
"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 2017

Of Fathers and Father's Day

by Lino Viola

Even though sporadic attempts were made during the last century at honoring fathers, it wasn't until 1966 when President Lyndon B. Johnson issued the first presidential proclamation designating the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Six years later, the day was made a permanent national holiday when President Richard Nixon signed it into law in 1972.

With each passing Father's Day, I think of my dad more and more. I never met him. He died two months prior to my birth due to a war related accident. I never had one person as a dad role model but was fortunate to have many come into my life. Through my mom's strong faith life, I was introduced to Our Heavenly Father and to the saint that Pope Francis in his inaugural homily called, "the perfect example of fatherhood" – St. Joseph. It is fitting that in some parts of the world Father's Day is celebrated on March 19, his feast day.

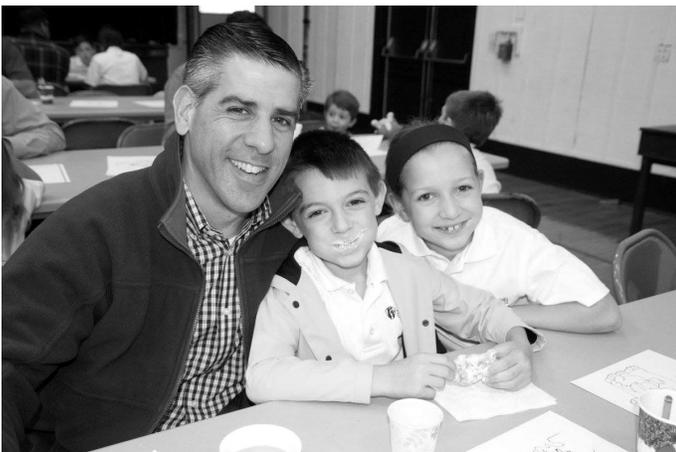
I would eventually grow up and become a father of three boys. This vocation didn't come with a manual. The first person to call me dad was not my first born but the obstetrician who delivered him. He was the first to say,



"you are a father," and it took a while for that to sink in. At the first post-natal visit, after he examined the baby, he sat with us and proceeded to tell me how lucky I was to have a job where I could spend plenty of time with my son. That was very important to me since it was something I missed growing up. I wanted to make sure I spent plenty of time with him.

Years later I would read a book, "Big Russ & Me," whose author, Tim Russert, would later comment; "Of all the things I have done in my professional career, nothing has been more rewarding than writing that book." It was a story about his dad. The book touched a lot of people as he would go on to receive close to 60,000 letters and e-mails, many of which described a father's sacrifice, fortitude, and perseverance. Some told of a father's advice and guidance – or gave examples of his kindness, generosity, love, and yes, wisdom.

A recurrent comment of, "Your dad was just like mine – a man of few words but a lot of love," brought me back to the man of no words in the Bible, St. Joseph – the provider and protector of his family.



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An Interview with Jesus: On Joseph

by Nancy Viola

NV: Jesus, can you give me a few words about your Foster-father, known by the world as St. Joseph of Nazareth?

JC: I would be honored to speak about my earthly Father. As his God and maker, I knew Joseph since before the beginning of time. When my Heavenly Father sent me into humanity through the incarnation, my earthly life as an infant and later as an adolescent relied heavily on this noble and righteous man. In my human form, I was no different than any other human being, except that I was free from sin. It is hard to conceive that God needed a man for anything, but basically, in my humanity I needed a father who knew the Scriptures and who was a willing participant in God's plan for human redemption.

NV: And Joseph was faced with a challenge the moment he found out Mary conceived you, correct?

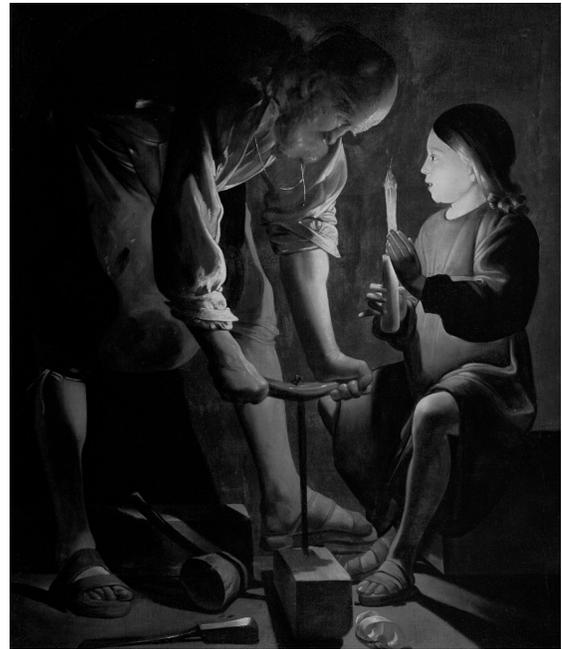
JC: We knew his heart and trusted that he would do the right thing. Even before My Father was gracious enough to send the Archangel Gabriel to let Joseph know that it was proper to continue with his plan to marry my mother, he had already decided to do the right thing by divorcing her quietly so that she would not be stoned to death, as was prescribed by the Jewish Law back then.

The shocking news was very difficult for Joseph to process. After all, the Holy Scriptures do not explain exactly how the Messiah was going to arrive; only that He would indeed be coming to earth as a powerful king and ruler, and that His reign would never end. So, my humble beginnings couldn't have had a better man for the job of Fatherhood than Joseph of Nazareth. My Heavenly Father did look kindly upon this dear man by letting him know in a dream that it was indeed me, The Messiah, that Mary was carrying, and that it was his duty to take her as his wife.

And so the journey of Fatherhood began for Joseph. Like all fathers, Joseph was put in charge of making sure that our Holy Family was well protected, had enough food to eat and clothes to wear, and a roof over our heads.

NV: It really was just the first of a few challenges for Joseph. Would you agree?

JC: It was not easy for Joseph. The second challenge that was presented to my foster-father, was taking my pregnant mother, to Bethlehem for the census. It is hard



St. Joseph, the Carpenter by Georges de la Tour

enough in these days to travel with a pregnant woman by train, plane or automobile. Imagine what it must have been like on the back of a donkey. But, we made it just in time for me to be born in the town that was foretold in the Holy Scriptures.

My birth brought more responsibilities for Joseph. Remember, I was a helpless infant, relying on both of my earthly parents to see to it that I survived this cold, hard, and violent world. So, my Heavenly Father, through the Archangel Gabriel, instructed Joseph to flee the Holy Land and take me and my mother to Egypt. It was a long, hard trip, especially for Joseph who had to walk the entire trip.

NV: What more can you tell about your early years with Joseph?

JC: While in Egypt, I got to know Joseph better, or should I say, he got to know me better. Joseph was such a good Father to me. He taught me how to read the Torah. I was so pleased to see him light up with such delight when I said all of my Jewish prayers properly. Joseph's fatherly pride was no less than all of the biological fathers of my peers.

NV: He sounds like he was a model earthly father.

JC: Yes, Joseph was a marvelous and wonderful foster father. All fathers, especially stepfathers, could learn so much by studying the life and times of my earthly father, Joseph of Nazareth.✠

Parishioner Spotlight

Ed Ward

by Dan Miller

We are happy to shine the spotlight for this issue on Parishioner Ed Ward, the parish CYO Athletic Director for the past two years.

Ed and his wife Carlee came to St. Stanislaus in 2001, shortly after their first son Jack was born. Jack is now at LaSalle College High School and both he and his two younger brothers, Spencer (8th grade) and Oliver (6th grade) were or are Mater Dei Catholic School students. All have also participated in the St. Stanislaus CYO programs. The Wards also have a 2-year-old daughter, Eloise; Ed's sure that she'll be involved as well as she gets older!

Ed got involved with St. Stanislaus parish's CYO program in 2008, when Jack was in 4th grade. His son wanted to play sports, and Ed had coached before with other community teams, so he volunteered to coach. He's been more and more involved ever since then. He has coached baseball, basketball, soccer – whatever sport needs an extra man, he has been there to help.

Ed has had a lot of great CYO, many of them involving working with his own children and their close friends. One of his favorites was his Jack's 8th grade year basketball team. For four years, he had coached the same group of kids and got to know them, not just as players, but as young people working as a team and developing a bond. During their last home game, Ed was able to reflect on how the team had grown together and almost become young men before his eyes. He was proud to see them succeed both on and off the court.

In addition, a lot of kids he coaches in one sport spend time together in another sport the next season. The children involved in CYO become like an extended family, and Ed's always willing to add more as students join.

Ed feels that the CYO sports, activities, and organizations help the youth of the parish come together in new ways, instead of just as classmates. Whether it is helping with a

field day, a service project, or even the bi-annual CYO Masses, there is a great sense of community among all the students, families, and other volunteers who help. While township teams and clubs are great, there is a special bond with the CYO that is stronger, united in faith and love. The kids always say a prayer before games, and attending the CYO Mass is an important part of all the sports and activities.

In addition to sports, Ed has been thrilled to be involved with many service projects. Most recently, he and the other members of the CYO worked with students from 4th all

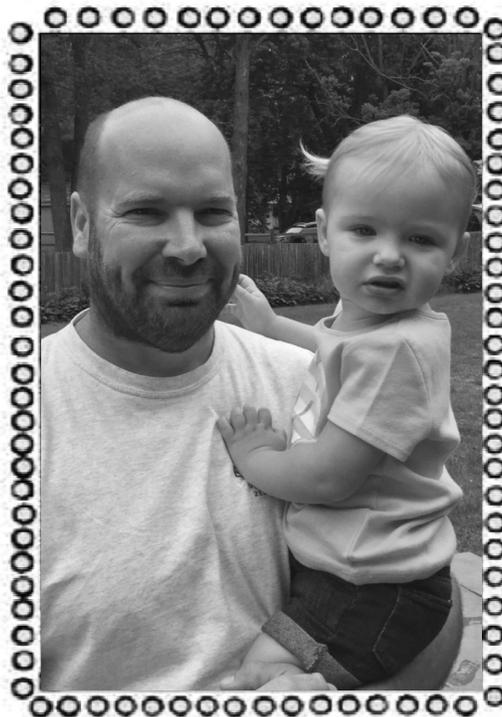
the way to 12th grade to make over 500 meals for Manna on Main Street around the Christmas season. This was a wonderful experience for everyone involved: they were not only able to spend time together in their own community, but they helped the surrounding community as well. Ed hopes to keep this strong focus on service as CYO continues to grow.

As the Athletic Director, Ed hopes to be able to do more with the CYO and is excited to meet a broader range of kids and their families. He hopes to get some of the sports teams involved with one of the biggest parish events, the annual Summer Festival. Who knows: we may even see him in the dunk tank some day!

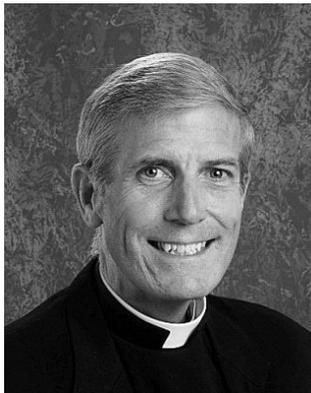
Ed is so grateful for all the parish has done to help with the CYO. He has always gotten support from Msgr. Tracy, and there have been so many families who have volunteered their time to help keep our CYO thriving.

Ed welcomes any students and families who want to get involved to sign-up. CYO soccer starts in 3rd grade, and there are sports for students all the way up through 12th grade. The high school CYO volleyball teams, for example are always a great, competitive group. It is truly a gift that students can stay involved for so long and keep their parish community going.

We can all see through Ed's eyes that St. Stan's CYO has a special bond, and that is why the children love it so much. He feels truly blessed to be a part of such an organization, and looks forward to staying with it for a long time✕



Our Pastor's Pen



Dear friends / Mis amigos queridos,

The arrival of Spring and the summer solstice is always a welcome event. Every year it occurs sometime between June 20-22 in the northern hemisphere. The weeks leading up and away from it are very busy. After being inside for the winter, people relish being outside to enjoy the warm temperatures and to start or complete long delayed projects. Families gather. Grills are fired up again in anticipation of summer festivities. Days devoted to parents and national holidays give the community opportunities to express thanks.

If all this sounds like a lot in a very short amount of time, try to schedule some “down time” with the Lord. Any season is a good time to grow closer to Jesus. The Adoration Chapel is always open and we are here every day for Mass! With vacations and commitments outside the parish, we always need some good people to spend an hour with the Lord in the Eucharist . . . if only for a few days over the summer. Substitutes and those who can make a limited commitment to cover vacationers are welcome.

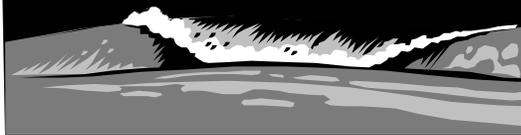
Best wishes to the graduates from all levels moving on with the next phase of their lives. The parish community is proud of your academic tasks! Please consider listening to see if maybe God is calling you men to service in the Church as a priest or deacon. God is calling women to consider the life of a consecrated women religious. Hearing the call and acting upon it takes courage and trust, but I am confident that God is calling some to say yes.

To the newly married, the newly confirmed, and those receiving the Lord in First Holy Communion, we say once again: CONGRATULATIONS. Receiving the sacraments does not mean that your journey for knowledge of the Lord is complete. Rather, it is just beginning! St. Stanislaus is here for you to continue to grow in the knowledge of your faith. Stay involved, and see what God has in store for YOU. If you have slipped a little (or a lot) in the practice of your Catholic belief, know **you are always welcome back to the St. Stanislaus faith community.** We want you; we need you; we will do what we can to help get your spirituality into focus once again . . . just answer affirmatively to God's invitation to return!✠

Sincerely in Christ,

Surfing Around?

More information on this issues' Focus Group can be found on their website: www.thekingsmen.org which has info on retreats, videos, blogs, and info on upcoming radio shows and retreats.



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.

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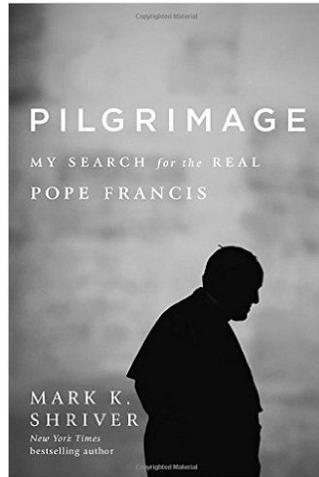
Have a question about St. Stanislaus Parish, or about the Catholic faith in general? Forward questions to the *NewStan* mailbox in the Parish Center, anonymously if desired. We will get them to the right person and publish the answers in a future issue.

***NewStan* Book Review**

A Pilgrimage: My Search for the Real Pope Francis by Mark Shriver

by Lorraine Miller

A Pilgrimage: My Search for the Real Pope Francis, by Mark Shriver gives readers an in depth account of Pope Francis, the person. As the first South American and first Jesuit to become the leader of the Catholic Church, he has energized the Church. Mark



Shriver, son of Sargent Shriver and Eunice Kennedy, was so intrigued by Pope Francis that he took the unusual step of devoting years of his own life into researching Pope Francis's life and writing this book. Few of us have the resources or the contacts to undertake the kind of journey Shriver was able to make. By traveling to Argentina, he was able to meet with people who knew the pope as a boy, young priest, bishop, and cardinal. Shriver met with people from every facet of his life. He describes many of the projects in which the future pope was involved throughout his time in Argentina, and the longstanding friendships he formed as a result. As a young priest, he followed his Jesuit training, and devoted his efforts to helping the poor and anyone in need in tangible ways. He continues to do so today. Reading about those experiences is both touching and inspiring, and gives the reader a picture of the deep faith of the pope.

From the very first moment of his papacy, Jorge Mario Bergoglio proved himself to be an unusual pope. Members of the Church and people all over the world were surprised and in some cases were made uncomfortable by his first actions. His selection of "Francis" as his name was not expected. Asking everyone to pray for him, paying his own hotel bill, and living in a Vatican guesthouse instead of the elaborate Papal apartments in which other popes have made their home were extraordinary. He continues to "make waves" as he lives out his papacy.

Pope Francis wants the Church to recognize that love for the poor is at the center of the Gospel, and that "land, housing and work are sacred rights". He has stated that it will take twenty years to make the kind of changes he

envisions in the Church. Let's pray that he is successful!

In our cynical world, many have come to distrust then men and women who are our leaders. Pope Francis is authentic. He lives what he preaches. Mark Shriver tells us about what he has learned from his experience. In talking with friends and colleagues of the Pope he has "revitalized his faith and renewed his own commitment to the Church". Reading this book could help do the same for us..✘

Guess What's Coming to Town?

MATER DEI to Open Childcare Center in Autumn 2017

Excitement is in the air as MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL prepares to open **MATER DEI CHILDCARE CENTER** in Hatfield, PA at the site of St. Maria Goretti Parish. Slated to open in the Fall of 2017, the center will house two infant rooms, as well as a one-year-old room and a two-year-old room. MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL is excited to be sharing its values of Faith, Excellence, Service, and Community with these new little ones. Look for an Open House invitation and registration information in the months to come!

You can learn more about MATER DEI's existing programs and students' achievements by contacting Grace Samanns at 215-368-9787 or gsmanns@materdeicatholic.com. Tours are given daily and all are welcome. MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL is growing and expanding...come see why!✘



The King's Men: Helping Men Grow in Virtue

by Dianne Spotts

The King's Men (TKM) uses the quote "As iron sharpens iron, so man sharpens his fellow man," (*Proverbs 27:17*), to describe their mission to assist single and married men to mature spiritually, while celebrating their masculinity.

We've read about the crisis in fatherhood in our country. "Fathers are so necessary as examples and guides for our children in wisdom and virtue. Without father figures, young people often feel orphaned, left adrift at a critical moment in their growth and development," says Pope Francis.

Begun in 2006, TKM has a tool-belt full of ways for both married and single men to advance in virtue and accountability through prayer, education, and action. In TKM groups, men are challenged and empowered to live virtuous lives. There are now 50 groups in 29 dioceses throughout the country. The King's Men sponsor numerous activities like:

- ❖ **INTO THE WILD:** Weekends where men experience God's grace in rustic outdoor settings
- ❖ **SAMSON HEALING RETREAT:** Weekends which help men find the healing they need for their spiritual journey to move forward
- ❖ **NO MORE PORN TOUR;** instrumental in closing sexually-oriented businesses in the last 10 years.

Mark Houck, President and Co-Founder, graduated from Catholic University of America with a Bachelors Degree in Human Resource Management; he also earned a Masters Degree in Education from Holy Family University. He has been an enthusiastic educator, activist, and author – a dedicated champion of truth, and the culture of life amidst the culture of death that surrounds us. His passion for his work is a spark that ignites other men to move forward on their spiritual walk.

When he was a young single man, Mark focused on motivating Catholics to live the Church's teachings on life, the family, and chastity. Now Mark is 42, married to Ryan-Marie, with 5 children and one on the way, giving him the opportunity to more fully walk the walk he has inspired in other men. Mark is a courageous defender of the Church's teachings, and whether he is leading a 'No More Porn Tour' or giving talks directed to men where he tackles the tough subjects including porn addiction and masturbation,



Mark is faithful to the task of helping men grow in virtue. He hosts a live radio program called The Kings' Men twice a month on Holy Spirit Radio, 1570 AM.

The Kings' Men team now includes Matt Ingold and Chuck Harvey, who with Mark are available to give talks on Authentic Masculinity, Fatherhood & Sons, Sexual Integrity, Growth In Virtue, and Relationships.

Lord, please bless this important men's ministry which undergirds men to fulfill their roles as leaders, protectors, and providers, in their families, in our parishes, and in our nation.✠

Father's Day

continued from page 1

Tim Russert mentioned how his career became secondary to the blessing of being a father. Sometimes we can get so engrossed in our careers that we lose focus on our fatherly mission. I did. I let certain negative aspects of my job, like being passed over for promotion and upward mobility, rob me of the joy of family life. I was not a happy camper at that time and it was taking its toll on everyone at home. In exasperation, I turned to God and asked, "God what do you want of me?" The answer that came back was shockingly simple – "I just want you to be a dad!"

In his booklet, "The Gift of Fatherhood What Every Man Should Know," Fr. Carter H. Griffith calls this "paternity, dying to self, a complete gift of self, so others may grow and thrive – a kind of servanthood."

As I look back and feel the void that was left by the death of my father I'm also grateful for all those who played a fatherly role in my life, truly affirming Jesus' scriptural promise: "I will not leave you orphans: (*John 14:18*)."

The Communities of St. Mary's

by Norm Berger

I thought it would be interesting to explore what “community” is; but not just a vanilla definition. I found the following in a helpful article on the internet about small church communities (www.simplechurchjournal.com/2005/06/what_does_commu.html). According to this source, Community:

❖ ...means availability. It means time spent together. Real time. Community is never general or generic. It is always specific and definable by people spending time

together. Time spent together does not guarantee community. There has to be a certain quality to the time spent together.

❖ ...means vulnerability. If we aren't willing to open up our lives to others we will never experience true community. Mutual confession builds community. We come to the table with our strengths and our weaknesses and we lay ourselves bare, exposed to the scrutiny and more importantly the love, acceptance and forgiveness of others. This doesn't happen overnight nor should it. It needs to be a progressive deepening.

❖ ...means a shared life. Again this involves time. If we want a shared life we must be willing to spend time together.

I showed the above to Father Zachary Navit and Sister Marietta who are responsible for the spiritual welfare of the residents at the St. Mary Villa for Independent & Retirement Living/St. Mary Center for Rehabilitation & Healthcare (formerly St. Mary's Manor). They were in agreement that the foregoing applies to the resident community at St Mary's. In addition, they made me aware of just how they try to keep the idea of community relevant among the residents.

Many outside of the resident community attend Fr Navit's daily Mass at 11:00AM in the Chapel of the Villa which is broadcast throughout the facility. They join the residents at the Mass either with family or after having helped bring

non-ambulatory residents to the Chapel (one of a number of volunteer opportunities at the facility). Fr Navit explained that he conducts annual 40-hours devotion for the residents each spring. In addition, he and Sr Marietta conduct a sort of “block collection” meaning that each resident is visited and is given a blessing in the fall. There are also faith-sharing sessions to build community and identification among the residents; group rosary recitation; and opportunities for spiritual activity by way of an in-house Legion of Mary group and also a Militia Immaculata group patterned after that originally established by St. Maximilian Kolbe. More mobile residents are frequently transported to St. Stanislaus to enjoy the annual Summer Festival.



Father Navit points out three communities that are represented at the facility. In addition to the residents are the staff that provide care for them and also, of course, the families and friends of the residents who come to visit them. Family and friends are free to take part in the daily Mass and other spiritual activities. They are important, to the welfare of each resident.

However, in addition to the three communities, Father Navit describes, I believe there is even a *fourth* community made up of different

groups who volunteer at the facility. These include the students at MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL and those from Lansdale Catholic High School across the street from the facility as well as parishioners from St Stanislaus and other nearby parishes. Frequent visitors who are related to the residents make up another set of volunteers who often spend a lot of time at the facility. These can be visualized as ripples expanding outward from isolated centers and intersecting with other ripples.

Thus can be seen how each community involved at St Mary Villa/Center, working in concert with the Spirit, can learn from and be enriched by the interactions between them. Hopefully, this engenders mutual spiritual growth and identification of the greater glory of God.✠

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Parish Census Data for January – March 2017

<p>Drusilla M. Coates Margaret Mary Draudt Corrado Famularo Anna T. Hylinski Aldo Iacobelli Charlotte H. Kinslow Lawrence E. Kovacs Ann C. Mahon Cheryl Mazzoni Elizabeth N. McDowell Maria Messina Michael V. Muscarella Flavia B. Munguia Margaret A. Nuss John J. O'Brien James J. O'Hara Mary Ellen Palermo Lois A. Paptzun Lucy L. Recupero Maria Santos George A. Somkuti William H. Stahl, Jr. Joan Wabish Kathleen M. Weigle Betty F. Weiss Virginia E. Wetzel Clare T. Woebkenberg</p>	 <p>IN MEMORIAM</p>  <p>Welcome Our New Members</p> <p>Michael & Margaret Connors Ronald DiDomenick Jeffrey Flatley & Alaina Arce Lupita Genao Rodolfo & Ricarda Guerra</p>	<p>Rickey Arce & Anastasia Reitano Michael Brusko & Mari Martin Thomas & Eileen Concannon</p> <p>Scott Hartman Jr. & Becky Davis Brian & Ashlee Hawley Raymon & Ana Henriquez Anyite Igga & Angelina Atkins Louis & Ruth Jurewicz Christopher Kirk & Aileen Carrasco Charles & Danielle Lockwood IV Samuel & Debra Matos II</p>	<p>Dr. Edward McQuillen Paul & Maureen Mourt Jeremy & Jennifer Nunn Luis Quindi Daniel & Jill Pajor Ronald & Roslinda Seliger Brian Smith Edward Tartar & Melissa Hammer</p>
	<p>Baptized in the Name of Jesus</p>  <p>Mackenzie Lou Brusko McKenna Joy DiLossi Wyatt Matthew Frogg Garrett Patrick Frogg Elise Violet Gmitter Andrew Peter Grau, Jr. Kevin Earl Kimmel</p>	<p>Hailey Elizabeth Komatick Aspen Giuliana Peters Nikola John Samoni Kaylee Santos Lillian Elizabeth White Pacas Argueta Yariel</p>	<p>WEDDINGS</p>  <p>Daniel Patrick Joynes & Meagan Elizabeth Coats John Robert Delp & Barbara Anne Appnel</p>