



Parish Times

Special Edition: Catholic Schools Week
Patricia Sullivan Benefit Dinner:
See ad back page

JANUARY 2016

Living the Faith Together

FREE

The Month of the Child



Chuck Short

Happy New Year! The beginning of each new year is one of few times during the year we can commit ourselves to improvements in our lives as well as the lives of others. Good luck with your commitments.

The US Bishops Conference begins each year in January, by focusing our attention of on three important ministries: to welcome and support immigrants and refugees to the US; to advocate, and if possible, march for life; and to honor and promote Catholic education, especially Catholic schools. The Bishops, like their Founder, have created an ambitious agenda. Its common element is the child. For our reflection in January, let's focus on the well-

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Thanks, Mom and Dad, for My Catholic Education



Rev. Msgr. John Enzler

tuition would they pay?

OK, it's kind of a trick question because there are a lot of variables involved, but Clarence and Kathleen are my parents, and I am one of 13 children. I recently added up how many years Mom and Dad supported education for all 13 of us in Catholic schools, and I believe the number was 177!

Can you imagine 177 years of tuition for grade schools, high schools, colleges, and grad schools? Doing all that on a government salary was not easy, and it speaks volumes to the priority that Mom and Dad assigned to a Catholic education throughout our years of growing up in Bethesda.

I loved my nine years at Our Lady of Lourdes, my four years at St. John's College High School, my four years at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, and my four years of seminary at Mount St. Mary's. While the schools were great in and of themselves, and my education was equal to or better in comparison to my friends from other educational insti-

Continued on page 2



Tens of thousands of hardy souls representing every State in the Union braved the elements in Washington to demonstrate their support for the right to life of all on January 22, the anniversary of the dreadful Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade. Photo by Kathleen Hamm

SJB Christmas Show

The annual Christmas Show at St. John the Baptist School is a tradition that truly lets school parents and staff relax, enjoy and enter a holiday state of mind. The school presents a show each year, usually during the last week of school before break. Each class performs a different Christmas song, complete with introductory narration, costumes and light choreography. This year saw the addition of a special Christmas chorus under the direction of Ms. Esco Williams. While most classes aim to present something new and different, the crowd favorite is always the Kindergarten performing "The Lambs from the Flock of David" in lamb costumes (see photo page 22).

OPT

St John the Baptist fourth graders at dress rehearsal for the annual Christmas Show. Photo by Kevin Trevel




Vivaldi at St. Bart's!

Choir Presents Annual Christmas Concert to Benefit Mt. Carmel Shelter

On Saturday, December 12, 2015, for the 29th year, St. Bartholomew Parish presented its annual benefit concert for the Mount Carmel Shelter. The concert featured works by Vivaldi and John Rutter, and raised \$3,600 – the most ever! The event was directed by St. Bartholomew's Choir Director, Carole Wysocki.

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St. Bart's Choir Director Carole Wysocki directs the choir at St. Bart's Annual Mt. Carmel benefit concert



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Need-Based Scholarship Applications Being Accepted

9th Annual CBN-MC Catholic Elementary School Need-Based Scholarship

The CBN-MC Foundation will award scholarships for students in need of financial support to be enrolled in a Montgomery County Catholic Elementary School in the Fall of 2016, thanks to the continued generosity of the John C. Grimberg Co., Inc. The narrative must be sent via regular U.S. mail to the address below and RECEIVED by CBN-MC no later than Monday, February 15, 2016.



CBN-MC is accepting one application from each Montgomery County Catholic elementary school principal. All Catholic elementary school principals in Montgomery County, Maryland are invited to apply on behalf of the student anonymously.

For eligibility criteria and application guideline, visit: www.cbnmc.com

OPT

Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County

Coming Events

February 12 Monthly Breakfast

The Board of Directors of the Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County invites you to its next monthly 2nd Friday Networking Breakfast Meeting being held on Friday, February 12, 2016 at 7:30am. This month's speaker is Stewart Matthews First Secretary and Head of Northern Ireland Bureau. Stewart's primary role includes helping Northern Ireland Departments and Ministers by promoting NI interests in the US

and Canada and building relationships of mutual benefit. We meet on the second Friday of every month at Timpano Italian Chophouse, located in the Montrose Crossing Shopping Center at Rockville Pike and Montrose Parkway. Parking is conveniently located outside the restaurant. Registration is \$20 for pre-registered CBN-MC members, \$30 at the door and for non-members.

February 17 Networking Reception

The Mid-Winter Evening Networking Reception will be held

Wednesday, February 17, starting at 6:00 pm EST. Winter is half over. Come celebrate with CBN-MC. The \$25 admission covers hors d'oeuvre, beer and wine, and networking.

March 11 Monthly Breakfast

March 17 Annual Scholarship Luncheon

For more information about these and other CBN-MC events or to register, visit: www.cbnmc.com.

OPT

ENZLER

Con't from page 1

tutions, my real takeaways were the examples and inspiration of so many teachers, brothers, sisters, priests, and laypeople who taught me what it meant to be a Catholic, much more by the way they lived than by the words that came out of their mouths.

In my current role at Catholic Charities, I don't get to teach school on a regular basis, but I relish the opportunity to work in a teaching role for our staff, clients, and benefactors. The thing I miss most about no longer being a pastor is going into the classrooms and teaching religion. For my last 20 years as a pastor, I tried to teach in the "sacramental years" – second grade for Reconciliation and First Communion and eighth grade for Confirmation.

A parish with a school is livelier, more engaged and, frankly, just more fun for every priest I know. It is also more work and sometimes financially challenging, but that tradeoff is well worth it when you hear the happy voices and see the joy of children having fun while learning, playing together, and growing in their faith.

At Catholic Charities, I'm now more cognizant than ever of the need for good education. So many of our clients did not receive the blessing I received of a value-based excellent learning experience. In many of our programs, the participants never finished high school, and a good number even have difficulty reading. They certainly try to attain a GED, but without that, job opportunities are limited and the ability to support themselves (and sometimes others as well) is nearly impossible.

On a related note, I am happy and proud that Catholic Charities is able

to deliver an excellent education at our Kennedy School, a K-12 program devoted to young people with developmental disabilities, with a focus on vocational skills.

Catholic schools everywhere are indeed a tremendous gift, and I realize that gift is possible only because of multiple sacrifices. Teachers sacrifice by taking a lower salary to teach in a ministerial role in one of our schools. They all could make more money in the public sector.

Parents sacrifice because public education is free for grade school and high school, and yet, they pay significant money each year to provide a Catholic school experience for their sons and daughters.

The parish itself sacrifices by being a huge partner in making sure the resources are available for tuition assistance where needed and for ongoing capital expenses to keep the parish plants safe, accommodating, and clean.

And let's not forget the many who sacrifice by participating in fundraisers and extra-curricular activities in support of the school. Galas, dances, bingo, extra collections, annual school fundraisers – all support the children in the school thanks to widespread participation, generosity, and support.

The result is worth it: to give a young person a great education, no matter where they come from.

So by all means, let's celebrate Catholic schools this week and thank God for all who make them possible. My congratulations and gratitude to all those who sacrifice so much. Happy Catholic Schools Week! Enjoy this opportunity to reflect upon the gift your parish and school are to us all.

OPT

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Budget Decisions and People in Need

By Fred Marinucci
and Larry Couch

The county budget is a moral document. For this reason the Justice and Advocacy Council of Montgomery County, speaking on behalf of the Archdiocese of Washington, each year reviews the proposed county budget in light of its impact on people living in poverty.

The Montgomery County budget of approximately \$5 billion is greater than the budget of some states. The County Executive proposes a budget for the coming fiscal year to the County Council. The Council considers the budget, may make changes and passes the budget in late spring.

Both the County Executive and County Council offer residents an opportunity to comment on the proposed budget. First, in January each year, the County Executive holds



Fred Marinucci (left) and Larry Couch

regional meetings in which he and his staff give the public a preview of the budget he intends to propose for the coming year, and listens to comments from members of the public about how the County is meeting the needs they care about. In May, the County Council also holds public hearings at which County residents can speak their views. Members of the County Council invite members of the community

to present their concerns, but we have been surprised by how few people had accepted the invitation.

These hearings can be quite effective. For example, parents and other public school advocates turn out in large numbers to demand support for the system. As a result, the County now contributes \$1.5 billion to serve 150,000 students. Often individuals who operate or benefit from a particular service or program appear and testify

to the importance of the service to their lives and the lives of other clients of the program.

Each January, when the County Executive holds public hearings in various communities on his proposed budget, members of the Justice and Advocacy Council attend each of the hearings, as well at Council hearings in May on the budget he proposes. At these meet-

Continued on page 4

The Wise Gift of Mercy

by Michelle Ardillo

The Christmas season is officially over, ending on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Christmas trees have been stripped bare and hauled to the curb. Advent wreaths, stockings, ornaments, and twinkling lights have been packed up. Presents have been put away or worse yet, returned. Visiting family has returned home. The scales tell us it is time to get real and back on track. And for many of us, our New Year's resolutions have already started to fall by the wayside.

On January 3, just as my wonderful two-week Christmas break from teaching was coming to an end, I was blessed to hear a homily by Nick Scholz, a deacon of my parish, who brought the focus back to the Holy

Family and to the three visitors who traveled afar. As Deacon Scholz spoke of the three wise men traveling to see the baby Jesus, I began to think about the literary allusion in O. Henry's masterpiece, "The Gift of the Magi", part of my eighth-grade curriculum. The story is simple: poor but happy and loving couple sacrifices their most prized possessions to be able to purchase something truly special for their loved one. O. Henry, well-known for his twist endings, allows the reader to see Della go to the wig shop and sell her long, beautiful hair, "rippling and shining like a cascade of brown waters," so she can then use that money to purchase a platinum fob chain for her husband's gold pocket watch, a family heirloom. What the reader does not see is the dramatic irony; Jim sells his watch to purchase a set of hair combs, "pure tortoise shell, with jeweled rims", which are now rendered useless, as is the fob chain for the pocket watch.

O. Henry tells us in the short story that the characters, Jim and Della, were "two foolish children in a flat who most unwisely sacrificed for each other the greatest treasures of their house."

Continued on page 4



Bulletin board art in Holy Redeemer School hallway

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Holy Cross Students Compete in Geography Bee

Holy Cross students in grades four through eight competed in this year's National Geographic Bee. Grade-level geography bees qualified ten students to advance to the school-wide bee in mid-December. These ten students were David Alexander, Katherine Khramstov, Caroline Killian, and Ben Napolitano (Grade 6); Jennifer



Ben Napolitano, winner of the school-wide Geography Bee, shakes hands with first runner-up Joe Lemon.

Tartaglia, Tara Anders, Jay Augustin, and Alex Wong-Simpson (Grade 7); and Joe Lemon and Chelsea Finkle (Grade 8).

Sixth grade student, Ben Napolitano edged out Joe Lemon in eighth grade to win the contest.

Ben will now take a written test, as will all school-wide winners from across the country. Based on the results of the written test, National Geographic will select the top one hundred students from each state to compete at the state-level this spring. The entire Holy Cross community wishes Ben all the best as he continues through the process.

OPT

BUDGET DECISIONS

Con't from page 3

ings, we hear pleas from our fellow county citizens for school programs, library services, and recreation facilities – well-spoken pleas typically presented by well-educated members of our communities. Especially when funds become scarce, programs serving people on the margin of society often face cuts. We cannot allow that to happen, but we hear far fewer voices advocating for the needs of these on the margin. The Justice and Advocacy testifies in support of programs that helps those in most need.

The Council also needs to hear from us. If important programs serving people in poverty are being underfunded, we need to bring it to their attention. In each of past five years, the County has faced narrowing revenues that made supporting safety net programs more and more difficult in each budget cycle. Where the council members and the County Executive have protected social safety net programs, they need to know that we notice this, and that we commend them for these difficult decisions. Continued support is not a sure thing: each year is a new battle to protect the safety net services to our neediest, and each year, competing needs demand attention and funds. Each year the council and the executive need to hear from us that we care about these choices, and we want them to adopt a budget that keeps the safety net intact, and where needed, patched or extended.

The Council listens: in one recent example, the proposed budget would have cut services for developmentally disabled adults so severely that the program may have closed. With affected parents, the Justice and Advocacy Council testified to the

dire need the program faced by the cuts – and funds were restored. In addition, each year we have arranged for pastors of parishes providing food pantry and other services to address the County Council for support. Each year, we have advocated for more funding to provide housing for our 1000 county homeless, many of whom have medical conditions that make life on the street each winter a deadly prospect. The County Executive and County Council have gradually added funds to meet these needs, but much remains to be done.

Many of us live in economically segregated communities. On a daily basis, we may rarely engage with a person or family who is barely making it, a mother who cannot afford to pay her rent or feed her children. In the Bible story of the rich man and Lazarus who begged at his table, the rich man wasn't mean to Lazarus. He simply ignored him. We cannot ignore the people in Montgomery County who need our help. Often they have no voice in this process. The Catholic community in Montgomery County is well-educated, and if and when we raise our voice for them, the County listens.

OPT

SHORT

Con't from page 1

being of children in the contexts of immigration, life, and Catholic education.

No one has been clearer in preaching the Christian role of accepting immigrants than Jesus. Often Christ engaged non-Jews in His teaching. In fact, the longest conversation that He had with another in the Gospel was with an unwelcomed alien, the Samaritan women at the well. Taking a cue from their Teacher, Pope Francis and the US Bishops are equally clear regarding the Christian expectation to welcome and support immigrants. Pope Francis often, including during his addresses to Congress and the UN here, calls us to compassion and support for the millions of migrants leaving their homelands to find safety and opportunity in other countries. With the US Bishops, he reminds us that we are a nation of immigrants. Some migrate here legally, desperate others by any means possible, and others shamefully forced here as slaves or indentured servants. All are our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Francis and the Bishops urge our special concern for millions of immigrant children who come here for safety, some with families others by themselves. Can you imagine a more frightening and dangerous trip for a child? Hundreds of these children are in Montgomery County. We summoned to welcome them. Shouldn't we want for them the very same things we desire for our own children?

On January 22, thousands of people marched in Washington to urge an end to abortion. Children are victims of abortion. Without a voice or a vote, unborn children rely upon the rest of us for support and the opportunity to live a full life in God's service. The Mass for Life which took place at the Verizon

Center before the March is among the most inspiring events of any kind in our community. Thousands of youths from throughout the US come with resolve and hope to pray and act for their unborn brothers and sisters. They spend the night before mostly on gymnasium floors and in church basements, joyfully hosted by local Catholics. The Mass and the March are effective actions in the effort to end abortion and an opportunity for the Church leaders of tomorrow to test and enhance their Christian mettle.

Each year, we celebrate Catholic Schools Week in January. The week was established by the bishops to emphasize the important role Catholic education, especially Catholic schools, play in the life of the Church: to provide opportunities for parishioners to learn more about their parish's Catholic education programs; and to honor faculty, staff, parents and students of these programs. If your parish has a school, it will likely have an open house, Mass or other events during Catholic Schools Week, January 31-February 6, 2016.

Catholic schools grew in the US as education centers for immigrant populations in the early 20th century. Irish, Italian, Polish and other immigrant populations were victims of segregation and hate in many public schools. Catholic schools were established by local parishes to provide safe, affordable, faith based centers of education for children. They were staffed mostly by nuns. With thousands of children graduating every year, the American Catholic Church prospered. As the numbers of nuns diminished, so did the affordability of Catholic schools. The simple cost of providing a convent and food for a dozen sisters was replaced with the cost of a competent lay faculty rightfully due a just wage. With tuitions ranging from six to ten thousand dollars per year for parish schools today, fewer families are able to

afford Catholic schools. Dioceses, parishes, and schools are struggling to sustain these schools.

We need to help not only to sustain our Catholic schools but toward the greater goal of growing our schools. These centers of academic and spiritual excellence are crucial to the future of our Church. This is not to say that other parish religious education programs are less important. They too must grow. Catholic schools provide an opportunity for parents to immerse their children in Catholic education. This immersion is not for every child, but should be available for those who desire it. Ultimately, our children cannot pass on what they themselves do not know. An important measure of a successful parish will be the number of informed and active Catholics they send on to the next generation.

Here are four things you can do right now to help Catholic education.

1. Support your local school, or if your parish does not have a school, a neighboring school by contributing money and time to the school.
2. Support the Archdiocese's school scholarship fund which provides need-based financial assistance to families in Catholic schools.
3. Join the Maryland Catholic Conference (mdcathcon.org) in its efforts to convince the State Legislature to approve the Maryland Education Credit which would promote and encourage businesses to donate to nonprofit organizations which support public and nonpublic schools.
4. Consider becoming a religious education instructor in your parish.

OPT

God Bless!
Chuck Short

MERCY

Con't from page 3

However, he adds that they were like the magi, who "were wise men – wonderfully wise men – who brought gifts to the Babe in the manger. They invented the art of giving Christmas presents. Being wise, their gifts were no doubt wise ones, possibly bearing the privilege of exchange in case of duplication." He leaves us with a powerful closing sentence, "of all who give gifts these two were the wisest. Of all who give and receive gifts, such as they are wisest. Everywhere they are wisest. They are the magi."

The wise men brought the baby Jesus the most valuable gifts they could obtain: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. To a poor babe, born in a manger, these gifts seem as out of place as bejeweled, tortoise shell combs for a woman with very short hair or a platinum fob chain for a man who no longer owns a pocket watch. The real gift that Jim and Della gave each other was the gift of sacrifice, born out of their true love for one another. When the gifts were exchanged, they did not get mad or pout about their wasted treasures; they simply put them aside and enjoyed their meager Christmas

The next meeting of the **Justice and Advocacy Council** will be held on Wednesday, March 16, from 7:30-9:00pm at Holy Redeemer Church Hall, 9705 Summit Avenue, in Kensington. For more information about the Justice and Advocacy Council, please get in touch with Cathy Couch at 301-933-6120, ccouch1940@aol.com, or Ann Barbagallo at 202-746-9861.

dinner together, secure in the fact that their love for one another was more important than any gift.

As we go forth in this New Year, which Pope Francis has declared the Holy Year of Mercy, Deacon Scholz asked us, "What gifts do we use to witness that we – like the wise men – have encountered the Lord? What gifts do we use to bring others to Christ?" Surely, this is more important than any New Year's resolution we have pledged. Has Pope Francis given us the greatest gift of all, the gift of a year devoted to mercy? This is a gift our world sorely needs right now.

As with O. Henry's classic Christmas tale, Deacon Scholz left our congregation with a powerful closing sentence, "May we who like the Magi have encountered Christ – by our acts of love and mercy be a powerful witness to bring others to encounter him – to encounter 'Emmanuel' – God with us."

OPT

About the author: Michelle Ardillo teaches middle school language arts at Holy Redeemer Catholic School and is a parishioner at the Shrine of St. Jude. Read more of her essays at www.michelleardillo.com.

I am a thinker, an athlete, an artist.

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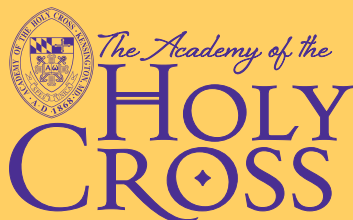
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Attic Treasures Sale, March 31-April 2

Like to go treasure hunting? The Shrine of St. Jude Sodality, Our Lady of the Wayside, is gearing up for its Attic Treasures sale. The sale offers anything that is in good condition, including small working appliances, china, lamps, pictures, baskets, jewelry, toys, and clothes. Sale times are: Thursday, March 31, and Friday, April 1, 12 noon-7 p.m.; and Saturday, April 2, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Proceeds help various Sodality outreach projects.

Do you have items to donate? Donations will be received from 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Monday-Wednesday, March 28 through March 30. Acceptable items include: wearable clothing, books, linens, lug-

gage, small furniture, kitchen items, sporting equipment, and tools. *Please note that the following items cannot be accepted:* mattresses, wigs, open cosmetics, large appliances, computers or televisions, electronics (DVD players, CD players, modems, disk drives, cell phones, tablets, laptops, fax machines, printers), children's car seats, cribs and text books.

The sale will be held in the Thaddeus Room of the Shrine of St. Jude Catholic Church, which is located at 12701 Veirs Mill Road in Rockville. Ample free parking is available and is handicap accessible.

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St. Jude Regional Catholic School Core Values

At St. Jude Regional Catholic School, our Core Values reflect the beliefs and behaviors of our school community:

FAITH DEVELOPMENT.... We believe in education infused with faith and trust in God. We recognize that although we are many parts, we are one body.

INTEGRITY.... We say what we do and we do what we say. We are consistently honest in our words and actions and commitments.

TRUST.... We believe in one

another and we support one another.

RESPONSIBILITY.... We do what is expected of us. We take responsibility for our decisions and actions.

RESPECT.... We respect ourselves, others, and all property. We treat each other with kindness. We believe in a mutual respect between teachers and students, always applying the Golden Rule to do unto others as we would have them do to us.

Continued on page 16

Ten reasons to send your child to St. Jude Regional Catholic School...

Shrine of St. Jude Parish

12701 Veirs Mill Road
Rockville, MD

Rev. Paul Lee, STD,
Pastor
301-946-8200

St. Jude Regional
Catholic School
Mr. Glenn Benjamin, Principal
301-946-7888

Maureen Martin,
OPT Editor
MaureenCMartin@verizon.net

St. Jude Regional Catholic School provides:

1. on-staff resource personnel and school counselor
2. an honor system
3. strong parish CYO program
4. after-school activities
5. a hot lunch program
6. specials in music, art, computers, and physical education
7. a state-of-the-art computer lab
8. daily recess for all students
9. a well-established middle school (5th-8th grade)
10. traditions spanning 60 years.

OPT



ST. JUDE
REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Come, Catch Our Spirit!!

St. Jude Regional Catholic School (SJRCs) is more than a Catholic day school for grades pre-K (3- and 4-year olds) through 8 in Rockville—at SJRCs the spirit of community and our Catholic faith are infused in everything we do.

At St. Jude,
We ARE...educators of the whole child. SJRCs prides itself on

providing a vibrant arts, music and community service education with a strong physical education program. Our sixth-graders experience the world first hand in Outdoor Education, our Drama Club gives our children a creative outlet beyond the classroom walls, and our students who may need an extra helping hand can draw on the expertise of a full-time resource teacher.

We ARE...academic excellence. At every grade level, we deliver a curriculum designed to prepare students for the rigors of high school. In fact, a large majority of our 4th- through 8th-grade students attain honors of achievement each marking period. Additionally, nearly every single 8th grader who applies is accepted to a Catholic high school, and a majority of our graduates attend one.

We ARE...compassionate toward others. We turn our students' hands and hearts toward



We ARE...people of faith. Ever mindful of our Catholic identity, SJRCs fosters a strong faith commitment and religious spirit, values, and morals. Students attend weekly mass and adoration and monthly penance as well as participate in annual Christmas pageants and plays, attend Rosary Group, and recite the school

prayer and other prayers throughout their school day. Additionally, priests from the Shrine of St. Jude and nuns from the convent on the grounds are involved with our students every day.

To learn first-hand what makes the St. Jude community unique, come and catch our spirit at our upcoming Open House on Wednesday, Feb. 3, from 9-11:30 a.m. and 6-8 p.m., or schedule a visit with us to see our students and teachers in action. You can also learn more about St. Jude Regional Catholic School on our website www.stjuderockville.org. Additionally, Mr. Glenn Benjamin, principal, is available at any time to answer any questions you may have about the school or the application process. He can be reached at 301-946-7888 or Glenn.Benjamin@stjuderockville.org.

We ARE St. Jude...and you can be, too!

OPT



Catch Our Spirit

Open House at St. Jude Regional Catholic School, Feb. 3

As part of the annual national Catholic Schools' Week events, St. Jude Regional Catholic School will open its doors to the community on Wednesday, Feb. 3, where prospective students, their families, and the community can learn about the school and its mission to provide high-quality, values-based education. Doors will be open from 9-11:30 a.m. and 6-8

p.m. Admissions information will be available at both times; however, teachers will be available to speak to prospective families in the evening.

St. Jude Regional Catholic School serves students from three years old through eighth grade of all religious, racial, ethnic, and income backgrounds. Its location at 4820 Walbridge Street in

Rockville is perfect for commuters as it is convenient to Veirs Mill Road, Connecticut Avenue, Georgia Avenue, and Rockville Pike.

For information on the curriculum, admissions policies and registration, contact the school office at 301-946-7888 or visit www.stjuderockville.org.

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Spreading Good Cheer

Fifth graders at St. Patrick's School spent the afternoon of December 10th with residents of Grace House Assisted Living in Silver Spring. The students sang Christmas carols with the men and women of Grace House and enjoyed some spirited games of Bingo.



St. Patrick's Parish

4101 Norbeck Road
Rockville, MD
Rev. William E. Foley
Pastor
301-924-2284

St. Patrick's School
Ms. Christie Anne Short,
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301-929-9672

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Too Many Cooks Make For a Fun Afternoon!

On Friday, January 8, approximately twenty students in grades Pre K-third grade participated in a Master Chef class with teachers Mrs. Glacken, Ms. Hilley, Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Silk. During the three hour event, which originated as a sign-up party at the school's November Gala Auction, students created their own trail mixes for a snack to start the afternoon and decorated chef hats and aprons. Students chopped, shredded, and prepared ingredients for homemade burritos, salsa, and guacamole. They also made delicious Oreo truffles for dessert. At the end of the afternoon, students took home a three course meal along with a recipe book and mini spatula. Several students agreed, "It was the most fun night you could ever imagine at St. Patrick's! We would love to do it again!"

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Enjoy lunch and fellowship with many other nonpublic school students and teachers. Experience the excitement of Lawyer's Mall and a Statehouse rally. Talk with legislators and urge them to support laws that will make our non-public schools more affordable for



all families, such as the Maryland Education Credit legislation. Remind them that our schools provide tens of thousands of students from all economic backgrounds a high-quality, values-based education, yielding immeasurable social

and economic benefits for our state, all while saving the state and its taxpayers billions of dollars EVERY YEAR!

For more information about the Maryland Education Credit, contact us by phone, e-mail info@EducationMaryland.org or call 443-510-4501.

RSVP for the School Advocacy Day by Feb 26 at www.education-maryland.org/advocacyday.



St. Bernadette School participates in the National Scripps Spelling Bee

On January 21, 36 students from Grades 3–8 earned the opportunity to participate in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. One champion will emerge from this school bee to move on to compete at the regional level. We are very proud of our excellent spellers!



St. Bernadette School National Geographic Geography Bee

Congratulations to Miss Cooper, fourth-grade teacher, who organized our Geography Bee. Matthew Murphy will be representing our school at the next level of competition as the school champion. Pictured (L to R): Miss Cooper, Christian Baldwin (Second Place), Matthew Murphy (Champion) and Kofi Kyei (Third Place)



The Bethlehem Project performed by Kindergarten to Fifth grade at St. Bernadette School

St. Bernadette School students presented the children's musical, The Bethlehem Project, by C. Barney Robertson and Carter Robinson on December 18, 2015. The shepherd kids and Bethlehem kids, Holy Family and friends and angels all performed the story of the birth of Jesus. We are especially grateful to Miss Rogevich, our music teacher for directing this wonderful show.

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301-593-0357

St. Bernadette School
Mrs. Cheri Wood, Principal
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500+ Greet Santa for Breakfast

Photos by Jerry Kelley



Families packed the SJN Parish Center for a great breakfast, toys and surprises for every child and some face time and photos with Santa—all provided by the Knights of Columbus. Photo by Jerry Kelley



Past Grand Knights, Terry Waters (L) and Ron Bauer (far R) join current Grand Knight Manny Dayao (center), at the microphone to welcome all to the 7th annual Knights of Columbus Breakfast with Santa. Photo by Jerry Kelley



Again this year, the Knights of Columbus sold Christmas Cards in the parish to support the Right to Life cause. Proceeds from this year's sales allowed SJN Grand Knight, Manny Dayao, to present a \$700 Christmas check to Registered Nurse, (parishioner) Marianne Hiles of the Shady Grove Pregnancy Center. The Knight's donation will help fund the Center's ultrasound program for mothers and babies. Photo by Jerry Kelley



SJN parish marked the events of Our Lady's appearance to Saint Juan Diego by celebrating Mass, praying the Holy Rosary, and processing.

Celebrating Our Lady of Guadalupe



Mariachi music and flowers helped participants remember the significance of Our Lady's coming to the Western Hemisphere.

By Rus Wester

Each December we celebrate Our Lady of Guadalupe and the events surrounding her appearance and assignment to a humble, Aztec convert-to-Catholicism, (now) St. Juan Diego. It was he who, in 1531, delivered the beautiful gifts of flowers to the Bishop of Mexico along with another calling card from Our Lady: Her likeness miraculously imprinted on Juan Diego's Tilma (cloak). The flowers and sacred image were signs from Our Lady that she was indeed the Mother of God and she wished to establish the presence of herself and her Son in the lives of the people of the Western Hemisphere, beginning with the building of a church in her honor.

At Juan Diego's request, the Mexican Bishop immediately built his initial church, which today has evolved into the massive Basilica Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and which receives all of her children from around the world. In fact, after St. Peter's in Rome, Guadalupe attracts more visitors than any Shrine in Christendom.

The circumstances of Our Lady's visit to Mexico caused over 10 million conversions of the indigenous peoples to Catholicism during the first decade following her visit. Word spread fast and pilgrims poured into Mexico to personally encounter the Marian promises of love, compassion, help and protection while praying before the sacred image of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Today, you can see and be within the gaze of the same, actual image of Our Lady of Guadalupe as it appeared and remains displayed in her Basilica Shrine in Mexico.



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Mary of Nazareth Super Bowl

Ever have that feeling on a Friday afternoon when you can't wait to get together with friends and watch some All-American football? So do our Mary of Nazareth Middle School students! Every Friday at Mary of Nazareth, students get an early start to the weekend with intramural sports. This fall, teams formed of mixed grade levels, ranging from sixth to eighth, participated in MoN Intramural Football.

The season concluded with a school-wide Superbowl between the Grant Broz vs. the Hashslinging Slashers (male) and the Whippers vs. East High Wildcats (female). The Hashslinging Slashers were victorious, winning 49-42, and the Whippers overtook the East High Wildcats, 28-14. We congratulate all Intramural participants, with special recognition of this year's winning teams.



Mary of Nazareth cheerleaders perform at halftime during school wide Super Bowl game.

Mary of Nazareth would like to thank its Physical Education faculty, Mr. Huelbig, Mr. McDonald and Mrs. Fowler, for coordinating this wonderful event!

OPT



Seventh Grade wraps gifts collected for their "adopted" family at A Wider Circle.

Winter Social Concerns

A Season of Giving

During a season that's increasingly inundated with distractions from the true meaning of Christmas, Mary of Nazareth focused on remaining faithful to Jesus through its winter social concerns campaigns.

Continuing with this year's theme of spiritual reflection – "How am I faithful to Jesus?" – the Mary of Nazareth community honored Christ's birth by serving its neighbors in need. This year, Mary of Nazareth Social Concerns Committee partnered with A Wider Circle to provide local families with Christmas gifts. Several homerooms, including Kindergarten, first, second, third, fifth, and seventh grades, participated in giving back. Social Concerns

Committee Chair, Megan McGregor, worked with A Wider Circle to "adopt" families for each of the participating classes. Ms. McGregor explained that, "A Wider Circle got the lists from families that they help and sent them our way. We assigned "adopted" families based on the homeroom size or class that participated. Homeroom parents organized a sign-up genius list of items that each family needed and wanted. Homeroom students and families signed up to donate these items and bring them into class."

Many of the participating homerooms decided to dedicate class time to wrapping

gifts together. Other classes made Christmas cards to accompany their gifts. In a special way, this service opportunity allowed students to learn the importance of connecting with our neighbors in-need on a personal level, rather than just materially. As the school year continues, our community strives to serve Christ by serving others.

OPT

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

Principal: Mr. Michael J. Friel

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

**Mary of Nazareth
OPT Editor: Beth O'Connell,**
boconnell@maryofnazareth.org

Website:

www.maryofnazareth.org

Affiliated with the following parishes:
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Neumann, Gaithersburg; St. Mary's Shrine,
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More Mary of Nazareth News on Page 36

St. Bartholomew Parish
6900 River Road
Bethesda, MD 20816
Rev. Mark Knestout, Pastor
301-229-7933

St. Bartholomew School
Stephen Lamont, Principal
301-229-5586
Frank Maguire, OPT Editor
202-512-8226

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We Look Forward To Meeting You!

Christmas Eve Children's Mass Features Wise Men, Animals, and Angels Aplenty

The St. Bart's Christmas Eve Mass, which is a popular annual institution at St. Bart's, once again drew an overflow crowd in 2015. In addition to the pageant, the Mass featured a Children's Choir made up of about 20 children from both the parish and St. Bart's School under the direction of Dan Villar.

Fr. Tim Daniel, who said the Mass, told OPT: "It was a great Mass--the church was filled to capacity, and the children did a wonderful job with the nativity play. They also got all the questions correct in my homily! The Gospel emphasized God's mercy patiently preparing the way for the birth of Christ." Fr. Daniel thanked parishioners Diana Carter, Kelli Forbes,



Fr. Tim Daniel poses questions to the assembled children at St. Bart's annual Children's Mass on Christmas Eve.

Kathy O'Conner, Kathy Zobrist, organizing the pageant.
Bonnie Perkins, and Amy Smith for

OPT



St. Bart's School Children participate in the school's annual Christmas pageant

Christmas Pageant Mixes Modern Sounds with Ancient Christmas Spirit

This year, the popular St. Bartholomew School Christmas Pageant was based on an original story written and directed by Daniel Villar, music teacher at St. Bartholomew School. The story was about an inconsiderate punk band that disrupts a choir rehearsal at a church, but then chooses to do good for

others after hearing the story of the Nativity and learning about the service the Church does for those in need. The roles were played by the eighth graders. All other grades were also featured as each class sang one (or two) songs throughout the show.

OPT

St. Bartholomew Parish "Twelfth Night" Dinner Honors Parish Volunteers



Parish volunteers honored at St. Bartholomew's annual "Twelfth Night" dinner

The Bible teaches, "Each one of you has received a special grace, so, like good stewards responsible for all these different graces of God, put yourself at the service of others." 1 Peter 4:10. To that end, on January 9, 2015, St. Bartholomew Parish held its annual volunteer appreciation dinner in the parish hall to say "thank you" to the many, many volunteers who helped make the parish run during 2015. St. Bart's Pastor, Fr. Mark Knestout, observed, "Father Daniel, Msgr. Enzler, the staff and I continue to use this occasion to express our gratitude for the assistance that

Continued on page 16

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The Best FOR FAMILIES

Cast and crew of *Annie Junior*

It's a Hard Knock Life at Holy Redeemer!

By Michelle Ardillo

Save the date! Holy Redeemer's spring musical will be *Annie Junior* with performances on April 22 and 23, 2016, at 7:00 PM in the Herb Young Auditorium. The

cast consists of 36 seventh and eighth graders, along with a solid tech crew of experienced and new students. The director of the production is Mrs. Michelle Ardillo, who will be doing *Annie* for the third time. Her first involvement

with *Annie* was in 1987 when she (as Mrs. Greer) and her husband (assistant dogcatcher and Cordell Hull) started dating. Twenty years later, Mr. and Mrs. Ardillo, along with their two daughters who were

Continued on page 19

Holy Redeemer School Families Support S.O.M.E.

The families of the Holy Redeemer School community demonstrated their generosity through our Advent Community Service Project by decorating shoeboxes and filling them with socks, hats, gloves, and toiletries. These shoeboxes went to So Others Might Eat and they distributed the shoeboxes to the homeless men and women who S.O.M.E. serves.

Community service is an integral part of any Catholic school, teaching students the importance of serving others—especially those in



HR students pictured with shoeboxes at S.O.M.E.

our students, to which the students can easily relate and are able to see the value and benefits of helping those in need. Holy Redeemer proudly supports S.O.M.E. by collecting fruit to go along with the many casseroles the parishioners prepare each month. In addition to collecting fruit, classes take turns each month to stuff snack bags filled with cereal, pretzels, raisins, etc. It is ongoing projects like these that help to instill the value and importance of service.

OPT

need. Holy Redeemer strives to create meaningful service projects for



Shoeboxes for S.O.M.E. gathered under the tree



6th graders stuff snack bags for the needy men and women of S.O.M.E.



HR 8th grader collected apples for S.O.M.E.



Mrs. Hurley's international nativity collection is proudly displayed in the main lobby."

Christmas around the World

By Pamela Hurley

In Holy Redeemer's Kindergarten class, we explored how other cultures and countries prepare for the birth of Jesus. Some of our travels took us to Italy, The Netherlands, Sweden, Mexico and Spain.

Beginning with Italy, we read the book *Saint Francis Celebrates Christmas* by Mary Caswell Walsh. We learned that St. Francis began the tradition of setting up Nativities.

Continued on page 19

Holy Redeemer Parish
9705 Summit Avenue
Kensington, MD

Rev. Mark Hughes
Pastor
301-942-2333

Holy Redeemer School
Mrs. Colleen Ryan,
Principal
301-942-3701

Holy Redeemer's Geography Bee

By Joe Criscuoli

Congratulations to our Top 10 National Geography Bee School Finalists! These students will represent their class in an all school Geography Bee Competition to see who will represent Holy Redeemer in States. These students are:

Fourth Grade: Colin Neary and Michaela Terminello
Fifth Grade: Mike Kehoe and Paul Molinaro
Sixth Grade: Christian H and Therese Osborn
Seventh Grade: Michael Monahan and Scott Styslinger
Eighth Grade: Eliza Henne and Kevin Harper

A special thanks to the Mrs. Hannan, Mrs. Harper, Ms. Veith, Mrs. Woll, and Mr. Criscuoli for helping to organize this competition. "Bee" sure to come see them in the school competition on February 1st!

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**In case of school cancellation due to inclement weather, the Open House will be held on Tuesday, February 9, 2016.*

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Dwayne Bryant and teachers Brian Ligon and Pat Sharp with seventh graders who will represent "draft pick" Marquette University

Math Madness at Mercy!

"Energy! Effort! Attitude!" Our Lady of Mercy vice-principal, Frank English, led the students in this three word cheer following the

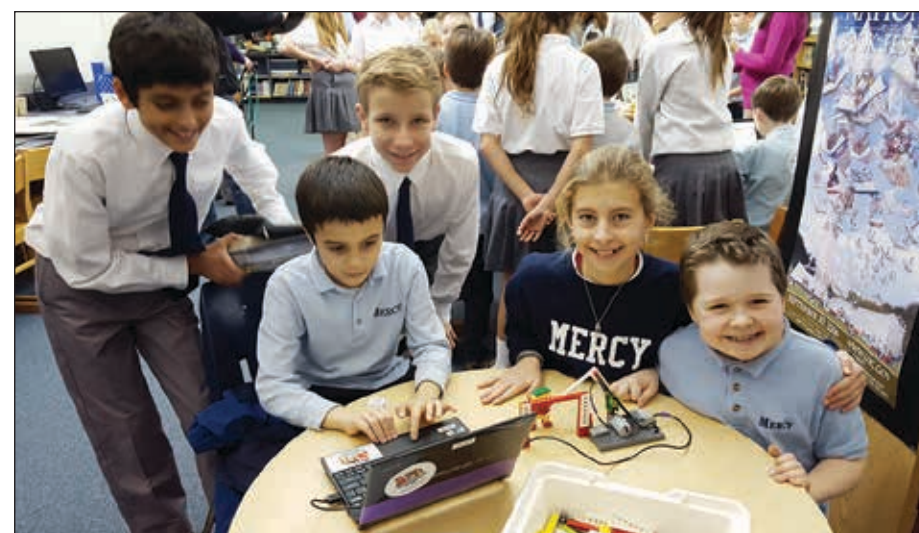
inspiring talk given by former college and professional basketball player, Dwayne Bryant. Mr. Bryant was invited to speak to the Mercy students as part of their

kick-off event which launched ten weeks of Math Madness, a teacher-designed math extension initiative that is modeled on the March Madness basketball tournament. Basketball is full of math challenges, insisted Mr. Bryant. He shared many anecdotes from on and off the court, explaining how math figured into his success as a basketball player. He also encouraged the students to be good team players throughout their lives, citing the three keys to playing well: energy, effort, and attitude.

For ten weeks the
Continued on page 30



Mercy teacher Nikkia DeFrank preparing for the math initiative



Mercy students showing off their robots and programming

Our Lady of Mercy Parish

9200 Kentsdale Drive
Potomac, MD

Fr. William Byrne, Pastor

301-365-1415

Our Lady of Mercy School

Ms. Deborah Thomas, Principal

301-365-4477

Gerry Burgess, OPT Editor

301-330-5676

Mercy's Hour of Code:
A Week of Excitement

What do Star Wars, Angry Bird, and robots have in common? They all were ways Our Lady of Mercy Students celebrated this year's Hour of Code Week (Dec. 7-11). Students in Pre-K through eighth grade learned how to code (program) with online activities during

Continued on page 31

More Our Lady of Mercy News on Page XX



Andrew Gans, one of Mercy's biggest 3D fans

3D Printing Helps Students Think outside the Square

There is a new sound coming from the computer lab at Our Lady of Mercy School. It is the humming of a 3D printer and the students couldn't be more excited! The MakerBot Replicator is 3D printing technology that allows users to turn a digital file into a three-dimensional physical product.

The 3D printer will be used this year by all grade levels across a variety of subject areas. A 3D printout can help students envision graphs and models often difficult to grasp on a piece of paper. Students can create geological formations of a state or country. By accessing GB3D Fossils from the British museums and Smithsonian X3D artifacts, students will be able to examine and touch replicas of fos-

sils and artifacts normally seen only through a display case on a field trip.

Even more exciting is the use of the 3D printer as a tool for Mercy's STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Art and Math) projects. Students will be challenged to use their creativity and critical thinking skills to create designs, models, and prototypes. Through trial and error in design, students learn that it is okay to fail as they use experimentation in the learning process. Recently, second grade students paired up with seventh grade students to study buoyancy and boat design. Second graders designed boats to scale and seventh grade students helped them to use

Continued on page 16

Our Lady of Mercy Parish News

An Interesting Suggestion

Lent begins on February 10 this year and it is rapidly approaching. Many of us are in the process of asking ourselves, "What will I give up for Lent." Our Lady of Mercy's bulletin of January, 17 suggested "give up free time to grow in faith."

Several programs are beginning during the Lenten Season. Oremos- "Let Us Pray" A guide to Catholic Prayer will be offered from February 11, 2016 to April 7, 2016. The group will be led by Sister Pat, and will meet on Thursday mornings from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM. A second session led by Anna LaNave will take place

from April 12, 2016 to May 17, 2016 on Tuesday nights from 7:30 to 9:00 PM.

Unlocking the Mystery of the Bible will be offered Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:30 AM, February 14 to April 10.

Additional Spring programs will take place including, Landings, a program to welcome returning Catholics and inquirers. A group will form to read and discuss Examen by Father Timothy Gallagher. And an additional group will form to read and discuss God's Healing Mercy by Kathleen Beckham.

OPT

Youth Ministry News

The youth of OLOM have events planned for this winter. High school students have been invited to participate in the Mass and Rally for Life on January 22. Bus transportation will be available from OLOM. Our own Father Chris Seith will be the featured homilist at the Mass at the Verizon Center which will precede the March for Life.

The annual Boy Scout Mass will be celebrated on February 6, 2016 at 5 PM.

High School students and Young adults have been invited to join Father Chris Seith in attending the World Youth Day Pilgrimage in Krakow, Poland. The pilgrimage will take place from July 24 to August 3, 2016.

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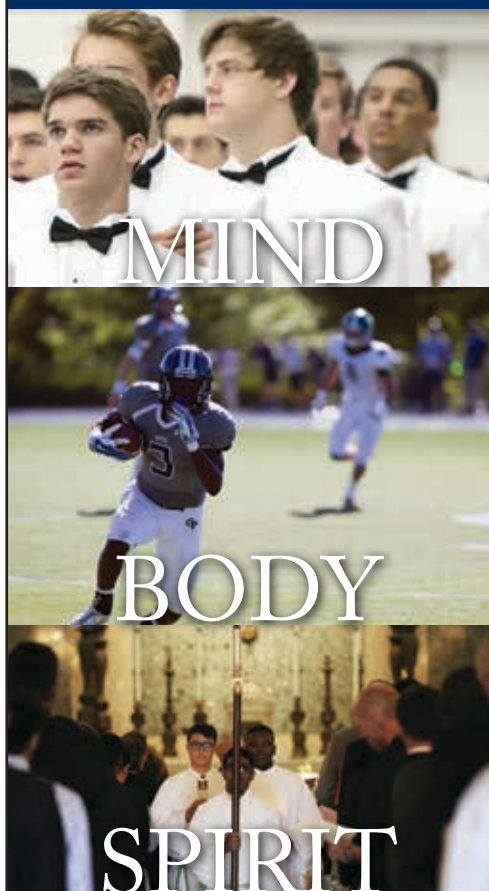
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3-D

Con't from page 15

3D software and printer to transform their designs into actual boats that they could float in water! Miss Thompson, the second grade teacher explains, "It is so exciting to see students take ownership of their learning and witness the thrill of success after going through the process." Students at various grade levels are requesting to start their own independent projects, working on designs at home, collaborating with fellow students, and testing and refining their design and then printing out the final 3D object.

One such student is Andrew Gans, an eighth grader who was overjoyed when he heard that Mercy would have

its own 3D printer. Andrew had been interested in 3D printing for years, and was already finding online designs and tweaking them to make some small scale projects on his own at home. Now at school he is able to make his own designs and print objects that are more and more complicated, such as a model of Fort McHenry, as a follow up to a recent field trip there. When asked about the new program at Mercy, Andrew declared, "Mercy's new 3D printing program allows students to immerse themselves more with the content they are learning and has opened up endless opportunities for students to approach new material in a tactile way." This kind of student engagement is every school's dream!

OPT



The St. Bart's Youth Group takes a break from the ice at Cabin John Ice Rink. Photo courtesy of Maria Archer

Busy St. Bart's Youth Group Not Deterred by Cold Weather

The St. Bart's Youth Group is having busy winter, including sports, pizza, Christmas cookies, advent calendars, visiting St. Bartholomew House, Lazer Tag, more sports, service events, visits from Fr. Daniel, skating, more pizza, and lots of fun with friends. The St. Bart's Middle School Youth group is made up of sixth, seventh, and eighth graders interested in serving our neighbor, playing together, and getting to know our Lord Jesus Christ. All are welcome. For more information, contact John and Maria Archer, 32kaufmann@cardinalmail.cua.edu.

OPT

DINNER

Con't from page 12

parishioners have contributed to our church, school, and the larger community throughout the calendar year."

Award recipients this year included Kathleen Goldsmith (Saturday morning Women's Prayer Group), Pete Couste (choir and media improvements throughout the church), Rollie Flynn (choir, Pastoral Council), Valeria Conde (Hispanic community music), Bill Ayers (Arimatheans), Jen Bautista (Home and School President), Vince Steis (CYO), Barb Henry (social concerns; school and parish), Vivian Leighton (church guild and flowers), Vivian Cid (altar and flowers), Tom Camarda (choir).

CORE VALUES

Con't from page 6

COMMUNICATION.... We develop caring relationships and recognize the importance of every individual's thoughts, feelings, and interests. We meet with, talk with, and learn from, each other.

LEADERSHIP.... We believe that leadership is best performed through example, persistence, and consistency, establishing high expectations of self and belief in the capabilities of others.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE.... We believe that "good enough" is never acceptable. We believe that each student and faculty member is a part of a culture of never ending improvement in the pursuit of truth, wisdom, and knowledge.

STUDENT UNIQUENESS.... We believe that each student has been gifted by God with unique talents...as teachers we help students develop these talents, to believe in themselves, their dreams, and their future success

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Parishioners Spiritually Revitalized by Pilgrimage

By Colleen Zarzecki

On January 16, 2016, approximately 70 members of SJE travelled to the Saint John Paul II National Shrine for a Year of Mercy pilgrimage. We gathered on the lower level of the Shrine and



Santamaria Sessarego, her daughter, and her in-laws gather around the statue of Saint John Paul II

then made our way to the beautiful Mysteries of Light chapel which houses two relics of St. John Paul II, a vial of his blood and a piece of the blood-stained cassock the saint was wearing on the day he survived an assassination attempt. Fr. Joseph Calis, pastor, gave a beautiful talk on the importance of relics, telling us that they are signs left behind by those who go before us on the path to the Father. In fact, the word "relic" comes from the Latin reliquaie (remains), which is a form of the verb relinquere (to leave behind). In a very real way, they are concrete evidence of saints in the making, which is what we are all called to be. After Father's talk, we recited the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary, given to us by St. John Paul II in the encyclical, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*. Children completed a fun scavenger hunt activity which helped them under-

stand the beautiful mosaics in the Mysteries of Light chapel and in the Redemptor Hominis Chapel, our next stop on the pilgrimage.

As Father Calis prepared for mass, SJE pilgrims made their way into this beautiful space which is covered from floor to ceiling with mosaic images from salvation history. The mosaics are "paired", with those on the left side of the chapel illustrating ways in which humanity has said "no" to God, while those on the right depict moments when the Blessed Virgin Mary and Jesus said "yes". Every image in the chapel delights the eye and the senses and draws us into the

Continued on page 34

St. John the Evangelist Parish

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Rev. Joseph Calis
Pastor

St. John the Evangelist School
Mrs. Margaret Durney,
Principal

301-681-7656

Monica M. Bradford, OPT Editor
bradfordsm2@comcast.net

More St. John the
Evangelist News on Page 34



Working as a team, the fifth graders make sandwiches for the homeless.

Students from Parish School Continue Their Walk with Francis

Although Pope Francis' visit to Washington D.C. was four months ago, the students at St. John the Evangelist School have not forgotten the Pope's words or

actions. They also have not forgotten their pledges to him.

The Junior Kindergarten class says a special prayer for Pope

Continued on page 34

Teens Give Back at Archdiocesan Day of Service

On Saturday, January 9, in honor of the Archdiocese of Washington's Day of Service and in conjunction with Catholic Charities, a group of teen volunteers from the SJE Parish Youth Group traveled to St. Francis Xavier Church in Southeast Washington, DC to help put together kit bags for the homeless. The kids assembled more than 100 new back packs, which included a fresh pair of socks, gloves, a hat and a towel to be distributed to needy clients in the community.



Fifth graders having fun as they knit for others.

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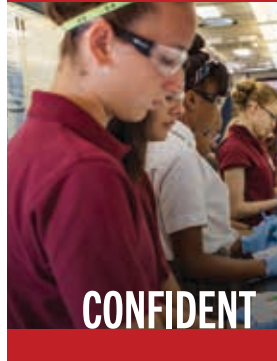
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Toy Drive

Our eighth-grade class had the honor of helping The City of Rockville set up their annual toy drive. As a school and Parish we helped by donating over 380 toys to this drive. We took an empty community center and turned it into a beautiful toy store. Our students sorted, organized, decorated, set up, and created a Fantastic heart filled toy store for many Rockville families who are less fortunate.



Robotics Competition

St. Mary's Robotics club, named "Mustangs", recently participated in a local competition. Although they did not qualify for States this year, they had a very successful robot run on the competition board and did very well with their presentations. Congratulations on all your hard work. This club is so popular at St. Mary's we have added a junior Robotics Club for the younger grades. Love all these inquisitive minds!

Greg Gannon Food Drive

One of our biggest annual volunteer efforts for the parish is our participation in the Greg Gannon Canned Food Drive which takes place the first weekend in December. This year saw tremendous growth not only in volunteer participation, but also in the number of territories added for collection. Under the leadership of chairman, Mary McCormick, we increased our canned goods count to nearly 15,000.

Coordinating the logistics of this event is no small undertaking but McCormick took the helm this year and never looked back. In the three

short years St. Mary's has participated, they have seen tremendous growth and look forward to continuing the trend in years to come.

This year, wind and rain hampered efforts to drop off collection bags the week before the event. Our volunteers compensated by going door to door the day of the event because every can counts!

The power of this community is never more evident than when we are out doing God's work. Seeing the results and the difference we are making to those in need is its own reward.

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Maureen Stiles, Parish Editor
301-990-4329

St. Mary's Open House

Sunday January 31
10am - 1pm

Tour our Blue Ribbon School. Meet our teachers and experience for yourself the sense of community that sets St. Mary's apart.

More St. Mary News on Page 33

American Sign Language Classes at Our Lady of Lourdes School

During the second quarter of the school year, the students at Our Lady of Lourdes School were joined by Ms. Da Costa from Gallaudet University two days a week. Ms. Da Costa taught American Sign Language to all students in grades K through eight.

The students loved learning ASL, and they enjoyed getting to know Ms. Da Costa who uses ASL to communicate

every day. Several classes learned the ASL signs for the songs they performed at our Christmas Pageant. The addition of the signs made their performances even more beautiful.

The students are excited to welcome Ms. Da Costa back to Lourdes next year, and they are grateful to her for teaching them this wonderful language!

OPT

Casino Night is Coming!

Our Lady of Lourdes School will host its first ever Casino Night on Saturday,

February 6, from 7 to 10 pm. The gym will be transformed into a Casino with Black Jack tables, a roulette wheel, and much more. Gamblers will use Fun Money to bet, and they will have the opportunity to win raffle tickets throughout the night.

The grand prize will be a trip to Las

Vegas! Other prizes include a trip to New Orleans, a Tiffany's necklace, a big screen TV complete with an Amazon Fire Stick, and a luxurious spa day, dinner and an overnight stay in Annapolis.

There will be delicious food and beverages, some exciting competition, and lots of great fun! To join us, go to the Lourdes website at www.bethesda-lourdes.org and click on Casino Night.

OPT

HARD KNOCK

Con't from page 13

in high school at the time, all participated in AHC's 2007 Summer Stock production of *Annie*. Mr. Ardillo reprised his role as Cordell Hull and Mrs. Ardillo served as flymaster for the production.

Middle school science teacher Ms. Danielle Trotta will be assistant director and HR music teacher Ms. Kristin Brown, who was a member of the cast of *Annie* when she was an eighth grader at HR, will be music director. Former HR parent Mrs. Monique Bonner has signed on as choreographer once again, along with HR parent Mr. Joe Ryan assisting with sound and light-

ing. HR grandparent Mrs. Cathleen Farr will work her magic as costumer and assist with props and set dressing.

Cast members for *Annie Junior* include seventh-graders Abby MacCartee, Nora Rembold, Clara Henne, Megan Toner, Ryan Magnino, Ellie Dunn, Sallee D'Albora, Lizzy Clarke, Clare Foley, Natalie Peoples, Blaise Ryan, Ginger Quinn, Kelsey Rafferty, Maggie Morin, and eighth-graders Sam Douki, Jackie Gonella, Lauren Gaston, Ella Keegan, Bridie Fry, Maggie Lucas, Ashley Magnino, Claire Hastings, Stephen Beins, Kendal Gilday, Bill Smolskis, Eliza Henne, Kevin Harper, Hannah Sligh, Betsy Robey, Henry Smith, Peyton

Hinton, Michael Heyl, Lucy Daignault, Aidan O'Donnell, Dominic Welsh, and Dylan Hitt. Heading up the pre-production and backstage crew as stage manager will be eighth-grader Emily Lucas, who served as stage manager for the fall play. Emily will be assisted by eighth-grader Madilyn Bedard. Other crew members include eighth-graders Dylan Davidson, Genevieve Lombardo, Lauren Lynch, and seventh-graders Grace Winters, Jessica Kolevar, John Gonella, Jorgie Garayta IV, Michael Monahan, and Molly Murphy.

Tickets for *Annie Junior* will be available at the door at all performances. Mark your calendars so you won't miss this great family show!

OPT

CHRISTMAS

Con't from page 13

We marveled at many nativity scenes from different parts of the world, which we set up in the front hall of school. The display had nativities from - Austria, France, Spain, Poland, Russia, The Holy Land, Slovakia, Guatemala, Honduras, Haiti, Ireland, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Paraguay, Panama, Mexico, Malawi, Japan and more. Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Mexico and Arizona were represented among nativities from the United States.

We learned about the Spanish tradition of Las Posadas, which was brought to Mexico and to the U.S.



Kindergartners are reenacting "Los Posados"

Southwest. Las Posadas consist of nine days - a novena - of prayers and celebrations, which commemorates Joseph and Mary looking for a place to stay in Bethlehem. We had our own Posada. We dressed

and walked from classroom to classroom looking for a place for Baby Jesus to stay. When we found a place we celebrated with a Birthday Cake for Baby Jesus and a piñata.

OPT

A Family Tradition

We often say in Catholic schools that "Parents are the first teachers of their children." We acknowledge that we support our parents by reinforcing the faith lessons they are teaching at home. When our students have the opportunity to become altar servers, they can learn about their faith and religious traditions in a very special way. In this way, too, the Church supports parents as they raise a new generation of Catholics who have a strong foundation in their faith.

It is an especially proud moment for parents when they see their children on the altar assisting the priest during Mass. Recently Max Walsh, an eighth grade altar server from Our Lady of Lourdes School was joined by his brother Christopher who is just learning how to altar serve. Also on the altar that day were Augustine Orrego, a seventh grader, and his younger brother Diego. It is especially meaningful for these young altar servers to be mentored in this work by their older brothers. It is just one of the many ways our Catholic schools and our Catholic families



From left to right: Augustine Orrego (seventh grade), Diego Orrego (fourth grade), Max Walsh (eighth grade), Christopher Walsh (fourth grade)

work together to teach our young people about the traditions and rituals of our faith and of course, about their obligation to serve to their Church community.

OPT

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Class winners of the Geography Bee participate in the school competition. Finalist Gabriel Amores (center, right) will represent St. Martin's at the state-level competition. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School

Why I Love Attending a Catholic School

By Ian Javelosa, Sixth Grader

After your car stops during early bird, a parent with a warm smile helps you down and wishes you a wonderful day. Your teacher picks you and your classmates up and brings you into the school with walls bearing school colors. As soon as you hear the bell ring in your classroom, morning prayers come on. Classes begin afterwards. This is a student's average morning at my Catholic school.

I have been in this school for about five years. In those years, the school community exhibited the values of faith, knowledge, and service. Before and after our recent ninetieth anniversary, we have been showing Montgomery County and the Archdiocese of Washington our community's God-given gifts.

Faith, as I learned in religion, is a gift from God that enables us to believe in Him. Catholic school students, including myself, are blessed with the advantage of religion as one of our academic

classes. In those classes, we learn and understand the call to discipleship, the Ten Commandments and Beatitudes, and the Bible. In time, the students get the opportunity to receive the sacraments such as Confession, Holy Communion, and Confirmation. I believe that it is important for children to be exposed to a religious community so their faith could be strengthened.

Our knowledge grows daily, also. St. Martin's provides students with a strong foundation for high school and college education. Our teachers also prepare us emotionally and spiritually. We are very successful in those areas. Our alumni are living proof of that accomplishment. Many have received scholarships and college degrees and are flourishing members of society.

The school has always been of service to the community. We donate to the pantry, have students volunteer at The Lord's Table, and pray for the parish.

Truly, St. Martin's School has flourished in Gaithersburg. **OPT**

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Andrew Piotrowski
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Catherine Cooksey
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St. Martin's School News and Notes

January 26 – 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 9am to 1pm, 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.

January 25-January 29 – St. Martin's School celebrates Catholic Schools Week with a variety of fun activities, including bingo for

students, a volleyball game pitting the eighth graders against the teachers and priests and Teacher Appreciation Day, which features a sit-down lunch for the teachers.

March 12 – Join us for an evening of fun and camaraderie at the annual Dinner, Dance, and Auction. This year's theme is Enchanted Evening in Fields of Clover. The event is held in the school's gymnasium and cafeteria. It includes a silent and live auction, dinner buffet, and music. To donate items for the auction or buy tickets for the event, please contact the school at office@smsmd.org or 301-990-2441. **OPT**

More St. Martin of Tours News on Page 36

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Third graders enjoy an afterschool activity in which participants used the engineering process to create an aid package. Students tested their designs, dropping the packages from a height of 5 feet and assessing the condition of their contents and considering improvements. Students learned that these types of packages are often used to deliver vital materials to people in isolated areas. Photo courtesy of St. Martin's School



First Grade teacher, Mrs. Feudale, reads a Christmas story to children at St. Martin's annual Breakfast with Santa. School and Parish families enjoyed a morning of crafts, Christmas shopping, visiting with Santa, food, and fellowship.

St. Raphael School Celebrates Baby Jesus and Starts a Milestone New Year

By Nina Cardillo

Celebrating the Seasons

As Christmas decorations are being put away and colorful lights are being turned out, the birth of Jesus remains in our hearts and is reflected in the joyful memories of the holiday that we shared as St. Raphael School family and friends gathered to honor the real reason for the season. The Christmas pageant was an anthem for Jesus as each class, and the middle-school boys and girls, performed songs that uniquely displayed their personalities and talents. The variety of presentations ranged from time-honored classics ("The Little Drummer Boy" and "Do You Hear What I Hear?") to triumphant praising ("Joyful, Joyful We Adore You"), and from soulfully searching ("My Soul Magnifies the Lord" and "Personent Hodie") to playfully light ("The Christmas Tree Feud" and "Must be Santa"). The kindergartners brought Bethlehem to life with a presentation of the Nativity, and everyone joined in wishing "Happy Birthday, Baby Jesus!" At the SRS winter concert, more than 50 students lifted their voices or played their woodwinds, horns, and strings in a delightful assortment of Christmas carols and contemporary music, including a timely arrangement of "Star Wars."

With the start of the New Year, we kicked off a different kind of season at SRS Spirit Day. CYO basketball is underway, and faculty and students took time out from work and studies to put on their team jerseys for a friendly hoops face-off. You could not see their wings, but it looked as though the Angels were flying across the basketball court – this CYO season promises to be full of fun!



St. Raphael Nursery School students delight audiences as they tell the story of the birth of Baby Jesus. Photo by MJ Zafis-Garcia / St. Raphael School

Growing Stronger Together in a Milestone Year

As the newest school in the Archdiocese of Washington, St. Raphael School marks a milestone – our 10-year anniversary! With each event, whether customary or new, we recognize that, indeed, we are *Growing Stronger Together* as our theme reminds us and school banner announces to all who visit our campus. We are proud of the change and progress in the school itself, the formation of our school family and community, and especially the success of our students and graduates. In anticipation of a celebratory 2016-17 school year, St. Raphael School and St. Raphael Nursery School hosted interested parents at a double open house. Many prospective families came out on a cold January morning to tour our facilities and learn about our mission and curriculum. Since that initial vision of a new parish school by our late pastor, Fr. Bill Finch, to this milestone year, we are grateful to share the richness of

Catholic education at St. Raphael with you. As our pastor, Fr. Meyers, often says, "Fr. Bill may have planted the seed, but we, as a parish, have made it grow."

Rallying for Life

At press time, St. Raphael eighth-graders were planning to participate in the Youth Rally and Mass for Life hosted by the Archdiocese of Washington on Jan. 22. They expected to make their pilgrimage to the Verizon Center with thousands of youth, priests, and religious from around the nation to pray, worship, and stand united for the sanctity of life. The ADW Youth Rally and Mass for Life occur in conjunction with the annual National March for Life.

Receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation

In preparation for First Penance, St. Raphael second-graders have been deepening their understanding of God's mercy through Bible stories, activities, and prayer with



St. Raphael School eighth-grader Kaleigh Flood drives down the court in a heated matchup between the students and faculty on SRS Spirit Day. Photo by MJ Zafis-Garcia / St. Raphael School

the help of their teacher, Kasey Trees, parents, and parish priests. Individually, they designed beautiful beads in class, and together created a magnificent rosary that will be raffled off at First Communion – an SRS tradition. During this time of reflection and growth, a statue of the Blessed Mother visited each student, moving from desk to desk, to intercede in prayer and help bring them to Jesus. What a blessing to have Our "pilgrim" Lady guiding our children to encounter God's healing grace during this Jubilee Year of Mercy!

Looking Ahead to Special Events

Jan. 31-Feb. 5: Catholic Schools Week celebrates the value of Catholic education as we enjoy festivities for students, parents, staff, and clergy. In anticipation, we will start collecting new and gently used winter coats for the Coats of Many Colors Drive a week before, and, during CSW, students will fill the

pockets with notes of encouragement for those less fortunate.

Feb. 12: Career Day welcomes a panel of parents to talk with our students about what they do for a

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St. Raphael Parish St. Raphael School

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Legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Honored

"Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase."

Four students in the Archdiocese of Washington were recognized as essayists honoring the legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the archdiocese's annual concert and Mass in Dr. King's honor on Saturday, January 16.

This year's concert and Mass was celebrated at St. Augustine Parish in Washington. Bishop Barry Knestout, auxiliary bishop of Washington, was the principal celebrant and homilist for the Mass, gathering Catholics of all backgrounds to commemorate both the memory of Dr. King and celebrate the rich history of black Catholics in the archdiocese.

Each year, students from archdiocesan schools are invited to enter an essay contest co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington's Office of Cultural



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SJB Christmas Show

Photos by Kevin Trevel



St. John's Support Mary House with Annual Baby Shower

Saint John the Baptist School and Mary House (www.maryhouse.org) in northeast Washington have a long relationship. For two decades, SJB has held a "Baby Shower for Baby Jesus" toy collection at its closing liturgy, held before school breaks for the Christmas holiday. As past Principal Marianne Moore says "I can't remember a year not doing it." Each grade is assigned an age group for which to buy. During the offertory, the children bring their wrapped gifts to the altar. It's an outpouring of love and generosity that also serves to remind the SJB children that not everyone has the same Christmas experience that they are blessed to have.

After mass, parent volunteers, with their children, drive the collected gifts to Mary House where they are met by Program Director Sharon Murphy. Ms Murphy, always gracious and grateful, takes the time to tell the families where their gifts will be going. SJB donates more gifts than the Mary House families need, so overflow donations are shared with DC firefighters who



SJB school children delivering gifts to Mary House

deliver them to families in need and then remaining donations make their way to a rural parish in southern Maryland.

The annual donation is a wonderful way to begin the holiday break and volunteers return year after year to support the effort. Carolyn

Becker is one of those returning volunteers. For her, "participating in the Mary House collection and delivery has become an annual tradition for us as it represents the spiritual essence of Christmas and shows my son how giving can bring joy to so many, including the giver."

OPT



Fourth graders in front of baby shower gift collection

Samantha Wallace Wins Weichbrod Scholarship

Gretchen Weichbrod loved Christmas, which is why a scholarship in her name is awarded at Saint John the Baptist during the school's Christmas show. Gretchen was a beloved office aide at SJB who passed away suddenly two years ago. She was a special needs person who had emanated joy and innocence. She was also a hard worker who always wanted to help. A scholarship was established in her memory and is given to one student each year who best embodies her spirit. Missy Eaton, an SJB school parent, presented this year's award to eighth grader Samantha Wallace.

Recipients are selected by a committee of teachers and staff members. As Mrs. Eaton explains "we have so many wonderful, giving children at SJB that it is a difficult

task to pick just one winner. I am simply just honored to be able to present the award to the winner in Gretchen's name. The teachers and staff are tasked with the difficult job of finding the one child in 8th grade that embodied Gretchen's spirit. Gretchen made us all better people. And we thank her parents for sharing her with us all those years."

Samantha Wallace was also honored to be selected. Samantha said that when her name was called she was "shocked and very happy. Winning a scholarship named for Gretchen and all the wonderful things that she represented was overwhelming and emotional. I really felt special to have received such an honor. Listening to all of the things that were said about me and knowing how my teachers and

the committee view me is the most wonderful feeling in the world. I am overjoyed that I have won and I will work very hard to carry on all of the traits that Gretchen represented as I move on to high school."

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Samantha Wallace and Samantha Wallace with her parents, Keith and Michelle Wallace

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Resurrection Gets New Creche at Christmas

A large new crèche depicting the Nativity Story went on display during the Christmas season at Church of the Resurrection.

Attained through donations by a number of parishioners, the 10-foot by 12-foot wood frame crib contains figurines of the traditional nativity scene—the newborn Jesus, Mary and Joseph surrounded by worshipping shepherds, angels, and kings.

“It is our hope that this will provide parishioners of all ages a warm remembrance of the story of that great night for generations to come,” an article on the new crèche said in the parish bulletin.

The entire project was underwritten by parishioners who memorialized the figures in the nativity scene in honor of loved ones.

Those donors included:

The Stable—built and donated by Stephen and Kathleen Adamczyk;

Baby Jesus—Sally and Frank Curley;

Mary—Helene Stever;



A Resurrection parishioner worships at the new crèche that went on display Christmas Day. Photo by John Small

Joseph—Rev. Jeffrey M. Defayette, Resurrection pastor; Shepherd/Drummer Boy—Linda and Michael Carey;

Shepherd Boy—Sally Dimond; Sanctuary Angels—Sally Dimond and James Garrity;

Three Kings—Brigid and Ken Dzierzanowski, Joan Guyther, and in honor of Lauren and John Kessler;

Animals in scene: Lambs—Margaret Pratt, Phillip Kane, and

the Smith-Duigon Family; Ox—Rich Sanidad; Camel—Kathleen Plunkett; Donkey—KofC Bishop Lyons Council #9808.

The crèche, which was inaugurated Christmas Day, sits just to the side of the church sanctuary and was decorated with evergreens and poinsettias. It was attended by a stream of worshipers throughout the Christmas season.

Alms collected at the crib went to parishioners in need.

OPT

Winners in ‘Keep Christ in Christmas’ Contest

Three winners were selected in the annual “Keep Christ in Christmas” poster contest at Resurrection Church sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council No. 9808.

The 2015 winners were:

- Caroline Goodman, a second-grader
- Abby Mersha, a fourth-grader
- Leon Elung, a seventh-grader

The contest drew entries from youngsters in first through eighth grade and the winners were announced shortly before Christmas.

The winners each received a \$50 gift card and a “Keep Christ in Christmas” magnet for display on a vehicle or other places.

Leading up to Dec. 25, catechetical presentations on the meaning of Christmas were made to youngsters in religious education classes at Resurrection.

As part of the national “Keep Christ in Christmas” campaign, the Knights have sold the car magnets to Resurrection parishioners for a number of years.

OPT



Displaying some of the 1,000 winter coats donated by Resurrection parishioners are, from left, Sally DeSavage, Msgr. Francis Kazista, Strat Laios, Tom Sobotka, and Mary Ellen Howarth. Photo by John Small

Winterfest Brings Out the Christmas Spirit Again

The 16th annual Winterfest & Craft Show once again drew hundreds of avid Christmas shoppers and scores of crafters and vendors to Resurrection Church the weekend of Dec. 4-5.

The holiday extravaganza raised around \$35,000 to help pay the mortgage on the Parish Life Center and support other parish organizations, according to Phyllis Bottegal, co-chair of the two-day event.

“The purpose of the event is always twofold,” Bottegal noted. “One is to bring the community together in a spirit of charity. The Resurrection community always knocks that purpose out of the ballpark. And, secondly, to successfully raise important treasure to pay down the parish debt. We did that also.”

Two of the feature events—the Silent Auction, which included 55 baskets of donated items, and the Big Raffle with three cash winners—were major parts the success, Bottegal said.

The three happy winners of the



Winterfest Co-chair Phyllis Bottegal excitedly holds up a winning ticket in the Big Raffle, as Raffle Committee Co-chair Kelly Maltagliati (left) and Father Jeffrey Defayette (right) look on. Photos by John Small

\$500 cash prizes in the Big Raffle were John Willis, Sally DeSavage and Charles Rowzee.

The winner of the popular, handmade, queen-size quilt was Carol McGowan. The parish “Quilting

Bees” constructed the quilt, as well as hundreds of other handmade items sold to support Resurrection’s programs.

Bottegal noted that Bill Ratcliffe

Continued on page 30

Parish Collects 1,000 Coats for Winter Use

By John Small

As temperatures headed for single digits in mid-January, parishioners at Resurrection Church were donating upward of 1,000 coats for children, teenagers and adults in need of warm wear.

The project was spearheaded by four young Confirmation Candidates as their service project in preparation for the sacrament. The four youngsters leading the project are Kenneth Lara-Corella, Samir Matin, Sian Puckerin and Estelle Rego.

The drive to collect “new and gently used cleaned coats” began the weekend of Jan. 9-10 and was to continue until Feb. 12, according to Helene Stever, Resurrection Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry.

A first distribution of about 400-plus coats was made Jan. 20 (just as winter was hitting its cold, blustery stride) to the C-4 Clothing Bank organization in Montgomery County, which provides clothing to men, women, children and babies in need.

A second distribution of about 600 coats was planned for Feb. 13 to the “Coats of Many Colors” project sponsored by the archdiocesan Catholic Charities organization, with distribution at the Coat Closet at St. Francis Xavier Church in Washington, D.C.

According to Stever, the four Resurrection youngsters did most of the organizational work (with the help of their Confirmation sponsors) in the parish coat drive, from making the drop boxes, to collecting the

donations, and sorting them before distribution.

The collection included donation of some 250 coats from the Riderwood senior living community, Stever added.

Some other service projects that Confirmation Candidates at Resurrection have undertaken include creating and sending Valentine cards to children in need and members of the military; working at the parish’s soup and bread dinners; participating Stations of the Cross liturgy; preparing youngsters for the Sacrament of Reconciliation; and helping with environmental cleanups at the University of Maryland chapel and athletic facilities, Stever said.

The Catholic Charities’ “Coats of Many Colors” theme is taken from the biblical story in which Jacob gives his beloved son Joseph a coat of bright colors because he was “good, faithful, and thoughtful”—although Joseph later suffered many travails and finally triumphs.

OPT



Larry Newman (in chicken costume), Matthew Millstein, Angela Blow (middle), Darlene Newman (right back) and Sue David sold items at Winterfest to help the “Hens for Haiti” program and other Haiti initiatives.



Bill Tiayon, Mary-Jade Kalou, Shaznay Kalou and Tatiana Kalou helped collect and sell items at the Treasure Chest, a popular Winterfest feature.

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The Year of Mercy at Christ the King

Jesus, looking at him, loved him Mark 10:21. As we begin the Year of Mercy Christ the King will have a series of talks and a concert on the Year of Mercy, "Merciful Like The Father". The talks will be held on Saturdays in the Religious Education Building from 5-6:30PM, the concert on a Sunday in the Church at 4pm:

January 30, Saturday

Bull of Indiction/The Name of God is Mercy by Pope Francis of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy, Guest Speaker, Fr. Ettore Ferrario, FSCB, Pastoral Administrator of Christ the King

February 20, Saturday

Mercy in the life of Saint Damien of Molokai and Saint Katharine Drexel, Guest Speaker, Fr. Pietro Rossotti, FSCB, STD, Assistant Professor at Mount St. Mary's University

March 12, Saturday

Mercy in art, Caravaggio's paintings "calling of a wounded genius",

the guest speaker to be announced

April 17, Sunday

Mercy in Concert, directed by Ms Katie Yeago, Director of Music at Christ the King with professional chamber consort, vocal quartet and the Christ the King Schola, featuring the works of J.S. Bach and Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

May 7, Saturday

God, Rich in Mercy, encyclical of St. John Paul II, Guest Speaker, Fr. Antonio Lopez, FSCB, Provost/Dean and Associate Professor of Theology at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for studies on Marriage & Family

June 11, Saturday

Mercy and Justice in the Social Teaching of the Catholic Church, the guest speaker to be announced

No registration is required. All events will be on the grounds of Christ the King Church, 2300 East-West Highway in Silver Spring.

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Sinulog-Santo Niño Festival at Christ the King

The Sinulog-Santo Niño Festival is an annual cultural and religious festival held on the third Sunday of January in Cebu City, and is the center of the Santo Niño Catholic celebrations in the Philippines. The Lord is My Shepherd Prayer Group at Christ the King celebrated the devotion to the Santo Niño (Blessed Infant Jesus) on January 17 with a Mass celebrated by Fr. Ettore Ferrario, the blessing of Santo Niño images and statues, the Sinulog (a procession while dancing and holding a statue of Santo Niño), and a dinner. Pictured are members of the prayer group holding up their Santo Niño images during the Sinulog: (L-R) Gloria Manlapaz, Liberty Melendez, Flora Jude and Lolita Noval

Do You Know Me?

Christ the King's *Do You Know Me* series introduces long-time parishioners to those who are new and fairly new to the parish, individuals who are ever present in the Church but may not be known to those here at Christ the

Continued on page 35

Christ the King

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Leon Holley in the Nave of the Church.



L to R, FSCB priests: Fr. Paolo Prosperi, Fr. Jose Medina, Fr. Jonah Lynch, Fr. Pietro Rossotti, Fr. Lorenzo Locatelli, Fr. Roberto Amoroso, Fr. Ettore Ferrario, Fr. Antonio Lopez, altar server Joseph Forbin

Thirtieth Anniversary of the FSCB

By Maria Kendall, Christ the King
Religious Education Program assistant

The Fraternity of St. Charles Borromeo celebrated the thirtieth anniversary of its founding November 19, 2015 with Mass at Christ the King Church. Fr. Ettore Ferrario, Fr. Antonio Lopez and Fr. Roberto Amoroso Concelebrated the Mass. The Homilist was Fr. Antonio Lopez, from Spain and Dean at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute, Washington DC. Other FSCB priests present were Fr. Paolo Prosperi, Fr. Jose Medina, Fr. Jonah Lynch, Fr. Pietro Rossotti and Fr. Lorenzo Locatelli.

A formal dinner followed in the beautifully decorated Colonial Room. The tables were marked with place cards bearing the different names of cities in which the FSCB has a house. (A house being a place in which three of their priests live together in community.) More than 150 guests enjoyed the delicious four-course dinner prepared by Fr. Michele Benetti and served by youth volunteers.

The highlight of the evening was the witness of invited guest,



L to R, Madrid Table: Hilda Quesada, Susie Amaya, Aurora Segura

Fr. Lorenzo Locatelli, Pastor of a parish in Puente Alta, Santiago, Chile, having 90,000 parishioners. He related his life in Chile and the spectacular things God is doing there. In a video, he showed his parish Church and the house he shares with his brother priests. He stressed that life in Santiago was perilous because young children are abandoned and many people lose their lives to drugs. He helped families and children in their physical needs

and spiritual lives.

One summer, he invited children to a camp. He had no idea how many would respond but more than one hundred thirty children came. They competed in games, sang songs, prayed and had a wonderful time together. This made Fr. Lorenzo happy but he said that he realized that he was not doing the work but that the Lord was doing the work through him. What a moving witness!

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MLK

Con't from page 21

Diversity and Outreach. This year's theme was, "Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the whole staircase," based on the words of Dr. King. At the Mass, the students who had the winning essays this year were called forward to be recognized and were presented with an award plaque by Bishop Knestout. The following students were recognized:

- First Place: Katelyn Booth, Little Flower Catholic School – Great Mills
- Second Place: Anastasia Micich, St. Raphael Catholic School – Rockville
- Third Place: Simeon Oluremi, St. Augustine's Catholic School – Washington D.C.
- Fourth Place: Betlehem Merga, St. Augustine's Catholic School – Washington D.C.

"Throughout Martin's life, he tried to show the importance of solving the nation's racial problems. He relied on his faith in the goodness of people to take the first step, not knowing the outcome and not seeing the whole staircase," reflected eighth-grader Katelyn Booth in her essay. "He fought the struggle without violence. He wanted civil rights for everybody. He had the faith to keep going."

The students recognized the hopefulness Dr. King resonated in the civil rights movement. Anastasia Micich, eighth-grade, wrote, "Dr. Martin Luther King Junior didn't know how his famed 'I have a Dream' speech would be accepted. He couldn't see the future. People had many choices concerning how to react to this influential speech. They could ignore it, criticize it, or accept it and be inspired to change society and the way people communicated with one another. Micich continued that Dr. King "couldn't see the future, but only a hope, a dream that what he and others

had been fighting for all their lives could one day happen."

Eighth-grader Simeon Oluremi took Dr. King's message, and reflected on its pertinence in his own faith life and relationship with God. He wrote, "I'm sure Dr. King's 'staircase' analogy means a lot of things to a lot of different people. However, in my life I've been taught to trust God with my entire heart, and lean not onto my own understanding, and He would direct my path."

The students were encouraged by Dr. King and the lesson his legacy continues to teach, even after his death. "Dr. King walked with God even when his faith was tested," eighth-grader Betlehem Merga reflected. "He walked with God even when he did not see the bright light ahead. He walked with God against all odds and even in his death. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. left a legacy that one can only hope to surpass. He showed us that fear should not keep us from living."

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Cardiorespiratory fitness drives stronger brain connectivity in older adults

A new study shows that age-related differences in brain health — specifically the strength of connections between different regions of the brain — vary with fitness level in older adults. The findings suggest that greater cardiorespiratory fitness — a measure of aerobic endurance — relates to stronger brain connections and likely improves long-term brain function in aging populations.

The study results are reported in the journal *NeuroImage*.

Michelle Voss led the study while a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Illinois with Beckman Institute director Arthur Kramer and kinesiology and community health professor Edward McAuley. Voss now is an assistant professor at the University of Iowa.

“Our study provides the strongest evidence to date that fitness in an older adult population can have substantial benefits to brain health in terms of the functional connections of different regions of the brain,” Kramer said.

There are many ways to measure brain health across the lifespan. One popular technique measures the strength of connections between different parts of the brain while the person is completing a task or during wakeful rest. The latter is known as resting-state functional connectivity. Research has shown that some of these connections weaken with increasing age and indicate deteriorating brain health.

Using functional magnetic resonance imaging, Voss and colleagues measured the strength of these connections throughout the brain in younger and older adults at rest. As expected, the team confirmed that most connections were weaker for older adults when compared with younger adults.

Building on these findings, the researchers examined the role of cardiorespiratory fitness on resting-brain connectivity in older adults. Fitness is determined by how efficiently someone uses oxygen during physical activity such as running on a treadmill. Other factors aside from habitual physical activity may alter how fitness affects brain health. For example, a person’s genetic makeup can influence his or her fitness and general brain health.

The researchers found a relationship between fitness and the strength of the connections between certain brain regions in older adults at rest that was independent of their level of physical activity.

“An encouraging pattern in the data from our study and others is



Michelle Voss

that the benefits of fitness seem to occur within the low-to-moderate range of endurance, suggesting that the benefits of fitness for the brain may not depend on being extremely fit,” Voss said.

The study concludes that there is a positive role of cardiorespiratory fitness, beyond habitual physical activity, on brain health as people age.

“The idea that fitness could be related to brain health regardless of one’s physical activity levels is intriguing because it suggests there could be clues in how the body adapts for some people more than others from regular activity. This will help our understanding of how fitness protects against age-related cognitive decline and dementia,” Voss said.

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May is Older Americans Month



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May is a month of fresh beginnings. Perennials bloom once again, blazing a trail of bright color. May is also Older American's Month (OAM), a time to celebrate the perennial contributions of older adults to the nation. The 2016 theme is Blaze a Trail, and in May the Administration for Community Living will promote Older Americans Month to raise awareness about issues facing older adults, and highlight the way older Americans are advocating for themselves, their peers, and their communities.

ACL blazed a trail of its own this year by creating an evergreen OAM logo. The goal is to create a recognizable brand that can be carried over from one observance to the next, even though specific themes will be chosen each year. The new OAM logo reflects the tone of the month, and ACL's vision, perfectly – people celebrating and helping one another to thrive.

There will be more information on how you can participate in OAM in the March issue.

OPT

“Brain training” with Lumosity – does it really work?

By Aditi Jhaveri, Consumer
Education Specialist, FTC

January 5, 2016

Imagine if you could improve your memory, attention, and problem solving skills in all aspects of your life – just by playing some simple “brain training” games online or on an app. Games that could help prevent age-related memory decline, including dementia and Alzheimer's disease. Games that could help you at work, school, or with everyday tasks – like remembering where you left your keys, or quickly recalling the name of a person you just met.

That's just what Lumosity claimed its games could do, based on “proven neuroscience research.” But the FTC charged that there isn't solid science showing that Lumosity's “brain training” games work the way they say they would.

You've likely seen Lumosity's

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ads on TV, online, or heard them on the radio. They sound convincing – like this one:

“I can tell a big difference. Decisions come quicker. I'm more productive. It's serious brain training, it just feels like games...”

Or this testimonial:

“...we learned that my mother had early onset Alzheimer's. I joined Lumosity at first for my mother. I now use this site not only for her, but for my brain as well.”

Let's set the record straight. Playing Lumosity's games might make you better at those games, the FTC says, but that doesn't necessarily mean it will sharpen your memory or brain power in the real-world. And

those testimonials from satisfied customers? Many were from people who were offered prizes to say good things about Lumosity, and that wasn't made clear. According to the FTC, that's deceptive.

If you signed up for Lumosity before January 1, 2015 and are on an auto-renewal plan, watch for a notice from Lumosity that gives you a one-click option to cancel your subscription. Under a recent settlement with the FTC, Lumosity agreed to provide these notices, and promised not to make false claims or use testimonials in a deceptive way.

If you remember nothing else, remember this: You can be skeptical of any app, product, or service that says it can improve your memory or brain power quickly and easily. Especially if it claims dramatic results for a variety of health issues. Check out other helpful articles on health and fitness at www.consumer.ftc.gov/health.

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5 Ways Congress Can Support Seniors in 2016

In his final State of the Union address, President Obama called on Congress to strengthen Social Security and Medicare for all Americans. The National Council on Aging (NCOA) offers five ways Congress can further support seniors this year.

"Older Americans deserve the support of their families, their communities, and their government to age independently and with dignity," said Howard Bedlin, NCOA Vice President of Public Policy & Advocacy. "We made important progress in 2015, but there is still work to be done on behalf of our nation's seniors, especially those who are struggling. We are ready to work with Congress to find bipartisan solutions."

In 2016, NCOA urges Congress to:

1. Renew the Older Americans Act (OAA) and Elder Justice Act (EJA)

Renewing the OAA and EJA – both overdue for reauthorization – will strengthen and modernize aging services to meet the diverse needs of the growing older population. The OAA funds critical, cost-effective programs, including job training and placement under the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), health promotion and disease prevention, senior nutrition, senior centers, caregiver support, and more. The EJA provides for a nationally coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to the silent crisis of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

"Last year, the Senate passed a strong bipartisan OAA reauthorization bill by unanimous consent. Now it's time for the House to act," Bedlin said. "Legislation to reauthorize the EJA was introduced last year with bipartisan support and awaits action."

2. Restore investments in aging services

Community services help older adults improve their health and economic security, allowing them to stay independent and avoid costly care. Yet, investments in these services have failed to keep up with costs and the rapid growth in the senior population. Despite recent relief from budget caps, FY16 non-defense discretionary funding remains 12% below its FY10 level, and FY17 funding will fall to an historic low as a share of the economy, resulting in service reductions and growing waiting lists for older adults and their families.

"Funding for critical programs like OAA supportive services, Medicare State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs), falls prevention, and chronic disease management have been frozen for years," said Bedlin. "These services are overdue to receive additional investments."

3. Advance legislation to improve access to Medicaid home and community-based

services and finance long-term care (LTC)

The number of Americans needing LTC will more than double as the baby boomers age. Medicare does not cover it, and private LTC insurance is unaffordable for most. Seniors often have to spend-down their life savings into poverty before getting help from Medicaid—which has an institutional bias, with mandatory nursing home but optional home care coverage. Several Medicaid reforms to promote access to home care have or will expire, including Money Follows the Person, which expires this year, and the Balancing



Incentives Programs, which expired last year.

"Congress must extend these programs to keep families together in the community and avoid expensive nursing home placement," said Bedlin. "It's also time for Congress to think seriously about solutions to the growing LTC financing crisis. This year, we need legislative proposals, hearings, and a national dialogue to reach consensus on fiscally responsible, bipartisan approaches

that can be passed next year."

4. Improve chronic care under Medicare

The vast majority of older adults cope with multiple chronic conditions, which account for 95% of their health care costs. Last year, the Senate Finance Committee formed a bipartisan Chronic Care Work Group, co-chaired by Sens. Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Mark Warner (D-VA) to improve chronic care for Medicare beneficiaries.

"NCOA strongly supports this effort and is working with committee members to craft a strong proposal that can move through

the Senate this year," said Bedlin. "We urge the committee to include improved access to chronic disease self-management education (CDSME) and evidence-based falls prevention interventions. These programs can save money and improve health outcomes."

5. Introduce legislation to address the Medicare low-income protection cliff

For Americans under age 65 receiving health insurance through the Marketplaces, eligibility for cost-sharing assistance is set at incomes below 138% of poverty,

Continued on page 28

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Campaign Challenges Older Drivers to Make a Plan Before Giving Up the Keys

Before You Give Up the Keys Create a Roadmap for Transportation Independence



The Eldercare Locator, a program established and funded by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) and administered by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a), has launched a national campaign to help educate the public about the challenges older adults face in accessing transportation and the importance of developing a plan to identify their transportation options before they give up the keys. According to a recent report published by the Eldercare Locator, the only national information and referral resource to provide support for older adults and caregivers across a broad spectrum of issues, searching for transportation was the top reason people contacted the Locator in 2014.

The campaign is features a brochure entitled **Before You Give Up the Keys: Create a Roadmap for Transportation Independence**. The publication was developed by n4a in collaboration with ACL, the Federal Transit Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the National Aging and Disability Transportation



to lessen those fears by empowering older adults to evaluate their mobility needs, identify the transportation options in their community and develop a plan customized to their unique circumstances.

"A too-familiar scenario is that older adults wait until they're involved in some sort of emergency, like a traffic accident, before they really think about their driving ability

Center. "This is a major issue for older adults. When they lack transportation, they can't get to the doctor or the grocery store, or see friends and family as much, which means their overall well-being is likely to suffer," said Kathy Greenlee, Assistant Secretary for Aging and Administrator of ACL.

According to research cited in the publication, the boom in the 65-plus population has triggered a corresponding spike in the number of non-drivers of more than 1.1 million between 2001 and 2009.

Because many older adults associate the ability to live independently with the ability to drive, the prospect of eventually "giving up the keys" can be a frightening one. This campaign was developed

and the other transportation options available to them in their community," said n4a CEO Sandy Markwood. "Our goal is to shed light on a critical issue that will likely affect most families with an older loved one who may need to limit or eliminate their driving, and to provide a catalyst for discussion, and hopefully, action," Markwood also noted.

Before You Give Up the Keys may be accessed online at www.n4a.org/consumerbrochures.

Also available at the n4a website are Let's Talk, Brain Health, and a variety of helpful brochures on topics for older adults, caregivers and professionals. All brochures can be viewed online or ordered (singular or in quantity for distribution). **OPT**

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Cloudbreak Foundation grant enables Senior Connection to launch its Good Neighbor Fund

For over twenty years the Senior Connection has been providing free services to eligible seniors in Montgomery County through a growing network of volunteers and partners. Last year volunteers provided over 13,000 direct services, driving seniors to medical and other appointments, helping with grocery shopping and offering bill paying assistance.

Although the Senior Connection is the largest provider of similar



services in the county, our senior neighbors need even more help so they can stay healthy and age in place. Each month hundreds of seniors call us for a ride to the doctor and inevitably some of those requests go unfulfilled. Now, with generous support from the

Continued on page 30

CONGRESS

Con't from page 27

with no asset test. Yet for those on Medicare, eligibility for this assistance is set at 100% of poverty, with a stringent asset test that penalizes those who do the right thing by saving. At the same time, the average Medicare household spent 14% of total costs on health care in 2012, while non-Medicare households spent just 5%. Beneficiaries with incomes between 100% and 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)

feel the heaviest burden of out-of-pocket health care spending.

"More and more low-income Americans are losing health cost-sharing protections when they turn 65, right when their out-of-pocket health costs start to rise," said Bedlin. "Congress should introduce legislation this year that can be passed next year to address this unfair, discriminatory treatment."

To learn more about the pressing senior issues Congress can address this year and how to take action, sign up for NCOA's advocacy alerts. **OPT**

Transforming St. Jane's School Gym into a Secret Santa Workshop

The Secret Santa Workshop is an annual event that occurs every school year in early December. Over 75 volunteer parents turned into elves and transformed the gym into a shopping wonderland for the students. This allowed children from all the grades to do some "secret" shopping for their parents, siblings, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, teachers or pets - really, anyone that they wanted to give a present to for Christmas. All items were affordably priced at \$1, \$2, \$3 or \$4, and complimentary wrapping was provided onsite by the volunteer "elves."

Every year the event features a very special white bearded guest. Santa was on hand at the Workshop to pose for photos, give out candy canes, and to hear the children's wish lists.



Students this year were allowed

to wear pajamas to school that day to give them the feeling of Christmas morning. Special thanks to Jennifer Steibel and Melissa Phillips, chairs of this year's event, and to all the volunteers that helped with shopping, wrapping, decorating, along with acting as cashiers, wrappers, personal shoppers, table hosts, caterers for the volunteers, and set up and clean-up crews.

Volunteers are the heart of this event, and together they were able to pull off this enchanted Christmas miracle together.

OPT



Celebrating the Second Anniversary of the Church's Pipe Organ

In celebration of the Parish's Lively-Fulcher Pipe Organ, which was dedicated on November 17, 2013, Russell Weismann, Director of Liturgy and Music, demonstrated the wide range of capabilities of the instrument beyond playing hymns. For the special anniversary concert held on November 22nd, the feast day of Saint Cecilia, patroness of musicians, Mr. Weismann playing works by Bach, Franck, and Widor. The enthusiastic crowd of Parishioners enjoyed hearing this special concert of music that was specifically adapted for the organ. The St. Jane Church has the distinction of housing the largest pipe organ in Bethesda.



St. Jane Children's Choir Visits Vatican for New Year's Day Mass

Twelve members of the St. Jane de Chantal School Children's Choir, along with their families, visited Rome over the Christmas break to sing with 7,000 students as a part of the Pueri Cantores. This was made possible thanks to Ms. Olga Morales, Director of the Music Program at St. Jane de Chantal School, for her time and energy spent coordinating the singers and the logistics for this special holiday trip. Their schedule was packed full, but they were able to sing for the Pope and immensely enjoyed their time in Rome.

The choir members visited the Vatican from December 27 until January 1, with some members of St. Jane and their families participating in the 40th International Congress of Pueri Cantores in Rome. Over 6,000 young choristers from 18 countries sang in different churches around Rome and culminated the Congress singing in St. Peter's Basilica on New Year's Day.

All choristers had an audience with Pope Francis who presented them with this beautiful message: "Singing educates the soul and does well to it. St. Augustine says a beautiful phrase, and everyone should learn it. Speaking on Christian life, he says: 'Sing and walk.' Christian life is a path, but it is not a sad path, it is a joyous path, and this is why one must sing."

OPT

HAPPENINGS IN OUR BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

True Meaning of Christmas

On a Wednesday evening in mid-December, the Pre-K through 4th grade classes performed their annual school Christmas Play. The play was a beautiful addition to the Christmas season, bringing the Nativity story to life through songs and readings by the children. There were lots of shepherds along with their sheep, stars spreading their light, angels, and students bringing the Nativity story to life. This was a beautiful way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas!

Shoeboxes for S.O.M.E.

Every year St. Jane de Chantal School families fill shoeboxes with items and wrap them for the homeless. The shoeboxes contain items such as toiletries, clothing, gift cards for food, ponchos, warm socks, hats, and gloves, and many other necessary items to survive a cold winter outdoors. Over 500 shoeboxes were donated to So Others Might Eat (SOME) in the district. SOME distributed the shoeboxes to homeless men, women and children in the area. This is a tangible way the children of St. Jane's school can give back to our community at Christmas time.

National Essay Contest Winners

Seventh and eighth grade

students of St. Jane de Chantal School participated in the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution national essay contest. This year's competition focused on "A Colonial Family's Reaction to the Stamp Act." Conor Shaheen (7th) and Cecelia Swartz (8th) were named the local chapter winners. The two will be honored at the February meeting of the Goshen Mills Chapter. Their essays have also advanced and been submitted to the state level competition.

Greg Gannon Neighborhood Food Drive

By Amy Smigaj and Veronica Vincent, Grade 8

This year St. Jane de Chantal School collected food for the Greg Gannon food drive. The food drive has been helping people in the area since it was founded in the late 1980s. Each grade contributed by bringing in different non-perishable food items to be donated. The eighth grade also walked around the neighborhoods near the school and delivered bags to houses for people to fill with non-perishable foods. Then the students went back out that weekend and collected the filled bags. There were hundreds of cans donated to the food drive by the wonderful people who lived in the neighborhoods by St. Jane's

school. The cans and other non-perishable food items that every one donated went to help those who were in need this past holiday season. St. Jane de Chantal School helped others in the community have a happy holiday season just like the students and faculty did. [Reprinted from the school's *Duke's News*]

Holiday Spirit Comes Alive at the Band Concert

On a Friday in December, the beginner and advanced band had their first concert of the year. Mrs. Tifford, St. Jane de Chantal School's Band Director, led the two groups in Christmas favorites, such as Sleigh Ride, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen and Silent Night, to name a few. The beginner band is made up of fourth graders, who are new to playing an instrument. Next year they will be able to join the advanced band, which is impressive in their size and sound. It was an excellent way for the St. Jane community to get into the holiday spirit!

Bringing Blue Aliens to Homeroom

Brian Bichy, the father of a St. Jane de Chantal 5th grader, just published his first book entitled, *The Day I Brought a Blue Alien to Homeroom*, and he shared

his excitement with students at the school. He visited grades 4 through 8 in the school on a day in December to give an overview of his book, in which all the proceeds from its sale will be donated to the charity, No Kid Hungry (www.nokidhungry.org). During his visit, Mr. Bichy not only informed them of the story and the writing process, but he also involved them in the giving process. He posed the question to students, "Why did he [the author] choose to use the name Greyville as the name of the middle school and town?" Students were given the opportunity to post their answers on a Readers Forum website hosted by Mr. Bichy, and in return he informed them he would donate \$100.00 to No Kid Hungry on behalf of the student with the best answer.

OPT

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

Susana and Mario Cerritelli,
OPT Editors



Members of the Neocatechumenal Way gather at Veterans Plaza in downtown Silver Spring.

Spreading the Good News

"We cannot keep ourselves shut up in parishes, in our communities, when so many people are waiting for the Gospel!" – Pope Francis

St. Michael's parishioners take Pope Francis' message to heart by praying vespers and giving personal testimonies at the Veterans Plaza in downtown Silver Spring. For the past 3 years, during Easter, the St. Michael's Neocatechumenal Way communities have been announcing the gospel in the plaza. While cantors sing and play instruments, many bystanders gather to hear the good news. As a result of this effort, many have had their faith strengthened, returned to the church or converted to Catholicism.

OPT

Annual Oyster and Bull Roast

Msgr. Tolentino enjoying himself with Knights of Columbus at the 2015 Oyster and Bull Roast. The 2016 Oyster and Bull Roast will be held Friday February 5, from 4:30PM to 8:00PM. For tickets call Charles Hayes at 301 806.8347.



MATH

Con't from page 14

school will be a-buzz with everyday math talk. Similar to the college basketball journey to the final four, Mercy students are participating in a round-robin tournament. Each class was "drafted" by a Catholic college basketball team. Now, each week, two class teams compete against each other with the winner being the class that completes the highest percentage of their weekly math challenge. The task is to complete

an extra 10-30 minutes of math five nights per week, depending on the grade level. The class with the most wins in March will be crowned mathematics champion. In addition to at-home assignments, teachers are also designing cross-curricular activities that incorporate math into other subject areas. Examples include reading and writing recipes and thinking mathematically about artwork. Students are having fun, playing as a team, and doing math, just like Dwayne Bryant.

OPT

WINTERFEST

Con't from page 23

has been Winterfest co-chair for the past few years, and "his business acumen adds immeasurably to the event." She also thanked Phil Kane for his work as "chief operating officer" of Winterfest. "We couldn't reach our goals without his tireless efforts."

She thanked Kathy Hinken and Pat Pitserski, "who do a tremendous amount of work on the Silent Auction," and Cat and Chuck Halpin, who as heads of the Bake Sale Team "help us to have the sweetest collection of goods to sell."

"I could go on and on from the office staff to the Treasure Chest committee, advertising committee, cork pull committee--all contribute in their unique way." Bottegall noted that Helene Stever "brought our youth group on board to collect Treasure Chest items ... and significant monetary treasure was eventually collected."

The Knights of Columbus Council No. 9808 came in for "special thanks" for "operating our food services."

"New pastor, Father Jeff Defayette, was supportive and even baked some goodies," Bottegall noted.

OPT



St. Michael's is Pro-Child • Pro-Woman • Pro-Family • PRO-LIFE!

St. Michael's Parish

805 Wayne Avenue
Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Msgr. Eddie Tolentino,
Pastor

301-589-1155

Joanie Heavey,
OPT Editor

301-5891155 ext. 21

St. Michael's parishioners placed 1,500 flags outside the parish to represent babies that have lost their lives to abortion. Each day 3,000 babies are aborted in the United States – each flag represents 2 babies. Members from the Service committee, Young Adults group, Sunday school children and other ministries assisted with placing the flags. The banner was stolen on January 18.

St. Michael's along with the

Lower Montgomery County Deanery participated in the annual March for Life on Friday, January 22, 2016.

If you have committed an abortion and are looking for healing, you are not alone. Visit www.hope-afterabortion.com or call 888-456-HOPE (4673).

OPT



CONNECTION

Con't from page 28

Cloudbreak Foundation, the Senior Connection announces the launch of its **Good Neighbor Fund**. This fund will allow us, for the first time ever, to guarantee scheduled rides when we cannot find a volunteer.

The Cloudbreak Foundation is a private foundation that offers support to organizations that provide immediate services to individuals in need. Specifically, the Foundation assists community-based charitable organizations in the Washington,

DC, metropolitan area, which promote welfare of children, the elderly and the homeless. For further information, visit www.cloudbreak-foundation.org. In December, 2015, this month the Senior Connection received a \$10,000 grant.

To learn more about Senior Connection's services and volunteer opportunities, go to www.seniorconnectionmc.org.

Donations are now being accepted to support Senior Connection's **Good Neighbor Fund**. Just \$35 can guarantee a ride for a senior neighbor to get to the doctor, stay healthy and age in place.

OPT



Mr. William Ryan, Superintendent of Catholic Schools, joined Mr. Spadoni and the St. Elizabeth school community as they gathered in the MAC to celebrate the birthday of Pope Francis with prayers, birthday wishes and 650 yellow and white cupcakes for students to enjoy. The cupcake colors represent the colors of the Vatican flag.



The St. Elizabeth School Community has collected 10,000 food items for the Greg Gannon Food Drive! A special thanks to our Event Chairs, Paula McKeon and Lorena Egan!

St. Elizabeth School Masses are a special time to come together as a community and pray for one another, for our community and for the world.



St. Elizabeth students in grades 5-8 enjoy their PE classes with a unit on Archery.



An A+ to all of our St. Elizabeth students for a phenomenal Christmas Concert and a moving Christmas Pageant reenacted by our 8th Graders. The morning reminded us of the real meaning of Christmas! Thank you, boys and girls, and thank you, Mrs. O'Neill, our wonderful music teacher!

HOURLY OF CODE

Con't from page 14

computer, math, science, and art classes. Each day was also filled with student robotic demonstrations, programming competitions, 3D printing, and Skyping with innovators across the United States.

Why get our students involved in the Hour of Code? Kitty Shadman, the technology coordinator, explains, "We started participating in the event last year. The students loved it and couldn't wait for us to participate again this year. When playing the programming activities on the Hour of Code website, many of our students find they had a special gift for the logic of coding. I have boys and girls coming up to me saying they really want to be

programmers when they grow up."

This year Mercy also added Sphero SPRK robotic balls to the fun. Seventh and eighth grade students worked on writing a series of commands for the robots to maneuver through an obstacle course. Concepts learned in their geometry and physics classes suddenly were not bits of information to memorize but tools to be used to succeed in a challenge.

A variety of guest speakers – ranging from NASA scientists to history simulation designers from iCivics.com – Skyped with students during the week. "One of the most exciting exchanges this year was when we Skyped with Pindar Van Arman who, while video conferencing with the students, allowed them to use his website cloudpainter.

com to take remote control of his portrait painting robot miles away. Speaking with Pindar and others around the world, our students see that whatever their passion, computer science can be applied," said Shadman.

Hour of Code organizers argue, "Computer science drives innovation throughout the US economy, but it remains marginalized throughout K-12 education. Only 27 states allow students to count computer science courses toward high school graduation. There are currently 604,689 open computing jobs nationwide. Last year, only 38,175 computer science students graduated into the workforce." At Mercy, we are preparing our students to face the future with excitement and skill.

OPT

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OPT Editor
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St. Elizabeth Parish 2016 Lenten Schedule

February 9

Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper
6-8pm

February 10

Ash Wednesday
Masses

7am, 8:30am, 11:30am, 6pm, 7:30pm

Wednesdays during Lent
Confessions
7:30-8:30pm

Fridays during Lent
Stations of the Cross
12 noon

Monday-Wednesday
March 7-9
Annual Lenten Retreat/Mission
featuring Fr. Patrick Hannon, CSC
7:30pm

Monday
March 14
Penance Service
7:30pm

Mass at St. Elizabeth's

Daily: Monday-Friday at 7am and 11:30am
Saturday at 9am

Weekend: Saturday at 5pm
Sunday at 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, 12:15pm, 6pm

ALL ARE WELCOME!

For further information, contact the Parish office:
301-881-1380 / office@StElizabethChurchMD.org



Danza Guadalupana de Maryland dancers honor Our Lady of Guadalupe

Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

By Juliana Ordoñez

Our traditional feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe this past December was amazing. Kids and adults participated for the same purpose, to honor Our Lady. The celebration started with a Mass in Spanish celebrated by Fr. Santiago Martin followed by Mariachis, a procession and a celebration at the Parish Center.

The feast included Mexican food, dancers and a children's performance. The dancers from *Danza Guadalupana de Maryland*; all members of one family, danced together dressed up in their native costumes. This group had its origin seven years ago as gratitude after the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe for the healing of one member of this family.

Children from Mother Seton and St. Raphael participated with *Guadalupe: The Miracle of the*



Children from Mother Seton and St. Raphael parishes at the performance: Guadalupe, Miracle of the Tepeyac

Tepeyac performance, where the story told about how Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego and the miracle that makes possible that large number of people around the world devoted to her. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, Pray for Us.

OPT



DeCesare family: Roland, Toni, Gina and Tessa

Four generations of one family serving at the Lord's Table

For the first time in 32 years

Since 1991, Mother Seton Parish has been serving meals at the Lord's Table Soup Kitchen at St. Martin's Church in Gaithersburg on the fourth Thursday of each month. What a blessing for our parish to

Continued on page 33

Joy to the World!

By Dorrette Paulin

With the arrival of the Advent season, parish organizations of Mother Seton Parish prepared to celebrate the birth of Our Lord with service and sharing. The Sodalists set up the Giving Trees with cards for gift requests for various charitable organizations in the area, members of the Social Concerns Committee sold alternative Christmas gifts, and the Squires sold wreaths to benefit the Seminarians.

In the meantime, the Seton Seniors (parishioners 50 years and over) arranged for their Annual Christmas lunch at the Dutch's Daughter in Frederick. On a warm December day, 58 members of the group and a few invited guests traveled 30 minutes north of Germantown for an afternoon of festivities that included an enjoyable meal, a gift exchange, caroling and door prizes.

With the season's celebrations now in motion, two weeks later, the Sodalists traveled to Emmitsburg to deliver the gifts from the Giving Tree to the Retired Daughters of Charity. The Sodalists were accompanied by 35 of our young parish-



Fr. Lou and Seton Seniors at the Annual Christmas lunch

ioners—confirmation candidates, high school students, and members of the youth choir along with their parents and siblings to perform a poetic version of the Nativity for the Sisters. Carols were interspersed after each verse. In all the years, of the Sodalists' Christmas visits to the Sisters, this was by far the largest group of children to perform; with standing room only in the community center. At the end of the program, the children sang one of the

Sisters' favorite carols, "Rudolph, The Red-Nosed Reindeer" with the witty parts; Rudolph's nose shining like a lightbulb and glows like a flashlight and "Let There Be Peace on Earth" and everyone was treated to cookies and punch. The Sisters, who are mostly retired teachers, enjoy the visit by the children, and the children and parents, in turn, look forward to their time with them.

OPT

Epiphany Celebration at Mother Seton

By Brenda Rosado, School of Religion in Spanish.

On Saturday, January 2, we had the celebration of Epiphany, which is the manifestation of Jesus as Son of God to the wise men that came from the east to worship and bring gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Seize to reflect on this teaching: The wizards represent all those who seek God's light, tirelessly follow their signals, and when they find Jesus Christ, cheerfully offer all they have. The Magi had faith in God. But believed what they saw and did not understand.

In life we must seek God tirelessly and give everything we have. We must be stars leading others to God. Epiphany celebrated in God's love is revealed to all men. God wants the happiness of the world. He loves each of us and has come to save everyone, regardless of nationality, color or race. It is a day of joy and thanksgiving because, seeing the light of the Gospel, we went out to meet Jesus, we found Him, and we pay our worship as magicians.



The Three Kings and children from Mother Seton celebrating the Epiphany of the Lord

Melchor, Gaspar and Baltasar gave offerings and processed at the end of the Mass with Father Santiago, worshiped the baby Jesus,

and presented him with gifts. Then the Magi handed out sweets to the children present.

OPT

Mother Seton Parish will host its Annual Black History Program

Sunday, February 28, at 2:30 PM

Mother Seton Parish Center
19951 Father Hurley Boulevard, Germantown.

The program will feature gospel music by Nativity Catholic Church Choir in Washington, D.C., St. Joseph's Choir in Lanham, GARBO and other local choirs.

Light refreshments will be served
All are welcome

Mother Seton Parish

19951 Fr. Hurley Boulevard
Germantown, MD

Fr. Lee Fangmeyer
Pastor

301-924-3838

Juliana Ordoñez
OPT Editor

Bulletin@Mothersetonparish.org

Fun, Food and Fellowship at Christmas Luncheon



Attired for the occasion, Jim Priestley (center) chats with Joe and Caterina Sparacino



Father Dan Leary and friends

On December 11, the Seniors' Group held its annual Christmas Luncheon in the Terrace Room at Leisure World. It was a happy time where seniors and their guests, including Father Dan Leary, Father Bill Wadsworth and several former parishioners, had a chance to visit with

old friends and make new ones.

After a delicious lunch, the festivities continued with the much anticipated Trivia contest. Our Master of Ceremonies asked the questions and there were many lively group discussions as each table attempted to agree on a correct

answer.

Thanks to all who helped make it a lovely afternoon, especially Mary Crummitt who arranged for the room, and Jim Priestley, our talented (and well dressed!) Master of Ceremonies.

OPT

NEW YEAR

Con't from page 21

living. The presentations offer a variety of careers to start our children thinking about what professions might await them.

Feb. 19: Second Grade Black History Museum brings to life in costume and presentation some of

the important people and events in the history of the African diaspora.

Feb. 29-March 4: Read Across America joins the nation in reading motivation and awareness to positively influence student achievement and the development of life-long skills.

March 18: SRS Science Fair explores scientific realms through research and discovery by our mid-

dle-school students.

April 16: SpringFest invites everyone for a night of food, games, and live music, all while building community and raising funds for the school. Save the date. Sponsorship opportunities are available!

For details about these events and more, visit our school website: www.straphaelschoolmd.org

OPT

Popular Pancake Breakfasts Continue

There's lots of action in the All Purpose Room on the second Sunday of each month. That's when members of the Knights of Columbus, Monsignor Thomas M. Wells Council #13008, don aprons and become chefs, cooking and serving delicious pancakes, eggs,

sausages and other goodies after the three morning Masses.

The breakfasts and accompanying Small Item Sale are a popular and much anticipated monthly event. Winter/Spring breakfasts are scheduled for February 14, March 13, April 10 and June 12.

OPT

LORD'S TABLE

Con't from page 32

be a part of this wonderful service to God's poor. Since the beginning, the DeCesare family has been blessed to be part of this team of volunteers working alongside of other Mother Seton parishioners and with Mary Canapary, the

foundress and leader of this beautiful ministry.

On Christmas Eve, one of our family had a landmark event, we had four generations of this family serving together. Roland, the great grandfather, who celebrated his 99th birthday in September, his daughter Toni Woods, Director of Social Concerns at MSP, Gina Woods Mastromarino, his grand-

daughter, Program Director of the Upper Montgomery Assistance Network, and his great granddaughter Tessa. Toni said: "How grateful we are to have had this opportunity on the eve of Christ's birth to feed our less fortunate brothers and sisters together as a family."

OPT

Gift Bags Benefit Many

For many years Rita Mazariegos has managed the "Christmas Stocking" project. Thanks to her and the generosity of many, this year's collection was an overwhelming success. In place of stockings, two hundred festive bags, filled with toiletries and other gift items were assembled and distributed to residents of Arcola, Manor Care, Inwood House and Caring Companions.

OPT

St. Mary



Christmas Spirit

Principal Debby Eisel and Father Chip greet children every morning at drop off but before Christmas break, Mrs. Eisel's elf hat drew quite a crowd. Complete with music and wiggly ears, the kids loved it. That spirit continued throughout the all-school performance of "Camel Lot" our Christmas program. The 8th graders had all the speaking parts while the other classes provided the musical backdrop. A goof time was had by all in attendance!

Door Decorating

The competition is fierce for St. Mary's annual door decorating contest. The only rule is that the kids have to design and create the concept themselves. This year, the 8th grade got creative with Santa holding a tray of cookies. He even had crumbs in his beard. The kindergarten class, some pictured here, gave this a big thumbs up!! Some of the alumni from the class of 2015 stopped by to see the results as well. St. Mary's school will always be their home!



Save the Date

The Parish Lenten Mission will take place Monday, February 29 through Wednesday, March 2. There will be inspiring talks, uplifting music, prayer, Confession and will close with Mass with Healing Prayers and Eucharistic Adoration. This will be a beautiful and moving opportunity to encounter Jesus in a more personal way.

OPT

St. Andrew Apostle Parish

11600 Kemp Mill Road
Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Daniel P. Leary, Pastor
301-649-3700 ext. 311

St. Andrew Apostle School
Susan M. Sheehan, Principal
301-649-3555

St Rose of Lima Second graders learn about the Sacraments

By Susan Joseph and Mary Zoccola

Catechists Jennifer Dreier and Meg Russell created “stations” to provide the children with a hands-on learning opportunity to understand the various elements of the Sacraments of Initiation. Faith Mentors Heather Jeffrey and Heather Locraft assisted in the classroom.

The liturgically-based, craft-oriented Stations focused on the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. The Baptism station featured water, oil, candles and a white garment. The Eucharist station had bread, a plate, wine and a cup. The Confirmation station taught the students about laying on of hands, anointing with oil, and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.



Second graders learn about the sacraments at a St. Rose religious education class. Photos by Heather Locraft



Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe Celebration

By Mary Zoccola

The St. Rose festival commemorating Our Lady of Guadalupe was held December 12. Called *Las Mañanitas a la Virgen de Guadalupe*, the festival recognizes a series of apparitions of the

Virgin Mary to a man in Mexico named Juan Diego during the 16th century. Juan Diego was a convert to Catholicism born under Aztec rule. Juan Diego saw Virgin Mary at Tepeyac Hill, the site of a former Aztec Temple. Virgin Mary wanted Juan Diego to work with the local bishop to build a temple for her to hear the prayers of the Mexican people. The Basilica of Guadalupe located there is one of the most visited Catholic shrines in the world.

At St. Rose, festival attendees sang many songs in honor of the Virgin Mary, which is the custom of at *Las Mañanitas*. Mass participants wore beautiful traditional costumes. About 150 people attended.



Above, singers wearing the traditional dress of Mexico each offered a song to the Virgin Mary, which is the custom of *Las Mañanitas a la Virgen de Guadalupe*. The men in the photo are part of a special group of singers who are originally from Mexico.

At right, statue of the Virgin Mary on display in the St. Rose Woodlands Room following the Mass celebrating *Mañanitas a la Virgen de Guadalupe*



St. Rose of Lima

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Gaithersburg, MD

Fr. Agustin Mateo
Pastor

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Mary Zoccola, Parish Editor

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240-401-0612

PILGRIMAGE

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incredible story that brings us closer to God. Father Calis's sermon talked about the Gospel of the day, in which Jesus eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners, scandalizing the pious people who were trying to figure out what Jesus was all about. As Father Calis said, however, our church is one for sinners who are being transformed into saints. He echoed Christ's call, "Come to me all who are burdened and I will give you rest," and reiterated Pope Francis's call to seek mercy from God and to be merciful toward one another. He concluded, "Put your hand in Christ's and He will lead you. Open your heart to Christ's love and grace, no matter what you have done in your life." After mass, pilgrims had the opportunity to experience God's mercy in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Finally, we gathered again in the downstairs space to partake in a wonderful lunch organized by parishioners Betty Brown and Maria Capobianco. Sandwiches, salads, chips, fruit, cookies, and drinks offered something for everyone. After our lunch and fellowship, pilgrims were able to tour the magnificent exhibit on Saint John Paul II, "A Gift of Love: The Life of Saint John Paul II," which uses print, audio-visual, and material displays to talk about the life and times, legacy and impact of this magnificent saint.

SJE pilgrims seemed to be universally pleased



Father Calis speaks to the pilgrims about relics in the Luminous Mysteries chapel.

with their experience. Charlotte (11) thought the mass was beautiful and was impressed by the message of God's mercy personified in St. John Paul II. Caroline (9) loved the mosaics and being able to learn more about the saint's life and times. Bill

McDermott called the Shrine a "must-see" and said he most enjoyed the parts of the exhibit that dealt with Saint John Paul II's time as pope. He called it a great opportunity for members of the parish to come together to pray and reflect on a saint we all "knew". Kate Comello took away a message of hope. She was impressed that so many parishioners would take hours on a Saturday to come together and worship the Lord. It left her feeling so hopeful about our parish family and all the work the Lord has in store for us. Santamaria Sessarego called the pilgrimage one of the best things she and her family have experienced as members of SJE. For her, personally, it rejuvenated her soul and spirit, while her six-year-old daughter Ariyana loved saying the rosary and seeing the mosaics. Santamaria's in-laws, who accompanied them, loved the tour and want to return soon. For me, visiting the Shrine is like a visit to an old and beloved friend and I come away so grateful that Saint John Paul II was the pope of my youth and young adulthood. I credit his call to "Be Not Afraid" as a formative part of my spiritual development and one of the things that solidified my identity as a Catholic Christian.

Father Calis and members of the Stewardship Committee, who jointly organized the pilgrimage should be very pleased with the ways in which the Saint John Paul II National Shrine moved and spiritually revitalized our pilgrims. It is a testament to the powerful witness of this giant of the 20th century that he still brings us closer to Christ to this day.

WALK

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Francis every morning. The second graders continue baking for others. The fifth graders have been knitting scarves in Art class and making sandwiches for the homeless. The third and seventh graders recently attended Adoration together and then talked about the gifts they have been given and what they are grateful for.

In preparation for their visit to the Doors of Mercy at the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the sixth graders have made posters of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. The Kindergarten class made cards to send to veterans, and everyone is trying their best to be compassionate and kind.

OPT

Thank You for a Successful Christmas Spirit Tree



"The Big Sort" – organizing gifts for transport to Assumption Parish

By Donna Zezzo, Parish Secretary

A thank you is due to Bobbie McLaughlin for coordinating our Spirit Tree again this year—the 24th year of the program. Bobbie has done it for several years and we appreciate her commitment to the needy families at Assumption Parish. Also, a thank you to the volunteers who helped Bobbie organize (affectionately called "the big sort") and transport the gifts.

A special thanks to all the parishioners who took a name, or names, off the tree, and shopped for the requested gifts. For some of the children, this was the only gift they received. There were over 500 gifts purchased and sent to Assumption Parish.

OPT



Coordinator Bobby McLaughlin keeping track of selections



The Christmas Tableau cast and the Children's Choir along with Father John

Children Did Their Part for Christmas

By Susan Anderson, Director Religious Education

The Religious Education Children again participated in the Christmas Stocking Help line and collected 100 gifts for families served by Catholic

Charities in Montgomery County. Also, on December 19, there was the Children's Christmas Tableau, with the Children's Choir, following the 5 pm Mass. An Advent Family Pasta Dinner and Social followed in the Parish Center.

OPT

KNOW ME

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King for a shorter period of time.

Leon Holley and his late wife Sylvia married in 1960 and came to Christ the King in 1969 from the District as their young family was beginning to expand. Their

sons, Rick and Sean made their Sacraments after Baptism at Christ the King in the 1970s while their daughter, Shaba was born here! Mr Holley was an Administrator in Washington, DC Public School System for 32 years which included being Teacher, Assistant Principal, Principal and Executive. After retirement he became a Lector in

1992 at Christ the King and served as well as a Chief Usher. His wife Sylvia died in 2014. Son Rick is a corporate officer for Nordstrom's in Denver, son Sean teaches in Rhode Island and daughter Shaba is the Associate Vice President of Columbia University.

OPT

It pays to advertise in Our Parish Times



Co-Coordinator Carol Lindsey at Alternative Christmas display after Mass

Alternative Christmas

By Pat O'Connor, Co-Coordinator

The St. Francis of Assisi Alternative Christmas Gift Program is still going strong after 15 years. Thanks to the generosity of our parishioners, we collected \$11,445 to support the good works of our participating charities – St. Francis Haiti Medical Mission, So Others Might Eat (SOME), St. Anne's Center for Families and Children, Heifer International, Little Sisters of the Poor, Montgomery Hospice, L'Arche, Salvadoran Enterprises for Women, and the Upper Montgomery Assistance

Network.

To make an alternative gift, individuals purchase a card from one of our participating charities which represents a service – such as antibiotics or malaria treatments for patients served by our St. Francis Haiti Medical Mission, or a flock of chicks for a family from Heifer, or transportation to a doctor's appointment for a teen mom at St. Anne's Center, or meals provided to clients at SOME. The card is then given to a friend, or loved one, as a present in their honor.

OPT



Preparing trees for display, left to right, Guy Federico, Bernie McGuire, and Scott Bleggi

Christmas Tree Sales Successful – Many Volunteers Involved

By Wayne Burnside, Chairman

Once again, St. Francis had a very successful season selling Christmas trees, as we earned a profit of \$11,291 for the parish. There were 79 different parishioners who braved the elements logging countless hours of volunteer service.

Special recognition goes to Gary DeBalso and Damien Clark, whose selfless sacrifice ensured our success, and to Carolyn Brauer whose team of decorators made stunningly beautiful wreaths that sold very quickly! Also, through the generosity of our customers, we were able raise \$735 for a needy families –

thanks to Steve McCully who once again made that happen.

OPT

**St. Francis
of Assisi Parish**

6701 Muncaster Mill Road
Derwood, MD

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

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**Rose Attig and John McCarthy,
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Mary of Nazareth



Sixth and Seventh-grade students being honored at their induction into NJHS.

New Members Inducted into National Junior Honor Society

Mary of Nazareth School would like to congratulate and welcome the following inductees into its Chapter of the National Junior Honor Society:

Seventh Grade:

Erik Carvajal
Antonio Checchia

Daniel DeLude
Kylie Ly
Ileana Plummer
Brendan Shea
Ava Zamora

Sixth Grade:

Jennifer Albero
Claire Beucher
Harrison Cerone
Peter Chamoun

Olivia Choi
Stephanie Duque
Madalyn Engel
Alexa Fabi
Noelle Hailu
Michael Hennies
Eduard Ioana
Evan Kelly
Emily LaRochelle
Matthew Magtibay
Margaret McIntyre
Elizabeth Miller

Fiona O'Connell
Brenden Pauline
Aidan Rafferty
Kiley Rutland
Mackenzie Saum
Andrew Schaefer
Hannah Schneider
Garrett Schuppner
Kendra Soewandi
John Staton
Angela Tran
Maya Yapur

Technology Time: MoN Participates in 'Hour of Code' Challenge

The 'Hour of Code' movement has gone viral, and Mary of Nazareth students, along with students across the globe, accepted the challenge. 'Hour of Code' invites students to complete one (1) hour of computer programming with the intent of showing that anyone can learn the basics of computer science.

Technology teacher, Melissa Davis, took on the endeavor to engage students in the movement across grade levels, explaining, "The students at Mary of Nazareth have been completing the 'Hour of Code' which is a national movement to get students interested in coding at an early age. The program guides students through the coding process using celebrities and computer scientists." While many students were initially intimidated by the idea of coding, Ms. Davis found that they were so excited with their progress, they did not want to leave computer class after the hour was complete. Students that participated in the 'Hour of Code' were given a certificate, acknowledging their successful completion of the challenge.

Students who want more than just an hour of code have the opportunity to grow and hone their coding skills after school during Computer Club. Parent volunteer, Bob Nonnenkamp, directs the club with Ms.



Nicholas Laffey, fifth grade, shows his excitement during Hour of Code.

Davis' assistance on Wednesdays after school. For one hour students of different levels learn coding with a program called Scratch. Davis says of the club, "We even have some students that are working on coding a robot right now." Computer Club went on a brief hiatus during the Christmas holiday, and has started up again with school back in session. While Computer Club is currently open to fourth through eighth grades, Mary of Nazareth anticipates starting another club for grades Kindergarten through third grades this spring.

OPT

All God's Children

The Upcounty Community Resources group has been enjoying the rich, diverse cultural entertainment that Montgomery County has to offer. Our group went to see Footloose at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater in Rockville on November 7. The evening began with a fund raising event at California Tortilla in the Rockville Town Center where we ate healthily and received a percentage of the proceeds to support our programs.

In December, 90 of us went to see Guys and Dolls at the Olney Little Theater. The show was amazing and we had great seats and at a special discount price. Thank you OLT! After the show we went to eat at Sol Azteca in Olney where we enjoyed excellent food and beverages.

On Sunday, January 3, our group gathered at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Derwood to celebrate the Gift of All God's Children. Although this was a Catholic holy day and mass, Father John welcomed all persons to join together



in fellowship and worship to honor all persons regardless of abilities. Deacon Dan Finn gave a beautiful and spiritually moving homily in which he reminded us all of the special grace with in each of us when we are open to God's love.

Mass participants included—**Readers:** Stephanie Suggs, Ryan Laverty; **Prayers of the Faithful:** Becky Birch, Ana Bradley, Shannon Lyons, Kathleen Maloney, Evan Rosen, Rachel Seipp, Jennifer

Shannon, Connor O'Shaughnessy; **Ushers:** Tyler Brown, Patrick Jones, Michael Hamm, Sean Hume, Joe Myers, Steve Sabia; **Gift Bearers:** Mathew Datovech, Danny Fitzgerald, Clair Kearny, Matt Wilhelm; **Altar Servers:** Ramon DePaula, Meghan Jones; **Greeters:** Amy Christopher, Kobe Cudjoe, Aly Ritzman, Meghan Stein, Siham Amir; **Distributed Bulletins:** Rodrigo Perez, Mathew Ross

OPT

St. Martin of Tours



Boy Scout Troop 926 celebrated its newest Eagle Scout, Alonso Diaz, pictured here with Scoutmaster Mr. Adzema. Alonso's Eagle Scout project involved reconditioning several benches and their foundations near the boat center in Seneca Creek State Park. Photo courtesy of Greg Cooksey



Girl Scout Troop 274 visited Asbury Methodist Village in December to sing Christmas carols for the residents. Photo courtesy of Catherine Cooksey

Catholic Lobby Night 2016
February 9 – NEW Date and NEW format!

Lobby Night is an opportunity for Maryland constituents to meet with their State legislators and share the Catholic viewpoint on issues before the General Assembly.

This year Lobby Night will be Shrove Tuesday, February 9, 2016, from 3-8 p.m. The new format includes a reception in the Miller Office Building for participants, bishops and other Catholic leaders and all members of the General Assembly.

Lobby Night is one of the best attended advocacy events in Annapolis, and gathering everyone in one place will also demonstrate the great turnout we have every year when hundreds of Catholics show up in Annapolis!

The new format will include:

- Streamlined briefing at St. John Neumann Mission Church, Annapolis (3-4:30 p.m.)
- Shuttles to the state office

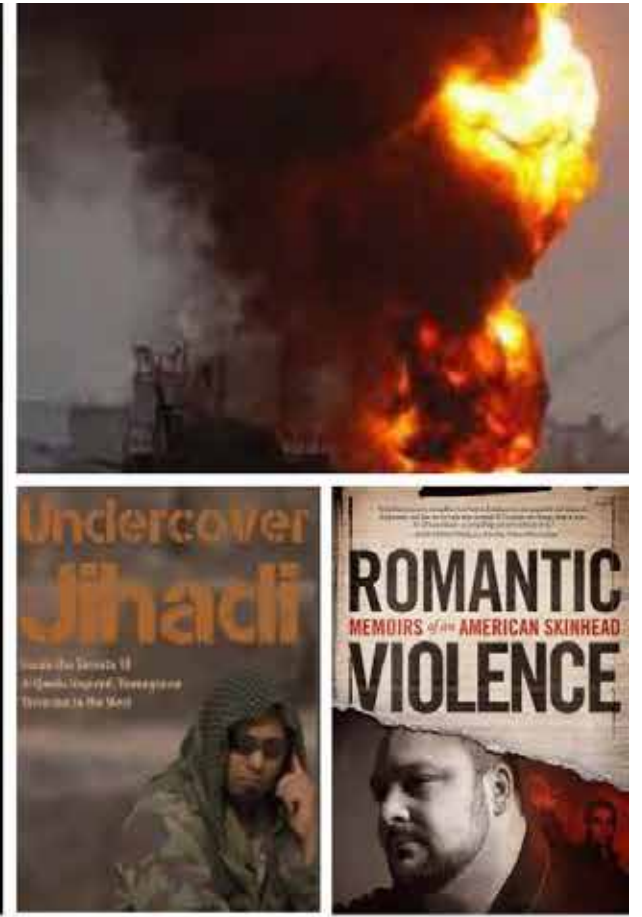
- buildings (beginning at 4:30)
- Visits with legislators to deliver postcards and discuss the Church's stance on issues (5-6 p.m.)
- Dinner reception with legislators (6-7:30 p.m.)
- Short "Next Steps" presentation from Conference staff (7:30 p.m.)
- Shuttles available back St. John Neumann Mission Church (7:30-8:30 p.m.)

Important Note: We will NOT be making appointments this year. Your legislators will be alerted that you will be visiting their offices between 5-6 p.m. If you don't see them in their offices, you will at the reception! Let's show the General Assembly hundreds of Catholics packing the Senate Office building!

The event is free but you must register in advance. To register, go to: www.mdcathcon.org/lobbysnight

OPT

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IS SOMEONE RECRUITING OUR KIDS?

With over 900 active investigations against suspected ISIS-inspired operatives and other homegrown violent extremists – the threat of recruitment and radicalization of our youth is greater than ever before. WORDE invites you to join this timely event.

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Author, *Romantic Violence, Memoirs of an American Skinhead*

Mubin Shaikh

Author, *Undercover Jihadi: Inside the Toronto 18, Al Qaeda Inspired, Homegrown, Terrorism in the West*

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International Cultural Center's Crossroads Program Director

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Above, Installation of Pastor. The formal installation of Rev. Jerzy Frydrych, S.Chr., as Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Poland & St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish, Silver Spring, Maryland, by Cardinal Donald Wuerl took place at the Parish on Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015.



Above, OLQP parishioner Marian Mols is pictured here with his wife Janina at the Polish Christmas Dinner "Oplatek" on Jan. 10, 2016. Mr. Mols celebrated his 90th birthday on Christmas Day 2015. He received a congratulatory card signed by many parishioners. We wish him "Sto Lat!"

At left, a relic of St. John Paul II, gifted by Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, Poland, was unveiled on Dec. 6, 2015, at the installation of OLQP Pastor Rev. Jerzy Frydrych, S.Chr., by Cardinal Wuerl. The Parish of Our Lady Queen of Poland owes its existence to the intercession of St. John Paul II when he visited the Washington, DC, area in the 1970's when he still was known as Cardinal Karol Wojtyla.



OLQP Parish Christmas Carols "Koledy" Concert

Above, the annual Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish "Koledy" Carols Concert took place after Mass on January 3, 2015. It was organized and directed by parish organist Janusz Bilinski. Adult and youth members of the choir participated in singing carols and playing on various instruments with Mr. Bilinski.

Jerzy Terajewicz, RIP

By Krystyna Nasiegniewska

In the early evening of January 8, 2016, a wonderful man died in the company of his wife after a short illness.

Jerzy (Jurek or George), as he was known, was preceded in death by his wife, Alicja Wanda Terajewicz (Lila), nee Warszawska, the mother of his children. He is survived by his wife, Krystyna Nasiegniewska, daughter Ania (William) Waller, son Chris (Ru-Hong) Terajewicz, six grandchildren Cara (Robbie) Wright, Davina (Viran) Ranasinghe, Erin Waller, Halina Terajewicz, Alex Terajewicz, Andrew Terajewicz, and Krystyna's daughter Agnieszka Dudrak.

Jerzy was born in Krakow, Poland and lived through the most tumultuous times of the 20th century. After surviving exile and imprisonment in Siberia during World War II, he immigrated first to England, where he married Lila, then to Canada and eventually onward to the United States. He pursued a career as an aeronautical engineer



OLQP Parishioner Jerzy Terajewicz (1923-2016). May he rest in peace!

with American Airlines. Jerzy was among the pioneers who developed computerized flight planning systems and was instrumental in transitioning the airline industry into the jet age. Throughout his life, Jurek was an avid sailor and was active with the US Power Squadron on Long Island. Upon moving to Silver Spring, Maryland he became an active member of the parish at Our Lady Queen of Poland, Silver Spring, Maryland where he was a lector.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held for him on Saturday, January 16, 2016, at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish in Silver Spring, Maryland. In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Jurek were directed to Friends of John Paul II Foundation, Inc., Washington, D.C. Chapter, whose mission is to "promote the legacy, ideals and teachings of Saint John Paul II." **OPT**

Annual OLQP Christmas Dinner "Oplatek"



On January 10, 2016, Our Lady Queen of Poland parishioners and friends celebrated our annual "Oplatek" Christmas Dinner. Parish Council President Izabela Macander welcomed everyone. The afternoon began with the "Jaselka" Nativity Play put on by the OLQP Parish Polish Saturday School. After the prayer and blessings offered by OLQP Pastor Rev. Jerzy Frydrych, everyone sought out others with whom to share their "oplatek" Christmas wafer and to wish them well in the New Year. This was followed by a delicious dinner. Throughout the afternoon, the Ojczyzna Dance Troupe from Baltimore showcased traditional Polish dances and carols. Later on in the program, they led the audience in dancing the Polonaise with them!



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The Good Friday Collection

Providing Care to Christians in the Holy Land

Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in every Catholic church to support the people and places of the Holy Land.

Christians of the Holy Land rely heavily on the help that comes to them during this special moment of the year.

The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility of caring for the Holy Places as well as caring for the Christians living in the Holy Land. It is important that we care for the Christians living in the Holy Land in order to maintain a Christian presence in a land that is filled with a majority Jewish and Islamic population.

The Good Friday Collection is applied to these programs:

Faith, Memory & Culture – The Holy Places

Holy Land Franciscans staff and maintain the Holy places and shrines. This enables those who live in the Holy Land and those who visit to deepen their faith and their spiritual and cultural connection to Salvation history.

Social & Charitable Activities

In order to assist Christians to remain in the Holy Land, including the poor and young couples, the Custody builds thousands of residential units. Additionally, they build senior care facilities. Medical

assistance is provided for the needy.

Educational & Scientific Activities

The Franciscans operate and support schools open to all, regardless of religion or nationality. They provide scholarships for students to prepare them to get jobs and remain in the Holy Land as part of living Catholic communities. Funds are distributed to young men studying to become Franciscan priests or brothers. Finally, Franciscan archaeologists pursue ongoing research at the Holy Places discovering historical artifacts.

Pastoral Activities

The Franciscans provide pastoral care in 29 parishes in the Holy Land offering Worship, Christian Formation, youth and family programs.

Liturgical, Ecumenical and Communications Programs

The Franciscan Media Center tells the story of the Holy Land through multimedia distributed throughout the world in more than seven languages. The friars organize Liturgical Celebrations for the local Christians and Pilgrims and share with other Christian communities in the Holy Land in ongoing Ecumenical cooperation.

OPT

2016 Annual Women's Conference: “Divine Mercy – in Prayer and Action”

Sponsored by the Office of Family Life and the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women

Saturday, February 27, 2016
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Elizabeth Seton High School
5715 Emerson St.
Bladensburg, MD



Join women from across the Archdiocese as they enjoy fellowship, timely presentations, Mass, Confession and Divine Mercy chapel. Also included: morning coffee and rolls, box lunch and numerous faith-filled exhibitors.

There will be English and Spanish tracks. The keynote speak-

er in English is Msgr. Charles Pope, Pastor of Holy Comforter/St. Cyprian, in Washington. The keynote speaker in Spanish is Fr. Juan Puigbo, Associate Pastor of All Saints Church, Diocese of Arlington.

The cost is \$40. No registrations

at the door.

For more information visit www.adw.org/womensconference or contact Maria Suarez Hamm, Office of Hispanic Family Life and Leadership, Archdiocese of Washington, at 301-853-4499 or mhamm@adw.org.

OPT

Cardinal Dolan Calls Pro-Life Movement to Spread ‘A Vision of Life and Love’ - Roe v. Wade Anniversary Statement

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York called on everyone “concerned about the tragedy of abortion” to recommit to a “vision of life and love, a vision that excludes no one” on January 14. His statement marked the 43rd anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. Cardinal Dolan chairs the Committee on Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“Most Americans oppose a policy allowing legal abortion for virtually any reason – though many still do not realize that this is what the Supreme Court gave us,” wrote Cardinal Dolan. “Most want to protect unborn children at later stages

of pregnancy, to regulate or limit the practice of abortion, and to stop the use of taxpayer dollars for the destruction of unborn children. Yet many who support important goals of the pro-life movement do not identify as ‘pro-life,’ a fact which should lead us to examine how we present our pro-life vision to others.”

“Even as Americans remain troubled by abortion,” wrote Cardinal Dolan, a powerful and well-funded lobby holds “that abortion must be celebrated as a positive good for women and society, and those who cannot in conscience provide it are to be condemned for practicing substandard medicine and waging a ‘war on women.’” He said this trend

was seen recently when President Obama and other Democratic leaders prevented passage of the Abortion Non-Discrimination Act, “a modest measure to provide for effective enforcement” of conscience laws.

“While this is disturbing,” said Cardinal Dolan, “it is also an opportunity.” Pro-life Americans should reach out to “the great majority of Americans” who are “open to hearing a message of reverence for life.” He added that “we who present the pro-life message must always strive to be better messengers. A cause that teaches the inexpressibly great value of each and every human being cannot show disdain or disrespect for any fellow human being.”

OPT

Maryland Bishops Call for Compassion in Addressing Refugee Crisis

The Catholic bishops of Maryland join their voices with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and state Catholic Conferences throughout the country in calling for our nation and our state to welcome those fleeing persecution in other countries, including refugees seeking asylum from Syria. To deny certain groups access to a safe haven based on their religion or country of origin is contrary to the principles of fairness and compassion that have been the foundation of our nation’s character. Upholding these principles does not conflict with maintaining the safety of our nation, which has always been a paramount priority of the U.S. refugee resettlement process.

Maryland is home to the national headquarters of Catholic Relief Services, which has a rich history of serving potential refugees in their native land, and firsthand knowledge of the brutal oppression that innocent families endure at the



hands of terrorist groups such as ISIS. In solidarity with the many Catholic agencies that serve the persecuted throughout the world, the Catholic Church in Maryland, through our Catholic Charities agencies and other ministries, stands ready to offer our assistance to these families. We urge all Marylanders to consider their plight with an open heart, and to learn more about the multiple layers of interviews and security checks these refugees must undergo in order to resettle in our country.

The Maryland Catholic Conference represents the mutual public policy interests of the Catholic (arch)dioceses serving Maryland, including the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Archdiocese of Washington, and the Diocese of Wilmington.

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THE 20TH ANNUAL

Patricia Sullivan Benefit Dinner

For Potomac Community Resources, Inc.

Saturday, April 16, 2016

Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center

Cocktails 6:30 pm

Dinner, Awards, & Dancing 7:30 pm

Featuring the Music of Michael Cavanaugh

His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl, S.T.D.

Archbishop of Washington

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Father Bill Byrne, Pastor

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

For details contact Steve Riley at sriley@pcr-inc.org

PCR is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

About Potomac Community Resources, Inc. Since 1994 Potomac Community Resources, Inc. (PCR) has provided therapeutic, social, educational, and respite care programs for teens and adults with developmental differences. PCR's dynamic, innovative programs are designed to encourage our members' personal growth, friendships, and healthy lifestyles, and to provide support to their family members and caregivers. PCR programs include music, fitness and movement, respite care for individuals with significant and moderate care needs, discussion groups for men and women, communication skills, basketball, art, a social club, photography, information sessions for parents of transitioning youth, and many special events throughout the year.



Named "one of the best small charities
in the Greater Washington region."



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