# NewStan

*The Newsletter of St. Stanislaus Parish*
*El Boletín de la Parroquia de San Estanislao*

Winter / Invierno 2014


# Engraved Memories

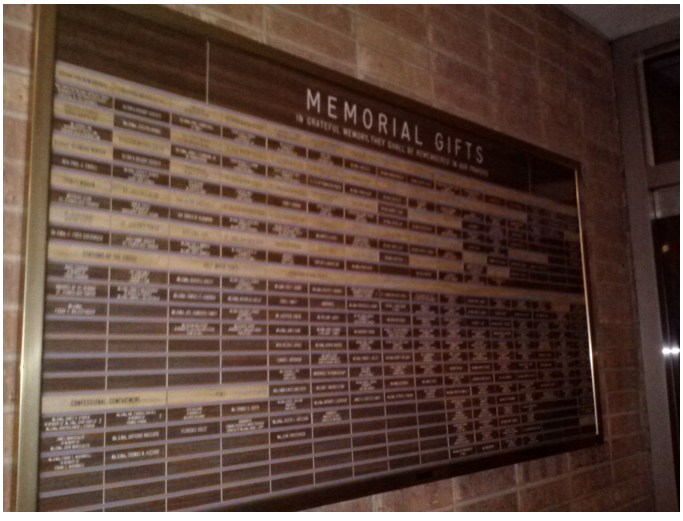
**by Dianne Spotts**

Walking along the boardwalk or on the Schuylkill trail, I'm touched by the plaques and dedications on the benches. Whether 'Mom and Dad loved this spot' or 'Thanks Nana and Pop Pop for bringing me here,' I always get a warm feeling.

Recently, I strolled through our church from the Main Street entrance area, up and down the aisles, and got a similar tug on my heartstrings. In this case, because I remembered some of the generous people whose names are engraved on plaques, pews, or boards. They have 'paid it forward' ever since our parish church was built.

Who are they? They are us! Just as love of their Catholic faith prompted them to be cheerful givers and to want future generations to be so blessed, so do we.

Most recently, parishioners 'purchased' new nativity figures and on each was placed a plaque with the name of the individual or family who contributed to its purchase. Also, the new (and authentic) statue of St. Stanislaus, arriving this spring, is due to the generosity of members of our parish family.




*The Main Street lobby Memorial listing*

*The Nativity with newly donated figures*

When we think of the future of St. Stanislaus, we hope those worshipping in our space will enjoy the beauty of the icons and all that enhances our Church. And looking back at those who, in their or their family's names made generous contributions, we realize we're blessed to have been grafted onto this family tree.

In the Main Street lobby, there's a board that's a kind of roll call: the names are listed for donations made for windows, our organ, pews, chalices, vestments, etc.

I was especially touched with the memories of some wonderful people whose names are on pew-plaques in the back half of the Church whom I came to know through attending Mass at St. Stan's.

Emily Moletierre was a daily communicant, and her face glowed each time she came in the door. By the time I met her she was in the winter of her life. Part of a large Lansdale family, she was a very loving giving woman – with a unique sense of humor. You could easily spot her car in the parking lot with her license plate that said 'SNEAKERS.' Emily's good nature was contagious.

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# Seasons Change

**by Bridget Letukas**

*"There is a time for everything,*
*and a season for every activity under the heavens."*
*~ Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Looking outside these days usually means seeing white-blanketed lawns, bare trees, and children bundled up in scarves, hats, and mittens. Hard to believe that just a month from now, our Philadelphia Phillies will be heading to training and soon after that the first of hints of spring arrive: longer days, baseball practice, and signs of life blooming all around us.

The above passage from Ecclesiastes reminds us that seasons change and that comings and goings are a natural part of God's great design.

*Photo from www.lifegivingwater.wordpress.com*

Here at Saint Stanislaus Parish, the time has come to say farewell to three people whom we have cherished here at the parish for many a season . . . and to welcome those who are bringing their own gifts and unique personalities to the positions once filled by these very special people.

Pam Mohl, in her position as Parish Center Director, has been one of our parish's most welcoming faces for the past sixteen and a half years. In addition, she is one of Saint Stanislaus's most active members. For Pam, retirement isn't going to change that.

"I'm retiring," she says. "I'm not disappearing. This is my parish."

Another extremely active parishioner, Fran Mordell, will be taking over the responsibilities Pam performed with devotion for years. Fran, who joined the parish in May of 2009, didn't waste time putting her talents to work for the St. Stanislaus faith community as an extraordinary minister, a PREP and hospital visits volunteer, and facilitator of the GIFT program.

In her new position, Fran's first impression was the broad and busy life of the parish.

"You get a sense of how huge this parish is and of the devotion of the parishioners. It really warms your heart."

One person who may know something about that is someone who quietly and diligently organized the data for all of us for thirty-years, Dottie Tartar. As the Records Director, Dottie was small on words but big on handling the awesome workload associated with keeping the accurate and thorough records of a large parish. *NewStan* itself owes Dottie a huge debt of gratitude: the Baptisms, Deaths, Marriages, and New Parishioners listed in each issue are a product of Dottie's time and dedication.

As she moves into that position, Trish Cunningham, a member of the Saint Maria Goretti community, couldn't say enough in expressing her gratitude for Dottie.

"She showed me everything and was so good about training me."

Trish, a married mother of four and a Kings College graduate with an Accounting Degree, is excited to take on her new position at a place with which she is warmly familiar.

"I grew up in St. Stan's. It is a very warm and welcoming parish."

Like Trish, Richard Girard, who retired as the Parish Business Manager, is a member of Saint Maria Goretti as well. From December 2009 through December 2013, Rich handled the financial aspects of the parish – from payrolls to internal reports to bills – with a great deal of dedication and professionalism.

As the others who are parting their particular jobs, Rich is grateful for his positive experience.

"I'd like to thank Monsignor and everybody else for the opportunity. I'm sincerely grateful to the people here."

Coming in to assume his former responsibilities is Penny Mitchell. For Penny, it is not merely changing jobs, but "a lifestyle change". Previously a controller for a regional business, Penny came to the conclusion that it was time for a change. Now she is happy to be working at her own parish and to be able to spend more time with her family.

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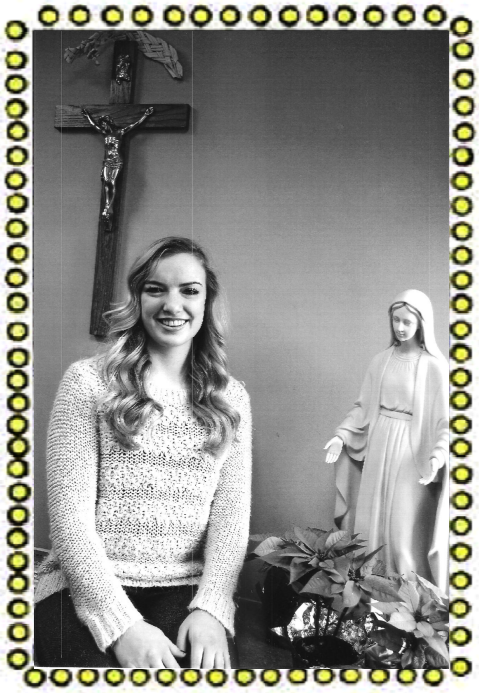
# Parishioner Spotlight

## *Regina Antoni*

**by Marianne Thomas**

If watching the evening news or reading your newspaper makes you feel pessimistic about the future of our society, try speaking with an extremely bright, talented, and positive teenager like Regina Antoni, who was one of our two young parishioners who received the 2013 St. Timothy Youth Award, from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Office for Youth and Young Adults.

Regina resides in Lansdale with her parents, Rock and Beth Antoni, her two older brothers, Michael (23) and Gabe (21), and her younger sister, Maria (16) along with her close-knit, extended family of cousins living nearby. She enjoys spending time with her entire family, especially their vacations at the beach.



Presently a senior at Gwynedd Mercy High School, she has already earned an extensive list of honors and awards. She is a member of three honor societies (the National Honor Society, the Spanish Honor Society and the Tri-Music Honor Society) and has earned the highest averages in multiple subjects, such as English and Honors Algebra I and II. In ninth grade she was Maxima Cum Laude on the Nationa last year she received the Mary Ann Harron-Haley Award for Music.

As with many teenagers, she enjoys playing sports. Besides the "tackle soccer" and street hockey games with her extended family, she's played on the soccer and lacrosse teams in ninth and tenth grade and has played for St. Stan's CYO basketball and volleyball all through high school. Although she excels in academics and sports, her true passion is music. This is apparent in her long list of music-related activities, such as Chorale, Glee Club and Liturgical Music. She also finds time to take voice lessons and hopes to resume piano lessons, which she had taken as a child. She has performed in GMA High School's Talent Show and in LaSalle High School's production of SWING. As an active participant of our parish, Regina is a cantor and member of the Youth Choir, and was a Maris Stella cantor in the summer of 2011.

Although she has not chosen the college she will attend next year, both Boston and Temple are dear to her heart. She can see herself in a business major, which was motivated by attending a 'Pennsylvania Free Enterprise Week' and hopes to pursue music as a minor or in some other form.

Regina has also made volunteering a large part of her life. She's been a Special Olympics volunteer the last three years, volunteered for the annual Travis Manion/5K Heroes Run and the last four years has walked the "March For Life" in Washington D.C. At Camp Ophelia, she mentored young girls on many issues, especially regarding self-image and bullying. Regina is also a member of 'Operation Beautiful', which is a club started by her friend. Their goal is to remind girls of how beautiful they are, which is difficult in a world where media (especially social media) is always distorting what beauty really is and how girls should look. The club sponsors activities which promote positive self-images.

Another rewarding experience was when she attended the Catholic Heart Work Camp, the last two summers, where she helped build a house, sorted clothes at Good Will, cleaned kitchens and did gardening with her youth group. Catholic Heart Work Camp is a Catholic, service-oriented summer work camp attended by parish youth groups. Their mission states "you will WORK, SERVE TIRELESSLY, THINK DEEPLY, CELEBRATE MASS and build relationships. You will dance, laugh till your side hurts, pray, change on the inside and be a part of transforming lives and communities FOR CHRIST."

The St. Timothy award is the highest recognition from the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry. To be nominated, the following criteria is considered:

- Lives as a disciple of Christ, setting a positive example for other youth
- Witnesses to their faith by exhibiting Catholic morals and integrity

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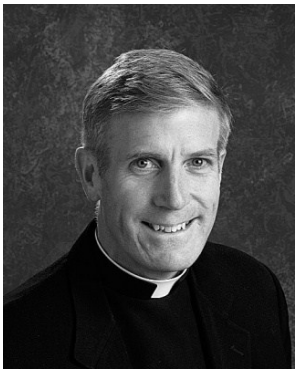
# Our Pastor's Pen



Dear friends,

Mis queridos amigos,

When I was in the 7th grade, I remember going to our local Gaudio's and buying a scrapbook for the first time. Photo albums were beyond my 11-year-old budget, while a scrapbook was comfortably affordable. My pictures had been augmented significantly by a gift of a Kodak instamatic camera and were taking over my desk drawers. The pictures were "keepers," memories of good times, friends, class trips, parties and neighborhood events. Believe it or not I still have that scrapbook somewhere in the basement of the priests' house!

Technology has improved and gotten so that price points are now attractive to most, so the capture and storage of memories is so much easier in our day. Memories are important; they sustain us and bring a smile to our faces when we recall a beloved friend or family member is remembered.

This issue of the *NewStan* captures the many ways that past parishioners and benefactors are remembered, even though they might have died decades ago. When the Church was opened 50 years ago this August, all of these "extras" were cultivated by then-pastor Msgr. Paul Cahill. They are a reminder to us that we do, indeed "stand on the shoulders of giants" when it comes to our faith and its expression. The inspiring lives that many of the donors led spur us on through the tough times in our lives. Ordinary people, they possessed extraordinary faith, part of which is memorialized in the physical objects which have practical and ornamental value.

How appropriate that these would be within St. Stanislaus Church, since it is there that we as a community remember the great events of our redemption in the celebration of the Eucharist. The earliest focus of the gatherings which the early Christian communities called "the breaking of the bread" was in the remembering that, on the night before He died, Jesus shared bread and wine with His apostles and identified Himself (i.e., His life, His body, His blood) with the bread and wine. The gatherings were held on Sundays, linking the celebration of the Lord's resurrection to the Eucharistic prayer gatherings. As the apostles and immediate disciples of the Lord began to die at the end of the first century, the need for a more formal structure for the remembering done in the Eucharist arose so that the memory (or tradition) passed on by the apostles might be preserved.

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## Surfing Around?

On the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops website you can read (or listen to) each day's scripture reading, and then watch a video reflection on it given by a different priest from around the country: ww.usccb.org/bible/reflections.

## NewStan

### Mission Statement

In response to the Pope John Paul II's call to evangelization, St. Stanislaus Parish publishes *NewStan* to serve members of the parish community and the community at large, to inform parishioners and members of the North Penn region about new developments in the parish, and to serve as a channel for communications among St. Stanislaus parishioners and benefactors.

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Fran Mordell, Msgr. Joseph Tracy

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Those who wish to contribute items for publication should forward them to the *NewStan* mailbox in the St. Stanislaus Parish Center The inclusion of submitted material is subject to the judgment of the editors in consultation with Monsignor Tracy and the St. Stanislaus Communications Director. The editors reserve the right to edit all submitted material for length and content.

Visit St. Stanislaus Parish on the web at
www.ststanislaus.com
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Do you have a question about St. Stanislaus Parish, or about the Catholic faith in general? Forward your questions to the *NewStan* mailbox in the Parish Center, anonymously if desired. We will direct the questions to the right person and publish the answers in a future issue.

# Engraved Memories

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One plaque's "Jim Hauck & Mother" was donated by Jean Fabiano, a woman known for her faith and courage. Her son Jim was brain injured in an accident. When Jean pulled into the parking lot for Mass, three men would immediately assist her with Jimmy and his wheelchair. She was successful in teaching Jim to take more care of himself than the medical professionals thought was possible. Jean served on the Altar & Rosary committee, and had a heart as big as all outdoors.

When his health allowed, Joe Bolsar loved to serve on the altar at daily Mass. As a younger man serving in the military, he spent time in Italy – the high point being his meeting Padre Pio. Joe moved to St. Mary Manor in his later years, and never complained. He loved to talk about St. Pio, and prayed for everyone who drove up Lansdale Avenue (you may have benefited from his prayers).

As I continued my meandering about the church, I wondered how often I passed the walls on both sides of the confessionals, and paid no attention to the signs: ONE THING I ASK OF THE LORD, THIS I SEEK, TO DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE LORD. Psalm 27:4. Below those two signs are the names of people whose generosity is legend.

My next stroll took me outside to the lovely Holy Family Statue on Lansdale Avenue, and the engraved bricks in front of the statue, dedicated by parishioners who helped defray the cost of the statue purchased from Italy. The statue, the surrounding garden, and the benches were all a dream of Barbara Anthony who had led the Pro Life Group many years ago. The parishioners (especially the current Pro Life Group led by Jeanne Marie Motley,) will

*A small sampling of the Holy Family memorial bricks*

*The Haucks' is just one of many pews memorializing past parishioners*

be remembered for their perseverance in making Barbara's dream come true.

Some of them have left behind a name and (we) recount their praiseworthy deeds. Sirach 44:8

We stand on the shoulders of women and men who felt it an honor to serve the Lord by giving to His Church. I hope we will decide how we are paying it forward. The "payment" doesn't have to be a plaque or brick, we all have gifts to use – and service to give. It can be in the guise of good deeds for a fellow parishioner, an encouraging word to someone in need, prayers for those who are lost.

Your name will be forever engraved on the heart of God - how He loves a cheerful giver!.✠

# Regina Antoni

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- ❖ Demonstrates Gospel values through service to others
- ❖ Exhibits Christian leadership in parish, school, and/or community settings

Because of Regina's outstanding leadership and service to her church and community, she received the award in May, 2013 and was honored at a Recognition Mass along with fellow recipient Ray Penyak.

Our parish is extremely blessed to have such wonderful, dedicated young people like Regina Antoni who lead by example and use their time and talents for our good and the good of others.✠

# Penny Auction Fever

The 52nd Annual St. Stanislaus Penny Auction will take place Tuesday, March 4th. Doors open at 6:00 with the fun starting at 7:30. According to this year's co-chairperson Elaine Mazzeo (who is sharing those duties with Melissa Lombardo), the theme for this year's Penny Auction is *Disco Fever*!

The Penny Auction is a major fundraising event sponsored by the St. Stanislaus Parish, and which benefits Mater Dei Catholic School. The proceeds raised are used to purchase academic, athletic, and technology tools for the school.

If you have never been to the Penny Auction, an institution for over half a century in the North Penn area, here is how it works. Over 600 participants purchase an admission ticket. This ticket makes each participant eligible to win hundreds of door prizes that have been donated by people and companies in our local community! A program of the evening's prizes can be found at every seat with special thank-you's for merchants who generously gave donations – we couldn't have the Penny Auction without them.

The auction is a series of 20 raffles. Bid tickets (numbered slips of paper) are purchased for the auction. The bid tickets are a player's number for the evening. Each raffle requires a minimum number of these bid tickets. Prize packages (which have been assembled from donated items or purchased with monetary donations) are awarded to lucky ticket holders. The first 19 prize packages each have a major prize package and several related smaller prize packages. The final prize consists of a single, spectacular grouping of gifts that in recent years has included a home theater center, dining room set, a child's bedroom set and an outdoor patio furniture set.

Of course this description does not do justice to the raucous fun that is the Penny Auction. So if you don't yet have a ticket, call the Parish Center or Mater Dei Catholic School (215-368-0995) to get yours ASAP. Then break out the polyester and get ready to Penny the night away!✠

# VAN-ISHED

**by Cathy Nicodemus**

You may have noticed something missing from the St. Stanislaus Parish parking lot: our Parish van broke down beyond repair and the Parish no longer has one.

Why do we need a Parish van? It is actually a very necessary thing for the church. The van is used by volunteers to pick up people who have no other way to get to church. For many, this helps them to feel good and allows them to be a part of the parish.

The van was also used frequently by Mrs. Dominick and the Parish Youth Ministry to take youth volunteers to sites such as Manna on Main Street or Catholic Social Services in Norristown. Without it, parents must be willing and able to drive or the number of students who can volunteer is greatly reduced.

If anyone has a large passenger van (such as a GMC Savana, a Chevy Express, or a Ford E-Series) they would be willing to donate, please contact the Parish Center at 215-855-3133.✠

# Seasons Change

*continued from page 2*

"You make a choice when you realize your paycheck is not worth what it's costing you."

Her sentiment seems to be echoed by the others who are "changing seasons." To work at Saint Stanislaus Parish is not a matter of taking a job:

"I never ever ever looked at it as a job," says Pam Mohl. "It's a ministry."

The sense of commitment to the faith community is what drives these same people to remain active as volunteers. And a robust, lively parish is what, according to Trish Cunningham, helps it all to come full circle.

"People come in and out of our lives. You never know when people are going to come back."

Season change. . . .people come and people go . . . winter melts and spring blooms

As Pam Mohl says, "It is time."✠

*It is time for the Saint Stanislaus Parish family to bid a fond farewell and say thank you to Pam, Dottie, and Rich, and to deliver a warm welcome to Fran, Trish, and Penny.*

# St. Philomena: A Teenager with a Mind of her Own

**by Anita Cugini**

On May 25, 1802, a previously undisturbed cavity in the catacombs of St. Priscilla was opened, and the remains of a teenage girl and a vial of dried blood were found. The space, sealed with three terra cotta tiles, bore the inscription in red, "*Lumena Pax Tecum Fi*," and symbols of martyrdom: an anchor, a lance, lilies, arrows, and a palm frond. In the haste of burial, it appeared the tiles were scrambled. When re-arranged, the inscription read: "*Pax Tecum, Filumena"* ("Peace be with you, Filumena"). The girl was St. Philomena, the only known details of whose life were disclosed by the saint herself, through inner locution, to three separate persons, in different parts of the world, each unknown to the other.

Philomena, the only child of a pagan Grecian king and his noble wife, was born January 10th. Her parents' marriage was barren for many years, and it was only after St. Publius, their physician, urged them to convert to Catholicism and be baptized that God blessed them with a child. They named her Lumena, or light, and she was Baptized "Philomena" meaning "Friend of the Light."

This child was lavished with gifts and love by her parents, and her father could not bear to be apart from his daughter. He took her with him when he journeyed to Rome shortly before her 14th birthday. On that trip, Philomena's pampered existence was changed forever.

The purpose of the trip was to seek an audience with Diocletian, the Roman Emperor, who continually waged war on Greece. Diocletian was well-known for his godless, evil, and treacherous ways. When Philomena and her father appeared before him, he was awestruck at the sight of her, and immediately agreed to stop his war against Greece. His price for peace: Philomena's hand in marriage.

The King readily agreed, but Philomena was a teenager with her own ideas! She disclosed to her parents that she had promised her virginity to Jesus shortly before her 11th birthday; marriage to Diocletian was out of the question! They begged her to be reasonable—saying that she was a child and too young to know her own mind. Philomena was resolute: her virginity belonged to her crucified Lord!

Diocletian and her parents tried to tempt her with every type of earthly allurements. The emperor's rage at the rejection of his overtures was unbridled. He subjected her to numerous forms of torture, alternating with sweet pleadings and offers of earthly riches. It was useless. She told him, "I neither care for you as a lover, nor fear you as a tyrant."

from www.catholic.org

While incarcerated, she was visited and comforted by Mary and by angels. Diocletian ordered his archers to shoot her with flaming arrows. After the arrows left the archer's bows, they turned mid-flight, striking the archers who shot them. He commanded an anchor be tied around her neck and she be cast into the Tiber River. Again, the angels rescued her and placed her on the shore, her clothing totally dry! Philomena never wavered. Finally, he ordered her beheaded. Philomena went triumphantly to her Divine Bridegroom, her virginity untouched.

On January 13, 1837, Pope Gregory XVI, in solemn decree, raised her to the status of canonized saint and declared her "*Thaumaturga* – The Wonder Worker of the 19th century." She is the only saint canonized solely on her performed miracles. Five popes and many saints relied on her powerful intercession. Her feast day is August 11.

Philomena's remains, and the vial of dried blood, rest in a glass fronted case above the altar in Mugnano, Italy. Her five principal devotions carry rich indulgences. She is invoked in matters of purity, chastity, spiritual and physical healings, families, particularly children, and finances—no petition is too trivial for her. She truly is: St. Philomena – one powerful with God!✠

# Our Pastor's Pen

*continued from page 5*

You and your families are most welcome to these celebrations. Even if your faith has been lukewarm or your practice non-existent, there is always time to come back. The time is now, not later! Consider re-committing to coming to Mass at least, and your spiritual life will grow! Is there any better memory worth remembering than that of the saving action of God on our behalf?✠

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Msgr. Joseph Tracy

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**Parish Census Data for October – December 2013**

Gael Marauilla Aguilar
Emanuel Marauilla Aguilar
Avery Shelton Brownell
Arianna Catagnus
Gabriel Santo Clemente
Maggie Rose Coykendall
Brayden Michael Gielow
Emma Marasco
Estella Grace Markley
Avery Caroline Strauss
Aubree Raelyn Vergel
Gabrielle Alexis Wike
Jackson David Zander

Jean Bryne
Matt Carty
Samuel Charles
Lemailloux & Armelle Coffi
A. Clyde Coyle
Michael & Angela Daddona
Ron & Mindy Hoff
John & Patricia Macartney
Mary Malosh
Guerra MiJares & Estefania Pablo
Michael & Geraldine Petr
Erik & Annamae Potemski
Vanessa Recco
Jessica Theis
Lara Zelnio

Seth Michael Edwards and Abby Jane Mazzie
John Njore Kinuthia and Kathryn Anne Murray

Edward R Beebe
Joseph Campbell, Sr.
John F. Cizauskas
Lottie Fitzpatrick
Francis J. Frizzle
Charles Joseph Gamble
Heidemarie Hillsinger
Edward (Ned) James
Russell Lizell
Justine Miller
Vu Van Moc
Agnes Mullen
Priscilla R. Nelson
Mary Frances O'Connor
Yvonne Saldutti
Anita Strickland
Donald J. Walsh
Mary Kay Wendler