
“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



NewStan

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

Spring / Primavera 2015

The Idea that Became *NewStan*

by **Dianne Spotts**

Years ago, in a Sunday bulletin, Monsignor Tracy wrote: “New ideas are very delicate; they can be killed by a sneer or a yawn; they can be crushed by a frown.” Happily, the idea to publish a quarterly newsletter – an idea that surfaced from a Stewardship Committee of years past – brought a smile to then-pastor Monsignor Murray’s face. And happily for those on the original staff of *NewStan*, as well as those on the current one, ideas, parish news, and inspirations have entered registered parishioners’ homes four times a year since that spring in 1997 when then-editor JoAnn Paslawsky launched the first edition.

We extend a large thank you to her and to Anne Kaler who named this idea *NewStan*, a moniker that reminds us to keep things both “newsy” and “Stan-ish.” Paul Cutajar took over the helm in 2002, and has kept the ‘extra, extra, read all about it’ momentum going.

While some in the group had writing and publishing experience, I had neither and was awed by what we accomplished. I enjoy the ‘think-tank’ feel of the planning sessions, and the opportunity to wing off an idea to our editor. It has been a challenge to keep each issue fresh and interesting – and at times to weave what seems like an endless bunch of loose ends into something cohesive.

Sometimes parishioners give us ideas for the next issue, and at other times an upcoming event like Christmas or Easter determines the theme. We never sneer at an idea

and encourage you to keep them coming. Thanks to *NewStan*, we’ve all gotten to know our parish family a little better through the ‘Spotlight’ and ‘Focus’ articles. We’ve become more familiar with the many programs and ministries going on in our busy parish family, which in turn hopefully become opportunities for readers to become more actively involved. And the stats on the last page remind us that people are constantly coming and going, marrying, and being baptized – or as some irreverently say:

being matched, hatched, and dispatched.

In keeping with our mission statement, we also report some community news, as when we featured the maternity home Morning Star Ministries, the North Penn Church Ministerium, and the Catholic-Lutheran Joint Declaration celebration in conjunction with Trinity Lutheran Church.

We try to cover the many aspects of parish life: social, spiritual, and even silly (remember the April Fools contest?) We feature saints, highlights from MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL, and still try to

leave Monsignor Tracy enough room for his words of wisdom, and the occasional financial report. From the Juniors to Seniors, with news about the annual festival and family recipes, we cover the gamut. We’ve looked at parish life from every angle, and even printed poems, and an occasional puzzle. And how about pictures? Since 2004 we’ve been lucky to have our own staff photographer, Ed Kunze, who diligently finds appropriate photo-subjects to

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Two May Saints: St. Isadore and St. Philip Neri

by Anne K. Kaler

The Spanish Isadore, the Farmer of Spain, and the Italian Philip Neri of Florence both celebrate their feast days in May. However, Isadore is more a “spring and summer saint,” a patron of the daytime activity of raising crops. Philip Neri, on the other hand, is a “fall and winter saint” working best in the night hours. These two opposite saints complement and balance each other – one rural, one urban, one married, one layman-priest. Yet both men are grouped among the Five Spanish Saints. – Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier, Teresa of Avila – all canonized together in 1622.

In the eleventh century, young Isadore worked on a farm near Madrid and married Maria Torribia. Their only child, a son, was miraculously saved from drowning but died at a young age, after which the couple pledged themselves to continence.

Miracles happened all the time for Isadore and Maria. Isadore was often late for work because he lingered in the church after daily Mass. His work was always completed, however, allegedly being finished by angels plowing the fields for him. A legend exists of Isadore’s spilling grain out for famished birds and having twice that amount of grain returned to him after it was milled. Another tale tells of Isadore causing a fountain of fresh water to appear for the farm owner and another story mentions how the saint brought the farm owner’s daughter back to life.

Isadore’s wife Maria had her own set of miraculous happenings. When hungry farm hands appeared, her empty pot of stew refilled itself to feed them all. Her intercession is said to cause rain to fall during droughts in

the arid area around Madrid.

If Isadore and Maria lived the simple life as farmers, then Philip Neri lived a more complex life of a city gentleman. In the sixteenth century, the prevailing social concept was that men who worked with their hands were somehow lower in

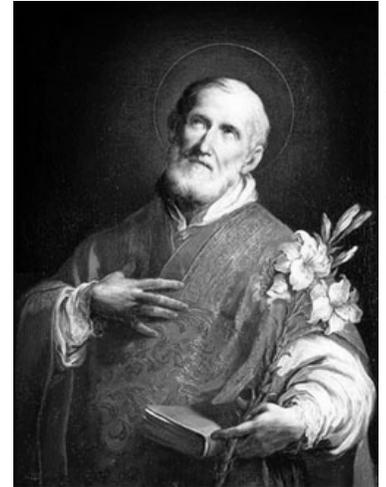
God’s eyes. The class system counted menial work an inferior calling. For seventeen years, Philip remained a layman, performing what we might call today social services. First, he worked in hospitals for incurables and on the streets of Rome with those we now call mentally challenged

and homeless. Eventually he was named the Apostle of Rome for his daily charity helping the poor pilgrims who flooded Rome each year: something for us to remember as we face pilgrims coming to Philadelphia in September’s for the World Meeting of Families and Pope Francis’s visit.

However, Philip saw the need for a more intimate relationship with God. Breaking away from the older monastic system, Philip retained St. Benedict’s motto of *Orare et Labore*. As such, he was one of the first to break with monastic tradition to become a contemplative in action by establishing the Oratory where men could learn about God.

His biographers stress that Philip broke the restraints of his medieval age to become a transitional saint who combined the contemplative life of constant prayer with the active life of service to others. He did not discipline his body with medieval practices but rather used humility as his discipline. Philip was ordained a priest in 1551 to guide his Oratory. Although he preferred to spend more time in his own solitary prayers, Philip was always ready to help another person to find God. As he said, “We must leave Christ for Christ.” And he did so with good spirit and a smiling face, using his humor and wit to bring Christ to the people who were disillusioned.

Both men share the down-to-earth virtue of their humility. The word “humility” comes from the Latin “humus” or earth/soil/dirt. Early saints often described themselves as being a worm in the earth. Even the lowest of worms can aerate soil, using their supple bodies to loosen clumps of hard-packed dirt. So also do saintly people loosen the hardened hearts of others by their actions in seeking out God in the souls of all people. ✠



St. Philip Neri

Picture from www.catholic.org



St. Isadore

Picture from www.catholic.org

Parishioner Spotlight

Dianne Spotts

by **Norman Berger**

Dianne Spotts is an excellent choice for this issue's *Parishioner Spotlight*, since the focus of this issue is, well, *NewStan* itself, and Dianne has been involved with *NewStan* since its inception. In fact, you can read her article on the history of *NewStan* on the first page of this issue! Here, we explore some of Dianne's "journeys" as she refers to them.

Fortunately for St. Stanislaus Parish, Dianne, some years back, became very interested in creative writing. While still working at a small company doing payroll, she decided to put, as she calls it, little "blurbs" or inspirations into the paycheck envelopes for four or five fellow workers. From there, Dianne started submitting articles to a Catholic magazine for seniors that circulated in Philadelphia and in Chicago called *Senior Connection*. Her first accepted submission came when she was 60!

She attended a creative writing course and soon after found and joined a writing group at the Souderton Senior Center. The other participants came to this workshop with some very interesting pre-retirement backgrounds, occupationally speaking. There, she found kindred spirits and encouragement for her own efforts. She still participates in this group on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month. Thinking back on these efforts, she muses: "When you do what you know you should be doing, it energizes and excites you." So that is one of Dianne's "journeys."

Many parishioners who attend the 11:00AM Mass at St. Stanislaus are aware of Dianne's interest in music. There the Contemporary Music Group she started with Kellie Gramlich and Judy and Ken Sherman (which now includes other singers and instrumentalists) provides the musical setting. Her musical interest started with an experience when she was eight years old. Her dad would buy raffle tickets for a new car offered every year during the parish carnival (Who else remembers when parishes would have this prize?). He would put his name on one ticket and each of the other family members' names on the other purchased tickets. That year the ticket with Dianne's name

on it won the new car which made her a temporary celebrity in her neighborhood! Since she couldn't claim ownership of the car, however, her "consolation" prize was the purchase of a used piano by her dad and piano lessons. So began a new journey.

In the early 1970's, St. Stanislaus offered free organ lessons to obtain the organists the parish needed. Dianne took advantage of the offer and learned to play the organ under the tutelage of Ralph McInerny, the choir organist whose skills she really admired. She then took her place playing for Masses from the choir loft. When Msgr. Murray became pastor and had his family's piano moved to the front of the church, Dianne transferred to the piano to accompany Kellie Gramlich, the cantor, almost exclusively

at weekend Masses. She also accompanied me at times when I cantored and I can remember practicing at her house. She also invited me to be in a program for G.I.F.T. involving dramatic readings from the Song of Songs and singing topical hymns which she accompanied on the piano.

Another experience Dianne and I shared was the Evangelization group at St. Stanislaus some

years ago that Sister Benedicte headed. Within this group, Sister Benedict became aware of a program started by a father called "Landings," a program providing a safe harbor where fallen-away Catholics could explore coming back to the Church with practicing brothers and sisters. Dianne greatly assisted with this program. A sharing of an individual's spiritual journey was part of every meeting. Dianne was among those of us who shared their journey and it was where I found out about her coming to know the Holy Spirit and joining the Charismatic movement where she discovered a new spiritual awakening and experienced the gift of tongues. This involvement continues to provide her with nourishment. She facilitates the monthly Charismatic Prayer Meetings held on the 4th Tuesdays of the month at the Parish chapel.

The G.I.F.T. program that has arranged so many good speakers and programs for our parishioners was started by Dianne, in conjunction with Sr. Benedicte, Sr. Cecilia, and

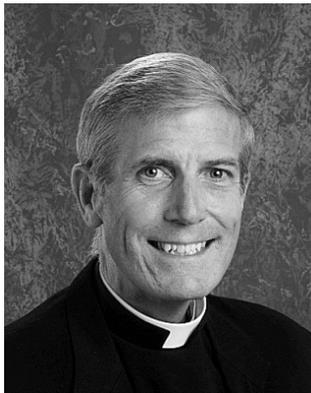
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Our Pastor's Pen

Dear friends / Mis amigos queridos,

Who could have believed that 17 years later, this publication would still be stretching to meet publication deadlines in order to arrive in the homes of all registered parishioners of St. Stanislaus?



We can all be proud in that reality. Msgr. Murray (my predecessor-pastor at St. Stanislaus) could not have foreseen the end-result, but he knew the idea of a parish newsletter had potential.

Approaching the Church as a permanent mission field is a vision solidly supported by our Holy Father, Pope Francis. He is a pope of the "New Evangelization." Francis embraces *Aparacida Document*. The Latin American and Caribbean Bishops Conference prepared and released this document in 2007. Then-Archbishop Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina chaired the final session that approved its release. The bishops emphasized a strongly evangelical thrust in the *Aparecida Document*: everyone in the Church, the bishops write, is to be a "missionary disciple" because of his/her baptism. Everywhere is mission territory, and everything in the Church must be mission-driven. The whole purpose of evangelism is to foster friendship with Jesus Christ. The Catholic Church must figure out what is missing in its presentation of the Gospel and its living of the Gospel: filling those gaps is the way to invite back home those Catholics who move away from their historic spiritual home.

Catholicism of the future is not something genetically inherited, but rather a lively and intentional faith brought about by evangelization. Various lay movements in the Church have been successful in increasing their number by using this approach to conversion, and success has brought it more prominently in the public view. (A full text in English of the *Aparacida Document* is located at www.aecrc.org/documents/Aparecida-Concluding%20Document.pdf)

The founding editors and staff of the NewStan had no knowledge of the present pope's missionary emphasis, but this publication has supported – at several levels – that effort. To all who have been involved with its publication, its reporting (as authors or subjects), or its reading I say thank you and congratulations on a "grass roots" vehicle of Catholic evangelization in the North Penn area!

Enjoy the springtime everyone!✠

Msgr. Joseph Tracy

Surfing Around?

Has reading this issue made you nostalgic for some past *NewStans*? Well, you can check out issues you miss or those you missed entirely at our Parish website: <http://www.ststanislaus.com/news/parish-newsletter/>

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

Follow us on Facebook: St. Stanislaus Lansdale



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.

NewStan Redux

Editor's Note: As we recall the history of our parish newsletter, we thought it would be appropriate to reprint excerpts some of our favorite NewStan articles of the past eighteen years. Enjoy!

From Fall, 2001

Stewardship Through the Eyes of St. Stan's Parishioners

by Anne K. Kaler

As an associate editor of *NewStan*, I suggest you re-read the last issue, especially the front cover on volunteerism.

Then remember September 11, 2001.

Isn't the level of volunteerism we witnessed in New York the essence of stewardship? Of being "our brother's keeper?" Of risking our precious lives to save the lives of others?

How many tales of heroism have we heard and then retold?

How many tales are there still to tell which we will never hear?

Does the volunteerism – the sense of stewardship shown by the firefighters, police officers, rescue workers – lessen our sense of stewardship in the parish?

I think not. Should we not take inspiration from their sacrifice, keeping in mind Christ's sacrifice, and make our own lives models of Christ's redeeming action?

From Fall, 2003

At St. Stan's, Seniors Shine

by Anita Gogno

St. Stan's senior volunteers have brightly polished their retirement years with continuing acts of charity for the church. With a twinkle in their eyes, they've added unspeakable sparkle to everything and everyone they touch – from the church gardens to the altar, from our youth to our nursing home residents, from daily Masses to the solemnity of funerals....

.... So if you feel your soul is getting a little rusty around the rim, take a tip from our inexhaustible senior volunteers and their infinite passion for mercy. "Everybody should do what they're comfortable with," advises Frank Ryan. "Pick something that is sustainable, that you can continue doing. It's a personal commitment...it's very enlightening."✠

From Summer, 2005

St. Stan Parishioner Pondering: Signs of God's Endless Gifts

by Margaret Mary Monahan

God has filled my life with many gifts, beginning with growing up in a large Catholic family, something I've always appreciated...

...Our children were born in 1986 (David), 1989 (Megan Rose), and 1991 (Patrick).

David was the only one that was born profoundly deaf. He wasn't diagnosed until he was eight months old. We were devastated and cried and cried, thinking about the things he would never be able to do. I realized that my child had never heard me say his name, didn't hear us saying we were "Mommy and Daddy." We had to grieve our loss and learn to accept who David was.

My husband and I took a pro-active stance; we would do whatever we needed to do to help our son. David was our treasure; I knew that from the first moment I held him in my arms – he was pure and untouched. I had never even met a deaf person and now would raise one...

...David has done the things we at first thought were impossible: he plays soccer and lacrosse; he drives; has an I-Pod and in general, lives a full life. Now as a student in Rochester Institute of Technology, he's considering possible career choices. And we all figure the sky is the limit, for we've learned that God's gifts are endless!✠

From Spring, 2008

NewStan Focus Group: Bingo

by Cathy Nicodemus

Of course winning the jackpots are a draw for the attendees....However from the beginning, Msgr. Cahill emphasized the importance of the social aspects of Bingo. This remains today. One Bingo regular, Pat Johnston, points out that she has a regular group of over half a dozen women who she meets at Bingo every week: "These are very special people I come and sit with,... they bring food and share with the rest of the group. I enjoy being with them and we have a lot of fun and laughs." ✠

From Spring, 2008

The Fondest of Farewells

by Charlie Meiers

Our parish clearly has mixed emotions regarding Msgr. Murray's retirement; from surprise at the announcement, to regret at his departure, to admiration and gratitude for a life well-lived, a community well-served. We have been blessed with meeting and befriending him, as well as being led and shepherded by him for almost two decades. This issue of *NewStan* is fondly dedicated to him, and contains many of the marks he has left on our parish history and in our hearts. Thank you, Msgr Murray for your faithfulness and guidance. God bless you! ✕



A portrait of Msgr. Murray by fifth-grader Frankie Scalfaro

From Fall, 2010

Our Pastor's Pen

by Monsignor Joseph Tracy

Remember the experience of playing *Whisper Down the Lane* as a child? What started out as one story morphed into something totally different with each re-telling, until the final version was substantially different than what was begun. That exercise illustrated the importance of **communication** and that fact that the nearer one is to the source, the more accurate and complete the message will be.

In a parish the size of St. Stanislaus, good communication is key to the smooth operation of all that we do....✕

From Winter, 2010

Parishioners Ponderings: My Christmas Wish

by St. Stanislaus Parish School students

My Christmas wish is to end the poverty and world hunger. Millions of people each day die of world hunger. I wish that each human being on this earth gets to live a regular life like me (food,, clothes, shelter). Every person deserves that.

Talia Bauder, Grade 7

I want a frog, because they're cool to watch.

Devin Quigley, Grade 5B

From Summer, 2012

The Sun Sets on St. Stanislaus Parish School

by Bridget Letukas

But if there is one thing I've learned since first grade, you can be dragged through a door you don't want to enter, but there are some things you just can't ever close the door on and these are the things Saint Stanislaus School gave us:

Faith. Family. Friends.

And memories that will last forever!✕

From Winter, 2010 - 2011

A New Partnership of Schools

by Diane McCaughan

Will it be said of our generation that we presided over the demise of the most effective and important resource for evangelization in the history of the Church in the United States? Will it be said of our generation that we lacked the resolve to preserve national treasures built upon the sacrifice of untold millions? Will it be said of our generation that we abandoned these powerful instruments of justice that provide educational opportunity and hope for families otherwise trapped in poverty?

Surely it will not.✕

From Winter, 2013-2014

Engraved Memories

by Dianne Spotts

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.✕

match all our articles, especially portraits of each month's *Parishioner Spotlight*.

There are many significant people "behind the scenes" at *NewStan*. Maureen Fillenwarth, the Parish Coordinator of Communication, arranges the printing of each issue by John Patrick Publishing. She also set up rooms for our meetings and even proofreads. Parishioners John and Mary McNulty, who own Mailcrafters, process the printed newsletter each quarter and mail it. And of course we would never get our Parish Census data without help from those like Trish Cunningham, Laurel Murphy, and Karen Smith in the Parish Center.

Monsignor Tracy's statement about ideas ended: "To be of any value, [ideas] must have landing gear and not just wings. [They] are funny things... they don't work unless we do. A really good idea is 'information with legs' going somewhere." *NewStan* has been going into registered parishioners' homes for 18 years, and by God's grace, it will continue as long as there is a St. Stanislaus Parish in Lansdale. So if you have any information with legs longing to go somewhere that would be of interest to the parish, or an idea for a future theme or person to be spotlighted, please call the parish center. And, if you enjoy writing, I invite you to join the staff - or just do an occasional article...a "Parishioner Pondering, perhaps? Lower your landing gear, put on your thinking cap, roll up your sleeves and get ready to work with a team that loves keeping the great idea of *NewStan* alive.✠

Dianne Spotts continued from page 3

Father Roncase. Its original purpose was for continued adult education for persons that came through the Landings program and RCIA. It has become a part of the growth in faith for many parishioners, both those returning to the Church and "cradle" Catholics.

Dianne has four children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. One of the grandchildren and her daughter were visiting when my wife and I entered Dianne's house to confer on this article. My wife was along so that both she and I could visit Dianne's husband, Paul, who was at the time home on hospice. It is with great sadness, that we report that just before we went to press, Paul passed away. All of us at *NewStan* extend to Dianne our sincere condolences. Please pray for Dianne, who has done so much for our parish and now embarks on yet other journey in her life.✠

Mary and May

by Anita Cugini

How many of us could probably hum "Oh, Mary We Crown You With Blossoms Today" and instantly be transported back to our grade school years, when the highlight of the spring season was the May procession and the crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary with a crown of beautiful spring blossoms, tenderly plucked from the family garden.

The earliest instance of dedicating the month of May to the Blessed Virgin began in Italy around 1739. The present day devotions began in Rome, when Father Latomia a Jesuit in Rome, vowed at the end of the eighteenth century to devote the month of May to Mary. The tradition of honoring Mary in a month-long May devotion spread quickly around the Roman Catholic world in the 19th century. In 1965 in his encyclical, *Mense Maio*, Pope Paul VI spoke of the month of May as an opportunity to pray special prayers for peace.

Although there are no specific May devotions, hymns, Marian prayers, and the recitation of the rosary are sure to play a part. How many of us remember constructing a May altar in our homes consisting of a table with a statue or Marian picture, decorated with many flowers of spring where the family would gather to pray the rosary together. This specific devotion has the support of many popes including Pope Pius XII in his encyclical *Ingruentium Malorum*. Still more of us worked industriously to create a "Mary Garden" among the various flowers in our back yard to honor our spiritual mother with all the beauty of the season.

The custom of May Crowning fell out of practice in many places during the 1970s and '80s, but has since made a comeback - with Mary being ceremonially crowned as Queen of Heaven and the Mother of God. At St. Stanislaus, our May Crowning occurred at the 11AM Mass on May 3rd. On this May day, take a moment and in the silence of your heart, hear the sound of beautiful voices lifted up in song, in praise of Our Holy Mother, be it *On This Day, Oh Beautiful Mother, Hail Holy Queen*, or one of many other Marian hymns.✠



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Parish Census Data for December 2014 – February 2015

 <p>Connor Matteo Burton Katherine Grace Gillespie Emiliano Heitz</p> <p>Greyson Wyatt Homa Joel Morales, Jr. Pearl Aurora Nazario-Canaverall Kiara Sofia Olivares Elizabeth Pauline Staples Alexander Pena Alexander John Pilaski Avery Lee Rio Alexandria Sulzbach Charlotte Marie Walko Eloise Juliet Ward Jerick Jariel Zaldivar</p>	 <p>Welcome Our New Members</p> <p>Ed & Karen Bade Brian & Amy Baniewicz Melissa Buono Bill & Rachael Burg Yvette Cam Tony & Norma Cianfrani Jim & Gina Coffey Paul & Danielle Coffey Marianne Donahue Ashley Hartman</p>	<p>Lino Viola & Nancy Gardner Jeffrey & Amanda Halasy John & Bonnie Henry Kevin & Jen Kimmel PJ & Lynette Mattiacci Xavier & Gloria Minor Mike Monte Andrew & Sarah Owsik</p>	<p>Jon Pilquist Joey & Christy Pope Joe Pakyz Kevin Quinlan Bob & Tish Rickards Joan Marie Roth Andy Staples Christian Williamson & Tracey McCaffrey</p>
 <p>Craig & Rachael Green Kevin & Jennifer Kimmel</p>	 <p>IN MEMORIAM</p> <p>Joseph V. Alletag Jr. Michael P. Boland Brian T. Bradbury Nicolino Carafa Blanch E. Chagnon Margaret Cianchetta Joseph S. Conwell Denise M. Coshin Joseph J. Creegan Agnes M. Cunningham Gregorio Di Betta Anna Diehl Anne Marie Eileen Diener</p>	<p>Mary Flyzik Josephine C. Fornari Anna Gabel Ronald E. Gravish Emma M. Grebb Cesar a. Vives Herrera Margaret Jones Michael A. Kasmerski Mary R. Kennedy Henry A. Kluger Mary M. Lawson Rosemary V. Lukens</p>	<p>Josephine "Pulli" Martin Joseph P. Mattero III Jane L. Meade Gerald McDonald Josephine Podhor Ronald Thomas Ricchetti Carmella A. "Minnie" Russo Karen Shick Ronald S. Stadelmeyer Deacon Matthew Tielmans</p>