



"I shall reflect on myself and ask: 'What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What ought I do for Christ?'" -St. Stanislaus Kostka



New Stan

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

Autumn/Otoño 2014

Parishioner Halloween Memories

by Anita Cugini

As soon as the last echoes of the opening bell for the first day of school die away, many children start thinking about the next major event: Halloween.

Originally, this widely celebrated holiday was the realm of the very young, but in recent years, Halloween has come to rival Christmas as the most decorated event of the year.

Take a ride down any street in Lansdale or the surrounding area, and you will be treated to orange and black light displays, pumpkins, scarecrows, goblins, tombstones, skeletons and towering blow up cartoon figures of Frankenstein and Dracula on many front lawns. Halloween has become big business for the retail industry.

Journey with me back in time to the war years, when in 1945, the highlight of "All Hallows Eve" in Lansdale was the annual parade on Main Street on Mischief Night, October 30. Children by the dozens would stroll down the street, illuminated by lampposts and a harvest moon, bedecked in whatever costume their mom's imagination could conjure up. Ann Loeffler, a life-long resident has poignant memories of one particularly fetching Halloween costume which, courtesy of her mother's sewing machine, marabou feathers, and a lot of ingenuity, transformed her into an owl!

Back in those days, Halloween decorations consisted mostly of crepe paper and Jack-o-Lanterns. A trip to the local pumpkin patch provided the perfectly shaped

pumpkin which would be painstakingly carved, illuminated by a candle from the kitchen and displayed for the three nights leading up to the big day: Soap Night, Chalk Night and Mischief Night.

In those days, it was common for the Lansdale tykes to visit three, four or even five blocks, stopping only at those homes where the outside light burned brightly, a signal that it was all right to ring the doorbell. In many years, if the weather was balmy, the resident stood outside on the "stoop" ready to greet their costumed guests. There was no chicanery here, just the standard intonation; "trick or treat" as the goodies were dropped into the child's open pillow case or shopping bag. Without hesitation, Ann wistfully recalled that her personal favorites were the *5th Avenue* and the *Oh Henry* candy bars, two chocolate confections rarely seen in the 21st Century.

Move ahead in time with me to the '50's and '60s, and follow in my footsteps as a "city kid." I remember a time when home-made Halloween



costumes were the norm rather than the exception. Even if Mom didn't sew a lick, costumes were assembled using things scavenged from around the house. Hobos appeared with tattered clothing earmarked for donation, with a stick found in the park hung with a red bandana bundle on the end, and a face made sooty using a burnt cork from an empty wine bottle. Witches evolved out of Grandmom's

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Parishioners and Halloween

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cast-off black dress and shoes, together with a black yarn wig and hat fashioned from black poster cardboard. Scarecrows, pirates, ghosts and mummies traveled in groups down city blocks with 60+ houses. An industrious child could easily collect more than 250 treats in a matter of hours!

As the big night approached, Mom secured a large quantity of full size *Hershey Bars*, *Snickers*, *Peanut Chews*, *Reese's Peanut Butter Cups* and boxes of *Good and Plenty*, to welcome the throng of little ones. Occasionally, an over-achieving mother would spend hours filling little Halloween goodie bags with candy, gum, licorice and other treats. Most people proffered candy, a nickel or other treat. The occasional homeowner who deposited an apple into the outstretched bag usually received a stifled groan from the recipient as soon as he or she was out of earshot!

Every child's Halloween trick-or-treat route was carefully planned, being sure to stop at the neighborhood "hot spots," the bakery, the corner store, the bowling alley, and the neighborhood dentist (whose office was in his front parlor), where a large cookie, a soft pretzel, a pizza slice or another "gourmet" treat would be given. The crown jewel of the evening was the dentist's office where a costumed visitor would be given a drink of cold apple cider; a box of Chiclets and a shiny dime!

Periodically throughout the night, the trick-or-treater would return home, and dump the contents of their bag into a large roasting pan, quickly sorting through the apples (which were earmarked for Mom's apple pie) and the coins, while quickly weeding out the undesirable items for Mom as a supplement to her now-waning candy stash.

During the 70's and 80's in Lansdale, a highlight of the season for my daughter-in-law, whose three children now attend MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL, was the annual Halloween Parade in the gym of St. Stanislaus School. On one such Halloween, she recalls that her mother and grandmother spent weeks before the special day sewing and decorating costumes so that she and her three sisters could march in the school parade and trick or treat dressed as characters from *The Wizard of Oz*. Kardashian sisters, eat your heart out!

Move ahead to recent times and the sights around parish neighborhoods still feature groups of kids going door-to-door for treats. And while *Wizard of Oz* characters may



First-graders as saints from years past

now be replaced by *Harry Potter* characters you still will see a good number of witches and hobos. A tradition at Mater Dei is for first graders to come to school and parade as their patron saints, in honor of All Saints, but the younger children, in Kindergarten, still get to parade in their Halloween gear.

As Halloween draws to a close, our weary trick-or-treaters drift off to dreamland, happy in the knowledge that school is suspended for All Saints Day (at least for Catholic school) and the days before the coming of cold weather hold a promise of daily treats for weeks to come.✘

Upcoming GIFT Events

Growing In Faith Together continues to be an important program of adult formation at St. Stanislaus:

✘ **Tuesday, December 9 : HONORING OUR GIFTEDNESS by Sr. Mary Anne Nolan, RSM:**

In our reflection, we will acknowledge, appreciate, and be invited to cherish the abundant gifts God has given us. As a response of gratitude to God, we will consider how we can develop our gifts and give them generously and freely for the building up of the kingdom of God on earth. Sr. Mary Anne is part of Mercy Spiritual Ministries, a mobile ministry engaging individuals and groups in prayer, reflection and ongoing spiritual development.

There will be no GIFT talk in November: However all are encouraged to participate in the **Parish 40 Hours' Devotions**, November 8th through November 10th. Check the Sunday bulletins and Parish website for updated information. GIFT programs start at 7:30PM.✘

Parishioner Spotlight

Pat Fischer

by **Dianne Spotts**

When Pat Fischer opened her door on the day of our interview, I realized I knew her face, but up to that point, not her name. How often do we see familiar people in the grocery store, or the post office, and wonder: “How do I know him/her?” We pass people in church, even sit near them, and never learn their names.

For Pat and her husband Bill, there are countless people whose faces and names have come together, and are more than familiar – due to their involvement in the parish and the school. They’ve served together in RCIA, Pre-Cana, and Pre-Jordan. Pat joined Altar & Rosary as well as the Legion of Mary, and Bill was involved in CYO. They ran the festival lemonade stand for years, worked Bingo, and both have Adoration hours. It was not long after they joined in 1977, that the Fischer’s considered St. Stanislaus their community of family and friends.

St. Stan’s is where they belong.

Pat’s early childhood was spent in Manayunk, until her family moved to Pennsauken, New Jersey. She attended St. Joseph’s Elementary School and Camden Catholic High School, and graduated from Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. Bill grew up in Montgomery County, which influenced their decision to move here. They have three children: Billy, Katie, and Laura, all of whom attended St. Stanislaus Parish School and Lansdale Catholic.

Pat began her teaching career in this area at St. Rose of Lima. In 1997, she began teaching 2nd grade here, and after seven years ‘moved up’ to 4th grade – which she taught for ten years, until retiring in June, 2014. Pat’s love of the children she taught (and their parents) remains with her. She struck me as the teacher we all want for our children.

“Retiring was a very difficult decision,” Pat admits. “I miss the staff, the faculty, the students and their families. It’s the first time in seventeen years I won’t be part of the back-to-school excitement.”

There’s a sweet little six-month old – Connor, her first grandchild – who helped her opt for a career change. She now spends her days watching him, and just a mention of his name causes her face to light up. Her new schedule allows her to stay involved in ‘The Reading Olympics’ – an after-school program for grades 4 through 8. She is happy to continue encouraging children to read, and I’m sure she already began sharing that love with Connor.

In the little spare time she has, Pat enjoys attending a book club and socializing with friends. She will also attend the CYO games to cheer for the kids. Pat cannot say enough by way of praise and appreciation for the faculty and staff

of MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL. She is grateful for the years spent there, and especially for the friendship and guidance of Miss Diane McCaughan.

These ‘family’ connections were of extreme importance to her when she faced cancer.

“Their commitment and involvement were a support network for me. The prayers and rosaries I received from the teachers and the faithful prayers from the students and my school family blessed me during that time.”

Pat taught her students one of her favorite prayers: to St. Therese of the Little Flower, and her friends prayed it for her – especially on the day of her surgery:

**St. Therese, the Little Flower, please pick me a rose
from the heavenly garden
and send it to me with a message of love;
ask God to grant me the favor I thee implore
and tell Him I will love Him each day more and more.
Amen.**



Their prayers surrounded Pat in her struggle, and brought her wonderful results.



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Our Pastor's Pen

Dear friends / Mis amigos queridos,

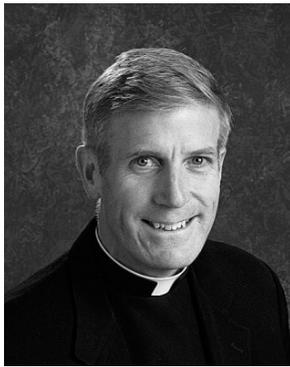
Since the main article for this issue concerns Halloween, it is appropriate to consider this secular feast of ghosts and goblins from another vantage point. Halloween actually began as a Druid seasonal festival; it became Christianized as *All Hallows Eve*, a vigil for All Saints Day on November 1. The word *halloween* is a contracted form of *All Hallows Eve*.

For most children, however, there is no religious significance involved in either Halloween itself or in such elements as pumpkins or costumes. It is true that such things as jack-o'-lanterns, bonfires and black cats, which are part of the Halloween tradition, might have roots in pre-Christian activities. But when children go trick-or-treating or visit a make-shift "haunted house," or ride on the "haunted hay ride" at a local farmer's cornfield, they are not thinking about participating in any religious festivities at all. They are just trying to "have fun" as they would at a movie or amusement park.

The way American society celebrates Halloween is infested by consumerism (remember when those pumpkins began to appear around Labor Day?). So what exactly is the religious significance of Halloween? It initiates a lesser-known triduum called "Allhallowtide," a time in certain cultures dedicated to remembering the dead. Originally this period of the year may have been influenced by the Christian attempt to bring Christ into the Celtic Harvest Festival. The other days included All Saints (hallows), and one which focused on all the faithful departed believers (All Souls). The traditional celebration of All Hallows' Eve used humor and ridicule to confront the power of death.

November is the month when Catholic Christians are particularly conscious of praying for those who have gone before us in death. We believe that one day we will see them again and that at some point we will be united with Our Lord and them in heaven. As St. Paul put it, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is in vain . . ." (1 Cor 15:17).

Let's not allow any trick or treating make us forget that!



Sincerely in the Lord,

Msgr. Joseph Tracy

Surfing Around?

Interested in learning more about technology in Catholic schools around the Archdiocese, check out the Office of Catholic Education's website at www.catholicschools-phl.org and click on "Technology."



NEWSTAN

MISSION STATEMENT

In response to the St. John Paul II's call to evangelization, St. Stanislaus Parish started publishing *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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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.

St. Hedwig of Germany and St. Jadwiga of Poland

by Anne Kaler

This seems to be the year for teenage saints. Two issues ago, we met St. Stanislaus of Poland, our patron saint, who died at eighteen, and now we meet two teenage women who were not only saints, but heads of state.

Both girls had to make life-altering decisions at the age of twelve or so, just about the age where today's girls are entering middle school. Imagine having a girl that young decide not only her own fate but also that of her country and its people for generations to come. Even though both girls had been trained to be wives and partners to political leaders, such selfless decisions couldn't have been easy for them any more than it is easy for today's teens to choose the right path for their lives. But those two girls knew their own souls and chose the destiny they believed that God wanted them to fulfill.

The first girl, Hedwig, Duchess of Bavaria (1174-1243) had an illustrious family, full of saints and holy people to guide her. In fact, her niece was St. Elizabeth of Hungary (1207-1231). At twelve, Hedwig left school to marry Henry I of Germany. During their reign, they introduced German culture into Silesia (currently part of Poland) mainly through the royal support of monasteries of the prevalent religious orders at the time. Many of these emerged as great institutions of Christian learning. Chief among them was the convent of Cistercian nuns at Trebnitz which was the first house of religious women in Silesia. Its second abbess was Gertrude, Hedwig and Henry's daughter, and the abbey convent became their burial place.

Hedwig lived a long and fruitful life as consort with her husband. Their marriage produced seven children, with



St. Jadwiga

only one child, Gertrude, surviving them. In fact, so brave and admired was Hedwig that she used her charm to rescue her husband from captivity by a rival duke. Henry died five years before her and is buried at Trzebnica (Trebnitz) Abbey which he had established at

Hedwig's request some thirty years before. Hedwig resided there in her later life, preserving her inheritance money to help her charities. Well-known for her generosity and care for the poor as well as for her administrative skills, she often went barefoot and fasted extensively. Eventually she became a lay sister of the Cistercian order.



St. Hedwig

Hedwig's name lived long after her death as a popular German name which emerged into our teenagers' world as Harry Potter's owl Hedwig, the white and wise messenger. The purity and virtuous owl is a guide (some say a guardian angel) as Harry grows up until he is old enough to have his own wisdom. When that happens, the author sacrifices Hedwig in Harry's final battle against temptation and evil.

Hedwig's name emerged two centuries later in its Polish form of Jadwiga. As the youngest daughter of King Louis of Hungary, the young Jadwiga at thirteen was faced with a decision similar to that of Hedwig. She sought prayer before the crucifix in the cathedral of Krakow for hours and then draped her black veil over the crucifix as a sign that she had surrendered her will to God's.

Thus, Jadwiga of Krakow married the prince Jagiello of Lithuania upon his promise to bring Christianity to his country and to unite Poland and Lithuania. He was baptized Ladislaus and together the couple established Krakow as center of learning and culture. Their most impressive gift was the re-establishment of the Jagiellonian University as an intellectual institution which benefited the entire Church for centuries as witnessed by one of its most illustrious alumni, Saint John Paul II, our recently canonized pope.

We know little of the everyday lives of these holy women. They were the celebrities of their day, the ruling class of

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School Expands iPad Initiative

by Paul Cutajar

On September 9, Apple made headlines when they rolled out news of their latest iPhone 6 and the new Apple watch. Coincidentally, there was some Apple-related news much closer to home, as MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL rolled out an expanded one-to-one iPad initiative whereby all students in grades four, five, and six are receiving iPads for use throughout the coming school year.

Principal Diane McCaughan explained how this milestone marked just another step in the growth of the school's technology program which already includes two computer rooms, a full-time technology teacher, and Smart Boards in all classrooms. When MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL opened in 2012, the school received 91 iPads from the Office of Catholic Education. These were placed on four iPad carts for teachers to use with their classes. Thanks to the "Trek for Tech" fundraiser held each year, as well as donations from parents and parishioners, the number of iPads has multiplied. Last year there were enough that all 4th graders received iPads. This year, after applying for and receiving an additional \$22,000 of government instructional money, the school now owns 334 iPads: on carts, for teachers, and as part of this program whereby nearly 150 students will now have an iPad for their learning. The ultimate goal is that every student receives an iPad for their career at MATER DEI.

As Miss Diane Chowanes, one of the 4th grade teachers described, with access to iPads throughout the school year – both in class and at home – students' education has evolved exponentially: "We use iPads to acquire knowledge, to review skills, and to further extend students' knowledge of the concepts being taught in all subjects areas." Examples abound. In social studies, students last year created iMovies about regions of Pennsylvania instead of doing book reports. Students used BookCreator to document the inauguration of Popes Benedict and Francis. They regularly use apps such as Quizlet to review schoolwork (think: old-time flash cards), and Socrative in the classroom for teacher assessment.

A key component to the program has been *teacher* education. This is not just about putting the latest technological shiny object in children's hands. Teachers have all been logging hours and hours of workshops, courses and webinars on how to best incorporate the iPads and all technology into their changing classrooms.

There are some fearful of such change, but Mr. Bill

Brannick, Director of Technology for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia spoke to the parents of the students receiving the iPads and lauded the program saying "I congratulate you as parents and a community for embracing this technology." As Mr. Brannick pointed out, technology dominates our children's current world, and the world they are headed for will have technology integrated into it in ways we can barely imagine. By working with technology in school, students are being taught to use it responsibly. A firewall with strong controls has been installed on the school's wireless network, and apps are screened carefully before students can download and use them. With the integration of technology like iPads in their day-to-day lives, they are learning skills they will use in high school, in college, and as adults. As Mr. Brannick stated, "By engaging in this for your kids, you're creating a foundation for their future in 2024, 2026, and beyond."

Indeed such "21st Century Learning" has become foundational at MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL and this expanded iPad initiative is just one more step in its impressive development.✘



Mater Dei fourth-graders using iPads in their classroom

MATER DEI 5K/10K RACE POSTPONED

We'd like to notify all parishioners that the "You Choose" Mater Dei 5K / 10K race mentioned in the previous issue has been postponed indefinitely. Unfortunately, the Public Safety Committee of Lansdale Borough denied the application for the race despite initial indications that it would be approved, and we did not receive word until after the newsletter had gone to print. Thanks to all who expressed interest, and we hope to have good news about a new date for the race in the future.✘

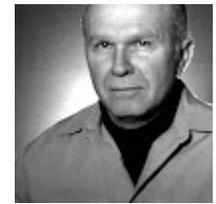
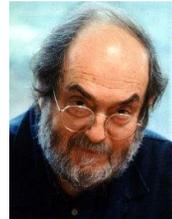
“Can You STAN-d It” Contest Results

Our Spring, 2014 issue was themed for our parish namesake, St. Stanislaus Kostka, with an article about the new St. Stanislaus statue, a feature on teenage saints including Kostka, and the spotlight on parishioner Stan Skrzat. It also featured our second-ever contest which asked you to match twenty famous Stans’ surnames with descriptions of what they were famous for. Unlike our first contest back in Spring 2011 where entrants overachieved finding far more than the 10 mistakes hidden in the issue, this contest proved to be far more difficult.

Firstly, we had far fewer entries, we assume because of the challenge. Secondly, we had no one get a perfect score. One person scored seven out of twenty. The two top scorers each scored an 18, and actually missed the same two, flip-flopping Stanley Kubrick (Director) with Stan Moore (Emmy-winning Screenwriter). That was tricky since while it is true that Kubrick was a screenwriter as well as a movie director, he never won an Emmy. However the lesser-known Moore, who did also direct music videos, has two Emmys to his name.

Since it was so difficult to get even eighteen correct, rather than randomly pick from the two high scorers, we have decided to declare a tie and award both entrants first place. Thus congratulations – for an outSTANDING job – to Dottie Luecke and Betty Polito, both of whom with receive a \$10 gift card to Subway. For those of you who played (whether you sent in your entry or not, here are the answers to the contest, and thanks to all who played:

- | | | | |
|-----|------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | MIKITA | <u>3</u> | Rugby Player |
| 2. | FORTUNA | <u>10</u> | Jazz Pianist |
| 3. | PILECKI | <u>7</u> | Baseball Player |
| 4. | COLLYMORE | <u>1</u> | Hockey Player |
| 5. | FREBERG | <u>19</u> | Blessed, Founder of the MIC |
| 6. | LAUREL | <u>9</u> | Basketball Coach |
| 7. | MUSIAL | <u>16</u> | Saxophonist |
| 8. | MOORE | <u>18</u> | <i>The Mask</i> |
| 9. | HEATH | <u>12</u> | Marvel comics |
| 10. | TRACEY | <u>4</u> | English Soccer Player |
| 11. | ROPER | <u>11</u> | “Three’s Company” |
| 12. | LEE | <u>5</u> | Radio Voice Actor/Comedian |
| 13. | KOWALSKI | <u>14</u> | “South Park” |
| 14. | MARSH | <u>15</u> | “The Office” |
| 15. | HUDSON | <u>13</u> | <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> |
| 16. | GETZ | <u>8</u> | Emmy-winning Screenwriter |
| 17. | WINSTON | <u>20</u> | Director |
| 18. | IPKISS | <u>17</u> | Make Up Artist |
| 19. | PAPCZYNSKI | <u>2</u> | Jazz-playing rapper priest |
| 20. | KUBRICK | <u>6</u> | Comic Actor |



Stanley Kubrick on the left and Stan Moore on the right.
(photos from www.imdb.com and www.youtube.com)

Hedwig and Jadwiga

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their nations, among the privileged and envied of their societies. But they were also daughters and wives and mothers and political and cultural leaders of their day. They lived their lives at the center of violent political struggles, as we do also, and watched their beloved countries besieged by the same forces of strife which we face. Even now their countries are not at rest. However, Hedwig and Jadwiga -- one German, the other Polish -- are looked upon as worthy models for today’s women because of their early recognition of the importance of God’s will in their lives.

May our young women and young men be as wise.!

Note: Saint pictures from www.CatholicWeb.com

Pat Fischer

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What goes around comes around, they say. She and Bill are good examples of what being committed to a parish is all about – the place where we all belong.

“Involvement is key,” Pat said.

How important for all of us, to be known. Perhaps it isn’t possible for our parish to be ‘a place where everyone knows your name,’ but we can work toward that end by taking a page from the Fischers’ book: be involved, be committed, and you’ll enjoy lasting friendships with parish family members, and experience loving support in time of need.

Let’s pray that St. Therese of the Little Flower continues to bless Pat and her family.✠

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Parish Census Data for July, 2014 – August, 2014



Anthony Joshua Pineda
 Chamo
 Dustin Steve Pineda
 Chamo
 Joseph Alexander Pineda
 Chamo
 Jack Donald Claffey
 Nicholas Samuel Crown
 Jax Gregory Gammell
 Sofie Bella Hill
 Chase David Huttanus
 Grace Ann McGrath
 Shiela Prince Neibaur
 Ethan John Stieber
 Matthew Brian
 Wasilauski



Welcome
 Our New
 Members

Michael Bell	Dennis O'Donnell
Diane Crown	Simon & Erin
Jerry & Sue DePaul	Oosthuizen
David & Shelby	Christie Patterson
Diliberto	Alexandre & Ana Paula
John & Esther Feng	Pecora
Lisa Fielding	Esdras Ituriel & Calleja
Gerald & Margaret Girard	Picil Perez Pena
Scott Murphy & Amanda	Rosemary Roux
Griffith	Thomas & Teresa Saboe
Thomas Griffith	Charles & Maria
Kevin Hunter	aSantangelo
Geoffrey & Michelle Hynes	Timothy Schaffer, Jr.
Thomas & Lisa Jan Francisco	Allen & Kelly Schwartz
Sean Keough	Khoa Nguyen & Leslie
David & Jessica Knight	Vien
John & Daisy Mack	



IN
 MEMORIAM

Daniel J. Algeo
 Joseph J. Del Ciotto
 Dorothy M. Christy
 Walter L. Herbine, Sr
 Dorothy M. Hopkins
 Marie Kempczynski
 Martha Kern
 Annette Krimm
 Sarah Luff
 Gregory Mancino
 Leo E. Martin
 Gerri McDermody
 Robert T. Miller
 John A. Panico
 Helen Ruffo
 Judith M. Weiner
 Loyola M. Wethey
 Ernest P. Williams



Bridget R. Patterson and Daniel R. Welch

 Kellie Anne Simpson and Steven Thomas Roggio

 Carla Marie Trongone and Joseph Strampello