897-8566
Contact: Mary Mell
Capacity: 111

Brightview Falls Grove

9200 Darnestown Road
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(240) 314-7194
Contact: Kelly Harms
Capacity: 100

Emeritus At Potomac

11215 Seven Locks Road
Potomac, MD 20854
(301) 765-9198
Contact: Richard O'Brien
Capacity: 139

Five Star Premier Residences of Chevy Chase

8100 Connecticut Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
(301) 907-9894
Contact: Ruth M. Dukuly
Capacity: 31
SEE AD PAGE S5

Friends Assisted Living

17350 Quaker Lane
Sandy Spring, MD 20860
(301) 924-7538
Contact: Donna Bussard, RN
Capacity: 24

Ingleside at King Farm

701 King Farm Road
Rockville, MD 20850
(240) 499-9015
Contact: Adaeze Ikeotuonye, NHA
Capacity: 46
SEE AD PAGE S7

Kensington Park - Groves & Woodlands

3616-3618 Littledale Road
Kensington, MD 20895
(301) 946-7700
Contact: Chen Peters, RN
Capacity: 160

Kingshire Manor Assisted Living

9701 Medical Center Drive
Rockville, MD 20850
(301) 315-1960
Contact: Barbara Clark
Capacity: 34

Maplewood Park Place Health Care Center

9707 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, MD 20817
(301) 530-0500
Contact: Rachel Langton
Capacity: 29
SEE AD PAGE S1

Meadows

1635 Hickory Knoll Road
Sandy Spring, MD 20860
(301) 260-2311
Contact: Patricia Anderson
Capacity: 64

Solana Olney (The)

2611 Olney Sanda Spring Rd.
Olney, MD 20832
(301) 570-2611
Contact: Sandy Reed
Capacity: 94

Springhouse of Bethesda

4925 Battery Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 652-1445
Contact: Jean H. Levin
Capacity: 98

Springhouse of Silver Spring

2201 Colston Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 495-7366
Contact: Bertha Simmons

Capacity: 75

Springhouse of Westwood

5101 Ridgefield Road
Bethesda, MD 20816
(301) 657-9111
Contact: Gregory Leach
Capacity: 92

Springvale Terrace, Inc

8505 Springvale Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 587-0190
Contact: Margaret Hubbard
Capacity: 36

Sunrise At Fox Hill

8300 Burdette Road
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(301) 968-1800
Contact: Phil Nickse
Capacity: 105

Sunrise At Montgomery Village

19310 Club House Road
Montgomery Village, MD 20886
(301) 921-0045
Contact: Kathy Tyler
Capacity: 100

Sunrise of Rockville

8 Baltimore Road
Rockville, MD 20850
(301) 309-0500
Contact: Kimkitta Butler
Capacity: 89

Sunrise of Silver Spring

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Contact: Susan M. Maupin
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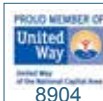
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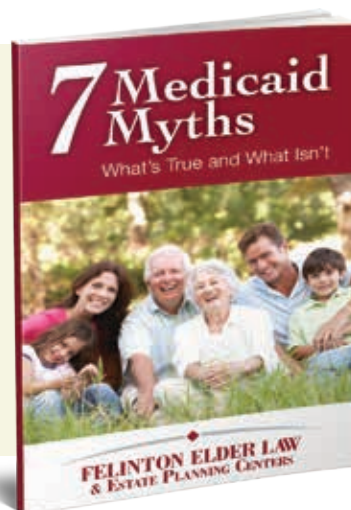


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working patiently with sellers of long-time residences. Call her for your free copy of *Don't Throw My Memories in the Trash*, a help to seniors & their families.

- Ms. Stewart is involved in many civic and charitable organizations, including Catholic Charities, and feels that giving back to the community, both in time and money, is important.
- She also welcomes your questions and will be happy to offer you a free market analysis on your present property without obligation.

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At Ingleside at King Farm life is just an extension of the good life you have always led. Only just a little bit easier. A little bit more fun. And much more care-free. Here you'll find a vibrant, engaging community alive with opportunities designed to enhance the lives of its members.

If you would like to consider a move to Ingleside at King Farm but the timing is not quite right yet, then the IKF Wait List Club will fit into your plans perfectly. As a member, you can experience the Ingleside lifestyle before you move to Ingleside at King Farm.

The IKF Wait List Club is a perfect way to join the community with the flexibility that will suit your lifestyle.



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NIH Funds Applied Gerontology

Focus on Cognition, Decision Making, Mobility and Independence

Researchers receiving funding from the National Institute on Aging (NIA) will seek ways to improve cognition, decision making, mobility and independence of older people. The awards, announced November 12, renew funds for 11 Edward R. Roybal Centers for Research on Applied Gerontology, and the designation of two new centers. The centers have been innovative models for moving promising social and behavioral research findings out of the

laboratory and into programs and practices that can be applied every day to improve the health and well-being of older people. NIA is part of the National Institutes of Health.

"Through a range of projects, the centers seek to find new and better ways to maintain mobility and physical function; support sound financial and medical decision making; aid cognitive function; manage pain; and enhance caregiving," said NIA Director Richard J. Hodes, M.D.

In recent years, Roybal Centers have made major contributions to our understanding of how to improve rates of flu shots and colonoscopy screenings, through development of an active choice model by the National Bureau of Economic Research Center for Behavior Change in Health and Saving. The Oregon Roybal Center for Translational Research on Aging at Oregon Health & Science University has been using cutting-edge sensors to obtain real-time

information on older people in their homes, balancing a need-to-know by caregivers and health care providers with the privacy of individuals. In addition to providing information on potential emergency situations, these data give researchers an unprecedented look at the daily lives of older people, which can be analyzed in many ways for many purposes.

The two new centers, their principal investigators and research focus are:

- Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore – The Johns Hopkins Roybal Center will conduct research on the informal support resources of vulnerable older adult populations, focusing on the transition of health care services from traditional institutions like nursing homes to home- and community-based models, which include key family members and caregivers.

- Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts – The Boston Roybal Center will develop and test interventions to increase and sustain an active lifestyle to promote health and well-being, especially among those populations at risk for poor health outcomes.

The National Institute on Aging leads the federal effort supporting and conducting research on aging and the medical, social and behavioral issues of older people. For more information on research and aging, go to www.nia.nih.gov.

OPT

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Hyattsville • 301-699-8600

Marian Assisted Living
Olney/Brookeville • 301-570-3190

Raphael House
Rockville • 301-217-9116

www.VictoryHousing.org



Recreation Reopens Clarksburg 55+ Active Adult Program

After being eliminated more than four years ago due to budget cuts, the Clarksburg 55+ Active Adult Program has resumed operations at the Clarksburg Park Activity Building, 22501 Wims Road. The new senior program will be offered on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The 55 + Active Adult Programs, formerly known as the Neighborhood Senior Programs, offer socialization, entertainment, health, wellness, exercise and informational programs in 13 locations throughout the County.

For more information, call 240-777-4924.

OPT

Community Planned for Silver Spring

Con't from page S1

its residents. Community areas will include a community room, warming kitchen, wellness center, computer room, library, outdoor patio, exercise room, game room, and an arts/crafts room.

It is estimated the project will obtain final approvals in late-spring of 2015 and undergo a 13-month construction period.

OPT

The Continuum of Care

Selling the house and moving to a retirement community can create enough stress for the entire extended family. To have to then pick up and move to an assisted living facility when you need help with an ADL or two, and then move again to a nursing home when your clinical acuity level continues to increase is too much for many seniors to even contemplate. Enter the CCRC – Continuing Care Retirement Community. CCRCs offer the full range of senior housing options – independent living, assisted living, and skilled nursing – all on one campus or in one building.

Most CCRCs are at the upper end of the cost spectrum of retirement communities. Continuing Care Retirement Communities, also known as Life Care Communities, offer a secure, stimulating and protected environment for seniors, with access to medical and nursing services, should the need arise. There



are a range of contract agreements, terms, entrance fees and monthly service fees which are set by the individual CCRC and regulated by the Maryland Department of Aging.

Montgomery County Continuing Care Retirement Communities

(source: Maryland Department Of Aging,)

Asbury Methodist Village

201 Russell Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
Mr. Henry R. Moehring
Executive Director
(301) 330-3000

Brooke Grove

18100 Slade School Rd.
Sandy Spring, MD 20860
Ms. Eileen Alexander
Executive Director
(301) 924-2811

Bedford Court

3701 International Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20906
Mr. Todd Margulies
General Manager
(301) 598-2900

Friends House Retirement Community

17340 Quaker Lane
Sandy Spring, MD 20860
Mr. Kevin Harrington
Executive Director
(301) 924-5100

National Lutheran Home & Village at Rockville

9701 Veirs Drive
Rockville, MD 20850
Ms. Jana Broughton
Executive Director
(301) 424-9560

Ingleside at King Farm

701 King Farm Blvd.
Rockville, Maryland 20850
Ms. Marilyn Leist
Executive Director
(240) 499-9031

Maplewood Park Place

9707 Old Georgetown Rd.
Bethesda, MD 20814
Mr. Scott McAlister
General Manager
(301) 571-7400

Riderwood Village

3150 Gracefield Road
Silver Spring, MD 20904
Mr. Chip Warner
Executive Director

Open Enrollment for Health Insurance Underway

Residents without health insurance coverage are urged to sign up through the Maryland Health Connection.

Consumers can now go to www.marylandhealthconnection.gov and browse the site to compare prices and plans available during open season, as well as get an estimate of financial assistance that may be available to help pay for insurance premiums.

Residents who enrolled during the first year of open enrollment (October 15, 2013 to March 15, 2014) need to re-apply on

Maryland's new website by December 18 or risk losing any financial assistance they received to help pay the insurance premiums.

For details on sign up locations, go the Capital Health Connection website at www.capitalhealthconnection.org or call 240-773-8250.

For additional information on eligibility guidelines and the documents needed to apply, go to www.capitalhealthconnection.org

OPT

Mercy Brings Halloween Cheer to Byron House



At left, Mercy second-graders Luke Finnell, Jake Phillips and Andrew Hall enjoy sharing costumes and smiles with residents at Byron House, an assisted living facility on the school's campus.

Bottom left, Mercy students Catherine Ronis (first grade), Bennet Danser-Anger (kindergarten), and Annie Ondeck (first grade) enjoyed trick or treating and singing some Halloween songs to Byron House residents. Bottom right, Mercy kindergartners Alexandra Ward, Mary Sullivan, and KoKo Agege enjoyed sharing Halloween songs with residents at Byron House, as assisted living facility on the school's campus.



Montgomery County Adult Day Centers

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ADULT DAY CENTERS

Albert and Helen Misler Adult Day Center

1801 East Jefferson Street
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 468-1740
Contact: Mr. James Brigl
Capacity: 55

Bella's Reserve

2120 Industrial Parkway
Silver Spring, MD 20904
(301) 244-5112
Contact: Dr. John Kim
Capacity: 110

CCACC Adult Day Healthcare Center

9366 Gaither Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
(301) 820-7200
Contact: Ned Li
Capacity: 300

Easter Seals Adult Day Services - Silver Spring

1420 Spring Street
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 920-9700
Contact: Elizabeth Klosek
Capacity: 80

Eldercare of Damascus, Inc.

26137 Ridge Road
Damascus, MD 20872
(301) 253-2764
Contact: Kelly Harrington
Capacity: 50

Family Services, Inc. / The Support Center

1010 Grandin Avenue
Rockville, MD 20851
(301) 738-2250

Contact: Paulette Craddock
Capacity: 110

Fellowship Adult Medical Day Care

18901 Waring Station Road
Germantown, MD 20874
(301) 916-4141
Contact: Lee, Jeonghi
Capacity: 132

Holy Cross Hospital Medical Adult Day Center

9805 Dameron Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20902
(301) 754-7150
Contact: Tammy Duell
Capacity: 35

Jasmine Medical Day Care Center

12910 Cloverleaf Center Drive, Suite 100
Germantown, MD 20874
(240) 364-4471
Contact: Peter C. Chow
Capacity: 140

Loving Care Adult Medical Day Care

17051 Oakmont Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
(240) 477-6199
Contact: Leila Abedi, CRNP
Capacity: 124

Loving Heart Adult Medical Center

400 B East Gude Drive
Rockville, MD 20855
(301) 309-0946
Contact: Tiryuanet Abebe
Capacity: 180

A Plus Adult Medical Day Care

50 West Gude Drive, Suite 48

& 52
Rockville, MD 20850
(240) 668-3418
Contact: Yan A. Su
Capacity: 160

Rainbow Gardens Adult Day Health Care Center, LLC

8 Metropolitan Court #4
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
(240) 683-9010
Contact: Lisa Hawkins
Capacity: 276

Rainbow of Montgomery County

8400 Helgerman Court
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
(301) 987-8889
Contact: Valerya Balannik, R.N.
Capacity: 215

Rainbow of Rockville

11215 Woodglen Drive
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 770-7676
Contact: Lisa Hawkins
Capacity: 130

Washington-McLaughlin Adult Day Care Center (The)

6501 Poplar Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912
(301) 613-7793
Contact: Dr. Pauline Washington
Capacity: 60

Winter Growth - Montgomery Center

18110 Prince Phillip Drive
Olney, MD 20832
(301) 774-7501
Contact: Becky Donahue
Capacity: 61

Keeping Seniors Safe

Keeping Seniors Safe (KSS) is a program that has been developed in conjunction with the Volunteer Resources Section of the Montgomery County Police Department. The KSS program was established to increase awareness of safety issues within the senior community and to provide guidance and resources to seniors in regard to these issues.

Morton A. Davis is the program coordinator for KSS. He is a member of the Montgomery County Commission on Aging and a resident of Leisure World of Maryland. Davis is actively involved in senior safety issues and is available

(along with other KSS volunteers) to attend your senior event or community meeting. He and other volunteers can speak on the following safety topics:

- Safe shopping habits and parking lot safety
- Home safety and personal preparedness for an emergency
- Fraud and scams
- Identity theft identification and prevention
- Who to call for emergency and non-emergency needs

A KSS team briefing generally lasts one hour, which includes time for audience questions and comments. The KSS team will also provide your group with additional senior safety resources and handouts.

To learn more about the KSS program or to have KSS speakers at your meeting on any of the above topics, please contact the MCPD Volunteer Resources Section at 240-773-5625. You may also email us at Police.KSS@montgomerycountymd.gov for more information.



Austin Heyman leads this monthly cable show's effort to share news and information of interest to senior residents of Montgomery County.

Seniors Today can be seen weekly on channel 6 for Comcast and RCN viewers and on channel 30 for Verizon subscribers at the following times:

Monday	10:00am
Tuesday	1:00am, 12:30pm, 6:00pm
Thursday	2:30am, 6:00pm
Friday	10:30am
Saturday	2:00am

Montgomery County and State Resources for Seniors

Senior Site

Consumer Issues, Employment & Volunteer Opportunities, Health Issues, Recreation & Libraries, Safety, Senior Housing, Social Support, Tax and Financial Affairs, Transportation
Montgomery County Government
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/senior/

Senior Safety Program

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/senior/safety.html

Empowering Seniors against Fraud, Abuse and Neglect

Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office
240-777-7300

A Consumer Guide for Seniors

State of Maryland, Office of the Attorney General
888-743-0023
www.oag.state.md.us

Senior Health Assistance Program

Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP Program)
Montgomery County Aging and Disability Services
301-590-2819

Office of Consumer Protection

240-777-3636

POLICE

Emergency 911
Non-Emergency 301-279-8000
www.montgomerycountymd.gov/poltempl.asp

Montgomery County Nursing Homes

Althea Woodland Nursing Home
1000 Daleview Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20901
(301) 434-2646
Capacity: 50

Arcola Health and Rehabilitation Center
901 Arcola Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20902
(301) 649-2400
Capacity: 151

Bedford Court Healthcare Center
3701 International Drive
Silver Spring, MD 20906
(301) 598-2900
Capacity: 60

Bel Pre Health & Rehabilitation Center
2601 Bel Pre Road
Silver Spring, MD 20906
(301) 598-6000
Capacity: 92

Bethesda Health and Rehabilitation
5721 Grosvenor Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 530-1600
Capacity: 185

Brighton Garden Tuckerman Lane
5550 Tuckerman Lane
North Bethesda, MD 20852
(301) 897-8566
Capacity: 39

Brooke Grove Rehabilitation & Nursing Center
18131 Slade School Road
Sandy Spring, MD 20860

(301) 924-5176
Capacity: 168
SEE AD PAGE S6

Carriage Hill Bethesda
5215 Cedar Lane
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 897-5500
Capacity: 108

Collingswood Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
299 Hurley Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850
(301) 762-8900
Capacity: 160

Fairland Center
2101 Fairland Road
Silver Spring, MD 20904
(301) 384-6161
Capacity: 92

Fox Chase Rehabilitation & Nursing Center
2015 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 587-2400
Capacity: 74

Friends Nursing Home
17340 Quaker Lane
Sandy Spring, MD 20860
(301) 924-4900
Capacity: 82

Hebrew Home of Greater Washington
6121 Montrose Road
Rockville, MD 20852
(301) 881-0300
Capacity: 556

Holy Cross Rehab and Nursing
3415 Greencastle Road

Burtonsville, MD 20866
(301) 388-1400
Capacity: 145

Ingleside at King Farm
701 King Farm Boulevard
Rockville, MD 20850
(240) 499-9015
Capacity: 45
SEE AD PAGE S7

Kensington Nursing & Rehabilitation Center
3000 McComas Avenue
Kensington, MD 20895
(301) 933-0060
Capacity: 140

Layhill Center
3227 Bel Pre Road
Silver Spring, MD 20906
(301) 871-2000
Capacity: 118

Manor Care Health Services - Chevy Chase
8700 Jones Mill Road
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
(301) 657-8686
Capacity: 172

Manor Care Health Services - Wheaton
11901 Georgia Avenue
Wheaton, MD 20902
(301) 942-2500
Capacity: 94

Manorcare Health Services - Bethesda
6530 Democracy Boulevard
Bethesda, MD 20817
(301) 530-9000
Capacity: 110

Manorcare Health Services - Potomac
10714 Potomac Tennis Lane
Potomac, MD 20854
(301) 299-2273
Capacity: 158

Manorcare Health Services -Silver Spring
2501 Musgrove Road
Silver Spring, MD 20904
(301) 890-5552
Capacity: 148

Maplewood Park Place
9707 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, MD 20814
(301) 530-0500
Capacity: 31
SEE AD PAGE S1

Montgomery Village Health Care Center
19301 Watkins Mill Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20879
(301) 527-2500
Capacity: 147

National Lutheran Home
9701 Veirs Drive
Rockville, MD 20850
(301) 424-9560
Capacity: 175

NMS Healthcare of Silver Spring
4011 Randolph Road
Wheaton, MD 20902
(301) 933-2500
Capacity: 114

Oakview Rehabilitation and Nursing Center
2700 Barker Street
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 565-0300

Capacity: 138

Potomac Valley Nursing & Wellness
1235 Potomac Valley Road
Rockville, MD 20850
(301) 762-0700
Capacity: 175

Rockville Nursing Home
303 Adclare Road
Rockville, MD 20850
(301) 279-9000
Capacity: 100

Shady Grove Center
9701 Medical Center Drive
Rockville, MD 20850
(301) 315-1900
Capacity: 134

Sligo Creek Center
7525 Carroll Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912
(301) 270-4200
Capacity: 102

Springbrook Center
12325 New Hampshire Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20904
(301) 622-4600
Capacity: 87

Wilson Health Care Center
301 Russell Avenue
Gaithersburg, MD 20877
(301) 216-4135
Capacity: 285

Woodside Center
9101 Second Avenue
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(301) 588-5544
Capacity: 92

When Does a Smaller Facility Make Sense?

Con't from page S1

a rich array of assisted living choices. All assisted living homes, regardless of their size, are licensed by the State of Maryland and regulated by the Maryland Code (COMAR) section 10.07.14. Whether you choose an apartment-style assisted living facility with 100 units or a cozy assisted living home for five, you can be assured that they are mandated to adhere to exactly the same regulations regarding training, services, assessment of residents, clinical oversight and other aspects of operations, by the State of Maryland and the county in which they are located.

Each assisted living facility, regardless of size, is licensed to provide a specific level of care: Level I – low level of care, Level II – moderate level of care, and Level III – high level of care. Families and prospective residents should always ask the license level of each facility being considered and obtain a copy of its Uniform Disclosure Form describing its services, fees and policies.

As the provider of assisted living in homes that range in size from 5-16, family members searching for care often express surprise that we are able to provide comprehensive services in what may look like a residential home. It is important to remember that smaller assisted living settings can go by a variety of names – for example: group homes, residential care homes – but regardless of these terms, they are full service assisted living facilities, albeit on a

more intimate scale.

For individuals who need a lot of hands-on attention but have budget constraints, small assisted living facilities may be an excellent option. Small homes often have consistent staff and higher direct-caregiving staff ratios than larger facilities that serve similar residents, allowing staff to spend more time with each individual throughout the day. On the



other hand, more independent residents, or those needing a highly structured environment with a busy roster of social activities, may be best served in a larger facility where there are usually more options for social engagement.

At AlfredHouse, we find that families often contact us because their family member has aged-in-place and is no longer able to take advantage of the array of options that their larger assisted living facility offers. These families find that this can be the right time to consider moving to a smaller facility where the atmosphere is more intimate and the care is often highly personalized. SEE AD PAGE S3.

OPT

Retirement Fund for Religious

Annual Collection Benefits 35,000 Sisters, Brothers, Priests in Religious Orders

The 27th national collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be held in most U.S. Catholic parishes December 13-14. The annual, parish-based appeal is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) and benefits more than 35,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests.

The 2013 appeal raised nearly \$28.4 million, enabling the NRRO to distribute \$23 million in financial assistance to 424 religious communities. Additional funding is allocated for communities with the greatest needs and for retirement planning and educational resources.

Catholic bishops in the United States initiated the collection in 1988 to address the significant lack of retirement funding among U.S. religious communities. Proceeds are distributed to eligible communities to help underwrite such day-to-day needs as prescription medications and nursing care. Since the collection began, Catholics have contributed \$726 million. Over 93 percent of donations directly support senior religious and their communities.

Despite the overwhelming generosity to this fund, many religious communities continue to lack resources sufficient to support retirement and eldercare. Of 590 communities submitting data to the NRRO in 2013, fewer than eight percent were fully funded for retirement.

The financial crisis is rooted in low salaries and changing demographics. Traditionally, Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests—known collectively as

women and men religious—worked for small stipends that furnished only the basics of daily living. As a result, many communities lack adequate retirement savings. At the same time, elderly religious are living longer and now outnumber younger, wage-earning religious. Sixty-eight percent of religious in communities providing data to the NRRO are past age 70, and the income of those engaged in compensated ministry cannot keep pace with the growing cost of eldercare. In 2013 alone, the total cost of care for senior women and men religious was over \$1.2 billion.

In recent years, the NRRO has expanded efforts to help religious communities address the root causes of the retirement-funding shortage. For many, a major obstacle to financial stability is the struggle to maintain outdated congregational properties while providing quality eldercare. In 2013, the NRRO received a \$2.5 million grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, payable over three years. A substantial portion of this award is being dedicated to the creation of educational programming and resources related to effective property planning and management.

“Despite the troubling statistics, many religious communities have made great strides in addressing their funding deficits, and contributions to the Retirement Fund for Religious have bolstered this progress,” said Precious Blood Sister Janice Bader, NRRO’s executive director.

More information is available at www.retiredreligious.org

OPT

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<i>Outpatient Senior Medical Care</i>	Hirsh Health Center	301.816.5004
<i>Respectful Long-Term Care</i>	Hebrew Home	301.770.8476
<i>Memory Care Residence</i>	Cohen-Rosen House	301.816.5050
<i>Safeguarding seniors from abuse</i>	ElderSAFE Center	301.816.5099

www.smithlifecommunities.org



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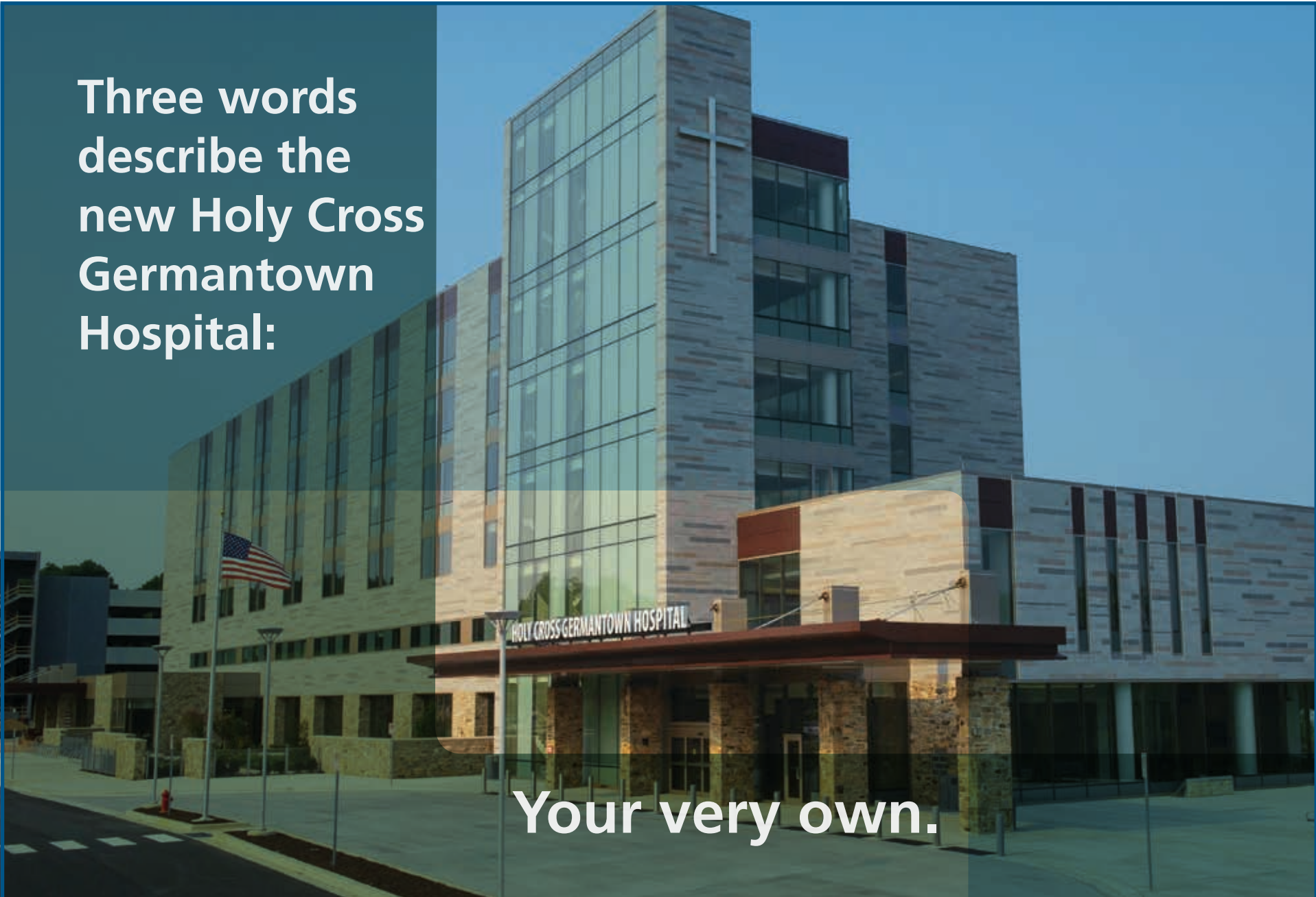
72 HOURS POST Designed to help those getting out of the hospital with assistance at home in the first 3 days post discharge. Includes 6 hours each day to get prescriptions, grocery shop, prepare meals, light housekeeping, & whatever else is needed.

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