



OUR Parish Times

"Our Grads" Issue

MAY 2012

Sharing Experiences of the Local Catholic Faith Community

FREE

Life's Celebrations



Chuck Short

By Chuck Short

Lots to celebrate in this, the last column of the year for Our Parish Times. Montgomery County's Catholic parishes teem with inspiring activities, engaging many in the work of building

God's Kingdom on earth. How blessed to be Catholic and live in this caring County. A couple recent examples include the 13th annual Coach's Hall of Fame Luncheon sponsored by the Catholic Business Network of Montgomery County. Emceed by Johnny Holiday, recognized voice at numerous

Continued on page 22

St. Michael the Archangel School, 1933-2012



The Entire Student Assembles with Msgr. Tolentino in front of St. Michael's School. Photo by Stone Photography.

By Melissa Smislova, St. Michael the Archangel parish council member and school parent

School in Silver Spring opened in 1933 during the Great Depression and was initially staffed by the Sisters of the

Holy Names of Jesus and Mary. The first graduating class on June 10, 1934 matriculated seven students. On June 1, 2012, St. Michael's School will celebrate its last graduation and send 33 students to some of the area's best Catholic high schools.

The school's 79-year history reflects an acceptance and celebration of societal change. As Silver Spring grew from a quiet suburban to an urban Washington neighborhood, St. Michael's school and parish remained vibrant

Continued on page 41



Gina Baldini and Theresa Brogan, both Students at St. John the Evangelist, Silver Spring, enjoy hanging together at the CCSE fundraiser.

Catholic Coalition for Special Education Breaks Its Own Fundraising Record at Annual Spring Benefit

The Catholic Coalition for Special Education has held its seventh and most successful Spring Benefit at a Bethesda country club to raise funds to expand special education opportunities at Catholic schools in metropolitan Washington.

The 2012 benefit raised \$200,000 in support of CCSE's mission, according to this year's event chair, Maria Leonard Olsen, who also chairs CCSE's Schools Committee. "We had an extremely talented and dedicated committee who share a passion for the children we serve and worked hard to ensure the benefit's success," Olsen said.

Founded in 2005 around a dining room table in Kensington, by a tiny group of parents and Catholic school proponents, CCSE has awarded more than a half a million dollars to 18 Catholic schools to provide new or expanded special education programming to

Continued on page 55

St. Raphael and St. Patrick Teen Retreat

Thirty-five high school teens from St. Raphael and St. Patrick attended the annual spring retreat from April 27-29. The theme of retreat was "Called and Chosen" and focused on the call to bold and joyful discipleship. Talks throughout the weekend focused on hearing God's call, faith formation, spiritual warfare, new evangelization, and joyous discipleship. Teens spent time in personal reflection on Scriptures based on the session themes and discussion in small groups, as well as in group games and prayer. Three priests joined the teens for the weekend for Mass, Reconciliation, and discussion. Teens left retreat with a renewed zeal for evangelization!

OPT



WMET Radiothon

Molly Fitzgerald, WMET Development Director, Irene Lagan, WMET General Manager, and Christa Lopiccolo, Archdiocese of Washington Executive Director of Life Issues, pause before going on the air for the Spring Radiothon of the Guadalupe Radio Network to raise money to support (WMET) the first Catholic radio station in the Washington area. For information v about WMET visit: www.gronline.info/

St. Elizabeth's Vincent Spadoni Named Principal of the Year

On May 4, 2012, Mr. Vincent Spadoni, Principal of St. Elizabeth Catholic School, was named the Archdiocese of Washington's Distinguished Principal of the Year for his superior spiritual leadership and strong commitment to academic excellence.

Continued on page 51



School and Archdiocesan staff join Superintendent L'Homme in presenting the award to Mr. Spadoni. L-R: Fr. Royals, Associate, Msgr. Macfarlane, Pastor, Toni Barrett, Vice Principal, Vincent Spadoni, Principal, Kelly Branaman, Associate Superintendent, Rev. Dr. L'Homme, Superintendent, Wendy Anderson, Asst Superintendent of Professional Development

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(l-r) Christopher Roa, Mary Syski, Mary Catherine Beller, Maria Rodriguez, Joseph Winnard, and Paula Shute.

2012 TORCH Graduates

Teaching Our Roman Catholic Homeschoolers (TORCH) of Montgomery County is pleased to announce their 2012 high school graduates. Christopher Roa, a member of St. Bernadette's Parish in Silver Spring, is undecided about next year's plans. Mary Delores Syski, a member of St. Peter's Parish in Olney, is heading out to experience the working world. Mary Catherine Beller, a member of St. Bernadette's

Parish, will be attending Ave Maria University, focusing on Biology and Latin. Maria Rodriguez, a member of St John Neumann, Gaithersburg, will be attending The Catholic University of America. Joseph Winnard will be attending Montgomery College. Paula Shute, a member of St. Bernadette's Parish, will be attending Ave Maria University in Florida.

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Latin Mass in accordance with the "Motu Proprio" of Pope Benedict XVI, issued July 7, 2007



Lisa Kane, Principal of Holy Cross School and Monsignor Cary Hill of Holy Cross are pictured with Joanna Levantis and Marina Silva whose winning essays were recognized by Catholic Business Network.

Catholic Business Network Recognizes Two Eighth Grade Holy Cross Students

Index	
Catholic Business Network.....	2
Christ the King.....	20
Classifieds.....	55
Holy Cross.....	10
Holy Redeemer.....	5
Mother of God School.....	51
Mary of Nazareth.....	16
Mother Seton.....	
Our Lady of Lourdes.....	36
Our Lady of Mercy.....	33
Our Lady Queen of Poland.....	52
Resurrection.....	50
Senior Resource Guide.....	38-39
Sports.....	54-55
St. Bartholomew.....	47
St. Bernadette.....	7
St. Catherine Labouré.....	34
St. Elizabeth.....	13
St. Francis of Assisi.....	34
St. Jane de Chantal.....	8-9
St. John Neumann.....	30
St. John the Baptist.....	19
St. John the Evangelist.....	48
St. Jude.....	44
St. Martin of Tours.....	6
St. Mary.....	37
St. Michael.....	41
St. Patrick.....	49
St. Peter.....	24
St. Raphael.....	21

Joanna Levantis and Marina Silva, eighth grade students at Holy Cross School, penned two of the twelve winning essays submitted to the Catholic Business Network's annual Catholic High School Scholarship essay contest this year. Entrants were asked to consider a passage from St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, to reflect upon the gifts each has been given through the Holy Spirit, and to describe how these gifts have been used for the common good.

Joanna and Marina both expressed gratitude to the Catholic Business Network for their generosity in presenting this year's scholarships. The girls, accompanied by their families, Holy Cross Principal Lisa Kane, and pastor Monsignor Hill, were recognized at the a Scholarship Awards Luncheon in March.

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Gregory B. Dyer, CPA
Holy Redeemer Parish
Georgetown Prep '76
De Chantal '72
Past President, Catholic Business Network - MC

Dominic Cipollone Mother Seton Dana Evans Holy Redeemer Parish Vanessa Smith-Terrell St. John the Evangelist

Michelle Fegan St. Patrick Adam Giegel St. Sebastian

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Fourth Annual Conference on Faith, Deafness & Disabilities Held Sat., April 21

On Saturday April 21, some 300 persons who are deaf, persons who have developmental differences, intellectual and physical disabilities, their families, friends, disabilities professionals and experts, members of Religious orders, seminarians and clergy gathered at the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish in Northwest Washington for a day of celebration, learning, sharing, networking and worship.

The conference, organized and convened by the Archdiocese of

Continued on page 7



Father Bill Byrne (Secretary for Pastoral Ministry and Social Concerns for the Archdiocese of Washington), Stephen E. Riley (Executive Director of PCR), Msgr. John Enzler (President & CEO of Catholic Charities and PCR Chairman), and Jim Sullivan (President of PCR).

 Parish Times

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Catherine Anne Altemus
HOLY CHILD
"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."
Dr. Seuss



Kaitlin Theresa August
VISITATION
"I can sum up life in three words: it goes on."
Robert Frost



Matthew David Bonfiglio
GEORGETOWN PREP
"The journey of a thousand miles begins with one step."
Lao Tzu



Kyle Austin Bonner
GEORGETOWN PREP
"A ship in a harbor is safe, but that is not what a ship is built for."
William Shedd



Zachary Lee Clements
GOOD COUNSEL
"A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new."
Albert Einstein



Correll Cronin Davis
GONZAGA
"No, it won't all go the way it should, but I know the heart of life is good."
John Mayer



Caroline Marie Dyer
HOLY CHILD
"10% of life is what happens to you, 90% is how you deal with it."
Unknown



Sarah M. Englehardt
BCC HS
"Maybe in order to understand mankind, we have to look at the word itself: 'mankind.' Basically, it's made up of two separate words - 'mank' and 'ind.' What do these words mean? It's a mystery, and that's why so is mankind."
Jack Handey



Deirdre Colleen Flanagan
HOLY CROSS
"Never say never, unless you say, never quit."
Unknown



Kelly Stephanie Foley
HOLY CROSS
"If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything."
Mark Twain

HOLY REDEEMER
8TH GRADE GRADUATES CLASS OF 2012
FATHER MARK HUGHES, PASTOR MRS. COLLEEN RYAN, PRINCIPAL



Anthony Brennan Welsh
Student Government President
GEORGETOWN PREP
"Civilization had too many rules for me, so I did my best to rewrite them."
-Bill Cosby



Giovannia Sophia Gaston
HOLY CROSS
"If you accept the expectations of others, especially negative ones, then you never will change the outcome."
Michael Jordan



Nicholas J. Gittings
GOOD COUNSEL
"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."
Colossians 3:23-24



Katherine Ann Gonella
ST. JOHN'S
"All our dreams can come true - if we have the courage to pursue them."
Walt Disney



John Winston Graham
GOOD COUNSEL
"Twenty years from now you will be more than disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw away the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the tradewinds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover."
Mark Twain



Shannon Grace Hanley
HOLY CROSS
"Play like you're in first, but train like you're in second."
Unknown



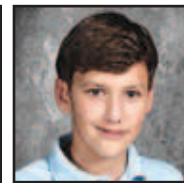
John-Paul Harper
ST. JOHN'S
"One drop of love is more than an ocean of understanding."
Blaise Pascal



Mary Elizabeth Helget
VISITATION
"In this age, which believes that there is a shortcut to everything, the greatest lesson to be learned is that the most difficult way is, in the long run, the easiest."
Henry Miller, The Books in My Life



Madeleine Raine Henderson
ST. JOHN'S
"What doesn't kill us makes us stronger!"
Friedrich Nietzsche



Matthew William Kehoe
GONZAGA
"Always remember there was nothing worth sharing like the love that let us share our name."
The Avett Brothers



Theodore Jude Kiernan
GONZAGA
"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference."
Robert Frost



Cristina Teresa Kilby
HOLY CROSS
"Sometimes the questions are complicated and the answers are simple."
Dr. Seuss



Christopher Henderson Kirvan
GONZAGA
"If plan 'A' doesn't work the alphabet has 25 more letters, keep calm."
Anonymous



Dan Henderson Kirvan
GONZAGA
"Would I rather be feared or loved? Easy, both. I want people to be afraid of how much they love me."
Michael Scott, The Office



Lisa Mallan Lafferty
GREENWICH HS
"The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up."
Mark Twain



Riley Michael Lopez
GEORGETOWN PREP
"Wherever you go, no matter what the weather, always bring your own sunshine."
Anthony J. D'Angelo



Michaela Angela Lucas
HOLY CROSS
"You are smart, you are kind, you are important."
Kathryn Stockett, The Help



Kelli Cameron Lynch
HOLY CROSS
"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away."
Unknown



Emily Rose Mancini
BCC HS
"If you can dream it, you can do it."
Walt Disney



Casey Patrick McCarthy
GONZAGA
"Don't tell me the sky is the limit when there are footprints on the moon."
Paul Brandt



Grace Patricia McCarthy
HOLY CROSS
"Promise me you'll always remember: You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think."
A.A. Milne



John Patrick McGlooin
GONZAGA
"Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light."
J.K. Rowling



William Vincent McLaughlin
GONZAGA
"I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else."
C.S. Lewis



Andrea Elizabeth Mejac
ST. JOHN'S
"If you have a purpose in which you can believe, there's no end to the amount of things you can accomplish."
Marian Anderson



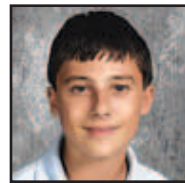
Caitlyn Doris Morales
HOLY CROSS
"Cease, every joy, to glimmer on my mind, but leave --- oh! Leave the light of hope behind."
Thomas Campbell



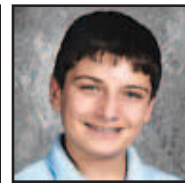
Olivia Rose Munero
ST. JOHN'S
"If you're lucky enough to be different, never change."
Taylor Swift



Eliza Murphy O'Donnell
ST. JOHN'S
"When I use a word, it means just what I choose it to mean. Neither more, nor less."
Lewis Carroll



Nicholas A. Peoples
GEORGETOWN PREP
"Some people drift along like a cork on a river, feeling that they cannot do anything but drift, moment to moment. This is an attitude of mind. Everyone can be constructive, even in tiny ways."
Edward de Bono



Daniel Joseph Plantamura
GONZAGA
"We all make choices, but, in the end, our choices make us."
Andrew Ryan



Megan Christine Pumphrey
HOLY CROSS
"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, it's about learning how to dance in the rain."
Unknown



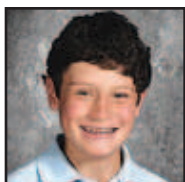
Taylor Manning Ridgway
VISITATION
"All our dreams can come true - if we have the courage to pursue them."
Walt Disney



Katherine Izabela Roberts
ST. JOHN'S
"If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door."
Milton Berle



Giselle Rafaela Rodriguez
STONE RIDGE
"Be not afraid of greatness: Some are born great, some achieve greatness, some have greatness thrust upon them."
William Shakespeare



Peter Dennis Rumm
GOOD COUNSEL
"The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet."
Aristotle



Henry David Seiler
GONZAGA
"There isn't a person anywhere who isn't capable of doing more than he thinks he can."
Henry Ford



Kevin Patrick Sullivan
GONZAGA
"As you climb the ladder of success, be sure it's leaning against the right building."
H. Jackson Brown Jr.



Clare Louise Toner
HOLY CROSS
"We will make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give."
Winston Churchill



Nicholas Christopher Welsh
GEORGETOWN PREP
"Do not follow where the path may lead; go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."
Ralph Waldo Emerson



Kelsey Erin White
HOLY CROSS
"Never give in and never give up."
Hubert Humphrey



Sarah Elizabeth Wilkinson
HOLY CROSS
"Being happy doesn't mean that everything is perfect. It means that you've decided to look beyond the imperfections."
Unknown



John James Winters
GONZAGA
"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."
Martin Luther King Jr.

Joy in my heART: The Science of Art

Holy Redeemer Catholic School celebrates with its annual Arts Festival

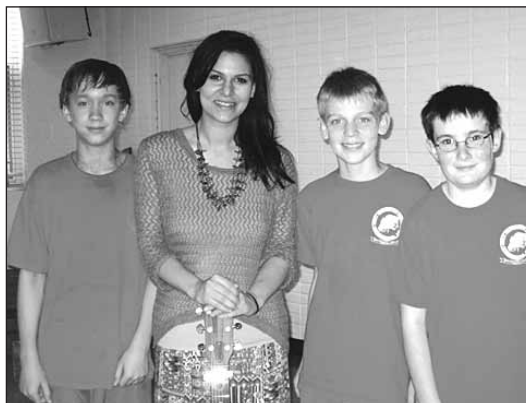
Local singer/songwriter Marie Miller kicked off Holy Redeemer's annual two-day Arts Festival with a concert for the student body, staff and faculty in the Herb Young Auditorium on Wednesday, May 2, 2012. Miller, who played both mandolin and guitar during the concert, captured the student body very quickly by interspersing Christian music with popular hits by Taylor Swift and Justin Bieber. Students and teachers alike gathered around her after the performance to see if they could purchase a CD, after Miller told the audience that she had just recorded an album in Nashville. For more information on Marie Miller, visit her website at www.mariemiller.net.

The theme of this year's Arts Festival was "Joy in my heART: The Science of Art". The two day annual event at Holy Redeemer allows students the opportunity to attend workshops and sessions on a variety of creative ventures. Parents, parishioners, alumni of the school and local artisans volunteer their time to lead the sessions and workshops. Scores of parents assist with the organization of the two-day festival, this year led by parent Sheila Dinn, along with fac-

ulty members Mary DelBianco and Cristina Morris.

Workshops covered a wide variety of creative outlets such as cooking lessons in different cuisines, dance lessons in different genres of dance, aboriginal art, mosaics, public speaking, street art, and many other options, including ultimate Frisbee led by middle school math teacher Graig Brubaker.

The first day of excitement and creativity ended with a performance by the United State Navy Band Brass Quartet featuring Chief Musician John P. Schroeder, trumpet, Chief Musician Stanley H. Curtis, trumpet, Musician 1st Class Philip J. Eberly, euphonium, and Musician 1st Class Anthony J. Halloin, tuba. The quartet played many different styles of music from a wide variety of musical periods and composers including Mozart, Gabrieli, and Duke Ellington. Students were particularly excited to get to guess the movies where certain pieces had been featured. One of the special treats of the performance was the rare opportunity to hear Echo Taps played. The performance ended with a question and answer period and a photo opportunity with Holy Redeemer's Advanced Band.



Marie Miller with Holy Redeemer Students (L-R) Timmy Harper, Finn Kirvan and Ben Clarke



Holy Redeemer student body dancing to the songs of Marie Miller



Mosaics of Space workshop of eighth-grade girls with parent and Mater Dei art teacher Mrs. Nancy Altemus



United States Navy Band Brass Quartet with members of the Holy Redeemer Advanced Band

OPT



Holy Redeemer's Class of 2012 in NYC

HR Class Of 2012 Takes a Bite Out of the Big Apple

By Michelle Ardillo

Holy Redeemer's eighth grade class traveled to New York City on April 25 for an overnight field trip. The fifty eighth graders were chaperoned by recently retired principal Dave Lombardi, Fr. Justin Huber of Holy Redeemer Parish, and faculty members Graig Brubaker, Danielle Trotta, Michelle Ardillo, and Caitlin Budny. Parents of 15 students also chaperoned.

While in the Big Apple, the group toured Radio City Music Hall and the Top of the Rock on Wednesday afternoon and then on Thursday morning after a blustery ferry ride, students toured the Ellis Island

Immigration Museum. On Wednesday night the group dined at Ellen's Stardust Diner, enjoying the live entertainment of the waiters and waitresses who sang while serving tables. The final song of the night was an ensemble rendition of "Seasons of Love" dedicated to Dave Lombardi on his recent retirement.

After dinner, the group then attended an evening performance of *Sister Act*. For those attending their first Broadway musical, it was an exciting evening! The field trip was very successful and the charter buses safely returned all to Kensington Thursday evening.

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Holy Redeemer parishioner
 and school parent



Webelos I adventure night at Asbury Residence

By Pierre-Alexandre Kingbo, Fourth Grade, Fox Chapel Elementary

My name is Pierre-Alexandre Kingbo and I am a Webelos cub scout with Pack 926 at St. Martin De Tour Catholic Church in Gaithersburg. On a chilly Monday evening in late February of this year, our den visited Asbury Methodist Village, a retirement community in Gaithersburg. We (Isaac, Edwin and I) were accompanied by our Cub Scout den leader, Greg Cooksey, our parents, and some of the siblings. Isaac's younger brother, Simon, also came along too.

Why were we doing this? It would count towards getting our Parvuli Dei religious emblem. Looking back, I had so much fun that I would have gone anyway without receiving anything. We were going to entertain the Asbury residents. The residents were so excited that they shortened their dinner time

to join us. A number of them had been involved in scouting and they shared fun memories with us. One of them was still able to recite the scout pledge without forgetting a single word. We were so impressed.

Isaac made them nice cards with a kind greeting for each of them. I applied my artist skills and prepared some drawings. While we were there we described what we do including the recent pinewood derby race, which Isaac and his brother Simon had won. We made some drawings of the cars we had crafted for the race.

We enjoyed entertaining them. Simon played a song on the piano. I did a puppet act using my ventriloquist skills. We had so much fun and the puppet act was my favorite part.

We left after an hour promising to come back soon. It was truly a rewarding evening for all.

OPT



Kelly Gallogly, sixth grade, was honored by the Safety Patrols with the Lifesaver Award and by the Orioles during their Safety Patrol Week at Camden Yards. Kelly, a responsible member of St. Martin School's patrol, was honored for her alert and quick actions that saved a first-grade student from running in front of a moving car last fall. The Orioles invited Kelly to throw out the first pitch at one of their games during spring break, and she did a wonderful job getting the ball to the plate. Photo courtesy of Sr. Sharon Mihm.

First Communion

By Anne Cooksey, Second Grade, St. Martin's School

Getting ready for Communion is a lot of work. You first have to understand what first Communion is about. I'm celebrating my first communion on May 12, and we have been learning about it in Religion class. I want to tell you

something I'm excited about for first Communion.

Communion is about receiving the Eucharist. The Eucharist is a sacrament where you receive Jesus' body and blood to feed your soul and to help protect you from sin. I think you should be excited for Communion because I am!

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Sr. Sharon Mihm, principal of St. Martin School, holds an 8-foot boa. Sr. Sharon invited Reptiles Alive! to present its program to the students in honor of their tremendous generosity in supporting the St. Martin's Pantry. Sr. Sharon challenged the students to bring in 4,000 cans during Lent, but the students surpassed the goal by bringing in 6,964! Photo courtesy of Sr. Sharon Mihm.

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RCIA Reflections

By Leslie, New RCIA graduate

RCIA was an amazing eight-month journey of faith and has been such a fulfilling and deeply spiritual and emotional experience for me. I came to RCIA as an Episcopalian who was married in the Catholic Church. While I thought I knew a lot about the Catholic Church from attending

Mass for many years, I have to admit that I was surprised at how much I needed learn, and more importantly to understand, before deciding to become Catholic. The RCIA program at St. Martin's Church was just the right place for me to learn the fundamental teachings of the Church, the rich traditions, and understanding the Catholic faith.

I am deeply grateful to our priests, Deacon Bill Vita, the RCIA team, and sponsors at St. Martin's for their instruction, encouragement, and the generosity of their time each week guiding us through this educational and spiritual discovery process, answering our questions, challenging us with questions, and sharing their experiences. I enjoyed the learning process and looked forward to our RCIA meetings and Sunday discussions of the scripture readings each week. Unlimited thanks to my husband, who was also my sponsor, for showing me the way by living the faith every

day. I am happy and grateful to have shared this journey with my fellow candidates and learned a lot from each of them, too. All of this support through RCIA greatly helped in strengthening my faith and in my decision to convert to Catholicism. I feel that I grew spiritually by leaps and bounds during this journey, in a closer relationship to Jesus and in prayer.

As I reflect on the Easter vigil Mass, I struggle to find the words to describe the great joy, peace, awe and love I experienced during Confirmation and Holy Communion. I felt blessed and privileged to be present and share in the joy during the baptism of a wonderful group of young people during the Mass. And I was deeply touched by the warm welcome by the worshipping community. I know the faith journey doesn't end here. I am excited to find ways to further grow in faith and becoming more involved in our parish community.

OPT

St. Martin of Tours Parish

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Gaithersburg, MD

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

St. Martin School
Sister Sharon Mihm, C.S.C.
Principal 301-990-2441

Catherine Cooksey
Parish Editor . . . 240-477-8706
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St. Bernadette's Eighth Grade Hosts Bake Sale at Our Lady of Grace

By Meg Desriver-Mason

The eighth grade class from St. Bernadette's Catholic school sponsored a Bake Sale at Our Lady of Grace Church, which is the parish for the residents of Leisure World. Father Sweeney, the Pastor at OLOG thought it was an excellent idea to have the young students visit the church and sell their homemade bake goods after the weekend Masses. A group of students attended each Mass and did a presentation about their school and the trips and activities they have

planned for the year.

The Bake Sale was a huge success with the students raising \$760.00. It was also heartwarming to see the positive interaction between the seniors and the St. Bernadette's students. The seniors loved having the children visit their parish and the students were grateful for the seniors' kindness and generosity. The Bake Sale was a rewarding experience for both the students and the OLOG parishioners and the two groups hope to do more activities together in the future.

OPT



St. Bernadette Middle School Production of 101 Dalmations, Jr. left to right: Sophie Ganiban, Maddie DiNino, Olivia Garcia, Nell Drummy, Amy Mortensen, Molly Starkenberg, Julianne Keehan, Leila Riazi

St. Bernadette Middle School Performs 101 Dalmations, Jr.

St. Bernadette School's auditorium was overrun with hounds back in March; 101 to be exact. Villainess Cruella Deville, played by eighth-grader Caroline Sturges and her two cohorts in crime, Horace and Jasper, played by Joey Morales and Lucy Baker, caused an uproar after kidnapping next door neighbors Roger and Anita's, played by Ryan Stanton

and Katie Fricke, dalmation puppies for the evil purpose of creating a spotted fur coat.

An "All Dog Alert" performed by a terrific cast of London dogs with the acrobatic assistance of Sargeant Tibbs, aka seventh-grader Graham Millar, saved the day to finish with the grand finale "Dalmation Plantation." Ms. Sturges gave an outstanding performance and the energy

level of the entire cast created an atmosphere of pure fun and bliss. The show was directed by St. Bernadette teachers Mrs. Ingram, Mrs. Rodriguez and Mrs. Shelko, with sound and lighting designed by Mr. Jim Jenets and produced by Mrs. Kristin Wasserzug, our super Drama Department Chairwoman of the last 7 years.

OPT



St. Bernadette 101 Dalmation Production: left to right: Ryan Stanton, Annie Speer, Caroline Sturges and Adele Birkenes



St. Bernadette 8th graders at Our Lady of Grace Church, left to right: Claire Riley, Yili Quinlan, Gabrielle Donovan, Father Sweeney, Mattie Weisgerber, Katie Fricke and Hannah Beck

CONFERENCE

Con't from page 3

Washington's Department of Special Needs Ministries, was sponsored by Potomac Community Resources, Inc., the Lt. Joseph P. Kennedy Institute of Catholic Charities, Ardmore Enterprises, L'Arche Greater Washington, the Catholic Coalition for Special Education and the Jerome Lejuene Foundation.

This year's conference, themed "Creating Communities Where All Are Welcome Across the Life Span," featured the inspirational musical talents of Tony Melendez and the Toe Jam Band, offered over three dozen workshops, info sessions and panel discussions on a wide range of topics, including how to develop new programs and resources in parish communities and schools, legal and financial issues, residential, employment, recreational and social programs, adaptive technology, Veterans services and Deaf Teen/Young Adult Programs. The day's proceedings were simulta-

neously translated for participants into Spanish and American Sign Language. Workshops designed specially for Religious, Deacons, Seminarians and Clergy were also featured.

Rev. William Byrne, the Secretary for Pastoral Ministry & Social Concerns of the Archdiocese of Washington delivered the keynote "State of the Ministry: Four Years of Growth, A Future of Hope, with remarks by Potomac Community Resources President Jim Sullivan and by Msgr. John Enzler, the President and CEO of Catholic Charities that touched on the importance and benefits of collaboration to promote the full inclusion of persons who are Deaf and persons who have disabilities into all aspects of community life.

The conference closed with a Mass the Principal Celebrant of which was the Most Reverend Barry Knestout, Auxiliary Bishop of Washington, who also delivered the homily. Plans for the fifth annual Conference on Faith, Deafness & Disabilities are already underway for Spring 2013.

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A Voice of Comfort

De Chantal Bereavement Committee reaches out to grieving parishioners

Anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one knows how important the support of those outside the family can be. The Bereavement Committee at St. Jane de Chantal began on this premise – a parishioner who had recently lost her husband and realized a phone call from the parish offering condolences would have been meaningful decided to organize a group of volunteers who would do just that. Twenty years later, the group continues its mission of reaching out to provide comfort and assistance to those who have recently lost a loved one.

The group is comprised of about 10 active members. It is currently chaired by Terry Kelley, who, with the help of a second member, makes the initial phone calls when she receives word from the rectory about a death in the parish. Like the other members of the group, Kelley is a widow who understands the cadence of the grief process.

“When I receive the information, I generally wait a day, to give them

time, and then call. Basically I start by extending condolences on behalf of the parish on the death of their loved one,” said Kelley. “And I ask if there’s anything we can do to help. That’s sometimes as far as it goes. It depends on the situation – how much support the person has, whether they have family or friends with them. Sometimes they want to chat, and are grateful for someone who will listen. Sometimes they need help too.”

Sometimes a member of the group will sit at the home and take calls while the family member is out making funeral arrangements. She said that often people want to hold a reception in the church hall following the funeral and need help setting it up. The group ensures the room is set up and provides coffee, and then two members stay for the reception and clean up afterward. It’s straightforward work complicated by the fact that there’s no way to predict when their help will be needed.

Continued on page 17



St. Jane de Chantal School track coach Joe Aukward was named CYO Outstanding Coach for the Archdiocese of Washington at the recent Youth Ministry Office/Catholic Youth Organization awards banquet on May 9. Aukward, who is also a de Chantal School parent, is a long-time coach of the school’s track program and helped start the school’s cross country program, which earned a City Title this fall. Aukward, who is blind, is a runner himself, earning two silver medals at the 1999 Pan Am games and competing in the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens, Greece. Pictured above with Aukward, holding the award: fellow de Chantal CYO coaches Jerry Pitts and Bernie Durkin and de Chantal CYO registrar Paul Bollwerk.

Students receive sacrament of Confirmation

Following a year of preparation, more than 80 students from St. Jane de Chantal parish and school gathered in the church on the evening of April 23 to receive the sacrament of confirmation. The students, mostly eighth graders, had prepared throughout the year by studying their faith, participating in two retreats, and performing various acts of service to their parish, school and community. After assurance from Monsignor Donald Essex that the students were

prepared to receive this third sacrament of initiation, Bishop Martin Holley questioned the confirmandi, called down the Holy Spirit upon them, and administered the sacrament.

The school choir lent their angelic voices as parents, family and friends witnessed the ceremony, a memorable milestone for the soon-to-be high schoolers.

OPT

St. Jane de Chantal School

Monsignor Donald Essex, Pastor
Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton, Principal



<p>Joe Burkart St. John’s <i>“Don’t put off until tomorrow because what is today but yesterday’s tomorrow.”</i></p>	<p>Theresa Cotton Holy Child <i>“When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on.”</i> – Thomas Jefferson</p>	<p>Jordan Covell Stone Ridge <i>“In a gentle way, you can shake the world.”</i> – Mahatma Gandhi</p>	<p>Caelan Danbury St. John’s <i>“Do not follow where the path may lead. Go where there is no path and leave a trail.”</i> – Ralph Waldo Emerson</p>	<p>Nora Dever Walter Johnson <i>“To love another person is to see the face of God.”</i></p>	<p>David Di Bari Gonzaga <i>“When life gives you lemons make orange juice and watch the world wonder how you did it.”</i></p>	<p>Kalie Dominick Undecided <i>“You always pass failure on the way to success.”</i></p>	<p>Zisimos Doulaveris St. Anselm’s <i>“When push comes to shove, push back.”</i></p>	<p>Grace Eder Visitation <i>“You can’t change the wind, but you can adjust your sail.”</i></p>
--	--	---	--	--	--	--	---	---



<p>Casey Emerson St. Alban’s <i>“To give less than your best is to sacrifice the gift.”</i></p>	<p>Tully Ervin South River High <i>“Life isn’t about finding yourself. It’s about creating yourself.”</i></p>	<p>Brian Ferrigno Georgetown Prep <i>“Before God we are all equally wise and equally foolish.”</i></p>	<p>Jeffrey Ferrigno Georgetown Prep <i>“Crowns are inherited; kingdoms are earned.”</i></p>	<p>James France St. John’s <i>“If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.”</i> – Derek Curtis Bok</p>	<p>Ryan Geary Undecided <i>“When nothing goes right, go left.”</i></p>	<p>Charlie Gibson Good Counsel <i>“Make every year a good one.”</i></p>	<p>Grace Goetcheus Holy Cross <i>“Live simply. Love generously. Care deeply. Speak kindly. Leave the rest to God.”</i></p>	<p>Mayeul Goudet Lycee Rochambeau <i>“By trying you have already succeeded.”</i></p>
--	--	---	--	---	---	--	---	---



<p>Trent Gourlay Good Counsel <i>“Growing old is inevitable, growing up is optional.”</i></p>	<p>Emily Graham Holy Cross <i>“You can only go in one direction: up!”</i></p>	<p>Megan Guelcher Holy Child <i>“When the world says, ‘Give up,’ Hope whispers, ‘Try it one more time.’”</i></p>	<p>Julia Harrington Stone Ridge <i>“The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails.”</i></p>	<p>Kyle Heintz Gonzaga <i>“Keep your friends close, but your enemies closer.”</i></p>	<p>Lilly Hollenbeck Holy Child <i>“Don’t think about what could go wrong, think about what could go right.”</i></p>	<p>Amelia Janaskie Holy Cross <i>“Hakuna matata”</i></p>	<p>Michael Jasinski Undecided <i>“After climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb.”</i> – Nelson Mandela</p>	<p>Brendan Jay Gonzaga <i>“Words have no feet, but they can travel thousands of miles.”</i></p>
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St. Jane de Chantal's senior altar servers, the young leaders of the parish's altar server program, were celebrated with a Mass and dinner on May 5. The high schoolers help train, mentor and track attendance for the younger servers and lead the parish's special Masses. Pictured above are Matthew Graham, a junior at St. John's High School; Nicole Mercer, a senior at Walter Johnson, who received a scholarship from the parish; and Dulan Jayawardane, a junior at The Heights.



De Chantal student's winning DAR essay takes one more prize

St. Jane de Chantal eighth-grade student Julianna Long's local and state-winning history essay for the Daughter of the American Revolution's annual national essay contest recently was honored at one more level as the regional winner of the Eastern Division States. The essay, which focused on the War of 1812, now goes to the national level for consideration for the contest's top prize.

OPT

De Chantal students performed the "Living Stations of the Cross" during Holy Week, including, from left, Amelia Janaskie, Lilly Hollenbeck and Emily Ramsayer as the weeping women Jesus meets as he carries the cross; Brian Ferrigno and Jeffrey Ferrigno as soldiers; Brennan Nugent as Jesus; Kalie Dominick as Veronica; Kyle Heintz as Simon; and Grace Goetheus as Mary.

Students present "Passion of Christ"

St. Jane de Chantal school began Holy Week with its traditional presentation of The Living Stations of the Cross by the eighth grade class. Jesus, Mary, Simon, Veronica, and other actors were chosen by a vote from their peers, and the rest of the class acted as a chorus on the altar, serving as narrators, recounting a beautifully written story based on Gospel teachings of the Passion of Christ. The performance was a moving start to the solemn days of Holy Week.

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More St. Jane de Chantal News on Page 17

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Congratulations to the Class of 2012



Nick Johnson
Good Counsel
"What is right is more important than who is right."
- John Wooden

Anna Jones
Stone Ridge
"Failure is unimportant. It takes courage to make a fool of yourself."
- Charlie Chaplin

Christopher Karpinski
Gonzaga
"A successful man builds a house of bricks while they are being thrown at him."

Joe King
Gonzaga
"The process to live is to learn, to earn, and to return."

Lillian Lahti
Holy Cross
"Having ideals is great, but you actually have to act on them to make a difference."

Nora Lee
Holy Cross
"You cannot drive out hate with hate. Only love can do that."

Tim Linehan
Gonzaga
"Players with fight never lose a game, they just run out of time."
- John Wooden

Julianna Long
Stone Ridge
"Failure is just an opportunity to begin again, this time more intelligently"
- Henry Ford

Samantha Lopez
Holy Cross
"You were born an original, don't die a copy."



Brady Monroe
Gaithersburg High
"A successful man is one who can lay a firm foundation with the bricks others have thrown at him."

Mac Morgan
Richard Montgomery
"All that we are is the result of what we have thought. The mind is everything. What we think we become." - Buddha

Sarah Morgan
Richard Montgomery
"Get action. Seize the moment. Man was never intended to become an oyster."
- Theodore Roosevelt

Charles Navarre
Woodrow Wilson
"The brave don't live forever, but the cautious don't live at all."

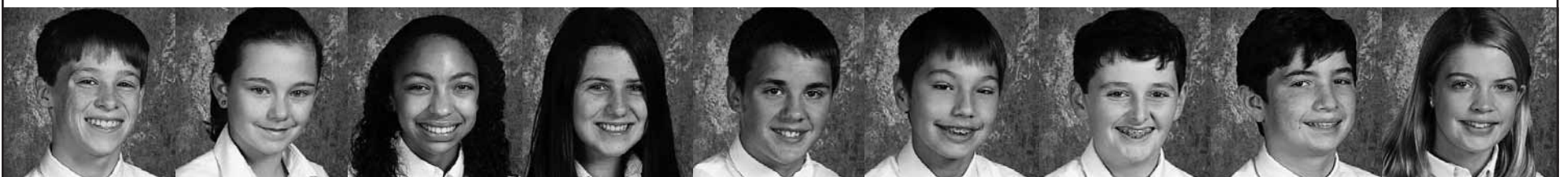
Brennan Nugent
Gonzaga
"Live as if you were to die tomorrow and learn as if you were to live forever."

Ikenna Okwara
DeMatha
"In the classroom don't do wrong. Be strong."

Julia Pitts
Holy Cross
"You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view; until you climb into his skin and walk around in it." - Atticus Finch

Jack Quinn
Georgetown Prep
"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. It must be fought for, protected, and banded on for [our children] to do the same."
- Ronald Reagan

Emily Ramsayer
Holy Cross
"Life is either a daring adventure or nothing."
- Helen Keller



Jack Sanborn
Gonzaga
"You miss 100% of the shots you never take."
- Wayne Gretsky

Maggie Shaheen
Visitation
"Live, love, laugh."

Taya Smith
Undecided
"Before God, we are all equally wise and equally foolish."

Shea Stevens
Holy Cross
"Be yourself; everyone else is already taken."

Max Suttora
Gonzaga
"Be proud of who you are."
- M. Matbers

Michael Timmer
St. John's
"The only easy day was yesterday."

Ryan Tomsheck
Gonzaga
"Live as long as you want, but don't want as long as you live."

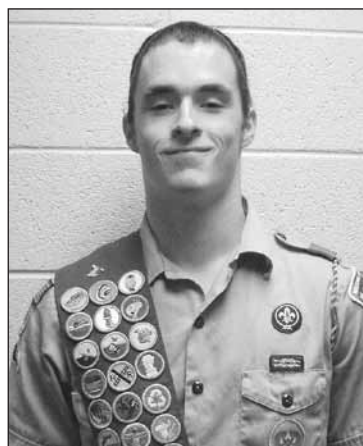
Joe Walthall
Gonzaga
"The greatest accomplishment is not in never falling, but in rising after you fall."
- Vince Lombardi

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

New Troop 1083 Eagle Scout

Holy Cross parishioner Gregory Gadbois, a member of local Boy Scout Troop 1083, passed his Eagle Scout Board of Review on January 20th. His Eagle Court of Honor is planned for June at the Father Rosensteel Knights of Columbus.

Greg performed a leadership community service project as part of his Eagle Award requirements. His project included planning, managing and executing the construction of a sports equipment storage shed for the athletic department at Wheaton High School where he attends and plays sports. It involved working with the athletic director in selecting an appropriate design, discussing budget and financing, as well as tracking the permitting process. The project took several weekends to complete



Gregory Gadbois earned the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouting program of the Boy Scouts of America.

and the school's principal and athletic director were very pleased

when it was finished.

Gregory received his Arrow of Light Award in Cub Pack 1081 before bridging to Troop 1083. He has served in numerous Troop leadership roles, has earned 52 Merit Badges, and has attended Philmont Scout Ranch. He has earned the Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei and Ad Altare Dei Scout religious awards.

Although Greg is completing the Engineering program at Wheaton High School, he plans to attend Penn College to study sports fitness. He has played four years on Wheaton's football, indoor track and lacrosse teams, and participated in the school jazz band for two years. Gregory is active in his parish having attended eight years in the SOR, altar serving since third grade, and participation with Scout Sundays.

OPT



Where in the World is Cate Paxton?

On March 30, seventh-grade student Cate Paxton was in Catonsville, Maryland representing Holy Cross School at National Geographic's state-wide geography bee. Cate qualified

for that honor after many exciting rounds at our school bee in December and with the correct answer to the winning question: Where is Timbuktu located? Cate is pictured here with Holy Cross School's middle school Social Studies teacher, Miss Martha Brach.

A MEGGY Award for Holy Cross Principal, Lisa Kane

Holy Cross Principal, Lisa Kane, received a MEGGY award, presented annually by the Maryland Educators of Gifted Students (MEGS) at its Maryland Conference on Gifted & Talented Education. The award recognizes exemplary commitment and contribution to the field of gifted and talented education in the state of Maryland. Nominees are Maryland educators who are dedicated to creating rigorous and challenging curriculum, and who provide learning environments that include opportunities for students to demonstrate outstanding academic and creative talent.

Mrs. Kane was enthusiastically and unanimously nominated by the Holy Cross school board, the faculty, numerous school parents and many

students who cited a long list of accolades for Mrs. Kane's leadership in providing outstanding differentiated learning opportunities for Holy Cross students, as well as for her collaboration with colleagues across the Archdiocese of Washington to leverage support and opportunities for academically talented students. The entire Holy Cross family echoes one parent's observation that "We are so blessed to have a compassionate, talented educator and administrator like Mrs. Kane to champion our children's educational pursuits at Holy Cross, but the entire Archdiocese benefits from her vision and leadership."

Mrs. Kane received her award on April 26 at the MEGS spring dinner reception.

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Holy Cross Kindergarten bloggers, pictured on the school playground, write often to Dr. Belinda Yauger who is shown riding a Chinook helicopter in Afghanistan.



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Dear Mom, XX00

The Kindergarten class at Holy Cross School is helping to ease the difficulty of a separation caused by a military deployment by blogging! The idea of creating a blog emerged when Kindergarten teachers Mrs. Stavish and Mrs. Shirton collaborated with our technology coordinator Mrs. Krage. "Our hearts go out to all of our military who sacrifice time away from family to serve our country," said Mrs. Shirton. "We wanted to do something to help make it just a little bit easier." The blog is frequently updated with photographs and student-composed sentences that depict the fun and learning in the classroom. "We try to include

Continued on page 21

More Holy Cross News on Page 2

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Pastor 301-942-1020

Holy Cross School
Lisa Maio Kane,
Principal
301-949-0053

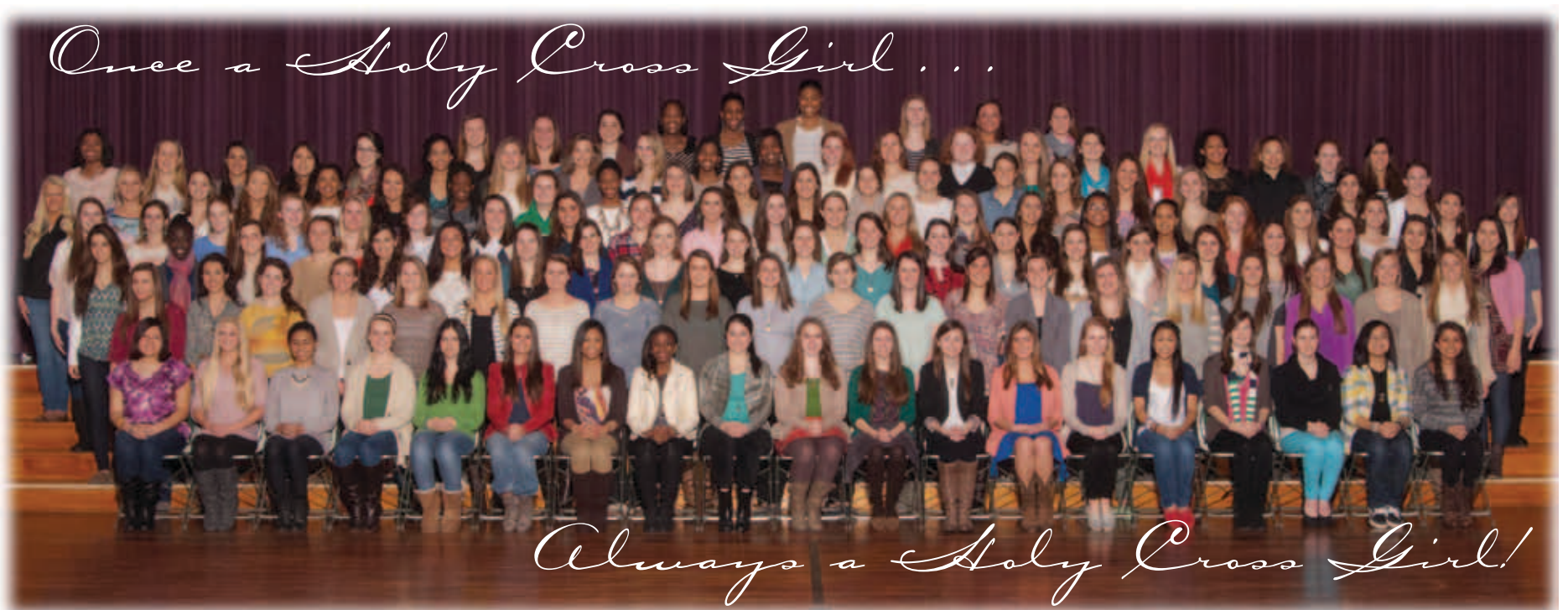
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"spirit"

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Megan Korinne Bell
Isabella Arielle Bennett
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Juliet Rose Brisbane
Courtney Lynn Brocato
Mary Kathleen Bula
Caitlin Mary Cahill
Bridget Kasprisin Callahan
Cristina Camp
Alyssa Diane Carbonaro
Molly Patricia Cason
Mara Frances Cassidy
Shannon Regine Choquet
Khoren Marie Claiborne
Christine Marie Clark
Anastasia Rose Clausen
Jacqueline Rose Colburn
Kamaria Marlene Coley
Isabella Anne Malagkit Coronado
Gabrielle Mary Costabile
Megan Ann Cotter
Mary Elizabeth Cravens
Mary Kathleen Crilley

Scarlett Relyea Cunningham
Emma Eastman Curry
Reeona Mone Curseen
Katrina Marie Darling
Adrianna Christine David
Casey Brynn DiNino
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Abigail Marie Doane
Kelsey Anne Donahue
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Sarah Jeannette Heavner
Hailey Louisa Hickman
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Lauren Victoria Jackson

Whitney Barrett Johnson
Paige Elizabeth Johnson
Maeve O'Neill Kane
Samantha Louise Keehan
Carla Stephanie Keith
Valerie Nicole Kepler
Annabeth Eileen Kerley
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Blake Montgomery Kline
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Briana Maire Kyne
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Caroline Bohanan McCormick
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Lanay Simone Montgomery
Ana Maria Moore

Daniela Maria Moore
Kayla Marie Morelli
Nicole Marie Morgan
Olivia Rosalie Santos Morrison
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Amanda Lauren Murphy
Cailin Ann Murphy
Laarni Bacayo Muynila
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Amalia Grace Oven
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Megan Lee Scribner
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Yasmeen Grace Shuler
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*Love of Learning
Faith in God
Service for Others*



*57th Graduating Class
Class of 2012*



Luca Bertozzi
St John's
College
High School



Kristen Bissell
Undecided



Isabel Bogart
St John's
College
High School



Michael Bouyat
Gonzaga
College
High School



Molly Burke
Georgetown
Visitation
High School



Priscilla Felten
St John's
College
High School



Jose Ferrufino
Don Bosco
Cristo Rey
High School



Jacob Floam
Gonzaga
College
High School



Kate Gannon
Georgetown
Visitation
High School



Fionn Hembruff
St John's
College
High School



Vaughan Hervey
Gonzaga
College
High School



Jim Howard
Gonzaga
College
High School



Manuel Iribarren
Walt Whitman
High School



John Kolesar
The Heights
High School



Ines Martinez
Connelly
School of the
Holy Child



Timothy May
Bethesda
Chevy Chase
High School



William McBeath
Gonzaga
College
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Maggie McGreal
St John's
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Kevin McKenzie
Gonzaga
College
High School



Cassie
Nighswander
Walt Whitman
High School



Jack Norris
St John's
College
High School



Eddie Oswald
Gonzaga
College
High School



Patrick Ott
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College
High School



Santiago Paya
St. John's
College
High School



Veronica
Pereira
St Thomas
Aquinas



Dominick Perez
Gonzaga
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Fiona Riley
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*Congratulations
Seniors!*

Joe Froio is one of those guys you hear about but seldom see. Unless, maybe, you are on the staff at St. Elizabeth's. Joe is not a St. E's parishioner. He doesn't even live anywhere near St. E's, even though he is very much a presence at our parish in his capacity as facilities manager. He lives in Leisure World in Silver Spring and usually attends Resurrection Church. It was there he became involved with facilities management as a volunteer in 1980 for the newly created parish of Resurrection in Burtonsville, and there he began his long association with the parish's founding pastor, Father Jack Macfarlane.

And now, as Joe approaches his 90th birthday, the parish is reflecting on his continuing volunteer service to the parish and to the Archdiocese in general. Joe has been Fr. Jack's right-hand man when it comes to a parish's infrastructure. He worked hand-in-hand with Fr. Macfarlane in building a permanent sanctuary for Resurrection Church.

When Joe and Fr. Jack met in 1980, they took an immediate liking of each other. "He was a good listener and easy to relate to. We teed it off from the start," Joe remembers. There was a lot to be done to get the new parish off the ground, and Joe had expertise Fr. Macfarlane needed in getting the jobs done he needed doing.

"Priests were never intended to learn in the seminary about mechanics, plumbing or structural engineering. Building codes they totally



Joe Froio is joined by the Kindergarten teachers and aides in front of the newly christened S.S. Froio on the St. Elizabeth School playground. L to R: Elva Riley, Patty Timm, Laurie Clay, Cindy Miller, Joe, Natalie Bellino and Kathy Owens.

know from nothing," says Joe.

A D.C. native, Joe had a 45-year career at Hahn's Shoe Stores. Over that time, Hahn's grew to become the largest shoe retailer in the D.C. area and Joe grew with the company, retiring there in 1982 as its vice president for operations. An important facet of that position was overseeing construction and outfitting new stores in the expanding Hahn chain, an expertise he has been only too willing to share through his volunteer service to the church.

After 12 years as pastor at Resurrection, Fr. Macfarlane was then asked to move on to St. Elizabeth's in Rockville. Although he found the 20-year-old church at his new parish clean and functional, it was a bit frayed at the edges

and badly in need of some serious upgrading. Fr. Macfarlane once again went to his go-to guy, Joe Froio, and Joe once again stepped into the breach as the facilities manager. Fr. Jack was also faced with taking control of an institution every bit as important as the parish itself, St. Elizabeth School, which was also in need of extensive refurbishing.

They set to work immediately, giving the church a much needed remodeling and upgrading, brightening and expanding the sanctuary, reconfiguring the pews of the congregation area to provide more open space without reducing seating capacity and installing new glass doors on the sides to allow more light to enter. A new organ and grand piano were also installed and a

choir area created on the left side of the congregation. The sanctuary was refurbished and re-carpeted, and new carpeting was installed throughout the congregational area. The large gathering space – the Commons – and an all-weather canopy were also included in the church's remodeling.

Joe has also worked with contractors as they built the addition to the school, nearly doubling the school's existing classroom space, and he headed up the ongoing sprucing up of the existing school building. As the school continues to grow, thanks to its solid academic reputation and the enthusiastic support of parents, additional space is being considered for the growing preschool program. Joe is our go-to man for interfacing with designers and contractors to be sure that what we seek is what the parish and the school get. The school administration and staff recently named a playground 'ship' after Joe (see photo), in appreciation for his dedication to their building's appearance and comfort.

Joe Froio will turn 90 on August 13. His entire life has been devoted, either full- or part-time as a volunteer, to serving the Lord through service to His Church. Joe also serves on the archdiocesan building committee and has assisted in the construction of several other new parish churches and facilities. One of his proudest achievements is the church for Our Lady of Vietnam in Silver Spring, which, Joe says, was paid for with the hard-earned contri-

butions of its parishioners, many of them former "boat people" who fled their native South Vietnam after the Communist takeover in 1975.

Although Fr. Macfarlane has been a major beneficiary of Joe's devotion and energetic service, so also have the parish communities of Resurrection and St. Elizabeth, who enjoy the fruits of Joe's labors whenever they visit either of the churches or send their children to St. Elizabeth School.

"In addition to being a good friend," says Fr. Macfarlane, "Joe is one of those singular types of volunteers that every pastor values; one who is ready, willing and able to bring his expertise to the parish at large. He has certainly been invaluable to me over these past 30-plus years. No parish could exist without volunteers like Joe."

Way to go, go-to guy!

OPT

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Rockville, MD

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St. Elizabeth School Principal
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Gerry Moore, OPT Editor
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Mrs. Patricia Petruzzelli 2012 Golden Apple Award Winner

On the morning of Thursday, March 29th at 11:00 a.m., Mrs. Wendy Anderson, Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Archdiocese of Washington, came to St. Elizabeth School to announce to Mrs. Patricia Petruzzelli, our middle school religion teacher, that she was chosen as a Golden Apple for Excellence in Teaching award winner. Our middle school students, many of our teachers, members of the staff, Mrs. Petruzzelli's husband and children, and some of our sixth grade homeroom parents gathered in the All Purpose Room to surprise Mrs. Petruzzelli as she received this special recognition! Mrs. Petruzzelli, as we know, is not only an outstanding teacher but also an excellent role model for our boys and girls. She is more than a deserving candidate for this recognition by our Archbishop, Donald Cardinal Wuerl.

Mrs. Petruzzelli will be honored at a dinner on Thursday, May 17, 2012, at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, DC, where she will accept her Golden

Apple Award and a check in the amount of \$5,000!

Please join me in congratulating Mrs. Petruzzelli on the occasion of her being named a Golden Apple Teacher of the Year for the Archdiocese of Washington. God bless you, Mrs. Petruzzelli, and THANK YOU for bringing your love of Christ, His Church, and children to the hallways of St. Elizabeth School each and every day!

OPT

Editor's note: In the last issue of OPT, Jim and Veronica McKenna shared with us the difficulties they faced, after being unsuccessful at bringing a child of their own into the world, in deciding to adopt and how best to proceed. Here's the next chapter in what they describe as their roller-coaster ride adoption. The process can be heart-breaking.

The Private Adoption Roller-Coaster

By James and Veronica McKenna, St. Elizabeth Parishioners

A pregnant, 18-year-old birth mother from New Mexico texted us on April 4 saying the delivery date for her daughter was May 7. She had Googled the word 'adoption' and found our profile on the web site parentprofiles.com. She liked our "Dear

Continued on page 27



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Holy Cross

I am learning all the time. The tombstone will be my diploma.
~*Eartha Kitt*

Get over the idea that only children should spend their time in study. Be a student so long as you still have something to learn, and this will mean all your life.

~*Henry L. Doherty*



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Congratulations to the graduating class of 2012



Mary of Nazareth School students surprise Mrs. Luongo with her Golden Apple award announcement.

Mary of Nazareth School Brings Home a Golden Apple!

Congratulations Kathy Luongo, 2012 Archdiocese of Washington Golden Apple Award Winner. Mrs. Luongo is the Resource Director at Mary of Nazareth School, as well as one of our two reading specialists. She plays a major role in many aspects of our school resource programs including reading intervention, writing student 504 plans, interpreting student psycho-educational testing and managing new student testing.

Mrs. Luongo is a huge advocate for children and believes every child has the right to learn. Since her arrival at Mary of Nazareth School in 2006, our Resource department has been transformed. She understands that changing a student's attitude about themselves, as a learner, takes time and is a team effort for all involved. Mrs. Luongo views herself simply as the "coach"

who is responsible for calling the plays and adjusting the game plan as the child grows. "I work to help the students and the teachers look at different approaches for learning to take place for each child because we all learn a little differently," says Mrs. Luongo. "It is my responsibility to find the right set of keys to unlock each child's learning potential."

Mrs. Luongo is a dedicated and hard-working instructional leader who wholeheartedly supports the mission of Mary of Nazareth School. She graduated from The College of New Jersey with high honors, and completed her Masters of Science, with a concentration in Reading, from the Johns Hopkins University School of Education. Her special education training at Hopkins, as well as her time as a faculty associate, has provided the professional background and

expertise for her to identify learning styles and to formulate models of learning for each student. Hearing back from former students, parents and high schools regarding her students' progress and their ability to advocate for themselves, helps Mrs. Luongo to realize success in her mission. She says, "What really enhances the process is not necessarily my technical skills, but the fact that in a Catholic School, we understand that even though a child may be a unique learner, that child is a very special gift from God to be valued and treasured."

Kathy Luongo and other special teachers like her are some of the many reasons Mary of Nazareth School was awarded the U.S. Department of Education's 2011 National Blue Ribbon School Award. Congratulations to her and to all educators who provide support for all of God's children. **OPT**

Writing Across the Curriculum

This past fall, Maria Nolan, Mary of Nazareth School Middle School teacher, started a new writing program with Grades 4-8. Using the 6 + 1 Traits of Writing model, the students have been working on mastering the writing process with creative ideas, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, voice and conventions. They now understand the importance of prewriting, drafting, revision and proofreading, before publishing their paper.

Mrs. Nolan meets with each of the classes and focuses on different traits using different styles of writing. The types of writing include: personal narratives, descriptive, persuasive, animal reports, expository, short story endings, autobiography

and creative non-fiction. In addition to learning how to write different genres, the students also learn different techniques for writing introductions, conclusions and using transition words. "Students need to see and hear examples of good writing," says Mrs. Nolan. "By using examples from novels, popular songs on the radio, or the most current best-selling book, I am able to make each lesson fun so they are excited about their writing."

One of the goals of the Five Year Strategic Plan at Mary of Nazareth School is to implement more creating writing opportunities across the curriculum. Thank you, Mrs. Nolan, for leading the initiative to meet this goal and for teaching our students a lifelong skill. **OPT**

Mary of Nazareth School's Outdoor Classroom Gets a Facelift

In May of 2007, Eagle Scout, Luke Smith of Troop 829, and a team of 45 volunteers, carried out a project that brought an outdoor classroom to the students of Mary of Nazareth School. The following year, Eagle Scout, Brendan McGinnity, also of Troop 829, expanded the outdoor classroom by cleaning it up and marking a one mile nature trail that students could use in addition to the classroom. Over the years, it has proven to be a wonderful resource for both students and teachers alike. Luke and Brendan, both Mary of Nazareth School alums, did a wonderful job developing and executing the plan that has truly enriched our school community.

After years of serving Mary of Nazareth well, the outdoor classroom was showing signs of deterioration. Some of the benches and the teacher's table were in need of repair. Robert Tai, Eagle Candidate of Troop 829, proposed to rebuild the outdoor classroom as his Eagle project this year. That project was completed last month with the benches being restored and teach-

er's desk being completely rebuilt. Although the original design and layout was followed closely, Robert took the design a little further and anchored the benches and desk in place using pressure-treated posts sunk into the ground. The expectation is that the outdoor classroom will serve Mary of Nazareth School for many more years to come, and will have a lowered need for maintenance. In addition to the rebuild of the outdoor classroom, new placards were placed along the wooded trail adjacent to the classroom.

For the past several years, the Cub Scouts of Pack 76 have taken the clean-up of the outdoor classroom and trail as their service project. This involves raking leaves and debris from the classroom area, and removing sticks and leaves from the trail. The sticks are then used to re-line the edges of the trail, leaving a nice, clear pathway for hikers to use.

A very special thank you to all troops involved over the years that have helped this project stay beautiful. **OPT**

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Mary of Nazareth School Supports World T.E.A.M. Sports

On Saturday, April 28, Mary of Nazareth School was honored to provide a rest stop for the 2012 Face of America Bicycle Ride. The ride is in its tenth year, having started as a cross-country ride in 2000. The second ride in 2002 ran from Ground Zero to the Pentagon and was a memorial to the victims of the 9/11 attacks on America. Since 2006, it was redirected to its current route from Washington to Gettysburg; the ride serves to honor our service members who were wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan in the current War on Terror, as well as the 9/11 first responders. This



Paying respect to those who serve our country

was the most successful year ever with approximately 500 bike riders, over 100 of whom are amputees riding on adaptive bicycles. World T.E.A.M. Sports provided the manpower, equipment and support for the rest stop.

Mary of Nazareth School is eternally grateful to all our military heroes who have made significant sacrifices to help keep our country safe. For more information on the nonprofit organization, World T.E.A.M. Sports, and the Face of America Bicycle Ride, please visit www.worldteamsports.org/events/face-of-america/.

OPT

VOICE

Con't from page 8

“As you know, with a death, there’s no notice – occasionally the reception comes at a time when no one’s available,” she said. Recently a large reception was planned for the one night a month that the group gets together to socialize on their bridge night. She said that it’s a tight-knit group who met through the Post Cana group they joined when their husbands passed away, and the fact that they all share this common bond is helpful. “Being widows, we have so much empathy for what people are going through. It helps you understand what they need,” she said.

But there’s a downside as well – the group is aging, and in need of new people. “We’ve tried advertising for help at the Time and Talent Fair, but no one ever signs up.” She said people might have a misconception of what they do. “We’re just making phone calls and offering help. We let them take it from there – we take our cues from the family.” She’s quick to point out that the group does not do grief counseling – “we’re not trained in it.” If someone is having an especially difficult time, they’re referred to a trained grief counselor in the area.

Central to the effort is de Chantal’s director of liturgy and music, Henry Bauer, who plans every funeral Mass at de Chantal and is the family’s direct contact to the parish during the process, working with them during the most difficult of times. “He is marvelous,” Kelley said. “He’s very often giving direction to me.”

Kelley said the work is extremely rewarding. “I have a family of size, and it’s probably time somebody else did this,” she said. “But I don’t mind it – it’s so worthwhile. You get such a feeling when they are so down, and you have been through it yourself. You have such empathy. People are so grateful for the call, even if they don’t need anything. It means a lot to them.”

For information on volunteering with the de Chantal Bereavement Committee, contact the parish office at (301) 530-1550.

OPT

Class in Icon Painting

Are you interested in learning how to paint icons? A class meets in the Parish Center at Blessed Sacrament on the first and third of each month, 7-9 PM. Beginners welcome. For more information, contact Joe Gallelli: jfgallelli@yahoo or 301-642-9741

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St. Jane de Chantal

St Jane Perfoms Glee

De Chantal's children's choir recently put on a joyful performance of popular songs during their take on the television show, "Glee." Students from grades three through eight sang and danced under the direction of teacher Shannon Cron and choir director Olga Morales.



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



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such a special place. By celebrating this milestone event with us, you can help SJB begin to build a bridge to the next 50 years of this loving, faith filled community. We look forward to seeing you.

Please visit our very own SJB 50th Anniversary School Website – <http://sjbsilver.spring.org/school/50/>.

You'll be able to update your contact information, connect with old friends, and, in true SJB spirit, perhaps offer to help us with the event by being an Alumni Ambassador. These special ambassadors will assist us with locating long-lost alumni.

Facebook users can "Like" us at our Alumni Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/SJBSilverSpringAlumni> where you can see graduation photos of every class from 1969 to 2007 or the school site www.facebook.com/SJBSilverSpring.

Follow us on Twitter @SJBSilverSpring or send us a tweet at <http://twitter.com/SJBSilverSpring>.

If you have memorabilia, pictures, to share online, showcase during the weekend's events, and feature in various publications, please e-mail us at 50thGala@sjbsilver.spring.org.

OPT



Students and staff head to Retreat

Catching Fire Confirmation Retreat

By Quinn McFeeters

On Friday, April 13, 34 St. John the Baptist Confirmation students took three days away from their normal routines for a weekend at Shepherd Spring Retreat Center. Counselors presented thoughts about the four most important acts of faith that will help us maintain a healthy relationship with God. Ginny Cohen spoke on "Prepping the Fire," to help us get ready. "Catching the Fire," like the apostles almost literally did at Pentecost, was presented by L.J. Milone, opening us up for receiving God's Spirit. Maria Galeano discussed "Fueling the Fire," how to keep going. This is a daily struggle for many of us. Rounding it out, Angie Fortunak presented "Spreading the Fire," which offered us ways to reach out to others.

In between the talks, students enjoyed delicious meals, played on the basketball court, and took nature hikes. Kids who had gone into the retreat not knowing much more than each other's names came out best friends. SJB's Youth Minister, Michael Bayer, gets the credit for making the weekend a success and for successfully controlling 34 hyper teenagers.

OPT

Color Our World: Art Program Brings Color to St. John's

When Chrissy Chiddo joined St. John's faculty in 2009, who knew how colorful the school halls would become! Visit the school today and the art displayed will probably be different than it was even a few days ago. She transforms bulletin boards, classrooms, and common areas with ease and confidence.

From water color drawings to collages, simple craft projects or a diorama, Ms. Chiddo has shared her talents, education, and creativity to help her students express themselves in various mediums.

Talking with other teachers, students, parents, and volunteers, I heard nothing but praise: "She's great and fun to be with." "She makes art enjoyable. We have fun in her class." "What a caring person. She's always available." "Ms. Chiddo is never rattled. She takes every situation in stride." "I enjoy working with her."

She is also known as an enthusiastic recycler! There is almost



Ms. Chiddo guides students

nothing that she will throw away if it can be used in one of her classes. She believes that everything has a beauty of its own. Ms. Chiddo brings that beauty out in the

art her students create. St. John's School has a wonderful "Artist in Residence" who brings color to our world.

OPT

St. John's Elementary Religious Education is Flourishing

For six years, St. John's DRE has focused on helping catechists and curriculum planners lead children and their parents to a fuller understanding of their role as Christians. With her own two children enrolled in the program, and active as a catechist, Ginny Cohen saw this progression to DRE as another way to respond to God's plan for her.

Once one of the parents, she understands the families and their needs. She inherited a talented team and some amazingly generous volunteers. The program's structure was already strong; children's liturgies and "Bible Camps" were established. She saw her role as identifying additional needs and finding resources to fill those needs.

Children come from over 40 different public schools. Students meet weekly to experience God's love

and mercy. They work to build the kingdom of God where they are. A special feature is Back to School night. Parents, students, and teachers get to know one another. There is also a lectors-in-training for fifth graders. Students serve as lectors and prayer readers at the children's liturgies and all-school events. St. John's embraces all the children of the parish as "our children" no matter what school they attend; they're taught to respect and support one another.

Ginny will be leaving SJB next month. She believes she has grown in her own spirituality through her experiences with our youth and is grateful for the opportunity to have served. As she continues to participate in SJB liturgies and activities, she will be missed on the many days and nights the children gather.

OPT

Mrs. Erin Tervo – Producer for All Seasons

By Adele Milone Canup

Producer/Director/ Choreographer/Coach — and Dynamo! She's what makes the "Beauty and the Beast" alive for every student in SJB's 2012 production. In much the same way, she breathed life into "Annie" last year, "Music Man" before that. In fact, she's been the life behind every production since her 1999 "Swinging at SJB" that she wrote.

Erin laughingly admits, "I was doing this at a very young age." Her parents called her a drama queen at five or six, and encouraged her participation in shows directed at SJB by former teacher/coach Cathy Simons. Mrs. Simons instilled in her a strong sense of passion for the stage. She became "assistant" to Mrs. Simons in a 1997 adaptation of "Fiddler on the Roof" followed the next year by "South Pacific"

— the rest is history.

She thrills when she sees how very shy youngsters blossom when encouraged to sing or dance with classmates. At St. John's, students in grades 5-8 participate in the show. While the older students take solo dramatic roles, everyone shares in chorus or dance making them a part of the production. This year, demand for tickets has increased performances to two nights.

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Veterans Collection

By Sharon Robner, CTK Social Concerns commission member

At the last monthly meeting of Christ the King's Social Concerns Commission it was decided to collect items for "home starter kits" for Bethesda Cares to give to veterans who have been homeless but are getting back on their feet. Susan Kirk coordinates this for Bethesda Cares. At the meeting, commission members Chris Tan, Gloria Mendoza and Sharon Rohner decided the month of May would be a good time for a collection since it ends with Memorial Day weekend and a spotlight on veterans from all wars and conflicts. Discussed at the Social Concerns meeting was the idea of collecting on several Sundays during May.

Crucial needs include items, such as: lightly used items and new kitchen setups, books as well as storable food items (canned goods, microwavable foodstuffs). Parallel to this effort, Social Concerns also coordinated with the Religious Education program to involve students preparing for Sacraments to help stock the Parish Pantry.

Christ The King's Own Scola

By Katie Holland, CTK parish editor

For Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday 2012 Christ the King invited to sing as its choir, the I Cantori Schola of Kensington, a group which sings regularly at the Franciscan Monastery. Susan Carroll founded "I Cantori Schola" in 2009 when she opened the vocal studio, I Cantori Vocals. The young women that are currently singing have been students for many years - when Mrs. Carroll was a Catholic School music teacher at Holy Redeemer Grade School in Kensington and choir director at St. John the Evangelist Historic Church on Rosensteel Avenue in Forest Glen. She wanted to work on more advanced music with some of the more dedicated students and found it difficult to do this in a classroom setting with the time constraint of one hour of music a week.

The choir is made up of six high school girls, representing Brookewood, Holy Cross and St. John's College High Schools, who have been studying choral music with her for years. The girls are dedicated to the study of sacred music for the liturgy and have been singing for Mass since they were little girls. They also love to sing together when Mrs. Carroll is not conducting them, doing popular music with tight harmonies. They sing everything from Gregorian chant and Palestrina to American folk hymns. She taught them how to read neumes (the square notes on four staves that Gregorian Chant is written in) - they are very good musicians. Some of them also play piano and other instruments. In addition to the girls, Katie Collins, Teresa Petrucelli, Rachel Egan, Isabel Tanzi, Julia Morris, Ciara Petrucelli and Victoria Petrucelli, the Scola at Christ the King included Lee Polites, its Assistant Director and violinist, and gray Friar Nicholas Dragone on organ.



Religious Education students giving food for the Pantry on March 18th, the children pictured with commission member Gloria Mendoza are Mia, Kathryn, Eric and Katie, Natalia, Anna and Jason.

St. John the Baptist School 8th Grade Graduates 2012

Fr. David Brault, Pastor - Ms. Marianne Moore, Principal



Michael Abate Barrie

"Nothing is impossible; the word itself says 'I'm possible!'"
-Audrey Hepburn



Tayllor Afrahm Blake

"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a



Katie Arnold Springbrook

"Individuality: Always remember you are unique. Just like everybody else."



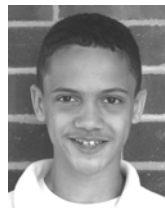
Nicolas Bailey DeMatha

"I get by with a little help from my friends"
- The Beatles



Erica Caporaletti Reservoir

"Truly great friends are hard to find, difficult to leave and impossible to forget."
-Unknown



Alexander Clipper DeMatha

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



Ana Clyde Blake

"It is our choices, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities."
- J.K. Rowling



Mary Coll Holy Cross

"May your neighbors respect you, trouble neglect you, angels protect you, and heaven accept you."
-Drake



Angie Demarco Springbrook

You fail to recognize that it matters not what someone is born, but what they grow to be.
-Dumbledore



Christine Evans Blake

Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. And Today? Today is a gift. That's why we call it the present.
-Olatunji



Dominic Ezeani Good Counsel

Don't live down to expectations. Go out there and do something remarkable.
-Wasserstein



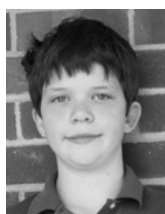
Colleen Fitzpatrick Holy Cross

"For one to fly, one needs only to take the reins."
-Melissa James



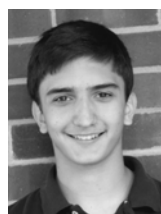
Josh Gomes DeMatha

"They did not know it was impossible, so they did it!"
- Mark Twain



Danny Greene DeMatha

"Some people want it to happen, some wish it would happen, others make it happen."
-Michael Jordan



Joe Hall DeMatha

"You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us. And the world will live as one."
- John Lennon



Zach Heinle Good Counsel

"Winning is not everything -- but making the effort to win is."
-Lombardi



Mary Hippchen St. Johns HS

"Happiness can be found, even in the darkest of times, if one only remembers to turn on the light."
-Seuss



Claire Jenkins Good Counsel

"Fairy tales are more than true; not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten."
- G.K. Chesterton



Andrew Malits DeMatha

God grant me the serenity to accept things I cannot change; Courage to change the things I can; And wisdom to know the difference"



Madeline Maloney Visitation

"If it is to be, it is up to me."
- F.G. Tracy



Quinn McFeeters St. Anselms

"Kites rise highest against the wind, not with it."
-Churchill



Nugent Liam Blake HS

"For I can raise no money by vial means,"
- Shakespeare



Isabella Perez Elizabeth Seton

Live like there is no tomorrow. Sing as if no one can hear. Love like you have never been hurt. Dance as if no one is watching. Laugh like no one is listening.



Marissa Ponchione Good Counsel

"We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths."



John Richardson Gonzaga

"Try not to become a man of success, but rather try to become a man of value."
~Albert Einstein



Alexandra Rundlett Blake HS

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. You are the guy who'll decide where to go."
- Dr. Seuss



Campbell Schmucker Elizabeth Seton

"Maybe people with special gifts show up when bad things are happening because that's when they're needed most."
-Rick Riordan



Madison Smith Holy Cross

"He used often to say there was only one Road; that it was like a great river: its springs were at every doorstep, and every path was its tributary."
-Frodo Baggins



Colleen Tracy Good Counsel HS

"You can turn off the sun but I'm still gonna shine"
- Jason Mraz



Emma T Elizabeth Seton

"You can't help respecting anybody who can spell TUESDAY, even if he doesn't spell it right; but spelling isn't everything. There are days when spelling Tuesday simply doesn't count"
-Winnie the Pooh



Tyler Welsh Blake

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress."
-Frederick Douglas



Liam Wholihan Gonzaga

"Better than a thousand hollow words, is one word that brings peace"
- Buddha

Petition Drive

By Katie Holland, CTK parish editor

HR438 was a General Assembly bill recently passed in Maryland to redefine marriage from that of a man and a woman to that occurring between two individuals. During the month of May, Christ the King

Continued on page 23

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FSCB Pastor

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More Christ the King
on Page 23

St. Raphael Parish and School News

By Nora Stephens

Spring is a wonderful season of renewal at St. Raphael. It is a time of joyful celebrations and building anticipation for summer.

On April 21, our parish rejoiced as 130 teenagers received the Sacrament of Confirmation during two Masses. A few weeks later on May 5, 144 young gentlemen and ladies received their First Holy Communion. The following week, St. Raphael School had its traditional Mother's Day celebration. The second-graders donned their First Holy Communion clothes again and celebrated motherhood with Mass, brunch and the crowning of the Blessed Mother.

The Women of St. Raphael sponsored an art and essay contest featuring the Blessed Mother in April. The winners were first-grader Ellie Browning, second-grader Caroline Smith, and fifth-grader Kennan O'Neill, and all were awarded prizes at the May Crowning on May 6.

The St. Raphael sixth grade visited Hard Bargain Farm Resource Center in Accokeek, Md., in April.



Winner of the Mary Art Contest: Caroline Smith, Second Grade



Winner of the Mary Art Contest: Ellie Browning, First Grade

The farm offers programs geared toward middle-school students that "facilitate rich outdoor-based expe-

riences for appreciation, awareness and lifelong stewardship of our natural environment." St. Raphael

School offers cross-curricular learning, and this wonderful field trip connected what students were learn-

ing in the classroom with hands-on activities and field investigations.

Also in April, Nora Stephens spoke to the student body about autism. A St. Raphael School parent as well as the parent of a child with autism, Stephens' presentation focused on explaining to the students the sensory issues associated with autism, which gave them a better sense of what children affected by this neurological disorder cope with every day. Autism now affects 1 in 88 children in the United States, and hopefully this introduction to a segment of our parish's special-needs community will help our students learn to be a friend to someone with autism.

The arrival of May also brought the Nursery School Basket Raffle, the singular fundraiser for St. Raphael Nursery School. This year, the raffle features 12 incredible baskets filled with gift cards, vacations, toys, and the sought-after reserved parking spot! And one especially nice touch: All baskets come with a recyclable bag in honor of the Montgomery County 5-cents bag tax.

OPT



St. Raphael Second Grade – First Communion – May 5, 2011

DEAR MOM

Con't from page 10

the types of comments about the school day that a child would normally share with a parent on the car ride home from school -- the types of things that are so easy to take for granted, but which any of us would surely miss." Dr. Belinda Yauger, serving in Afghanistan since the end of March, reciprocates with letters and photos of life on the military base.

"The exchange between the stu-

dents and Dr. Yauger has evolved into so much learning," explained Mrs. Stavish. During computer class, for example, the class took a virtual field trip to Afghanistan using Google Earth and a Smartboard. The children were able to see the playground at Holy Cross, surrounded by the color green, but when the satellite zoomed in on Afghanistan they noticed that there wasn't a lot of green on the screen. One Kindergarten student, Lillie Weaver explained "There can be sandstorms there, and there isn't a lot of grass or trees. Mrs. Yauger

sent a picture of one small tree where she is. There was no grass and there were no plants."

Beyond the learning, however, is the most important benefit of all -- letting Charlotte Yauger send a little love to her mom halfway around the world. "I like writing to my mom with my friends. I like that she will always blog back," she said. The most recent letter to Dr. Yauger closed with "18 hugs from Kindergarten."

OPT

Living with Loss

The Bereavement Ministry at St. Raphael is a group of concerned and trained parishioners who have themselves experienced death through the loss of a significant person. They have joined together to create the program *Living with Loss*, a seven-week bereavement session held twice annually to offer personal support, practical ideas and a spiritual perspective to help affected persons move through the bereavement process. There is no fee, and the group is open to those 18 and older.

The spring session started March 1, and another session will be

offered in the fall. Those interested in joining this group can contact coordinator Ursula Boesch at 301.762.7134 or livingwithloss@gmail.com.

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SHORT

Con't from page 1

Catholic events and, of course, of the Maryland Terrapins, this special event celebrates men and women who give their time and talent to develop excellent athletes with enduring Christian principles. And at Blessed Sacrament, several hundred Catholics concerned with spiritual and practical opportunities for people with disabilities gathered at the Fourth Conference on Faith, Deafness and Disabilities. Sponsored by the Archdiocese's Department of Special Needs Ministries, PCR, Catholic Charities and L'Arche, the conference provides information and inspiration for disabled individuals, their fami-

lies and friends and care providers in a wide range of areas such as spirituality, faith formation, housing, recreation and employment. The conference is an invaluable resource to local parishes seeking to strengthen their ministries for disabled people. These events illustrate the vibrancy of our Catholic community. Hope you're involved!

This is the time of year we celebrate graduations, First Communions, mothers, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and Father's Day. Congratulations to graduates, including my dear wife's kindergarten class at Our Lady of Mercy proudly advancing to First Grade, and others graduating from grade school, high school and college. We celebrate their hard work, the dedication of their teachers and

staff, and gratefully their parents who have provided the extraordinary gift of a Catholic education.

Transitioning from these joyous celebrations to a reflection on the final Work of Mercy, Bury the Dead, is a literary challenge beyond my skill. Timing is everything. Shortly after this column hits the pews, Mark Shriver will release a wonderful book celebrating the life of his father, Sargent Shriver. In the book titled, **A Good Man, Rediscovering My Father**, Mark writes of his relationship with his father including caring for him through illness and in a deeply tender chapter named "A Beautiful Day" discusses his father's return home to God. I think most of us can grasp the theological principle here, but need help and support when

confronting death's practical implications. In the final Corporal Work of Mercy, Christ's summons us not only to the obligation of funerals but especially to **comfort the dying and support the grieving**. So to whom can we turn for help and inspiration with this difficult work of mercy? A few examples come to mind.

The Little Sisters of the Poor celebrate life by providing loving personal and competent care to elderly poor people. Their home in our area is the Jeanne Jugan Residence in Washington, D.C. When the Little Sisters welcome a resident into their apartments, assisted living, or nursing homes, they commit themselves to an enduring and loving friendship with the resident that continues until the death of the

resident, usually several years after the resident enters the home. I am inspired by the respect and love the Little Sisters have for their residents. But I am especially touched by the profound faith they bring to their friendship with the residents, a faith that is very apparently derived from the Sisters' deep love for Christ who they see present in each one of their residents. When the call to return to the Lord comes, the Sisters comfort the resident with prayer and tender companionship during the journey home to God.

Not far from the Little Sister's home is the Gift of Peace, established by Mother Theresa and her Missionaries of Charity to provide loving care for those dying with AIDS in the 1980s before medicines to sustain life for HIV patients were discovered. The establishment of the Gift of Peace exemplifies Mother Theresa's great respect for life. It demonstrates her courage and determination since in its early days the dreaded disease was greatly misunderstood and feared resulting in few medical or social services organizations willing to provide care for its victims. Upon entering the home, you sense in minutes the love the Missionaries have for each patient. With the respect, humility and competence of the Order's foundress, the Sisters and dedicated volunteers minister to their beloved patients preparing them for return to the gentle hands of God.

While these two homes provide extraordinary inspiration, there are many other ministries in our parishes and communities which provide comfort and consolation to people in their journey home to God. Many Catholics volunteer in local hospices and in hospitals. Our priests and deacons and Eucharistic Ministers bring the gift of friendship and the presence of Christ to dying friends and neighbors. Grief counseling and bereavement groups are available in many parishes. While their work is difficult, it is essential to our life as Christians.

We have completed our journey through the Corporal Works of Mercy. Again, I thank Larry and Kathleen Hamm, the publishers of OPT, for initiating the opportunity this year for individuals and parishes to reflect upon Christ's call to Mercy. We have seen inspiring examples of mercy and love in the Catholic community revealed in the pages of OPT. For summer reflection, I suggest that each of us set aside some time to reflect upon these examples and plan our role in the coming months. There are many good books on the subject that will make terrific "beach reads".

Have a relaxing, safe, and blessed summer!

OPT



Bria Blassingame Julie Brown Fara Clarke Corianne Crider Julianna David Tatianna David Joseph Donellan Karli Dorsey



James Doyle Megan George Dylan Ghion Caitlyn Gunn Trent Hammersmith Leo Hanrahan Mary Hartwick Andrew Hicks



William Huisentruit

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Erin Hurley



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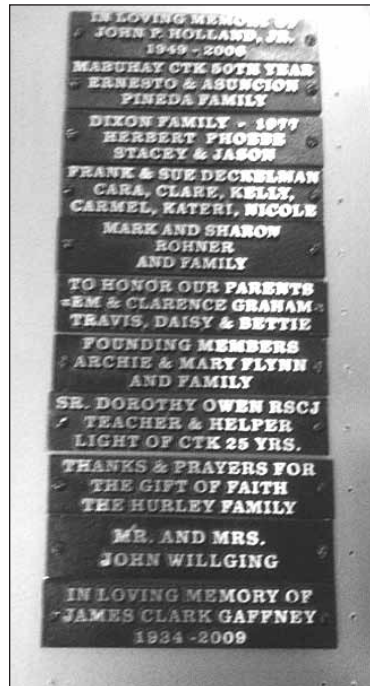


Claudio Rodriguez Tiffany Smith Joshua Seils Michael Stripling Allison Stafford Angela Vucci Madeleine Weber Rebecca Wegznek

It pays to advertise in Our Parish Times

Christ the King News Bits

Renovations have been taking place at Christ the King uplifting the spirit of the Parish. Our most recent redesign has begun – to rejoin the Holy Family, that is, to move the statues of Mary and Joseph over to the



More nameplates were added to the Christ the King Memorial plaque at a ceremony April 21

Baptistry with the statue of the Child Jesus. In place of the two statues, to the side of the altar, will be a new picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe, along with candle stands and kneelers. In the place, at the rear of the Nave where an old picture of Old Lady hung, will be The Shepherd Children of Fatima, for the benefit of the children of the parish! Photographed is the retiring photograph of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Fifteen of the 215 possible

Memoriam Nameplates have been installed at Christ the King to celebrate its 50th anniversary. Photographed are the latest additions installed Saturday evening April 21.

Archbishop Sean Patrick Cardinal O'Malley, O.F.M. Cap. of Boston concelebrated the May 7 funeral Mass for Christ the King parishioner, Maria Elba Villalta, along with our own Archbishop Donald William Cardinal Wuerl, our Pastor Fr. Josè Maria Cortes, F.S.C.B. and her son, Fr. Moisés Villalta,

O.F.M. Cap., Pastor of the Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Washington where the funeral Mass was held. Following the Mass, Mrs. Villalta was buried in Gate of Heaven Cemetery with family receiving friends at a repast in the Msgr. John J. Dressel Colonial Room of Christ the King.

Christ the King will be represented June 3rd at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for the annual Jubilee Anniversary Mass by Mr. and Mrs. Hector Rlando (Bilda Asuncion)

Herrera as they celebrate 40 years of marriage.

Christ the King's annual picnic this year will be on Fathers' Day, Sunday June 17. It is hosted by the Knights of Columbus Rosensteel Council on the grounds of the historic St. John's Church in Forest Glen. The Knights will staff a cash bar with proceeds going directly to Christ the King!

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The current image of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Christ the King



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Priscilla Badua	Benjamin Griffin	Sang A. Jun	Alexandra Nigida	Andreia Silva
Margaret Ballantyne	Ryan Grimes	Andrew Kenworthy-Rodriguez	Munyaradzi Njagu	Maria Sofia
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Rachel Bobyak	Katherine Hardey	Karalynn Lally	Christopher O'Brien	Abigail Tighe
Alice Breen	Jason Harris	Jennifer Leahy	Shannon O'Dowd	Emily Tolino
Mary Charuhas	Jonathan Herald	Chan Sung Lee	Shelby Payne	Alexis Truxillo
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Kathleen Cook	Vi Ho	John Lewis	Marial Pierce	Andrea Villaran
Kelly Crowley	Alexandra Hursey	Joy Mancini	Brian Plamondon	Brooke Wilson
Shannon Curtin	Daniela Ilijic	Alexander Massi	Andrew Rivera	Nicholas Wright
Edward Dalkiewicz	Elodie Jean-Philippe	Marina Matkovich	Meghan Roche	Haoyue Zhang
Michaela Dowling	Dontaye Johnson	Cory Matson	Taylor Rogers	
Andrew Feerrar	Krysta Johnson	Mark McGrail	Martin Scire	

Our graduates have been accepted to the following colleges and universities:

Albright College • Alvernia University • American University • Arcadia University • Bethany College • Boston College • Bridgewater College • Bucknell University • Butler University • Campbell University • Case Western Reserve University • Castleton State College • Catawba College • The Catholic University of America • Cazenovia College • Champlain College • Clemson University • Coastal Carolina University • Colgate University • College of Charleston • Colorado College • Concord University • The Culinary Institute of America • Drexel University • Duke University • Duquesne University • East Carolina University • Elizabethtown College • Elon University • Emerson College • Emory University • Farleigh Dickinson University • Ferrum College • Franklin and Marshall College • Frederick Community College • Frostburg State University • Furman University • George Mason University • Georgetown University • Gettysburg College • Goucher College • Highpoint University • Hofstra University • Hood College • Indiana University at Bloomington • Indiana University of Pennsylvania • Ithaca College • James Madison University • Juniata College • King's College • The King's College • Lebanon Valley College • Lehigh University • Liberty University • Longwood University • Loyola University Maryland • Lynchburg College • Mary Baldwin College • McDaniel College • Michigan State University • Millersville University of Pennsylvania • Monmouth University • Montgomery College, Germantown • Mount St. Mary's University • New England College • North Carolina State University • Northeastern University • Otterbein University • Pennsylvania State University, Altoona • Pennsylvania State University, University Park • Purdue University • Radford University • Randolph-Macon College • Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute • Roanoke College • Robert Morris University • Saint Anselm College • Saint Joseph's University • Salisbury University • Seton Hall University • Seton Hill University • Shepherd University • Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania • Skidmore College • St. John's University, Queens Campus • St. Mary's College of Maryland • Stevenson University • Stonehill College • SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry • SUNY Institute of Technology at Utica/Rome • Susquehanna University • Swarthmore College • Towson University • University of Arizona • University of Central Florida • University of Colorado at Boulder • University of Connecticut • University of Delaware • University of Findlay • University of Iowa • University of Maryland, Baltimore County • University of Maryland, College Park • University of Michigan • University of Minnesota, Twin Cities • University of Missouri Columbia • University of North Carolina at Asheville • University of North Carolina at Pembroke • University of Notre Dame • University of Pittsburgh • University of Richmond • University of Scranton • University of South Carolina • University of Tennessee, Knoxville • University of Vermont • University of Vermont (College of Engineering & Mathematics) • University of Virginia • Vanderbilt University • Villanova University • Virginia Commonwealth University • Virginia Intermont College • Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University • Virginia Wesleyan College • Wagner College • Warren Wilson College • Washington and Jefferson College • Washington College • Washington University in St. Louis • West Virginia University • West Virginia Wesleyan College • Wilson College • York College of Pennsylvania

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PETITION

Con't from page 20

has joined MDpetitions.com and the Maryland Marriage Alliance as well as other parishes within the Catholic Church in Maryland, to provide Catholics the opportunity to sign a petition which will place a referendum vote in November on the ballot.

The petition drive is to place on the ballot the voting opportunity; it is not in and of itself the overturning of the law. The Civil Marriage Protection Act, so called Same-Sex Marriage bill, if defeated by referendum, will not be enacted in the state as originally planned. After every Mass, volunteers have been collecting signatures and sending them forward to do just that. This is not any petition drive or vote on civil unions or the rights of all people but to protect the traditional definition of what marriage is.

OPT

By Cornelius Holden III

On April 7, 2012, twenty two men, women, and teens were brought into the Catholic Church at St. Peter's in Olney. Waiting for them at the reception, along with turkey sandwiches and rows upon rows of sweets, sat nearly fifty or so little baskets, woven out of yellow wool – one for each of the candidates, with plenty of extras for the small children who attended the Vigil. Inside each of these was a pink or blue egg, cushioned with plastic grass. These Easter baskets were woven by Barbara D. Schrider, a German woman who lived through World War II.

Mrs. Schrider first wove the baskets just after the war ended. In a city on the Rhine River called Koblenz, surplus German military supplies were being given away to anyone willing to carry them home. Her mother sent Barbara and her sisters with a cart to this warehouse to pick up anything of value. By the time they got there, though, the only things left were woven wool legwarmers, issued to the soldiers fighting in Russia. Disappointed at their find, their mother managed to pull the legwarmers apart and weave cardigans for each of the children.

Lent was now coming to a close. Their family, used to giving each other baskets filled with various treats on Easter morning, now had little more than the clothes on their backs. Then one of the older girls suggested that they weave their own baskets out of the



Barbara and James Schrider welcome newcomers to the church. Photo by Cornelius Holden III

yarn left over from their mother's cardigans. To make their baskets more Easter-y, they tried dyeing the fabric with dandelion flowers. But the flowers didn't give the wool the right color – they had to add Rivanol, an antiseptic, to the mix to give their baskets the yellow they were searching for. Their mother traded some of the sweaters to a farmer to get eggs; they hardboiled them with their neighbor's beets to give them some color. They stuffed the baskets with hay, and then

hid the gifts from their recipients in order to surprise them.

The morning of Easter Sunday saw the whole family file into a dilapidated, destroyed church. They cleared away what rubble they could and found a pew that wasn't destroyed by bombs. After the cantor and the priest dragged the cross and the candles out from the cellar (where they were kept for fear of theft), they celebrated the Miracle of the Resurrection. After they got back from Mass,

they gave each other the baskets; first their mother, then their grandparents, and finally each other (their father went missing on the Eastern Front).

The year 1961 also saw Barbara Schrider with little to her name. She had been in the US for barely half a year, and she was poking around a dime store in Silver Spring for something to give her in-laws at Easter. Then, a flash of yellow brought her back to the days of legwarmers and dandelions. Dyeing the eggs pink and blue, and using plastic grass instead of hay and store-bought yellow yarn instead of Rivanol, her in-laws fell in love with the cute and simple gifts.

Fifty years later, Mrs. Schrider was diagnosed with colon cancer. Fortunately, she had surgery, and the tumors were removed before the disease spread to her lymph nodes. While she was recovering last year, she thought of the people in RCIA and RCIT, who were beginning a new life in the church, just as she began a new life in America in 1960. An idea began to form; the Eucharistic Minister who brought her holy communion while she was recovering agreed whole heartedly to the plan, and the tradition of the yellow egg baskets began that year. As Barbara puts it, "The egg is a symbol of the mother giving birth, of new life." What better gift to give to those men and women who have taken the plunge, and have begun their life anew by entering or fully entering the Catholic faith through the sacraments of initiation?

OPT



Whale watching in Argentina

Let's Fly to Argentina!

Planning a vacation trip is hard. Planning a vacation trip as an eighth grader

and in Spanish is doubly hard! Supervised by Senora Snowdon, St. Peter's Spanish teacher; Mrs. Meile, the computer teacher; and Ms. Ciminari, a real-life professional travel agent in Argentina, the students worked diligently to plan their trip with amazing results.

As an enhancement to the Spanish curriculum, Senora Snowdon incorporated the vocabulary necessary to plan a vacation to the mountains or beaches of Argentina. The students worked on their verbs to understand Argentine travel information and those necessary to be understood by an Argentine travel agent. The students were organized in groups, and they researched the many vacation spots in the South American country. Choosing their favorite, the students composed clear and proper e-mails in Spanish to the

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More St. Peter News
on Page 35

Continued on page 35

A Gift of Hair

Two first graders from Saint Peter's School decided they wanted to help children stricken with cancer. They didn't have medical skills or a lot of money, but they did have long hair. Reagan Gleason participated in the St. Jude's Math-a-thon this year and learned about children who cut their long hair and donate it to organizations that transform the locks into wigs and hair pieces for children and adults with hair loss caused by medical conditions. "I read a story about a girl who had cancer and all her hair fell out. I felt bad for her," Reagan said. Her parents found out the Pantene hair products partners with the American Cancer Society, and they will accept donations of hair of 8 inches or longer through their "Beautiful Lengths" program. "At first I was scared to do it, but then my friend Kate wanted to do it with me.

Kate Bykowski, the other first grader, learned that a neighbor had donated her hair for this worthy cause and wanted to do the same. "I did it for a girl with cancer so she wouldn't feel bad because she didn't have any hair," Kate said. Afterwards, both girls were worried about their new look. "It felt weird when I touched my hair," said Reagan. "But I really wanted to help the children



Kate and Reagan

with cancer." Kate agreed and she added, "I was afraid that people would make fun of me like the kids with cancer, but they didn't. I'm so glad I did it!" She went to a party over the weekend and saw a boy with no hair. Mrs. Bykowski, Kate's mom, believes that this experience caused Kate to truly realize the value of her gift.

OPT

Mary Schaeffer Wins the Golden Apple Award

St. Peter's School is so proud that our resource teacher, Mary Schaeffer, has been chosen as one of this year's ten Golden Apple Teacher of the Year Award winners. Catholic schools have the reputation of providing an excellent education for the majority of the student population, but what about those children who do not fit into that mold? Mary came to Saint Peter's School in Olney in 1998 with the mission to establish a resource program that would serve children with mild to moderate learning disabilities. Her undergraduate degree in psychology, Master's of Education with a concentration in special education, and experience in a residential treatment center gave her the foundation



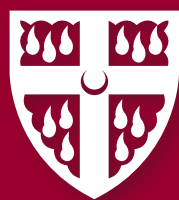
Mary Schaeffer, Golden Apple Award Winner

to establish and grow a comprehensive program that now assists 10% of the school's students every year.

Mary's gifts extend beyond the school's Learning Lab. She is the

Mission Coordinator and through her yearly raffles, she has been instrumental in raising thousands of dollars for the Holy Childhood Association. She teaches a weekly study skills class for both sixth and seventh graders and a test preparation class for the eighth graders. As a member of the school's Student Assistance Team, she works with the coordinator, Sabrina Worrell, to provide guidance to the teachers and parents of struggling students. A resource teacher faces many obstacles, much like the children she works with, but Mary's commitment to the children with the most needs has helped to provide a Catholic education for some to whom it might not have been possible.

OPT

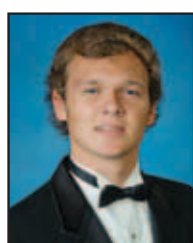


SAINT ANSELM'S

ABBAY SCHOOL

The Monks and Faculty of St. Anselm's Congratulate Our Sixty-seventh Graduating Class

THE CLASS OF 2012



Sean Attridge
Ashton, Md.
Villanova University



Stephen Choi
McLean, Va.
Rochester Institute of Technology



Brian Crump
Silver Spring, Md.
University of Maryland



Luke Foley
Silver Spring, Md.
Syracuse University



Blaise Fortier
Alexandria, Va.
The Citadel



S. Christopher Gavin
Washington, D.C.
University of St. Andrews (UK)



Conrad Hipkins-Jones
Washington, D.C.
Kalamazoo College



Andrew Houghton
Washington, D.C.
University of Montana



Gerhard Jansen
Arlington, Va.
College of William and Mary



Diego Jones
Silver Spring, Md.
Undecided



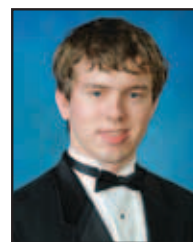
Daniel Magee
Chevy Chase, Md.
Washington Univ. in St. Louis



Christian McConville
Springfield, Va.
College of William and Mary



Luke McCormick
Chevy Chase, Md.
Vanderbilt University



Aidan Mehigan
McLean, Va.
Columbia University



Richard Merkle
Washington, D.C.
Undecided



David Miranda
Lanham, Md.
Case Western Reserve University



Chang-In Mungai
Washington, D.C.
Georgia Institute of Technology



Michael Paganelli
Silver Spring, Md.
George Washington University



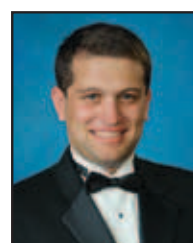
Matthew Palmer
Chevy Chase, Md.
Hamilton College



Adam Reed
Takoma Park, Md.
Skidmore College



Erich Schwartz
Washington, D.C.
University of Maryland



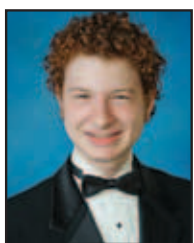
Alexander Sella
Kensington, Md.
Wentworth Institute of Technology



Samuel Thirumalai
Washington, D.C.
University of Colorado Boulder



Nicholas Tucci
Washington, D.C.
Kenyon College



Jacob Wasserman
University Park, Md.
Yale University



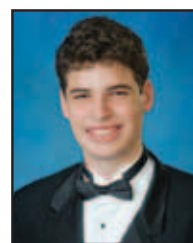
Connor Williamson
Takoma Park, Md.
Univ. of Oregon



Kyle Winkler
Washington, D.C.
Undecided



Felix Wu
Washington, D.C.
Michigan State University



Eric Yde
University Park, Md.
University of Rochester



Chi Zhang
Washington, D.C.
Michigan State University

PAX IN SAPIENTIA



**Our Lady of Mercy
Congratulates
The Class of 2012**



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



Charlie Blackwood
"If a tree falls in the forest, but no one hears it, does it make the sound of one hand clapping?"



Samantha Boccia
"Live life for the moment because everything else is uncertain."



Ally Bourelly
"There are more than 16 billion people on this earth. Don't let one person ruin your day!"



Lila Castle
"You only live once."



Thomas Caulfield
"I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is trying to please everybody."



Caroline Conlan
"HAKUNA MATATA"... it means no worries.



Constanca Cunha
"God calls us for fidelity, not success."



Tomas Cunha
"Inflexible in faith, invincible in arms."



Isabelle DiRita
"When I'm sad I stop being sad and be awesome instead. True Story."



Caroline Fowler
"Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened."



Mara Gans
"Be the change you wish to see in the world."



Kelleigh Haley
"Everything happens for a reason."



Annabelle Humiston
"Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass. It's about dancing in the rain."



Niko Jenkins
"How can you think and hit at the same time?"



Brian Johnson
"It's not how you start the race; it's how you finish it. Finish strong."



Sarah Johnston
"Laugh as much as you breathe and love as long as you live."



Anna Kassman
"Kill them with kindness."



Thomas Keane
"Even if you are on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."



Christopher Keeley
"They can conquer who believe they can."



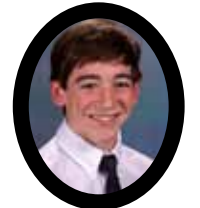
Patrick Killeen
"There are no miracles to men who do not believe in them."



Madison Kirchgessner
"Shoot for the moon; even if you fail, you'll land among the stars."



Katie Kloster
"Nobody will believe in you unless you believe in yourself."



William MacDonald
"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."



Matthew McCann
"The principal part of faith is patience."



Madeline McMillen
"Let your hopes, not your hurts, shape your future."



Michael Melch
"Who dares, wins."



Graham Monnig
"It is not reason that makes faith hard, but life."



Christopher Monteferrante
"Today you are You, that is truer than true. There is no one alive who is Youer than You."



Matthew Mulligan
"The time is always right to do what is right."



Eileen Murphy
"Whether you think you can or think you can't, you're right."



Joseph Norris
"Things are always darkest right before the dawn."



Bailey Ogilvie
"If you're not first, you're last."



Michael Ondeck
"Reason is the triumph of the intellect, faith of the heart."



Jenna Paro
"Only a life lived for others is worth living."



Lillian Paro
"It's not whether you get knocked down; it's whether you get back up."



Jack Phelan
"We believe the task ahead of us is never as great as the Power behind us."



Kara Phipps
"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."



Christopher Puccini
"Faith is the force of life."



John Richards
"If you can, you must. If you must, you can."



Madison Smith
"Cheaters never win, and winners never cheat."



Colin Smyth
"Fear knocked at the door. Faith answered. No one was there."



Soraya Sotudeh
"Why fit in when you were born to stand out?"



Jude Treacy
"What is today is yesterday's tomorrow, but tomorrow's yesterday is today."



Joseph Vitak
"Faith is saying 'Amen' to God."



Jenny Ward
"Life is like a coin. You can spend it any way you choose but you can only spend it once."



Cameron Wilcox
"For they conquer who believe they can."



Kathy Xavier
"Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself."

ADOPTION

Con't from page 13

Birth Mother" letter and the fact my wife, Veronica, is a human rights lawyer.

Now a high school senior, "Suzy" told us that she hoped one day to go to law school. Getting pregnant was never in her plan, she said. Suzy's mom, "Laura," was in remission from lung cancer, and was on disability. While Laura told Suzy she wanted to help care for the new baby, she didn't know if she would have the strength. In addition, Suzy told us that neither she nor her mother had the money to support the child.

Suzy had never had a true father. Laura had been a waitress in a restaurant owned by Suzy's father. When Laura got pregnant, Suzy's father fired her and has never been a part of Suzy's life.

The father of Suzy's unborn child, Rick, is 17 and a high school dropout. Suzy told us that for the last five months, she has tried to contact Rick, but he has not responded. Suzy and Rick had been friends from childhood and had recently "crossed the line," as Suzy put it.

After texting us several times, Suzy agreed to a phone call. Tearfully, she told us that her mother felt deep pain at the thought of placing the baby for adoption. Nonetheless, Suzy felt adoption would be best for the child, giving it a stable and nurturing home, two loving parents, and means for rich educational opportunities. Suzy told us that she wanted an open adoption so that she could make periodic contact with her child and us.

After two phone calls and many messages, on April 11, Suzy texted us saying, "I want you to have my baby. I know you will love her like I would." There were tears on both sides. We had mixed emotions – we were ecstatic but also sad for Suzy's sacrifice.

Suzy asked if she could give her daughter her middle name. We agreed. "Can I pick out her outfit for when she leaves the hospital?" "Of course," we texted. "Will you expose her to my Hispanic culture and to the Spanish language?" "Most definitely!" we said.

On April 13, she texted, "Contractions. Hospital." Then silence for a whole day. At midnight, Sat. April 14: "This is Laura. Suzy is in labor. As painful as it is for me to say, you should come now." I grabbed my Mac and began surfing for 6am flights. Veronica was texting back words of encouragement. Then came another text: "Suzy says 'wait.'" Painfully, we replied "OK. We're praying for you and for a safe and healthy delivery". Silence. I put down the Mac. We didn't know what to do next. Wait? Sleep? It's hard to sleep when your heart is thumping. Pray.

No word for a whole day. Monday, April 16: "This is Laura. The baby's here. Mom and baby have fever." We replied: "We're

praying for all of you and standing by." Laura's text: "Suzy's exhausted and emotional."

"We understand. This has been difficult for her and for you. We're thinking of you and praying for you."

More brief texts. More silence for half a day. Then...

"This is Suzy. This is tearing me apart. My Mom is in so much pain. Rick's parents came to the hospital and brought a car seat and clothes. They said they would help with the

baby. I feel like I have no choice but to keep her, love her, and make the best of it."

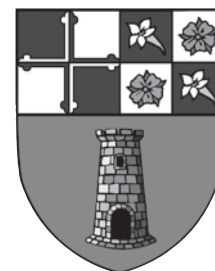
"We're sorry to hear it, but we understand. We wish you every happiness." Silence. A week later we texted: "We're thinking of you and hoping you're OK."

Suzy: "I've been meaning to text you. You were there for me during a very confusing time. I will never forget you. I also wanted to tell you: my baby girl's middle name is 'Veronica'".



OPT Jim and Veronica McKenna.

THE HEIGHTS SCHOOL



Congratulations CLASS of 2012

Philip Martins Allen
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 Charles William Bassing IV
 Christopher Michael Beatty
 Nathanael Thomas Bloss
 Michael Francis Buono
 Frank Anthony Cipollone
 James Bernard Collins
 Nicholas Philippe de Raet
 James Rocco Del Priore
 Jean-Paul Joseph des Rosiers
 Peter Cullen Fairbanks
 James Joseph Frelk
 Michael Rory Friddle
 Mark Anthony Ganassa
 Wama Daniel Gbetibouo
 Anthony Thomas Hadford
 Gregory Gerard Hadley
 Ivan Stephen Harangozo
 Curtis James Herrick IV
 John Prescott Hyland
 Manuel Antonio Infante
 Francis Joseph Kelly
 George Soterios Koutris

John Robert Linehan
 Mario Santiago Mansilla
 Nicholas Joseph McCabe
 Kyle Peter McCauley
 Jerry Hoppe McCoy
 Christopher Francis Meehan
 Patrick John Pacious
 Alvaro Gabriel Pereira Brunner
 Daniel Stephan Pluta
 Ideen Razeghi
 John Paul Royals
 Eduardo José Sacasa
 Thomas Mason Harlan Sanders
 John Patrick Shannon
 Robert Rourke Sheehan
 Luke Anthony Soltero
 John Christopher Staines III
 Michael Zachary Temple
 Walter Olaf Twetten
 Samuel Reese Weber
 Nicholas Castillo Wheeler
 Stephen George White
 Thilan Anthony Wimalasiri
 Nicholas Alexander Wolfe

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES FOR THE CLASS OF 2012 INCLUDE:

American University ■ Auburn University ■ Ave Maria University ■ Babson College ■ Boston College ■ Bowdoin College ■ Bucknell University ■ University of California at San Diego ■ Catholic University of America ■ College of Charleston ■ University of Chicago ■ Christendom College ■ Elon University ■ Fairfield University ■ Fordham University ■ Franciscan University of Steubenville ■ George Mason University ■ Georgia Institute of Technology ■ Hampden-Sydney College ■ High Point University ■ University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign ■ Indiana University of Bloomington ■ Johns Hopkins University ■ University of Kentucky ■ Landmark College ■ Longwood University ■ Loyola University of Maryland ■ Lynchburg College ■ University of Mary Washington ■ University of Maryland ■ Miami University, Oxford ■ University of Mississippi ■ Montgomery College ■ Mount Saint Mary's University ■ University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill ■ Northern Virginia Community College ■ University of Notre Dame ■ Ohio University ■ Ohio Wesleyan University ■ Pennsylvania State University ■ University of Pittsburgh ■ Princeton University ■ Providence College ■ Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute ■ University of Rhode Island ■ Roanoke College ■ Robert Morris University ■ Saint Joseph's University ■ University of the Sciences in Philadelphia ■ Texas A & M University ■ Towson University ■ Villanova University ■ Virginia Commonwealth University ■ Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University ■ University of Virginia ■ Washington College ■ Wilkes University ■ Wofford College

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Nearly \$22 Million Awarded in Scholarships

\$20 million - academic merit | \$1.6 million - athletics

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 Ronald Nii Otum Ankrah, Jr.
 Alexandra Nicole Apgar-Arpin
 Lucas Sam Arnsberger
 Andrew Collin Auchincloss
 Joseph Patrick Auchincloss
 Sean Joseph Bagnall *
 Catherine Alice Bagwill
 Haleigh Morgan Bailey
 Mikael Antoine Barallon
 John Patrick Barry *
 Shannon Eileen Barton
 Michaela Jane Battle
 Bridget Mary Bauman *
 Jacquelyn Marie Bautista *
 Troyana Rachell Benjamin *
 Nicholas Fernando Bishop
 Emily Grace Blair
 Victoria Nikole Blandon
 Whitley Madeline Bowman
 Kathryn Eileen Breen *
 Nathan Thomas Brockett *
 Wesley Jerel Brown
 Michelle Elizabeth Bryant
 Dana Claire Bulik *
 Nicholas Reed Buonomo
 Caroline Dalton Burden *
 Nina Helen Busche
 Jacob Robert Buzy *
 Rachel Maria Cain *
 Nicolas Montini Camilien
 Barbara Ivette Candelaria
 Kevin Phillip Cantarilho
 Kyle David Cantarilho
 Brianna Marie Cavanagh
 Victoria Elizabeth Cerny *
 Brooke Elizabeth Chambers
 Peter Donald Chernisky
 Roderick Zimbi Chungong
 Michael Vincent Cleary
 Casey Patrick Collins
 Michael Thomas Collins *
 John Daniel Connelly, III
 Elizabeth Ann Copeland *
 Patrick Joseph Cornelius
 Ryan Michael Corriere
 Margaret Mary Craig *
 Christine Elizabeth Crider *
 MacKenzie Lynn Crow
 Alexander Nicholas Crowley
 Eli Xavier Crutchfield
 Kyle Joseph Cummins
 Graham Roddy Dabbs
 Alexander Duy Dao *
 Victoria Lynn Dassing
 Scott Andrew Dawson *
 Victoria Anne Deffinbaugh *

Kathleen Louise DeMeritte *
 Augustus Mission Depra
 Jennifer Marie Dickensheets *
 Stefon Marsean Diggs
 Alessandro Fabrizio DiMarzio
 Kevin Thomas Doherty
 Ashley Jean Dumont *
 Kayla Laura Dunn *
 Amanda Kathleen Dunsdon
 Victoria Lynn Ebel *
 Timothy Mark Eckert *
 Ryan Allan Edmunds
 Alexander Gustav Marcus Eierle
 Trent Park Emery *
 Emily Houston Espina
 Keaghna Ivory-Dixon Fagan *
 Christopher Dow Ferentinos
 Nolan Kyle Fillet
 Marie Justine Fischetti
 Sarah Ann Fitzenreiter
 James Francis FitzGerald
 Michael Anthony Fitzgerald *
 Courtney Marie Fletcher
 Christopher Albert Folgueras *
 Sophia Ann Franzak *
 Cristian Romel Fuentes
 Lindsey Nicole Galanko
 Braden Scott Galey
 Alexander Gerasimos Galiatsatos *
 Evan Mark Garfield
 John Lucas Garofalo
 Peter Joseph Gartland
 Samuel Brian Givens
 Abel Julian Gonsalves
 Ksenia Catherine Green
 Megan Emily Griffin *
 Ashley Nicole Grimm *
 Gregory Orin Gruse *
 Joseph Coughlan Haaga *
 Sarah Bernadette Haase *
 Timothy Michael Hartman
 Michelle Reneé Hauprich *
 Thomas Robert Hawkins
 Kristen Theresa Heintz *
 Rachel Frances Henry *
 Michelle Vivian Hines
 Robert Willard Hitte
 Chloe Anne Hodge
 Molly Kathleen Hogan *
 Olivia Ann Hogan
 Cassidy Elizabeth Holland *
 Joseph Patrick Homick *
 Michael John Hopkins
 Cynthia Kathleen Hoppler *
 Jason Allan Horsley
 Jonathan Joseph Howar
 Alexis Michael Humenik *
 Terrence James Hunter *

Nathan Andrew Incognito *
 Kyra Marie Jackson
 Mary Elizabeth Courtney Jenkins *
 Esteve Alexander Jimenez
 Amanda Nicole Johnson
 Amylia Ramona Johnson
 Alexandra Victoria Kane
 Megan Maria Kantor
 Lauren Yukino Kawahara
 Kamran Ali Kazemzadeh
 James Michael Kazunas, Jr. *
 Erin Anne Constance Kelley *
 John Michael Kelly
 Kayla Symone Kight
 Stephanie Ann Kincaid *
 Tyler Nicole King *
 Sydney Elizabeth Kirk
 Richard Ashton Kline
 Emilie Anne Spindler Kotz
 Nicholas Gerard Kunze *
 Douglas Padams Lavigne
 Christopher James Lawless
 Clare Marie Lehnus *
 Danielle Nicole Lembo *
 George Spiro Levantis
 Dominic Joseph Liberatore
 George William Linsenmeyer, IV
 Ricardo Andres Lopez
 Michael Robert Loudon
 Ryan Christopher Loudon
 Corinne Veronica Lubas
 Lindsay Anne Luhn *
 John Thomas Lynagh *
 Michael Gabriel Madaras
 Henrietta Rutendo Mandidize *
 Lenka Nicole Malec *
 Debra Lynn Mantua
 Michael Quinn Marshall
 Ryan Joseph Marshall
 Kyle Marcel Martin
 Daniel Scott Martinson
 Maria Cristina Matan *
 Erin Danielle Mattingly
 Briana Alyssa McBean-Linton *
 Grace Kathleen McCall *
 Collin Keane McGowan
 Shane Andrew McNally
 Mary Claire McNamara *
 Megan Taylor McParland
 Rossana Medina
 Catherine Eileen Medlock *
 Jacob Paul Meile
 Vincent Paul Mercer
 Allen Carter Meringolo *
 Justin Michael Mills *
 Alicia Marie Montanaro *
 Franklin Randolph Morgan

Jennifer Mary Morrissey
 Kiera Anne Muckenhirn *
 Daniela Luciana Mujica-Martorell *
 Thomas Christopher Mullineaux
 Nicholas Parker Munson *
 Brian Rogers Murphy *
 Sebastian Patricio Naranjo *
 Timothy John Nardi
 Michael Glenn Nicastro
 Cara Mary Nicholson *
 Danielle Marie Nicol
 Brittany Marie Noell
 Natalia Noroozi *
 Adaure Ashley Nwaba *
 Mary Catherine Oakey
 Katherine Grace O'Connell *
 Lauren Blair O'Connell
 Megan Kelly Oliver *
 Sean Michael Joseph Olivier
 John Alexander O'Neil
 Ariel Brittany Onyekwere
 Carravita Ana Pape-Calabrese *
 Braxton Zane Parr
 Justin Robert Passarinho
 Michael Anthony Patatanian
 Rubí Nicolét Pérez-Howard
 Francis Henry Perfetto *
 Deanna Michele Perucci *
 Kevin Patrick Phelan *
 Alix Joseph Volvick Philogene
 Stephen Michael Pirozzi
 Mary Elizabeth Plotas
 Brendan Lucas Porter
 Luke Anthony Poulos *
 Ava Nicole Prizzi
 Rachel Elizabeth Quinn *
 Faith Maria Randolph
 Bradley Joseph Raynor *
 Matthew Hayward Rechen
 Jessica Eileen Reese
 Connor Roche Reilly
 Dwayne Adrian Remillard
 Marcela Rendon *
 Kelly Renee Rhodes *
 Eric Didier Richaudeau
 John Thomas Riely *
 Dominic Joseph Riley
 Nathaniel Louis Rogers *
 Gabriela Alejandra Rosazza
 Celine Tehvy Rosenwald *
 Kevin O'Connell Ross
 Patrick William Rowe
 Casey Elizabeth Rozek
 Alexis Sean Rudolph *
 Devin Michael Russell

Erin Elizabeth Ryner *
 Molly Rose Ryner *
 Michelle Sagan
 Michelle Ann Saheb *
 Daniel Taylor Salkeld
 Kenneth Richard Sanchez
 Ethan Lent Santora
 Robert Kyle Savercool
 Brian Fabian Saway *
 Sarah Marie Schoch *
 Kelley Marie Schreiber *
 Eric Andrew Schroeder
 Patrick Josef Schubert *
 Joshua Patrick Settlemire *
 Venezia Majella Ferraro Shible *
 Andrew Patrick Shirdon
 Olushola Joseph Shokunbi *
 Emma Elaine Simons
 Jordan Patricia Slattery
 Brenna Shea Smet
 Morgan Ellen Smith *
 Opeyemi Oluwadamilare Solaru *
 Andres Soto *
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OUR Parish Times

Dr. Raymand Nighan Wins Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award

St. John's College High School announced that Dr. Raymond Nighan was selected as a winner of The Washington Post's Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award. Dr. Nighan has been a renowned English teacher at St. John's for 35 years.

The Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award, established in 1983 to recognize teachers who exemplify excellence in their profession, is named after the late publisher Katherine Graham's mother who was an advocate for education.

"On behalf of the faculty, students, and alumni in the St. John's community, we are proud to have Dr. Raymand Nighan as a mentor and teacher at our school," President Jeffrey Mancabelli stated. "He is an instrumental part of our Lasallian educational community."



cutline?

Of the 21 regional teachers receiving the award, Dr. Nighan is the only recipient representing private schools of the Washington metropolitan area. The award ceremony, hosted by The Washington Post, took place May 15.

OPT



cutline?

Coloring Inside the Lines

By Jim Morris, AHC Fathers Club

In Mid-February 30 girls and 23 parents from Kensington's The Academy of the Holy Cross descended on Holy Names School in North East Washington to per-

form their annual "Helping Hands" project. Holy Names School encompasses two buildings, originally built more than 80 years ago. While the exterior of each building is solid, the insides suffer from neglect and abuse since the school

closed years ago.

A DC Charter School currently uses the buildings, but the parish's pastor, Father Michael Briese, asked the Holy Cross girls to help

Continued on page 35

CONGRATULATIONS

to Avalon's
sixth graduating class...
the Class of 2012!

the
Avalon School



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Youth Coordinator, Gina Nino de Nightingale shown flanked by works of mixed media art she created as part of her studies at Mount Saint Mary's University.

Mary's Month Brings Religious Vocations to SJN Middle-School Youth

By Rus Wester

The month of May brought two separate events for Parish Middle-School Youth (11-14 year olds). These annual, informal gatherings called "Boys Night" and "Girls Night" featured guests of Seminarians and Nuns who visited the two respective groups for dinner, fun and discovery about Religious Vocations. Middle-School Youth Program Coordinator, Gina Nino de Nightingale, and parent volunteer,



Middle-School Youth Group girls meet for Vocations Night at which visiting Nuns share their lives of service and answer questions during dinner.

Mary Busche, organized the events.

Fifteen lads attended Boys Night, where Seminarians from Mt. St. Mary's and the Archdiocese of Washington brought their stories of how they felt the call to the Priesthood. Father LaHood and Deacon Mike Davy came by to welcome everyone. "The Seminarians were pretty cool," said SJN youth, Jared Grossnickel. "[For hours] we played games together—Wii, Foosball, Ping Pong and board games—they were pretty competitive. We had burgers, and heard

how they had a feeling from God to be a Priest. It was a fun time. [The Seminarians] didn't want to leave to go home."

There were twelve young women on hand for Girls Night. They were joined by Nuns from the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará. The sisters live locally in Washington, DC near the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

"The girls created a dinner of finger foods," said parishioner, Mary Busche. "They prepared

and cooked chicken, French fries, fondue—all the good stuff." Many new students attended this particular gathering. There was dancing, games and a great movie filled with life lessons that led one of the girls to say, "I guess it's telling us that no matter how bad things in life get, if you hold onto your faith, God's always

there." Before departing, the sisters extended an invitation to the girls to come downtown for a visit. All in-all, laughter, fun, learning and getting to know a lot of new kids made for a very welcoming Vocations night.

Program Coordinator, Gina Nino de Knightingale, had a double major at Mt. Saint Mary's University in Art and Theology and graduated Mother's Day 2012. A couple of years ago, with prayerful thought, she felt she wasn't doing enough in the parish and paired up with Mary Busche to revitalize the SJN Middle-School Youth Group. It's Gina's hope to combine the focus of her double major and several years of youth ministry at SJN and school settings to encourage our young people to stay close to their faith throughout their lives.

"This Youth program is very important," says Mary Busche. "After sixth grade the children can easily fall to the side and by the time they enter regular high school youth group, we've lost them. We want them to know that it's not uncool being part of the church."

OPT

The First St. John Neumann Irish Party

With a founder's name of Michael J. McGivney, it's easy to understand why the Knights of Columbus would be the ones to throw an Irish party. And Faith and Begorrah, what a celebration 'twas! The 90-person sell-out crowd gathered on the 17th of March for several hours of great food, with music provided by our own Sligo Creek Band – all for a very modest ticket cost. "Our resident chef, Michael May created a fabulous menu," said Grand Knight, Rob Nyikos. "We had Guinness Irish Stew, Shepherd's Pie, Whiskey Chicken with Rice, Soda Bread



Our Leprechauns GK Rob Nyikos, Bob Faber and PGK Terry Waters serve up Irish Stew, Shepherd's Pie & Whiskey Chicken.



The Parish's own four-piece Sligo Creek Band really brought our dinner to life with a constant flow of Irish tunes.

and a Garden Salad. Add coffee, tea, sodas, wine and a mix of domestic and Irish beers, finished with Shamrock cupcakes...we're talking IRISH!"

A host of Knights and their spouses transformed the Parish Center into a fitting Irish setting. A basket of Irish libations was raffled off, Irish dancers (of The Hayes Dance group) in Celtic costumes and leprechauns jiggled the night away, causing a lot of "I can't wait 'til next year" comments. March, 2013 comes soon! "Beannachtai na Feile Padraig Oraibh."

OPT



First Lady Patty Nyikos enjoys a Irish Waltz with visiting 90 year old father-in-law, Steve Nyikos.

First Holy Communion Class of 2012

"It was like God coming into my heart and loving me!" First Communicant – SJN 2012

Rielle Abellera, Natalie Christina Aburto, Monserrat Albistur, Chiduman Amadi-Obi, Anna M. Avery, Maya Barrett, Dominic Bohrer, Kira Braun, Matteo Campos, Angela Campos, Brandon Campos, Cian Cassidy, Luigi Maurice Chavannes, Margaret Czarnopys, Mario de Ribeaux, Paul Anthony DiMarzio, Nicholas Obiora Ekwuno, Diego Elias, Monserrat Guadalupe Elizondo, Isidora Farias, Noah Ferrara, Daphne Giffin, Brandon Griffin,

Jessica Griffin, Nicole Guzman, Mikaela Hall, Kellen Hassel, Walter Matthew Heiser, Vimukthi Jayalal, Brian Kelly, Emily LaRochelle, Avery Lozano, Tiffany Ly, Dylan Mack, Adrian Magdaleno, Garrel Marquez, Simon Mayuga, Katherine McClure, Mary Meyer, Jancarlo Monge, Ashley Morales, Isabela Neumann, Jidechi Nzekwu, Nokwutenma Ojukwu, Emily Ortiz, Ava Pino, Clinton Porter, Melissa Porter, Elena Rivello, August Ross, Rachel Sharp, Dominic Smith, Caitlyn Rose Feerick Snow, Zamyra Tabraj, Carlos Tavares-Hernandez, Nicholas Torres, Quan G. Tran, Rebekkah Vandergrift, Alejandro

Vargas, Alex Vargas, Fernando Vargas, Pedro Vargas, Adrienne Elizabeth Welch, Nathan Yelle.

Special thanks to: Father Thomas LaHood, our Pastor. Also thanks go to Deacons Mike Davy, Gene Cummins and Carlo Caraballo; Maureen Joseph, Damaris Rivera, MaryLu Hartsell and the SJN Children's Choir. Also we are grateful for the assistance and preparation provided by Mary Busche, Marty Miller, Maria Sanchez-Hall, Sarah Yuska, Nancy DeWitt, Theresa Finucane and all of the parish families.

OPT

St. John Neumann Parish
9000 Warfield Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20892

Fr. Thomas G. LaHood
Pastor

Rus Wester
Parish Editor
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write4ewe@verizon.net

Oakcrest Celebrates Students' Academic Excellence

Oakcrest School in McLean announced the 2012 inductees to the Oakcrest chapters of Mu Alpha Theta, The National Classical Junior League Latin Honor Society and the Sociedad Honoraria Hispanica. Induction to these societies represents superior academic accomplishment.

Mu Alpha Theta is a national math organization co-sponsored by the Mathematical Association of America, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, and the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges, and strives to stimulate interest in mathematics by providing public recognition of superior mathematical scholarship and by promoting various mathematical activities. Topics presented during club meetings and interest generated therein help members to gain a greater understanding and enjoyment of mathematics. Colleges and major universities recognize membership in Mu Alpha Theta as an important part of a student's academic resume. There are more than 1,500 chapters in the United States and internationally. The 2012 inductees to the Oakcrest Chapter of Mu Alpha Theta are: Alejandra Aguilar (Class of 2014), Nicole Babendreier (Class of 2014), Mary Berset (Class of 2014), Sophia Buono (Class of 2014), Helen Collins (Class of 2014), Veronica Dolan (Class of 2014), Ann Esmond (Class of 2014), Jacqueline Hojilla (Class of 2014), Theresa Kelly (Class of 2014), Jane Kernan (Class of 2014), Gianna Ridout (Class of 2014), Aiyah Sibay (Class of 2013) and Krista Thomas (Class of 2014).

The Oakcrest Chapter of the nationally recognized Junior Classical League Latin Honor Society, affiliated with the American Classical League, recognizes Upper School students in grades 10-12 for excellence in their command of the Latin language and for their study of its literature. It seeks to acknowledge and to highlight the contributions of the ancient world. To qualify, students must be active sophomore, junior, or senior members of the Oakcrest Chapter of the Junior Classical League (open to all Latin students in grades 8-12), have a 90% or above average in Latin II or higher at the end of semester I, be taking Latin for the entire year, and exemplify good citizenship. Membership does not roll over from year to year; students must re-qualify for membership each year, fulfilling all requirements. This year's inductees are: Nicole Babendreier (Class of 2014), Gianna Christiani (Class of 2013), Abigail Ferrer (Class of 2013), Jacqueline Hojilla (Class of 2014), Ellen (Callie) McGovern (Class of 2012), Elizabeth (Bonnie) Newton (Class of 2013), Monica Rudy (Class of 2013), Krista Thomas (Class of 2014), Emma Tierney (Class of 2014) and Rachel Waldon (Class of 2013).

The Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica (SHH) is an honor society for high school students enrolled in Spanish and/or Portuguese, sponsored by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP). It was formally organized as the Spanish National Honor Society in 1953 and officially changed its name to Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica in 1959. At present there are over 2,000 national and international chapters. The purpose of the society is to recognize high achievement of high school students in the

Spanish and Portuguese languages and to promote a continuing interest in Hispanic and Portuguese studies. Inductees are Alejandra Aguilar (Class of 2014), Mary Elizabeth Beatty (Class of 2014), Sophia Buono (Class of 2014), Veronica Dolan (Class of 2014), Theresa Kelly (Class of 2014), Jane Kernan (Class of 2014), Marisa Migliore (Class of 2014), Priyanka Rahman (Class of 2014), Gianna Ridout (Class of 2014), Cathryn Treco (Class of 2014), and Fatima Tundo (Class of 2012).

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Oakcrest Sophomore, Mary Berset, is inducted to Mu Alpha Theta

OAKCREST SCHOOL WHERE GIRLS MAKE A DIFFERENCE



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2012

Christopher Newport University

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College of William and Mary

Columbia University

University of Dallas

University of Dayton

DeSales University

High Point University (2)

James Madison University

Longwood University

Loyola University

University of Mary Washington

University of Maryland, College Park (3)

Marymount University (2)

University of Mississippi

Montgomery College

University of Notre Dame

Providence College

Purdue University

Saint Michael's College

Vanderbilt University (2)

Virginia Polytechnic Institute
and State University

Wake Forest University



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Justin Adams
Richard Montgomery HS



Sophia Biciocchi
Academy of the Holy Cross



Michael Birch
St. John's College HS



Matthew Campbell
Richard Montgomery HS



Cerisse Casenas
Walter Johnson HS



Gabriela Casillas Cabezut
Tomas Moro HS, Mexico



Rodrigo Cracel
St. John's College HS



Lauren Coene
Georgetown Visitation



Anne Conyngham
Academy of the Holy Cross



Nicholas DeGraba
Our Lady of Good Counsel



Brittany Darne
Academy of the Holy Cross

SAINT ELIZABETH SCHOOL
Congratulations to the
Class of 2012!

Rev. Msgr. John Macfarlane, Pastor Vincent P. Spadoni, Principal



Shelby DePreta
Georgetown Visitation



Teresa DiGioia
Georgetown Visitation



Jordan DiJulio
Our Lady of Good Counsel



Patrick Edwards
Gonzaga College HS



Sydney Grenier
Our Lady of Good Counsel



Caterina Guozden
Stone Ridge



Kara Hargis
St. John's College HS



Samantha Hashim
Academy of the Holy Cross



Joseph Heller
Gonzaga College HS



Mackenzie Hickey
Connelly School of the Holy Child



Brian Kilner
Gonzaga College HS



Jacob Klosowski
Richard Montgomery HS



Joey Kole
Cardinal Gibbons HS Florida



Kelsea Konz
Academy of the Holy Cross



Jordan Kraft
Richard Montgomery HS



Meaghan Lightfoot
Our Lady of Good Counsel



Sabrina Lu
Winston Churchill HS



Maureen Mahoney
Georgetown Visitation



Margaret May
Academy of the Holy Cross



Emily Moore
Academy of the Holy Cross



John Moore
Georgetown Preparatory School



Katie Novak
Academy of the Holy Cross



Catie Oliverio
Academy of the Holy Cross



Heli Palttala
Quince Orchard HS



Jade Ruiters
Academy of the Holy Cross



Colin Russell
Gonzaga College HS



Angelo San Pablo
Winston Churchill HS



Emma Scheibel
Georgetown Visitation



Justin Scott
St. John's College HS



Morgan Starkey
Academy of the Holy Cross



Jamie Stoner
Academy of the Holy Cross



Luke Symon
Georgetown Preparatory School



Jillian Symon
Academy of the Holy Cross



Lily Taylor
Rockville HS



Matthew Waclawiw
Gonzaga College HS



Caroline Wharton
Georgetown Visitation



Daniel Zamalloa
St. John's College HS



Luca Zeitvogel
Montgomery Blair HS

History Comes to Life at Mercy Biography Wax Museum

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

OPT



At left, Kate Clancy as Sacagawea



At right, David Fitch as Wilbur Wright



At far left, Angela Kallina as Pocahontas

At center, XXXXX

At right, Nicolas Bourelly as Muhammad Ali

Mercy Renaissance Fair

After researching different guilds and famous Renaissance people responsible for bridging the Middle Ages to the Modern era, Mercy sixth graders transformed the school's multipurpose room into a Renaissance Fair.

OPT



Nathan Higgins as Galileo Galilei



Katie Miyares as a member of the Baker's Guild



Dominic Albornoz as Leonardo DaVinci

Mercy Get Moving Expo



Colin Smyth (eighth grade) takes a break from hockey practice at the expo.



Second graders practice some Tae Kwon Do stretches.



Georgia Hanley works some core muscles on a pilates chair with instructor Christine Summers leading the way.



Second Grader Haley Summers practices Tae Kwon Do board breaking at Our Lady of Mercy's annual Joan McCabe Get Moving Health Expo. The program, developed several years ago by the school's then nurse Joan McCabe RN, introduces students to a variety of activities in an effort to develop life-long enjoyable interests that will help reduce stress.

<p>Our Lady of Mercy Parish 9200 Kentsdale Drive Potomac, MD Rev. Msgr. William English, Pastor 301-365-1415</p>	<p>Our Lady of Mercy School Ms. Joan Hosmer 301-365-3104 Gerry Burgess, OPT Editor 301-330-5676</p>
--	--

Another Successful St. Francis Food Drive



Eunice & Chris Goh, members of the SFA Food Pantry Team, unload their truck filled with some of the 233 bags of donated food from the parishioners of St. Francis. The food was donated to St. Martin of Tours Food Pantry in Gaithersburg.



SFA's Food Pantry Team members Eunice & Chris Goh and Jack Egan stand ready to load and deliver the 233 bags containing 4660 pounds of food collected during the 2012 Lenten Food Drive.



Robert Jackson and another SFA parishioner drop off their contribution for the 2012 Lenten Food Drive.

St. Francis of Assisi Parish
6701 Muncaster Mill Road
Derwood, MD

Rev. David W. Beaubien
Pastor
301-840-1407

Rafael & Maureen Pagán
OPT Co-Editors
240-372-1574
Rafael_Pagan@msn.com

Another Fabulous Super Yard Sale at St. Francis of Assisi



Mary Dixon and Linda Foster

With so much involved: volunteer sign up, donation drop offs, coordinating where to put the donations, coordinating pricing of goods, making sure on the day of the sale that all know their responsibilities, coordinating parking lot help, not to mention clean up at the end of the day!

Incredible! What an undertaking; and yet, two gals are happy to take on the task every year.

We owe so many thanks to Mary Dixon and Linda Foster for their unending fortitude (physical and emotional) and their love of their neighbors.



Super Yard Sale Clothes

St. Catherine Labouré

All Around the World at SCL is Wonderful Entertainment

By Menthy Szabo

The seventh grade class under the direction of their social studies teacher, Mrs. Nila DiRaimo, has once more advanced us in our knowledge of other countries. Each student selected a country they wanted to report on. Using today's technology, they researched its geography and culture.

On April 20, 2012, the seventh grade brought their projects into the Claridge room where they each were given a table for their presentations as the parents, relatives and



SCL 7th Grade Students In Traditional Dress of the Countries they studied.

the rest of the school came to enjoy, not only their projects, but also their entertainment. Groups performed dances representing the countries of Mexico, Ethiopia, the Philippines, Hungary, etc. They dressed in their native outfits and brought different snacks to be shared as people came to their tables to hear and learn about their country. Bookmarks containing their history were made and distributed to all his visited their booths.

Throughout the day, it was a marketplace where you bought rosary bracelets and jewelry made

by Mrs. DiRaimo's sister from the Philippines. Parents donated bags, toys, purses, and lots of Jumex juice.

Lunch consisted of the many, many dishes from their countries. The teachers, as well as the parents and priests, were invited to come and enjoy this great feast.

St. Catherine Labouré school is a multicultural school and listening and enjoying these presentations gave you a better understanding and an increased knowledge of your fellow students and teachers.

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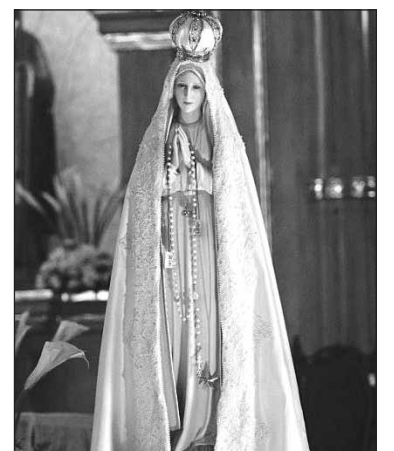
Annual SCL Gala Fundraiser

The annual SCL gala fundraiser was held May 5th with a "Cinco de Mayo" theme and over two hundred guests throughout the night. H'ordeuves were served and guests mingled throughout the Claridge room signing their names with their bids on the silent auction sheets for the donated items that they were interested in bidding on. Donated items included memory foam pillows; comforters; a beautiful salmon adirondack chair painted and signed by the first grade class; encased signed baseball; dinners (not listed on program) for eight sponsored by the Priests to be held at the rectory (sold

Continued on page 35

Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima Visits St. Catherine Labouré

A special addition to the annual May procession at St. Catherine Labouré was the presence of one of the International Pilgrim Statues of Our Lady of Fatima. She was present at all the Masses on Mother's Day, May 13th with a special Marian concert starting at 10:30AM preceding the 11:00AM Mass. At 3:00PM she was honored with a special procession around the Parish as the focal point of the SCL May procession and crowning, followed by a service of adoration, enrollment in the order of the brown scapular and other events.



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Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima

St. Catherine Labouré
11801 Claridge Road
Wheaton, MD

Fr. Michael Salah
Pastor
301-946-3636

St. Catherine Labouré School
Mrs. Beverly Consilvio
301-946-1717

Menthy Szabo,
OPT Editor
301-466-9568

St. Peter

St. Peter's School Presents *The Wizard of Oz*

The seventh and eighth-grade students of St. Peter's School performed their hearts out

in this year's spring production of *The Wizard of Oz* at Olney Theater Center. This is the twelfth annual production put on by St. Peter's Drama Club and the second time they have performed *The Wizard of Oz*.

So many individuals from faculty and staff to parents, alumni, students, and friends of the theater gave their time and talent to make this production a success. The amazing costumes, beautifully decorated sets, special effects, and of course, the very talented and hard working cast all came together to make this a fabulous show.

Since the drama program was established at St. Peter's in 2000, hundreds of students have had the opportunity to learn about the theater and perform on stage. In her Director's Note, Mrs. Phyllis Bottegal wrote, "It gives the children and everyone involved the opportunity to see their hard work come to life and make a memory that will last forever, on a stage that has graced many famous and talented individuals."

COLORING

Con't from page 29

repair and refresh classrooms inside the school building. "Do whatever you can finish," Father Briese offered hopefully.

Toting paintbrushes, paint and cleaning supplies the team attacked the mess. They began by cleaning up debris, dead mice, broken toys and years of dust and dirt. They sanded, cleaned and repaired the walls, floors, windows, and doors. Then they began painting.

A pair of dads spent the morning tinkering with dozens of inactive fluorescent light fixtures in all six rooms and in the main hallway. They successfully repaired every single one, brightening the school building.

The project was scheduled to take a full 10-hour day to complete. They started at 8:00 a.m., with parents and girls scurrying about to begin cleaning and prep work. The AHC parents and girls completed all six rooms in just four hours. By noon, parents and kids were on their hands and knees, swabbing down the floors in a final clean-up before leaving the completed classrooms.

After completion, Father Briese said jubilantly, "I was really stunned to see how many girls and parents showed up... I appreciate all the touch up artwork by the students. It is truly remarkable when people use their God given talents to help others... They did a nice job! Holy Names Parish will always appreciate your kindness and generosity."

ARGENTINA

Con't from page 24

travel agent.

With technical support from Mrs. Meile, and supervised by Senora Snowdon, the five groups of students sat in front of their computers and sent e-mails to the travel agent in Argentina. The answers came back from Ms. Ciminari in real-time and were projected on the big screen in the computer room. Printers quickly printed the travel itineraries and hotel reservations determined by the students and verified by the travel agent.

The students were limited to two weeks of vacation, so Ms Ciminari organized a bus tour of Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina, and sent them ski packages for the famous ski resorts in the Andes Mountains in western Argentina. For other groups, she arranged a trip to discover the waterfalls and rainforests in the tropical north or sent them off to discover the enormous glaciers in the frozen south of Patagonia. Another group was dispatched to enjoy the warm beaches of the east coast and watch the giant whales off the coast of Puerto Madryn. With the "magic of technology," there were even postcards of our students' adventures. VIAJEMOS Y DIFRUTEMOS!

OPT

FUNDRAISER

Con't from page 34

for \$450); St. John's College High School basket; second row seats at the christmas play; front row parking spaces; an American Girl doll and much more.

In celebration of Cinco de Mayo, Margarita drinks were sold and made with a special "margarita machine" that took about two hours to mix. SCL logo margarita glasses were on sale for \$10. Dinner was as delicious as ever catered by "The Greek Place" restaurant and Mr. Julio Garcia. Volunteers donned little yellow headbands with yellow sombrero's atop and special smiles thruout the evening.

Steven Ebner was our auctioneer again this year with his exciting auctioneers voice. There were so many items donated for this event.

A special tribute to our outgoing principal of the school, Mrs. Beverly Consilvio, with flowers presented to her by Mrs. Susan Fantom. Flowers were also presented to the new principal Mrs. Patricia Lynn Ruppert, who attended with her husband.

Cinco De Mayo was another terrific fundraising night in support of our St. Catherine Laboure School.

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Eighth Grade Voices

On the evening of Thursday, May 31, the eighth grade class of Our Lady of Lourdes School will gather for their graduation Mass, their final formal assemblage as Lourdes students. The eighth grade class of 2012 is comprised of students who have been at Lourdes since they were earnest three-year old Little Groupers learning the fundamentals of school content and decorum, as well as those who have come at different times throughout the years. Regardless of the extent of their time spent at Lourdes, each individual classmate has contributed something unique and special to form this dynamic group of young men and women.

Before they make the leap from Lourdes students to Lourdes alumni, we asked members of the class of 2012 to reflect on their time at OLOL. Students completed the following statements: "I know I am a Lourdes' student because...";

"Lourdes has taught me..."; and "I will miss Lourdes the most when...".

I know that I am a Lourdes' student because...

"I know I am a Lourdes' student because of the way I respect myself and others. I always do my best to be kind and patient." Anna-Sophia Capizzi

"I know I am a Lourdes student because I persevere." McKenzie Joyner

"I know I am a Lourdes student because I help others when they are in need." Joshua Chatman

"I know that I am a Lourdes student because I was taught how to live my faith and step into another's shoes. I feel I can relate to my friends and teachers and I know I have a unique relationship with each and every one of them." Isabel Wilder

"I know that I am a Lourdes student because I know the right choice from the wrong one in every situation. I feel compelled to choose the right one to make my school and parish proud." Mary Claire Sheridan

Lourdes has taught me...

"Lourdes has taught me to say 'hello' to everyone each morning. It has also taught me to be kind, caring, and a good member of the

Continued on page 40

Our Lady of Lourdes 2012 5K/1K a Roaring Success!

Our Lady of Lourdes sponsored its' 4th annual Lion's Roar 1K and 5K races on Saturday, April 28th. The cool weather presented perfect running conditions for the 525 runners who participated, including 80% of the student population from the school and many families and friends.

As 5K runners dashed over the finish line, they met up with



Above, The crowd at the starting line of the 5K



At left, in the background Josh Simpson and Carter Monroe play catch after the race. Left to right: Nicholas Palazzo, Owen Rossi, Ray Briscuso III, Mary Claire Sheridan, and Juliana Capizzi were the award winners in their age categories.

event each spring, which has been growing every year, and the Lion's Roar reminds us of the wonderful sense of family that we all experience at OLOL.

OPT

the 1K runners, to enjoy a morning filled with food from places such as Armand's, California Pizza Kitchen, as well as some renowned family grilled chicken recipes. There were also over twenty five amazing, theme baskets raffled off to lucky winners. A moon bounce and DJ entertained the crowd who were not quite tired out from the run.

The Lourdes community looks forward to this wonderful



The crowd at the starting line of the 1K

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

7500 Pearl Street
Bethesda, MD

Msgr. Edward Filardi,
Pastor
301-654-1287

Patricia Kilroy McGann
Principal
301-654-5376



OUR LADY OF LOURDES SCHOOL

Congratulations Class of 2012 Graduates

Patricia McGann, *Principal* • Rev. Msgr. Edward Filardi, *Pastor*

7500 Pearl Street
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-654-5376



Claire Anderson
Visitation
"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or touched. They must be felt with the heart."



Sydney Baker
Signonella HS Sicily, Italy
"Knowing others is wisdom, knowing yourself is enlightenment."



Anna Sophia Capizzi
Holy Cross
"Glory is the shadow of virtue."



Joshua Chatman
Georgetown Preparatory
"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that."



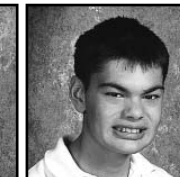
Katie Clark
Holy Cross
"When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on."



Sean Cullen
Undecided
"Do not pray for easier lives, pray to be stronger men."



Christy David
Holy Cross
"Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do."



Caleb Desmond-Lopez
Walter Johnson
"I made it! History begins now!"



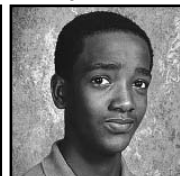
Brian Dolan
Georgetown Preparatory
"If opportunity doesn't come knocking, build a door."



Carson Gaines
Northwest HS
"Adversity causes some men to break; others to break records."



Connor Giblin
St. John's
"Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new."



Asher Inman
Georgetown Preparatory
"The pain of parting is nothing to the joy of meeting again."



McKenzie Joyner
West Nottingham Academy
"Whoever said anybody has the right to give up?"



Andrew Lutes
The Heights
"Second is the first loser."



Casey Magersupp
Holy Cross
"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss it, you will land among the stars."



Joseph McManus
BCC HS
"Could you imagine what I would do if I do all I can?"



Brett Miller
St. John's
"Success starts with believing in yourself."



Calvin Paul
DeMatha
"You cannot succeed if you are afraid to fail."



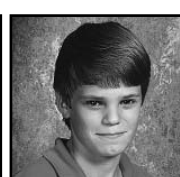
Kiersten Pels
Visitation
"Start by doing what is necessary; then do what is possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."



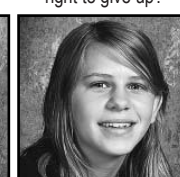
Claudia Reyes
Undecided
"Nothing is impossible, the word itself says, 'I'm possible!'"



Alex Rhodes-Sutliff
The Heights
"If you fail, keep trying again and again."



Owen Rossi
The Heights
"The will to win means nothing without the will to prepare."



Baylee Schack
Holy Cross
"Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."



Shawn Schwarz
Walter Johnson
"It's not the dog in the fight, it's the fight in the dog."



Julian Seaton
BCC HS
"There are those who look at things the way they are, and ask why. I dream of things that never were, and ask why not?"



Mary Claire Sheridan
St. John's
"You miss 100% of the shots you don't take."



Brendan Tennant
BCC HS
"The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good."



Victoria Vossler
Holy Cross
"Be gentle to all and stern with yourself."



Christian Warren
The Heights
"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."



Isabel Wilder
BCC HS
"Hope is the thing with feathers that perches in the soul and sings the tune without words and never stops at all."



St. Mary's parishioners were honored by The Catholic Business Network (CBN) at two events recently. St. Mary's 8th grade students Francis Griffin and Pablo Dean were awarded scholarships as part of the CBN's Essay Contest. They received \$1500 and \$750 respectively which will be applied to their high school tuition. Long-time coach Gerry Blackwell, pictured above with three of his four sons, wife Jane and Monsignor Amey was inducted into the CBN Coaches Hall of Fame at a luncheon on May 3.



The St. Mary's Theatre was sold out the weekend of April 26 at all three performances of *Once Upon A Mattress*. Director L.J. Whalen, a theatre veteran and Catholic University graduate student expertly led the cast with the help of STM alumni Bridgette Ryan, Sami Ovington and Elizabeth Nguyen. The cast included students from fifth through eighth grade.

Spring Has Sprung

By Maureen Stiles

This time of year always presents a challenge for the Our Parish Times parish editors. With so many wonderful activities to choose from and the lack of an April issue as well, we are hard pressed to highlight just a few events or stories.

I am devoting this space to the many worthy events that are not showcased with a picture and are too short for a full article.

Holy Week and Easter Masses required a tremendous amount of work from the Liturgy Committee and the lay volunteers who participate in the various services. A special thanks to all those who volunteered their time and talent to make Holy Week a beautiful worship experience for parishioners and visitors alike.

The return from spring break for the school children brought a flurry of April activity both in the classroom and out! The incoming kindergarten class visited for their orientation day. The entire school was treated to the Disney movie "Chimpanzees." What a spectacle they must have been walking over to the Rockville theatres from the school! And the school descended on Woodley Gardens Park for Field Day!

The Parish held a successful signature drive for the state-wide referendum on the same-sex marriage law the last weekend in April. That

same weekend, Social Concerns filled a truck with gently used clothing for donation to the Interfaith Clothing Center in Rockville. The Boys Scout troop from the parish also held their annual mulch drive that Saturday as well.

The chorus and band started May off on the right note with a concert featuring a solo by the eighth grade boys singing, "My Girl" by The Temptations. The Art department filled the school with pieces from each student including works in unusual mediums such as fused glass, beans and pottery from the school's kiln.

No one enjoyed the Art Show more than the Grandparents who

Continued on page 40



On April 17 Bishop Gonzalez confirmed 63 St. Mary's eighth grade parish students, at left. Through the laying of hands and anointing, each candidate was bestowed the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist was received by 66 St. Mary's parish children, at right, on the morning of May 6th. The candidates are pictured above with Monsignor Amey and Father Gallagher.



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

Msgr. Robert Amey,
Pastor
301-424-5550

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

Maureen Stiles,
Parish Editor
301-990-4329



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2012
ST. MARY'S SCHOOL, ROCKVILLE, MD

Victory Oaks at St. Camillus Application Day May 23



Victory Oaks at St. Camillus, Victory Housing's newest community for very-low-income senior citizens will be opening this summer. Victory Oaks is located on the grounds of the beautiful St. Camillus campus. It will offer 48 one-bedroom apartments with kitchens that include a dishwasher and garbage disposal.

Rents will be based on approximately thirty-percent (30%) of each household's adjusted gross income. Electricity is the resident's responsibility. Minimum age is 62. Maximum income is 50% of the median income for the Washington area, which is currently \$37,650 for a 1 person household and \$43,000 for a 2 person household.

Applications will be accepted on a first come, first served basis starting on

Wednesday, May 23,

at the Knights of Columbus facility, located on the St. Camillus campus at 721 Beacon Road in Silver Spring. Applications were mailed to everyone on the inquiry list in April along with details concerning what documents to bring on Application Day.

Application Day will be held from 10:00 am to 1:30 pm. Call (301) 445-1445 for more information or visit: www.victoryhousing.org/pdfs/VHIdirections.pdf

Since 1979, Victory Housing has served the Archdiocese of Washington as its development arm for affordable housing. Its mission is to build, acquire, renovate, manage and operate affordable housing – and to provide related services for low- to moderate-income seniors and low-income families.

OPT

Assisted Living That's "Just Right"



The ideal assisted living community is all about a comfortable, residential setting, professional staff, and affordable fees. It's a wonderful balance you'll find everyday with Assisted Living by Victory Housing.

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Malta House
Hyattsville • 301-699-8600

Raphael House
Rockville • 301-217-9116



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

www.VictoryHousing.org

Montgomery County Commission on Aging

The next Full Commission on Aging Meeting will be Thursday, May 24, 2012.

9:00am – 3:00pm

Silver Spring Civic Building,
Fenton Conference Room
One Veterans Place,
Silver Spring



Biology of Aging Research Today for a Healthier Tomorrow

What is aging? Can we live long and well—are they the same? Is aging in our genes? How does our metabolism relate to aging? Can your immune system still defend you as you age? Learn the answer to these questions and more. *Biology of Aging: Research Today for a Healthier Tomorrow* describes some of the National Institute on Aging's exciting findings about the basic biology of aging and points to directions for future investigation.

Print copies of this 44-page booklet – published in November, 2011 – may be ordered online or you may print your own copy at: www.nia.nih.gov/health/publication/biology-aging

OPT

SOAR Summer Program

The Montgomery County Department of Recreation has released its Summer 2012 Senior Outdoor Adventures in Recreation (SOAR) travel program for active adults age 55 and over. Unless noted, all transportation is provided on restroom-equipped motor coaches. **Registration begins Monday, May 7 at 8:30AM.** If you have questions about the registration process, please call 240-777-6870. If you have questions or require more information about a specific trip, call the SOAR Coordinator at 240-777-4926.

Fort McHenry Park on the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812

Trip No. 325572
Thursday, May 24
Fee: \$39
Leave 8:15 am; Return 3:30 pm
Visit Fort McHenry, the War of 1812 battle site that inspired Francis Scott Key to write our national anthem. The tour begins with a film, a narration by a National Park Ranger, and a tour of the Fort. Afterward, enjoy lunch and sight-seeing (on own) at Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

Annual Sailing Trip of Chesapeake Bay

Trip No. 325573
Thursday, May 31
Fee: \$76
Leave 8:15 am; Return 3:30 pm

Trip No. 325574
Thursday, May 31
Fee: \$76
Leave 12:30 am; Return 7:30 pm
The ever popular sailing trip out of Annapolis is a great way to spend a relaxing day. Enjoy four hours under sail on a 76 foot-long sailboat with a professional captain and crew. A picnic lunch on board is included.

White Water Rafting on the Shenandoah River

Trip No. 325575
Thursday, June 4
Fee: \$76
Leave 8:00 am; Return 4:15 pm
An expert guide in each raft will lead our group through White Horse

Rapids, down the famous Shenandoah Staircase, and over Bull Falls (rated class II-III, easy to moderate, on the difficulty scale). Recommended attire is shorts, t-shirt, and sneakers. No hard-soled shoes. No experience required. Bring sunscreen, a towel, and a change of clothes. A delicious fried chicken lunch is included.

Walking tour of historic New Castle, Delaware

Trip No. 325576
Thursday, June 13
Trip No. 325577
Thursday, June 14
Fee: \$70
Leave 7:30 am; Return 5:30 pm
Take a guided walking tour of New Castle, Delaware, which was settled by the Dutch in 1651. New Castle's core is a National Historic Landmark District containing some of the country's finest examples of vernacular and fine architecture from the 17th century through today. We will visit the old court-

house, Amstel / Dutch Houses, and Read House. Lunch, included, at a local restaurant.

Exploring in Benjamin Franklin's Footsteps – a Walking and Riding Tour of Historic Philadelphia

Optional Tour of the New National Museum of American Jewish History
Trip No. 325578, includes

Independence Hall
Thursday, June 21
Fee: \$54
Leave 7:00 am; Return 7:00 pm

Trip No. 325579, includes *Jewish Museum*
Thursday, June 21
Fee: \$67
Leave 7:00 am; Return 7:00 pm
We meet our local professional guides and begin our tour either inside historic Independence Hall



Philadelphia, PA

of at the new National Museum of American Jewish History. Then lunch, on own, at the famous Bourse Food Court. Next, we walk in Franklin's footsteps to view the Liberty Bell, Betsy Ross House, Christ Church, U.S. Mint, Elfreth's Alley, and more. We continue with a ninety-minute riding tour of more Philadelphia highlights.

Solomons Island Walkabout and Boat Tour

Trip No. 328557
Thursday, June 28
Fee: \$84
Leave 7:00 am; Return 5:00 pm
Discover historic Solomons Island by taking a guided walking tour of this once thriving fishing and canning town. Emphasis will be placed on the history and architecture of this quaint town. Visit the Calvert Marine Museum and Lighthouse. Cruise around Solomons Harbor and the Patuxent River aboard the oldest Coast Guard Licensed passenger vessel in the U.S. Lunch at a local restaurant is included.

Continued on page 41

New study shows genes may play role in Alzheimer's disease

The hippocampus, a brain region important to learning and memory, gradually loses volume as part of the normal aging process. This loss is significantly accelerated in older people with Alzheimer's disease, especially if they have vascular problems or diabetes. Now, an international team of researchers has identified four genes that may play a role in the age-related decline of hippocampal volume, a finding that may pro-

vide insight to risk for cognitive decline and Alzheimer's disease. Conducted in part by NIA-funded investigators, the study appeared online April 15, 2012, in *Nature Genetics*.

The findings result from the combined analyses of several genome-wide association studies (GWAS) conducted in the U.S., Canada, Europe and Australia involving thousands of participants with and without Alzheimer's disease.

GWAS analyze DNA to identify specific genetic variations associated with particular diseases. The researchers located four gene risk factors on chromosome 12 that may play a role in age-related hippocampal decline.

The genes implicated in the findings are involved in cell death, brain development and plasticity, oxidative stress and enzymes targeted by diabetes medications—all of which may contribute to the brain's

vulnerability to Alzheimer's.

While we need to learn more about the complex interplay between genetic risk for Alzheimer's disease and other factors that influence its onset and progression, these findings on age-related declines in brain volume could lead to new approaches for the devastating hippocampal declines wrought by the disorder.

OPT

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The Torch of Leadership



Enzo Bascon, 8th grade, passing on the torch of leadership to 7th grader Kevin McGarry.



7th graders hold candles during the candle lighting ceremony in which 8th grade students symbolically pass the torch of leadership to the 7th grade.

VOICES

Con't from page 36

community." Claire Anderson

"Lourdes has taught me to never give up." McKenzie Joyner

"Lourdes has taught me how to treat others respectfully and value their unique personalities and differences." Joshua Chatman

"Lourdes has taught me how to think ahead. I learned to be an organized and thoughtful student." Isabel Wilder

"Lourdes has taught me to accept differences in the people around me because we are all created in the image of God." Mary Claire Sheridan

"Lourdes has taught me everything I need to know to be a gentleman. Lourdes has also taught me sportsmanship." Andrew Lutes

I will miss Lourdes the most when...

"The thing I will miss most about Lourdes is being able to come to school and learn about the new things going on in our community through morning announcements and prayers." Anna-Sophia Capizzi

"I will miss the crazy field trips, field day, the teachers, playing sports, the community, Mrs. McGann, but most of all, Mr. Long. He is the gym teacher, the basketball coach, the vice principal, and a friend. He looks out for everyone and makes Lourdes the place that it is today." Claire Anderson

"I will miss Lourdes because not everybody in the world cares as much about others as the people at Lourdes do." Brain Dolan

"I will miss Lourdes the most because of the loving teachers who take special time with each student to ensure that they fully understand the material being taught." Mary Claire Sheridan

OPT

SPRING

Con't from page 37

came to worship and visit with the children on May 4. After a buffet breakfast, all guests were encouraged to take part in classroom activities, tour the school and immerse themselves in the St. Mary's community.

The May Procession paid homage to the Blessed Mother with all the children gathered in their Sunday best bearing flowers to be placed at her statue. The First Communion class was resplendent in their finery as they processed around the grounds.

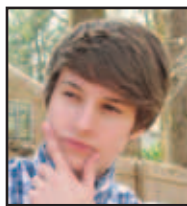
There are many more events to come as we close out the school year. The one aspect that St. Mary's reinforces with the children as they move through these hectic days is that our faith is at the root of all of these experiences and we should give thanks every day to be a part of such a vibrant, Catholic community

OPT

CLASS OF 2012 GRADUATES St. Bartholomew School



Reverend Joseph Sileo, Pastor
Mrs. Kathleen Miller, Principal



Maxwell Warren Allen
GOOD COUNSEL
"Silence is Golden."
—Simon & Garfunkel



Lorenzo Carlos Bascon
GEORGETOWN PREP
"Dreams are illustrations from the book your soul is writing about you."
—Anonymous



Maura Keelin Beatson
VISITATION
"I'm glad we had the times together just to laugh and sing a song, seems like we just got started and then before you know it, the times we had together were gone."
—Dr. Seuss



Madeline Anne Brown
HOLY CROSS
"Dance the night away..."
—Van Halen



Joanie Marie Castiello
VISITATION
"It is our choices that show who we truly are, far more than our abilities."
—J.K. Rowling



Nicholas Holden Cooper
GOOD COUNSEL
"I know it seems hard sometimes, but remember one thing, through every dark night, there's a bright day after that. So no matter how hard it gets, stick your chest out keep your head up and handle it."
—Tupac Shakur



Hunter Walsh Fagan
DEMATHA
"The only one who can tell you, you can't is you, and you don't have to listen."
—Nike



Andres Guerra
GEORGETOWN PREP
"You can do anything if you have enthusiasm."
—Henry Ford



Agatha Villa Nova Hostins
ST. JOHN'S
"Always be who you truly are inside because in the end it's all that matters."
—Anonymous



Sarah Victoria Mangan
HOLY CROSS
"Today you are you, this is truer than true. There is no one alive who is youer than you."
—Dr. Seuss



Olivia Frances Manning
HOLY CROSS
"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain."
—Dolly Parton



William Grant McLearn
ST. ANDREW'S
"Success is like a fire, only you can build it up."
—Anonymous



Matthew Bury Morabito
GONZAGA
"We can't change the world Unless we change ourselves."
—Biggie Smalls



Robert Alexander Omelchenko
GONZAGA
"A leader is best when people barely know he exists, when his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say, we did it ourselves."
—Lao Tzu



Gina Maria Petrarca
HOLY CROSS
"Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened."
—Dr. Seuss



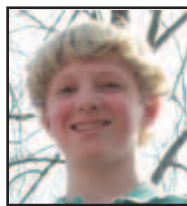
Charles Thomas Reges
WINSTON CHURCHILL
"Believe you can and you're half way there."
—Teddy Roosevelt



Alejandro Rolart Reyes
WALT WHITMAN
"There is nothing impossible to him who will try."
—Alexander the Great



James Reed Staines
THE HEIGHTS
"I can sleep when I am dead."
—Jason Michael Carroll



Andrew Bruce Steele
UNDECIDED
"We don't get a chance to do many things, and everyone should really excel because this is our life."
—Steve Jobs



John Stanton Ziemski
GEORGETOWN PREP
"Do your best, the rest will follow."
—Patrick Noonan



Ryan Donovan Ziemski
GEORGETOWN PREP
"Another day, another chance to excel!"
—Pavel Haneek

A "Village" of St. Michael's Volunteers Supports SOME's Provide-a-Meal Program

By Jane Wilhelm and Pat Garcia

St. Michael the Archangel parish in Silver Spring continues its monthly support of the So Others Might Eat (SOME) Provide-a-Meal program as it has for many years thanks to a "village" of volunteers. St. Michael's provides the lunch meal for the first Monday of each month, which on average serves 325 hungry people who frequent SOME on First Street in northwest Washington for their meals.

Easy casserole recipes are provided month-

ly, along with an aluminum baking tin, on the weekend preceding the first Monday, which is the parish's monthly "Outreach Sunday." Sign-up sheets are in the back of the church after all Masses.

Overall coordinator Jane Wilhelm provides the tins (thanks to the Costco shopping efforts of Jim Dailey) and recipes each month, relying at times on Mary Ann Robertson for help distributing them at the 4:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass.

Our numerous volunteer chefs deliver their

cooked and chilled casseroles the following Sunday to the area outside St. Michael's Williamsburg Room before noon to enable our drivers to get the approximately 50 casseroles downtown after the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Sonny Franke coordinates the team of six volunteer drivers who deliver the casseroles.

Anka Ostrega puts the recipe on the St. Michael website in advance for planning purposes and to allow for translation into Spanish. Joanie Heavey makes sure the information for Outreach Sunday and the Provide-

a-Meal program are included in the Mass announcements.

Msgr. Eddie Tolentino even prepares casseroles when he can and makes pitches from the pulpit periodically to get more contributors involved. As coordinator Jane Wilhelm says, it takes a village!

If you enjoy preparing simple casseroles and can prepare and deliver them to St. Michael's on the schedule explained above, please help us feed the hungry and homeless by sharing your culinary skills.

OPT



Msgr. Tolentino addresses our new members that received their Sacraments during Easter Vigil at St. Michael the Archangel on April 7, 2012.

ST MICHAEL

Con't from page 1

and welcoming to newcomers. One of the Archdiocese of Washington's first Catholic schools to voluntarily integrate, the school remain one of the most diverse Catholic elementary schools in Montgomery County. Its current student population boats children from numerous countries-many of them immigrants and the students come from diverse economic backgrounds from families with many interesting personal stories.

Accessible by Metro rail and bus and within walking distance from all forms of housing, the school has always been easy to get to and convenient not only to those that are members of St. Michael's parish but also to those that work and live in the area. The tuition has historically been one of the lowest of all elementary schools in the Archdiocese.

A humble, happy school, St. Michael's staff includes several of the Archdiocese's longest-serving teachers. Once at St. Michael's, it has been difficult for staff or families to leave. For 28 years, Sr. Mary Raymond Logue of the School Sisters of the Notre Dame, served as principal. She oversaw the growth of the school as it continued in its tradition to accommodate all that wanted a Christ-centered and academically focused education, whether they were Catholic or non-Catholic, poor or privileged. Sr. May Raymond truly believed in the saying that "we have Catholic education not only because the children are Catholic, but because we are Catholic." Her legacy is impossible to calculate; a multitude of boys and girls, now men and women, whose foundation included a commitment

to God, to learning, and to being happy and open to others.

Despite several years of fundraising and attempts to increase enrollment, especially aimed at St. Michael's large and diverse parish by the Pastor, the school was unable to meet its financial or student population goals. Monsignor Tolentino, St. Michael's pastor, sadly had to accept the Archdiocesan and Parish Finance council recommendation to close the school.

Although its willingness throughout its history to provide Catholic education to those that wanted it-many without substantial fiscal means-meant that St. Michael's school was financially unable to upgrade its grounds or afford many specialty teachers, the school has consistently provided quality education and inspired its student to strive for more. Its graduates are counted among the alumni of the country's best universities and colleges; its legacy is abundant. The atmosphere of tolerance and curiosity, alongside the excellent core educational skills provided by St. Michael's teachers, provided a unique atmosphere of excited learning and desire for more.

Additionally, St. Michael's has been a very happy school. Every day those traveling down Wayne Avenue in Silver Spring's busy downtown saw the children laughing and playing outside. The alumni are close and depend on one another. While the number of parishioners that choose to send their children to the school has been lower for the last twenty years, the students call the church their home. They prepare for and serve at the weekly mass, and at the parish's funerals and they also have their first dances in the church basement. The stage in the parish room in the basement is the scene of the annual haunted

house, concerts and plays. Each February, after the school Mass, the middle school recites Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech from memory. The synergy between the school and church will be missed.

"We are all something because we are children of God and we know that He loves us. We are dreamers because St. Michael's taught us to dream. And now, we are on the road to success, but only because St. Michael's put us on that road. The paths we take will carry us in different directions. But I know that I will never forget spotting a glimpse of someone in our class in a crowded place and feeling instantly happy and safe. I will never forget how we all could understand something that no one else could. I will never forget how much I love, and will always love, all of you. Work hard, be good and remember" God Decides", -from the graduation speech for the Class of 2010 by Libby Smislova, now Georgetown Visitation student class of 2014.

The last school Mass will be celebrated May 31 at 9:00am at St. Michael the Archangel church.

OPT

St. Michael's Parish

805 Wayne Avenue
Silver Spring, MD

Rev. Msgr. Eddie Tolentino,
Pastor

301-589-1155

St. Michael's School

Larry Savoy, Principal

301-585-6873

Joanie Heavey, OPT Editor

301-5891155 ext. 21

SOAR

Con't from page 39

Sailing Trip on the Kalmar Nyckel, a Reproduced 17th Century Swedish Tall Ship

Plus Walking Tour of the New Sweden Colony in Wilmington, Delaware

Trip No. 328559

Thursday, July 5

Fee: \$92

Leave 7:00 am; Return 6:00 pm

Walk the decks of the Tall Ship of Delaware, look up at her eight miles of rigging, hear her cannons roar, let your imagination carry you back in time and out to sea. Sail on the Kalmar Nyckel, a full-scale reproduction of a 17th century tall ship that carried the Swedes to Delaware in 1638. Tour the Swedes Colony, the first permanent European settlement in the Delaware Valley. We will tour the Old Swedes Church, the Burial Grounds, and the historic Hendrickson House Museum. Lunch, included, at a local restaurant.

Crab Feast Cruise around Baltimore's Inner Harbor

Trip No. 328561

Thursday, July 12

Enjoy a sumptuous crab feast (included) aboard the Black-Eyed Susan paddlewheel riverboat and take a two-and-a-half hour narrated cruise around Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

Fee: \$90

Leave 1:15 pm; Return 6:30 pm

'Port of Call' Tour on the Maryland Eastern Shore

Trip No. 328562

Wednesday, July 18

Trip No. 328563

Thursday, July 19

Begin in historic Oxford, the first port of entry in the Tidewater area,

with a tour of this charming town and a visit to the Oxford Museum. Next is a crab cake lunch (included) at the Masthead, which was used in the film *Failure to Launch*. Then board the Express Royale for a narrated cruise on the Tred Avon River to Easton. Experience a snapshot of colonial life in the 18th and 19th centuries during a visit to the Historical Society of Talbot County.

Fee: \$84

Leave 8:00 am; Return 5:00 pm

Skipjack Boat Tour on Chesapeake Bay and St. Michael's

Trip No. 328564

Thursday, July 25

Take a two-hour sail on a sloop-rigged skipjack - designated the official Maryland State boat - which is used as an oyster dredger during the oyster season. Enjoy the Bay's wild beauty, experience and oyster-dredging demonstration, listen to the Captain discuss the Bay's ecology and the culture of the waterman. Lunch (on own) and sightseeing in St. Michael's on the Eastern Shore.

Fee: \$59

Leave 7:30 am; Return 5:30 pm

Boat Trip to Tangier Island on the Chesapeake Bay

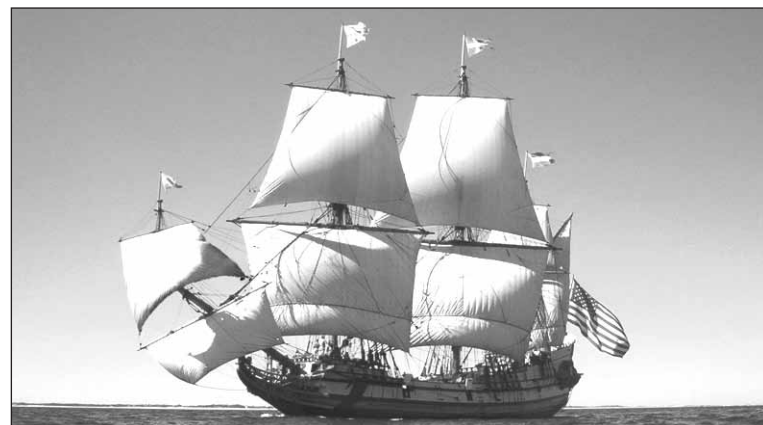
Trip No. 328564

Thursday, August 9

Enjoy a leisurely drive to Crisfield, Maryland on the eastern shore, then board the super cruise ship Steven Thomas for a one-hour-and-fifteen minute trip to historic Tangier Island, discovered by Captain John Smith. Tangier is an unspoiled fishing village with quaint narrow streets and is the 'soft shell crab capital' of the world. A family-style seafood lunch at the famous Chesapeake House is included.

Fee: \$79

Leave 8:45 am; Return 8:15 pm



Kalmar Nyckel, a full-scale reproduction of a 17th century tall ship



Mother of God School

Congratulates the Graduating Class of 2012

					
Aaron Barnes <i>Watkins Mill High School</i>	Naomi Dukaye <i>Northwest High School</i>	Jennifer Codd <i>Saint John's Catholic Prep</i>	Casey Dowling <i>Saint John's Catholic Prep</i>	Joseph Hunt <i>Sherwood High School</i>	Rianna Jha <i>Our Lady of Good Counsel</i>
					
Caroline Nelson <i>Saint John's Catholic Prep</i>	Katia Nguyen <i>Our Lady of Good Counsel</i>	Sebastian Rivas <i>Saint John's Catholic Prep</i>	Mariah Van Der Weele <i>St. Vincent Pallotti High School</i>	Marie-Michele Yoboue <i>Saint John's Catholic Prep</i>	

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



St. Michael the Archangel Catholic School

Congratulates the Class of 2012



Principal Larry Savoy • Pastor Msgr. Eddie Tolentino.

									
Willy Almozard <i>St. John's</i>	Dennis Andia <i>DeMatha</i>	Skylar Batts <i>Archbishop Carroll</i>	Yeabsera Belete <i>Elizabeth Seton</i>	Christian Bonny <i>Springbrook</i>	Mendianny Cadet <i>Montrose Christian</i>	Stedman Cook <i>Bishop O'Connell</i>	Tycen Debellotte <i>St. Vincent Palotti</i>	Tori Epps <i>Elizabeth Seton</i>	Jayson Forbai <i>Hubert Blake</i>
									
Ricardi Gaston <i>Good Counsel</i>	Thayan Grammont <i>St. Vincent Palotti</i>	Shannon Hannam <i>St. Vincent Palotti</i>	Gelela Hiruy <i>Montgomery Blair</i>	Kenneth Jones <i>Archbishop Carroll</i>	Breanne Joseph <i>Eleanor Roosevelt</i>	Isaiah Kiganda <i>Don Bosco Cristo Rey</i>	Kendall Leach <i>Archbishop Carroll</i>	Natine Macauley <i>Good Counsel</i>	Cristian Mora <i>Good Counsel</i>
									
Shayvonee Mullen <i>Archbishop Carroll</i>	Brenda Rosas <i>Montgomery Blair</i>	Makeida Samaroo <i>Undecided</i>	Albert Shackelford <i>St. John's</i>	Ran Jay Sismaet <i>St. John's</i>	Jared Smith <i>Undecided</i>	Ramella Suber <i>Holy Cross</i>	Isaiah Tekalign <i>Good Counsel</i>	Dionna Thompson <i>Archbishop Carroll</i>	Anjane Upshur <i>Elizabeth Seton</i>

Grandparents' Day



Above, Pre-K student Alexandra Houck celebrates Grandparents' Day with her grandparents.



Grace Bryant poses with her grandmother on Grandparents' Day, a very special day at St. Bart's where we welcome all grandparents to come visit the children and enjoy our May Crowning and Candle Lighting ceremonies.

Half of Signatures Needed for Marriage Referendum Collected by May 2

The Maryland Marriage Alliance (MMA) announced on May 2 that it has collected over 30,000 signatures of voters on its petition to put the definition of marriage on the November ballot.

"We have been extremely happy with the enthusiastic support of voters to stop the redefinition of marriage in its tracks," said Derek McCoy, Executive Director of the Maryland Marriage Alliance. "In the 31 states to consider the marriage issue, 31 times voters have rejected same-sex marriage and reaffirmed the definition of marriage as a union between one man and one woman. We are confident that Maryland voters will have this opportunity in November, and that they will act on it."

The success of the effort is largely due to the commitment of the Maryland Marriage Alliance to build a broad network of supporters. Since March, MMA's partners have hosted petition drives and training sessions at community centers, festivals, fairs and churches.

OPT

Living Stations of the Cross



At left, Noah Smith reads during Stations of the Cross



At right, 4th grader Jake Abdo carries the cross as Jesus during Stations of the Cross



Congratulations to Blessed Sacrament's Class of 2012!

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Blessed Sacrament School • 5841 Chevy Chase Parkway, NW • Washington, DC 20015

Successful Petition Signing at St. Jude's

By John Naughton

The petition drive to let Marylanders vote in November on whether they want to redefine marriage to be between persons of any sex or to



Andrea Vargas adds a little humor as she explains the form to Renaldo Barrius Solano, who is accompanied by his daughters.

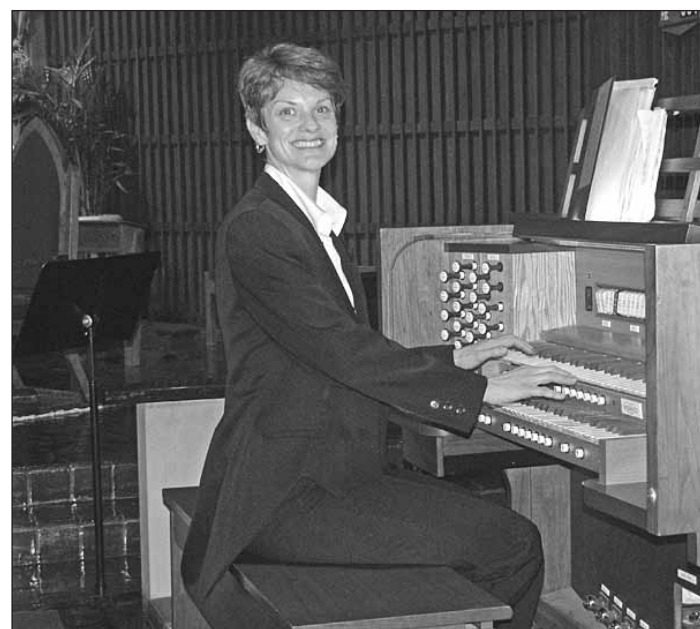
keep it as God instituted it between one man and one woman was held at the Shrine of St. Jude on the weekends of April 14-15 and 28-29. Thanks to twenty-three volunteers excellent coverage was provided at all Masses on both weekends,

including the 6:00 PM Sunday Spanish Masses which provided large counts.

Concentration is needed to complete the petition form correctly. One of our volunteers, Bob Willson, made large samples of completed forms which were displayed at signing tables. The diligence of the volunteers and these samples resulted in an error rate on the completed forms of 2.5%. Most errors were corrected and the signatures saved.

A threat to getting a respectable signature count for April 28-29 was the prediction of rain which would prevent the outside collection of signatures. It rained on Saturday evening but a good count was obtained after the 5:00 PM Saturday evening Mass. Prayers for the Holy Souls in Purgatory resulted in marvelous weather on Sunday and thanks to God and the outstanding work of our volunteers, we were able to finish the drive with over 610 signatures.

OPT



Ms. Christine Couch, St. Jude's talented organist and pianist, recently presented a beautiful Praise and Rejoice Concert for the parish. Christine was accompanied by Shelley Mathews on violin, Denise Lindekugel, mezzo soprano, and the St. Jude Chamber Singers. The Concert featured works Christine has prepared for the American Guild Organists Colleague Exam. The audience greatly enjoyed the beauty and professional presentation of this wonderful musical afternoon.

New Principal Brings Renewed Spirit at St. Jude's Regional Catholic School

By Third Grade Students Caroline Bloodgood, Bianca David, Yonathan Gonzalez, Michael Jorda, and Christine Welto, and Mrs. Patricia Argyros, Third Grade Teacher

Last August when the school doors opened, the students of St. Jude Regional Catholic School (SJRCs) were greeted with a friendly new face. The children had the chance to meet Mr. Glenn J. Benjamin, the new principal, as he shook hands and welcomed each student at the entrance of the school. It was an exciting day!

As Mr. Benjamin completes his first year as principal, the third grade class met with him to discuss his experiences at SJRCs. He joined

the class and answered a variety of questions from the children. He has three important goals for the school: an excellent academic education, a strong faith education, and a good social education.

When asked why he chose SJRCs, Mr. Benjamin said he felt that people truly cared at St. Jude. They cared about faith, education, and the community. He said there was "joy, enthusiasm, happiness, and love." He also discussed the unique history of the school, which was started by the Bernardine Sisters, and this year is celebrating its 55th anniversary.

Catholic education is very important to Mr. Benjamin because he believes "faith guides us in our relationship with Jesus and our relation-



Mr. Glenn Benjamin, principal of St. Jude Regional Catholic School, answers a question from a third grader about his first year as principal.

children at SJRCs. He exclaimed, "I love the children here at school. They are all unique and have their own personalities. They have many gifts and talents to share." Spending time with his students is his favorite part of his job. He enjoys visiting the classrooms, reading to the Kindergarten class, and seeing the students in the hallways and on the playground.

In his free time Mr. Benjamin enjoys time with his family. He likes to go to the park with his wife and two young daughters, Kelsey and Madison. He loves football and is a lifelong Redskins fan. He also enjoys fishing, gardening, and all sports. His favorite color is red, and his favorite subject is history.

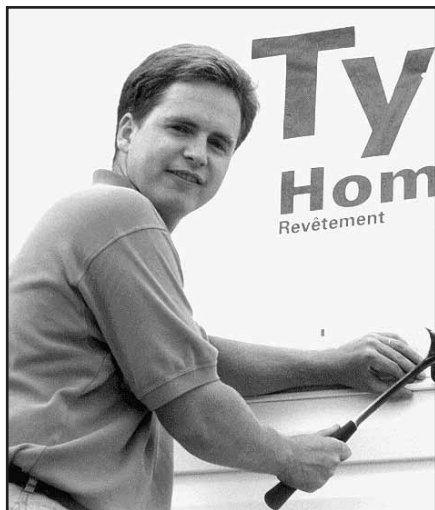
Mr. Benjamin has high expectations for the students at SJRCs, and he offered words of advice to the third grade class. He encouraged them to never give up, and to "try, try again" until they reach their goals. In his first year as principal, Mr. Glenn Benjamin has brought great energy, enthusiasm, and a renewed spirit to St. Jude Regional Catholic School.

ship with others". It helps us decide what to do and how to treat others. He attended St. Elizabeth Catholic School, St. John's College High School and studied Education at The Catholic University of America. He has taught and coached at Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of Washington.

Mr. Benjamin was asked about the

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The Shrine of St. Jude's Confirmation class after the closing prayer of their day long retreat on March 10, 2012. There were 80 students and 5 adults Confirmed by Bishop Gonzalez on April 21.



Shrine of St. Jude Parish
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Rockville, MD
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Catholic School**
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The Shrine of St Jude Pastoral Council

By Nancy Mayer-Whittington

“St. Jude Thaddeus, pray for us.” With this invocation, the most recent meeting of the Shrine of St. Jude Pastoral Council was called to order. Under the leadership of Father Hines, the Pastoral Council strives to fulfill its primary goal – to advise the Pastor – while at the same time ensuring ongoing and two-way communication among the ministries and organizations that make up the parish community. According to the guidelines for Pastoral Councils developed by the Archdiocese of Washington, the work of the Council should be one of “animation” and not “implementation.” Thus, the Council encourages the development and growth of lay leadership to work with the Clergy and religious representatives to “build a living Christian community”.

The Pastoral Council is made up of 10 elected or appointed voting members and 10 ad hoc mem-

bers who represent the ministries and organizations of the parish. Representation on the Council ranges from the school, religious education program and youth ministry to the Sodality of Mary, Hispanic Ministry and the Social Justice Ministry, to name a few. The Council meets five times a year to exchange information, update the Pastor and members on upcoming events and activities and facilitate open communication.

Cardinal Wuerl recently requested that each parish in the Archdiocese of Washington conduct a self-assessment using the *Indicators of Vitality*. These are based on five areas of parish life – worship, edu-

cation, community life, service and administration. Responding to this request, our Council had a lively discussion at the March meeting about the first indicator, worship. The conversation ranged from questions about the recent changes to the liturgy to feedback on the number of Sunday Masses, to questions as to the best way to ensure that the parish is responsive to our ethnically diverse population, to kudos for all the opportunities our parish provides for seasonal worship and special devotions. The Council will discuss the second indicator, education, at the next meeting in May and we look forward to an equally beneficial discussion.

OPT



The Pastoral Council is shown here (l-r); seated: Nancy Mayer-Whittington, Chairman, Natalie Craven, Secretary, Father Hines, Pastor; second row: Gail Saur, Mary Beahn, Carmen Dominguez, Pedro Estaban, Pat Wheeler; third row: Frank Carroll, Michael Moynihan, Peter Oristian, Glenn Benjamin, Tom Dollard, Vice Chairman, Sister Vincent DePaul, Tom Pretzfelder, Judy Rowles, Gina Swanda. Frank English and Eddie Ribas not shown.



The Monstrance rests on top of the Tabor donated by the priests and Sodality of the Shrine of St. Jude. Seminarian Kevin Kayser, Msgr. Panke, Prefect Carmen Dominguez and Fr. Blake Evans flank the Monstrance and Tabor.

Gift of Love to the John Paul II Seminary

By Martha Willson

For many years Our Lady of the Wayside Sodality has provided support for our seminarians through prayer and financial gifts. So when moderator Fr. Blake Evans asked the Sodality to join with him and pastor Fr. William Hines in donating a Tabor to the new Blessed John Paul II Seminary, the Sodality wanted to help. A Tabor is the stand on which the Monstrance is placed during Eucharistic Adoration. Fr. Evans selected the Tabor that was given.

Monsignor Robert J. Panke, rector of the seminary, received the Tabor from Fr. Evans, Prefect Carmen Dominguez, and Vice Prefect Natalie Craven. After the presentation, the prefect and vice prefect joined the seminarians for Benediction and Adoration. Both ladies were happy to be present for this special ceremony.

While at the seminary, the prefect and vice prefect also were able to meet with Robert Kilner and Benjamin Garcia, the two seminarians currently sponsored by the Sodality. Our Sodality will continue to offer special prayers for and financial stipends to the seminarians until they are ordained.

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Leticia Candra
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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATES OF 2012!

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Kristen Walsh
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Christine Wasel
St. John's College HS



Mary Wasel
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Stone Ridge



Victoria Yeakle
Good Counsel



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Wheaton, Maryland

Congratulates the Class of 2012

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Principal

Rev. Michael A. Salah,
Pastor



Tyra Albert
Good Counsel



Alma Brennan
Holy Cross



Jason Brito
Georgetown Prep



Briana Campbell
Undecided



Wendy Charles
Good Counsel



Maribel Cruz
Good Counsel



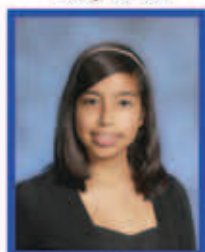
Jordy Diaz
Bethesda Chevy Chase



Dakota Dumire
Don Bosco Cristo Rey



Brenna Ebner
Northwood



Hanna Fantom
Holy Cross



Winston Geohagan
Montrose



Andrea Gill
Undecided



Nia Johnson
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McCauley Peters
Gonzaga



Eder Ramirez
Saint John's



Rosario Rivera
Stone Ridge



Luis Varela
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Austin Yescas
Heights



ST. PATRICK'S SCHOOL

Will Guarini, Owen Peters, Hailey Anchor, Daniel Tremor, Brooke Sharp, Carlos Perez, Jackie Fillet
Xavier Fangmeyer, Madeline Alcorn, Molly McConville, Abby Wilson, Cara Dec, Juliana Joaquin, Bobby Baker, Catie Collins
Olivia Northrop, Paul Weise, Madison Shoraka, Ian Parker, Michael Daves, Chris Horwhat, Kat Palenque, Alex Marshall



St. Bartholomew Parish Begins Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry, a Christian ministry to individuals with personal crises, has started at St. Bartholomew Parish. Stephen Ministry's motto is "Christ Caring for People through People." It employs solid theology and sound psychology to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in the parish and community who are facing a crisis or difficulty, which could include, for example, loss of a loved one, hospitalization, divorce or separation, a terminal illness, or any other personal, medical, or spiritual difficulty or crisis. Within the Archdiocese of Washington, three parishes already have Stephen Ministry: Jesus the Good Shepherd, Dunkirk; St. John the Baptist, Silver Spring; and St. Rose of Lima, Gaithersburg.

At St. Bartholomew Parish, Deacon Julio Blanco-Eccleston and others had been interested in Stephen Ministry for several years. Pastor Fr. Joseph Sileo made a decision to start Stephen Ministry at St. Bart's last summer. Fr. Sileo was familiar with its benefits and thought it might be especially helpful to older parishioners as they adjust to some of the challenges of aging. Fr. Dan Gallagher, Parochial Vicar at St. Bart's, is leading the parish's Stephen Ministry program. Many



Reflecting St. Bartholomew Parish's dual communities, there are two groups of Stephen Ministry trainees, one for Spanish speakers (left) and one for English speakers (right).



persons at St. Bart's expressed interest in becoming Stephen Ministers in response to a parish ministry fair last April, presentations in June, and announcements in the parish bulletin and at Mass. Fr. Gallagher told OPT, "We wanted to make sure that each applicant knew what Stephen Ministry was all about, and that he or she would make a good Stephen Minister in terms of personality, spirituality, relational ability, and motivation." Among the core qualities needed in a Stephen Minister are a living Christian faith, the ability to maintain confidentiality and relate in a non-judgmental way, and a

commitment to the time needed for training, serving, and supervision.

The core work of Stephen Ministry at St. Bart's will begin once the first class of ministers has completed its training and is commissioned on May 20. Stephen Minister training includes 20 sessions of 2½ hours each. Deacon Julio Blanco-Eccleston, Mr. Hernán Oyarzabal, and Fr. Gallagher have led training sessions, which include a variety of lectures, discussions by the full class or by small groups, and role-playing activities in which trainees put into practice what they have learned.

Intake of "care receivers" to Stephen Ministry takes into consideration who can best benefit from the distinctively Christian care that Stephen Ministers provide. Presently, Fr. Gallagher serves as Referrals Coordinator at St. Bart's. Fr. Gallagher told OPT, "In finding potential care receivers and assigning Stephen Ministers to them, we have to keep in mind what Stephen Ministry is and what it is not. Stephen Ministers provide one-to-one spiritual and emotional care, support, and encouragement to people who are coping with life difficulties. If someone needs help like legal assistance, financial advice, or help with transportation or housework, however, those matters are beyond the scope of Stephen Ministry. Similarly, if someone has psychological problems, is severely depressed, is a substance abuser, etc., this too is beyond the scope of Stephen Ministry." Stephen Ministry at St. Bart's is creating a list of local professionals who could provide assistance to persons with problems that go beyond the scope of the Ministry. Confidentiality is very important to Stephen Ministry. What a care receiver says—or even the fact that a person is receiving the care of a Stephen Minister—is fully confidential.

OPT

Lent at St. Bartholomew Parish: Holy, Peaceful, and Prayerful



Fr. Joseph Sileo conducts Children's Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.



Parishioners at Easter Vigil service at St. Bartholomew's.

Lent at St. Bart's featured three retreats as well as weekly Friday Stations of the Cross, Soup and Stations, and Wednesday confessions. The Easter Vigil service included the Baptism, Confirmation and/or First Eucharist

for a large number of catechumens and candidates. Fr. Joe Sileo told OPT, "The parish worked hard to ensure that the experience of getting close to God was enhanced during Lent."

OPT

St. Bartholomew Lenten Retreat Addresses "Rediscovering Jesus in Your Life."

On Monday, March 26 through Wednesday March 28, Brother August Parlavechio, C.P., led St. Bart's Lenten Retreat. Brother August has been a Passionist religious for 40 years and has been involved in many ministries, including retreat preacher, parish associate, formation director for those men aspiring to be Passionists, and Treasurer of his community. Brother August helped those participating in the retreat to "rediscover Jesus" in their lives. He particularly addressed the power of forgiveness. St. Bart's Pastor Fr. Joseph Sileo, a boyhood friend of Brother August, noted that Brother August has served the Church in many ways, but that retreats are his "special love." Lent at St. Bart's also



Brother August Parlavechio, C.P., leads the Parish Lenten Retreat at St. Bartholomew Parish.

included a Men's Retreat, led by Brother Malachy Broderick on March 17, with the theme, "Jesus and the Father in the Synoptic Gospels and the Gospel of John,"

and a Women's Retreat, led by Fr. Sileo, on February 23, with the theme, "Role of Women in the Old Testament."

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May Crowning at St. Bartholomew



Above left, Colman Bettencourt and Clara Gimblett at May Crowning
Above center, Brian Bromley Rafael Virador and Everett Hutter at May Crowning
At right, Joan Castiello crowns Mary

More St. Bartholomew News on Page 40 & 43

St. Bartholomew Parish

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Kathleen Miller
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202-512-8226

Girl Scout Junior Troop 2936 Works on Simple Meals Badge

The SJE Girl Scout junior troop gathered on a recent Friday afternoon to work towards earning a cooking badge called

“Simple Meals.” The girls made pizza snowballs and chocolate and pumpkin dessert empanadas. Parent advisor, Mrs. Marie Schech, also demonstrated to the girls how to make a dinner salad that’s a balanced and healthy meal.

After completing several steps to earn the badge, the girls will know how to serve up a healthy meal for family and friends including whipping up a great breakfast, fixing a healthy lunch or dinner, or creating a delicious dessert.

OPT



The scouts take a break to pose for a photo outside on the kitchen steps.



The SJE school kitchen teems with busy Girl Scouts learning some cooking basics.



SJE Parish Welcomes New Music Director, William J. Mattison

Q: Tell us a bit about yourself. Where did you grow up and where did you go to school?

A: I grew up in Scranton, Pennsylvania. I attended Scranton High School, Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey (but not a part of Princeton U.) for my degrees in Music Education and Sacred Music and the University of Notre Dame for my Master’s Degree in Sacred Music. Living in the DC area proves to be a wonderful experience for me thus far. With so many events in both the sacred

realms and the musical realms, this area is everything an active church musician could ask for! I am also a big sports fan! Baseball (NY Yankees), College Football (ND Fighting Irish) and Tennis (Andy Roddick) are my top three favorites.

Q: What are some of the challenges about being a church music director that make the job rewarding for you?

A: One of the biggest challenges as a Director of Liturgical Music

Continued on page 55

Troop 466 is pleased to congratulate Nate Incognito (on L) and Nathaniel Rogers (on R) on completing the Eagle Board of Review on Friday, March 16, 2012. Not only did they earn this rank on the same night but both are St. John the Evangelist School graduates and seniors at Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. They are the first in the troop to complete the Eagle Rank on its Centenary Anniversary. Only about 2% of all Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout so the SJE Parish community salutes you both!



St. John the Evangelist Parish
 10103 Georgia Ave.
 Silver Spring, MD
 301-681-7663

Rev. Msgr. John R. Pennington
 Pastor

St. John the Evangelist School
 Sr. Kathleen Lannak, I.H.M.,
 Principal
 301-681-7656

Kate Droege, OPT Editor
 droeges@verizon.net

More St. John the Evangelist on Page 55

THE GRADUATION CLASS OF 2012

We Congratulate You!

Monsignor John R. Pennington, Pastor
 Sister Kathleen Lannak, IHM, Principal
 Miss Hope Smith, Eighth Grade Teacher
 Faculty, Staff, Parents & Students

Silver Spring, Maryland

 N. Akukwe St. John College	 G. Baldini Einstein High	 C. Barone St. John College	 T. Barr Northwood High	 A. Baych Good Counsel	 B. Garagusi Gonzaga	 C. Godfrey Blair High	 I. Gottlieb Good Counsel
 J. M. Hathway Georgetown Visitation	 S. Haywood Holy Cross	<p>Silver Spring, Maryland</p>				 T. Holback Ft. Meade High	 J. LaHood St. John College
 J. Lyons Georgetown Prep	 P. Mulholland Gonzaga					 A. Nguyen St. John College	 M. Ngwana Stone Ridge
 M. Placanica St. John College	 S. Rudolph Good Counsel	 C. Ruppert John F. Kennedy	 S. Slough St. John College	 B. Vannall Archbishop Carroll	 C. Vincent Holy Cross	 J. White Blake High	 J. Yoshikawa Archbishop Spalding

Petition for Marriage Referendum Gains Momentum

Strong response arose throughout the state shortly after the Maryland legislature passed the law in February to “re-define” marriage.

A non-profit organization, Maryland Marriage Alliance (MMA), has mobilized the effort to place the controversial issue on the ballot for the November 2012 election year, in order to provide the opportunity for all Marylanders to voice their opinion in a voting referendum about the matter of same-sex marriage.

As currently enacted, the law of “re-definition” is scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2013 unless the law is rejected in the potential referendum.

MMA includes a broad spectrum of many groups such as Maryland Family Alliance, Maryland Catholic Conference, and the National Organization for Marriage, plus a host of independent churches of dif-



Several “circulators” (volunteer workers) for the petition-drive at St Patrick discuss the ramifications and foibles of collecting valid signatures which will qualify for the potential referendum to be placed on the November ballot concerning the “re-definition” of marriage.

fering denominations, various organizations and individual citizens.

Here at St Patrick, the petition campaign obtained more than 600 signatures during a span of two successive weekends in late April, thanks to the efforts of two dozen “circulators” within the parish community.

In early May, Derek McCoy, executive director of MMA, announced that more than 30,000 signatures had already been collected throughout the state during the early weeks of the campaign to qualify for the November referendum. Collection of signatures continues. He also related: “We are extremely happy with the enthusiastic support” thus far in the petition-drive.

The goal is to continue the record wherein the voters in 31 of 31 states have rejected same-sex marriage, and, re-affirmed the definition of marriage as a sacred union between one man and one woman. Thus far,

same-sex marriage has been enacted into law only in those few states in which the courts or a legislature have so decreed.

Nevertheless, a tougher battle looms ahead for the potential and decisive voting in a November referendum, wherein the proponents of same-sex unions in Maryland will allege, and proclaim loudly, for their position to “right” and “equal” treatment in “marriage” under the sanction of governmental law. Observers expect, unfortunately, that some Catholics and other Christians may be lured into that distorted notion of “equality” as a presumptive human prerogative.

Defenders of traditional marriage between a man and a woman still face an uphill fight in Maryland, even if the petition for the referendum is successful. Prayers are needed in abundance.

OPT

Student Body Responds to Mayers

By Mia Sterbini,
Student Reporter

When news of the serious accident at Wisp Resort involving schoolmates reached St Patrick School, the entire student body reacted.

How could they help?

Contributing prayers, good wishes and gifts to Cap, Beth Ann and Will Mayer quickly became the best response.

A prayer vigil at the Mayer residence, a special Mass, recitation of the rosary and the liturgy of a Eucharistic Adoration were offered during the many days of concern for the welfare of the Mayer family.

Those spiritual and corporal works of care for the injured stu-

dents continued during the ensuing weeks of March into April.

It was then an “all hands” celebration when the Mayer students returned to classes after Spring break... somewhat sooner than expected.

Prayers had been answered.

OPT



A gigantic “Welcome Back” message to Mayer-family students appeared on one of the walls in the school cafeteria.



Incensing by Father Michael Paris is part of the liturgy at the May Crowning.

May Crowning at St. Patrick's

A traditional procession and crowning of Mary on the first Sunday of May was held outdoors after the 1230 Mass.

Lucy Pawlowski, a confirmandi, and flower-girl Sophia Koelsch, a First Communicant of the previous day, carried out the honors of crowning



Above, Crown for the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary is set into place by Lucy Pawlowski.

At left, Flower-girl Sophia Koelsch hands the wreath of flowers [crown] to Lucy Pawlowski at the liturgy for the May crowning.

the life-size statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary which is located in the special outdoor garden-plot between the church and the rectory.

Several hymns, incensing, and recitation of the International Rosary high-lighted the liturgy for the attendees.

Members of the parish Legion of Mary arranged the event and provided tasty refreshments.

OPT



Special Needs Ministry Grows

The umbrella organization of the Up-county Community Resources (abbreviated as UcCR) has adopted a simple and important mission of promoting the full inclusion of persons with developmental differences into every aspect of community life.

Within the past year of an inaugural effort by the Special Needs Ministry at St Patrick, this group has created the non-profit organization of UcCR in conjunction with neighboring parishioners of St Francis of Assisi, plus the assistance and cooperation of other entities in the upper section of Montgomery County. It was the 2011 Feast of Pentecost at St Patrick in June which gave physical life to earlier months of discussion and planning.

A recent grant of \$15,000 to UcCR will facilitate some needed start-up expenses and the possibil-

ity of hiring a part-time staff person.

Special liturgies other events will continue to expand this ministry so as to enrich the lives of persons with developmental disabilities.

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Ms. Susan Splendido,
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'Father Bob' to Retire as Pastor at Resurrection

By John Small

Father Robert F. Keffer, pastor at Resurrection Church in Burtonsville for the past 13 years, has announced he will retire soon, "most likely in July." He was known for his low-key demeanor, down-to-earth homilies, and constant presence at the church entrance before and after masses.

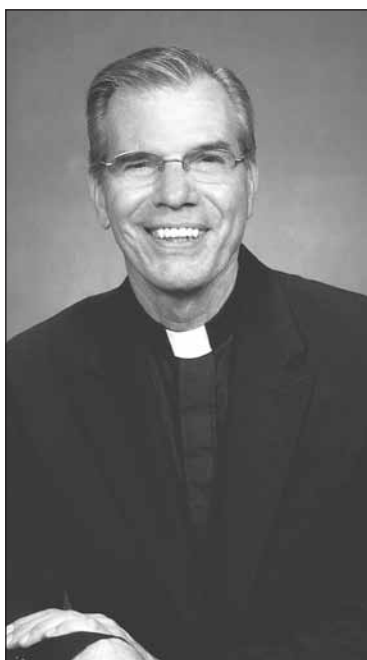
"Father Bob" said in a letter to parishioners that he hopes "to become active in my new community in West Virginia where I will be living. I have a small house outside Harpers Ferry ... and will offer my services to the local community of St. James."

He also said he hopes to get back to part-time counseling "which I have not always been able to do here at Resurrection. I also hope to have some time for my other passion -- gardening." One reason he did not always have time for counseling was the rapid growth of Resurrection from a fledgling congregation since its founding in 1981 to a bustling parish today of nearly 4,000 registered parishioners.

Raised in Hyattsville, Father Bob was ordained in 1968 and has been a priest for 44 years. Among his assignments was serving as Catholic chaplain at the University of Maryland. He came to Resurrection in 1999, becoming its third pastor and succeeding Father Jack Macfarlane (1981-1992) and Father John Pennington (1992-1999).

During his time at Resurrection, one of Father Bob's most visible achievements was overseeing the development and building of the Parish Life Center, a beautiful, much-used facility completed in 2006 and containing a Youth Center, parish offices, meeting rooms, classrooms, and outdoor courtyard.

For a number of years, his "Tuesdays With Fr. Bob" has been a popular series in which he led discussion on religious and bibli-



Father Robert Keffer...retiring after 44 years as priest.

cal topics. He also was a strong supporter of liturgical music, often singing with the choir and attending events in the popular "Living Arts Concert Series." He also was an avid participant in the parish bridge club.

In his letter to parishioners, Father Bob said: "I have thoroughly enjoyed being Pastor of this parish for the past 13 years. We have a wonderfully diverse and active community that prides itself in its work for justice, its care of our children and elderly parishioners, as well as a vibrant, celebratory, and prayerful liturgical life. ... You have been a very welcoming community and we have been blessed with the support of so many. I will certainly miss this parish."

A retirement party is planned for Sunday, June 24, with a mass at 3 p.m. and a reception from 4-7 p.m. in the Amadeo Room. A separate event will be held at Riderwood Community, where 800 Catholics are served by priests from Resurrection.

OPT

Nearly 45 Children Receive First Communion at Resurrection

Forty-four children made their first communion at a First Eucharist mass Saturday, May 5, at Resurrection Church in Burtonsville. The mass, which was attended by many family members and friends, was celebrated by Father Bob Keffer and Father Mike Blackwell.

In the pre-mass processional, each of the communicants—the girls in white dresses and veils and the boys in suits and ties—proceeded individually to their pews. The processional featured the singing of the great hymn by St. Francis of Assisi, "All Creatures of Our God and King," with a beautiful first verse that goes: "All creatures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us sing. Alleluia, Alleluia! O, burning sun with golden beam, and silver moon with softer gleam. O, praise Him, O praise Him, Alleluia, Alleluia!"

The first communicants were: Christina Anderson, Gabriela Nascimento, Emily Anderson, Abraham Ndour, Catherine Atkinson, Jazymn Padmore, Christian Atkinson, Sophia Pham, Shannon Attreed-Irvin, Raphael Pierre, Dillon Beidleman, Marie



Forty-four children at Resurrection Church received their first communion Saturday, May 5, during a First Eucharist special mass celebrated by Father Bob Keffer and Father Mike Blackwell. Photo by Phil Powell

Poulos, Jullianna Betonio, Erika Quintana, Samantha Collins, Jared Ramirez, Faith Dallo, Tatyana Ramirez, Devin Etta, Giancarlo Rodriguez, Anthony Goglia, Adrien Rozario, Ethan Gonzalez-Ren, Natalia Sandoval, Antwone Hoffman, Alana Santos, Kyrene Jamero, Ameil Tolentino, Rachel Kaczorowski, Sophia Totaro, Addyson Kiras, Victor Vasquez, Ethan Kiras, Emma Wellans, Jyomalia Lambe, Dylan Wiegert, Adam Mausser, Julia Wright, George Miti-Kavuma, Javier Zaragoza-Gallardo, Adrianna Monzon-Osorio, Michelle Zaragoza-Gallardo, Britney Muhindi and Rodrigo

Zaragoza-Gallardo.

Following the Eucharistic Liturgy, the first communicants, parents, other family members and friends attended a reception in the church's Amadeo Room hosted by the Religious Education First Grade Families.

Helping the children prepare for their first communion were Helene Stever, Director of Youth Faith Formation; Sacramental Catechists Phyllis Bottegal, Pat Sellner, Clarice Poole, and Mirna Bonilla; and Teen Catechists Tiffany Melgar, Corinne Paul, and Zach Azigi.

OPT

Couple to Celebrate 70th Anniversary, Topping List of Long-Time Marriages at Resurrection

Back in 1967, there was a No. 1 hit song titled Happy Together. One of the verses went: "Me and you and you and me. No matter how they tossed the dice, it had to be. The only one for me is you and you for me. So happy together! So happy together!"

That might be the theme song for a number of couples at Resurrection Church celebrating landmark wedding anniversaries this year, although there has to be a lot more to long-time marriages than just "tossing the dice."

The anniversaries at Resurrection will include one of 70 years for Leon Ray and Marcella Davis, who were married December 22, 1942. The couple, who reside at Riderwood Community in Silver Spring and are known as "Ray and Marcie," have seen a lot of history since their marriage in the middle of World War II.

They will be among the couples honored June 3 by the Washington Archdiocese at the annual Jubilarian Celebration for couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45 and 50-plus years. Cardinal Donald Wuerl will preside

at the 2012 Jubilarian Mass for Married Couples at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Although the Davises cannot attend the mass, another Resurrection couple, Anthony and Peggy Sampogna, who celebrated their 60th anniversary on Feb. 16 and who also live at Riderwood, plan to attend the Jubilarian Mass.

Another Resurrection couple who will be honored are Joseph and Rebecca Gredlics, who will be celebrating their 45th anniversary in December (married the year of the "Happy Together" song). The Gredlics have been long-time ushers at Resurrection, with Rebecca serving as head usher.

Two couples who are celebrating 40th anniversaries this year are Edward and Dorothy (Dottie) Werner, as well as Wayne and Eleanor Brown. Dottie ran the religious education program at Resurrection for many years. Wayne Brown has been active in the Knights of Columbus and helped set up the parish "Winterfest" for a number of years, while Eleanor has

served as an usher.

Resurrection couples celebrating their 25th anniversaries this year include Terry and Wendy Walker (who have been active in the parish youth ministry), Raul and Zenaida Chang (Raul has been active with the Knights, and Zenaida is a Eucharistic minister), and Percival and LunaRose Tiglaio.

For these eight couples alone, it adds up to 330 years of being happy together.

OPT

Youngsters attending the Resurrection Preschool joyously clutch their bags of eggs collected during an Easter Egg Hunt in the church courtyard on March 28. Mary Depenbrock was one of the preschool teachers who organized the event and assisted the children in their searches. Photo by Sally DeSavage



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Corporal Works of Mercy in Action at Mother of God School

By Denise Madaras

On January 29 of this year, the Mother of God School community suffered great loss in the passing away of a dear mother and aunt of our students and alumni. Maria Zoila Limon Robles, known to the children of our school as Mrs. Medina, passed away suddenly, but left a school community filled with the grace and comfort of knowing her love for Jesus and Mary would bring peace to all who knew her.



Maria Zoila Limon Robles

Our Corporal Work of Mercy in action at our school is burying the dead. When the school administration was notified of her passing, everyone went into action to see what the Mother of God School staff and families could do to help the Medina and Martinez families. Maria was so loved at our school given that she has been a parent and an aunt of children at the school for many years with her oldest daughter, Rossana, a graduate of Mother of God School, preparing for graduation from Our Lady of Good Counsel High School. Our

school hosted the funeral reception in our gym for this beautiful faithful woman. We also organized an online sign up for meals for the family during this difficult time. Students and staff prayed for Maria Medina and her family. Fr. Francis Martin, spiritual director of the Mother of God Community, met with the students to offer words and prayers of comfort and peace.

Some commented on how beautiful and touching was the support shown to this wonderful family, but the blessings were for all of us. Although we were living our Catholic beliefs by providing support to honor this special mother and friend, we were all blessed to experience the faithfulness of the Medina and Martinez families who concluded the funeral reception with the recitation of the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet. Many in our school community were able to witness the beauty of trusting in the Divine Mercy of Jesus, confirming our faith in the corporal works of mercy being a blessing for all those who put them in action.

The Medina and Martinez families expressed their sincere gratitude for the support offered from Mother of God School and St. John Neumann Parish, but we feel thankful to have grown in our faith as a community as these families witnessed to their love and trust in Christ. May God bless Maria Medina and all those who loved her.

OPT



Crowning of Mary, Mother of God School second and eighth graders

May Crowning

By Siena Braun & Mary Reinhard

Mother of God School held their May Crowning on Monday, May 7. The entire student body gathered in the school courtyard while our second and eighth graders, dressed in their First Communion and Confirmation finest, gathered around the statue of Mary. Jennifer Codd, eighth grade, and Maria Haddad, second grade, lead the crowning of our Virgin Mother Mary.

After the crowning the students of Mother of God School processed to the gym building for Mass lead by Fr. LaHood. At the end of Mass our second grade class sang a love-

ly song that brought tears to your eyes.

OPT

SPADONI

Con't from page 1

The school had a surprise gathering in its All Purpose Room with the student body, faculty, staff and members of the Archdiocese of Washington's Catholic Schools' Office. Deacon Bert L'Homme, Superintendent of Schools, made the surprise announcement and presented this prestigious award to Mr. Spadoni.

This annual award is presented to a principal who demonstrates accomplishment in six categories: balancing management and leadership roles, setting high expectations and standards, stressing content and instruction that ensures student achievement, creating a culture of professional development for teachers, using multiple tools to apply and assess instructional improvements and actively engaging the school community.

Mr. Spadoni has served as principal at St. Elizabeth School since 2005. He was the school's assistant principal from 1998-2000, and then served as principal of St. Ambrose School in Cheverly, Maryland, where he was credited with raising test scores and increasing enrollment by more than 100 students.

St. Elizabeth School is well known for its Catholic identity and strong teaching of the Catholic faith as a result of Mr. Spadoni's leadership. Mr. Spadoni serves as a role model for all in the community as he lives his faith every day. Mr. Spadoni has not only dedicated himself to the St. Elizabeth School community but also to the Archdiocese of Washington's Elementary School Principals' Association. Currently, Mr. Spadoni is the Regional

Representative for the principals of Montgomery County, and in the fall, he will assume the role of President-elect of the Elementary School Principals' Association. The St. Elizabeth School and Parish

community salute and congratulate Mr. Spadoni as he is named the Washington Archdiocese's Distinguished Principal of the Year.

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Rev. Jan Fiedurek, S.Chr., Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Poland & St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish in Silver Spring is surrounded by parishioners who participated in the Mass and took the oath for the Spiritual Adoption of Unborn Children on March 26, 2012. The members pray daily for an unborn child for nine months, beginning on the feast of the Annunciation. The members this year are: Zofia Dunian, Marianna & Alex Gawin, Janina Mols, Maryla & Janusz Obrzut, Tatiana & Krzysztof Psurek (holding their daughter), Joanna Roberts, Elzbieta Siwanowicz, and Yolanda Cornett.



The Rev. Marek Chmielniak, Ph.D., joined Rev. Jan Fiedurek, Pastor of Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, and parishioners outside the church in blessing the palms before the Palm Sunday procession and Mass on April 1, 2012. Rev. Dr. Chmielniak led the Lenten retreat at OLQP this year. Standing next to the priests are two Franciscan brothers who are studying at the Catholic University of America, Br. Marcin and Br. Ireneusz. Both have been helping at OLQP on Sundays.



Polish Legion of American Veterans (PLAV) commander Eugene Pawlikowski and World War II survivor Janina Mols take their turn keeping watch at the tomb of Jesus on Holy Saturday, April 7, 2012, at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish, while people bring baskets filled with Easter food to the altar to be blessed by Fr. Fiedurek throughout the day.



Our Lady Queen of Poland parishioners were treated to a beautiful concert after evening Mass on Easter Monday, April 9, 2012, by Benrose, a duet composed of musician husband and vocalist wife, Benedykt and Roza Frackiewicz. They are active in the Polish Mission Church in Wuppertal, Germany, where OLQP Pastor Jan Fiedurek's brother priests from the Society of Christ minister to the Polish community there. Included in the evening's repertoire were meditative selections and songs remembering Pope John Paul II and the Polish people who were murdered at Katyn in 1940.



The Polish Scouts from Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish in Silver Spring were invited to participate in the Katyn Remembrance ceremony on April 29, 2012, by Chairman Richard Poremski of the National Katyn Memorial Foundation (NKMF). The Remembrance ceremony took place at Baltimore's

Harbor East around the bronze sculpture by Andrzej Pitynski. Many notable guests were present. Pictured, in front, are scouts Edward Lipsman, William Rusiecki, and Alicia Coleman. In the back are Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Scout Leader Bozenna Buda, and Secretary of Maryland Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Edward Chow, Jr., who represented MD Governor O'Malley's office. The scouts are holding the proclamation from the Governor which Mr. Chow read at the ceremony.

OPT

Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish Picnic



The celebration of the Parish Feast Day and picnic at Our Lady Queen of Poland Parish in Silver Spring on May 6, 2012, was a joyous event. In addition to the delicious food and fellowship, seminarian and Franciscan Brother Marcin Buntow came with Brother Chris and engaged the youth in scouting songs and games, above, while guitarist Tomasz Smok provided the music. Brother Marcin is a scout leader from Poland who has shared his guitar and musical talents with our parish on many occasions.

At right, Polish Scout Stefan Dechert took his turn volunteering at the books and video sale table during the OLQP picnic on Sunday, May 6, 2012. In the picture, he is helping his mother, Col. Ret. Anna Maria Kaczmarek-Dechert, purchase some selections.



Our Lady Queen of Poland

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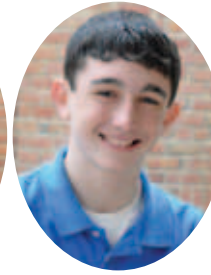
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Tiger Trot 2012

Holy Child mounted another successful charity run on a sunny Sunday, April 15, with its second Annual Tiger Trot 5K. Attracting more than 400 registrants, more than double last year's inaugural event, the 2012 race raised money for the health and wellness

programs at the school and at Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department, which was presented a check for \$3,000 at the ceremony.

In addition, this year's Tiger Trot was a great community builder both within and outside the school group, with faculty, staff, parents, and students there in droves and "elite" runners joining—and winning—for the first time. The students, who won points for their school blue

or gold team and money for best costume, especially enjoyed the warm-up session. New dance coach Crishon Landers led them in exercises and dances to limber up, like the steps from *Thriller*. The post-race party was equally popular, complete with moon bounce, face painting, and more music, kept lively by emcee John Martin, a Holy Child parent and daytime DJ personality for MIX 107.3, who also called the race.

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St. Bernadette Senior Girls Basketball Team. Back Row L-R: Jay Long, Coleen Hatcher/AHC, Olivia Duke/GV, Sarah Long/AHC, Ashley Dumont/GC, Claire Dolson/GV, Noreen Duke/GV, Caroline Long/AHC. Front Row L-R: Rose Shelley/AHC, Bridget Callahan/AHC, Nicole Krawczewicz/AHC, Sammi Keehan/AHC, Paige Minturn/AHC, and Allie Davitt/AHC.

St. Bernadette Alumni Girls High School Hoop/Slurpees Championship

By Jay Long

One of the most important parts of CYO Senior (High School) Girls basketball at St. Bernadette's is the fun! Over the past six years our team has had players from three schools (Holy Cross, Visitation and Good Counsel), from all classes (Freshmen through Senior) and as many as four sets of sisters. Some of the girls compete at a high level in other sports (swimming, volleyball, softball, soccer and crew to name a few), some are more partial to the performing arts and this year one young woman got tired of being

a spectator so she came out and played.

The season kicks off each year with our alumnae game in December where our graduated girls come back to play the current team. Practices are typically filled with more laughter than strategy and end with a trip to the local 7/11 for Slurpees. Games are competitive but usually friendly as the girls are often playing against some of their high school classmates. Although they have moved on and are going in many different directions, our girls have a strong desire to stay connected and to not lose track of the friends they made at St.

Bernadette. Thanks to CYO Senior Girls Basketball they have been able to do just that.

Over the years we've won some and lost some but this season we finished strong. After coming from behind to beat St. Jude on February 26, the St. Bernadette Senior Girls Basketball team won the city championship the next weekend with wins over St. John the Baptist in the semifinal and over previously undefeated St. Andrews in the final game. The team was coached down the stretch by Mike Davitt, Danny Callahan and Jay Long, assisted by team alum, Brydie Long.

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Holy Child JV Equestrian Team Beats Out 41 Schools for ISHS Championship

The Riding Tigers of Connelly School of the Holy Child have done it again. It's been a golden season for Holy Child's Junior Varsity squad, which walked off with the championship of the Inter-School Horse Show Series (ISHS).

Despite fielding a young team, mostly Middle School riders, Holy Child beat out more than 41 regional schools, private and public, to grab top honors with 288 points, 42 points ahead of the closest competitor. At last week's Full Moon Invitational, the team was recognized and presented the silver cup for being top team. During the season, Holy Child brought home three Champion ribbons (from the September, February and March shows) and Reserve Champion accolades in October and January.

The regular show riders on Junior Varsity

are Elizabeth Cornfeld, Hannah Devine, Sarah Holladay, Catherine MacCormack, Rose Meima, MacKenzie Myers, Sophia Seymour, Hope Thomas, and Maya Whitaker; additional team members include Clare Bloss, Katie Metro, Meagan Rock, Ella Sullivan, Lexi Sullivan, and Allie Wolfe. Aoife Magner is, at present, the sole Holy Child Varsity rider. She participated in last year's Washington International Horse Show, and hopes to do so again in 2012.

Holy Child's Sarah Holladay (Class of 2016) took home this season's C.A.S.E.Y award, offered by founder Devereaux Raskauskas in memory of the ISHS mascot Casey. The C.A.S.E.Y. Award is presented to the JV rider who demonstrates the following attributes: Cooperation – Accommodating – Supportive – Enthusiasm – YAMMER/

NOT! Sarah was selected out of more than 250 riders throughout the region.

Connelly School of the Holy Child was the founder of the Inter-School Horse Show Series in 1995, when parent Devereaux Raskauskas asked the school to add riding as a sport. The league currently offers varsity and junior varsity divisions, with one show a month from September through April held at regional stables. A hallmark of the Holy Child program, which will be expanding in the 2012-2013 school year, is that it offers instruction and a team experience to both untested and experienced riders with weekly practices and students do not have to own a horse to participate.



CASEY Award winner Sarah Holladay with her 2012 riding trophies and ribbons

OPT

St. John the Evangelist

Earth Day



At left, SJE Kindergartners joined with their eighth-grade buddies to plant flowers around St. John the Evangelist School in honor of Earth Day. We've been celebrating Earth Day in the United States since 1970 to increase awareness and appreciation for the Earth's natural environment.



At right, eighth grader Christopher Barone and Caroline Garagusi (K) don't seem to mind getting their hands a bit dirty planting flowers.

MATTISON

Con't from page 48

in the 21st century is serving cross generational Catholics throughout many cultures. When programming music I try to use a formula to enable some new music and some old music to branch out to every different

group that we can in the parish. Fortunately, I can count my blessings that St. John's has been very welcoming toward learning more about this process and growing in their faith through song.

Q: Did you always want to be working in music? Do you have an inspirational person in your life that led you to this field?

A: When I was a senior in high school, a teacher in my parish, Mrs. Leslie Moran, stopped me one day after Mass and asked me late in the college application process if I had thought about applying to Westminster Choir College. I hesitated to answer because after

two positive visits to Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, my mind was made up. Mrs. Moran told me emphatically that I should check out the Sacred Music program at Westminster before I made my final decision. Listening to Mrs. Moran's advice has continued to reward me personally, spiritually, and educationally.

Q: You've not been at St. John the Evangelist for very long but is there anything special/unique about working at SJE that you'd like to share?

A: I think that community is perhaps the primary reason congregations return each week to elevate their prayers together. People long to pray in a comfortable space where they feel welcomed and feel like they belong. At St. John's, it is clear that the bonds of being a congregation go deeper than just showing up each Sunday. For example, parents are volunteering every day at their parish's school; students stay extra hours to be in the band; teachers put in extra time to work

on special events to keep families as a whole involved with their child's education; and, when one family is hurting or grieving, there always seems to be a helping hand from another family. These bonds are a way of life for families involved with SJE and we should be proud to have such a strong environment.

Q: Professionally speaking, what are some of your short-term or long-term goals?

A: For the short term goals, I'd like to start working to update the church's sound system and begin to form multiple choirs for young singers. In the fall I hope to offer weekly enrichment classes that focus on a variety of issues dealing with music topics and liturgy topics. My long-term goals include establishing a cultural drum choir and hand bell choirs. It would be a long term dream to begin a fund raising drive for a grand piano and perhaps even maintain a monthly daytime and nighttime concert series. I have a lot of great ideas so stay tuned!

BENEFIT

Con't from page 1

students with intellectual disabilities. In addition, it provides grants to Catholic school teachers seeking training in special education and other resources and support to schools, students and their families.

Keynote speaker Timothy P. Shriver, Special Olympics Chairman and CEO, told attendees at the sold-out benefit that supporting an inclusive Catholic education for children with intellectual disabilities is not a way of "helping" charity but rather a mandate for living the Gospel.

Shriver praised CCSE for its role in what he called a "deeply religious and deeply important" movement that recognizes students with special needs as having the same inherent value and dignity as all other students, and he urged supporters to spread the message to Catholic schools, churches and the community at large.

"We have the responsibility and an opportunity as a religious community and a people of conviction to work for a change of heart," he said.

Speaking to some 400 guests, Shriver noted that while laws have changed to accommodate students with special needs, in many ways, attitudes about including these children in classrooms alongside their

more typically developing peers have not. CCSE works to dispel the myth that children with special needs will somehow delay or prevent children without special needs from progressing academically, socially and otherwise.

"Each of us becomes a better person for knowing a child who has special needs," said Olsen, a parent who became involved with the organization not because she has a child with special needs but because she recognizes how the entire school community benefits when all children are welcome.

"I have come to embrace the "rightness" of Catholic schools including children with disabilities of all kinds specifically because we are Catholic schools," said St. Mary of the Mills Principal Maggie Hubbard. St. Mary of the Mills, in Laurel, has benefitted from CCSE grants. "Believing as we do that every life is precious and every person is created in God's image and likeness, how could we possibly turn our backs on the children most in need of our confidence and care?"

CCSE Founder and President Francesca Pellegrino said CCSE is raising awareness and challenging perceptions. "We are trying to reach not just parents of children with disabilities but also parents of all children as well as educators, priests and the entire Catholic community," Pellegrino said.

OPT

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St. John's College High School • Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart

The Class of 2012 has been awarded over \$200,000 in merit scholarships.