

the Messenger

ST. MARY'S AND ST. RITA'S PARISH FAMILY MAGAZINE



2014 WINTER

VOLUME XVIII ISSUE I

WINTER 2014

Roman Catholic Churches
of the Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
(Fairfield, PA) and St. Rita
(Blue Ridge Summit, PA)

PASTOR

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The goal of this publication is to provide a link between the parishioners of St. Mary's and St. Rita's, to their church, and to each other. It contains articles and information that can help us to progress spiritually, enrich our faith, inform us of parish activities, and to share our love of God.

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A LETTER FROM OUR PASTOR

BY FR. MICHAEL A. MESSARO, MSSCC.

themselves by taking little or no notice of it. When good things happen in our lives we are very prone to chalking it up to coincidence, the law of averages, maybe to our astrological signs. Some people have been known to attribute their blessings to what it said in their fortune cookie.

I think God would get tired of trying to get us to notice how much he loves us. Jesus could not convince many of His own people; how much difficulty is He having with us? Many Catholics are among the last to believe when our Blessed Mother or Jesus Himself goes out of their way to make a personal appearance to somebody and give us a message. Are we hard to convince that God and His angels and saints are ultra-concerned about us and active in our lives? Do we think all they do is sit around heaven, eating, drinking, and being merry while not sending so much as a prayer our way? Let's get convinced of what God and His saints are doing for us before our curtain comes down. Then, let us show our faith by thanking them and helping them spread that goodness around.

The scribes and Pharisees and Sadducees were hard to convince. In Mark 2:1-12, we find them witnessing a miracle of Jesus. He forgives a man his sins, cures him of his paralysis, and sends him off to his home carrying his own bed mat. Though it says that all the people there were "awestruck" and gave praise to God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!", we'll find later in the passage that some scribes, possibly the same ones, along with some Pharisees criticizing Jesus for eating with tax collectors. Are we ever doubters of the goodness of Christ like that?

God the Father is always doing good for us. Jesus continues to devote His existence to us; only God knows all the Holy Spirit is doing in us. Many Catholics, many Christians, doubt the goodness of God to

CORRECTIONS: There are two corrections to the Fall 2013 Issue of *the Messenger*... One is that the last name Costantini was misspelled in the short story titled Perception found on page 12. The second is that the title and author were both completely missing from the article about Pope Francis' Twitter account. That informative piece can be found on page 16. It should have included the heading "@Pontifex by Amy Baker."

I apologize for these mistakes.

Sincerely,
Christy Weller
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@PONTIFEX

BY AMY BAKER



twitter

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THE EPIPHANY: RESPONDING TO CHRIST

BY DR. OWEN PHELAN



"Epiphany" comes from a Greek word which means "manifestation." In our Church year, Epiphany is closely related to Christmas. On Christmas Christ was manifested in the flesh, born as a human being from a human mother, even though He was God without beginning with the Father. At Christmas human eyes were first able to see Him. At Epiphany we commemorate another manifestation: when Jesus was first worshiped by the Magi, Gentiles from afar who came bearing costly gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

In the second chapter of Matthew's Gospel, the Magi are on the lookout for something big . . . and they found it, a sign in the night sky. They then set out on a journey. They pursued what was shown to them. Moreover, they brought what they believed were their finest

gifts with them to give thanks to God. On their journey, Matthew tells us, they encountered others like Herod and the scribes and high priests. The scribes and priests knew where the savior was to be manifested - in Bethlehem - and chose not to go when the sign appeared. Herod learned where the savior was and also decided not to go. He sent the Magi to investigate for him. The Magi responded to Christ's arrival by going to Him and worshiping Him, presenting Him with their gifts.

In the early Church, when the great church father and bishop St. Augustine (354-430) preached on the feast of the Epiphany, he used the same reading from Matthew's Gospel and began with a explanation of the word "epiphany." He then remarked that the "manifestation" recorded in the Gospel is not just a

showing, it is an invitation to us and that is what the story of the Magi really is about. Christ has been made known to us; He has been manifested. How do we respond? Will we be like the scribes and high priests and merely remark to others that we already know all about it? Will we be like Herod, and instead of following Christ ourselves invite someone else to do it for us?

Will we be like the Magi? Are we looking for Jesus? Will we pursue Him and bring to Him the very best we have to offer?

St. Augustine invites us to hear the Gospel story of the Epiphany, not as a story about Christ, but as a story about a response to Christ. It is a story that challenges: Am I looking for Christ? How far will I go to find Him? What will I give to Him?

PERFECT GIFT

**Three wise men
Rode upon camels bearing golden rings
Beautiful gifts for the King of kings.
Adorned in exotic furs from animals rare
Bejeweled with sparkles entwined in
their hair
Wearing sandals tooled from leathers
fine
And clothing woven of gilded design.
Had they but known
The new born babe in Bethlehem town
Was God's greatest gift to all man kind
They would have left their meager gifts
behind
For nothing compared
To the wealth He would bring
When He lifted the lowly to rise before
kings.**

**Yet...
Words of praise from three men sublime
Humbled when spoken to the babe Divine
No one could know the words He would
speak
Would crush the mighty...
Give strength to the weak.
Whose words when whispered
“Forgive them Father...
They know not what they do”
Would bestow the most perfect gift
Of everlasting life...
for me and for you.**

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THE MAGI AND ADORATION

BY FR. ROBERT MALAGESI, M.S.C.C.

“And they went home by another route,” is the last sentence in the Gospel of St. Matthew for the Feast of the Epiphany. While we can certainly understand it in a literal way as meaning a change of direction used to return to their country, we also can understand it in a theological way. By this I mean that a conversion had taken place within them from their being in the Presence of God. There is an expression that I like that applies to the very nature of conversion. The saying is: “God takes us

where or as we are, but, loves us too much to leave us there.” This is ultimately what our lives of faith are all about. This in a nutshell is the meaning of an Epiphany, the manifestation, or God’s entering into our lives in a real and profound way. I think we can honestly say that the Magi, by prostrating themselves before Him, showed us the beginnings of Adoration. May you come to know this Real Presence of God in your life by spending time with Him in Adoration.

A Faith Date

Who would have thought I'd be dating again after years of cloistering myself here on my farm. But here I was on a perfectly pleasant date with an Italian architect/sculptor who left the Catholic Church years ago. I was thinking he might never have left if he knew what he left. Or perhaps he simply never believed. Spirituality is a major part of my being, so I knew it was only a matter of time until the subject of religion came up. He was telling me what a great 2000 member rock and roll church he goes to. I said how I just love my little St Mary's church because it is intimate where everyone knows just about everyone else, and it is a tight, friendly community with many ministries helping each other.

Even when former Catholics are angry talking about their issues of why they left, I try not to disrespect their faith, yet at the same time defend mine! In my head I was thinking, if I wanted to hear rock and roll I would go to a concert. But when I go to church, I want reverently to worship God—body, blood, soul, and divinity—in the Eucharistic Communion, not just a remembrance. Heaven comes to us at this time.

An ice storm was forecast Sunday morning, so I wanted to go to Mass Saturday night and asked if he would like to join me. Our date started in the late afternoon as we chatted over an Irish coffee for a while. He said, "I'll go, but I can't guarantee I won't spontaneously combust being as the last time I was at Mass was my father's funeral." I said I could drop him off at the Fairfield Inn tavern if he liked to wait for me, if it bothered him that much to go. But he insisted he come with me. He said he hoped Father wouldn't say that if any non-Catholics are here that they can come up for a blessing and not receive communion. I said, "Why would that bother you? Why would you want to receive something you don't believe

in? If you do, then welcome home!" He said, "We have communion at my church also." I said, "Yes, but not the true body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus in the Eucharist. Maybe you should ask your pastor what that is you are receiving."

On another date he went grocery shopping with me and saw the ticket to the movie about the life of Mary in my wallet. He said, "What is it with you Catholics with Mary?!" I said, "What is it with you and your mother? You sure talk lovingly about your mother, but Mary is Jesus, your Savior's, mother and you don't give her due respect? Why not?"

Silence is wonderful. Men process information when they get quiet. He also commented on his church being Christians with Catholics seen separately. I politely brought to his attention and made sure he understood that "catholic" means universal, and we were the first Christians.

Of course, he had to mention the other brothers of Jesus he believed were Joseph and Mary's other children. I stated that there are no other words in Aramaic for cousins and uncles thus "brothers" refers to all family members. I asked why his 40,000 plus Protestant churches have taken out books in the Bible, and why are there so many protestant churches if they are all right? Know your faith and don't be afraid to defend what you believe in. "I go to church because I want to, not because I have to," is also what I said to him. You don't know how much you love something until someone tries to take it away from you or talk you out of it. Also faith is a gift my mother passed on to me. I am in for the long haul! I pray you are also.

Your St Mary's friend,
Sandi Leonard Polvinale

OUR LADY OF SORROWS

BY FATHER MICHAEL MESSARO, MSSCC

"Near the cross of Jesus there stood his mother." That is how the Apostle John begins to describe the scene after Jesus was raised on the cross, and the soldiers were throwing dice for his robe. "Near the cross of Jesus there stood his mother."

With a special feast on September 15, the Church recalls the sufferings that Mary went through. Simeon told Mary her child would bring sorrow to her. This happened in the temple when Mary and Joseph took the infant Jesus for his circumcision. Simeon walked up and praised God for letting him live long enough to see and hold the Messiah child in his arms. He then said to Mary, "This child is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in

Israel, a sign that will be opposed—and you yourself shall be pierced with a sword. . ." Could not that last part be said to almost every mother?

What mother or father is there who has not suffered over their children? I'm not talking just about the pains of childbirth or the crying at night, the chicken pox and the tummy aches, the illnesses that make them snatch up their children and rush them to the hospital. I'm talking about the many hurts, the rejections, the disappointments their children experience, the mistakes they make, the troubles they get themselves into. Like Mary, their mothers stand right at the foot of their crosses and soak up all the pain, maybe even much more pain and



sorrow than their children. How can mothers and fathers live through all those years? Like Mary—with faith and patience and trust in God. Jesus died to save you and me. So did Mary. Now it's our turn to die for those we love. We need to ask Mary's help because she has the experience.

SAINT ELIZABETH ANN SETON (1774-1821)

BY PAULETTE NIDEL

*W*hat an amazing woman – did you know this about the saint whose history was made in our area?

According to Franciscan Media Saint of the Day: Mother Seton is one of the keystones of the American Catholic Church. She founded the first American religious community for women, the Sisters of Charity. She opened the first American parish school and established the first American Catholic orphanage. All this she did in the span of forty-six years while raising her five children!

Elizabeth Seton told her sisters, "The first end I propose in our daily work is to do the will of God; secondly, to do it in the manner he wills it; and thirdly, to do it because it is his will."



Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Feast Day January 4th
Photograph courtesy of Susan E. Bates © 2013

This makes me ask, "What can or am I doing to share my faith or reach out to others, and to live in the Will of God?"

Sign up for the Saint of the Day reflection at: <http://www.americancatholic.org/features/saintofday/default.aspx>

LOCAL CATHOLIC BLOGS

BY CHRISTY WELLER

My husband and I truly love our small community of Fairfield. We were contemplating leaving the area some time back, but realized that we feel drawn to this area. Why? As we tried to answer this question, it occurred to us that so much of the answer lies in the fact that this area is positively drenched in Catholic culture.

What other small towns can one visit in which there exists, in a ten mile radius, an option of seven different Catholic Churches to celebrate Mass on any given weekend and most weekdays as well? Also within that same small area, we are blessed with the National Shrine Grotto of Lourdes, The National Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, Mount Saint Mary's Catholic University and Seminary, St. Gaetano Errico Adoration Chapel and House of Studies, The Sisters of Charity, and Dr. Steiger's Hermitage. How much more Catholic can one tiny area possibly be?

In our search for answers as to why we feel drawn to this area, we also found that there exists here,

for us, support from church family and friends. This support and encouragement is felt in our tiny little parish home as well as within the larger, surrounding Catholic community. One of the more *uncommon* ways that I personally experience encouragement is from the many Catholic bloggers in the area.

In today's modern and technological world, blogs are becoming more and more common. The word 'blog' is actually short for web log, and that is a simple explanation for what a blog consists of. Blogs can be mostly about one topic, or they can be more of a diary entry and cover a wide range of topics that are personal to the writer, or the blogger. As a homeschooling Catholic wife and mother who attempts to live a more ecologically friendly and sustainable life, I personally seek out bloggers who write about these same interests. I would like to introduce others to some of the local, Catholic bloggers that I have found in the hopes that they also feel encouraged.

My hope is to introduce new, local Catholic blogs in future issues as well.

One of my favorite blog sites is titled Me and My House. It is written by Ellie LeGare, who resides in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Ellie is a forty-three-year-old, happily married mother of ten children. She writes, "We homeschool our children and so far have had surprisingly good results! My amazing husband has been in carpentry since the age of fourteen. We have been very blessed in our lives and hopefully it is reflected in the blog, which gets its name from Joshua 24:15: As for **me and my house**, we will serve the Lord."

Please check out Ellie's blog at
<http://meandmyhouse10.blogspot.com/>



I have chosen to share with readers one of Ellie's blog entries from January 2013:

Impaired Judgment

Normally if this were like other years, my whole family would be at the March on Washington in D.C. This year we weren't. Fred has not seen a doctor in almost 20 years for anything other than stitches and glue. And even those ER trips have been blissfully sparse. After spending so much time on making sure our kids were doing well, I decided it was time to make sure their father was OK too.



Fred doesn't do doctors.

Or vitamins. Or basic upkeep.

So, I had to nudge him pretty hard. Finally and mostly, because he wanted me to stop bugging him, he agreed to go see a G.P. Naturally she ordered a whole load of tests, and blood work, and X-rays and labs. We've been running around town for the last week or two checking them all off the list. Today was his final test, requiring a bit of sedation. After drinking a few vials of explosives, Andrew, Fred, and I headed out in the early hours of the morning, leaving Peter and JP to play the roles of Mom and Dad for the better part of the morning.



Women don't have too many choices about dealing with doctors. Especially during child-bearing years. You just get used to it all. Fred on the other hand is not used to any of this. I sat in

the waiting room thinking of how much he means to me and how many times he has had to drive me to appointments, and doctors, and other generally invasive bodily procedures. It is hard to be the person waiting. He has never mentioned that. He means everything to me and I knew that as I sat watching the clock tick.

They called me in when he was still groggy and pale. I sat next to him and was handed a stack of papers. The top one was for the person responsible for driving him home. I began to read. In bold letters it proclaimed:

Warning! Anesthesia will impair your judgment and perception for the remainder of the day...

Almost on cue, Fred chose that moment to open his eyes, smile softly, and say "Ellie- You look beautiful". Naturally- I chuckled and informed him his judgment was clearly impaired before he closed his eyes again to rest. Every one of his tests came out perfect. He is the picture of health. (Thank you Jesus!)

I gathered him together, and Andrew and I drove him home stopping at Red Robin to celebrate his first taste of food in two days.



The thought occurred to me later on today, that drugs aren't the only things that impair our judgment. Love does as well. It washes away what is really there and leaves in its place years of memories to view each other through. They become the real lens of how we see one another. The rough spots forgotten, the gentleness and happiness our vision. We share a perspective on the world that is our own. We have walked it together and therefore can see what no one else can. I am so happy to know he is healthy and well and mine. I am happy that when we look at one another, neither of us can see what the rest of the world does. Time and age have no place in how we remember each other- the heart and soul which have a different memory to draw from, triumph over that 'reality' gently washing away wrinkles, and grey hair, and weight gain and years of hard work and aging from the picture. Our vision has been mutually impaired by our marriage and we are all the better for it.

ST. RITA'S PARISH PICNIC, AMERICANA STYLE

BY BARBARA ROOK



Here to start with describing St. Rita's annual picnic? It all began with a simple request and ended in a huge success! A colossal "thank you" to Vanessa and John Rackers for taking the lead. Their effort was extraordinary, and it showed in all the details!

This year's menu included Faithful Franks and Hallelujah Hamburgers donated by Mike Biser of Steely Meats in Fayetteville. Holy Frijoles Baked Beans, Missionaries' Mac-n-Cheese, and Padre's Potato Salad was catered by Famous Dave's Bar-b-que in Frederick. The Cardinal's Corn-on-the-Cob was

done to perfection, and the meal was topped off with Divine Desserts brought in by parishioners.

The picnic setting on a picture perfect day was complete with patriotic décor and red and white checkered tablecloths, and several golf ball sized ants were spotted although they didn't seem to disturb anyone.

A special "thank you" is due to all of the folks who did the work of setting up and tearing down. The work done behind the scenes is so appreciated: hauling tables and chairs, setting up the tent, arranging

the hall, cutting up watermelon, slicing tomatoes, dicing onions, layering the lettuce, and that's just the start! Getting the crowd of 200 served through the lines with little back-up and such efficiency speaks to the years of volunteering and teamwork.

After a fabulous meal, a new St. Rita's Parish Family Olympics was introduced this year. WOW! There were so many creative ideas from the opening ceremony music and torch passing to the closing ceremony where the top teams were awarded gold, silver, and bronze medals. It was awesome and too



much fun! Everyone was engaged with age-appropriate activities. Creative, competitive team games included Jonah & The Whale Bean Bag Toss, which was beautifully hand-painted by Karie Lawrence, Aim for Heaven yard darts, King Saul's Spear (javelin) Throw, Crown (ring) Toss, God's Mighty Kingdom can knock down, F.R.O.G. (Fully Rely On God) Flip, Leap for the Lord potato sack race, Water to Wine relay race, and Moses vs. Pharaoh Let My People Go! tug-of-war.

While the team sports were being played, the younger parishioners enjoyed playing Fishers of Men fish pond game, Find the Lost Sheep scavenger hunt, and Noah's Ark animal face painting. Involving young

volunteers as score keepers was a stroke of genius as they kept the spirited conversation and competition going!

The family spirit of each team showed in decorated team pennants and in the smiles and laughter. Father Robert will know to switch to his tennis shoes next year. And Father Augusty is not getting off the hook – he owes me a tie breaker match of table tennis. I'll be practicing!

Angela Kirshner was the DJ this year, I think everyone enjoyed her banter and upbeat personality. Angela had people laughing as she played theme songs from TV shows and had all ages involved in guessing the name of the show. She announced all the activities and mas-

terfully coordinated the music with events and more.

There were over thirty volunteers lending hands. Talk about the next generation stepping up to the plate! I so enjoyed seeing all the young people helping to drape tables, stuffing burgers and hotdogs in warming sleeves, setting up and scoring games, and just livening up the atmosphere. And what a nice example to model for their younger siblings and parents!

Again, our many thanks to Vanessa and John Rackers for their leadership in organizing the picnic and to all the volunteers who contributed to this huge success. Word is out – this community event is not to be missed. We hope to see even more parishioners attend next year!





MARY'S GARDEN

BY ANNE JONES

Ten years ago Fr. Mike established a kitchen garden on the Church property near the rectory. Due to physical restraints, Fr. Mike found himself unable to do the many tasks involved in gardening and solicited the assistance of parishioner, Mary Danetta Blanchard.

Mary was a good choice for the job. She was born in Baltimore City on the last piece of undeveloped land in the city. Mary's parents, the Millers, purchased the land from Mrs. Deckert who taught the family how to be proper farmers, how to rotate crops and advised on the best crops to be grown in the

existing soil. With the help of neighbor Mr. Milky who would drive his tractor up Belair Road (those of you familiar with Baltimore today will understand that this no longer would be possible!) and till the fields for Mrs. Deckert and for Mary's family. The garden plot was 100 feet by 100 feet and provided fresh vegetables for the Miller family.

Mary explained that she has always loved "playing in the dirt" and took on the job of planting and maintaining the garden this year. Before planting could be done, manure had to be purchased, and the dirt had to be prepared. Father told Mary to till the gardens, but Mary explained that she was not able to control the tiller, and help would have to be found. Parishioner Buddy Weller came to Mary's rescue and volunteered. Dick Heibel accompa-

nied Fr. Mike and Mary to the Mason Dixon Farm where manure is free if you arrive with your own shovels and bags. Buddy prepared the soil, and the time for planting had arrived!

With much advice from Fr. Mike about which vegetables grew well in the gardens, Mary planted green and purple beans; red beets; Japanese and Black Beauty egg plants; red, yellow, and banana peppers; white and red cabbage; broccoli; cucumbers; arugula; red and green Swiss chard; zucchini; butter-nut squash; and Beefeater and Roma tomatoes.

Mary's hard work has paid off in a bountiful yield. She enjoys the keeping of the garden because she feels close to God as she labors. She feels blessed that she is able to share with others the bounty that God has provided.

HOW TO ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO EAT THEIR LUNCH

BY MARY ANN CARR

Our great-granddaughter Cecilia, newly three years old, can prove to be a picky eater from time to time. Our daughter Janelle has the pleasure of baby-sitting her every Thursday and loves doing it. I think Janelle is the most clever granmamama in the world. "Granmamama" is the name our youngest ten-month-old angel Natalie calls Janelle.

When lunch time rolls around, Janelle puts the food on the table and begins. "It's time to eat and play our word game. Are you ready Cecilia? Do you remember? Whatever I say, you repeat it. OK?"

"OK"

"I love Mommy."
"I love Daddy."
Reader, follow along with all the repeats.
I love Elmo. I love Jesus.
I love Grandma and Grandpa.
I love birds. I love pickles.
I love flowers. I love pasta.
I love broccoli. I love ice cream.
I love rabbits. I love peas."

"Lunch is all gone. Good girl. How about some ice cream?"

"OH, Yes!"

FATHER ROBERT BLESSES OVER 50 ELEPHANTS AND MORE DURING HOME VISIT!

BY ANDY BAKNER

Last June Father Robert came to Spring Hill Drive in Waynesboro to bless the new home of Andy and Veryll Bakner. After blessing the main floor of the house, he continued downstairs to the lower level and discovered a room containing over fifty elephants.

This may seem unusual to most people but not to this family. You see, Andy has a model circus display complete with a train, tents, and close to 1000 spectators sitting and watching the grand performance inside the Big Top.

This all started about forty-eight years ago when he saw a die cast circus truck in a toy catalog that was purchased up at a local hobby store in Hagerstown. The colors and details fascinated him. Soon he had saved enough money from mowing lawns and delivering magazines to buy it. It wasn't long afterward that he had all eight circus vehicles in the series and was faced with a decision. What could he possibly do to add to the collection?

He pedaled his bike to the

Alexander Hamilton Library and checked out every book about the circus that they had on the shelves. With cardboard, balsam wood, and a lot of imagination, he started building his own circus wagons and wild animal cages. To carry all of the trucks, wagons, and other equipment, the building of train cars began. These were more complicated, so a few different model kits were purchased to use as patterns to make more.

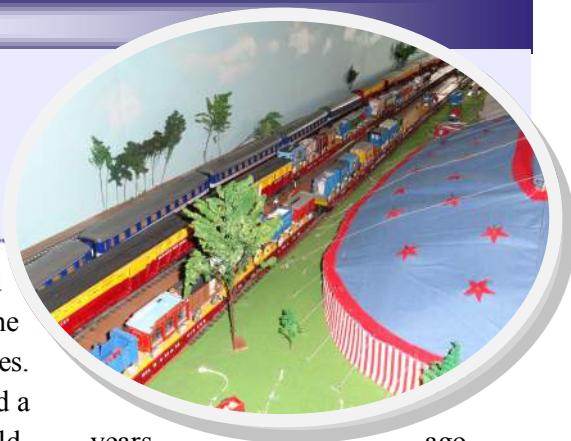
After a few years as the interest grew, Andy discovered that there were other people who also liked to make circus models. Exchanges of letters led to meetings, gatherings, and public displays. There was, in fact, a nationwide group called the Circus Models Builders. Andy's membership card is #1818.

One of the best things about the Bakner's new home is the lower level. The previous owners had divided it down the middle to make a family room and a storage/hobby room. For the first time in over twenty-eight years, there is room to display the entire circus. Many

years ago, Andy's mother sewed the tents and, recently, his dad helped make the display platform. The circus is modeled in $\frac{1}{4}$ " (=1'), and everything fits on the 6' x 20' table.

There is a siding for the circus train (currently thirty-one cars), ten tents, a small town for the circus parade, and a large oval track for the operating Lionel Train to circle the entire operation. Like many hobbies or collections, this will never be finished. Flea markets, train shows, and Ebay are searched for items to add to the collections. He has also been very lucky to receive many things as gifts from other circus model builders or their families. He has been blessed with a wonderful wife, and God must have blessed her with a greater-than-average amount of patience and tolerance for Andy and his hobby!

Visitors are always welcome but steps are involved in making the trip to the lower level.



BAPTISM: GATEWAY TO THE SACRAMENTS, SALVATION, AND THE CHURCH

THE WHAT AND WHY OF THE RITE OF BAPTISM

BY PAULETTE NIDEL

Baptism is the door to life in the Spirit through which we are freed from sin, receive access to the other sacraments and are incorporated into the Church. (CCC1213) It is the First of the Sacraments of Initiation which include Eucharist and Confirmation. For a sacrament to be valid both the form and matter must be present. For Baptism the pouring or immersion with water is the matter. The form is the words used while pouring, "I baptize you, Name, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." Anyone baptized in another Christian denomination that uses the Trinitarian form and pouring water is considered validly baptized in the Church. The word itself comes from the Greek *baptizein*, meaning to plunge or immerse, symbolizing the burial into Christ's death and rising with Him as a new creature. (CCC1214)

The Rite of Baptism:

I. Reception of the Child – Parents and godparents present the child to

the Church for Baptism. The Celebrant welcomes all present, reminding them of the gift of this child from God, Who now wishes to bestow His life on the little one. He asks the parents the name to be given to the child and what they ask of the Church for her. They reply with the name and the request for Baptism from the Church. He speaks to the parents of the responsibility they assume in having the child baptized, committing to raise the child in the Faith, and of the godparents' responsibility to assist in this duty. He then welcomes the child by name on behalf of the Christian community and traces the sign of the Cross on the forehead, claiming the child for Christ, and invites parents and godparents to do likewise.

II. Celebration of God's Word – One or two of several Gospel passages are then read relating to Baptism, including the meeting with Nicodemus (Jn 3: 1-8), commissioning of the apostles to baptize (Mt.

28:18-20), and the Baptism of Jesus (Mk. 1: 9-11). A short *homily* is presented, reminding the gathering of the significance of the reading, and giving a better understanding of the mystery of Baptism and the responsibility associated with it. The *Intercessions* follow presenting a focus on the Sacrament and child about to be Baptized as well as on those who will influence the child. The intercessions conclude with the praying of the invocation of the various Saints including especially the patrons of the child and the local church concluding with, "All holy men and women, pray for us." The last part of the Celebration of God's Word is the *Prayer of Exorcism* and *Anointing of the child before Baptism*. He prays for the child to be free from original sin and asks the Holy Spirit to dwell in her and then anoints the child on the breast with the oil of catechumens asking for strength with the power of Christ. At



Jenna and Luke Darsey with Baby Jacob - anointing with chrism – baptized on Dec. 8, 2013



Father presents the gift bag provided by the Elizabeth Ministry to the Tarr family



Dawson McCullough's Baptism Sept 1, 2012
Parents Patrick & Mikie McCullough

Nathaniel Girio's godmother Suzanne Girio receives the lighted candle – symbolizing Christ the Light of the World - Feb. 16, 2013



The Quinn Family celebrates baby Catherine's Baptism, June 16, 2013. She has a large welcoming committee!



the conclusion of the Celebration of God's Word, the parents and godparents bring the child to the Baptistry or to the Baptismal font, for the Celebration of the Sacrament.

III. Celebration of the Sacrament – After reminding the gathering briefly of God's great plan to sanctify man through water, the celebrant prays a *Blessing and Invocation of God over the Baptismal Water*. The prayer includes reminders of water in the Old Testament, from Creation when the Spirit breathed over the waters, to the Great Flood, parting waters of the Red Sea, the waters of the Jordan at Jesus' Baptism, and the flow of water and blood from the side of the Savior on the Cross. The celebrant asks for the Father to send the Spirit on the water of the font, that all who are buried with Christ may rise to new life with Him. *The Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith* follows with parents and godparents affirming their own faith and the commitment to raise the child in the Faith keeping them safe from the poison of sin. They reject sin and profess their Faith through the Creed. The *Baptism*, beginning with a confirmation of the parents' desire for it, takes place with the

pouring of water and the words – each time one of the persons of the Trinity is invoked, the water is poured again – three times, as the parents or godparents hold the child over the font. The *Anointing with Chrism* on the crown of the head then takes place after noting the new birth by water and the Holy Spirit just bestowed on the child, and reminds those present that as Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King so may he live as member of His body sharing eternal life. The *Clothing with the White Garment*, representing the new (unstained) Creation clothed in Christ as a sign of his Christian dignity is then placed on the child. A *Lighted Candle* is then presented to the parents or godparents reminding them of the Light of Christ which the child has received, and may he continue to walk in that light until he reaches the heavenly kingdom. The final step in this section is the *Ephphatha or Prayer over the Ears and Mouth* which is then prayed, asking that the newly Baptized may have ears open to hear the Word and mouth to proclaim the truth.

IV. Conclusion of the Rite - The group proceeds to the front of the

altar with the lighted candle, and the celebrant prays reminding them the child is now reborn in Baptism and is a child of God, able to call Him Father. They then pray the Our Father together. The Blessing or the Mother, then the Father, takes place after which the Congregation is blessed.

After the final Blessing, Father presents a gift bag from the Elizabeth Ministry of the parish which includes: keepsake blanket created by ladies at St. Rita, crucifix for baby's room, Miraculous Medal to pin on side of baby's bed, Rosary to use now and pass on to child later, prayer cards and manuals for the mother and father, keepsake baptismal shell, baptismal garment and candle, tote to use for baby, and gift card to Walmart for baby needs.

With such richness involved in the celebration of the Sacrament, one can not leave without feeling truly moved by an awareness of the solemnity of the occasion and the great Love of God for us His Children. Plan on attending a Baptism should the opportunity arise, and remember to pray for our families. They keep our Faith and Church alive!



lighted candle presented to Andrew Frank's godparents representing Jesus the Light of the World
9/22/13

Maegan Hart holds baby Jacob as Father Robert anoints him – Christin Ditch, godmother and Joshua Hart and Parker look on



Baptism of Ethan James McCullough June 10, 2012, parents Michael & Lindsay



Pouring of water:
Harper Smallwood's Baptism July 14, 2013 with godparents Stephanie & Steve Crunkleton



Baptism of Jude Patrick Almstrom, Mar 10, 2013 with Fr. Robert and parents Rob and Eileen and godparents Gabby Coughlin and Carl Dixon



ST. MARY'S PEACE GARDEN: THE WHITE OAK SAPLING

BY ANTHONY VENZIN



On September 8, 2013, local boy scout Anthony Venzin completed his Eagle Scout project at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Fairfield, PA. The very special dedication ceremony was held following the morning's 8:00 Mass. If you were not fortunate enough to attend the dedication, the letter that Anthony read during the ceremony follows. Thanks so much to Anthony Venzin for such a wonderful gift for St. Mary's Parish and the people of this community.

As I began thinking about my scouting career, I thought about how many first responders do not get the recognition they deserve so I thought I would do something to honor them. I thought of many things, but my final decision was this peace garden. I knew it would be a lot of work, and I would have to do a lot of fundraising on my own, but I thought the effort would be worth it. I took my ideas to share with Father Mike, and he liked the idea of having the monument erected on the church grounds.

At the middle of February, we had our first fundraiser bake sale at St. Mary's to give us our initial

funding. Then my parents took me to Hanover Architecture, and I explained to them what I wanted to do, and they were very gracious and donated all the pavers we needed. The timbers we purchased at special price through APM Lumber with some of the funds that were raised. We also purchased three flag poles and flags from Carrot-Top Industry.

Thanks to God, I met retired Senator Frank Shore from Maryland. He is a parishioner at St. Mary's. When I told him about my project, he gave me a contact of a priest in New York whose niece works for the National September 11 Memorial & Museum. At that time I contacted and told her about my peace garden. We wanted to get an artifact from the Twin Towers, and she advised us that the program was closed and that there was nothing available. She informed us, though, that she works with an individual, Ronaldo Vega, who was taking care of a sapling white oak tree that came from the only surviving tree on that horrible day. I am the only one in

the country to receive this amazing tree. My family and I took the train to New York City, Ground Zero, and brought the tree home. This sapling is symbolic of how first responders often put their lives on the line for their fellow men, women, and community. This white oak tree will be planted today. We were also able to obtain soil from Ground Zero, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, Pennsylvania, which we have encapsulated, and we will plant under the roots of the white oak.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude and gratefulness to each and every one of you for your kind and thoughtful words, contributions, support, and prayers during my lifetime in Scouts and with the completion of my Eagle Scout project. Without the support of the community and the members of St. Mary's Catholic Church, this project would have never happened. The clubs, groups, and individuals that I would like to personally thank are: Father Mike for helping me create this wonderful 9/11 Peace Memorial Garden for ALL to enjoy

and reflect upon, Men's club, Women's club, Robert/Mary Daniel, Bill/Mary Devlin, Uncle Mike/Aunt Carol Lewis, Bob/Mabel Lewis (grandparents), Amvets of Fairfield, Lions Club of Fairfield, Adams County Fish & Game, the Fraternal Order of Police, Lodge 102, Frederick County, Maryland, the Knights of Columbus, Ms. Dorothy Corbin, Mrs. Joyce Ryman, Ms. Regina/Jacob Arbutus, Ms. Joanne McDermott, Ellis/Vina Tinkler, Mrs. Neiderer, Mr. Barry Reecher who helped put in the pavers, Mr. Johnny Eiker, Mr. Barry Sanders, and Mr. Ed Deardorff, who helped with the excavating. Special thanks to all my fellow Scouts and their parents who donated many hours to help me.

Lastly, I would like to personally THANK my parents for ALL their hard work, PATIENCE, and continued love and persistence to stay in scouting!! They have always been there to help in many ways, and I truly appreciate them being my parents!!



A SPELLING LESSON

BY JOHN OUNAN

During the early years of my life on Wanamaker Street, my father drove a bus for the PTC (Philadelphia Transportation Company) now SEPTA (Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority).

Right after WWII, Pop was driving the Number 26 Bus north on 9th Street and turning left to go west on Wingahocking¹ Street.

After turning left, an unattended Abbott's Dairy horse and wagon² pulled out onto the street from an ally-driveway and through no fault of my dad, the bus struck and killed the horse.

While filling out the accident report for the Police Department, Pop was stuck on one word. So, he called the bus dispatcher and inquired, "Tom, how do you spell Wingahocking Street?"

The dispatcher answered, "W-I-N-G- . . . , I don't know, Frank. Drag the horse down to 9th Street."

¹ Wingahocking is a Lenni Lenape Indian word left to us by the Native Americans to help confuse us in spelling a lot of places here on the East Coast.

² Horses and wagons were used for home delivery of milk before trucks and supermarkets.



NEW MASCOT IN TRAINING:

St. Mary's Choir and Bell Ringers recruiter, Corby, has a theory: "Get 'em while they're young!"

When Father Mike saw Corby holding baby Gloriana Weller after Mass one morning, he jokingly said, "Now Corby - don't you go getting any ideas!" Those fortunate enough to get

to weekday Masses at St. Mary's are able to hear Father Mike joke around with the parishioners fairly often.

WHAT'S NEW AT ST. MARY'S?

BY FR. MICHAEL MESSARO, MSSCC

In the past few years, a lot of emphasis has been placed on going "green." All of us should do whatever we can to save our resources and our planet. When God gave man the task of dominating the world, He did not mean for us to destroy it but to take care of it. In order to do our part as a community, recently all the incandescent light bulbs in the light fixtures in St. Mary's Church and in the foyer were replaced with LED bulbs. LEDs (light-emitting diode) are semiconductors that emit light when a current passes through them. We changed not only because we wanted to go green, but also we did not like those fluorescent "squiggly" light bulbs. The new LED light bulbs consume about four watts of electricity each. They give off a white light whereas the incandescent lights gave off a dim yellow light. We began the project by replacing the spots that focus on the altar area first. This gave much needed lighting which eliminated shadows or dark spots. Then, thanks to Phil Culley, who did a study on the various kinds of light bulbs and was able to find LEDs that dim, the changeover was made.



Prior to this if all the lights in the church and the foyer were on at the same time, we were consuming a little over 5800 watts of electricity. Now with every light bulb on, we consume slightly more than 500 watts which is quite a savings. The cost of the bulbs was \$4,678.25. We received an initial rebate for \$1,000 from the electric company, and the bulbs will pay for themselves in two years. Also the bulbs come with a guarantee to burn for twenty years, and if any of them burn out before that time they will be replaced free. We are now looking into replacing all of the fluorescent tube lights in the hall, the hall ways, the restrooms, and the class rooms with LED tubes. Once this project is completed, our next thoughts are to look into solar electricity. We do have the space needed for the solar panels. We hope to find someone who knows how to write grant letters and would be willing to volunteer their services so we could apply for solar project funding.



HAPPY 20TH ANNIVERSARY FATHER MIKE

BY JOHN BUTCHER



*S*t. Mary's hall was filled with parishioners and well-wishers on September 15, 2013, to celebrate the twentieth anniversary of Father Michael Messaro's service as Pastor of St. Mary's and St. Rita's. Nephews and grand-nephews from New Jersey joined in the celebration. We held a pot-luck dinner with a wide variety of delicious side dishes and desserts prepared by the parishioners. The PCCW provided pulled pork, fried chicken, drinks, and an anniversary cake. The Men's Club provided the wine and beer. Dick Heibel served as "Master of Ceremonies." I think we all agree with Dick's comment that Father believes nothing is too good for God, and that belief translates into his approach toward the parishes. Dick also complemented Father for the impact he and Christine Carpenter have had on the music at St. Mary's.

Thank you, Father, for all you have done for St. Mary's and St. Rita's!



ALWAYS ON DUTY

BY FR. ROBERT MALAGESI, M.SS.CC.

While we know intellectually that our Catholic Christian faith is to extend beyond more than just the hour we spend in Sunday morning Mass, are we really ready to live it in daily life, even in a barber shop? A recent trip to a barber shop in a major city presented a situation.

A six-year-old boy was sitting not near me reading. I sincerely doubt his capability was that developed though, so maybe looking intently at the pictures might describe it better. And what was captivating the little boy's attention? At first I couldn't believe my eyes since the little boy's father was sitting right next to him. But, sure enough, it was the *Sports Illustrated* swimsuit issue where pictures of women leave very little to the imagination. When

I noticed it, I asked the boy if I could please have the magazine which he handed over to me. I placed it in an out-of-the-way place in the barber shop, but if a trash can had been in my line of sight, it would have found a new home there. I then asked the boy's father what he was thinking in letting him look at those types of pictures? An apology, based on what he thought I wanted to hear, and words that it would be better for his son to be reading the Bible came forth.

I thank God for the opportunity and sincerely pray that the man will take the time to teach his son about God, and also about the dignity of women, that they are not objects here only to satisfy man's desires, as these types of magazines promote. Pornography, which is any-



thing that devalues the dignity of the human person on the basis of sexuality, is one of the major factors that destroy the sanctity of married life. As Blessed John Paul II said in so many of his homilies and writings, "Do not be afraid."

I encourage you not to be afraid to speak the truth but rather do the right thing should an opportunity be presented to you in the course of living your daily life, wherever you may be, whether it is the supermarket or even in a barber shop.



Men from St. Mary's and St. Rita's comprise the Divine Mercy Council of the Knights of Columbus. We recently reached a milestone of 100 members. We conducted a soccer challenge on September 14th and there was one local winner. We also helped with the Father Darin Didier Run/Walk on September 21st to help support the Catoctin Pregnancy Center.

After two baby bottle distributions, we raised \$6,600 in support of ultrasound equipment for the Catoctin Pregnancy Center. Thanksgiving food for the needy was delivered to 27 St. Mary's area families and 15 from

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

BY JOHN BUTCHER



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St. Rita's area. The AMVETS provided \$500 in gift cards which were split between the parishes. We provided a Christmas dinner for the Comfort Care nursing home residents on December 14th, and we continued our "Keep Christ in Christmas" card sale.

On the social side, we visited Reid's Winery in Arndtsville.

In order to become a member of the Knights of Columbus, one needs to be a male over eighteen years old and be a practicing Catholic. Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month. We also hold social meetings that are open to spouses of our Knights and to prospective new members.

GRACEAPOLOSA: MY JOURNEY TO ADORATION

BY DICK HEIBEL

"Oh my God, relying on Thy infinite mercy, almighty power, and promises, I hope to obtain **forgiveness** of my sins, **everlasting life**, and all thy **graces**, through the merits of Thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ." I began to say the Act of Hope in 1995. I had to listen to a series of management tapes to hopefully reduce friction between the various departments in the company where I worked. I took away two ideas from those tapes, First, ego was our problem. Ego meant Edge God Out. i.e., we managers felt that we alone were responsible for our successes. Second, the solutions to our problems were all around us. We couldn't see them because our problem solving radars were not tuned to long-term solutions but to short-term crises or personal goals.

I decided that I would give up my goals and try figuring out what God's solutions to my problems would be. I started to say the Act of Hope each day or as frequently as possible. Here is the sequence of the events that happened:

1996 - I lost half of my department following an interdepartmental power grab.

1997 - I awoke at 2:00 AM thinking I was having a heart attack, but it was just an extreme case of acid reflux, a malady that has affected me since I was a teenager. This time it was a life altering event, and the doctors helped me to change my habits and avoid a possible cancer of the esophagus.

1998 - I decided that I would quit the company when I was 55 and that Mary and I would relocate to Adams County.

2000 - I began the process to obtain a secondary teaching certificate. We also bought the farm in Orrtanna.

2002 - I was downsized out of the company with a great severance package. Mary was re-certified as an RN in Maryland and Pennsylvania.

2003 - I received my teaching certificate.

2005 - I quit teaching. I was becoming the same person I was in 1995. I joined the Knights of Columbus and became an active member of the men's club.

2006 - At a Mass in Virginia, a priest suggested that saying the rosary every day for a month would change your life. Since I received a rosary when I became a Knight, and Lent was coming, I gave it a try.

2006 - The Adoration Chapel opened. Mary and I signed up for the 2:00 A.M. hour.

2013 - It finally dawned on me that God had been consistently answering my prayers since 1995 and allowing my "radar" to select the correct long-term solutions.

Let me explain. Most of my adult life I had violated the First Commandment. While I didn't worship golden idols or go through the forest praying to trees, I did allow personal and financial success and health issues to get between me and God. Once I started to ask God for help setting goals, He started by clearing the garbage between Him and me.

First, He reduced my work requirements. Second, He put me on a path to take better care of my health. This change required annual examinations. Third, He tuned my radar to change careers and move to Pennsylvania. Fourth, my leaving of a company, where I had spent 26 years was facilitated by a generous separation package. Fifth, He helped me avoid backsliding

into my old workaholic ways. Most importantly He led me to the Adoration Chapel.

Going to Adoration is a lot like taking up jogging. Once it becomes a habit, you'll find you miss the peace and quiet, just like a jogger misses the endorphin rush when he doesn't do routine exercise. The Adoration rush is one quiet hour when you are in Christ's physical presence and can ask Him for guidance, help, etc. After a short time, I began to use a small book, *Visits to the Blessed Sacrament and The Blessed Virgin Mary* by St. Alphonsus Liguori. This book has thirty-one different prayers and visits corresponding to days of the month. Considering my short attention span, I needed them to help me focus for the hour. I then discovered in the back of the book that you can obtain a plenary indulgence for a half hour visit, when you meet some additional conditions of Mass, Communion, Confession, and prayer for the Holy Father's intentions. To me a plenary indulgence represents a "get out of Purgatory free card" or at least a shorter time there. So I began to go to Confession more frequently to get these truck-loads of graces. In addition, each week I get the benefit of one hour to recharge my spiritual life and think about where I have to proceed and re-tune my radar to get to my ultimate goal. I have discovered that Father Mike is correct when he says, "You can't out give God". Whatever I have given to God in lost sleep and time, He has given back to me and my family a thousandfold.

In 1995 I asked for forgiveness, graces, and life everlasting through the merits of Christ and the intercession of Mary. I will keep asking, and I HOPE that I will have the grace of perseverance when asking for God's help so that in a time of need I will not fail to ask for His help and thereby avoid spiritual ruin.

FINALLY - THE ADULT PROGRAM FOR "YOUNG ADULTS!"

BY PAULETTE NIDEL

Since my husband and I used to teach high school CCD many years ago, I have always believed the Church needs this continuing program in teaching the Faith to our young people. It's especially true as they enter the high school years when moral values are challenged more than ever before in their young lives!

I was really happy to learn that Father Robert was initiating the program using the Didache Series, from the Greek meaning "teaching." It is published by the Midwest Theological Forum and is a four-year program that teaches the same truths which the Apostles taught in the early Church. The books for the first year include *Faith & Revelation and The Blessed Trinity*. Titles in subsequent years include *The Mystery of Redemption, The Church, The Sacraments, Our Moral Life In Christ, Understanding the Scriptures, and The History of the Church*. This series follows the Church's mission of passing on the Faith in its entirety to new generations as did the original Didache. It embraces the practice of virtue, the avoidance of sin, and living the Beatitudes.

The class of nine students from ninth through twelfth grades meets in the church house during the regular CCD time on Sundays. Fr. Robert, Denton Morris, and Sam Lombardo alternate the teaching responsibilities. It is good for the students to be exposed to varied teachers because they all connect with each one differently giving the maximum benefit to all.

I was privileged to sit in on a couple classes and asked the students what they thought about now needing to attend CCD when they may have thought they were finished with that! Surprisingly, though admitting they may lose an hour of sleep, they were curious why they had not been given this deeper level of the Faith before! They were informed that they were now ready to understand more profound truths such as proofs for the existence of God and to learn practical ways to handle some of today's tough moral issues.

It was a pleasant surprise to note the participation, as the students actually did some preparation and took part quite enthusiastically in discussing the topic.

Some of the students attend parochial high school and though they admitted they knew some of the material, they enjoyed being with their fellow parishioners, learning from a different perspective. In addition there were a couple students who were happy to have the class come together as the youth group was not in existence. Thus there was a social as well as spiritual connection through the gathering.

One of the biggest advantages of having such a program – besides actually learning more about the Faith—is to instill a desire to continue to grow in the knowledge of the Faith and to keep on learning. This contributes to a greater love of God in relationship with Him as well as an increased ability to be the bearer of the Word in sharing the truth of the Faith with others.

If we don't know it ourselves, how can we clarify those misconceptions such as, "We worship Mary," or "We worship statues?" Maybe these young people will inspire some of us adults to attend a class offered in our parish or to read a book to enhance our understanding of the Faith we profess to believe! How about a CD or a book from the rack in the back? Great opportunities for growth! And remember to pray for our youth. They are the present as well as the future of the Church!



GETTING TO KNOW DENTON MORRIS - ST. RITA'S NEW SEMINARIAN

BY PAULETTE NIDEL



Since many of our parishioners do not get much time to interact with Denton and feel like they know him very well, I will try and share some of who the person Denton is and what has brought him to us at St. Rita's, but most especially what has brought him to the preparation for the priesthood in the Catholic Church!

Denton is from the Midwest; his family currently resides in Gary, South Dakota, where his dad is an instructor for high tower rescue in the wind energy business. He teaches how to climb the towers which convert wind power into electrical energy.

Contrary to common experience or expectation for many of us, Denton is not a cradle Catholic but came into full communion in the Church during the 2003 Easter Vigil with his immediate family including his parents, Barry and Robin, and his siblings, Cole and Elizabeth. He had no real contact with the Catholic Church until his Dad asked him to consider entering the church with him. His Dad's interest came as a result of contact with a colleague as well as Scott Hahn tapes and discussion and questions as to what it meant to be Lutheran. As Denton



said, their entrance into full communion centered "around the true presence of the Eucharist and which church by unbroken tradition professes this mystery." (This could only be the Catholic Church!)

After his entry into the Church, Denton began serving at liturgies. A desire to be at service to the mystery of the Eucharist gradually blossomed and was especially enhanced by the inspiring life of St. John Vianney. Although he was in some period of denial, Denton entered the program in the Diocese of Lincoln after high school and has now completed six years. It is truly the Eucharist and the service thereof which has drawn Denton to choose the priestly vocation as he felt this calling to greater service.

The Diocese of Lincoln currently sends their theology students to St. Charles Borromeo or Mt. St. Mary's Seminaries. The formation program chose Mount St. Mary's for Denton, and he feels it suits him well. He feels his greatest influence in his priestly preparation has been from his spiritual directors who have helped guide his self awareness and assisted in problem solving as the need arose.

Denton says that his involvement at St. Rita's has been a great exercise in teaching the faith through the CCD program where he is involved at the High School level. RCIA allows for deeper, more complex teachings. He is happy to have this opportunity to grow and interact with a living parish to express the

impressed teachings he has learned.

As a result of the comment from one of the high school students that Denton "makes it fun," Denton says that he tries to engage them in the learning material. He ultimately hopes to help them make good judgments in the future and take in the material. He tries to give them examples of using the learned material in hypothetical situations so they may be able to defend the Faith and inform others about the truths of the Faith. He presents situations and seeks the students' solution and helps them come to a resolution of the situation if they have not done this on their own.

Denton should be spending two years in our parish, hopefully next year as a deacon. He says the best way to help a seminarian is by living a healthy Christian life. It is especially good to pray, of course, but also giving advice and showing Christian witness by our lives is the next best thing and should follow as a result of prayer, too!

Denton frequently assists at Mass and is present for some CCD and RCIA classes although not every weekend. Make him feel welcome in our midst and make it a point to get to know him and help him feel a part of our St. Rita's parish family. We need to encourage him in his journey to serve our God and our Church. Remember without priests, we will not have the Eucharist as well as the other sacraments!

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

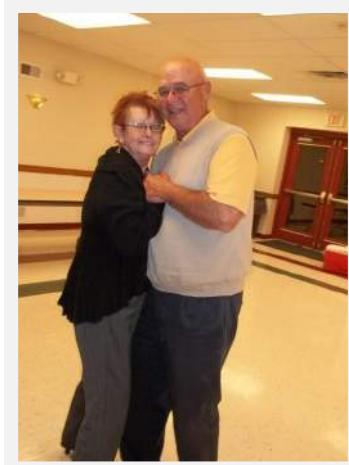
BY JOHN BUTCHER

*S*t. Mary's is blessed with very active parishioners who keep everything running smoothly. We have CCD teachers who guide our children in the ways of the Catholic faith. The Pastoral Council advises Father Mike on the weighty issues affecting the parish. Our music ministry leads us in worship as do the lectors, volunteers all. Ushers help at each weekend Mass. Our Finance Committee prepares the budget and tries to see that our spending stays on-track. The PCCW and Men's Club help maintain the church through their physical efforts as well as their financial contributions. Other ministries bring new people into our faith and help those who have fallen away find their way back into the fold. The Parish Nurses care for our physical well-being. Many of us contribute by providing articles for the Messenger or information for the parish website.

As a thank you for their service to St. Mary's, about 100 volunteers and guests attended a dinner dance held on the evening of October 11th. Dinner of roast sirloin, honey fried chicken, and all the accoutrements was catered by our parishioner Bob Fritts of The Carriage House. The Men's Club provided beer and wine, and many parishioners brought in a wide variety of delicious desserts. The Gettysburg Big Band, headed by parishioner Dan Bevilacqua, performed for the evening. Father Mike expressed his appreciation for the contributions of all parish volunteers.

If you want to join in the party next year, offer some of your time to help with the many ministries at St. Mary's. Working with the wonderful people who make-up our parish is rewarding, and you will enjoy the camaraderie shared at our annual dinner dance.







A SPECIAL VISITOR:
On October 13, 2013, Pope Francis formally entrusted the world to Mary. He said, "We are confident that each of us is precious in your sight. Guard our lives in your arms, bless and strengthen every desire for goodness." *The Catholic Witness, 10/25/13 p. 16*

She, the greatest of the saints and in a class of her own, arrived on October 31st, the Vigil of All Saints. Yes, The International Pilgrim Virgin Statue began her tour of the Diocese of Harrisburg right here at St. Rita's! She was brought for the 6:30 Vigil Mass, and just before the Mass, the statue was crowned. After the Masses that evening and the morning of November 1st, were held the Scapular enrollment, the Fatima Message Rosary, and devotional time. The Litany of Loretto was recited just before her departure at noon on All Saints Day.

What a privilege to host this statue which, while only a statue, has drawn millions to turn to God in prayer through Mary's intercession! In addition thousands have had prayers answered through seeking the intercession of the Blessed Virgin under the title of Our Lady of Fatima. She appeared there in 1917 from May through October on the 13th of each month with a special message presented to the three children: Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta. Millions of conversions and miracles attest to the work of Our Lady since 1947 when it started traveling on the world mission to spread the message of Fatima.

So what *is* the message? It is the renewal of the world to the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and Eucharistic Heart of Jesus in

OUR LADY OF FATIMA - PILGRIM VIRGIN VISIT

BY PAULETTE NIDEL

response to the Fatima message.

The message is first to sanctify our daily duties through the Morning Offering, the Rosary daily, and consecration of oneself to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by wearing the Scapular. Mary also asked for reparation for sin on the First Saturdays. This devotion requires one to pray the Rosary, receive Communion, go to Confession, and spend fifteen minutes meditating on one of the mysteries while praying in reparation. Our Lady attached two promises to the two pledges: assurance of salvation and liberation from Purgatory soon after death. This was understood to be the following Saturday and to include Mary's assistance "at the hour of death with all the graces necessary." The pledge includes the promise to pray the Rosary and Daily Offering each day and to wear the Scapular of Mt. Carmel as a sign of consecration to Our Lady.

Where did we get this brown Scapular of Mt. Carmel? Our Lady appeared to Simon Stock, Superior General of the Carmelite order, on July 16, 1251. She held a brown scapular in her hand and presented it to him telling him, "Whoever dies wearing this scapular will never see the flames of hell." She revealed the Sabbatine or Saturday Privilege to Pope John XXII sixty-five years later saying she would, "free from purgatory all of her scapular children who had fulfilled certain conditions" which include chastity according to one's state in life, recitation the Little Office of Our Lady or five decades of the Rosary daily, and faithfully wearing the Scapular.

Where does this word "scapular" come from? It is from the Latin "scapula" meaning shoulder. It is like an apron which goes over the shoulders and has a front and back portion with a "badge" or symbol on each face. This is a devotion to Mary

begun by the Carmelites who wear such a Scapular in larger design. This can be called the habit or garment of Mary.

A priest or deacon may enroll someone in the Scapular, and once enrolled, you need only replace the Scapular when it is worn or breaks. The blessing is on the individual, not the scapular itself. The Scapular has the picture of Our Lady of Mount Carmel with the words, "Our Lady of Mount Carmel, pray for us," on one face, and on the other badge the words, "Whoever dies wearing this Scapular shall not suffer eternal fire."

Fatima Prayers include:

"O my God, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love Thee. I ask pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love Thee."

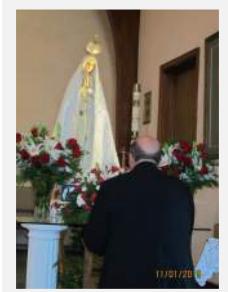
"Most Holy Trinity. I adore Thee! My God, My God, I love Thee in the Most Blessed Sacrament."

"O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of Hell, lead all souls to heaven especially those who have most need of Thy mercy."

(after each decade of the Rosary)

If you missed the Visit and would like to make the pledge and/or be re-enrolled in the Scapular, see Fr. Robert or Fr. Mike. There are several forms for Marian Consecration including that of St. Louis de Montfort and others such as the more recent *33 Days to Morning Glory* by Fr. Michael Gaitley. Many popes have written about the consecration.

Info from the pamphlet: Our Lady of Fatima: Our Mother Comes to Us, International Pilgrim Virgin Statue Foundation, Munster IN, www.pilgrimvirginstatue.com



COURSE ON VATICAN II DOCUMENTS

BY DONNA BUTT

As the Year of Faith came to a close this past fall, a group of parishioners from St. Rita's and St. Mary's gathered each Tuesday evening from October 8 through November 26, 2013, to learn more about the beautiful documents of Vatican II.

Father Robert Malagesi, MSSCC, provided a DVD produced by EWTN network featuring Father John Trigilio of the Diocese of Harrisburg who detailed the wealth of information that can be found in the sixteen documents of Vatican II.

As a catechist in the RCIA process, I had some familiarity with a few of the documents, as they are referenced quite a lot in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. It was very worthwhile, however, to go through the documents taking them apart and looking for the truth that is found in each.

The sixteen documents of Vatican II (in the order of the year they came out) include the following: **Sacrosanctum Concilium**, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy; **Inter Mirifica**, Decree on the Means of Social Communications; **Lumen Gentium**, Dogmatic Constitution of the Catholic Church; **Orientalium Ecclesiarum**, Decree of the Catholic Churches of the Eastern Rite; **Unitatis Redintegratio**, Decree on Ecumenism; **Christus Dominus**, Decree Concerning the Pastoral Office of Bishops in the Church; **Perfectae Caritatis**, Decree on Renewal of Religious Life; **Optatam Totius**, Decree on Priestly Training;

Gravissimum Educationis, Declaration on Christian Education; **Nostra Aetate**, Declaration on the Relation of the Church to Non-Christian; **Dei Verbum**, Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation; **Apostolicam Actuositatem**, Decree of the Apostolate of the Laity; **Dignitatis Humanae**, Declaration on Religious Freedom; **Ad Gentes**, Decree on the Mission Activity of the Church; **Presbyterorum Ordinis**, Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests; and **Gaudium et Spes**, Pastoral Constitution On the Church In the Modern World.

In this course much was set straight as to the actual truth of what these documents said and what they did not say. When these were published, many in the Church stated that many things were changed, when in fact they were never changed at all. Rather, what was revealed was renewed appreciation of the beauty of our liturgy, of our religious, our priests and their life, and many other parts of our faith and our Church.

These sixteen documents are available online at EWTN.com, www.vatican.va, or USCCB.org. These documents are compiled in *Vatican Council II: Constitutions, Decrees, Declarations, revised edition*, authored by Austin Flannery, O.P., and published by Liturgical Press. I invite you to take advantage of the documents mentioned in this article as well as the new Apostolic Exhortation by Pope Francis, **Evangeli Gaudium**. There is a possibility that Father Robert may offer sessions looking at this document as well.

CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES

BY MARY ANN CARR

We love our children.
Desire to protect them comes
as naturally as breathing.
Bundle them up until nothing shows
but a button nose in bitter cold
winter temperatures.
Schedule summertime
swimming lessons just in case
one of them falls into the lake.
Place them daily in Jesus' hands.

Dependence on His guidance
reduces Parent's fears
and encourages Peace.
Jesus said, bring the children.
Trust in Me.

Recently, I sat next to Elsa Schubring during one of St. Mary's dinner celebrations. The children were anxiously looking forward to being with their friends in the afternoon warmth. Elsa

beckoned Thomas, her oldest child, to her side. She whispered, 'watch the little ones,' softly. He closed his eyes and dipped his head down towards her shoulder. Elsa's eyes and hand followed suit as she touched the top of his head. Her lips moved. A blessing had just been passed from Jesus to Thomas and the rest of the kids enjoying God's world.

LIGHTHOUSE LESSONS... FOCUS ON “STEALING HOME” WITH A RELIGIOUS PERSPECTIVE BY PAULETTE NIDEL

Listen and Learn... Grab a CD and use that car time wisely! How do you spend your time traveling to and from wherever you go? Listening to some iTunes on your blue tooth or radio, CD's or what? Over the past year I have learned lots by taking this time to listen to some of the various CDs Fr. Robert has provided in the rack in the church vestibule.

If you recall about a year ago in early October, Father Robert gave out a free CD called “The Year of Faith” to all who wanted one. This coincided with the beginning of the Year of Faith proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Vatican Council II. This Year of Faith closed on November 24, 2013, the feast of Christ the King and the last Sunday of the church year. I hope you listened to the CD and got something helpful from it. More importantly I noted about that time Father Robert also made some other American Bible Society, Lighthouse and other source CDs available for a donation.

I had already listened to some of these on Sacraments and the Bible, Confession, The Mass and the Eucharist which I had acquired from other churches over the past few years. This was followed by a broader group of Lighthouse CDs which ranged in topic from “Stealing Home” by Mike Sweeney, to “How to Save the World Without Losing

your Soul” by Dave Durand, along with a wide variety of others on “Parenting for Purity” (Jason Evert), “Reaching Out to Today’s Culture” (Fr. Robert Barron), and “Prepare the Way of the King” (Scott Hahn).

Nearly every CD really takes at least 3 “listenings” on my part as I am never *that* focused while driving to get the most out of these. I think – oh my goodness – I *must* share this with *someone* – *everyone* in fact!

I am led to share this particular one with you – and invite you to share what spoke to you in one of these wonderful CDs. It is such an easy way to become enriched in our faith and to invite others to share their faith and enthusiasm for growth! It is definitely true that the more you know, the more you know there is always more to learn.

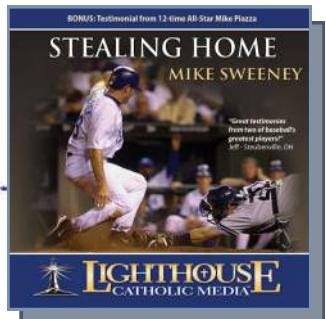
While listening one of the many times to “Stealing Home” by Mike Sweeney, I became convinced that his message was great and highly motivational. I am sharing some of his thoughts with you in this effort to interest you in listening to this CD or others.

Mike Sweeney was a fifteen year Major League Baseball player. His thirteen years tenure with the KC Royals was one of the longest in baseball history by anyone with a specific team. He founded the Catholic Athletes for Christ. He does motivational conferences to encourage athletes and others to maintain a

close relationship with Jesus Christ.

Mike shares about baseball greats as well as his own personal experience of stealing home, and then ties that in to Catholic deathbed conversions, which surprisingly includes George Washington! Rosaries, statues of the Blessed Virgin, and books on Catholicism were found in his room, and he requested a Catholic priest friend to baptize him four hours before his death! Many other Catholic “steals home” were mentioned in the CD including Doc Holliday, John Wayne, and Oscar Wilde, the Irish playwright who said, “I can resist everything but temptation!” Of course, the Good Thief is the first stolen home example just before the death of Jesus Himself!

Mike’s message is one of conversion or metanoia. On the eve of his Confirmation, he was asked by Joe Metro Wright, leader of the retreat that evening, “How is your relationship with Jesus Christ?” He quickly responded he went to Mass every week, received Communion, etc. and now was feeling he was at the end of his work for Catholicism. He’d be free to play sports and move on – no more classes! He soon learned from Joe that just as he had a personal relationship with his dad with whom he speaks daily, he needed to cultivate this kind of relationship with the Lord Jesus.



He pointed out that as in Ephesians we are saved by faith. It is all grace and not the result of our own work. By grace we are saved, and through our faith we go out and do the works.

Mike gives an acronym of PRAISE to help us work on building such a relationship with Jesus so as not to be *stealing home* but to be gaining continually in this relationship with Jesus. He says P is for pray. R is read God's word and appreciate it as God's love letter to us. A is for accountability. Use the buddy system to connect and share accountability with someone else. I is to invite others by sharing the Good News, S is for the sacrament of confession to keep us right with God on

a regular basis. E is, last but not least, the Eucharist! This is the pinnacle of our Faith. Get the benefit from it and receive as often as possible!

Mike speaks more about accountability and uses the acronym of PALS for this process where P = Partners, A = Accountability (As Moses had Aaron, so we too have each other to journey with.), L = Love God and others, and S = Security. Increased accountability leads to security.

He shares a moving story as he was retiring from MLB, and the Mass in the Philadelphia Stadium provided the reading from Timothy: 2Tim 4:6-8. "The time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, what awaits me is the

crown of righteousness!" He felt that was God's providence speaking to him and was blessed by it! We too should listen and try to recognize ways in which God provides continually for us and be willing to share those with others. Share your story today with someone you care about!

I think this CD is something everyone, especially men and boys, can relate to. There is something in this for everyone, and I encourage you to purchase one or more of these and begin using the driving time purposefully. Cultivate that personal relationship with Jesus by knowing and understanding Him more! When you finish, you can pass on the CD to someone else or trade them!

FLATBREAD

My heritage is Polish. I grew up with my parents on a farm in Central Nebraska. We were a poor family. We didn't know that we were poor, however, as everyone we knew was in the same boat. Hunger was not a part of our lives. We had horses, cows, pigs, and chickens. Polish women have reputations of being great cooks. With the eggs, milk and flour, my good mother could whip up hearty 'tummy soothing' chicken noodle soup, delicious pies, and wonderful bread. There was nothing better in this whole wide world. She loved making bread. She could punch those loaves with the strength of a boxer, and flour would fly all over the kitchen.

I remember asking her if she would teach me how to cook so that I could be a good cook too. It didn't work out. There were always so many tasks that she needed to do and not enough time to do them. "Eh, you will learn when you get married. The one thing which would help me the most is if you would clean the house." Off I would go to

sweep the floor, finishing as quickly as I could to have more time to read one of my many books.

Time went on. I married and eventually some of Mom's cooking skills did show up. But not many. Most of my dishes were either too overcooked, too undercooked, had deep holes in the middle, or were burned on the edges. Nevertheless. I seemed to be able to fling flour into the corners just as good as Mom.

We moved to Pennsylvania and became parishioners of our beloved St. Mary's. From time to time I would get a call asking if I would make a cake. They knew not what they asked.

However, there is good news.

You can now eat off my floors.

Popcorn, cookies crumbs, and assorted crackers.

Mary Ann Carr

Oct. 24, 2013

PULPIT PONDERING:
REFLECTIONS ON RECENT HOMILIES GIVEN BY FR. ROBERT
BY PAULETTE NIDEL

God Calling...

(11 - 30 - 13)

Feast of St. Andrew



God calls people in the midst of their daily occupations. Peter and Andrew and then James and John were called as they were fishing or mending their nets. What is amazing is their response – immediately, at once, they left and followed Him. There was no hesitation on any of their parts. Scripture given to us in small bits somehow gets the message across. Something very captivating must have occurred in that encounter to take them so completely from what they were doing and to leave on the spot!

God calls each of us in vocation, a word that means a “calling.” Sometimes we respond, sometimes not. When God calls, the

field is ripe and ready for mission. St. Paul says, “No one who believes in the Lord will be put to shame, and everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” (Rom. 10:10 – 11)

How can people hear the call if it is not spoken? Who will speak unless someone is sent? Christ founded the Church on the Apostles who were **sent** into the world. Their response was so powerful that they could not help but act. They were compelled to respond to the call of God Himself.

Andrew, a follower of John the Baptist, was searching for the truth. When we search for the truth, God will find us, and we enter into union with Him. He reveals to us how to live, calling us into relationship with Him, the Divine Person. He calls us to leave behind what

separates us from Him. Why suffer? Suffering calls us to turn to God. This is the way Christ Himself chose, and all the Apostles except John died as martyrs. Before the Lord moved them, they were motivated by earthly fear. With the gift of God Himself, may we in all circumstances despite suffering or adversity respond to these same graces given the Apostles.

My questions from this message are to whom am I sent, and how am I to share the message of the Gift of Faith and Love of the Lord and His work in my life? I pray to be open to His call in my little piece of the world this day and each day forward. This is different for each of us who have our own little corner of the world to evangelize. Let us pray for one another to respond and do our part as did those Apostles on their mission!

ST. MARY'S MENS CLUB

BY JOHN BUTCHER

The Men's Club always faces a quandary over having a spaghetti dinner during the summer months. People, including our volunteers, are busy with vacation and outdoor activities. Our attendance figures usually reflect these realities with about 220 or so attending our February spaghetti dinner and 180 or 190 in the summer. This year we were blessed with particularly beautiful weather--low humidity and comfortable temperatures. That would seem to be a combination for a poor turnout with people favoring outdoor activities. We were pleasantly surprised when about 210 parishioners, friends, and neighbors joined us. Roger Venzin and a capable crew worked the kitchen. A new member Chuck Trice had a

baptism of fire, being tasked to learn the ins and outs of our dishwasher which Gene Goetz had repaired since our last outing. Gene Pecher placed signs all around town, and many neighbors around the area decided to try us out. They weren't disappointed. We were also pleased to have Father Peter visit and enjoy a meal with us. The ladies of the PCCW, Men's Club spouses, and other parishioners provided a wide variety of delicious desserts. Thanks to all for the great success of the dinner. We hope everyone enjoyed themselves and had a delicious meal.

The end of September was overcast and cool as we prepared for Pippinfest this year, but we were fortu-

nate that there was no rain in the forecast. Father Mike again prepared Italian pulled pork, while Roger Vanzin followed Father's recipe in preparing Italian sausage. John Strahler and Gene Goetz cooked ham and beef on the smoker. Food sales were steady both Saturday and Sunday and increased slightly over last year. Although usually first to go, sausages were last this year as we wrapped-up sales about 2:30 P.M. on Sunday. All-in-all we had a beautiful weekend with good camaraderie, and we made some money for St. Mary's in the process. The club thanks the many workers, parishioners, and friends who made our food stand a success.



Weather threatened on the day we set up our Christmas tree stand and delayed tree delivery until the day after Thanksgiving, our opening day. We stayed dry for both events, although some of the trees were a bit frozen when delivered. One customer from New Oxford wanted his tree so badly he helped with the unloading, and a few other customers also bought trees while we stocked the tree stand. Unfortunately, our second delivery day was marred by rain, although the worst of it held off until we unloaded the trees. Weather also affected the tree supply. We could not get Canaan firs, one of our most popular trees, because they were wind damaged. On the other hand, this resulted in us purchasing more beautiful Fraser firs. We thank everyone who helped with tree delivery, stand setup and cleanup afterward, and long hours of selling trees. We also thank the Fairfield Fire Company for allowing us to use their building to keep warm and provide electric; Roger and Candy Walter for the use of their property for the stand, and Sandy Polvinale who allows us to use her barn to store our supplies. A special thanks to Gene Pecher who posted signs so folks would know where we were located and who also spent many hours coordinating and working at the stand. Finally, we thank



every one who purchased trees for their Christmas decoration.

Fulfilling one of the mandates in our charter, several men helped with demolition and completion of renovations to a bath in the Rectory to make it handicap accessible. We hope it works well now for Father.

We invite all men of the parish to participate in our meetings and activities. There are no dues except your work and time. Meetings are normally held on the third Wednesday every month at 7:30 pm in the Church hall. The business portion of our meeting comes first, and then we have a social gathering. The meetings are announced in the bulletin so check for possible changes. Please come out and share your ideas and talents with us and enjoy the hospitality.





MEET DEACON M. DAVID DAWSON

BY JOHN BUTCHER

later doing janitorial work at the high school and working as a dishwasher for the Little Sisters of the Poor.

David attended the University of Connecticut majoring in political science. Upon graduation he lived in Bristol, Connecticut, and spent fourteen years in banking, working on home equities and credit cards. During that time, he served his local parish teaching seventh and eighth grade CCD classes. All the while David found that banking was unfulfilling. He wanted to be more involved in the parish and do what God wanted him to do. He prayed to St. Joseph for guidance. He learned that if you think you have the calling to the priesthood, you will only be happy when you do what God wants you to do.

David sent an email to the Diocese of Hartford, Connecticut, expressing an interest in the priesthood. After undergoing background checks, psychological profiles, and a bank of

interviews, he was selected and assigned to Mount Saint Mary's Seminary in the fall of 2008. Since starting at the Mount, David helped at St. Andrews in Waynesboro and at Holy Spirit Hospital before coming to St. Mary's. During the summers, he has helped at a hospice in Connecticut. Along with his other studies and duties, David is doing online studies for a Master of Science degree in Church Management at Villanova University.

David was ordained Deacon on December 7, 2013, at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Hartford, by Most Reverend Henry J. Mansell, DD, Archbishop of Hartford. This was probably one of Archbishop Mansell's last ordinations. Archbishop Leonard P. Blair, STD, is his successor and hopefully will ordain Deacon David a Priest sometime in May 2014.

Although David has lived mostly in suburbia, he said he enjoys the beautiful hills in this area and the welcoming people here. We have enjoyed having him with us and will pray for him as he begins serving the Hartford Diocese.

Deacon David Dawson first came to my attention before his ordination to the diaconate. Father Mike asked me to review a homily David gave after Mass in the late fall of 2013. By then he had already been helping with our RCIA program for about a year as a requirement of his theology studies at Mount Saint Mary's Seminary. He praised the RCIA candidates and the catechists he met through the program.

David was born in Newark, Delaware, and raised by his parents, Mary and Marcel, along with one sister, Katie. He attended both public and parochial grade school and the Salesianum School, a Catholic boy's school run by the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales. He also began work at age ten delivering newspapers and

ST. MARY'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR IS MAJOR PARISH ATTRACTION

BY HELEN HORNBKE

St. Mary's Annual Bazaar and Bake Sale is one of the highlights of the parish year, and many parishioners and visitors look forward to this chance to stock up on Christmas cookies, cakes, breads, and homemade pies.

Margy Orner coordinates the bazaar bake sale which is sponsored by the parish women's club. Her fidelity to this responsibility for at least the past twenty years has

resulted in untold financial benefits to the parish. Margy, however, is quick to share the credit for the success of the annual event with all of the women and men of the parish who contribute baked goods to the sale. While all



of the women of the parish are considered members of the women's club (the Parish Council of Catholic Women or PCCW), St. Mary's counts only about eight or ten active members, so parish-wide participation is essential. The food portion of the bazaar, which has always drawn a significant number of customers to the parish hall, also includes hot lunch offerings including a variety of homemade soups, hot dogs, and dessert. **Anne Jones** is in charge of the bazaar lunch kitchen each year.

Recent years have also brought a growing number of local vendors to the church hall with their craft offerings. This year seven vendors set up to sell their wares at the one-day event December 7.





Denise Jackson, an active parishioner who lives in Gettysburg, came to the bazaar looking for ways to support the parish, sell her creations, and have fun. She sold greeting cards, customized letters from Santa, and reindeer food. An accomplished poet, she also sold autographed copies of her published books of poetry as well as small illustrated and framed excerpts from her poems. An enthusiastic crafter and vendor, Denise and her cousin, Susan Bates, have been asked to spearhead next year's craft portion of the bazaar. They expect to help the bazaar grow through advertising and marketing, bringing in more visitors and more vendors to the event.

One of the things Denise liked about the bazaar was that the food offered for lunch was "well priced and yummy." Apparently she was not the only one to rave about the luncheon. "It's a fun way to spend an afternoon, shopping and eating lunch under one roof," one parishioner who attends every year noted.

Susan Bates, a professional photographer from Cockeysville, Maryland, who now lives in Gettysburg, displayed and sold her exquisite photographs of local and regional scenes including beautiful depictions of the St. Mary's church crucifix. She also sold ornaments made of polymer clay. What motivated her to sign up as a vendor at the St. Mary's bazaar when so many venues are available at Christmastime? "It's fun seeing people you know and people you see only on Sundays" throughout the year. She also likes the idea that the bazaar is indoors and that vendors can set up their wares the day before. *Editors note: Susan's photography can be found in this and other issues of the Messenger.*



Barbara Prophet, who is not a parishioner but counts several St. Mary's members among her good friends, offered beautiful hand sewn clothes and doll quilts for the popular American Girl dolls. Barbara, who lives in Orrtanna, got started in her avocation when she welcomed a granddaughter into the family in 1993 after having raised three sons. When Sarah turned eight, she was given an American Girl doll. "I have always loved sewing, knitting, quilting, and needlework, and therefore was enthusiastic about designing and completing clothes for Sarah's doll." Barbara also has made matching outfits for Sarah and her doll. She likes displaying her wares at St. Mary's because of the parish's "welcoming, friendly, encouraging atmosphere." Her craft business is known appropriately as "Nana's Best."



Judy Crum and her daughter-in-law **Stacey Crum**, shared a long display table together to sell their crafts. Judy knits and sells hand knit and crocheted items including her popular infant outfits. Stacey sold kitchen towels and dish cloths tied together in the shape of rabbits, gift baskets, and beautiful hand painted tall bottles filled with electric lights. Among their most popular items were handmade soaps. This was their first time as vendors at the bazaar. Judy and Stacey are members of the Lutheran church but heard about the bazaar from their close friend and St. Mary's parishioner Jenny Farkas. They are also the operators of the local Willow Valley Farm Market on Pecher Road in Fairfield.



Susan Britton, a resident of Woodsboro, Maryland, brought a number of her sewn crafts to sell. Among the more popular items at the bazaar were quilted tote bags, baby burp cloths, and aprons. Perhaps the hottest items, though, were her soft foam "bricks" covered in sports team fabrics and designed to toss at the TV screen during games! "This is perfect for my eighty-seven year old sister-in-law who is a big-time Steelers fan," said one parishioner. Susan was very pleased with her sales at this year's bazaar and expects to return for the 2014 event.



Finally, **Marie Gruber**, a St. Mary's parishioner, had a table covered with her beautiful and unique stamped greeting cards for all occasions. Marie has been crafting stamped cards for about 20 years and is a demonstrator for the company "Stampin' Up." She teaches the craft for interested groups usually in private homes, however last year she taught a class for about ten women in St. Mary's parish hall. Interested in learning the craft? Contact Marie: mailto:mriegruber@gmail.com.



BIG PLANS IN THE MAKING FOR ST. MARY'S BAZAAR 2014

BY HELEN HORNBAKE

If you thought this year's Christmas bazaar was fun, take a look at what's coming in 2014.

"Susan and I were asked to spearhead the craft volunteers for next year, which we would love to do," said Denise Jackson, one of this year's craft vendors and an active member of St. Mary's parish. "Susan" is Susan Bates, another parish crafter who sells her wares at the bazaar. Denise and Susan are cousins. This team of two hopes to recruit many more volunteers to help promote and run the event next Christmas.

Building on the success of years past, Denise is also hoping to increase by a big margin the number of visitors and buyers attending the bazaar. Although the idea of selling handcrafted items is not new to St. Mary's, past efforts were the exclusive responsibility of the St. Mary's Women's Club members, a very tall order for the eight or ten active members of the group. Craft offerings at the bazaar were discontinued several years ago because that approach proved unsustainable. The

two new coordinators of the craft portion of the bazaar hope to recruit both parish and outside vendors. They would like to build on the concept of the traditional "Old Fashioned Family Christmas". Ironically, explained Denise, "The closer it gets to Christmas, the harder it is to focus on family." She would like to try to overcome that by promoting the bazaar as an all inclusive Family Christmas Advent Day.

A few ideas being considered but not decided upon yet are the possibility of holding the bazaar on the same day as the kickoff of the Men's Club Christmas tree sale. "Volunteers could hand out fliers advertising cocoa and hot lunch available at St. Mary's as the families purchase their trees," explained Denise. Other suggestions include:

- ◆ Holding a memorial tree lighting with caroling for families during the event's evening hours.
- ◆ Having a "Meet St. Nicholas or Santa" experience during the mornings, possibly making the bazaar a two-day event.

- ◆ Prepare a Santa's Workshop for children to make gifts for mom and dad, as parents shop.
- ◆ Opening a classroom for folks to play BINGO could be great!
- ◆ Holding "crafting bees" in the church hall in October and November where crafters get together and work on their creations would be great for community building.

"To combine activities will require more hands on deck, but it is a good opportunity to get more people like the Youth Group, RCIA, and Confirmation candidates involved in parish life", said Denise.

"Most importantly, additional advertising needs to be done to promote the event with regular announcements being placed in the parish bulletin and perhaps in the bulletins of nearby churches," Susan added. Updated signs including the *Old Fashioned Family Christmas Advent Day* as a theme would be important. Stay tuned, this may be the start of a very fun time at St. Mary's this coming Christmas!



HOLY FAMILY STATUE

A few parishioners stand with Fr. Robert by the recently installed larger-than-life-sized statue of the Holy Family gracing the Walk of Faith by the entrance of the Church.

St. Rita's parishioners may sign up with Fr. Robert to give a home to the new smaller parish Holy Family Statue which will visit our parish homes during this Year of the Family, as proclaimed by Pope Francis recently. There will be a Synod of Bishops in October to discuss the issues which challenge modern-day families. Pray for families and for the better understanding and resolution of the issues at hand.

“BUT, THEY WERE NOT OF US”

BY FR. ROBERT MALAGESI, M.SS.CC.

These are the words St. John writes in his letter (1John 2:19) to describe those (our friends, our family members) who have left the Catholic Faith. The full text of the sentence is as follows: “They went out from us, but, they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but, they went out, that it might be plain that they all are not of us.” Saint Augustine further explains in a commentary: “Many who are not of us receive, along with us, the Sacraments; they receive Baptism with us, they receive with us what they know the faithful receive – the blessing, the Eucharist, and the other Holy Sacraments; they receive Communion from the same Altar as we do, but, they are not of us. Temptation reveals this to be so; when temptation overtakes them, they flee as if borne by the wind, because they are not wheat. When winnowing begins on the threshing floor of the Lord on the day of judgment, they will all fly away, remember that.”

These are hard words to hear, especially when it pertains to our family members and friends. The fact that we are aware of this, however, should help us to strive to teach the truths of our Catholic faith in its fullness for the salvation of souls. So how could it be that if someone is receiving all the Sacraments, they were never a part of the faithful? There can be a false understanding of what Sacraments are and what they are meant to do. Without admitting it, many think that Sacra-

ments work like a form of magic, that just because someone receives them, the intended effect will result. This is far from the truth because God also desires our cooperation and free will in our relationship with Him.

An analogy or two may be helpful here. If we think of the Old Testament as being a period of preparation to dispose our souls for the coming of Christ in the New Testament, we begin to catch a glimpse of how they work. We can also think of our education or training for a profession as the period of preparation leading up to our being able to put what we have learned and experienced into practice. Then, we can say that the education accomplished what it was meant to do: it was efficacious. Because God gave us free will, we need to want to be in union with Him, we must want to become saints.

The Sacrament of Baptism, which many of us receive as infants or even if we receive it as adults, removes both Original and personal sins; therefore, we do not need to go to Confession before being baptized. But, after Baptism, every other Sacrament that we receive requires us to be in a state of grace. There can be no trace of mortal sin on our souls. To have mortal sin on our soul is as if we are placing a barrier (in theology, the term is Obex) between us and God. We prevent His grace from entering into our souls. Thus, the Sacrament, while administered validly by the Church, is not able to have its effect in us to make us holy. It is not efficacious.

In what St. Augustine describes above of someone doing everything that another person who is not in mortal sin does, the effects are different. One will grow in holiness, and one will not. Because the grace of the Sacrament was never received and able to accomplish what it was intended to do. St. John’s words, “But, they were not of us,” now should have profound meaning. What do we do to correct this? We teach the importance of avoiding temptations by staying close to God and seeking His help immediately when we feel as if we are going to sin. We ask the Holy Spirit to help us to honestly look at our lives and reveal to us any mortal sin that was never confessed, and then we go to Confession and confess it. Once this happens, the barrier or Obex is removed, and the grace that was meant to come to us at the reception of the Sacrament will indeed come.

We fail to see how pure as possible we must be to receive Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist or other Sacraments. One easy way to help us to see this truth though, is to just look at Our Blessed Mother. She was to carry Jesus, the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity, within her womb. Do you think that womb did not need to be pure? To show us this truth, through the Holy Spirit she was conceived Immaculately, with no trace of Original Sin. When we receive Holy Communion, we must prepare by making a good sacramental Confession (confessing **all mortal** and other sins) to enable our souls to be as pure as possible to receive Our Lord, and grow in holiness of life, to prepare us to be with God forever. Blessed be the Sacred Hearts.

the Messenger

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