



OUR Parish Times

Special Graduation Issue

MAY 2015

Living the Faith Together

FREE

Blessed Summer



Chuck Short

By Chuck Short

I'm a Doubting Thomas. I was beginning to think that spring would never come and that we would move directly from a long, bitter winter into a hot, humid summer. But as sure as Christ

walked from the tomb as promised, the daffodils burst through the soil and the joy of these resurrections has filled my heart and nurtured my faith. I hope the spring brings you joy as well.

Among springtime blessings to celebrate is the ordination of our newest Auxiliary Bishop, Mario Dorsonville. Many of us know Bishop Dorsonville from his years of service and residency at Our Lady of Lourdes and Our Lady of Mercy. There's a story about the Bishop's early arrival to the US from Columbia. When Fr Dorsonville was being assigned to a parish in Washington, he was sent to a mostly Spanish speaking parish since he spoke very little English. Fr Dorsonville objected saying how will never learn English unless he is immersed in the

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Remember, God will Provide



Rev. Msgr. John Enzler

By Rev. Msgr. John Enzler

I love this time of year in the Church – with four Great Sunday Feast days in a row, there is so much opportunity for reflection and celebration in the Church. And, at a time when locally there seems to

be so much bad news and hard issues confronting us, I think that's just what we need.

Part of the timeless appeal of the Church, after more than two thousand years, remains that it's most sacred traditions and celebrations come and go no matter what the day's headlines might be. This month, we celebrate the Ascension of Christ to sit with the Father (May 17), Pentecost (May 24), Trinity Sunday (May 31), and finally Corpus Christi (June 6).

Even as our community faces hard reality all over, including the riots and struggle for impoverished communities in Baltimore (everywhere, really) to feel hope, I know that good news is happening. It doesn't make the evening news very often, because we trust our local news to bring us issues we need to deal with. But as we mark these four feasts, especially Pentecost, I have only to look to Catholic Charities work across Montgomery County and beyond to see that the Disciples

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St. Elizabeth School Breaks the Record!

On a bright sunny spring afternoon on Friday, April 17, nearly 1,200 people gathered on the front lot of St. Elizabeth School to help ring in history! The attempt: breaking the current record in the Guinness Book of World Records for the Most People Wearing Cat in the Hat hats. Thanks to the hard work and organizational talents of our Event Chair, Mrs. Joetta Asher, our attempt came off without a hitch! Without a doubt, it was a memory that will remain with all of those in attendance! In the words of Dr. Seuss, "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened."

Special thanks to our students, teachers, parents, grandparents, parishioners, family members, and friends for their participation in this Dr. Seuss event! History was made at our parish school!

OPT

Best Buddies Maryland Honors Holy Cross

The Academy of the Holy Cross was named "Best New Chapter" by Best Buddies Maryland. The award was presented during a special ceremony held at Towson University on Saturday, April 11. Moderators of the Holy Cross chapter Emily Montgomery and Kristen Pawlowski and officer Theresa Brogan '18 attended the event.

Holy Cross formed the Best Buddies club last fall with the re-introduction of the "Moreau Options Program," a modified inclusive academic program for young women with intellectual disabilities. This program supports the belief that students with special needs, like all students, deserve the same opportunities to maximize their academic, social and spiritual potential.

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Front row (l to r): Theresa Brogan '18, Samantha Copeland '18, Kaitlin Novak '16. Back row (l to r): Principal Melissa Huey-Burns, Kristen Pawlowski, Erin Hicks '17, Lucy Pawlowski '16, Lauren O'Leary '17, Sarah Mangan '16, Emily Montgomery, President Katy Prebble

Jim Nalls Retires from St. Jane de Chantal Choir Over 50 Years of Music Ministry



Long time St. Jane de Chantal parishioner, Jim Nalls, shown here with his family at the baptism of his son, John, and in a recent photo with his wife Joan.

In March of 2015, James T. Nalls, Sr., advised St. Jane de Chantal's Music Director, Mr. Russell Weismann, that he was stepping down from the adult choir after over 50 years of service to the St. Jane's Music Ministry. Jim is the son of J. Willard Nalls, Sr. and Edna Nalls, one of the original 267 founding families of St. Jane de Chantal Parish. Jim's parents assisted Monsignor James Caulfield in founding the parish in 1950 to support the growing Bethesda Catholic community. Willard served as the first head of the ushers and Edna as the first president of the Sodality.

After college, marriage, and time as parishioner in the Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Jim returned to St. Jane de Chantal Parish with his wife Joan on August 5, 1961 when they moved into their new home in the Fernwood community of Bethesda. On August 8th, the couple welcomed their 6th son, Danny, and on Sunday, August 12th, Jim sang for the first time with the adult choir at St. Jane! This began a long and

Continued on page 45

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Georgetown Prep '76
De Chantal '72
Past President, Catholic Business Network – MC

Dominic Cipollone
Mother Seton

Dana Evans
Holy Redeemer Parish

Vanessa Smith-Terrell
St. John the Evangelist

Michelle Fegan
St. Patrick

Adam Giegel
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High School Senior named Outstanding Youth Volunteer

Edward Yao Recognized for Service with Teens and Adults with Developmental Differences

Potomac Community Resources, Inc. (PCR), the Montgomery County organization which provides programs for teens and adults with developmental differences, recently named Edward Yao 2015 Outstanding Youth Volunteer. The 17-year-old Winston Churchill High School senior received this award March 21 at PCR's Annual Patricia Sullivan Benefit Dinner.

"Eddie has demonstrated a commitment to volunteer every weekend, which means a lot to the boys and parents," said Christy Sadler, whose twin sons are PCR program participants. "Eddie is engaged, kind and a mentor for the boys as a team player."

In 2013 Yao began his service at PCR with the M&T Bank Basketball Program, which is open to PCR members at all skill levels. He continued with PCR during his senior year, even with demanding activities of his own, including swimming, managing homework and preparing college applications. In addition to his volunteer award, Yao received the 2015 Governor's Merit Award for academic achievement.



Left to Right, Joan Sullivan, Edward Yao and Jim Sullivan at PCR's 19th Annual Patricia Sullivan Benefit Dinner. Joan and Jim Sullivan are Parishioners at Our Lady of Mercy in Potomac.

Yao said his involvement with the PCR basketball program has given him a great opportunity to interact with members of the community while doing something he really loved. "This experience has shown me the importance of community service and the joy that volunteer-

ing can bring to the participants in PCR programs," he said.

Yao resides in Potomac, Md., with his parents, Jiaqin (Jack) Yao and Na Jin. In the fall, Yao will be studying engineering at Duke University.

OPT

Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County

May Evening Reception

The Board of Directors of the Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County invites you to its next Evening Reception at Bethesda Blues & Jazz on Wednesday, May 20, 2015 from 5:00pm-7:00pm.

Register online today at: www.cbnmc.com/

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2015

- 2015 Annual CBN-MC

Scholarship Fund Golf Outing

Blue Mash Golf Course in Laytonsville

Thursday, October 8, 2015 - 8:00am

November 2015

- 22nd Annual CBN-MC Gala

Friday, November 20, 2015 - 6:30pm

Honoring Our Youth Coaches

On April 28, CBN-MC held our sixteenth annual Youth Coaches

Hall of Fame Luncheon where we honored three volunteer coaches who have dedicated countless hours to youth sports in their parishes and communities. The time, effort and talent that each of these individuals contributes to coaching instills values in our young athletes that will guide them throughout their lives.

This year's honorees were Kerry Durst from St. Raphael's, Roger Kimiecik from St. Mary's, and Jack McGuness from Little Flower.

John Treseler did an outstanding job as the emcee again this year. He introduced each inductee by sharing how they got into coaching, what keeps them coaching, and their coaching philosophies. Among some of the most memorable comments were the emphasis on sportsmanship and succeeding (which is not necessarily synonymous with winning) and the importance of making sure that the athletes are still having fun. Bruce Kelley, head varsity basketball coach at Bullis School, was this year's keynote speaker and provided numerous anecdotes from his years of coaching. I'd like to express my thanks to Alex Excheandia, Rob Scanlon, and Pete Hodgson for planning and organizing this inspiring event this year.

OPT

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Ways to Help with the Nepal Earthquake Crisis

Catholic Relief Services

■ Donate Online: donate.crs.org/Nepal

■ Donate by Mail: Mail checks to P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21297-0303.

Please write "Nepal Earthquake" on the memo line

■ Donate by Phone: Call 877-HelpCRS to make a credit card donation to CRS over the phone.

Photo courtesy of Edyta Stepczak, Caritas



How to Help People in Need in Baltimore

The recent unrest in Baltimore has captured the attention of Catholics throughout the Archdiocese of Baltimore who wish to offer prayers and other forms of support for those directly impacted, as well as those who are suffering from the underlying issues that surfaced during the recent protests.

The Archdiocese of Baltimore has established a fund, Faith in Baltimore, which will provide funds

to inner city parishes attempting to meet emergency and long-term needs of people in the communities they serve. Parishes throughout the Archdiocese took up a collection at Masses the weekend of May 9-10. People may also contribute directly by sending a check payable to the Archdiocese of Baltimore to Archdiocese of Baltimore, Fiscal Services, 320 Cathedral Street Baltimore, MD 21201. **OPT**

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Front row (l to r): Principal Melissa Huey-Burns, Caroline Long '15, Samantha Heavner '15, Eileen Murphy '16, Emily Moore '16, SADD Moderator Linda Ruszkowski.

Back row (l to r): President and CEO of WRAP Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP Board of Directors member Todd Heavner, GEICO Public Relations Specialist Mike Young, Kathie Durbin.

Holy Cross SADD Club Honored

The Academy of the Holy Cross SADD Club received the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP) 2015 GEICO Student Award – one of only five groups in the area to receive the award. This is the third year that Holy Cross' club has been honored.

The GEICO Student Awards are presented to high school groups in the Washington-metropolitan area and are judged by a panel of area substance abuse professionals. Groups are judged on their leadership, effectiveness, innovation and involvement of both student body and community in their efforts to

prevent underage drinking.

Kurt Gregory Erickson, President and CEO of WRAP presented the award plaque and a \$1,000 check at a special assembly hosted by the Holy Cross SADD Club.

During the assembly, Kathie Durbin, Division Chief of Licensure, Regulation and Education for the Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control, spoke to the students about her work assisting

the business community with legislative issues and local policies. She also shared the latest trends and statistics in underage drinking and ways that Montgomery County is working to protect young people from harmful influences of alcohol. Kathie holds leadership roles on local, statewide and national alcohol related boards. She is also the mother of Samantha '13, Elizabeth, and Kate '19.

OPT



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Eighth Grade Class of 2015



Jack Andrews
Gonzaga
Don't sweat the small stuff.



Michelle Aukward
Visitation
There is no elevator to success. You have to take the stairs.



Gonzalo Bartoli Piñero
Gonzaga
If you don't have anything smart to say, then keep thinking.



Sebastian Beck
St. John's
You miss 100% of the shots you don't take.



Ava Brugger
Madeira
Nothing is impossible. The word itself says 'I'm Possible.'



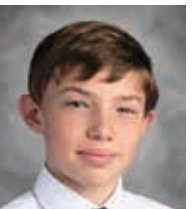
Grace Carlsen
Holy Child
She believed she could, so she did.



Helen Carter
Stone Ridge
There's no future for people who worship the future, and forget the past.



Joshua Castor
St John's
It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.



Matthew Cauley
Walt Whitman
Be bold! Build your cities at the foot of Vesuvius.



Anya Crawford
St. John's
Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there.



Emily Dimond
Holy Cross
You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.



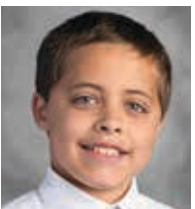
Jackie Edwards
Gaithersburg HS
Be yourself, because everyone else is taken.



Courtney Fanning
Stone Ridge
Always look for the silver lining.



Lillie Fenerty
Walter Johnson
Always keep your face towards the sunshine; the shadows will fall behind you.



Joseph Fernandez
Walter Johnson
No matter what happens, never give up.



Alexis Fuhrman
Holy Child
The best way to predict the future is to create it.



Olivia Fuster
Holy Cross
If you can dream it, you can do it.



Kaitlin Geary
Visitation
Today's special moments are tomorrow's memories.



Kylie Guelcher
Visitation
Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.



Mickey Gutierrez
Georgetown Prep
The future starts today, not tomorrow.



Isabelle Heintz
St. John's
'Fear' is just an acronym that stands for 'false evidence appearing real.'



Joe Janaskie
North West Catholic HS
Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.



Stephen Jasinski
St. John's
Sometimes you win, sometimes you learn.



Matthew Jenkins
Georgetown Prep
If you are not going to do it right, don't do it at all.



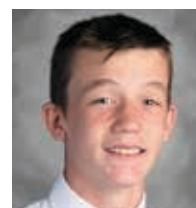
Lucas Jung
Gonzaga
Growing up is like walking through a dark room: You don't know what will happen, you just know that it will happen.



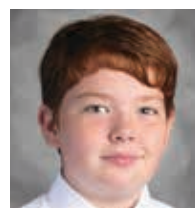
Karolina Kalszt
Holy Cross
In the end, we only regret the chances we didn't take.



Lauren Kane
Walter Johnson
If you're brave enough to say goodbye, life will reward you with a new hello.



Matthew King
Gonzaga
No mistakes in life, only lessons.



Stephen Kish
Good Counsel
Today, you are You, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is Youer than You.



Julia Koscelnik
Holy Cross
Nothing is impossible; the word itself says "I'm possible!"



Bianca Kriznik
Bethesda-Chevy Chase HS
You're never too old to try.



Andrew Lennon
Gonzaga
Strive for Greatness.



Molly Linder
Stone Ridge
Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird.



Matthew Lingle
The Heights
Dream as if you live forever, live as if you only have today.



Julianne Madden
Good Counsel
Put faith in God and then in yourself.



Maggie Maynard
Visitation
If your dreams don't scare you, they aren't big enough.



Lauren McDermott
Holy Cross
It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving.



Carter McKaig
Gonzaga
Don't take life too seriously.



Kate McLoughlin
St. John's
Own the ground you walk on, and let no one walk all over you.



Annie Myers
Holy Cross
Don't cry over the past; it's gone. Don't stress over the future; it hasn't arrived. Live in the present and make it beautiful...



Courtney Okwara
Holy Cross
Be yourself; everyone else is taken.



Esteban Ortiz-Morales
Wootton HS
When the going gets tough, you got to get going.



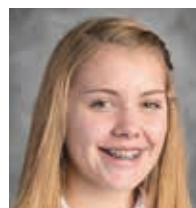
Robert T. Poch
Wondo HS
The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.



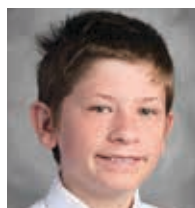
Joe Royston
Gonzaga
Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence.



Maggie Ryan
Holy Cross
Live every day like it is your last.



Sophie Ryan
St. John's
Some people live more in 20 years than others do in 80; it's not the time that matters, it's the person.



Misha Suttora
Churchill HS
The only thing to fear is fear itself.



Sam Watt
Springbrook HS
Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country.



Camille Werth
Stone Ridge
Life is what you make it.



Gemma Westrick
Holy Cross
Anybody, no matter how small, can make a difference.



Olivia Young
Holy Cross
Whatever the mind can conceive and believe, it can achieve.



Maxime Zelenko
Lycee Rochambeau
You only live once.

Fr. Samuel Giese
Pastor

Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton
Principal

9525 Old Georgetown Road
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www.dechantal.org



Holy Thursday – a Special Joined Celebration

On Holy Thursday, St. Jane de Chantal Parish joined its sister parish St. Louis de France for a beautiful Holy Thursday Mass celebration. To commemorate Our Lord's Last Supper, the two parishes held a bilingual mass. The readings alternated in French and English, with translations in the program that was used for the mass. The music was in French, English and Latin. Most people agree that it was the most beautiful Holy Thursday mass celebration in the church's history.

OPT



Father Jean-Marie Vincent of St. Louis de France and Father Samuel Giese of St. Jane de Chantal wash the feet of their parishioners during this most memorable Holy Thursday Mass.



The Mass brought the two parishes together beautifully by weaving English, French, and Latin into the readings, music, and liturgy.

Happenings In Our Blue Ribbon School

The St. Jane de Chantal Dash

The St. Jane de Chantal Dash was huge success! Over 700 participants braved the chilly temps to join in the third annual Dash. Enthusiasm was high, and the runners were fast! Sixth grader Eamon Smith won the entire Dash with a sub-20-minute 5k time. The Post Dash Bash was also a blast! The school successfully raised money for the Facility Improvement Fund. Thank you to all who participated,

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Fr. Giese welcomed new parishioners and encouraged them to get involved in the numerous groups and activities at St. Jane.



St. Jane de Chantal Welcomes New Parishioners

After the 10 AM mass on April 12, members of the Parish Council, along with Pastor Fr. Giese, welcomed new parishioners with a reception. After a brief presentation from the Pastor, the members of the Parish Council introduced themselves and explained their functions within the St. Jane Council. As a part of the program, new members of the parish were encouraged to get involved in the different committees as a great way

to meet new people and participate in the numerous activities that take place in the vibrant parish.

After the presentations, all the participants enjoyed coffee, refreshment and good conversation. The welcoming of new parishioners at a special reception is a new initiative that provides a warm introduction to the St. Jane Parish community, including news, activities, and its members. In addition, it celebrates the parish's growing community.

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After a brief presentation, new parishioners had the opportunity to meet with members of the Parish Council, identified by special name tags, to learn first hand about parish life and the many special program areas at St. Jane.



St. Jane's Youth Group Presents the Way of the Cross

Members of the parish's Youth Group participated in a representation of the Way of the Cross on Friday, March 13, as part of the Lent liturgies. Every Friday of Lent, St. Jane de Chantal celebrated the Way of the Cross, and it has become a tradition that one Friday the celebration is led by members of the Youth Group. While the young parishioners read each station and the corresponding



During the Way of the Cross, staged by the St. Jane's Youth Group, Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem in the 8th Station.

Continued on page 45



St. Jane de Chantal Youth Group members posed at the altar for the congregation following their participation in the Way of the Cross celebration.

St. Jane de Chantal's Alter Servers Hit the Ice

The St. Jane's altar servers hit the ice on March 14th during a field trip to Cabin John Ice Rink. After skating for over an hour, the servers were treated to Ledo's pizza and soda in a party room, after which they returned to the ice rink for more fun after it was cleaned by the Zamboni ice resurfacing machine. The trip was organized by the St. Jane Parish as a way to thank the students, and their parents, for contributing their time and enrich-

ing their faith in the church.

In making a commitment to altar serving, students learn how to serve at Holy Mass, Stations of the Cross, Confirmation, and Holy Week services. The parish greatly appreciates these students for their hard work and service throughout the year. All incoming fifth-grade students through high school are encouraged to participate in altar serving at the St. Jane Parish.

OPT



Accompanied by Fr. Cusick (right), St. Jane de Chantal Parish's altar servers take a break from the fun of their "thank you" field trip to pose for a group photo.

St. Jane de Chantal Parish
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St. Jane de Chantal School
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Susana and Mario Cerritelli,
OPT Editors

SJB Principal's Corner

Brian Blomquist's Year-End Observations

Since last summer, my life has changed in unexpectedly positive ways. I knew that I would love the St. John the Baptist community after my first visit. It was exactly one year ago that Marianne Moore, former SJB Principal, invited us to the annual "St. John the Jogger" event and festival to introduce us to the SJB community. My wife Trish and I will never forget the collective embrace we received that day.



Brian Blomquist

Throughout this year, I have been overwhelmed by the kindness and support of our parents and teachers. Of course, our kids have been great, too. Knowing what an excellent Blue Ribbon school SJB is, I feel the responsibility of making sure we always try to be the very best we can be — good role models and inspiring teachers. There are some surprising aspects to the job of Principal. The hours can be a

Continued on page 54

SJB's Powerful Living Stations Performance

An Outstanding Event

By Molly DiPippo and Alison Fram

The mood in the church at St. John the Baptist was subdued. Rehearsals were

over. Costumes were on and set pieces were in place. The lights went down and the music began. And once again, the Living Stations of the Cross was underway, bringing the Passion alive to parishioners and participants in attendance.

The Living Stations of the Cross, according to the Parish office, has been carried out for more than half a decade. The 2015 Living Stations was presented by members of the



SJB Students Perform Living Stations of the Cross.

8th Grade Confirmation class, and included actors, readers, and ushers. High school students also sang and played instruments.

The Living Stations performance

Continued on page 54

St. John the Baptist Parish

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Silver Spring, MD

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Brian Blomquist, Principal
301-622-3076

Shannon Jordan Mulrooney,
OPT Editor
shannoncoll@comcast.net



Broadway Set and Costumes come to St. John the Baptist!

"The Little Mermaid"

St. John the Baptist's Spring 2015 Play

By Molly DiPippo with Erin Tervo

Students are headed "Under the Sea" at St. John the Baptist School! Preparations have been underway for months for the May 6-8 presentation of "The Little Mermaid", performed by the sixth-eighth graders at SJB.



Anchors Away at SJB's The Little Mermaid Play!

Students and teachers have been working hard to bring the magic of the Disney classic to life on the SJB stage, for the first time.

Choir teacher

Continued on page 54

St. John the Baptist School 8th Grade Graduates - 2015

Fr. David Brault, Pastor – Mr. Brian Blomquist, Principal



Matthew
Beneyam
Blake

"Every day is a second chance."
- Unknown



Victoria
Canfield
St. Johns HS

"Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."
- Dr. Seuss



Michael
Caruso
Blake

"A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new."
- Albert Einstein



Cole
Curley
Walter Johnson

"If what you did yesterday seems big, you haven't done anything today."
- Lou Holtz



Teresa
Cygnarowicz
St. Johns HS

"Be strong because things will get better. It may be stormy now, but it never rains forever."
- Unknown



Thomas
Cygnarowicz
St. Johns HS

Never let the fear of striking out stop you from playing the game."
- Babe Ruth



Justin
Davis
St. Johns HS

"If you don't take risks you can't create a future."
- Unknown



Michael
DePasquale
Gonzaga

"There may be people that have more talent than you, but there's no excuse for anyone to work harder than you do."
- Derek Jeter



Ryan
Draddy
Gonzaga

"I'm short and to the point."
- Shaquille O'Neal



Dalena
Garcia
Elizabeth Seton

"Be proud of who you are."
- Eminem



Lev Gawdiak
Good Counsel

"There is no elevator to success. You have to take the stairs."
- Unknown



Caroline
Hechinger
St. Johns HS

"A Journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."
- Confucius



Diane Heinle
Good Counsel

Satisfaction lies in the effort, not in the attainment, full effort is full victory."
- Gandhi



Edward Iannone
Good Counsel

"Success is never final, failure is never fatal. Its courage that counts."
- John Wooden



Luke
Kodak
St. Johns

"Do or do not. There is no try."



Tony Mabie
Blake HS

"You miss 100% of the shots you don't take."
- Wayne Gretzky



Joanna Malits
Visitation

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."
- Dr. Seuss



Genevieve
Maloney
Visitation

"My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style."
- Maya Angelou



Michaela
McCarthy
Visitation

"All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them."
- Walt Disney



Shelby Meristil
Dematha

"When something bad happens don't say why me? Say try me"

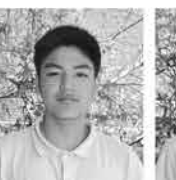
Chris Milton
St. Johns

"If you laugh, you think, and you cry, that's a full day. That's a heck of a day. You do that seven days a week, your going to have something special."
- Jim Valvano



Caroline O'Neil
Good Counsel

"Go into the world and do well. But, more importantly go into the world and do good."
- Minor Myers Jr.



Omar Perez
St. Johns

"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop to look around, you could miss it."
- Ferris Beuller



Michael Quinn
Dematha

"Be strong and courageous ... for it is The Lord your God, who goes with you."
- Deuteronomy 31:6



Mateo Rivera
De La Salle, NOLA

"Evil flourishes when good men do nothing."
- Old Testament



Bern Romulus
Paint branch

"You can turn painful situations around through laughter. If you can find humor in anything, even poverty, you can survive it."
- Bill Cosby



Mary Grace
Ruebens
Paint Branch

"Success doesn't mean you have to change."
- Mikey Way



Erin Slaughter
Blake HS

"Failure will never overtake me if my determination to succeed is strong enough."
- Og Mondino



Andre Smith
Dematha

T.H.I.N.K.B.I.G.
- Dr. Ben Carson



Matthew
Trujillio
Dematha

"Procrastination? No. I prefer to do it at the last minute because I will be older, therefore wiser."
- Will Ferrell



Jesse Vega
St. Johns HS

"Man believes in the possible, but God believes in the impossible."
- Ray Lewis

Kenneth Walker
Blake

"There's no such thing as luck. Luck is where preparation meets opportunity."
- Unknown



Neil York, second from left, with Jorge Fronda, far left, Paolo Rigor and Mauricio Agudell.

Our Lady of Lourdes Alumni Say Goodbye to a Friend Gone Too Soon

On Saturday, April 25, 2015, Neil York left this world suddenly and too soon. Neil was a senior at Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia. He attended Gonzaga High School where he played the alto saxophone, and was on the rugby team. Neil died three days short of his 22nd birthday. He attended Our Lady of Lourdes School for ten years, and graduated in 2007.

Remembered by his teachers and friends as a great student who liked to talk and learn new things, Neil was loved. Neil's Confirmation sponsor was Dr. Luigi De Luca, his Science and Math teacher. In September of 2014, Neil emailed Dr. De Luca to thank him for how well-prepared he was in those subjects. In November, on the night before Thanksgiving, Neil joined 40 or so young alumni from Lourdes for a reunion at the school. There was laughter and fun as the young people flipped through old yearbooks, and told stories about their days at Lourdes.

Many Lourdes alumni and their parents attended the wake and funeral for Neil, which was held at Gonzaga and Saint Aloysius Church. Those of us who knew Neil loved him. He represented himself, his family and his school very well. He will be missed.

Rest in Peace, Neil.

OPT

The Lions' Roar Continues to Astound!

Over 650 people attended the seventh annual Lions' Roar Kate Truax 5K and 1K fun run at Our Lady of Lourdes School. It was a picture-perfect day from start to finish. The temperature hovered in the 70s, the sun was brilliant, and there were happy faces everywhere. Monsignor Beattie started the day with a beautiful prayer, giving tribute to Kate Truax who devoted her life to the students of Lourdes. Kate's mom and her

Continued on page 27



Runners in the 7th annual Lions' Roar Kate Truax 5K are ready to go.

Bishop Dorsonville returns to Lourdes for Confirmation



Bishop Dorsonville, Monsignor Beattie, Monsignor Filardi. Bishop is confirming Catherine Kiyonaga. He baptized Catherine when he was last assigned to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish.

Bishop Mario Dorsonville returned to his parish of eight years to confirm the eighth-grade students on April 25, just a few days after he was ordained a Bishop. When Bishop Dorsonville was last a priest assigned to Lourdes, he baptized some of the children whom he

Continued on page 27

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

7500 Pearl Street
Bethesda, MD

Msgr. Edward Filardi,
Pastor

301-654-1287

Patricia Kilroy McGann
Principal

301-654-5376



OUR LADY OF LOURDES SCHOOL

Congratulations Class of 2015 Graduates

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Lourdes Amaro

Academy of the Holy Cross

"Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God."



Gabriella Rose Devlin Capizzi

Bethesda Chevy Chase High School

"To give anything less than your best is to sacrifice the gift."



Amanda Clemente

Foxcroft School

"Don't give up on your dream, because when you least expect it, it just may come true."



Cecilia Emily Gadina

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart

"Humor comes from self-confidence. There's an aggressive element to wit."



Hector Herbert

St. John's College High School

"Life is like a coin. You can spend it any way you wish, but you can only spend it once."



Catherine Bina Kiyonaga

The Academy of the Holy Cross

"Those who stand for nothing fall for anything."



Isabella G. Konrad

Walter Johnson High School

"It is our choices, Harry, that show who we truly are, far more than our abilities."



John Paul Lavallee

Bishop McNamara High School

"It's hard to beat a person who never gives up."



Sophia Marie McDonald

St. John's College High School

"Be yourself and be that well."



Gloria Vesper Novak

Bethesda Chevy Chase High School

"Never give up on a dream just because of the time it will take to accomplish it. The time will pass anyway."



Tyler Juliette Dayna O'Leary

The Academy of the Holy Cross

"Try to be a rainbow in somebody's cloud."



Alexandra Isabella Kalapothakos-Ramirez

Undecided

"Sometimes you will never know the true value of a moment until it becomes a memory."



Daniella Fernanda Reyes

The Academy of the Holy Cross

"Always do your best, never give up."



Nora Mulryan Rossi

The Academy of the Holy Cross

"You miss 100% of the shots you don't take."



Jennifer Lynn Tsozock

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart

"Saying good-bye isn't the hard part, it's what we have to leave behind that's hard."



Tyler Hao Tinh Vo

Undecided

"The secret of getting ahead is getting started."



Stanley Martin Vossler

Gulf Breeze High School

"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says, 'I'm possible.'"

John Riley receives Certificate of Appreciation

At the end of this year's Easter Vigil, Fr. Calis presented John Riley with a certificate of appreciation for service. John has been the Master of Ceremonies for the Triduum for the last six years. Serving our parish in this capacity, John gave generously of his time in order to attend the many required practices.

Along with the certificate, Fr. Calis gave John a check for his first college text book. John graduated from our parish school and will graduate at the end of this month from Gonzaga College High School. Thanks, John, for serving our parish in this special capacity. We wish you well as you head to college in the fall!

OPT

"Holy Spirit, You're On!"

SJE Parishioner Invites Confirmed Teens to Switch on the Spirit

Lolita Jardeleza, a St. John the Evangelist parishioner for over 60 years, was the speaker for the final Confirmation Prep Session, "Living in the Spirit" which took place a few weeks after Confirmation. Every member of the confirmation group attended the session, along with the 12 high school helpers. Peg Daly, the parent leader for the confirmation preparation program, said she always asks Mrs. Jardeleza to present this talk "because she can truly speak about living out her faith, with the Holy Spirit alive in her. She talks to the kids about how they will come alive



Mrs. Lolita Jardeleza encourages the group to live in the Spirit during their post-Confirmation session.

if they allow the Holy Spirit to work within them."

Mrs. Jardeleza explained to the group how easy it is to let the Holy Spirit into their lives. She compared the effort to turning on the light. Just as a flick of the finger turns on a light switch, they can say, "Holy Spirit, you're on!" It is just that easy. Mrs. Jardeleza also talked to them about letting go of control in their lives. She used the image of riding on a bus with God at the wheel. If we keep telling God where to turn and when to stop, we are not allowing him to be in charge. God should always be driv-

ing the bus and we should always be his passengers, she emphasized.

Mrs. Jardeleza has plenty of experience connecting with teens. She is the mother of 11 children and has 46 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. She shares parenting advice in her book, *Compost Makes the Strawberries Grow*. In addition, as a member of the faculty of the Academy of the Holy Cross, she has been a theology teacher, campus minister, and prayer minister to high school students since 1979. In this role, she has participated in 65 Kairos retreats and nurtured

Continued on page 18

First Friday Liturgy Includes Crowning of Mary

As is tradition, the eighth-grade class took a leadership role in the First Friday liturgy for the Month of May. All of the students placed flowers in the baskets by Mary's statue. Members of the class did the readings, presented the petitions and brought up the gifts. The students demonstrated how much they have matured and grown strong in their faith during their years at St. John the Evangelist School.

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At far left, Eighth-Grade students prepare to place the crown of flowers on the statue of Mary.

At left, Eddie Mulholland assists Melina Skinner who placed the crown of flowers on the statue of Mary.

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Rev. Msgr. Joseph Calis
Pastor

St. John the Evangelist School
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Principal

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Kate Droege, OPT Editor
droeges@verizon.net

More St. John the Evangelist
News on Page 18

St. John the Evangelist GRADUATION CLASS OF 2015

We Congratulate You!

Rev. Joseph Calis, Pastor
Sister Kathleen Lannak, IHM, Principal
Miss Emily Pacconi, Eighth Grade Teacher
Faculty, Staff, Parents & Students



J. Bromley
St. John's HS



J. Carey
St. John's HS



R. Culkin
St. John's HS



S. Culkin
St. John's HS



N. Ezewuiro
Good Counsel



N. Fitzgerald-Shavers
St. John's HS



S. Hagos
Undecided



C. Hauser
Good Counsel



J. Johnson
Gonzaga



M. Johnson
Gonzaga



M. Lyons
Holy Cross



F. Macarthy
St. John's HS



K. Maddox
St. John's HS



C. Martinez
St. John's HS



A. Mockridge
DeMatha



E. Mulholland
Einstein HS



C. Nguyen
Blake HS



M. Reidy
Gonzaga



N. Salinas
Holy Cross



K. Schech
Pallotti HS



M. Skinner
Holy Cross



R. Tan IV
St. John's HS



A. Temketem
Undecided



E. Torp
Holy Cross



L. Vincent
Seaton HS



St. Mary's Father Daughter Dance



St. Mary's held its Father Daughter Dance on Friday, April 17. It was a special night for all those that attended. And, we must say the dads were not shy about the dance moves.

Big News In Small Bites

- The Catholic Business Network awarded eighth-grader Coley Hunter a scholarship as part of their annual essay contest.
- St. Mary's students participated in the Mass for Vocations on April 28th as altar servers and lectors.
- In honor of Earth Day each class completed a green project or field trip!
- Our outdoor classroom is ready for planting, exploration and learning about science and nutrition.
- The annual Band and Choral Concert with Art Show was a huge success! Thank you to Mrs. Berg and Mrs. Keating!
- St. Mary's golfers hit the links

under sunny skies on May 7! Thanks to Shawn Harwell, Chairman.

• Another Grandparents Day is in the books. Grandparents, friends and surrogates were treated to breakfast, Mass and classroom visits on May 1. A good day was had by all!

• We have made class projects interactive with a State Fair, Spanish Fashion Show, Last Supper Reenactment for kindergarten and the Twelve Apostles project in Spanish as well.

• The Eighth grade will be leaving for Boston on May 18th and graduating on May 29! Good luck!

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St. Mary's Summer Camps June 29-July 24

STEM, HSPT Prep, Reading, and just plain fun! Lots to choose from ...

Affordable prices with before and after care available. On the metro line for ease of drop off and pick up!

See our website for dates and details.
www.stmaryschoolrockville.org

Spring Sacraments

St. Mary's had much to celebrate this spring as our children continued on their faith journey.

On April 16, Bishop Martin Holeý presided over the Confirmation of over 50 young parishioners. Holley did a wonderful job of engaging the Confirmandi during his homily. A reception immediately followed as well as a youth group welcome party a few days later.

First Holy Communion took place on Saturday May 2. The sun shone brightly as 60 eager candidates received the Eucharist for the first time.

The May Procession followed on Sunday, May 3, during which the eighth grade girls crowned Mary and laid flowers at her feet.

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A Special Thank You from the Troops

In April, St. Mary's students were privileged to meet Staff Sgt. Brandon Dodson, a veteran of two tours in Iraq and two tours in Afghanistan. On his last patrol in August of 2014, two weeks before he was scheduled to come home, he stepped on an IED and lost both legs in the explosion.

He has been recovering and rehabilitating at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda. He came to our school with his wife, Jasmine, to thank you our students for their generosity to him, his family, to other wounded warriors and service members throughout the world.

He let our students know that their cards and letters lift the spirits of service members far from home and when they are in the hospital. Dodson also said the soldiers were very happy to receive the cookies we sent to the wounded warriors at Christmas. He expressed a special note of gratitude to our students for their generous donation from tag day proceeds in November.

Sgt. Dodson spoke to our students about the importance of perseverance and a positive attitude in all they do. Brandon has promised to come back to visit us when he is walking again!

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301-990-4329

**More St. Mary News
on Page 31**



CONGRATULATIONS ! CLASS OF 2015

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, ROCKVILLE, MD

Students accepted to the following high schools:

Academy of the Holy Cross, Georgetown Visitation, Georgetown Prep, Gonzaga, Our Lady of Good Counsel, St. John's High School, Rockville HS, Quince Orchard HS, Richard Montgomery HS, Magruder HS, Walter Johnson HS

St. Raphael School 2014-15: That's a Wrap!

By Emma Kaibni and MJ Zafis-Garcia

Standing Ovation for "Beauty and the Beast Jr."

Students at St. Raphael School had a chance to show off their acting and singing skills during the production of Disney's "Beauty and the Beast Jr." The middle-schoolers put on two performances, April 24 and 25, with a sellout on opening night. Our pastor, Father Jim Meyers, gave our performers a standing ovation. We couldn't be more proud of our students, as well as Rebecca Maurer—our

music teacher and director of the show—and the many teachers and parents who helped with the production. Bravo!

Gala Committee Knocks it Outta the Park

The St. Raphael All-Star Gala was a night to remember. Co-chaired by Michelle Aldridge and Kate Flaherty, the sports-themed event took place on March 14 and was a huge success. Dozens of parent and teacher volunteers worked together to solicit donations, create fabulous decorations, and lend a

hand during the event. The gala not only raised funds but also brought members of our school and parish families together to enjoy a festive evening of dining, dancing, and friendship. Community building doesn't get any better than that.

An Evening Just for Girls

The fun continued at SRS last month with our annual Girls' Night Out, which took place on April 22. The spring shopping boutique included festive drinks, munchies, a raffle, and almost 40 vendors. Admission is always free. Don't miss the 2016 event next spring,



In St. Raphael School's spring musical, "Beauty and the Beast Jr.," Joey Aldridge, in the role of Gaston, is surrounded by adoring Silly Girls, played by, from left, Antonella Zara, Katy Beall, Mary Rose DePont, Kennan O'Neill, and Katie Rose. Looking on is Gaston's sidekick, Lefou, played by Noah Turner. Photo by Maryann Kearns/St. Raphael School



The cast of St. Raphael School's production of "Beauty and the Beast Jr." put on two spectacular performances, including a sold-out show on opening night. Photo by Maryann Kearns/St. Raphael School

when St. Raphael School will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of Girls' Night Out.

No Slowing Down

As we do every school year, we wind down by winding up. May and June are filled with festivities, including Truck Day—a wildly popular event hosted by St. Raphael Nursery School but enjoyed by stu-

dents of all ages—Field Day, special celebrations of our wonderful mothers and fathers, and, of course, graduation. Our theme this year is "Alive in the Moment," and we wish all the best to the members of the Class of 2015 as they go into the world and share that St. Raphael spirit of being present and full of life wherever they go!

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Congratulations, Class of 2015!



ST. RAPHAEL SCHOOL: 1513 Dunster Road, Rockville, MD 20854 | 301-762-2143 | www.straphaelschoolmd.org

Joseph Aldridge
Gonzaga College High School
Fillipe Baptista
Avalon School
Katherine Beall
Academy of the Holy Cross
Ainsley Benton
St. John's College High School
Ava Caceres
Undecided
Caleb Caceres
Undecided
Alina Cantrell
Quince Orchard High School
Fiorella Cardozo Flores
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Mary Rose DePont
Academy of the Holy Cross
Charles Durst
Gonzaga College High School
Sanjay Gospodinov
Georgetown Prep
Tomas Gunz
The Heights School
Meghan Maloney
Academy of the Holy Cross
Grace O'Connor
Academy of the Holy Cross
Kennan O'Neill
Georgetown Visitation
Nicholas Opack
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Olivia Orr
Our Lady of Good Counsel
Molly Sullivan
Georgetown Visitation
Emma Witt
Academy of the Holy Cross
Andrew Wood
The Heights School
Antonella Zara
Academy of the Holy Cross

SHORT

Con't from page 1

language. He spent the next several years at Mercy in Potomac where few spoke Spanish. He had to learn English or starve! The Pope's selection of Bishop Dorsonville is a clear statement by the Holy Father's commitment to the poor and vulnerable and to an Order of Bishops solidly based upon service to the people. As a priest of the Archdioceses, Fr Dorsonville humbly and tirelessly labored to assist the poor especially immigrants who came to our area in search of safety and opportunity. He lead the Spanish Catholic Center for many years making it one of the most trusted and effective immigrant serving agencies in the region. In his most recent role at Catholic Charities as Vice President for Mission, the new Bishop served as an inspiring "keeper of the Gospel mission" for the largest non-profit social services provider in the region. We welcome our new Bishop and give thanks to Pope Francis for his wisdom and example in sending us this proven servant of the people.

With Mother's Day just passed, I can't help but celebrate Jean Brady, St Rose of Lima parish. Jean, the mother of 7, was recently honored by Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett with the Neal Potter Path of Achievement Award. Established in 1998, the annual Path of Achievement Award honors a Montgomery County resident over 60 years of age whose accomplishments, enthusiasm and commitment to their community make them outstanding role models for all residents. Jean is a worthy recipient and exemplary representative of our Catholic community. For over 40 years she has devoted her energies and talents to address a broad range of social justice issues that include senior housing, homelessness, mental health, disability rights, employment, prison ministry, and gun violence prevention. She is a founder of Victory Housing. Upon receiving the award, Jean with characteristic humility said "I guess at the root of it is my faith; it's what the Gospels are all about...love of neighbor. And I enjoy service; you always meet such wonderful people!" And Jean, you are one of the most wonderful of all! Congratulations.

Among the bittersweet aspects of springtime are the retirements that occur in our parish organizations, especially our schools. Congratulations to the principals, teachers and staff who have given selflessly of their talent, time and affection in support to our Catholic communities. Most of us know these folks and how important they have been to successful schools, ministries and parish facilities. Enjoy your retirements!

I promised my friends Jean Brady and Bob Cooke that I would promote an important upcoming event sponsored by St Rose of Lima's Pax Christi group and Action in Montgomery. On May 31 at St Rose in Gaithersburg a Gathering of People of Faith and Values for the Prevention of Gun Violence will take place between 4 and 6pm. This ecumenical forum will be an oppor-

tunity for people to learn more about the impact of gun violence in our area and the activities of several groups to help curb gun violence. Tom Manger, Montgomery County Police Chief (St Mary's Rockville) and others will serve on an expert panel of presenters and answer questions. The forum is part of the national effort, Heeding God's Call, which assists local faith based organizations to establish advocacy efforts to promote gun violence prevention activities. The Memorial for the Lost will be displayed at the gathering remembering 155 victims of gun violence in our region. St Rose of Lima and Pax Christi, thank you for your leadership on this critical community issue.

I'll close by wishing all our read-

ers a restful and joyous summertime and with one final celebration. In March, Pope Francis declared a **Jubilee Year of Mercy**. In response to the Pope's call, this summer may be a good time to reflect upon and strengthen our commitment to this most basic of all Christian values best described in Pope Francis's own words, "I am convinced that the whole Church will find in this Jubilee the joy needed to rediscover and make fruitful the mercy of God, with which all of us are called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time. From this moment, we entrust this Holy Year to the Mother of Mercy, that she might turn her gaze upon us and watch over our journey."

God Bless

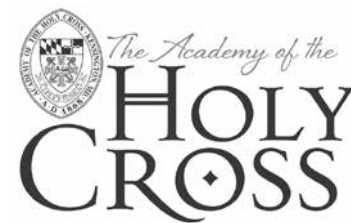
OPT

BEST BUDDIES

Con't from page 1

Two students were welcomed this fall into the program, Samantha Copeland '18 and Theresa Brogan '18. In addition to involvement in several other co-curricular activities at Holy Cross, they are also both officers of the Best Buddies club. Other officers include Erin Hicks '17, Sarah Mangan '16, Kaitlin Novak '16, Lucy Pawlowski '16, and Lauren O'Leary '17.

The mission of the Holy Cross Best Buddies club is to create and foster friendships between students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities. The club holds weekly meetings and



has organized many activities. The club members have also helped to educate the school community about people with disabilities through school-wide assembly presentations.

The club was recognized for their achievement at an all-school assembly on Monday, April 13.

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Holy Redeemer's Father Plummer blesses the hands of Maraki Theodros and Megan Toner at Arts Festival's Opening Prayer Service.



2015 Festival of the Arts – The Gift of Shelter

By Ann Enkiri

Storm clouds hovering on the evening of Thursday, April 30th, did not deter the crowd of Holy Redeemer families gathered on the school's front lawns and in the entrance-way. They had come to attend Gallery Night for the Festival of the Arts—The Gift of Shelter. Thanks to many prayers, the weather held so that families could enjoy outdoor supper ordered from one of several local food trucks and dessert from the middle-school bake sale which benefitted efforts to preserve the coral reefs. Meanwhile, students from nursery school through eighth-grade excitedly led parents and grandparents into the Herb Young Auditorium transformed into Arts Gallery to see their multi-media art work exploring the festival's theme of shelter. The evening closed with outstanding vocal performances by students Eliza Henne, Josephine Matta, and members of Holy Redeemer School's Honors Choir, directed by music teacher Kristin Brown.

The Arts Festival, an annual school event, provided an amazing range of enriching arts activities to the entire student body of Holy Redeemer School on Wednesday, April 29th and Thursday, April 30th. Organized cooperatively by teachers and parents, this year's festival channeled the creative spirits and can-do talents of art teacher Cristina Morris and parents Sheila Dinn, Kathleen Seiler Neary, Monique Bonner and many others. Over the two days, students participated in over 200 different art

activities led by volunteers from the faculty/staff, parent, alumni, parish, and wider community.

This year's focus on shelter informed the prayer services, art activities, all school events, fundraising efforts and classroom learning that comprise the festival. Kathleen Seiler Neary mobilized a dynamic corps of parents who work in architecture, construction and design to lead small groups of Grade 1-4 students in meeting a specific building challenge from a particular region of the world. Students proudly and expertly explained the features of their structures to admiring guests at Gallery Night. Over \$700 was raised to support the work of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal who serve the destitute and the homeless. These funds were direct donations to attend the free performance at Holy Redeemer of "A Midsummer Nights' Dream" by Petite Ballet, proceeds from lunchtime ice-cream sales, and the faculty/staff weekly Mission Monday collection.

From Wednesday morning's opening prayer service with Blessing of the Hands by Father Plummer to that afternoon's Cardinal Family Feud game developed for the whole school by teachers Lisa Capobianco and Megan Dees, from Thursday morning's Mission Childhood Association's Rosary to the afternoon's closing performance by Soul In Motion Players for the entire student body, Holy Redeemer students enjoyed time together celebrating the Gift of Shelter.

OPT

Eighth-Grade Foreign Language Luncheon

By Emma Mitchell, Erin Lively, Eileen Dinn, Katherine Foley, and Jo Matta

Senora Rozier and Madame Flamer say, "Adios!" or "au revoir" to their eighth-grade students with their annual eighth-grade Foreign Language Luncheon. This is an opportunity to celebrate their 8 years of French/Spanish studies. This year's luncheon took place on Friday, April 17.

The Spanish students at Holy Redeemer School went to Guardado's restaurant in Bethesda for their luncheon. The students experienced many popular dishes from Spain and Latin America. The students also had a chance to practice their Spanish with the waiters. Their meal consisted of a tropical frozen drink, three appetizers, a main dish and dessert. The tropical drink was a delicious mix of frozen mango and pineapple juices. The first appetizer was "tortilla española" or omelets. The omelets contained eggs, onions and potatoes. The second appetizer was "croquetas de pollo" or chicken fritters. The third and last appetizer was "patatas bravas" (baked potatoes wedges) with a cheese sauce. Next, the students were served paella, a delicious combination of rice, chicken, shrimp, zucchini, mushrooms and peppers. For dessert the students enjoyed "Tres leches" cake which means three milks. The dessert consisted of a yellow cake soaked in milk with a whipped cream icing and

a strawberry. The students loved their meal at Guardado's and the leisurely time spent in conversation after eating, the "sobremesa."

The French Class went to a delicious restaurant called Mon Ami Gabi, also in Bethesda. The food was delicious and the French culture was present in every aspect. The students ordered in French and tasted the French cuisine first hand. They ate escargots, French onion soup and tasted crème brûlée or profiteroles. The atmosphere around the meal was warm and friendly and all the students were able to relax after years of studying a new language – they were finally able to use what they learned in the classroom.

OPT



Eighth Graders had a wonderful afternoon with Senora and Madame Experiencing delicious Spanish/French cuisine and culture.

Holy Redeemer School Drama Club

A Very Together Production of Disney High School Musical JR

by Ann Enkiri

Holy Redeemer School Drama Club played to a full house on Friday and Saturday nights of April 24 and 25 – "wow-ing" the audience with its production of **Disney High School Musical JR**. Drama Club Director Michelle Ardillo inspired more than fifty seventh- and eighth-grade students to dedicate weeks to master dialogue, music, choreography and staging. Eighth-graders Nick D'Avella, Rafael Rodriguez and Abby Romano worked behind



The HRS High School Musical JR Production Team (r.1) Lisa Capobianco, Megan Dees, Joe Ryan (not pictured) (r. 2) Kristen Brown, Danielle Trotta, Michelle Ardillo, Cathleen Farr, Monique Bonner

the scenes to ensure the production's success. Supported by an eleven-member production staff of teachers, parents and a grandparent, the student thespians captured the hearts of children and adults alike as they danced, sang, skateboarded, cheered, shot hoops and even prepped for academic challenges on and off the stage.

The storyline was accessible to Friday afternoon's dress rehearsal before Holy Redeemer's more than 400 PreK-Eighth-grade students

who recognized familiar school groups such as the basketball team and cheerleaders who were costumed in HR's red-and-white uniforms. Katy Foxman as new-to-the-school Gabriella and PJ McMahon as star basketball-player Troy won the audience's sympathy and had everyone rooting for the success of their new friendship and their musical interests while they faced peer and parental pressures to be loyal to their academic and sports teams.

Continued on page 38

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Holy Redeemer parishoner
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Rev. Mark Hughes
Pastor

301-942-2333

Holy Redeemer School

Mrs. Colleen Ryan,
Principal

301-942-3701

**More Holy Redeemer
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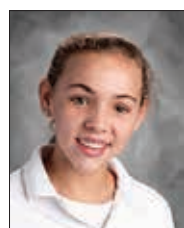
**Michael Christopher Bedard**WALTER JOHNSON
"Win if you can, lose if you must, but never quit."**Daniel Joseph Beggy, III**GONZAGA
"Don't let the fear of losing be greater than the excitement of winning."**Maclen Jansing Bonavita**GONZAGA
"Be yourself. Everyone else is already taken."**Lauren Colette Bonner**VISITATION
"Life is not about waiting for the storm to pass; it's about learning to dance in the rain."**Ryan Michael Caughey**WALTER JOHNSON
"Dogs are not our whole lives, but they make our lives whole."**Christopher Benham Clarke, Jr.**GONZAGA
"Self-praise is for losers. Be a winner. Stand for something, always have class, and be humble."**Jacob Scott Clements**GOOD COUNSEL
"The best way to destroy an enemy is to make him a friend."**Nicholas Ernesto D'Avella**DEMATHA
"The future belongs to those who prepare for it today."**Peter George Davin**PREP
"I wish there was a way to know you were in the good ol' days before you've actually left them."**Eileen Ruth Dinn**HOLY CROSS
"I'm like an elephant, okay. I walk into a room and it's like okay, he's in there."**Katherine Gerard Foley**HOLY CROSS
"What we are is God's gift to us. What we become is our gift to God."**Kathleen Elizabeth Foxman**VISITATION
"Always look on the bright side of life."

HOLY REDEEMER Catholic School

8TH GRADE GRADUATES CLASS OF 2015

FATHER MARK HUGHES, PASTOR

MRS. COLLEEN RYAN, PRINCIPAL

**Colleen Marie Gilday**VISITATION
"To thrive in life you need three bones. A wishbone. A backbone. And a funny bone."**Peter Christopher Goodwin**ST. JOHN'S
"Positive anything is better than negative nothing."**Sofia Marie Grandonico**VISITATION
"Friends buy you food, best friends eat your food."**Kara Elizabeth Greene**VISITATION
"Be yourself. Everyone else is already taken."**River Cade Jackson**GOOD COUNSEL
"Hard work beats talent when talent fails to work hard."**Tori Elizabeth Kestel**HOLY CROSS
"My approach to life can't be summed up in a pithy quote, and if yours can, you're in trouble."**Marin Elizabeth Larkin**HOLY CROSS
"Success is not final, failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts."**Erin Elizabeth Lively**VISITATION
"Believe you can and you're half way there."**Mary Grace Lucas**ST. JOHN'S
"Any country that accepts abortion is the poorest of the poor."**Josephine Varner Matta**HOLY CROSS
"Every once in awhile someone amazing comes along ... and here I am!"**Peter Joseph McMahon**GONZAGA
"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in awhile, you could miss it."**Emma Grace Mitchell**ST. JOHN'S
"You miss 100% of the shots you don't take."**Vincent Fitzgerald Morin, Jr.**ST. JOHN'S
"It's not whether you get knocked down; it's whether you get up."**Elizabeth Hellen Myers**HOLY CROSS
"Live like SpongeBob, laugh out loud all day without any reason and annoy all the mean people with your happiness."**Quinn Nicholas Noyes**GONZAGA
"I can accept failure, everyone fails at something. But, I can't accept not trying again."**Jennifer McAllister Olcott**HOLY CROSS
"Everything will be okay in the end. If it is not okay, then it's not the end."**Evyn Marcus Owen**GONZAGA
"We have gone from 'nowhere' to 'now here'."**Michael Philip Penafiel**ST. JOHN'S
"If you fail to prepare, you're prepared to fail."**Timothy Ryan Peoples**PREP
"There's no limit to how much you'll know, depending on how far beyond zebra you go."**Caroline Ellen Reyda**VISITATION
"If you want to do something go for it. You've got nothing to lose."**Daniel John Robey**ST. JOHN'S
"Life's not about how hard of a hit you can give ... it's about how many you can take and still keep moving forward."**Rafael De Jesus Rodriguez**ST. JOHN'S
"Originality is the fine art of remembering what you hear but forgetting where you heard it."**Abigail Rose Romano**STONE RIDGE
"If you can dream it, you can do it."**Anthony Edward Seiler**GONZAGA
"I've failed over and over and over again in my life ... that is why I succeed."**Patrick Andrew Sheehan**GONZAGA
"You've really gotta hand it to short people, because we usually can't reach it anyways."**Samantha Hope Slark**HOLY CROSS
"Who says we have to grow up?"**Michael Joseph Smolskis**GONZAGA
"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says I'm possible."**Tyler Joseph Strachan**GONZAGA
"Every champion was once a contender who refused to give up."**Sean Stephen Tildon**GOOD COUNSEL
"You see things and say, 'why?' but I dream things that never were and I say, 'why not?'"**Antonio Joseph Trigiani**ST. JOHN'S
"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."**Ryan Patrick Whitty**ST. JOHN'S
"You can't win unless you learn how to lose."**Luke Michael Winters**GONZAGA
"It takes many good deeds to build a good reputation and only one bad one to lose it."

An open invitation to “Come With Me”

St. Patrick's parish in Rockville would like to extend an open invitation to “Come With Me,” an evening of Eucharistic Adoration with music led by international Irish tenor, Mark Forrest, on the Feast of Corpus Christi, Sunday, June 7, 2015, from 7:30pm–9:00pm. Prayers will be offered for vocations, and there will be an opportunity for healing prayers.

Mark Forrest was born in Dublin, Ireland, awarded full scholarships to study music, and educated at the Royal College of Music. Mark's



Irish tenor Mark Forrest

vocal accomplishments led him to sing inspirational hymns for luminaries such as Pope John Paul II and Mother Theresa. Mark Forrest's ministry is not to beckon audiences to himself, however, but rather he hopes his listeners will hear a deeper call and attune their ears to his heartfelt message—a message that has been shaped by the tragedies in his life.

Mark has founded with his wife, Muriel, the Faith and Family Foundation, born out of the sorrowful death of their third baby boy, Francesco, who was diagnosed in utero with a severely compro-

mised heart. He lived only five days, “touching more people than I ever will in a lifetime,” Mark says. Their second son, John Patrick, was also born with special needs and is battling a rare nerve condition that has left him blind and confined to a wheelchair. Mark and Muriel are turning their tragedies into triumphs and resurrecting joy from the ashes of their sorrows. They embraced their past personal sufferings and are now conveying hope to thousands around the globe through the Foundation.

Mark uses his music to inspire people everywhere to appreciate the importance of their faith and their family life in today's changing society. All proceeds from Mark's concerts and the sale of his CDs and tapes go to benefit the Foundation. The Foundation is also publishing a book on the life of Francesco Forrest, to bring support and encouragement to parents and siblings of babies born with chronic or fatal illnesses. An inspirational children's book series is also planned.

“Come With Me” is a free event. For more information, please contact the St. Patrick's office: stpattrock@verizon.net / 301-924-2284. To register for the event, please visit: <http://stppatrickcome-withme2015.eventbrite.com/>

OPT



A Goat Wall of Fame is a blessing to many in Haiti.

Alms for Animals

In support of Life Connection Mission and their work in Haiti, St. Patrick's School Student Government Association organized a new Lenten service project this year, “Alms for Animals.” Students and their families donated money to purchase goats and chickens for the villagers of Montrouis, Haiti. Each goat can provide a needy family with nutritious milk as well as extra production for selling or converting to other dairy products for sale. Goats can also be bred for offspring which can further support the nutritional and financial needs of a family. Similarly, chickens offer a daily egg supply. The SGA hoped to raise enough money to purchase a few goats and were stunned at the success of their campaign: they raised enough money for 47 goats and 4 chickens (\$3590.94 in total).

This was an overwhelming success and will become an annual SGA activity for the school. The “Goat Wall” in the main hallway of the school included representative pictures of the 47 goats donated through the project. Lauren Kiss, SGA President commented, “We are so pleased with the outcome and owe our thanks to all who supported this project.”

OPT

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,
Principal

301-929-9672

Parish Editor

New Volunteer Needed
Contact rectory to apply

More St. Patrick News
on Page 39

St. Patrick's 8th Grade Graduates





The Academy of the HOLY CROSS

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*Once a Holy Cross Girl...
Always a Holy Cross Girl!*



Alejandra Abohasen-Aguirre
Bailey Maria Allmon
Katie Jimena Aumiller
Cynthia C Azoroh
Emma Kate Bacon
Janae Brianna Bailey
Lauren Elizabeth Banaszewski
Leah Rose Barteldes
Samantha Marie Bateman
Christine Noele Benson
Khemah Assata Bradford
Katherine Crowley Branson
Jaclyn Bristol Branthover
Hayley Gretchen Brown
Megan Marie Brown
Sophia Nancy Brumme
Kaylah Nicole Calvert
Margaret Louisa Devlin Capizzi
Isabella Maria Catala
Hee Ryun Cho
Christine Marie Colburn
Lillian Anne Conaghan
Savannah Sue Cook
Amanda Elizabeth Costopoulos
Kendall Faye Crosby
Katherine Grace Crown
Emily Margaret Daly
Liberty Sheridan D'Anton

Emma Fox Davis
Melanie Carmen Delgado
Jordan Alyse Dillon
Sandra Danielle Durbin
Jenna Nicole Feeney
Nicole Marie Feldman
Kelsey Moira Ferrick
Brenna Roseann Ferris
Riley Miller Fitzgerald
Kerrina Hricak Fitzpatrick
Sheylah Gaona
Alexis Jean Garcia
Rebecca Aletha Gardner
Andronikki Christina Gerohristodoulos
Ann Gilmore
Elizabeth Gilmore
Jennifer Valentina Gonsalves
Elizabeth Anne Goodwin
Megan Elizabeth Gordon
Rodnae DaKaiya Gould
Grace Alexa Goulding
Katherine Marie Graham
Madeline Claire Gresh
Taylor Morgan Hagins
Sarah Harb
Katherine Flynn Hatcher
Lillian Hatoum
Hannarae Heasley

Samantha Rae Heavner
Courtney Marie Hogan
Amber Yvette Jackson
Keely Katherine Jobe
Amalia Marie Kaiser
Elise Cyrilla Kane
Harper Helena Robinson Kaufman
Emily Corso Kennedy
Lauren Marie Kerlin
Bridget Flynn Kernan
Kara Marie Kirby
Sofia Ines Krom
Clare Melanie Kuzma
Cassandra Leigh Lapceovich
Carly Michelle Lazas
Megan Kate Leffew
Caroline Davitt Long
Bridget Lillian MacDonald
Marisa Olivia Madaras
Alexis Elizabeth Mahn
Alexis Angele Mahshigian
Genevieve Chidera Malokwu
Dahlia Elizabeth Mata
Mary Margaret Matejik
Samantha Valdes Matta
Lilly Marie McQueen
Abigail Grace Mervis
Emma Gray Millar

Rileigh Anne Miranda
Danielle Nephissa Moni Zo'obo
Rosemarie Ann Mooers
Tess Julia Moore
Delaney Claire Muldoon
Tiffany Josephine Munoz-Zegarra
Nadine Mahoro Mwamikazi
Giuliana Ilaria Nigro
Caroline Clare O'Donnell
Adora Brianna Onyekwere
Marissa Kaitlynn Pace
Karla Antoinette Palmer
Kathleen Ann Palmer
Clara Pancorbo
Lauryn Laverne Perpall
Caroline Marie Peterson
Caroline Marie Philbin
Katherine Jewell Precourt
Lillian Teresa Rios-Brady
Evalia Angel Rodriguez
Lindsay Eugenia Rogers
Brittany Marie Schiavone
Colette Samantha Schliefer
Catherine Anne Sheehan
Julia Genevieve Sheehan
Rose Martha Shelley
Jessica Isabel Simao
Jessica Renee Sims

Logan Alana Smet
Megan Veronica Smith
Emily Anne Spahn
Jessica May Statler
Katherine Anne Stonestreet
Helen Brennan Striegel
Bisagna Bisah Suh
Ruth Hannah Sullins
Julia Anne Thompson
Kara Jean Thompson
Mariela Leonor Trejo
Alison Marie Trimble
Alejandra Kristina Villalobos-Campos
Haley Colleen Waites
Lauren Michelle Walker
Helen Elizabeth Whalen
Breanna Rose Wilkins
Laura Elizabeth Williamson
Carly Marie Winterburn
Tiffany N. Wognaih
Dane Marie Wozny
Preeti Reddy Yendapalli
Isabella Christina Zambrano
Emma Anne Zanger

Congratulations
CLASS OF 2015

Eighth graders from St. Martin's School and Religious Education program pose together following their Confirmation. Photo courtesy of Carlos Monzon Photography.



St. Martin of Tours Parish

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Gaithersburg, MD

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Pastor

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St. Martin School
Andrew Piotrowski
Principal

301-990-2441

Catherine Cooksey
Parish Editor
240-477-8706
www.smsmd.org

Activities at St. Martin's Parish and School

• **International Dinner** In celebration of St. Martin's diverse student body, we invite you to join families from around the world for the International Dinner. On May 16, from 5:00pm to 8:00pm, there will be traditional performances, samples of international cuisine, and opportunities to learn more about traditions from countries around the world.

• **Parish Field Mass and Picnic** On Sunday, June 7, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, St. Martin's will celebrate Mass under a tent on Father Meyer Field at 12:00pm, followed by a procession carrying the Eucharist and ending with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. The picnic will follow with excellent ethnic and traditional picnic food at modest prices and games for young and old. Come enjoy a good time in this yearly event we celebrate as a parish family!

OPT

More St. Martin of Tours News on Page 33

St. Martin's School STEM Night

By Oprah Noubissi, Eighth Grader

On April 27, 2015, St. Martin's School held a family STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Night. It was a huge success, and the school gym was filled with parents and students exploring activities and experiments at seventeen different stations.

At the buoyancy boat station, kids designed, constructed, and tested boats to hold the most pen-

nies. Properties of chemistry were explored at the chromatography station as kids discovered how scientist separate mixtures to discover the parts of a compound. At the hot chocolate machine station, groups worked together to design, construct, and test a machine that could mix up a cup of hot chocolate.

Besides the experiments, there were two sets of challenges in the

Continued on page 33



Matt Arnsberger, U.S. Naval Academy Graduate and St. Martin's Alumnus. Photo courtesy of the Arnsberger Family.

Letters to the Lieutenant

By Grace Schuler, Eighth Grader

As this 2014-2015 academic school year comes to a close, young men and women are

graduating and moving into their future. We think of those who are graduating eighth grade this year,

Continued on page 33

St. Martin of Tours School

Class of 2015



Academy of the Holy Cross

Chelsea Casseus
Honorine Noubissi
Janet Martins

Clarksburg High School

Therese De Leon
Tomas Nelson

Gaithersburg High School

Tatiana Antezana
Shayne Graydon

Our Lady of Good Counsel

Dulce Diaz
James Furbush
George Roach
Grace Schuler

Seneca Valley High School

Jordan Chapman

St. John's Catholic Prep

Lily Ehart
Brandon Louis

Watkins Mill High School

Julia Herrera
Jordan Marry
Adriana Villars

Undecided

Rodrigo Jimenez
Patricia Libongco
Carina López
Vasilios Mantzouratos
Sophia Zavala



Principal: Andrew Piotrowski
Pastor: Fr. Mark Brennan

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Phone: 301-990-2441

Congratulations to the St. John's Class of 2015!

Mahyar Abbariki*
Allison Forbes Acuna
Nicholas Dylan Adami
Jaelin Daray Alburg
Orquidia Aleman Hernandez
Rachel Marie Alexander*
Lorena Julissa Alfaro
Serge-Olivier Dodji Amega*
Kalan Breanna Andrews*
Matthew Espino Arceo*†
Jacqueline Noel Armstrong
Eric Oliver Assoua
Karen Lorraine Aye
Summer Joy Batterson
Jacob Michael Bearer*†
Anthony Kelly Beins
Elijah Levi Belardo
Matthew Dangoy Belmonte*
Ruben Ariel Bernal*†
Thomas Andrew Bishop*†
Garrett Brams
Maxwell Ames Braschnewitz
Bailey Alexis Brothers
Daren Enel Brotherton-Julien
Maya Ariel Brown*
Kirklan Jeffrey Bryson
Matas Budrys
Deanna-Nicole Caintic Busog*
Taylor Jonai Camp*
Marco Polo Carlucci*
Amari Nicole Carter
Gerik Leander Castillo*
Ye-Sook Catalan*
Christian Patrick Celentano*†
Matthew Sean Chapman*
Oscar Louis Jean Chatain*
Kendall Lee Cherry
Heidi Fay Childress
Jordan Amarante Chisam*
Madeline Mae Cohen
Connor Jon Collins*
Peter Francis Conley
Ryan Michael Conway*
Nicola Armando Cordone
Jackson Daniel Coviello*†
Topacio Rubi Cruz-Reyes
Thomas Patrick Curtis, Jr. *
Makela Amaya Davidson
Arthur George Dedoulis
Michela Aisha Hope Demas*
Andrea Maria Diaz*
Joanna Augusta DiBiase*†
Caitlin Leigh Donahue
Nicholas James Dorsett
Nathan Lee Dorsey*
Rachel Mary Egan*
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Nima A. Fallahi*
George Webb Fellows III

Margaret Mary Fernicola*
Adham Nedd Fields
Gerald Francis Flood IV*†
Nahja Simone Franklin
Aldair Elizalde Garcia
Wilber Omar Garcia Jr.
Luke Elliott Garrett*
Eyerusalem Afework Gebremeskel
Catherine Elizabeth Giese
Konstantine Peter Glaros
William Marcus Golding*†
Elle Marie Goodwin*
Jasmine Taylor Graves*
Milan DeAlva Graves
Brendan Geoffrey Gray
Mason Alexander Gray
Camille Ryan Greaney*†
Colin Patrick Grosh
Evan Patrick Gurley
Zachary Phillip Hahn
Taylor Kaur Hamer*†
Stephen Donald Harlan IV*
Jared Michel Harris
Wesley Dean Harris*
Isabel Rose Hechinger
Julian Jose Herdoiza
Haley Bo Hilliard
Elissa Jayne Hipolito-Magsalin*†
Madeline Taylor Hoburg
Kyla Jhane Honesty*
Tyler Joseph Howe
Josephine Olga Iapalucci
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Siffen Kanea Jaleta*
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Xavier Cherie Johnson
Jacqueline Joyce Jones
Mandela Joshua Kabi
Andrew Mathew Kaibni*
Natalie Elizabeth Kaiser
Joseph Aloysius Kane
Sara Elizabeth Karaosmanoglu
Emilie Erzsebet Karolyi
Richard Benjamin Kemper
Morgan Rae Khan*
Brett Logan Kodak*
Michael Robert Koenigs
Alexis Mackenzie Krahling*
Jacquelyn Eileen Kramer
Emely Daniela Larios*
Albert Irving Lee, Jr.
Jackson Alan Lefelar*
Joy Nicole Logan*
Zachary Connor Long*
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Griffin Thomas Mahon
Alessandra Lorena Marchiori*
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Amanda Marie Meyers*†
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Ayron Keith Monroe
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Ramzi Mukhar
David Peter Murphy*†
Shane Perez Murphy
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Thomas Wilson Neustadt
Dinda Nugroho
James Howard Nunes
Jacob Aaron O'Hara
Robert Gus O'Hara*
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Corey Jaylin Vessels
Pablo Antonio Vivas
Grace Marie Voelzke
Maxwell Joseph Wade*†
Collin Michael Wallish*
Megan Elizabeth Walter
Ryan Scott Wanner
Lena Gabriella Washington
Anthony Turner Washington III
Meghan Arlita Webster*
William Jennings West III
Nyah Sarae Wilkinson
Dominique Alyssia Williams
Maggie Rose Williams
Nate Bennett Williams
Sterling Lewis Wills
Colin Stuart Witt
Abbie Michelle Wolf*
Margaret Olivia Wood*†
Elizabeth Katherine Woolfley*
Jillian Nicole Wright
Briana Marie Yancy*
Kiara Jasmin Yanes
Michael Joseph Yao*
Rienne Kresta Yvegeny B. Yator*
Devi Ylli
Kevin Michael Young

† *De La Salle Scholar*
* *National Honor Society*

HOLY SPIRIT

Con't from page 8

the spiritual growth of generations of young women. (Hundreds of them are her friends on Facebook today.) As a Secular Franciscan, Mrs. Jardeleza seeks to model her life on Christ's, following the example of St. Francis of Assisi.

She serves as Formation Director for the Franciscan Fraternity that meets at Capuchin College in DC and has belonged to the Teams of Our Lady since 1964.

The light of the Spirit is clearly evident in Mrs. Jardeleza's joyful presence. We are so pleased that she is willing to share her faith and life experience with the youth of our parish!

OPT



Sacrament of Confirmation - Sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit

Congratulations to our young parishioners who were confirmed by Bishop Barry Knestout on the evening of April 17. Reverend Joseph A. Calis and Reverend Francis Aning Amoah joined the Bishop for a group photo in front of the altar. The teens who were confirmed this year were: Martin Vincent Ambion, Joseph Paul Bromley, Camila Martha Carbajal, Jack Ignatius Carey, Benjamin Albert Colasito, Rory William Culkin, Sean Patrick Culkin, Nicolas Sebastian Fitzgerald-Shavers, Christopher Patrick Hauser, Jack George Johnson, Matthew Laurence Johnson, Michael Kuhlow, Maura Anne Lyons, Francis Michael Macarthy, Kieran Peter Maddox, Chris Dominic Martinez, Ronald McCluskey, Mary Maria McDonnell, Aidan Mockeridge, Nyrene Catherine Monforte, Edward Maximilian Mulholland, Colby Sebastian Nguyen, Hanna Lucy Parker, Matthew Peter Press, Michael Maximilian Reidy, Naya Catherine Salinas, Joseph Michael Sandri, Alexandra Brigid Scharnberger, Kathleen Kateri Schech, Nora Justin Sheehan, Liam Patrick Shaffer, Melina Philomena Skinner, Roberto Peter Tan, Ella Frances Torp, Carmela Joan Vecchio, and Lauren Faustina Vincent.

Middle School Students Learn About Caring for God's Creation

The sixth-grade class from St. John the Evangelist school had an Outdoor Education Trip in April. They spent 2 wonderful days at Hard Bargain Farm in Southern Maryland. The children enjoyed a variety of activities on the farm including planting peas, milking a cow, and feeding the pigs. They also spent time hiking through the wetlands and down to the Potomac River. They topped their day off by giving thanks to God for the wonders of nature and telling spooky stories around the campfire.



Sophie Bacon
Visitation



Gabriella Bertozzi
St. John's



Maggie Cavanaugh
Stone Ridge



Sydné Chesson
Bethesda Chevy Chase



Isabella Davila
St John's



Pieter DeGroot
Gonzaga



Catalina DeSouza
Bethesda Chevy Chase



Grace DuFour
St. John's

Love of Learning Faith in God Service for Others



Grace Duke
Visitation



Lauren Ferridge
Stone Ridge



Phoebe Gurdon
Holy Cross



Graduating Class of 2015



Anne-Sophie Hellman
Amherst Central



Sarah Kirby
Stone Ridge



Madeline May
Bethesda Chevy Chase



Maddie McBeath
Visitation



Sean McGarrity
Gonzaga



Ally McKenzie
Visitation



Colin McKenzie
Gonzaga



Bliss Mosko
Visitation



Henry Mudlaff
Gonzaga



Patrick Mulligan
Gonzaga



Brendan Munter
Gonzaga



Jack Pfefferkorn
Gonzaga



John Psillas
Georgetown Prep



Annette Rangoussis
St. John's



Mary Salvador
St. John's



Zoe Schmitt
St. John's



Drew Spiro
Bethesda Chevy Chase



Katherine Terry
St. John's

May is Mary's Month

May is the month noted for celebrations of mothers and Our Blessed Mother in particular. In Our Lady of Mercy church, the statue of Mary was sculpted by Sarah Hempel Irani, who was a young woman in her mid-twenties when she was commissioned to create the statue of The Virgin Annunciate, which is found flanking the altar and tabernacle in our church. The artist was familiar with our church as she and another artist had already worked together for nearly a year to create the Stations of the Cross for Our Lady of Mercy.

The work on the statue of Mary

Continued on page 35



The statue of Our Blessed Mother was sculpted by Sarah Hempel Irani to depict Mary as she may have appeared at the Annunciation.

History Comes Alive at Mercy Biography Wax Museum

Mercy third graders enjoyed social studies enrichment at the Biography Wax Museum, an annual event when students represent accomplished people throughout history. Visitors to the museum push an accompanying button in order to listen to each character tell a brief synopsis of their life. Ella Moore is pictured portraying Harriet Tubman.

OPT



Mercy Star Readers

Mercy's ninth annual reading initiative, "Page to Screen," a celebration of books that have been made into movies, began with a surprise Harry Potter assembly. The teachers of Hogwarts and Mercy students donned in Harry Potter glasses celebrate the beginning of weeks of independent reading. Principal Joan Hosmer and teachers stressed to students the importance of reading. Hallway bulletin boards are decorated to represent a variety of books that have been made into movies. Students keep track of reading by punching movie tickets which will then earn them a star on the Mercy "Walk of Fame."

OPT

Memorial Day Mass

By Jeanne Roesser

A Memorial Day Mass will be held on Monday, May 25, at 9:30am at St. Gabriel's Cemetery, which dates back to the late 1800's.

The Cemetery is located on Alloway Drive in Potomac. Families and friends are welcome to attend.

In case of rain the Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Mercy Church 9200 Kentsdale Drive in Potomac. For further information please contact Our Lady of Mercy Parish Office: 301-365-1415.

OPT

Our Lady of Mercy Parish

9200 Kentsdale Drive
Potomac, MD

Rev. John Dakes

Pastor

301-365-1415

Our Lady of Mercy School

Ms. Joan Hosmer

301-365-4477

Gerry Burgess, OPT Editor

301-330-5676

**More Our Lady of Mercy
News on Page 35**

Coming Events

On Sunday May 17, flute lovers will enjoy the music of the Chesapeake Flute Consort at 3:00 PM in the church. The concert will include Classical, Contemporary and Sacred music. The Consort plays a variety of flutes from piccolo to contra bass. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy live music and good venue to expose children to the music of the flute. The Consort is directed by Gail Vehslage and OLOM Liturgy and Music Minister Jayne Traynor Rose is the assistant director.

Preparations are under way for Our Lady of Mercy's Annual Pentecost Celebration. This year's theme is Empowered by the Spirit! Special Masses will be celebrated at 9:00 AM and Noon. Breakfast will follow the 9:00 AM Mass and a picnic with crafts and games will follow the Noon Mass. This special celebration is highlight of the late spring and a chance to gather and celebrate together before many parishioners are scattered by summer vacations.

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Benjamin Tran
Good Counsel



Carolyn Parker
Holy Cross



Cassidy Keehan
Holy Cross



Cecilia Rogers
Holy Cross



Dulmi Ratnasiri
Holy Cross



Eamon Doolan
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Ekpeme Etta
DeMatha



Elshadie Leul
Walter Johnson



Erica Patton
St. John's



Fionna Long
Holy Cross



Gabriel Feleke
Undecided



Grace-Ann Morris
Paint Branch



Graham Haederle
Good Counsel



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Jennifer Dopkins
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DeMatha



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Good Counsel



Kylie Draddy
Holy Cross



Leah McNamara
Holy Cross



Lucas Scheider
Gonzaga



Maria Shepp
St. John's



Matthew Freeman
Gonzaga



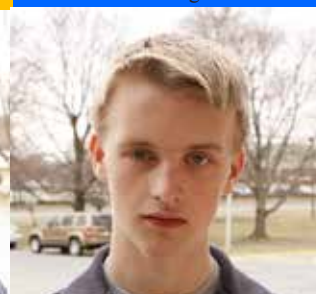
Matthew Zaudtke
Georgetown Preparatory



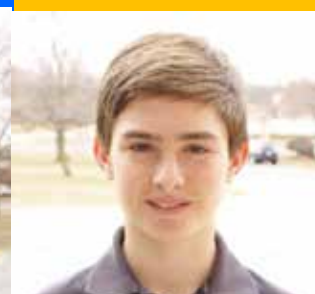
Maxwell Whittier
Gonzaga



Parker Flynn
St. John's



Reilly McCormick
St. John's



Richard O'Neill
Gonzaga



Serena Kemp
Holy Cross



Sophia Hill
Elizabeth Seton



Sophia Humphreys
Montgomery Blair



Steven Smith
DeMatha



Vivian Hoang
Springbrook



William Heinle
St. John's



The St. Bernadette community has been busy! The "Beach Ball" a huge success

Congratulations to our Development Director, Hilary Bednarz for a successful Gala Dinner Auction. The "Beach Ball" was held at the Wheaton Firehouse Ballroom and fun was had by parents and faculty alike!

OPT



Congratulations to St. Bernadette Parish and School First Communicants. A special thank you to their catechists, Mrs. Smith and Mr. Pryor, and, of course, to Monsignor K.B. Smith.



Grandparent's Day 2015

Grandparent's Day was a lovely day on May 1. Our grandparents/special friends participated in activities in the classrooms, worked on a service project in support of the Wounded Warriors, had a photo booth, went to a book fair and celebrated Mass together. We thank all the volunteers who made this special day possible.

OPT

St. Bernadette student and grandparent visiting on our special day.



St. Bernadette Parish

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Bartholomew Smith**
Pastor

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St. Bernadette School
Mrs. Wood, Principal
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Clara Callahan, OPT Editor
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It Pays to Advertise In Our Parish Times

At top, Our supportive faculty at our Gala: (L to R) Samantha Pryor, Michael Pryor, Sarah Rogevich, Andrea Patton, Liz Smith, Cathy Caruso, Virginia Cooper, Cheri Wood, Molly Scrivens, Cindy Zagone, Katherine McCoy.

Above, St. Bernadette parents and volunteers extraordinaire for the Annual Gala: (L to R) Mary Jo and Jerry McNamara, Jenn and Dan Doherty and Annie MacPeak.



The Little Mermaid, Jr. made a splash!

Our school theater production of *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* was a huge success in our newly renovated School Hall. The Little Mermaid, Jr. made a splash! Ursula, played by Beza Solomon, and Ariel, played by Oivia Ott, pleased our packed house!

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Women's Conference Draws Nearly 350 to Resurrection

By John Small

The "Archdiocesan Women's Conference," which featured two keynote speakers, a mass with Cardinal Donald Wuerl, a half-dozen workshops, and vendors offering a variety of religious items and services, drew nearly 350 registrants to the March 21 event at Resurrection Church.

According to Mary Suarez Hamm, archdiocesan Director of Hispanic Family Life and Leadership Development and coordinator of the annual conference, a total 341 women were registered, with Resurrection leading the way with 24.

St. Mary of the Mills in Laurel sent 22 women, St. Catherine Labourè in Wheaton registered 21, and St. Camillus in Silver Spring sent 18, according to Hamm.

Five or more women attended from 24 different churches or organizations, and nine attended from the Our Lady of Peace Catholic Military Community, she said.

Counting the vendors, confessors, volunteers, and others who were not formally registered, more than 400 people participated in the event, Hamm said.

Titled "Gathering of the Wisdom of Women: Water to Wine," the conference featured keynote speakers author/journalist Colleen Carroll Campbell and Lucia Baez Luzondo, co-founder of Renovacion Familiar Ministries, who gave her talk in Spanish.

Cardinal Wuerl was the chief celebrant in a mass that also included Resurrection Pastor Scott Hahn, parish Parochial Vicar William Brailsford, and Deacons David Suley and Chuck Bieberich.

"Yours is the wisdom of the heart," Wuerl said in his homily. "The wisdom of the heart is your great contribution....Never ever, ever diminish the wisdom of the heart."

After the mass, the cardinal was warmly greeted by many of the women in attendance.

"We interwove spirituality and education in a perfect setting.



Colleen Carroll Campbell gives keynote address to nearly 350 women who attended the "Archdiocesan Women's Conference" at Resurrection Church on March 31. (Photos by John Small)

Women were touched by the cardinal's homily, we had time for Adoration and Confession, inspiring speakers....It was a blessed day," Sharon O'Brien, a Resurrection parishioner and one of the conference organizers, said in summing up the event.

O'Brien also is Province Director of the National Council of Catholic Women.

In her keynote address in the main church, Carroll Campbell focused on the faith of women saints, including Theresa of Avila, Mother Teresa of Calcutta and Mary of Nazareth.

She said her father gave her a biography of Teresa of Avila while she was in college at Marquette University and that she was "captivated" by the life of "one of the greatest mystics in the church's history."

Carroll Campbell read everything

she could about Avila, and that helped her take a major step to "an adult relationship with Christ," she said. Later in her career, she wrote an award-winning spiritual memoir, "My Sisters the Saints."

Luzondo, who in a ministry with her husband Ricardo offers retreats, workshops, concerts and conferences the areas of marriage and family life, evangelization and leader formation among Hispanics, gave an equally stirring speech to a group of Spanish-speaking women at the conference.

Hamm said the post-conference evaluations "had glowing reviews of the speakers. People seemed to like the certainty of the faith as presented by the speakers--and the practical aspect as well."

The workshops at the all-day conference included presentations and discussions on domestic peace in the family, women in sacred art,

the wisdom of women in everyday life, and the contributions of African-American women

Next year's conference is planned for March 5, 2016, with the theme of Divine Mercy, the place yet to be determined, Hamm added.

OPT



Cardinal Donald Wuerl (right) and Resurrection Pastor Scott Hahn distribute Holy Communion to women attending March 21 conference.

Church of the Resurrection Parish

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Fr. Scott Hahn
Pastor

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Parish Editor
John Small

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Thirty-three Receive First Communion at Resurrection

Thirty-three youngsters recently received their First Holy Communion at Resurrection Church, most of them participating in the Eucharistic Sacrament for the first time during a special mass May 2 led by Pastor Scott Hahn. The first communicants at Resurrection are: Kelechi Abii, David Atkinson, Paul Augustine, Aden Barcelo, Sophia Bartley, Dean Beidleman, Stephen Brown, Julia Cabacar, Soledad Cabigas, Anne Daigle, Ariana Escarce, Venus Dominguez, Veronica Glasgow, Amelia Goglia, Alicia Gonzalez-Ren, Carly Graham, Zoelis Henriquez, Jeniffer Hounsou, Georgia Hutchinson, Kennon Hutchinson, Lance Ketchakeu, Nancy Ketchakeu, Keisy Lipem, Alyssa Mausser, Martin Muhindi, Justinne Natingor, Sierra Randiki, Christian Rodriguez, Kyle Rodriguez, Jordan Eyombo Thompson, Ashley Tomas, Gabriel Vasquez, and Sophie Wisniewski. The youngsters were prepared for the sacrament by Helene Stever, Director of Religious Education/Youth Ministry; Sacramental Catechists Mirna Bonilla, Phyllis Bottegai and Clarice Poole; and High School Sunday Catechist Assistants Cedric Paul and Sydney Muhindi. Photo by Phil Powell

OPT



Official White House Photo

Participation in High-Level Roundtable on Public Health

Eneshal Miller (at end of table), a member of the Resurrection Environmental Committee and the mother of a child who suffers from asthma, participated in roundtable discussion on climate change and public health April 7 at the Howard University College of Medicine in Washington, D.C. At the meeting, President Barack Obama met with citizens, public health experts and senior administration officials, including U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy and EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, the school's College of Medicine dean, Edward E. Cornwell III, and Tyra Bryant-Stephens, who directs the community asthma-prevention program at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. During the discussion, Obama said that warmer temperatures could exacerbate asthma by fueling wildfires and help spread insect-borne diseases in North America.

OPT

First Holy Communion at Christ the King



Christ the King's Good Shepherd First Holy Communicants, Margaret Nealy and Charlotte LeGrys

Christ the King's Good Shepherd Religious Education program "graduated" its First Communicants on Sunday May 3. Margaret Ann Nealy and Charlotte Claire LeGrys received Communion for the first time during the 10:30am Mass. The First Holy Communicants in the standard Religious Education classes will receive on May 17 within the 10:30am (English-language) and 12:30pm (Spanish-language) Masses. Those will be: (10:30) Brent Larry Africa, Anthony Daniel Alvarez, Yordy Amaya, Ervin John Basamot, Hersy Janine Brutus, Rolph Fabrice Brutus, Nicolas Cardenas Boffa, Giuliana Culzoni, Alain De Jesús, Anna Fruchter, Jesús Adonay González Melgar, Jalen Ángel Hernández, Lindsay Ruby Mejia, Alessandra Person, Caitlin Reynaldo, Roberto Zavala; (12:30) Carlos Amaya, Cristian Yoan Amaya, Dilber Omar Argueta, Yisel Arita-Lopez, Alondra Diaz, Geisel Ismel Diaz, Bethzy Lourde Diaz-Marquez, Kevin Josue Escobar, Nancy Garay, Andrea Michelle Gudiel-Arias, Estefani Gabriela Machado, Adrian Maldonado, Jade Medina, Jonathan Medina, Xochilt Medina, Yarisia Medina, Bayron A. Ovalle Rodas, Melissa Pineda, Jessica Ponce, Kristy Ponce, John Ramirez and Ariel Ruiz.

OPT



Christ the King parishioners, Margaret Forbin, Katie Holland, Renate Mordecai and May Kay Mans at the annual ADW Conference for Women.

Archdiocesan Conference for Women

The third annual Archdiocesan Women's Conference was held this year at the Church of the Resurrection, Burtonsville, on Saturday March 25. Christ the King made its presence felt with parishioners Mary Kay Mans, Margaret Forbin, Renate Mordecai and Katie Holland. Its mid-morning Mass was con-Celebrated by Donald Cardinal Wuerl and the Pastor of

Resurrection, Fr. Scott Hahn.

This year's conference "Gathering the Wisdom of Women: Water to Wine" drew a larger group than in previous years with excellent speakers, including CTK parishioner, Gloria Purvis Scott who spoke on "A Woman's Worth – What Our Ancestors Knew But Today's Women Want to Forget."

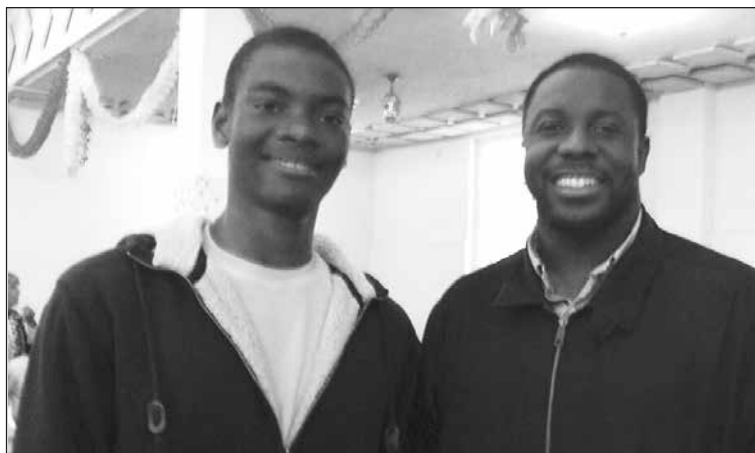
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Christ the King Says Goodbye to Sr. Dorothy Owen

On Saturday April 25, Christ the King held a Memorial Mass for its longest-serving Director of Religious Education, Sr. Dorothy A. Owen, RSCJ. Sr. Dorothy died April 2nd at the Motherhouse in Menlo Park, California after a very long battle with cancer. Sr. Dorothy would have celebrated her 80th birthday on April 21. Her Memorial drew many from outside the parish, former students as well as families who knew her when she first came to Christ the King in 1886 at the invitation of our former Paster, Msgr. John J. Dressell. She later was assigned as Pastoral Associate.

In 2011, after telling Fr. Jose

Continued on page 27



CTK altarserver (and BCC football player) Joseph Forbin and former CTK altarserver (and Tennessee Titan football player) Moise Fokou at the repast for Sr. Dorothy.

Note for May

Throughout the month of May, traditionally dedicated to Our Lady, Christ the King will continue its practice of having May devotions each Thursday. Having begun May 7, at 6:30pm (after Eucharistic Adoration) there will be Marian hymns, the Rosary and the Litany of the Blessed Virgin, followed by, as is usual for all Thursdays, Benediction at 7pm.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in honoring our Blessed Mother in this most beautiful month of the year.

OPT

Christ the King
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Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Jose Maria Cortes
FSCB Pastor

Katie Holland,
OPT Editor

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kh7@georgetown.edu



Easter at Christ the King

No, this is not a photo from the Kentucky Derby or the Preakness, it is Easter at Christ the King where the wearing of a bonnet elicits chocolate Easter eggs from the Pastor's Easter Basket for Marge Mercurio and Katie Holland!

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Elizabeth O'Connor and David Czarnecki

Health Ministry Facilitator Honored

Parishioners and members of the Health Ministry honored Elizabeth O'Connor, RN for her many years of service to the parish at a Mass and reception March 16. An active parishioner for over 50 years, Liz worked to establish the Health Ministry at St. Andrews. Its facilitator since its inception in 1998, she's retiring and relocating to Catonsville, Maryland.

During Mass, Monsignor Kevin Hart, the celebrant, offered blessings for Liz and all past, present and future members of the Health Ministry. After Mass, Dave Czarnecki, on behalf of Msgr. Thomas M. Wells Council 13008, Knights of Columbus, presented her a print of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta with thanks and appreciation for her years of service to the parish and community. The celebration contin-

ued after Mass with a reception in the All-Purpose Room.

Born and raised in Roanoke, Virginia, Liz received her RN degree from St. Vincent De Paul Nursing School in Norfolk, Virginia staffed by the Daughters of Charity. She visited Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, Maryland on the day it opened in 1963 and, within months, began working there. Last year she received an award for 50 years of service and currently works part-time as a Faith Community Nursing Coordinator. This program works with faith community nurses and health ministry teams of all denominations in the Metro area.

Though no longer living in the area, Liz has assured us that she will keep in touch and visit when she can. We wish her well.

OPT

The Health Ministry – Serving Our Parish

The Health Ministry of St. Andrew Apostle Parish, established in 1998, works with the health care community and parish organizations to promote the Church's role as a healing community. It includes spiritual, physical, emotional and psychological aspects of health. Membership is open to all. A medical background or degree is not needed.

The Health Ministry has a presence in many areas of parish life. It was through their efforts that St.

Andrews became one of the first churches in the area to install an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). The AED, compatible with Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Units, is located by the church doors near the circle by the All Purpose Room. Combined AED/CPR classes are offered twice yearly.

Regular activities include blood pressure screenings, done monthly, from September through June, after the 8:30 and 10:00 Sunday Masses; providing a First Aid Booth at parish events; supplying Care Notes – pamphlets covering various health topics and located in the back of the church; Sunday visits to the assisted living group home next to the church for ice-cream socials; networking with Faith Community Nurses/Health Ministries at other churches.

If you're new to the parish and/or looking for ways more actively participate in parish life, please consider joining us. New members are always welcome

OPT

St. Andrew Apostle School News and Notes

St. Andrew Apostle School junior high students produced and acted in Disney's "Aladdin Jr." play. Performances were held in the All Purpose Room on April 28 and 29 before sold out audiences. Over 50 students were involved in the production with Isshin Kurokawa playing Aladdin, Amia Graye as Princess Jasmine and Justin Gross as Genie. The students spent months preparing and rehearsing and their efforts really paid off!

In honor of Principal Appreciation Day, St. Andrew

students made 513 sandwiches which were donated to McKenna's Wagon, on behalf of Ms. Sheehan. Our amazing principal is dedicated to community service and we thought this would be the best way to show appreciation for all she does.

Fifty children received First Holy Communion on May 2, concluding eight months of carefully curated preparation in the St. Andrew second-grade classrooms, in Sunday Faith Formation classes and in two unique Saturday retreats.

St. Andrew second-grade teacher Kathleen McGovern directed the first communion preparation for the third year. Throughout the year, second graders at St. Andrew School and Faith Formation students studied Gospel verses that explained the sacraments, and were presented in "kid speak."

The first goal of this program was to prepare students for their first Reconciliation. "They first learn why and how we sin, and then the need for reconciliation,"

Continued on page 48



God Bless Our First Communicants – Class of 2015

Women's Communion Breakfast

On Saturday, April 18, the parish welcomed over one hundred twenty women to Mass and the Spring Communion Breakfast. Hosted for the women of the parish by the women parish, the ladies enjoyed a delicious and expansive buffet breakfast in a beautifully decorated All Purpose Room. Father Paul Scalia, Bishops Delegate for Clergy in the Arlington Diocese was the featured speaker. His talk, entitled "Following the Lamb – Poor, Chaste and Obedient" was well received and punctuated by bursts of laughter in response to his humorous anecdotes. The talk elicited generous applause and requests for a future return engagement.

OPT Sharing faith, friendship and food



Congratulations to the youth of St. Andrew Apostle who were confirmed by Bishop Barry Knestout on March 21.

St. Andrew Apostle Parish

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Silver Spring, MD

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Pastor

301-649-3700 ext. 311

St. Andrew Apostle School

Susan M. Sheehan,
Principal

301-649-3555

Monsignor Kuehner Honored

By Father John Dillon, Pastor

Congratulations to Msgr. Ralph Kuehner (Father Ralph, as he likes to be called), for receiving the Catholic University Alumni Association achievement award in recognition of his tireless efforts working for social change. He was honored for being a teacher, an administrator and interfaith activist, who helped to establish numerous programs for the poor, the homeless, immigrants, the elderly, prisoners, caregivers, victims of discrimination, and victims of domestic abuse.

Fr. Ralph was a co-founder of SOME (So Others Might Eat) and helped establish Victory Housing, which now offers affordable rental housing in eight facilities in the D.C. area. He is a long-time board member of the Fair Housing Council of Greater Washington and the Interfaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington.

Fr. Ralph has served our St. Francis of Assisi community since 1991. He recently celebrated his ninety-first birthday and will celebrate the sixty-fifth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood in June.

OPT



Father Ralph Kuehner with the Catholic University of America Award plaque

St. Francis Religious Education Classes Wrap-up

By Susan Anderson, Director of Religious Education

During the week of May 3, St. Francis Religious Education students and catechists will keep a long-standing parish tradition. They will be sharing a special prayer service in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, during their final class of this school year. There is much to be grateful for as we look back and celebrate all that was shared during the 2014-2015 year.

Weekly gatherings, a rotation of craft projects led by a team of art catechists, opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance, and participation by the fifth-grade classes in Sunday Mass on April 19 were highlights. In addition, students and families demonstrated love of God and neighbor through their contributions to two service projects – our Christmas Stocking Help Line, which provided gifts for families served by Catholic Charities, the Missionaries of Charity in DC, and the CRS Rice Bowl during Lent. Our wonderful team of volunteer catechists and classroom aides made all of this

possible through their careful lesson planning and joy-filled witness to Christ.

On Saturday, April 25, thirty-two children celebrated their First Holy Communion and on Friday, May 15, fifty-one young people will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. Registration for this summer's Vacation Bible Camp (June 22-26), and for the 2015-16 Religious Education classes, has already begun. We give thanks to God for a great year and look forward to resuming classes in September!

OPT

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The St. Francis Ol' Saints Team

Hoops for Haiti – Fun and Fellowship for Charity

By Azevedo Evantanio

Spectators and players began to walk into the main gymnasium of Good Counsel High School on Saturday, April 18th for the 3rd annual Hoops for Haiti event. With the series record tied at one win each between the Swole Saints from the FRED Youth Group, and St. Francis' Ol' Saints, the stakes were high for bragging rights during the year.

By the end of the first half, the Ol' Saints were up by 33 points. The youth group closed the gap,

but not quite enough. The score board read 76-73 at the end of the night – it was a shoot-out. As soon as the game ended, both teams quickly laughed and smiled, realizing how much fun they had. They shook hands, exchanged nice words, and hugged to conclude the game. A good time was had by all, including the 50 plus spectators.

Everyone realized that this game was not about winning or losing. It was about raising funds for educational needs for youth in our Sister Parish in Leon, Haiti. To that end, this year's Hoops for Haiti raised over one-thousand dollars.

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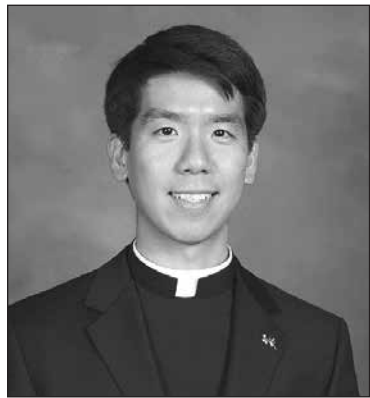
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Seminarians Serve SJN

By Stephen Castellano

St. John Neumann has been blessed to have many men from our parish enter seminary to discern a call to the priesthood. Right now there are four men (Mark Dwyer, Nicholas Morrison, Jamie Morrison, and Br. Antonio Diez de Medina) who have answered that call and who are now in seminary formation. In addition to these "homegrown" vocations, SJN also welcomes seminarians from other



Deacon Martino Choi is finishing his seminary formation at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland and will be ordained to the priesthood in June 2015.

parishes to serve among us, usually for a year. Currently moving toward priestly ordination in June, Deacon Martino Choi is one of those seminarians.

To summarize his time of service here, which finished in April, Deacon Choi says that it was a great way to transition to parish priesthood. "Opportunities to serve at Mass, such as by preaching, were good preparation for the priesthood," he said. Currently completing his seminary studies at Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Deacon Choi also said that his assignment at SJN provided a good complement to his studies since he could apply what he learned to a real-life setting. As he prepares for his ordination in June, Deacon Choi said he has "a tremendous sense of trust in the Lord" and he is still learning how much more he needs to know. He said it is important to see someone in his shoes as an "instrument of the Lord" rather than a more distant "independent contractor."

Asked for one piece of advice for a man discerning the priesthood, Deacon Choi went back to the theme of trust – that the important thing is to trust in the Lord and to trust in his plan.

OPT



Members of the SJN 50+ Club meet monthly to enjoy time together and working for the needs of the parish.

The Joy of Being 50+

By Kathleen Hurley & Rose Acuff

The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann Parish was started in 1992 and currently has over 50 active members. The club meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Our objectives are to contribute to the spiritual well-being of its members, provide fellowship and recreational activities, and provide opportunities for charitable works.

This year we helped cover the expense of the rectory roof replacement and grocery gift cards for the Thanksgiving Baskets.

In addition to some fine events in the Parish Center throughout the year (often including guest speakers) we visit a number of the area restaurants for great food and fellowship. All activities are very affordable and give us an opportunity to catch up on parish life and

beyond. The 50+ Club of St. John Neumann stages an annual Heart-to-Heart Bake Sale that provides funding for the club's support of parish needs.

This year our Bake Sale raised \$1,400 to help around the parish. We feel blessed to belong to a parish so supportive of our Club. For more information, or to join us, contact Rose Acuff at racuff1@comcast.net or 301-963-1457.

OPT



Archival photo shows SJN Choir and Pilgrim Group in Rome singing a concert at the Church of St. Ignatius (built in the mid-1600s). The trip was one of many organized and hosted by MaryLu Hartsell, SJN Director of Music & Liturgy.

Majestic Italy...going, going, GONE!

When was the last time you did something for the first time? Here's your chance. Many SJN choir and non-choir members and our own parish priests have made these group trips over the years. Many will recognize (then) Father Mike Fisher, in the accompanying photo as he sang with his SJN parishioners on one of the trips to Italy.

Visiting antiquities that go back to the beginning of recorded time can be one a most life changing experience. When the visit to cathedrals, churches, shrines, other pilgrimage destinations, natural and architectural wonders includes the most heavenly art and music, it can positively change a heart and soul.

Now that the spirit has been cared for let's discuss nourishing your body. Do you like spaghetti?

How about lasagna or veal piccata? Imagine that's just a smattering of food delights that are part of Italian fare.

Consider actually singing with the SJN Choir while participating in a Holy Mass at the Vatican with Holy Father, Pope Francis. On several past trips the traveling group provided liturgical music at St. Peter's of the Vatican and looks forward to doing so on this upcoming sojourn.

This 10-day pilgrimage trip of a lifetime (Nov. 10-19, 2015) includes visits to: Venice, Padua, Florence, Assisi, Rome and Vatican City. Sing with the choir, or just tag along as *Peter's Way Tours* escorts the group 24/7 through Italy.

NINE seats left---This your chance, so take it and if it changes your life, let it! **You have until June 1, 2015** to call and sign-up for the November 2015 trip. Contact MaryLu Hartsell, SJN Director of Music & Liturgy at: 301-330-7565 or 301-814-7792.

OPT

May Crowning of Our Lady

By Rus Wester

Sometimes hearts tell great parish stories. We caught up with our Pastor to ask him about the significance of the May Crowning of Our Lady.

Father Joe Rogers, the May Celebration of Crowning the Blessed Mother, is a special one for you, personally....why?

Today is a great day of gratitude in my heart, to the Lord, for the gift of Our Lady in our lives. Those words He spoke from the cross 'behold your Mother' have been a path for my whole Priesthood. It was through

Continued on page 27



Priest and Deacons presided after Mass, as young people of the parish led the by-lingual, Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary as all gathered for the May Crowning Celebration, which began its journey to the five-altar stops around the parish grounds.



As the parish processed out of the church on May 3 with the principle statue of the Blessed Virgin, praying the rosary together and singing, the words of Her song *Immaculate Mary, thy praises we sing...Ave, Ave, Ave Maria* filled minds and hearts.

St. John Neumann Parish

9000 Warfield Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20882

Fr. Joseph Rogers,
Pastor

Rus Wester,
OPT Editor
301-330-0047

OWEN

Con't from page 23

Maria Cortes, FSCB, Christ the King's Pastor, that she was in a serious health condition, and receiving The Anointing of the Sick, she returned to California. One of those who came was a former altarserver, former CCD student (of this editor!) and currently playing on the football team, the Tennessee Titans, Moise Fokou. A Memorial Fund in her honor was established at Christ the King for the benefit of the Religious Education program there.

OPT

DORSONVILLE

Con't from page 7

confirmed this year.

During his homily, the new Bishop invited two students to the front of the Church for questions. The students were clearly very well-prepared, and the Bishop was pleased with their knowledge of the faith.

It was an honor for Our Lady of Lourdes Church to welcome Bishop Dorsonville back for his very first Confirmation. We congratulate him, and we congratulate all of our Confirmed students who are now adults in the church.

OPT

LIONS ROAR

Con't from page 7

sister Sarah joined a group of her closest friends at the race.

As runners wound their way through the neighborhood, families along the way waved out their windows or stood on their lawns cheering. Moonbounces and music greeted the runners at the end of their trip. There was an abundance of breakfast food, followed soon after by sliders, pizza, wings, hot dogs and quesadillas – all donated by local vendors like Hard Times, City Burger and Alero. Names were drawn for the amazing raffle baskets created by each class, and trophies were awarded to age-group and overall winners. Paula Pels was a repeat winner in the overall female category, and Greg Doody was also a repeater in the overall male category!

We welcomed lots of alumni back for the run, and lots of their moms and dads came, too. Former teachers brought their families, as did many of our current faculty members. Hundreds of volunteers worked for hundreds of hours to prepare for the day, and to bring the event off without a hitch. It was a great day that reminded all of us that we are members of an exceptional community, brought together by our commitment to faith, excellence and service.

OPT

**It pays to
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Our Parish Times**

CROWNING

Con't from page 26

Our Lady that I came back to the Church. It was through Our Lady that I was opened to the gift of the Eucharist, and it was through her that I received the grace of the Holy Priesthood."

Father, today I know you're looking forward to a particular part of the parish celebration honoring our heavenly Mother....

As Priest and Pastor, I have the honor of crowning Our Lady. For me, that's a way of saying 'thank you Mother, with all my heart, that you are our gift in the Church and for the fruit of your womb, who is Jesus, and for all the ways these fruits continue to come into our lives...through the sacraments, the

Corporal Works of Mercy and the life of the parish."

Father, over 150 parishioners came to join you in this moment of gratitude. Some brought their own statues and images of Our Lady to process to five altars around our grounds while praying the rosary together....

The procession we engage in around the parish property is where we offer our entrustment to the Blessed Mother. She is the Immaculate Conception, the Immaculate Mother of God and Immaculate Mother of the Church. This 'entrustment' is a spiritual protection for our church, our parish, for everything we do to be freed from any stain...of sin.

When I ask her to take authority, She takes authority. Because She's a Mother, but She's also a



The final altar stop of the day, to pray the Fifth Glorious Mystery of the Holy Rosary, *The Coronation*, children placed many beautiful, spring flowers around the processional statue as She is crowned. *Mother Mary, we entrust our lives and families to your Immaculate Heart.*

Queen. So we're thanking Her as Her as our Queen." our Mother, and we're crowning

OPT

Congratulations CLASS of 2015

Aldemaro Alberto Algarra Gonzalez
Matthew Sarsfield Baker
Joseph William Blumenauer
Charles Alfred Briggs VI
Jonathan Alan Brubaker
Patrick Edward Sunga Campos
Daniel John Cannon
Ian Joseph Carroll
Norman Joshua Chan
Brian Matthew Clancy
John Hall Contrera
Conor Joseph Corkery
Christopher David Daniels
Andrew Joseph deSa
Alexander Itak-Gerard Ekam
James Matthew Bernard Escobar
Francisco Daniel Flores-Pourrat
Emanuel Graciano Gancayco
Michael Peyton Goodwin

Paris Arthur John Gurdon
Gabriel Antoine Haddad
John Joseph Himpler
Tomoya Kanno
Andrew Robert Kett
John Stephen Kett
Yeonsuk Kim
Dimitrios Apostolos Lappas
Nicholas Alan Leaver
Matthew James Little
Samuel Patrick Lunde
John Michael Martinez
Luke Gregory Marvin
Kevin John Fitzgerald McCormack
James Phillips McCreary
Paul Francis McGiffin
Andrés-Sebastián Meléndez-Muñoz
Peter Jonathan Neville Jr.
Ryan Walter O'Connell

Brian Edward O'Neill
Jean-Claude Louis Perrottet
Brendan Thomas Regan
Nicolas Brendan York Rowan
Francis Mark Rowedder
Kevin Robert Sebastian Jr.
Samuel Osborn Sechler
Gavin Francis Sheehan
Jonah Matthias Smith
Michael Talbott Staines
Gabriel Francis Martinez Virador
Christopher Steven Warner
Joseph Nikita Weber
Paul Alejandro Welters Tarifa
John Martin Francis Whelan
David Jonathan Wilkes
Keenan Padraic Woofter
Alexander Vincent Young
Leonid Olegovich Zhukov

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

The following list is representative of the wide variety of colleges and universities where Heights students have been accepted over the past three years:

Auburn University ■ Ave Maria University ■ Belmont Abbey College ■ Benedictine College ■ Boston College ■ Boston University ■ Bowdoin College ■ Bucknell University ■ University of California at Berkeley ■ Catholic University of America ■ University of Chicago ■ College of Charleston ■ The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina ■ Clemson University ■ Colgate University ■ Columbia University ■ Cornell University ■ Creighton University ■ University of Dallas ■ University of Dayton ■ University of Delaware ■ Dickinson College ■ Denison University ■ Fairfield University ■ Fordham University ■ Franciscan University of Steubenville ■ George Mason University ■ The George Washington University ■ Georgetown University ■ Georgia Institute of Technology ■ Gettysburg College ■ Hampden-Sydney College ■ Harvard University ■ High Point University ■ University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign ■ Indiana University at Bloomington ■ James Madison University ■ Johns Hopkins University ■ University of Kansas ■ Lafayette College ■ Loyola University Maryland ■ Marquette University ■ University of Mary Washington ■ University of Maryland, College Park ■ Marymount University ■ Miami University, Oxford ■ University of Michigan ■ University of Mississippi ■ Mount St. Mary's University ■ University of Navarre ■ New York University ■ The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill ■ North Carolina State University ■ Northwestern University ■ University of Notre Dame ■ Pennsylvania State University, University Park ■ University of Pittsburgh ■ Princeton University ■ Providence College ■ Purdue University ■ Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute ■ Saint Joseph's University ■ Salisbury University ■ University of South Carolina ■ Syracuse University ■ Texas A&M University ■ The University of Texas, Austin ■ United States Naval Academy ■ Villanova University ■ Virginia Military Institute ■ Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University ■ University of Virginia ■ Wake Forest University ■ Washington College ■ College of William and Mary

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St. Elizabeth Sprint a HUGE success!



The St. Elizabeth Parish and School hosted the 2015 5K Race/1K Fun Walk on May 2nd.



Special thanks to Colleen Mahoney, Event Chair, and Sprint Team: Sheila Burns, Cindy Canary, Christina Hendricks, Monica Malanoski, Kelly Murphy, Mary Penny, April Tan, and Liz Wharton for making the St. Elizabeth Sprint so memorable!

“Annie Jr.!” at St. Elizabeth School



Congratulations and thanks to the St. Elizabeth School cast of “Annie Jr.!” What amazing performances!



St. Elizabeth School's production of “Annie Jr.!” was spectacular. Special appreciation goes to Mr. Casement & Mr. Crimans, co-directors, and Mrs. Reynders, set designer!



Pictured wearing their high school sweatshirts are our winners: Bryce Galey, Isabella Varea, Timothy Sessing, Rachel Russell, and Matthew Quast!

Congratulations, CBN Essay Winners and their families!

St. Elizabeth Parish
917 Montrose Road
Rockville, MD
Msgr. John Macfarlane
Pastor
301-881-1380
St. Elizabeth School Principal
Vincent P. Spadoni
301-881-1824
Gerry Moore,
OPT Editor
202-887-6475

St. Elizabeth School congratulates our FIVE winners in this year's Catholic Business Network Essay Contest sponsored by the Montgomery County CBN. Obviously the quality of our students' work was recognized by the judges from our Archdiocesan Catholic high schools.

With over four hundred essays submitted, we are most definitely proud to say that five have come from our parish school! Our winners will receive scholarships to their Catholic high schools.

OPT

Orlandi Named 2014–2015 Golden Apple Teacher

St. Elizabeth School is so proud to announce that our middle school science teacher, Mrs. Elizabeth Orlandi, was named an Archdiocese of Washington Golden Apple Teacher for the 2014–2015 school year! This award, bestowed each year by His Eminence Donald Cardinal Wuerl, is presented to outstanding educators who exemplify the teachings of Jesus Christ in all that they say and do. Mrs. Orlandi, a published scientist and nation-

ally recognized lecturer, was our 2010 St. Elizabeth School Teacher of the Year. In addition to her ministry at St. Elizabeth School, Mrs. Orlandi currently serves on the board of the National Science Teachers Association and was responsible for planning and carrying out their recent conference held in Chicago, Illinois. Congratulations, Mrs. Orlandi, and THANK YOU for all you do for our boys and girls!

OPT





**Pilar
Aguilar**
*Our Lady of
Good Counsel*



**Gabriella
Antonelli**
*Archbishop Spalding
High School*



**Rachel
Antony**
*Thomas Wootton
High School*



**Nicolas
Arnaiz**
*Thomas Wootton
High School*



**Caitlyn
Asher**
*The Academy of
the Holy Names*



**Eileen
Bartlett**
*Our Lady of
Good Counsel*



**Daniel
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**Grace
Bonato**
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**Michael
Butler**
*Georgetown
Preparatory School*



**Caitlyn
Cabrera**
The Bullis School



**Andrew
Calis**
*Georgetown
Preparatory School*



**Meaghan
Carey**
*Stone Ridge School
of the Sacred Heart*



**Mary
Childs**
*Our Lady of
Good Counsel*



**Adrianna
Corral**
*Connelly School
of the Holy Child*



**Kenyan
Douglas**
*St. John's College
High School*



**Grace
Evans**
*Thomas Wootton
High School*

**Rev. Msgr.
John F. Macfarlane**
Pastor

St. Elizabeth Catholic School

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2015

Mr. Vincent P. Spadoni
Principal



**Emma
Farrell**
*St. John's College
High School*



**Chad
Frick**
*Our Lady of
Good Counsel*



**Bryce
Galey**
*St. John's College
High School*



**Emily
Gardner**
*The Academy of
the Holy Cross*



**Kaitlin
Giles**
*St. John's College
High School*



**Madeleine
Giuliani**
*Georgetown
Visitation*



**Conrad
Gorzala**
Undecided



**Janel
Heasley**
*Gaithersburg
High School*



**Abigail
Hennessy**
*Thomas Wootton
High School*



**Holly
Hennessy**
*Thomas Wootton
High School*



**Grace
Henschel**
*The Academy of the
Holy Cross*



**Kyra
Hickey**
*Connelly School of
the Holy Child*



**Caroline
Howley**
*The Academy of
the Holy Cross*



**John
Howley**
*Georgetown
Preparatory School*



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Jansen**
*St. John's College
High School*



**Connor
Johnson**
*St. John's College
High School*



**Nathan
Kim**
*St. John's College
High School*



**Nicole
Lawson**
*Rockville
High School*



**Quinn
Mahoney**
*Gonzaga College
High School*



**Sara
Miller**
*St. John's College
High School*



**Elaine
Nagahara**
*Poolesville HS
Magnet Program:
Global Ecology House*



**Djordje
Orcev**
*Georgetown
Preparatory School*



**Erin
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High School*



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*Our Lady of
Good Counsel*



**Joshua
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High School*



**Matthew
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High School*



**Luciana
Rieke**
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**Jenna
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the Holy Cross*



**Kelly
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the Holy Cross*



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**Isabella
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*Georgetown
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**Eleanor
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**Nicholas
Wood**
Undecided

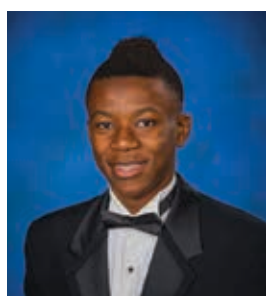


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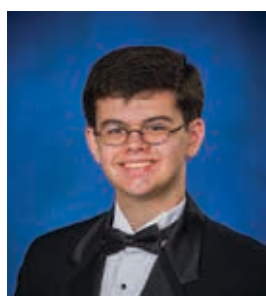
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The Monks and Faculty of St. Anselm's Congratulate Our Seventieth Graduating Class

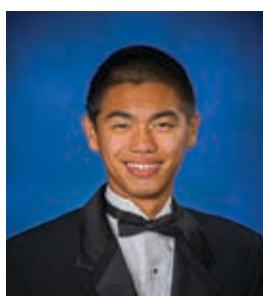
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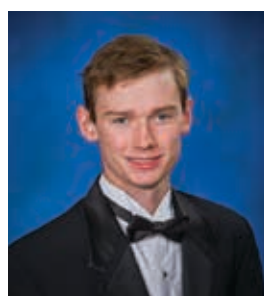
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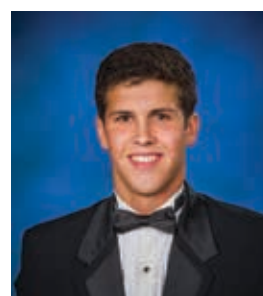
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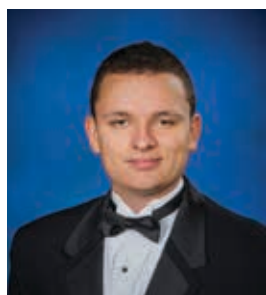
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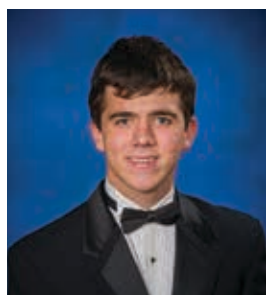
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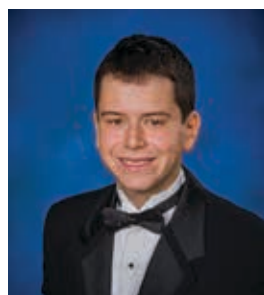
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Arlington, Va.
Georgetown University



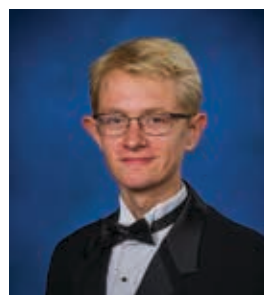
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Alexandria, Va.
College of William & Mary



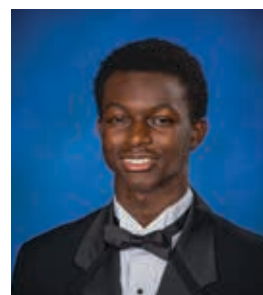
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Washington, D.C.
U.S. Coast Guard Academy



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Harvey Mudd College



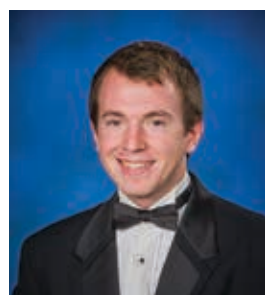
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Silver Spring, Md.
St. John's University (Minn.)



Stephen Kpundeh
Upper Malboro, Md.
Vassar College



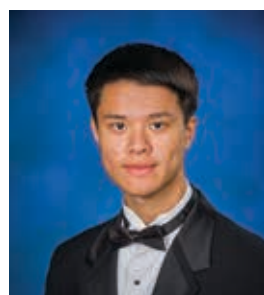
Miles Moore
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Elon University



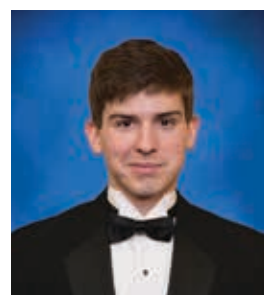
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Chevy Chase, Md.
St. Mary's College (Md.)



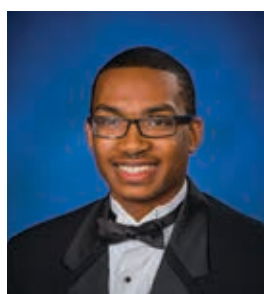
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Washington, D.C.
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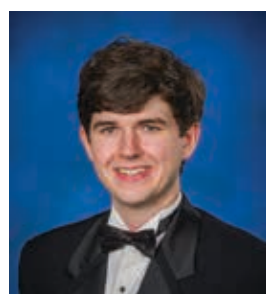
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Villanova University



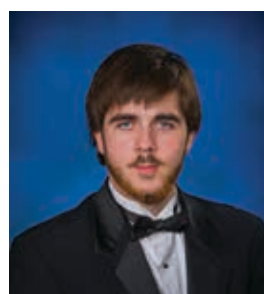
Demetrius Robinson
Temple Hills, Md.
Morgan State University



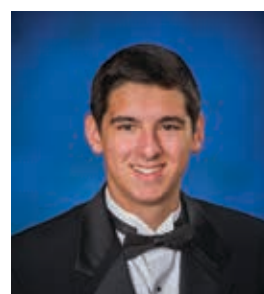
Henry Schupp
Silver Spring, Md.
University of North Georgia



Joseph St. Pierre
Alexandria, Va.
Worcester Polytechnic Inst.



Nino Suffoletta
College Park, Md.
University of Delaware



Conrad Vecchione
Silver Spring, Md.
St. Mary's College (Md.)

PAX IN SAPIENTIA

St. Mary

Alice in Wonderland at St. Mary School



Principal Debby Eisel kept her promise to eat green eggs and ham on the roof of the school if the students met the reading challenge issued in March. Fr. Chip kept her company but there was only one costume!!



Alice in Wonderland was a wonder indeed! The drama department, ably led by Mrs. Berg and Mrs. Rodda, presented the show April 24-26. Over 50 students in grades 5-8 participated in the cast and crew and each one was magnificent. School and parish families came out to support the show and were thoroughly entertained!

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The Caterpillar and his posse of legs pose for a photo after singing "Zippity Doo-Dah" from Alice In Wonderland.



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Ordinations to the Priesthood Increase 25% in 2015

Ordination Class of 2015 Shows Increase in Number Ordained, Reflects Positive Impact of Support From Families, Catholic Schools, Parish Priests

The total number of potential ordinands for the class of 2015, 595, is up from 477 in 2014 and 497 in 2013.

The Georgetown University-based Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) gathered the data for "The Class of 2015: Survey of Ordinands to the Priesthood." CARA collects the data annually for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations. Approximately 69 percent of the 595 potential ordinands reported to CARA. These 411 respondents include 317 ordinands to the diocesan priesthood, from 120 different dioceses and archdioceses, and 94 ordinands to the religious priesthood.

The full report can be found online: www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/ordination-class/index.cfm

The 2015 class of men ordained to the priesthood report that they were, on average, about 17 when they first considered a vocation to the priesthood and encouraged to consider a vocation by an average of four people. Seven in 10 (71 percent) say they were encouraged by a parish priest, as well as friends (46 percent), parishioners (45 percent), and mothers (40 percent). On average, they lived in the diocese or eparchy for which they will be ordained for 15 years before entering seminary. Religious ordinands knew the members of their religious institute an average of six years before entering.

Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh, North Carolina, chair of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, found that the data gave reason for hope but also provide areas for further growth.

"It is encouraging to see the slight increase in the number of ordinations this year in the United States," Bishop Burbidge said. "When asked about the positive influences they encountered while discerning the call, those to be ordained responded that the support from their family, parish priest, and Catholic schools ranked very high."

Father W. Shawn McKnight, executive director of the Secretariat, cited educational debt as a growing concern. "Over 26 percent of those ordained carried educational debt at the time they entered the seminary, averaging a little over \$22,500 in educational debt at entrance to the seminary. Considering the high percentage of the men ordained already having earned an undergraduate degree, it will be important to find ways to assist in debt reduction in the future."

Among the survey's major findings:

- The average age for the Class of 2015 is 34. The median age (midpoint of the distribution) is 31. Eight in 10 respondents are between 25 and 39. This distribution is slightly younger than in 2014, but follows the pattern in recent years of average age at ordination in the mid-thirties.
- Two-thirds (69 percent) report their primary race or ethnicity as Caucasian/European American/white. Compared to the adult Catholic population of the United States, they are more likely to be of Asian or Pacific Islander background (10 percent of responding ordinands), but less likely to be Hispanic/Latino (14 percent of responding ordinands). Compared to diocesan ordinands, religious ordinands are less likely to report their race or ethnicity as Caucasian/European American/white.
- One-quarter (25 percent) were born outside the United States, with the largest numbers coming from Colombia, Mexico, the Philippines, Nigeria, Poland and Vietnam. On average, respondents born in another country

have lived in the United States for 12 years. Between 20 and 30 percent of ordinands to diocesan priesthood for each of the last ten years were born outside of the United States.

- Most ordinands have been Catholic since infancy, although 7 percent became Catholic later in life. Eighty-four percent report that both of their parents are Catholic and more than a third (37 percent) have a relative who is a priest or a religious.
- More than half completed college (60 percent) before entering the seminary. One in seven (15 percent) entered the seminary with a graduate degree. One in three (34 percent) report entering the seminary while in college. The most common fields of study for ordinands before entering the seminary are theology or philosophy (20 percent), liberal arts (19 percent), and science (13 percent).
- Half of responding ordinands (51 percent) attended a Catholic elementary school, which is

Continued on page 34



Holy Cross
Simon of
Cyrene
Parishioner
of the year,
Mr. Tom
Striegel
pictured
with his wife,
Maureen.

Simone of Cyrene Parishioner of the Year

At the annual Gala on Saturday, May 2, Tom Striegel was recognized as the Holy Cross Church and School Simon of Cyrene Parishioner of the Year. Over the past fifteen years, Mr. Striegel has generously shared his time and expertise as an architect and designer with the Holy Cross community. Whether he is designing walkways, stairs and handicapped accessible ramps, or more complex projects like the renovation of Lewis Hall, Mr. Striegel oversees all aspects of the project from concept to construction to completion. Most recently, Mr. Striegel designed the brick and mortar entrance sign, with landscaping, at the top of the main driveway to the school property.

In addition, Tom is a member of the School Advisory Board and chairs our Annual Raffle. He even finds time to work with our Middle School Math and Science teachers to provide real-world application of

mathematics in the fields of architecture and structural engineering. Our school and parish community has benefited immeasurably by his selfless contributions. We extend our most sincere congratulations for his well-deserved recognition as Parishioner of the Year.

OPT

Holy Cross Parish

4900 Strathmore Avenue
Garrett Park, MD

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

Holy Cross School

Lisa Maio Kane,
Principal
301-949-0053

Lurana Hogan,
Parish Editor

l.hogan@hccross.org

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LIEUTENANT

Con't from page 16

but we also remember past graduates, St. Martin's alumni.

One alumnus that we especially keep in mind is Lieutenant, Junior Grade Matt Arnsberger. He currently is serving our country in the United States Navy. He recently shipped out of Norfolk, VA on the destroyer the USS Winston Churchill with the Carrier Group the Teddy Roosevelt.

LTJG Arnsberger is an accomplished young man who graduated from St. Martin's in 2003. While attending St. Martin's, LTJG Arnsberger was an altar server, the Student Council president, a member of the school band, a student athlete, and much more. He was inspired to attend the U.S. Naval Academy when his class went to Annapolis for its fourth grade field trip.

LTJG Arnsberger attended Our Lady of Good Counsel High School located in Olney, Maryland. There,

he was the soccer and wrestling captain, president of the National Honor Society, and played in the school band and marching band. LTJG Arnsberger also played club rugby and earned the honor of Eagle Scout while in high school.

He attended the U.S. Naval Academy where he played on their rugby team. LTJG Arnsberger was also a member of Team Bill; he helped care for the school's mascot, a goat.

LTJG Arnsberger, a Navy helicopter pilot, searches for enemy submarines. When he is not deployed, he is stationed in Mayport, Florida. Upon learning about LTJG Arnsberger's service, St. Martin's students wanted to support him. They wrote letters and drew pictures to help him recall the good times he had at St. Martin's.

St. Martin's students, staff, and faculty want to say thank you to LTJG Matt Arnsberger for not only representing the country well, but also for representing St. Martin's.

OPT

STEM

Con't from page 16

school cafeteria. During the marshmallow challenge, teams had to build the tallest freestanding structure that could support a fluffy marshmallow using 20 sticks of spaghetti, a yard of string, and a yard of tape. It was

difficult, but fun.

To prepare for STEM Night, each science class conducted an inquiry project, and these projects were on display. Students created prosthetic legs, bird nests, compasses, and more.

All in all STEM Night was a huge success, and we hope we can have another stem night next year.

OPT

Scouting at St Martin's



Boy Scout Troop 926 prepared and ready to serve the Annual Pancake Breakfast at St. Martin's Parish. Photo courtesy of the Diaz Family.



Fifth grade Juniors of Girl Scout Troop 274 with the Gaithersburg Mayor, members of the City Council, and Gaithersburg Police Sergeant following their Bronze Award presentation on jaywalking. Photo courtesy of the Cooksey Family.



Julien and Olivier Payen of Cub Scout Pack 926 with Msgr. Brennan after receiving their Catholic Religious Award, Parvuli Dei. Photo courtesy of James Ponce.

Congratulations



2015 Graduates



Alyssa Anglin
Stone Ridge



Ryan Butcher
Good Counsel



Asad Caicedo-Saleh
Walter Johnson



Gabriela Connor
The Siena School



Ronald Cook Jr.
St. John's



Jabril El-Amin
Manvel



Madelijn Ewers
AHC



Quinten Johnson
St. John's



Brennan Lyons
Georgetown Prep



Maria Manuel
Holy Child



Adriana Navarro
AHC



Patrick Opot
Gonzaga



Marie Clare Paxton
Visitation



Matthew Postorino
Sherwood



Mary Beth Silva
Visitation



Rakel Solis
Good Counsel



Christina Stavish
AHC



Samantha Tartaglia
Northwood



Andrew Wilkerson
Gonzaga

Freed Photography, Inc. ©2015



28 Youngsters Confirmed at Resurrection

Twenty-eight young members of Resurrection Church on April 14 received the Sacrament of Confirmation, the sacrament of maturity and coming of age for Catholics. The Most Rev. Barry C. Knestout, Auxiliary Bishop of the Washington Archdiocese, was the principal celebrant and presided at the laying-on of hands and anointing with chrism accompanied by prayer. The newly confirmed are Lucy Bandon-Bibum, Anthony Altamirano Bautista, Audrey Blow, Anna Bufalini, Elise Cauton, Nicholas Chitvaranund, Emmanuel Corporal, Molly Dallo, Suraj Dean, Jonathan Dogba, Gabriel Franco, Wafeu Fuondjing, Madeline Rose Halpin, Abigail Huddle, Donald Igwebuike, Abigail Kassel, Nadia Kuffar, Erin Krizmanich, Evin Navarro, Joel Persaud, Sophia Ryan, Samuel Sheppard, Marley Sume, Erik Syme, Jacob Taylor, Keni Waithaka, Kathryn Windsor, and Nathan Wright. Resurrection Pastor Scott Hahn, Fr. William Brailsford, and Deacons David Suley and Chuck Bieberich assisted in the ceremony. Photo by Phil Powell

OPT

GEORGETOWN VISITATION PREPARATORY SCHOOL CONGRATULATES THE CLASS OF 2015!



Be who you are and be it well. —St. Francis de Sales

ORDINATIONS

Con't from page 32

- a rate higher than that of all Catholic adults in the United States. In addition, ordinands are somewhat more likely than other U.S. Catholic adults to have attended a Catholic high school and they are much more likely to have attended a Catholic college (45 percent, compared to 7 percent among U.S. Catholic adults).
- Six in ten ordinands (61 percent) report some type of full-time work experience prior to entering the seminary, most often in education. Four percent of responding ordinands report prior service in the U.S. Armed Forces. About one in six ordinands (16 percent) report that either parent had a military career in the U.S. Armed Forces.
 - Eight in 10 (78 percent) indicate they served as an altar server and about half (51 percent) reporting service as a lector. One in seven (14 percent) participated in a World Youth Day before entering the seminary.
 - About seven in 10 report regularly praying the rosary (70 percent) and participating in Eucharistic adoration (70 percent) before entering the seminary.
 - Almost half (48 percent) indicated that they were discouraged from considering the priesthood. On average, two individuals are said to have discouraged them.

OPT



Mercy Get Moving Expo

Megan Yavinsky (third grade) brushes up on good nutrition at Mercy's Joan McCabe Get Moving Health Expo. The program, developed several years ago by the school's then nurse Joan McCabe RN, introduces students to a variety of activities in an effort to develop life-long enjoyable interests that will help reduce stress.



Mercy International Day Hall of Nations

Mercy fifth-grader Jia-Rong Tsao enjoys showcasing her International Day project on Taiwan as second graders Teresa Weldon and Caitlin Dougherty look on. International Day is a culminating activity for an integrated language arts research project for fifth grade students. After researching a country of interest, students present information to other grades and parents in the "Hall of Nations." International flags and decor complement colorful display board projects creating a multicultural ambiance, thus transforming the school's multipurpose room into the Hall of Nations. Special areas of interest include current events, sports, government, customs, history, famous landmarks, traditional dress, and fine arts. A highlight of the day is sampling recipes/food from the international buffet.

MARY

Con't from page 19

took more than a year. It began with the submission of a maquette, a two and half foot clay scale model of the statue which was approved by a parish committee. The next step in the creation of the marble statue was the making of a full size model using 500 pounds of clay. The clay statue was taken to Baltimore where it was made into a plaster mold and shipped to Italy. In Carrara, Italy a beautiful piece of white marble was selected and the

marble was cut to the artist's specifications. The marble statue was shipped back to the United States where the artist put the finishing touches on the work.

The statue was moved to Potomac on a large truck and hoisted to a back hoe to be placed on Mary's altar inside the church. This required two different back hoes as the first one selected for the job was too large to get through the church doors. A second, smaller one was called into service and counterweighted by large bags of cement. The statue was moved into

the church and installed on Mary's altar.

The artist wanted to portray Mary as she might have looked at the Annunciation. She is seated with one hand placed over her heart and her other hand on her womb. On the ground next to her is a vessel, which is symbolic of Mary's role as the vessel of the Christ Child. The vessel is also symbolic of the Miracle at Cana.

More of Sarah's work can be seen at the website for Hempel Studios, which is found at clayandchisel.com.

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Kyle Anderson

"Our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time."



Sophia Argay

"Dance like no one is watching, love like you'll never be hurt, sing like no one is listening, and live like it's Heaven on Earth."



Henry Blackwood

"Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it."



Emily Clancy

"Imperfection is beauty, madness is genius, and it's better to be absolutely ridiculous than absolutely boring."



Edward Collins

"If you want peace, work for justice."



Brennan Dunne

"Never let a stumble in the road be the end to your journey."



Cameron Etris

"I believe if you keep your faith, you keep your trust, you keep the right attitude, if you're grateful, you'll see God open up new doors."



Ashley Foley

"Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it."



Father John Dakes
Pastor

OUR LADY OF MERCY CONGRATULATES THE CLASS OF 2015



Mrs. Joan Hosmer
Principal



Kirby Fowler

"Nothing is impossible. The word itself says 'I'm possible'!"



Grace Murphy

"A day without sunshine is like, you know, night."



Patricio Fraga-Erreant

"Look up at the stars, and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see, and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious."



Madeline Horriqan

"We all take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take a little of each other everywhere."



Carter Kane

"Do not take life too seriously. You will never get out of it alive."



Nicole Kronfli

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."



Robert Liniak

"A HERO is one who knows how to hang on one minute longer."



Jack Oudeck

"Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall."



Cross Pratapas

"If you think you are too small to make a difference, try sleeping with a mosquito."



Lucie Quinn

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."



Alexa Radice

"The most important thing is to enjoy your life, to be happy— it's all that matters."



Trent Schlosser

"Peace comes from within. Do not seek it without."



Sophia Thompson

"Never give up, for that is just the place and time that the tide will turn."



Caroline Ward

"Try to be a rainbow in somebody's cloud."



Divine Mercy Sunday Draws Large Crowd at St. Bart's

Fr. Tim Daniel told OPT that Divine Mercy Sunday is one of his favorite feasts: "The message of St. Faustina – a true understanding and trust in God's mercy – is really the message of Scripture and Christ. It's also been one of if not the main thread of the papacies of John Paul II, Benedict XVI, and now Pope Francis."

OPT



Bishop Mario Dorsonville says Mass at St. Bartholomew Parish on Palm Sunday, shortly before his ordination as auxiliary Bishop of Washington.

St. Bart's Celebrates Father Dorsonville's Ordination as Bishop

St. Bartholomew Parish had a special reason to celebrate the recent ordination Fr. Mario Dorsonville as auxiliary bishop of Washington. Bishop Dorsonville has been a long-time celebrant of the 6:00 p.m. Sunday Mass for the St. Bart's Hispanic community. Bishop Dorsonville was ordained in 1985 as a priest of the Archdiocese of Bogota, Columbia. He now serves as vice president for mission for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington and as director of the Spanish Catholic Center.

St. Bart's Pastor, Father Mark Knestout, told Our Parish Times, "The St. Bart's community is just thrilled with the announcement that Fr. Mario Dorsonville had been selected by His Holiness Pope Francis to be the auxiliary Bishop of Washington for the Hispanic community. We are very pleased and look forward to the service that he will offer as a Good Shepherd. He is a wonderful priest, very kind, very caring, concerned with so many, especially the immigrant population of our society. We are pleased that those qualities have been seen by the Holy Father."

OPT



CLASS OF 2015 GRADUATES

St. Bartholomew School

Reverend Mark D. Knestout, Pastor • Mr. Stephen Lamont, Principal



Jarrett Alston

ST. JOHN'S

"Life is like a box of chocolates; you never know what you're going to get."

– Forest Gump



Kathleen Therese Castiello

GEORGETOWN VISITATION

"Be who you are and be that well."

– St. Francis de Sales



Liam deBeaufort

ST. JOHN'S

"Creativity is just connecting things. When you ask creative people how they did some thing, they feel a little guilty because they didn't really do it, they just saw something. It seemed obvious to them after a while. That's because they were able to connect experiences they've had and synthesize new things."

– Steve Jobs



Marcus Jack Edmunds

GOOD COUNSEL

"Carpe Diem
– Seize the Day."

– Horace



Colby Louise Fagan

HOLY CHILD

"We will take different paths in life, but no matter where we go, we take a little of each other everywhere."

– Tim McGraw

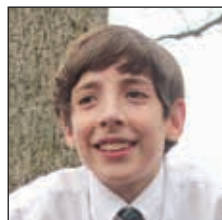


Regina Familiar Avalos

ST. JOHN'S

"Being human means being capable of looking at every life form with a sense of tenderness."

– Sadhguru

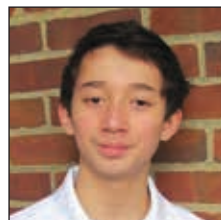


Joseph Gigliello

DEMATHA

"A person's a person, no matter how small."

– Dr. Seuss



Allen Leonardo Madarang

GEORGETOWN PREP

"Veni, vidi, vici, I came; I saw; I conquered."

– Julius Caesar



Thomas Brian McCann

GEORGETOWN PREP

"Silence is Golden."

– Simon & Garfunkel



Maryjane Okonji

HOLY CHILD

"No matter how many times people try to criticize you, the best revenge is to prove them wrong."

– Zayn Malik



Nima Padash

WALT WHITMAN

"If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door."

– Milton Berle



Emily Kathleen Place

ST. JOHN'S

"Don't judge my choices without understanding my reasons."

– Anonymous



Adam Peter Sanin

GONZAGA

"The only one who can tell you you can't is you, and you don't have to listen."

– Nike



Thomas Donald Steele

ST. JOHN'S

"Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else."

– Margaret Mead



Olga Withers Sullivan

HOLTON ARMS

"Don't tell me the sky is the limit when there are footprints on the moon."

– Paul Brandt



Lilly Christine Wardour

ST. JOHN'S

"Anyone can be cool ... But awesome takes practice."

– Lorraine Peterson

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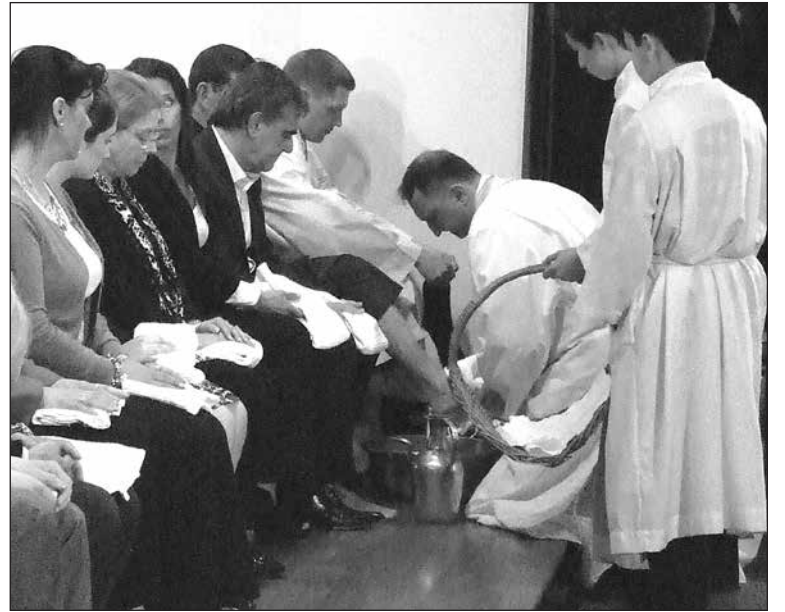
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Holy Week Prayerful and Reverent at St. Bartholomew Parish



Above, Father Mark Knestout, assisted by Deacon Julio Blanco-Eccleston, conducts the rite of sprinkling with Holy Water at Easter Mass.

At right, Father Mark Knestout washes parishioners' feet on Holy Thursday.



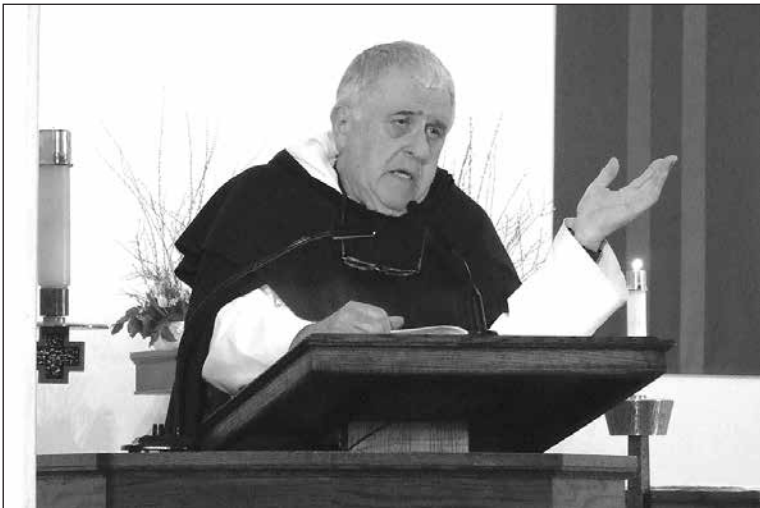
Three Lenten Retreats Warm Winter Souls at St. Bartholomew Parish

The St. Bartholomew Parish Lenten Retreat, held on the second, third, and fourth weekends of Lent, was led by Fr. Basil Cole, O.P. Fr. Cole is a pro-

fessor of moral, spiritual and dogmatic theology at the Dominican House of Studies. The theme of the Parish Retreat was "A Life of Forgiveness and the Practicality

of Confession." St. Bart's Pastor, Father Mark Knestout, commented: "The retreat was a great opportunity for parishioners and others to return to the Lord through the Sacrament of Confession. Many many people who had not been to Confession in ten to fifteen years went to Confession during the retreat. This was a great blessing and made the 'Three Sundays Parish Mission' very worthwhile."

St. Bartholomew's Women's Lenten Retreat, held on March 12 at Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center, was led by Father Paul McCarren, SJ. Its subject was "Lenten Reflections from a Jesuit Perspective." St. Bart's Men's Lenten Retreat, held on March 14 at Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center and led by Fr. McCarren, was on the topic of "Lenten Reflections."



Father Basil Cole makes a point during St. Bartholomew's Lenten Retreat.

OPT

St. Bart's Youth Group Swings into Spring with a Busy Schedule

The St. Bart's Youth Group has been busy throughout the Spring, including: March 22, a trip to Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey, Legends; March 29, craft event; Stations of the Cross for Adoration Chapel; April 12, dodge ball and wood frame making; April 19, trip to the Folger Theater for a Shakespeare Birthday event (jugglers, music, theater performances, and more); April 26, campfire, with sports, smores and singing; May 3, project for adoration chapel and kick-ball; May 10, trip to a Nationals game. For information about the Youth Group, check the parish bulletin or contact Maria Kaufmann at 32kaufmann@cardinalmail.cua.edu.

OPT



St. Bart's Youth Group members expertly tend the bonfire at recent group outing. Photo courtesy of Maria Kaufmann



Customers find the perfect azaleas at St. Bart's annual Azalea Sale.

Annual Azalea Sale Brightens Spring at St. Bart's

This year St. Bart's once again partnered with award-winning Kinzie Farms in its annual Azalea Sale. Fifty percent of the proceeds from the sale benefit St. Bartholomew School. Kinzie Farms' CEO Jane Kinzie told Our Parish Times that business at the two-day sale had been as busy as ever. Several varieties of deciduous Azaleas were available, grown in Montgomery County and including unusual varieties and colors.

OPT



Food Drive Overwhelming Success at St. Bart's!

Bags of groceries, soon to be delivered to the needy in the Washington area, crowd the stage at St. Bart's. St. Bartholomew Parish, in partnership with Catholic Charities, participated in the Share the Hope Food Drive this Lent. The assembled contributions, which filled over 100 grocery bags, were donated to the Capital Area Food Bank.

OPT

St. Bartholomew Parish
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Bethesda, MD 20816
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Pastor
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St. Bartholomew School
Stephen Lamont, Principal
301-229-5586
Frank Maguire, OPT Editor
202-512-8226

DRAMA CLUB

Con't from page 12

Marin Larkin and Kevin Harper as twin thespians Sharpay and Ryan Evans were amusing foils who, along with Coach Bolton played by Dylan Hitt, change for the better and do the right thing—much to the delight of the very dramatic theater teacher, Ms. Darbus (Josephine Matta).

Creative use of the stage-right and stage-left floor space, kept the various cast groups part of the visual scene so that “The Jocks”, “The Thespians”, “The Brainiacs” and “The Skater Dudes” helped advance the storyline while the main action played out on stage. Thirteen musical numbers expressed the main themes of the story and offered great opportunities to showcase the actors’ individual talents and the power of the ensemble groups. Third-graders Molly Flynn and Evie Mood enjoyed the singing, dancing and basketball. Classmate Ridgley Bryer summed it up by praising “all the good parts and characters and how they put it together really well.”

The show’s anthem —“We’re All in This Together” brought the story line to a genuinely happy ending. With the lyrics and tune echoing throughout the hallways of Holy Redeemer School, this year’s spring musical production has brought the joyful beat of celebrating togetherness to students, teachers and parents.

Spring’s in Full Swing for HR sixth graders

By Ashlie McGinnis

After months of snow and ice, HR’s sixth graders celebrated the thaw by getting out of the school and into the field! On March 30, the sixth graders, along with teachers Ashlie McGinnis, Michelle Ardillo, and Megan Dees, ventured to the Freer and Sackler Galleries of Art in Washington to further explore the Korean ceramic art they learned about in the novel, *A Single Shard*. Specifically, the book focuses on celadon



Sixth graders Sean Clements, Jessica Kolevar, Scott Styslinger, and Michael Monahan writing poetry inspired by Japanese scrolls.



Sixth graders Michael Monahan, Aleksandra Bilinski, Carolina Maduro-Garcia, Lizzy Clarke, and Ginger Quinn viewing celadon pottery (ca. 1200 C.E.) up close.

pottery, which is unique to Korea due to its special coloring. Students got the chance to see and learn about ancient examples of celadon pottery and other East Asian art. In addition, we participated in the Gallery’s “Writing Brings Art to Life!” program, which encouraged the students to share their ideas and feelings about the art they saw through poetry and other creative writing expression. It was an amazing experience!

OPT



Eighth grader Michael Penafiel explains his project to a younger student.

Future Scientists Show Their Stuff at Holy Redeemer’s Science Fair

By Ashlie McGinnis

On March 26 and 27, 2015, middle school students at Holy Redeemer filled the Herb Young Auditorium with myriad projects covering everything from oil spills and wind turbines to Kimchi science and laser microscopes. It was truly a community of learning as students of all ages and grades mingled, explored, and conversed with the young scientists.

It could not have been easy for our panel of

Continued on page 50



Daniel J. Adams



André Alvarez



Nicolas Luis Arias



Taylor Nikole Bailey



Mary Claire Basso-Luca



Diana Marie Black



Grant Solomon Blassingame



Julia Katherine Bowers



Alexandra Grace Bruno



Justin Francis T. Bustamante



Jason Patrick Carroll



Theresa Eunhye Choi



Jack Phillip Cottle



Leslie Annetta Fontaine



Eli Foxhoven



Melisse Caitlyn Irene George



Ryan Joseph Gleason



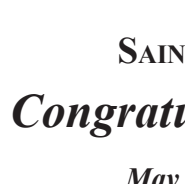
Cara Joan Guiffré



Elizabeth Joanne Holt



Chasen Thomas Horich



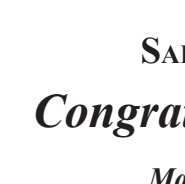
Summer Elizabeth Loftus



Michael O'Neill Love



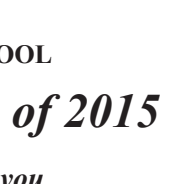
Maria C. McCleary



Grace E. McCord



Ashlyn Grace McDonald



Travis Scott Mueller



Andrew Vincent Munson



Alexander Philippe Opont



Sarah Rose Russo



Emily Judith Salmonsén



Mason George Schwartz



Shannon Hayley Scott



Declan Joseph Slattery



Nicholas Anthony Smith



Abigail Lynne Stisher



Christine Tanis



Ryan Ashton-Weisman



Ryan Patrick Williams

SAINT PETER'S SCHOOL Congratulates Class of 2015

*May God be with all of you
on your paths to holiness*



3,5,7,9 – Who do we think are mighty fine? Teachers! Eighth graders! Alumni!

Game On

On May 1, 2015, St. Patrick's Gymnasium witnessed the second annual Faculty v. Eighth Grade /Alumni Basketball game. The entire eighth-grade class and nearly 40 alums returned to their elementary school to take on their beloved faculty in an exciting basketball game. For the second year in a row, the Faculty prevailed by a score of 182-167! What a score!

In addition to actual points scored on the court, fans in the sell-out crowd made donations toward the team of their choice where \$1 equals one point on the scoreboard. Tracy Guarini, a middle school teacher at the school, enjoyed playing with two of her children who returned for the action on the court. "It is so exciting to see the alumni come back and join the eighth graders for a fun night of friendly competition and reunite with former classmates and faculty. Such a great community!" she commented. **OPT**



Feeding the Hungry

Fourth graders in Marianne Bonanno's class undertook a Lenten service project to make bagged lunches for the Men's Emergency Shelter on Gude Drive in Rockville. Over the course of four weeks, they made approximately 1200 sandwiches, working in partnership with the Kindergarten



Continued on page 48

Bologna and cheese made with love and compassion.



A blast from the past completely recreated in the St. Pat's cafeteria!

Wax Museum Fun

Students in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades participated in the annual Wax Museum where students dress in character and present research on historical figures to students, teachers and parents. This year, the fourth graders researched famous Marylanders while the fifth graders studied famous Americans. Sixth graders presented depictions of iconic paintings and photographs including the "Mona Lisa", "Girl with a Pearl Earring", and the raising of the flag by the Marines on Iwo Jima in World War II. **OPT**

More St. Patrick News on Page 59

the
Avalon School

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Two Storybooks Help Elementary Students Put Faith in Action

Two illustrated storybooks offer elementary school-aged children, their parents and teachers examples of how to put their faith in action and participate in solutions to important problems related to the life and dignity of others. The books provide much-needed resources in Catholic social teaching for this age group and are accompanied by age-appropriate learning resources.

"Green Street Park" is a story about a young boy, his family and community, who together learn to care for God's creation and their neighborhood by imitating the model of St. Francis of Assisi. In "Drop by Drop," students at a Catholic school "journey" across the world to Burkina Faso, West Africa, and learn how a lack of water affects the lives of children there. The students learn about the work of Catholic Relief Services, see how the problem gets solved, and make a plan to help.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has published the books through Loyola Press.

"These beautifully illustrated books are a true treasure for parents as well as all

educators in teaching children how they, as the followers of Jesus, can solve problems affecting human life and dignity in our backyards and half a world away," said Bishop Jaime Soto of Sacramento, California, chairman of the USCCB Subcommittee on the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the bishops' domestic anti-poverty program.

Bishop Soto added, "The Story of 'Green

Street Park' shows the practical beauty of Jesus' words in Mark's Gospel, 'The Kingdom of God is at hand.' And 'Drop by Drop' is a beautiful metaphor for justice that will roll like a river. The story will help young and old plumb their faith as well as their imagination for the untapped resources of the Spirit seeking to renew the face of the earth."

With "Care for God's creation" a prominent theme in both books, they also serve as a resource to help families, parishes and schools prepare for the release of Pope Francis' anticipated encyclical on environmental stewardship.

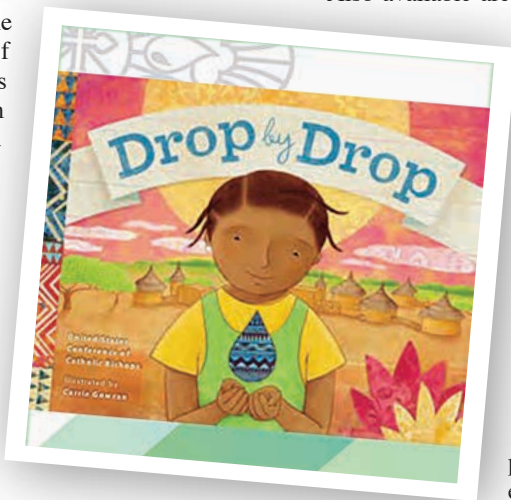
"These books help our children realize and understand the connection to their peers at home and around the world. It's a perspective that is essential to growing into globally aware adults who care about their brothers and sisters everywhere and the environment we live in," said Carolyn Woo, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, the official international humanitarian aid agency of the Catholic community in the U.S.

During the week of Earth Day, April 20-24, 2015, the USCCB and Catholic Relief Services will hold a social media contest and give away some free copies.

Also available are "black line mas-

ters," or online educational supplements for teachers to use as worksheets with their classes, as well as "Pray Me a Story" reflections for use with the books.

The books can be ordered online at www.loyolapress.com/twofeetoflove. **OPT**



Archdiocese of Washington Welcomes Pope Francis Visit

The Holy See Press Office confirmed that the Holy Father will celebrate an outdoor Mass on the afternoon of September 23 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, where he will canonize Blessed Junípero Serra. Plans for the Mass are still pending, but the congregation will assemble in the area surrounding the Basilica, including The Catholic University of America's 3.6 acre university mall.

While all details of Pope Francis' trip have not yet been finalized, there are several events that have been made public to-date: the White House has announced that the president will meet with Pope Francis on September 23 and Speaker John Boehner has announced that the Holy Father will address a joint meeting of the U.S. Congress on September 24.

To sign up to receive papal visit updates via text or email, visit: www.adw.org/papalvisit/



Pope Francis



Mother of God School Congratulates the Graduating Class of 2015



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Walt Whitman
High School



Sofia Acuna
Northwest
High School



Alexia Ayuk
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Ryan Barnes
The Avalon School



William Cruz
Richard Montgomery
High School



Reina Mitrik
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Caleigh O'Connor
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Luis Pugarita
Our Lady of
Good Counsel



Karina Rivas
Magruder High School



Carolina Temerario
Academy of the
Holy Cross

"Mother of God School prepares students who, grounded in sound academics and strong faith, go forth bearing Christ to the world in their personal and professional lives."

Making Medical Decisions and Health Care Directives

Understanding the Catholic Perspective

By Mary Beth DeLuzio RN, FCN

Have you ever thought about those hard medical decisions that need to be made about your end of life? The bereavement and caregiver committees at Mother Seton Parish recently sponsored an educational night focusing on understanding the Catholic perspective of making medical decisions and health care directives.

Speakers were James A. Hyatt, MSP parishioner and estate planning attorney, and Fr. Lee Fangmeyer, Pastor. The evening opened with a prayer from Fr. Lee, followed by an explanation by Mr. Hyatt of the Maryland State advance directives form. He guided us through the form and explained the importance of appointing a health care agent who can make decisions for you not only at the end of life, but if you end up in a persistent vegetative state or have an end-stage disease

and are unable to make decisions for yourself. This form is important to have filled out in advance of anything health problems, but Mr. Hyatt stated that it is also very important to have a verbal conversation with the person whom you appoint as your health care agent. You want to be able to explain your wishes to your agent in person, and to give that person a chance to ask questions and thoroughly understand your decisions.

Fr. Lee walked us through the publication called *Comfort and Consolation: the care of the sick and dying*. This pamphlet is published by the Catholic Bishops of Maryland. It is designed to inform us of the six principles the Catholic Church has to help us make the right moral decision when making these hard decisions. These principles are: 1) Our most basic God-given right is the right to life. 2) We do not have the right to take

our own lives; nor to directly bring about the death of any innocent person. 3) Each of us is obliged to care for the gift of life and health that God has given us. 4) No patient is obliged to accept or demand useless medical interventions. 5) There is no moral obligation to employ useful but excessively burdensome medical interventions. However, the meaning of "excessively burdensome" must be properly understood."

The discussion continued with the question of how do you know what is burdensome? Fr. Lee explained this very well. You have to always remember that it is the treatment that we are looking at, not the person's life being burdensome. For example, if someone has stopped eating and it is determined that they're not absorbing the nutrition, then it would be burdensome to insert a feeding tube. On the flip side, if you are still absorb-

ing the nutrition and are just tired of living then it is not ok to refuse a feeding tube. Your life is never burdensome!

This evening was an overview of this very in-depth topic. The conversation could have gone on all night. We should all be aware of this information and have these conversations with our loved ones before the time comes to make these decisions. Remember, not only have your wishes in writing, but also discuss it with your appointed health care agent before the time comes that they need to step in.

You can find a PDF copy of *Comfort and Consolation: care of the sick and dying* at: www.mdcathcon.org/comfort

The Maryland State Advance Directives form can be found at www.oag.state.md.us/healthpol/adirective.pdf

OPT

First Holy Communion on at Mother Seton Parish



One hundred twenty-six children received their First Holy Communion on Saturday, May 2, at Mother Seton Parish. Two Masses were held, one bilingual. On May 3, the Communicants wore their attire to crown the Blessed Virgin Mary in the courtyard.



Many members of the GARBO Singers are related and are long-time parishioners of Mother Seton Parish. They are regular performers at the Annual Black History Month performing Gospel music and the group L.P. Do-Whoppers is the regular entertainment at MSP parish dances.

25th Anniversary of the GARBO Singers

By Larry Plummer

The GARBO Singers recently celebrated their 25th anniversary with other gospel groups in the Parish Center of Mother Seton Parish. GARBO, an acronym for Great And Respectable Black Organization, are a group of singers who make regular appearances at MSP parish dances, volunteer parties, and at the Black History Program held annually since 1992.

They have two groups: the GARBO Singers, who sing contemporary Gospel music, the kind of Gospel music you hear on the radio. They have three sopranos, four altos, four tenors and two baritones. Seven members of the group are Mother Seton parishioners, and five of them are from the Plummer family: Larry Plummer, June Plummer, Brianna Plummer, Nikora Plummer Groomes, and Amia Groomes. The two other members are Nadine and Jerome Davison. June Plummer, daughter of Nikora Plummer Groomes, and Larry Plummer, her husband, have been parishioners since Mother Seton was established

41 years ago. Jerome and Nadine Davison have been members for 30 years, Brianna Plummer for 22 years, and Amia Groomes for 12 years.

The other group, the one that sings at the parish dances, is called the L.P. Doo-whoopers (L.P. stands for Larry Plummer). They generally sing Oldies, except for a song by Blondie called, "One Way or Another", which they learned especially for Fr. Lee Fangmeyer, Pastor of MSP, who is a Blondie fan.

The GARBO Singers are sponsored.
Continued on page 53

Mother Seton Parish

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Pastor

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Joyce McCarthy
OPT Editor

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Science Fair

We had a great Science Fair in 2015! Forty-four seventh graders presented projects in chemistry, physics and biology. The panel of judges was very impressed with the time and effort the students put into their projects.

First place winner, Micah Flanner, entered the world of sports to see if air temperature affects the flexibility of a hockey stick. She contacted the manufacturer of her hockey stick to find out how they perform flexibility tests on their products and then was able to mimic similar conditions to perform the tests herself. She discovered that heat did not have a dramatic effect on the sticks flexibility; however, cold temperatures did make the stick more brittle.

Second place winner, Dillon Arrigan, took on the all too familiar

problem of stain removal and which detergent brand works the best. Staining 100% cotton fabric with everyday household items, mustard, ketchup, hot chocolate, canola oil, grape and blueberry juice he utilized several different brands of detergent and discovered that Up & Up (Target brand) works the best at removing stains and learned a useful life skill.

Third place winner, Claire Rogers, made sweet work of her project by replacing sugar in a cookie recipe with popular brands of artificial sweeteners. While Truvia produced the best tasting cookie with artificial sweetener, Claire said, "none of them tasted better than the cookie made with real sugar." A good lesson in whether or not it is worth sacrificing taste for calories.

OPT



Megan Johannes, Julianna Yapur and Emma Scholl at the awards ceremony.

Girl Scout Silver Award Recipients

By Jennifer Johannes

Congratulations to eighth-graders Megan Johannes, Emma Scholl and Julianna Yapur for earning their Girl Scout Silver Awards! The Silver Award is the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette can earn. The Cadettes volunteered at an outreach camp for girls not currently involved in Girl Scouts that was held at Mary of Nazareth over spring break.

The girls were responsible for planning and leading activities for over 100 campers in grades K thru Six. Megan, Emma and Julianna each put in over 50 hours of work preparing for and working at the camp. Way to go girls!

OPT



Daniel DeLude, Katie Carter, Brian Nguyen, Hackett Rascher, Laura Osei, James Bailey and Fiona O'Connell meet with Mr. Friel, Principal, prior to taking the stage.

Congratulations on a Superior Performance!

By Alexander Conti

On March 29, 2015 the Mary of Nazareth school band received a superior rating at the annual Archdiocese of Washington Band Festival held at St. Johns College High School. A superior rating is the highest score awarded and is a

great accomplishment for the band.

The band performed *Eagle Command March* and *Theme from Brahms Symphony No.1*. MoN's band is under the direction of Mr. Alexander Conti.

OPT

Congratulations to Mary of Nazareth School's 2015 Poetry Slam Winners

By Michael Haskell

Mary of Nazareth School's annual Poetry Slam was held on the afternoon of April 24. The Poetry Slam has become a tradition at Mary of Nazareth over the past three years, a chance for students, teachers, and parents to gather in celebration of Poetry Month and an opportunity for all grades, from pre-K to 8th, to participate in an event together.

In the primary grades, each class rehearsed and performed a class poem. In second through eighth grade, two students from each homeroom were selected to read their original poems at the event. The theme of this year's poetry slam was our school virtues. From creativity to authenticity to hope, students in each grade

explored a different virtue in their poetry.

Second Grade Clark Atkinson, Olivia Ramis, Jack Kelly, Sylvanna Ortiz-Iannini

Third Grade Samantha Gartner, Connor Shea, Keaton Kley, Jillian Puglisi

Fourth Grade Kymani George, Sofia Tran, Samuel Abromavage, Jennifer Juhring

Fifth Grade Alexa Fabi, Eduard Ioana, Noelle Hailu, Evan Kelly

Sixth Grade Stevie Orsini, Laura-Rose Osei, Fouad Ayoub, Kylie Ly

Seventh Grade Claire Rogers, Zac Magrogan, Hannah Himes, Jacob Zeranski

Eighth Grade Caroline Koutsos, Nicholas Zuppas, Marguerite Saunders, Mark Kelsey

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MON Chess Club Members Place At Tournament!

By Sabrina Bailly

Clark Atkinson, Fadi Ayoub, Fouad Ayoub, Frank Brown, Eli Ferrara and Emily Preciado represented Mary of Nazareth School well at the thirteenth annual Knights of Columbus Rock Creek Council's Charity Chess Tournament on Sunday, March 29. Good fun and camaraderie were enjoyed by all!

Both Clark Atkinson and Frank Brown brought home second-place trophies for the K-2 and 3-5 divisions, respectively. The MON community is proud of every one of you for your enthusiasm and sportsmanship. Congratulations!

OPT



Back Row: Frank Brown and Fouad Ayoub; Front Row: Fadi Ayoub, Clark Atkinson, Emily Preciado and Eli Ferrara

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Roman Catholic School**
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High School



Griffin MacDonald
Quince Orchard
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School



Cameron Marshall
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St. John's College
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Tom Scherer
Gonzaga College
High School



Jessica Schneider
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Emma Scholl
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Emily Scuderi
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Trey Seminara
Quince Orchard
High School



Gabriella Torres
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M. Nicholas Zuppas
St. John's College
High School



Zoe Zuppas
St. John's College
High School



Congratulations to the
graduating class of
2015

Catholic Communication Campaign Connects People with the Church

The 2015 Catholic Communications Campaign (CCC) will be taken up in many dioceses the weekend of May 16-17. This collection helps support evangelization efforts at home and abroad through a variety of communications platforms, including the Internet, radio, print and social media.

"With digital media taking an increased role in our daily lives, it is important that the Church continues using these new mediums as a way to connect with people. This collection makes many communications projects possible and breathes new life into our evangelization efforts," said Bishop Joseph J. Tyson of Yakima, Washington, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) CCC subcommittee. "Through this collection we can continue to bring people together and encourage discus-



Catholic
Communication
Campaign

HOW THE GOOD NEWS GETS AROUND

sions and conversations about the faith. Through the work of these projects, distance becomes a smaller obstacle to reaching the faithful."

The USCCB-sponsored website For Your Marriage (www.foryourmarriage.org) provides advice and witness stories to help couples at every stage of their journey, from dating to marriage and parenting. Funding from the CCC helps ensure that couples continue to receive information and tools to strengthen their marriages and grow together in holiness.

In Ukraine, a CCC grant has assisted Catholic university students living amid violence and protests in Lviv and Kiev to be an active voice for peace and reconciliation. In Africa, CCC is assisting the Kenyan Conference of Catholic Bishops to develop a long-term plan that will provide Catholic content over a radio network and other evangelization resources to help the faith life in local communities to flourish.

OPT



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ENZLER

Con't from page 1

who were inspired by the Holy Spirit have carried that legacy of service and conviction into today.

I heard good news when I learned of a family living in Montgomery County being reunited after years of living in different countries. The mother had fled violence in their home country and her three sons are finally able to come over and live with her, all of them able to find work to sustain their new lives. This happened through our Refugee Center.

Another story of good news: On her last day of a social work internship, Sister Mary Concepta Yates wanted to do something special for the women she had worked with and grown to love. All of the women she has worked with are trying to recover from abuse and violence in their lives, and her hope was to leave each a rose to reflect their inner beauty. With the belief that God would provide if she had the faith to ask, she entered a neighborhood florist one morning and asked if they could spare a dozen roses.

The woman who ran the shop didn't even hesitate, and dressed them beautifully and with love when she heard who would get the roses, taking a break from the many orders she needed to fulfill that day to handle this special task.

This is how I know this time of year will always be special. It offers all of us four different moments to reconnect with our faith and "unplug" from our daily worries and concerns. For me, it begins to define the very act of having faith and what it looks like in practice.

Remember. There will always be evil and hardship in our world, and yet each day the world moves on and we come back always to our traditions and sacraments. Similarly, each day you can know that good news is happening. Maybe it is a family being reunited after years apart and maybe a woman who fights mental illness from an abusive relationship will receive a rose to remind her she's beautiful.

After all, God provides.

OPT

NALLS

Con't from page 1

distinguished tenure at St. Jane's parish that spanned 7 pastors, 5 music directors, 8 sons and 10 grandchildren attending St. Jane's school, and, of course, it included lots and lots of singing as a respected member of the St. Jane Choir! His seventh son, John, also had the joy of singing by his father's side in the Bass Section of the adult choir since September of 1998.

Jim's wonderful voice, good cheer and quick wit will be missed by one and all. It is through the dedication of volunteers such as Jim that the music ministry at St. Jane has continued to thrive offering sacred music to enhance the 10 AM mass every Sunday. Exit singing, Mr. Nalls! Thank you for your remarkable service and dedication!

OPT

HAPPENINGS

Con't from page 5

donated, and volunteered. This event shows the strength of the St. Jane community and how fortunate everyone is to be part of it!

Science/ Ecology Trip

The seventh graders took their annual trip to Seaside Nature Center at Cape Henlopen State Park in Lewes, Delaware. The center's staff shared information about the value and interdependence of local ecosystems, migrations, wetlands, and horseshoe crabs. This two-day study visit is always a highlight of the seventh grade.

Regional DAR Essay Winner

Seventh-grader Tripp Harris was the second-place

winner in the Eastern Division of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) essay competition in which students wrote about children processed through Ellis Island in 1892. His essay placed second among all other essays submitted from Maryland, Delaware, Washington, DC, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. Congratulations Tripp!

Death of Sister Teresina

Sister M. Teresina Bridges, S.C., died on March 2 at age 98 at Caritas Christi, the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill in Greensburg. Sister Teresina, along with Sisters Ida Marie and Grace Marie, were the "three musketeers sent to open the new little school in Bethesda [...] to plant the seed of [the now flourishing] Saint Jane de Chantal School, sisters' living quarters, and classrooms, all under one roof" (Sister's oral history, 2000). Sister Teresina taught one of the first grades at St. Jane for three years and then returned ten years later as principal.

OPT

GROUP

Con't from page 5

reflection, others in the group staged each step of Our Lord's Passion. It was a moving and inspiring liturgy that all parishioners appreciated and enjoyed. Seeing members of the Youth Group, under the direction of Fr. Mark Cusick and Ms. Sally Daniel, engaged in such a meaningful devotion was truly an inspirational and moving experiencing for all of us.

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Boston College (6)	Santa Clara University
Boston University	St. John's University (2)
Catholic University of America (7)	Stevenson University
Christendom College (2)	Stony Brook University
Christopher Newport University	Thomas Aquinas College
College of the Holy Cross	Tulane University
College of William and Mary (7)	United States Coast Guard Academy
DePaul University	Universidad de Navarra
Dickinson College	University of California, Davis
Drexel University	University of California, Los Angeles (2)
Elon University (2)	University of Dallas (5)
Emory University	University of Delaware (3)
Fordham University (2)	University of Mary Washington (5)
George Mason University (4)	University of Maryland
High Point University (2)	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2)
Hillsdale College (2)	University of Notre Dame (4)
Hollins University	University of Pittsburgh
James Madison University (4)	University of Richmond (3)
Loyola University Maryland (4)	University of San Diego
Loyola University New Orleans	University of San Francisco (2)
Marquette University	University of Scranton (4)
Marymount University (3)	University of Southern California
Mount Saint Mary's University	University of Tennessee
Northeastern University (2)	University of Virginia (6)
Pennsylvania State University, University Park (2)	Villanova University (4)
Providence College (3)	Virginia Commonwealth University (2)
Purdue University (2)	Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (4)
Randolph College (2)	Wake Forest University
Roanoke College	Washington and Lee University

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Connelly School of the Holy Child • French International School
Georgetown Preparatory School • Georgetown Visitation Preparatory School
Gonzaga College High School • Our Lady of Good Counsel High School
St. Andrew's Episcopal School • St. Anselm's Abbey School
St. John's College High School • St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School
Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart • Washington International School

The Class of 2015 has been awarded \$120,000 in merit based scholarships.

Child welfare and refugee protection principles should govern U.S. policy

USCCB Official Urges Congress to Improve In-Country Refugee Program for Central American Minors

The Central American Minors (CAM) program, a new initiative of the U.S. government which allows children in Honduras, Guatemala, and El Salvador to apply for asylum and humanitarian parole in the United States from their home countries, is a tool that helps save children's lives, said a U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) representative, April 23.

"This program is an important tool which offers protection to children threatened by violence from organized crime networks. It also prevents them from taking the dangerous journey to the United States at the mercy of unscrupulous smugglers. It could literally save their lives," said Anastasia K. Brown, interim executive director for USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) in testimony before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest. The hearing was held to examine the program and discuss outcomes.

The CAM program was

launched in response to the unprecedented number of children fleeing violence in the northern triangle region of Central America. Almost 70,000 unaccompanied minors arrived in the United States from the region last year. It is estimated that up to 40,000 children could arrive in the United States in 2015.

Brown stated that the CAM program should be considered one part of a multi-dimensional approach to child migration from the region. Other elements, she said, include strengthening asylum and child welfare systems in neighboring countries and addressing the push factors, such as violence and the lack of opportunity, in Central America.

"The CAM program is not a substitute for a comprehensive approach which requires other nations, such as Mexico, to provide refugee protection to these children," she said. "Moreover, we must not overlook the need to help these nations address the violence and poverty which drive children and families to make the

desperate decision to migrate."

Brown offered several recommendations to make the program work more efficiently and to serve those most in need, including assuring access to the program, assuring safety of children during processing and streamlining the application process.

She also urged members of Congress to not repeal current legal protections for unaccompanied children from Central America and to base U.S. policy on child welfare and refugee protection principles.

"In the end, U.S. policy must be based upon the best interests of these children, who are extremely vulnerable, and not upon enforcement measures designed to prevent them from migrating or to more easily deport them," she said. "To deny them protection and to return them to danger violates American values of due process and protection from persecution, not to mention international legal standards," she concluded.

OPT



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Supreme Court Hears Oral Arguments on Marriage

The U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments April 28, on the constitutionality of states defining and recognizing marriage as the union of one man and one woman.

Commenting on the oral arguments before the Court, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), said, "Today is a moment of great consequence. Marriage is a perennial institution, with deep roots in who we are and in our nation's culture and laws. Marriage is and always will be the union between one man and one woman. This truth is insepa-



table from the duty to honor the God-given dignity of every human person. We pray that the justices will uphold the responsibility of states to protect the beautiful truth of marriage, which concerns the essential well-being of the nation, especially children. Children have a basic right, wherever possible, to know and be loved by their mother and father together. The Church will always defend this right and looks to people of good will to continue this debate with charity and civility."

The Supreme Court is expected to issue a ruling by the end of June.

OPT

HUNGRY

Con't from page 39

class. Fourth grade families donated loaves of bread along with bologna and cheese each week. Students in other grades donated apples and oranges and also decorated lunch bags.

Ms. Bonanno was thankful that her students had this opportunity to serve others. "The students were so joyful and proud to know they were making a difference for others who are less fortunate," she commented. Fourth grader Maegan Long observed, "It made me feel good and happy to know that we could help people in need." Her classmate, Gracie Grimberg remarked, "This made me feel good about volunteering."

OPT

NEWS

Con't from page 24

Mrs. McGovern explained. "They come to understand that they are on a faith journey and that reconciliation is a beautiful gift of God to help them stay on the path."

Reconciliation preparation included a retreat, January 24, for parents and students. Students, parents, and some godparents gathered at St. Andrews for a special first reconciliation day on February 7, when Father Dan brought in four additional priests to hear the confessions.

For the parish children who attend Faith Formation classes, Sister Fleur du Carmel, from the D.C. convent of the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará, has taught Sunday school for two years. This year, she had 18 students, mostly second graders, receive First Communion. At the April 25 retreat, Sister Fleur led students in baking bread, explaining the special significance of bread in both the Old and New Testaments.

Father Dan Leary brought in extra help for the communion retreat. Four former parishioners from his days at Jesus the Divine Word in Huntingtown, Md., helped run the day. Ashley Arscott, a recent college graduate and trained music teacher, led a music workshop at the retreat during which the students practiced singing the songs that would be part of the First Communion Mass. Ms. Arscott, along with three peers also helped serve pizza at lunch, and bake the dough that children had made with Sr. Fleur.

Father Dan invited students and parents, in small groups, into the Church and led them in adoration, walking the students through the significance of the practice and providing further insight on the nature of the Eucharist.

Father Dan initiated the parent-child retreats 10 years ago. Mrs. McGovern said "We wanted kids and parents to really understand the sacrament, and engage Jesus. The retreats were an effort to emphasize the importance of the sacraments by bringing together the children, their parents, teachers and priests, unified on the journey." Father Dan invites other parishes interested in such a program to contact him.

OPT



Congratulations to Blessed Sacrament's Class of 2015

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Shrine of St. Jude Sodality Sponsors Parish Anniversary Breakfast

On April 17, these St. Jude parishioners were honored at a Parish Anniversary Breakfast for couples celebrating 25, 40, 50, 55, 60, and 70 years of marriage. Congratulations to (from left to right) Paul & Marcia Liegey, Frank & Kay Gleich, Bernard & Hyacinth (not pictured) Wikramanayake, Bill & Terry Heineman, Tom & Sonja Diethrich, and (St. Jude Deacon) Nick & Kathy Scholz. St. Jude Pastor Fr. Paul Lee and Fr. Ken Gill are also pictured. This annual event is sponsored by the Shrine of St. Jude Our Lady of the Wayside Sodality.

Seventh Grade Seminary Visit

As part of their Confirmation preparation, seventh graders from St. Jude Regional Catholic School made a pilgrimage to the Grotto at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland, in April. Along with a tour of the Seminary by seminarian Kevin Field, the students, chaperones, and teacher attended mass in the Glass Chapel at the Grotto, walked through the Grotto (taking time to collect Holy water from the natural spring), said prayers at the Grotto, and ate lunch in the cafeteria at Mount Saint Mary's University.



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Sodality Visits JPPII National Shrine

On April 17, Fr. Ken Gill, Moderator of Our Lady of the Wayside Sodality from the Shrine of St. Jude, led a group of St. Jude Sodalists on a tour of the Saint John Paul II National Shrine. Fr. Ken celebrated Mass while wearing vestments previously worn by Saint John Paul II. After Mass, Father led the group on a tour, which included a movie celebrating the life of Saint John Paul II. Everyone was in awe of the paintings and artifacts displayed, plus the enormity of the building. The group hopes to make a return visit with additional Sodalists.



SCIENCE FAIR

Con't from page 38

judges to choose the winning projects as all of our young scientists presented intriguing and well-done projects. The panel also interviewed our eighth graders, adding an extra level of rigor for them.

Congratulations to all of our winners and those who received honorable mentions! We'll look for you on the cover of Scientific American someday!

6th Grade:

- Honorable Mention-Savannah Thompson (Clean Up Oil Naturally)
- Honorable Mention-Nora Rembold and Kendal Gilday (As Seen on TV)
- Third Place-Meg Toner (Cleaning Up Oil Spills)
- Second Place-Clara Henne (Kimchi Science)
- First Place-Blaise Ryan (Octane and Gas Mileage)

7th Grade:

- Honorable Mention-Michael Heyl, Bill Smolskis, and Kevin Harper (Grow With the Flow)
- Honorable Mention-Henry Smith and Alex Domenech (Tornadoes)
- Third Place-Avianna Vinkler and Emily Lucas (Laser Microscope)
- Second Place- Eliza Henne (Watery Alternative)
- First Place-Matthew Wyble (How Do Wind Turbines Work?)

8A:

- Honorable Mention-Timothy Peoples (Dueling Detergents)
- Honorable Mention-Ben Clarke (Music and its Effects on Running)
- Third Place-Emma Mitchell (Power of Paper)
- Second Place-Marin Larkin (Do Gas Stations Effect Soil Pollution?)
- First Place-Katy Foxman (Chemicals vs Plants)

8B:

- Honorable Mention-Abby Romano (Essential Evaporation)
- Honorable Mention-Nick D'Avella (Stop the Flood)
- Third Place-Peter Davin (Cross Dominance)
- Second Place-Jo Matta (Got Gluten?)
- First Place-Michael Penafiel (Dye-Sensitized Solar Cells)

OPT

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES OF 2015!



We are . . . St. Jude!



Principal: Mr. Benjamin
Pastor: Father Lee



Christina Carroll
Our Lady of Good Counsel



Josephine De La Oliva
The Academy of the Holy Cross



Kevin Gibbons
St. John's College High School



Julie Kilmer
Oakcrest High School



Victoria Martinez
The Academy of the Holy Cross



Patrick McAuliffe
Gonzaga College High School



Erica Mendes
Wheaton High School



Avery Miller
Our Lady of Good Counsel



Jovan Navarra
St. John's College High School



Mike Orosco
Don Bosco Cristo Rey



Savini Perera
Oakcrest High School



Jamie Ryan
Our Lady of Good Counsel



Mariam Solomon
Undecided



Matthew Thomas
St. John's College High School



Matthew Tull
St. John's College High School



Danielle Valcarcel
The Academy of the Holy Cross



Rebecca Welton
The Academy of the Holy Cross



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The Academy of the Holy Cross

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Commemorating Calvary: Outdoor Bilingual Stations of the Cross

Article and Photos by Xiommy Esteban

On Friday, April 3, a rainy and cloudy Good Friday, hundreds of St. Jude parishioners gathered in the church to await the start of its second annual outdoor

bilingual Stations of the Cross. The event would take parishioners on a journey-reminiscent of Christ's journey to His crucifixion-through the neighborhood surrounding the Shrine of St. Jude Catholic Church.



Parishioners took turns carrying a large cross from station to station, while a group of children also took turns carrying a smaller cross. Pictured carrying the cross is David Sanchez Luna with assistance from Sebastian Buelva, followed by more than a hundred parishioners as well as Fr. Paul Lee, Fr. Ken Gill, and Fr. Raul DeLeon.

Just as the solemn procession began, which was led by parish pastor, Fr. Paul Lee, and parochial vicars Fr. Raul DeLeon and Fr. Ken Gill, the rain subsided. The commemorative walk, complete with a police escort, was comprised of make-shift stations in front of parishioners' homes in the neighborhood. At each stop, the participants joined in Spanish- and

English-led meditations and songs. Parishioners took turns carrying a large cross from station to station, while a group of children also took turns carrying a smaller cross. Throughout the procession it was evident that several passersby and neighbors took notice of the large crowd and showed particular interest, either by taking a photo or demonstrating reverence. The final

stretch of the walk included a portion of Veirs Mill Road and the long hill leading back to the church.

Parishioners expressed feeling very touched by the organized procession, which for many, brought back memories of Holy Week traditions from their native countries. The Stations concluded inside of the church followed by the Celebration of the Lord's Passion.

OPT



At each station of the St. Jude Outdoor Bilingual Stations of the Cross, participants joined in Spanish- and English-led meditations and songs. Pictured on the front lawn of a St. Jude parishioner's home are the priests from the Shrine of St. Jude as well altar servers and many of the children who carried their own cross.

St. Jude Regional Catholic School Spring Roundup



Middle School students in the Drama Club at St. Jude Regional Catholic School presented an incredible performance of *Disney's Aladdin Jr.* in April, continuing to impress all who attend with their talents. Congratulations to the cast and crew for all of their hard work and dedication. Special thanks to Ms. Karen Murphy (director) as well as Ms. Maura Bayly (assistant director). Thank you, also, to the many advertisers whose ads appeared in the show's program. Pictured left to right are Matthew Tull as the Magic Carpet, Natalie Young as Genie, and Brian Nakamura as Aladdin.



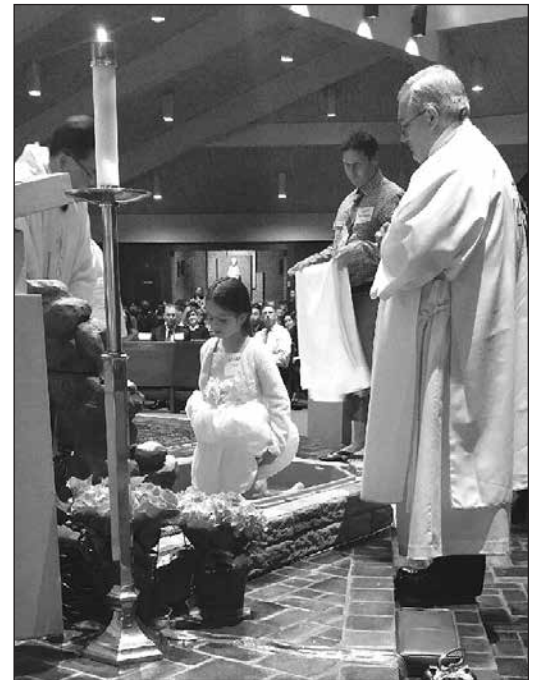
O Mary! We Crown Thee With Blossoms Today!

As we honor Mary during May, St. Jude students took part in the annual May Crowning, a long-time school and parish tradition. The celebration included song, poems, and prayers for our Blessed Mother as well as the placing of a crown of flowers on her head. Pictured from left to right are St. Jude Pastor Fr. Paul Lee along with 8th graders Erica Mendes, Rebecca Welton, Lucy Young, Julie Kilmer (May Queen), Matthew Tull (St. Joseph), Savini Perera, Josephine De La Oliva, and Victoria Martinez. Standing in front are second-grade First Communicants Eden Tewodros and Rohan Nathan.

Father and Daughter: Our Newest Baptized Catholics at St. Jude

On the evening of April 4, at the Holy Saturday Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) Baptisms at the Shrine of St. Jude, both catechumen John Turner and his eight-year-old daughter Isabella, a third grader at St. Jude Regional Catholic School, were Baptized by our Pastor, Father Paul Lee. John's 10 other RCIA classmates and Isabella's third-grade classmates shared in their joy

as do all St. Jude parishioners. Welcome John and Isabella Turner! Pictured is Isabella moments before the receiving the sacrament, while Isabella's father, John, looks on behind her. Also pictured are Fr. Paul Lee on the left and Deacon Paul Schmitt on the right.



Welcome to the Lord's Table!

During the first weekend of May, the Shrine of St. Jude celebrated the 107 young people who took another step in their Christian Initiation with the Sacrament of the Eucharist. On Saturday, May 2, 61 second and third graders from St. Jude Regional Catholic School and the Shrine of St. Jude faith formation program received the Eucharist for the first time. On Sunday, May 3, 46 fourth through ninth graders received the Eucharist for the first time. We welcome these young people to the Table of the Lord.

OPT

Shrine of St. Jude Parish

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Rockville, MD

Rev. Paul Lee, STD,
Pastor

301-946-8200

St. Jude Regional
Catholic School

Mr. Glenn Benjamin, Principal
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More Shrine of St. Jude
on Page 50



Representative from the Polish Legion of American Veterans (PLAV) Ben Filipczyk, Polish Scouting Organization-ZHP members, and Polish Saturday School students stood watch at the Tomb of Jesus on Holy Saturday, April 4, 2015, at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, Silver Spring, MD, while the baskets of food were blessed for Easter.



PLAV members Karl Klonowski and Marian Mols took their turn at the Tomb of Jesus on Holy Saturday 2015 in Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, Silver Spring, MD.



The Parish celebrated the 92nd birthday of Mr. Jerzy Terajewicz and wished him "Sto Lat!" and "200 Lat!" on March 15, 2015, in the Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish Hall, Silver Spring, MD. Mr. Terajewicz is a survivor of the Soviet deportations to Siberia during World War II. He is a retired engineer and is active in the Parish and the Polish American community. His wife Krystyna and daughter were also present at the celebration.

On March 22, 2015, the Polish Saturday School took part in a Memorial Mass at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, Silver Spring, MD, for Mr. Philip Pawlisz, who died earlier this year. As a member of the Polish Legion of American Veterans (PLAV), he often appeared as commander of the Honor Guard at Polish and American military commemorations.

In 2004 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Polish Army. He was born in Bydgoszcz, Poland, in 1917. He fought in World War II with the Polish Second Corps at the Battle of Monte Cassino. Later, after moving to Washington, DC, Philip organized a Saturday Polish School, and was its director for 8 years. He was also instrumental in creating the Polish Catholic Mission which eventually became the Parish of Our Lady Queen of Poland and St. Maksymilian Kolbe. For many years he was active in the Parish, serving as chief usher. His wife Marjorie and two children survive him.



OLQP Pastor Rev. Jan Fiedurek and Rev. Dr. Andrei Lysy, Rector of the Society of Christ Seminary in Poznan, Poland, and OLQP Parish Lenten Retreatist, pray and bless the palms before Palm Sunday procession at Our Lady Queen of Poland & St. Maksymilian Kolbe Parish, Silver Spring, MD, on March 29, 2015.

OLQP lectors Beata Kolankiewicz and Pawel Szerszen carry the Divine Mercy portrait after Our Lady Queen of Poland Pastor Rev. Jan Fiedurek and guest priests blessed it at Mass on the Parish Feastday, May 3, 2015. This Divine Mercy image is a reproduction of the first painting by artist Eugeniusz Kazimierowski in 1934, as specified by Saint Faustina Kowalska and her confessor Fr. Michal Sopocko.



Parishioners and friends celebrated at a picnic after Mass on the Feastday of Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, May 3rd. In the foreground, from left, are Dr. Edwarda Buda-Okreglak, Centenarian-plus-three Walter Zachariasiewicz and his wife Sandra.



OLQP Pastor Rev. Jan Fiedurek and guest priests concelebrated Mass on the Parish Feastday, May 3, 2015.

SFIS School Garden Grows throughout Spring

Each year for several years, the SFIS school garden has continued to grow in many different ways. This year, thanks to the work of resident gardener Mr. Alan Magan, the third graders are focusing on growing a salad.

Starting in March the third grade classes at SFIS have been getting hands-on exposure to the school garden. They started by tilling the soil and adding organic compost. Next they planted several different types of lettuce as well as other salad greens, followed by several herbs and tomatoes. To keep the young plants warm and moist the classes added straw to the garden beds. Recently the students have begun weeding the garden beds and learning about turning the weeds into compost for later use. Along the way, Mr. Magan introduced the classes to worms that will help keep the garden aerated and growing.

The third grade salad garden



Mr. Alan Magan works with students in the SFIS salad garden.

is not only helping students to learn about various aspect of science, but on Earth Day, Fr. Jacek Orzechowski, a Franciscan Friar from St. Camillus Church, and Br. Angel Vazquez, a Franciscan postulant who has been working at SFIS all year, took time to add a spiritual dimension to the garden. Fr. Jacek and Br. Angel led the third graders in a prayer service that used Native American symbolism to bless the garden and remind all of the children of their connection to the Earth.

The final phase of the salad garden's learning objectives will come when the students harvest the crops and turn them into a SALAD which they will eat! Over the summer months, the garden will continue to be used by students in the Saint Francis Summer Academy STEM class who will also be having hands-on adventures.

OPT

SFIS Receives the McNamee Award



On April 6, Saint Francis International School principal, Toby Harkleroad, traveled to Orlando, Florida, to the school's major award from the National Catholic Educational Association. The Catherine T. McNamee, CSJ award is given annually by NCEA to one person or institution in the nation that shows exceptional leadership in promoting diversity in Catholic education.

OPT

At SFIS many students come from immigrant families with roots in over 50 nations.



Six SFIS students were baptized by Fr. Mike Johnson during Easter this year.

Saint Francis Students Celebrate Baptism

Several years ago it began with one student and it has grown into an annual tradition. This year, six SFIS students received the sacrament of Baptism at the first school mass during the season of Easter. Saint Francis International School is proud to be participating in the New Evangelization and helping students and their families find God in the sacraments. Students who were baptized this year included preschool students as well as second graders who will also make their First Communions during May.

OPT

St. Francis International School

www.saintfrancisinternational.org

Tobias A. Harkleroad,
Principal

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

St. Mark Campus
7501 Adelphi Road
Hyattsville, MD 20783



SFIS will perform the *Sound of Music* on May 21 and 22.

Saint Francis is Alive with the *Sound of Music*

Each year the students at Saint Francis International School put on a spring play. Past performances have included *Romeo & Juliet* and *Alice in Wonderland*. This year, they have been practicing for quite a while, parents and

teachers have been helping with costumes and sets, and on May 21 and 22 the eighth graders at SFIS will stage their version of the *Sound of Music*. This will be the first time that that students at SFIS have attempted a musical play. The pub-

lic is invited to join the students of Saint Francis International School for their production of the *Sound of Music* at 7 pm at the Camillia Room of St. Camillus Church on May 21 and 22.

OPT

GARBO

Con't from page 41

sored by the GARBO Social Club, a group established in 1979, which has dedicated its efforts to being strong supporters of the African American community in civic, charitable, and educational developmental programs throughout the area. The GARBO singers, along with wives, family and friends, are

represented by a variety of religious groups including Baptist and Methodist.

The GARBO family provides annual scholarships to deserving high school graduates in Montgomery and Frederick counties, Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to the needy, and it sings at various churches in the area. GARBO members believe in their motto: "God first, Family second, then the Community."

OPT

St. John the Baptist

LIVING STATIONS

Con't from page 6

takes place on Wednesday of Holy Week. Alison Fram, SJB Director of Youth Ministry, says: "This is the second year that our performance took place the day before the start of the Triduum. The change from performing on Good Friday to Wednesday evening was made in order to allow all working parents to see their children take part in this event."

The program is planned by Alison Fram and the Coordinator of Faith Formation, Marie Ferman. The music is directed by Director of Liturgy, Susan DeCamp. SJB students sign up for their roles during their Confirmation classes.

During the performance the actors must remain completely still for the duration of each station. Between the reflection that is read during each station and the music, the program lasts about forty-five minutes.

"The lighting ensures that your eyes are drawn to the characters in each scene. There is a reader who paints a visual picture of what Jesus is going through in each Station. One of the best parts of the program is when each reader leads the congregation through a reflection.



St. John the Baptist's Living Stations Musicians

The goal is to help people to connect Jesus' suffering with what has happened in his/her own life," said Alison.

"One of the best things about this program is that it gives the 8th grade students the opportunity to really enter into Jesus' suffering and death. I also think it's a wonderful opportunity for anyone who comes to the performance to be reminded that our young people are active and important members of the parish," Alison continued.

After this year's performance, parishioners reported that they were

very touched by every part of the program. "I had people tell me that they cried through each station. People were moved by the beautiful music performed by the 8th graders and high school teens. I heard so many people comment on the fact that they loved the night-time lighting on the actors, as well," said Alison.

She added that a particular strength of the program is how it affects the students. "Speaking for the student actors, it takes the Passion to a whole different level when they have to literally put

themselves in the place of one of the characters. For the community to see the young people taking on these roles makes the performance even more powerful."

During the performance, high school soloist Ana Clyde sang "How Beautiful" during the final station. The student playing Jesus was lying in the makeshift tomb on the altar, as she sang. Alison Fram further commented, "When the performance was over, I couldn't even

count the number of people who asked me where we found a girl who could sing with such feeling and a beautiful voice. I told them that she's from right here at SJB!"

Alison added that "Our plan is to continue to host the program on the Wednesday of Holy Week. "It never fails that each time in rehearsals it seems like we'll never quite reach the serious tone that we're aiming for. Yet when the lights go down and the music begins, the students do such a beautiful job of presenting their roles, with all the gravity they deserve."

OPT

MERMAID

Con't from page 6

Esco Williams has joined the SJB staff as Music Director and is now working with Play Director Erin Tervo, to put the show together. This is the 18th show that Erin has directed at SJB. Martin Lucey operates the sound system for SJB shows.

Eighth-grade student Caroline O'Neill has been busy designing and sewing costumes, under the guidance of SJB Alumni mom and seamstress, Laura McDonald. According to Erin, "these amazing creations will truly help transport the audience "Under the Sea."

SJB Art teacher Chrissy Leishear has once again worked her magic designing scenery to help bring the show to life.

"We have been fortunate to have the assistance of Kat Pong and her lighting team from Springbrook High School to help us with some lighting ideas. They have also generously donated some lights for us to use during this show," said Erin.

"A show like The Little Mermaid would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of the many students, parents and teachers involved," Erin concluded.

OPT

BLOOMQUIST

Con't from page 6

little longer than I expected, and I didn't realize that my plumbing and

handyman skills would be tested as much as they have been this year.

Last weekend, we again had a terrific Jogger festival. It felt ironic to be the one calling Marianne Moore a few weeks ago, to make

sure she knew that she was welcome to attend the event. Marianne and I are often complimented for having a good relationship, but it is something that comes very naturally. I feel more comfortable, not less, when Marianne is around. And yet I get a warm feeling when I hear that she is playing golf or camping, because I know the toil, time, and soul that she devoted to SJB for decades. It feels good to know she is taking time to do some things for herself.

The support from the teachers at SJB has exceeded what I expected, and everyone told me they were a great faculty before I arrived. I have never been surrounded by such positive, supportive people. They all have one thing in common: They are people of faith.

I certainly have had my share of challenges this year. I have a hard time saying "no" when someone wants to meet, in case I just don't have time, for instance. I look forward to summer, not for the break, but for the opportunity to get to the many big-picture issues that I haven't had time to address.

I have tried to show restraint and patience when it comes to changing things. I'll admit that it can be hard at times. When I see something that needs to be done, my instinct is to jump in and fix it. But sometimes, I have learned, it wasn't really broken. That's the culture of a school. It's a cycle, an evolution in front of our eyes. After each school event, we have a staff meeting to ask: "What went right? What went wrong?" It's an honest debriefing. I write everything the teachers say in my "long-term" journal. Next year,

when we plan an event, I'll open the journal and remind everyone that we said we needed to start at 6:45, not 6:30, for example. We might not remember why, but on the day of the event, the reason will reveal itself.

This week, we are putting on our performance of The Little Mermaid. The acting, direction, singing, sets and costumes are spectacular. The sound is... well, we will see. One of our teachers was still in the gym late last night working on the placement of microphones and receivers. All I could do was trust in everyone's experience, but I will say a prayer today at 12:55 pm to Gabriel, Patron Saint of Radio, and probably one more prayer to Isidore of Seville, Patron Saint of Computers. Why take chances?

We have planned a few small changes for next year. We are looking at adding lunch delivery each day. We are making our school uniforms more, well, uniform. Right now, we allow students to wear shirts in five different colors. We're narrowing that down to two.

I am fortunate to have had great support from Father David Brault, our Pastor, our parishioners and particularly our parish staff. When I get bogged down in minutia, I can always count on Father David to pull me away from the details and remind me to see the big picture. In other situations, Father David reminds me that details matter. Maintenance, maintenance, maintenance," he has told me on more than one occasion.

The one thing I am most proud of is our teachers' work in addressing students with particular needs:

academic, organizational, behavioral, or emotional. Marianne Moore started our regular "Students of Concern" meetings. We have tried to improve the focus and efficiency of these meetings to better evaluate and help these students. We also expanded the program to include grades 2 through 4. Through strong documentation and measurable goal-setting, we have received high marks in the few instances that have resulted in an IEP (Individualized Education Plan) or CAP (Curriculum Adjustment Plan), evaluated before a Montgomery County Special Education team. The program truly is a team effort. Our Students of Concerns meetings could not take place without the generous parent volunteers who help supervise students at lunch and recess.

Our teachers should feel proud of their work. They know I have great admiration of them as professionals, but mostly I admire their character. They live the gospel every day. They are unfailingly kind and caring toward one another and their students. They are doing Christ's exhausting work when they put in extra time for students who have fallen behind. They help the poorest and the weakest among us, and I am often humbled by being around such genuinely good people. I have worked in many different settings in my life and have never seen anything like this. Their presence has made me a better person, and that is the greatest gift any of us could ever hope to receive.

OPT

QUESTION
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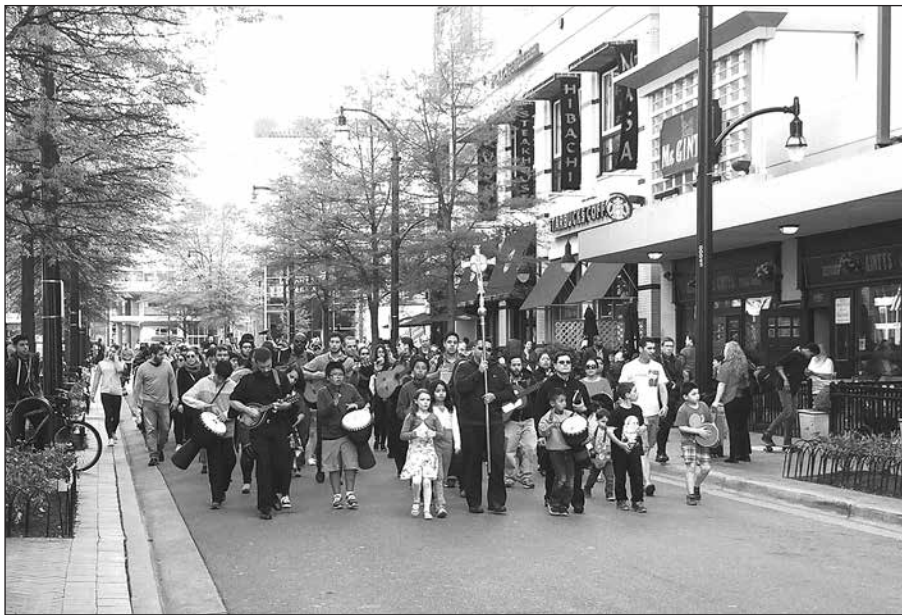
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The Great Mission

During the first 5 Sundays of Easter, the parish has been going out into the streets of Downtown Silver Spring to bring the Good News to the people! Parishioners process with the cross, singing psalms, from the front of St. Michaels on Wayne Ave through the busy Ellsworth Ave section of Silver Spring to Veteran's Plaza, where for one hour youth and catechists present how Jesus Christ, through His church, has helped them in their lives, and how He offers this help to everyone, to all those who can stop to listen.

This is the third year the parish has been offering this Great Mission, attempting to reach those who would otherwise never go near a church and never have a chance to hear the Good News

OPT



General Assembly Ends 2015 Session

Maryland Catholic Conference plays key role

The 435th legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly ended April 13 after 90 days' consideration of nearly 2,300 bills introduced in 2015. The legislature approved 652 measures for signing by Governor Larry Hogan.

The Maryland Catholic Conference – which advocates the Church's public policy positions for the 1.2 million Catholics living in the state – joined the Maryland Against Physician-Assisted Suicide coalition (www.stopassistedsuicide.md.org) that successfully defeated Senate Bill 676/House Bill 1021. The bill did not receive a committee vote in either chamber.

"The advocates working against the bill did an excellent job of raising questions in the minds of legislators about how this bill

would affect those with disabilities and other vulnerable populations," said Mary Ellen Russell, executive director of the Maryland Catholic Conference. "O.J. Brigrance's powerful testimony played a key role in helping table the bill. The lead sponsors said they will bring the issue back next year, so we will continue efforts to build opposition."

Thanks to the active support of Governor Hogan and Senate, the Maryland Education Credit (SB 405/HB 487) came closer than ever to passing. The Maryland Education Credit is dedicated to ensuring that every K-12 student in Maryland has access to high-quality, diverse, and affordable education opportunities. The legislation would provide any qualifying Maryland business with a tax credit equal to 60%

of its donation toward education assistance. This tax credit incentive seeks to promote business investment to assist poor students attending the state's public and nonpublic schools.

House Speaker Mike Busch refused to move the bill out of committee, forcing the Governor to propose a supplemental budget that included \$5 million for a grant program to businesses that donate to nonpublic school scholarship organizations. The House refused to consider the proposal.

"We are very frustrated that the tax credit did not pass," added Russell. "House leadership continues to stand in the way of this measure, despite majority, bipartisan support for the bill in both chambers, but we will continue to fight until underprivileged children have



the opportunity to the best education possible."

More than 700 students from 11 Maryland counties and Baltimore City converged on Annapolis in March for Nonpublic School Advocacy Day. Governor Hogan, Senate President Mike Miller, Senator Ed De Grange, Delegate Jim Proctor, the Most Rev. William Lori and Rabbi Ariel Sadwin addressed the students during a

rally in the Miller Senate Office Building.

Lawmakers passed the Second Chance Act (SB 526/HB 244), a bill the Conference has worked on for several years that would help those trying to turn their lives around by allowing job applicants to shield certain minor, non-violent convictions on their criminal record.

OPT

Easter Vigil at St. Rose of Lima



Hundreds of worshippers fill St. Rose at the Easter Vigil. Photo by Mischa Bolton



Father Mateo baptizes an elect into the Catholic faith at the St. Rose Easter Vigil. Photo by Mischa Bolton



Father Mateo and others gather at the outdoor fire at the start of the St. Rose Easter Vigil on April 5. Photo by Mischa Bolton



Father Tony Krisak sings the Litany of Saints at the Easter Vigil. Fifteen people were baptized. In addition, 3 people were received into the Catholic faith and seven Roman Catholics completed their initiation. Photo by Mischa Bolton

St. Rose Youth Perform Passion Play

St. Rose Youth performed the Passion Play on Palm Sunday at the 8:45 and 11:15 Masses.



The youth carry the recently crucified Jesus out, during the Youth Production of the Passion Play at St. Rose of Lima.

At right, St. Rose Youth who participated in the Passion Play. Photo by Rosemary Holt.



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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The Altar at St. Rose's historic chapel just before the prayer service for Baltimore. The service was held on April 28 at St. Rose to pray for a peaceful resolution to the unrest in Baltimore. Additional prayers were offered to find non-violent answers to the sources of the conflict in Baltimore. About 60 people attended. Photo by Trinh Le



Fr. Mateo, Bishop Barry Knestout and Deacon John Liu at the Confirmation Celebration at St. Rose held on April 24 at 7 p.m. The celebration was held to celebrate the confirmandi at St. Rose. Photo by Christine Jeffrey.

Preventing Falls in Older Americans

New data and resources on falls prevention released

On April 30, at the Falls Prevention Summit convened by the White House Conference on Aging and the National Council on Aging, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new data highlighting the seriousness of falls and new tools to support greater adoption of best practices to reduce falls in older adults.

CDC's new data show that from 2000 to 2013, age-adjusted death rates from unintentional falls grew for those aged 65 years and over. Death rates from falls increased from 38.2 per 100,000 in 2000 to 67.9 in 2013 for males. For females, death rates virtually doubled from 24.6 in 2000 to 49.1 in 2013.

To help communities identify appropriate evidence-based fall prevention programs CDC developed a new community guide: **Preventing Falls: A Guide to Implementing Effective Community-Based Fall Prevention Programs**.

The "how-to" guide provides resources and strategies to help community-based organizations initiate and maintain effective programs. The guide focuses on implementation of fall prevention programs, offering strategies on program planning, development, implementation, and evaluation.

"Each year, one in three Americans over age 65 falls, and the fear of falling may lead older adults to limit their activities, which can worsen mobility, increase the risk of falling, and detract from qual-



ity of life," said Nora Super, Executive Director, White House Conference on Aging. "These new tools expand the resources available to support community-based fall prevention interventions."

The CDC also updated its Compendium of Effective Fall Interventions.

This 3rd edition of the Compendium describes single interventions (15 exercise interventions, 4 home modification interventions, and 10 clinical interventions)

and 12 multifaceted interventions (which address multiple risk factors). Each intervention is presented using a standardized format that includes a short summary and additional implementation details.

The Falls Prevention Summit is being convened by the White House Conference on Aging and the National Council on Aging to call attention to the critical role of falls prevention in health aging and to provide opportunities for

older Americans and stakeholders to share their views and ideas on this important issue.

HHS' Administration on Community Living is supporting falls prevention through grant awards designed to both increase participation in evidence-based community programs to reduce falls and falls risk and encourage innovation, public-private collaboration and long-term sustainability of community-based programs. The President's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget includes \$5 million in new funding to expand this work, through additional support to the National Falls Prevention Resource

Center and new community-based grants to grow and sustain evidence-based falls prevention interventions.

OPT

Resources:

Compendium of Effective Fall Interventions: What Works for Community-Dwelling Older Adults, 3rd Edition

Preventing Falls: A Guide to Implementing Effective Community-Based Fall Prevention Programs

2015 WHITE HOUSE
CONFERENCE
on AGING

Elder Justice Policy Brief

The White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA) released a policy paper May 8 on **Elder Justice**, a key focus area of the upcoming 2015 national Conference.

The Elder Justice policy brief reviews three topic areas important to the aging community: the impact of elder abuse; responding to elder abuse; and federal efforts to address elder abuse.

This is the third in a series of policy briefs to be released by the White House Conference on Aging; a brief on **Healthy Aging** was released on April 10 and one on **Long-term Services and Supports** on April 23. All are available at the WHCOA website: www.whitehouseconferenceonaging.gov

An additional brief on **Retirement Security** will be released shortly.

The briefs define and frame each issue area and reflect the most current evidence-based information on the issues. Each brief concludes with a series of discussion questions. Readers are encouraged to comment and share feedback at policy@whaging.gov.

The White House Conference on Aging will collect the responses and use them to help shape its ongoing work for the 2015 national Conference.

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NIH initiative to transform Alzheimer's disease research

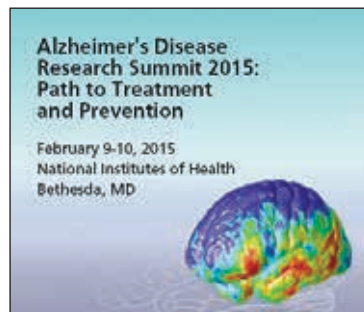
Leading experts, advocates call for innovative approaches and collaborations to speed discovery

The National Institutes of Health released recommendations on May 1 that provide a framework for a bold and transformative Alzheimer's disease research agenda. Developed at the recent Alzheimer's Disease Research Summit 2015: Path to Treatment and Prevention, the highly anticipated recommendations provide the wider Alzheimer's research community with a strategy for speeding the development of effective interventions for Alzheimer's and related dementias. These recommendations call for a change in how the

academic, biopharmaceutical and government sectors participating in Alzheimer's research and therapy generate, share and use knowledge to propel the development of critically needed therapies.

The recommendations will be used to update and expand specific milestones for achieving the prime research goal of the National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease, that of finding effective therapies to treat or prevent Alzheimer's disease and related dementias by 2025.

"Alzheimer's research is entering a new era in which creative



approaches for detecting, measuring and analyzing a wide range of biomedical data sets are leading to new insights about the causes and

course of the disease," said NIH Director Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D. "(W)e need to work smarter, faster and more collaboratively. These recommendations underscore the importance of data sharing and multidisciplinary partnerships to a research community that looks to the NIH for guidance on the way forward."

Over 60 leading Alzheimer's and chronic disease experts from academia, industry, non-profit organizations and advocacy groups joined to develop the research recommendations, which outline new scien-

tific approaches to address critical knowledge gaps and propose ways to harness emerging technologies to accelerate treatments for people at all stages of the disease. They also identify infrastructure and partnerships necessary to successfully implement the new research agenda and strategies to empower patients and engage citizens.

Overarching Alzheimer's disease research themes include:

- Understand all aspects of healthy brain aging and cognitive resilience to inform strategies for Alzheimer's disease prevention.
- Expand integrative, data-driven research approaches such as systems biology and systems pharmacology.
- Develop computational tools and infrastructure in order to enable storage, integration and analysis of large-scale biological and other patient-relevant data.
- Leverage the use of wearable sensors and other mobile health technologies to inform discovery science as well as research on Alzheimer's disease care.
- Support and enable Open Science in basic, translational and clinical research.

Continued on page 59

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The 2015 Maryland Senior Olympics will be held from May 6 through Sept. 27 at venues in Montgomery County, Baltimore city and county, Howard, Prince George's, Anne Arundel, Frederick and Queen Anne's counties.

This year is a non-qualifying year for National Senior Games. Over 140 events in 22 sports are featured, including non-qualifying participatory sports: billiards, bocce, croquet, disc golf and lawn bowling. This year, pickleball was added to the lineup.

To participate, you must be aged 50 and above. Maryland is open to out-of-state athletes, too. Registration deadline is two weeks prior to your event.

Teams and individuals can register online or by mail-in. For more information, visit: www.mdseniorolympics.org/registration.html

OPT



St. Andrew Apostle



A Championship Twelve Years in the Making -

In 2003, St. Andrew's second-grade boys began playing basketball in a county league because the CYO did not accept players that young. Players came and went but ten young men played together through grade school and high school as St. Andrew's graduates and parishioners. In February, after two snow cancellations, St. Andrew's twelfth-grade boys, coached by John Amann, defeated the Holy Redeemer, Kensington team, winning the CYO Championship! Thanks to John and all the coaches who, over the years, taught the boys skills, sportsmanship, determination and fun. Congratulations champions Kyle Amann, Michael Cerullo, Michael Costabile, Teddy Flood, Tony Girolami, Keegan Meyers, Marco Patzy, Cedric Paul, Paul Stubin, and Marco Torchia.

St. Patrick



2,4,6,8 – Who do we appreciate? Coach Dave Rizzo!

St. Patrick's Thanks CYO Coach of the Year

The athletes, parents, and teachers at St. Patrick's Catholic School would like to congratulate and thank Mr. Dave Rizzo for all of his efforts to bring good sportsmanship, encouraging words, and a great deal of fun to our basketball court and playing fields. Coach

Rizzo was chosen as the Coach of the Year for the entire CYO Program of the Archdiocese of Washington! We all are very grateful to Dave for his commitment, positive coaching spirit, and tireless efforts to introduce and coach our children in Catholic sports.

OPT

NIH

Con't from page 58

- Change the academic, publishing and funding incentives to promote collaborative, transparent and reproducible research.

- Invest in the development of a

new translational and data science workforce.

- Engage citizens, caregivers and patients as equal partners in Alzheimer's disease research.

"Determining the best path for progress in Alzheimer's disease research has been as challenging and complicated as the disorder

itself," said NIA Director Richard J. Hodes, M.D. "These recommendations support a research framework that empowers all stakeholders—including those with the disease or at risk for developing it—to engage in the vital effort to find treatments."

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