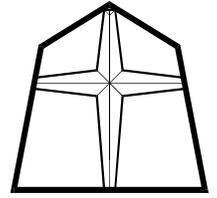


NewStan



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

Autumn/Otoño 2013

An Abundance of Thanksgiving Traditions

by Bridget Letukas

When the first Thanksgiving in America was celebrated in 1621 by the Plymouth Colony, it was not likely that Governor William Bradford, who proclaimed the commemorative feast following a bountiful harvest, envisioned the widespread family traditions and cherished national holiday that the country stops to celebrate every fourth Thursday of November. However, Bradford's simple invitation to local Wampanoag Native Americans to join then-colonists to enjoy a traditional English harvest meal during which they expressed gratitude for their blessings blossomed by the middle of the nineteenth century. By the 1800s, most states in the US were celebrating Thanksgiving each year. In 1863, by proclamation, President Abraham Lincoln declared it a national holiday.

Thanksgiving has truly become the nation's ultimate family holiday, steeped in traditions that forever unite parents, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, neighbors, and in-laws. For me personally, many of my Turkey Day memories circle around pie-making, festive foods, and football. While the TV parade marched on, the day always commenced with my mom stuffing the turkey, my sisters preparing a multiple variety of pies, and my dad and brothers getting set for late morning or early afternoon football games.

It appears that football has always been a big part of the Thanksgiving Day tradition for many members of our parish community.

“In the past years,” recalls Youth Minister Peg Dominick, “the boys had always gone to the LaSalle/Prep football game...which no longer takes place on Thanksgiving.”

Dominick adds that an integral part of the holiday for her involves having family for dinner, enjoying the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, and going to Mass as a family to give thanks.

For Leona Russell, the Parish Director of Religious Education, family traditions include a homemade chicken noodle soup and – instead of the usual mashed potatoes – rice for family visiting from both near and afar. Russell also adds that a special sweet potato recipe passed down from previous generations makes the Thanksgiving table every year. The day after the feast, Russell and her now-grown daughters tackle Black Friday by taking to the outlets, be it Poconos, Reading, Lancaster, or Flemington.

According to Mater Dei kindergarten teacher Patty McWilliams, the best memory is the family Johnny Appleseed Stuffing that was also passed down from generation to generation.

“It is delicious,” assures McWilliams. “My brother and sister and I realized after my mom



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His Twitterness?



by Paul Cutajar

Pope Benedict XVI may have been the first pontiff to use the social media outlet known as Twitter, but Pope Francis has taken tweeting to a “higher level” tweeting at least daily and sometimes 3,4,5 times a day. As the *Huffington Post* recently stated, “Pope Francis is winning Twitter.” Back in August, Pope Francis even contributed a “selfie” posing with some young people in Vatican City and posted by @FabioMRagona. The Pope’s Twitter account is @Pontifex. He actually has nine official accounts in nine languages including Latin. According to aleteia.org, his total Twitter followers number over 9.2 million, with just over three million coming on the English language account. If you are not on Twitter or just want to see the types of inspirational statements His Holiness is tweeting, here is a sampling for your perusal:

- ❖ Let us keep a place for Christ in our lives, let us care for one another and let us be loving custodians of creation.
- ❖ God’s forgiveness is stronger than any sin.
- ❖ There is no such thing as low-cost Christianity. Following Jesus means swimming against the tide, renouncing evil and selfishness.
- ❖ Dear young people, do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things!
- ❖ We cannot be part-time Christians! We should seek to live our faith at every moment of every day.
- ❖ Sometimes we know what we have to do, but we lack the courage to do it.
- ❖ Let us learn from Mary how to make decisions, trusting in the Lord.
- ❖ Miracles happen. But prayer is needed! Prayer that is courageous, struggling and persevering, not prayer that is a mere formality.

Thanksgiving Traditions

continued from page 1

passed, the ‘special Jacobs recipe’ was on the back of the Pepperidge Farm Stuffing bag. We still make it every year and smile. She was also famous for her lasagna.”

Beyond food, football, and feasts, both Dominick, Russell, and McWilliams – like many parishioners – agree that, at the heart of the day, remains prayer and thanks, as well as remembering those in need.

“Most of our service we do as a family happens before Thanksgiving,” says Dominick, “helping with families in need by donating food to our parish.”

Many parishioners join in the effort to give so that others can enjoy a Thanksgiving feast of their own. Each year, an annual holiday food drive allows members of all ages of the parish to give an item that becomes part of the Thanksgiving table.

Colette Mapes, a reading specialist at Mater Dei School, is one of many parishioners mindful of inviting those without family or friends to the feast Governor Bradford heralded centuries ago.

“We don’t have notable traditions,” said Mapes, “except for family to spend the day together and share a meal. Over the years, we have opened our doors and made room at our table for friends that would be alone for the holiday.”

Many members of the Saint Stanislaus Parish continue to share in this tradition to look beyond football contests, homemade pies, and filling feasts by commemorating the Thanksgiving celebration as an act of love and service, not only among immediate family...but others as well.

As recalled beautifully by our own Fr. Philip Forlano: “Thanksgiving has always been a time in my family in which friends or family members who had no place to go were invited to join our family for Thanksgiving. My parents were always attentive to this need in their friends and my friends. Whether you call this a ‘tradition’ or not, it was a reminder that what we are most thankful for is friendship and relationship and not just the blessing of material things.”✠

-
- ❖ We all have in our hearts some areas of unbelief. Let us say to the Lord: I believe! Help my unbelief.
 - ❖ The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty.✠

Parishioner Spotlight

Father John Roebuck

by Anita Cugini

As the newest member of the *NewStan's* editorial staff, I was given the privilege of interviewing Father John Roebuck who recently came to us from St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Glen Mills.

While reflecting on his time spent at St. Thomas, Father humbly admitted that he received many cards and letters from parishioners upon his departure, while adding sheepishly and with a chuckle “I felt the parishioners there enjoyed my presence, or I least hoped that they did!”

Father Roebuck is no stranger to Montgomery County, having taught at Lansdale Catholic High School for one year while residing at St. Rose of Lima. He could not say enough about the warmth and enthusiastic welcome he received from Msgr. Tracy, Father Forlano and the people of St. Stanislaus. He arrived just prior to the start of the parish festival – something he described as overwhelming, but a “fantastic experience” all in all. He added that the Festival “was a great way for me to meet and get to know my new parishioners.”

I found Father easy to talk with and he quickly put me at ease with his warm smile and affable manner. Coincidentally, we are both the same age, and were able to share memories of TV shows during the '50 and '60. As soon as I learned that Father knew “Our Gal Sal (Sally Star) and Ramar of the Jungle, I knew Father and I shared the same frame of reference. Coincidentally, one of Father’s seminary classmates, who is now a Papal Nuncio Archbishop, was a childhood friend of mine!

John Roebuck comes from a family of seven brothers and sisters, and fondly recalled his mother’s home-made Chef Boyardee pizza—standard Friday night fare in the Roebuck household, in keeping with the abstinence requirement of his youth.

He received his primary education under the tutelage of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He had over 100 students in his first grade classroom, something that

seems as far-fetched in today’s climate of declining enrollment figures as “Star Trek” was when it debuted in the '60’s!

We chatted easily about summer vacations in Wildwood at the Jersey Shore agreed that things are much different now for the family vacations of today. While we had both been delighted by Kohr’s Brothers Frozen Custard and Curly Fries, we doubted that these treats pass muster in today’s health-conscious society!

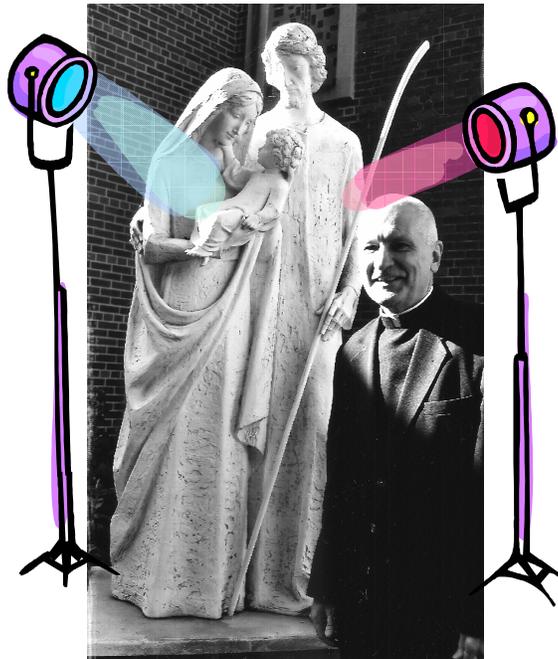
When queried as to his favorite intercessor, he responded immediately: The Blessed Virgin Mary, with the recitation of a rosary each day being a definite priority.

In a teasing manner, I asked Father if he had any items on his “bucket list”. With a hearty laugh, he said no, but added that for all the years of his ministry, he always wanted to visit Rome and the Vatican. Hmm...I wonder? Could we possibly interest Father Roebuck in leading a pilgrimage from St. Stan’s to Italy in the foreseeable future, perhaps for the canonization of Blessed Teresa?

I concluded my interview by asking Father to share his hopes for the

future at St. Stanislaus. His answer was simple and direct: “My fondest wish would be “to continue my priestly vocation, while giving comfort and service to the parishioners at St. Stanislaus in any way I can.”

Thank you, Father Roebuck, for allowing me get to know you and to do this interview. We’re glad to have you here at St. Stan’s!”✕



ERRATA AND CONDOLENCE

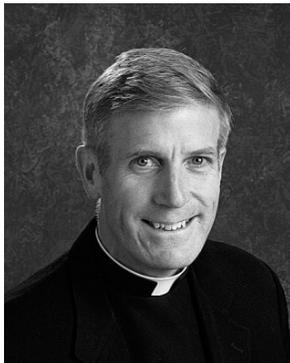
In last issue’s Parishioner Pondering there were two errors. Dottie Migliaccios’s maiden name “Hobensack” was misspelled, and Manny Migliaccio’s son Michael was misnamed “Matthew” (one of Manny’s grandsons). On September 7, not long after the Summer issue went to print, Manny Migliaccio passed away. *NewStan* sends its sincere condolences to Dottie, Michael, and the entire Migliaccio family along with our apologies for the misprints.✕

Our Pastor's Pen

Dear friends/Mis queridos amigos,

✠

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Surfing Around?

So we're going to cheat here. Since we had an article about the Pope's Twitter, here are a few more Twitter handles that might interest you: @ArchPhilly, @CatholicPhilly, @Pacatholic, and @Mater_Dei_CS.

NEWSTAN

MISSION STATEMENT

In response to the Pope 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

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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.

Msgr. Joseph Tracy

Mother Frances Cabrini and Her Many Missions

by Anne Kaler

“I will look for a house.” That is what Frances Cabrini immediately answered when her bishop asked her to start a religious order to educate poor girls in Italy. Within three months, she had started an orphanage and a school.

At her premature birth, the baby Frances was an unlikely candidate to bring God to people in foreign lands. As the last of a large Italian family and raised by her older sister, Frances Cabrini became a teacher who longed to bring souls to Christ in the foreign missions. Her ill health caused her to be rejected twice as physically unsuited for convent life. Despite these rejections, she drew so many like-minded women to her efforts that she was asked to found her own order, the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She based her rule on the scholarly and spiritual teachings of St. Francis De Sales.

Which brings us to her name – Francis of Assisi is the only saint canonized under a nickname; his real name was Giovanni but his father called him Francesco or the Frenchman for the merchants’ road to France). As a child, Maria Francesca was nicknamed “Cecchina,” the name of the virtuous heroine of Puccini’s eighteenth-century opera *La buona figliuola*, (*The Good-Natured Girl* or *The Accomplished Maid*). Puccini based his opera on Samuel Richardson’s early novel *Pamela or Virtue Rewarded*. The opera was even presented before the emperor in China in 1778 by the Jesuits. Maria Franchesca took an additional name of Xavier in honor of Francis Xavier, the great Jesuit missionary to Asia. (Pope Francis also selected his name from those two great saints, Francis of Assisi for his simplicity and Francis Xavier for his missionary zeal.)

Immediate obedience and fearlessness characterized Frances’s pursuit of her mission. At thirty-nine and in ill health, she was asked to serve the Italian immigrants, not in the foreign mission fields of Asia which she desired but in America, specifically New York City. Although she was violently seasick and suffered from vertigo, she crossed the Atlantic twenty-five times to establish her charitable houses of comfort. Wherever Italian immigrants went, Frances found them and ministered to them. Even though she was interested in education rather than nursing, she established hospitals soon after she had a dream in which the Blessed Mother was tending a patient. By the time of her death at sixty-seven, she had established sixty-seven charitable institutions across Europe and the Americas, one for each year of life.

Finding a house was not always easy. When she and six of her sisters first arrived in New York, they discovered that, because the letter from the Archbishop to cancel his request for Italian nuns had not reached Frances, he had not provided housing for them.



Photo from www.catholic.org

Fresh off the rough sea voyage, the exhausted nuns slept upright on straight chairs in a filthy tenement. The next day, the Archbishop helped them find a house. From then on, Frances Cabrini became an expert at finding suitable houses for her missionary efforts to serve the immigrants of the American cities.

God hears the “cries of the poor” in all ages by calling people to serve “the poor” of that particular age. Until the early 1900s, the United States was a young mission country served by foreign missionaries who came to bring Catholicism to a wild and untried frontier. The Americas profited by the good works of the women religious, who established hospitals, orphanages, and schools. Catherine McAuley sent her Irish Mercy nuns to Pennsylvania, Cornelia Connelly founded schools, our own Katherine Ann Drexel brought education to Native-Americans and African-Americans, and Rose Hawthorne nursed the cancerous poor just to name a few. More recently, Mother Teresa of Calcutta nursed the entire world into awareness of Christ’s love.

When Frances was asked to be a missionary, she obeyed her superior’s instructions to serve the immigrants, the needy of her day, in a foreign land. She knew neither the language nor the culture of America when she came but she readily became an American citizen in 1909. She is the first American ever canonized a saint while Elizabeth Ann Seton remains the first native-born American to be canonized.

Frances Cabrini, fondly called Mother Cabrini, “looked for a house” to shelter God’s people all of her life. May we open our houses and hearts to the missionary outpouring of Divine Love.✠

NewStan Focus Group

Hispanic Prayer Group

by Marianne Thomas

After learning there was an interest and a need in having a prayer group in Spanish within St. Stanislaus Parish, the Hispanic Prayer Group was officially introduced in July of 2012. The primary purpose is to gather together to offer prayers and to learn more from the Scriptures for the Spanish-speaking community.

Weekly meetings are held on Thursday's from 7PM to 8:30PM on the fifth floor of the Parish. Each assembly begins with a prayer and song to the Holy Spirit, followed by the recitation of the Rosary to the Virgin Mary or the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Next the Gospel for the following Sunday is read and then they offer reflections on it. Then they give *Thanks* and offer *Petitions to our Lord* which is followed by the final Prayer to the Holy Spirit and a concluding song.

Within the group, there are a couple of gentlemen who play guitar, and a few women who like to sing, so they decided to form a group to sing at their meetings. One of the guitarists is Manuel Morales and the three singers are: Diana Zuluaga, Eva Zavala, and Angelica Santillan.

Presently, an average of about 20 people attend the meetings each week. Carlos Zuluaga, a regular at the meetings, says the meetings are attended by "a nice group of enthusiastic and friendly people saying prayers, commenting on the scriptures and singing to our Lord."

The group also assists Father Forlano at the 1PM Spanish Mass on Sundays, handing out missals and hymn books at the beginning of Mass, taking up the collections and gifts at the offertory, and directing people for Communion. In October the group started the "*Rosario Peregrino*" held on the last Thursday of every month. This is when the prayer group visits the house of a community member who requests it. At the member's home, they follow the same format as they would do at their regular meeting.

This December, beginning on the 16th and continuing through the 24th, the group will do what they call "*Las Posadas Navideñas*." The prayer group will visit a different home every day and they will pray and sing for the coming of Jesus. The entire community is invited.

Another special event, organized by Father Forlano, is the celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Before the bilingual mass, children re-enact the story of Our



Lady's appearance to Juan Diego and the miracle of the Fatima. After Mass, they gather together and everyone enjoys foods and folkloric dancing from Mexico and Central America.

Throughout the Lenten season and during Holy Week, they pray the Stations of the Cross. Father also organizes events to celebrate Father's and Mother's days, by having get-togethers at the Parish Center to play music, games and enjoy food together. In June, there is a one-day Spiritual Retreat; this past year it was dedicated to couples.

All are welcome to attend the prayer meetings, Spanish and bilingual Masses and special events. For more information on upcoming events, please check the weekly Bulletin or contact the Parish Center at 215-855-3133.✘

WE NEED HELP!

This issue, *NewStan* is happy to welcome our newest writer, Anita Cugini (see her debut article on page 3). Fact is, we are always looking for new writers with new perspectives and ideas If you...

- ❖ Like to write and can pen interesting and creative articles between 400 and 750 words.
- ❖ Would like to meet new people around the Parish.
- ❖ Can attend half-hour planning meetings four times a year and contribute ideas for issue
- ❖ Can communicate and send articles via e-mail
- ❖ Can meet 2-3 week long deadlines for assignments

If this sounds like you and you'd like to give writing for *NewStan* a try, e-mail Paul at ts.cutty@verizon.net. Thanks!✘

Learning Christ Prayer

Teach me, my Lord to be sweet and gentle
in all the events of life:

In disappointments,
in the thoughtlessness of others,
in the insincerity of those I trusted,
in the unfaithfulness of those
on whom I relied.

Let me put myself aside, to think of the happiness of others,
to hide my little pains and heartaches,
so that I may be the only one to suffer them.

Teach me to profit by the suffering
that comes across my path.

Let me so use it that it may mellow me,
not harden nor embitter me;
that it may make me patient, not irritable,
that it may make me broad in my forgiveness,
not narrow haughty and overbearing.

May no one be less good for having come
within my influence.

No one less pure, less noble for having been a fellow traveler
in our journey toward eternal life.

As I go my rounds from one distraction to another, let me
whisper, from time to time,
a word of love to you.

May our life be lived in the supernatural,
full of power for good,
and strong in its purpose of sanctity.

Amen.

From *Manual Of Prayers*, Pontifical North American College
Printed in *MAGNIFICAT 'Year Of Faith Companion'*

GIFT Presents...

The GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) Program began in 2004 when Sister Benedicte, Sr. Cecelia, and Dianne Spotts decided to fill a need to have ongoing informal faith formation available for RCIA and Landings participants once their formal program ended.

It was later opened up to the entire parish for all who sought continuing adult faith formation. For those who have never attended, the process is that potential speakers and topics are put to the committee who accepts or perhaps tables the idea for another year. This approach has brought forth good, solid topics along with a mix of the arts. Much deliberation and prayer goes into the selections and they are made with the attending audience in mind. With few exceptions, the GIFT presentations take place the 2nd Tuesday of every month from September to June in the Parish Center lobby meeting room and are followed by light refreshments.

Here are some of the upcoming GIFT presentations (be sure to check Sunday bulletins for specific dates and times):

- ❖ **November – Parishioner Faith Talks.** As The Year of Faith comes to an end, four parishioners will talk about their spiritual journey, how their faith has been challenged and changed.
- ❖ **December – (tentative) Dr. Bob Motley** speaking on Natural methods of Fertility Awareness, titled "What's New in Male and Female Sexuality and Fertility Care."
- ❖ **January – Father Phillip Bochanski, C.O.,** chaplain of the Courage Apostolate, will discuss the teaching of the Catholic Church regarding homosexuality, and the outreach of the Church to those with same-sex attraction and to their loved ones.✠



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Parish Census Data for July 2013 – September 2013

 <p>Ileana Soriano Alameda Shaila Barroso Timothy Vincent Coleman Chase Edward Erickson Katherine Isabella Cabrera Estiella Benjamin Thomas Foering Isabelle Rose Gorman Michael Dimitry Haytko Emily Dawn Henning Matthew John Kelly Trevor Koscielski Lucas John Kosydar Christian Ramzy Marzouq Isabella Colin Parker Andrw Paul Perez Edwin José Guerra Perez Jeffrey Omar Saravia Rylee Nevaeh Witynski Emily Stephanie Villatoro Alexander Zamudio Jordi Zamudio</p>	 <p>Jeff Bachman & Laura Mellor Edie Benvenuti Sarah Blaschke Christopher & Michelle Calhoun Efre Cardona John & Lauren Catagus Hilary Clemente Edward J. Daman Theresa Davis John & Catherine Delaney Joanne Fennimore Hector & Jillian Gonzalez Robert & Caren Hamlin Matthew & Sarah Hetzler</p>	 <p>Emmanuel Morales Gonzalez and Anegolica Maria Santillan Alameda Lauren Anne Marino and Connor Patrick Eagan Michael John Kerr and Jennifer Elizabeth Douglas Michael Mintzer and Mackenzie Moore Kevin William Miller and Kelly Anne Collins Jacob Andrew Wallace and Melissa Ann Hittmanis</p>
	 <p>Joseph Baker, Sr. Mary Panico Bauer Alice Byrne Robert Henderson Rosemarie Hunsberger Christine Jorski</p>	<p>James Kelly Dorothy Lewis Helen Lordi Emanuel "Manny" Migliaccio Patricia Paulukonis Rosemarie Perles</p> <p>Kathleen "Kathy" Sands Carmella Starti Mary Ward Kevin Weidner James Zaccola</p>