
"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

Autumn/Otoño 2017

The Vocation of Caregivers

by Lorraine Miller

We become caregivers very early in life. Brothers and sisters look out for and protect each other from the beginning. When we become parents, we take care of our children. We expand our circle of caring as we make friends. As a matter of course, when parents grow older, we care for them. Love is the key. When loved ones become ill, or are unable to care for themselves, we provide care in whatever way it is needed. Everyone's story is a little bit different. When that loved one goes into a nursing care facility, the kind of care needed becomes more intense.

Hospitals employ advocates for their patients. Nursing homes have Social Workers. Residents need advocates as well, and that advocate is usually a family member. When ill, very few of us can speak up for ourselves. Caregivers become that support. This takes energy, and insight. Life is often about asking the right questions. Commonly, we learn both the questions and answers after the fact. Caregivers need education. There is more to it than spending time with residents. If you ever find yourself in this role, don't be afraid to question why something is happening.

No matter how many hours are spent with a loved one, whether it is a spouse, a relative or a friend, many caregivers feel they have never done enough. Every caregiver must remember that they need to care for themselves. It is not possible to be the best kind of caregiver if one does not do so. Caregivers have the responsibility of their loved one, but they also need to take care of life's daily problems: laundry, bills, grocery shopping, all kinds of home maintenance, etc. This is especially difficult when the one who is ill was part of the



team that handled some of those issues. The best advice I can give is to ask for and accept help.

It is my own feeling that nursing homes are not the best answer for the problems facing our aging population. The goal of a nursing home is to help residents get well and go home. However, it is not always possible to be independent. How we handle that problem varies with each family. Hospice is a possibility. Medicare and Medicaid provide help. The Pennsylvania Dept. of Aging in Harrisburg is a resource. Assisted living facilities can be a solution. Planning ahead with education and knowledge is vital.

Unfortunately, money is always an issue.

We hear a great deal about the expense of nursing home care. Yet it is not the residents or the care staff who benefit from that money. If you are interested in how public monies can wind up in private or corporate hands, Laura Katz Olson has written a book, *Elder Care Journey: A View from the Front Lines*. Her book was published in 2016,

continued on page 2

Caregivers

continued from page 1

and is available from the Montgomery County Library System. Katz taught classes about geriatric care at Lehigh University. When her own mother, who lived in Florida, needed help, she learned that what she had been teaching was not the reality of what actually happens. Her research makes very interesting reading.

When my husband was a nursing home resident, a fellow caregiver gave me a copy of this prayer. I found it very helpful, and in closing this article on the vocation of caregivers, I pass it on as I trust that you will as well.

A Caregiver Prayer

Dear Lord,

As I begin my day, I pause for a moment and reflect on the beauty of all that you have given to us.

I offer thanksgiving for that beauty, as well as the gifts of faith, family and friendship.

I ask now for your help as I care for my loved one.

As a "caregiver," the caring often finds me overwhelmed and filled with many unexpected and sometimes unwanted emotions.

Some situations have arisen in which I find myself happy, sad, confused and even angry.

It is only with your help that I am able to continue ministering with love and sensitivity.

Please hear my prayer and bestow upon me the gifts I need to care for my loved one until your healing comes, or You call them home from their earthly journey.

Watch over them and keep them free from pain, harm and loneliness.

I offer this prayer to you with faith, love and praise.

Amen.

Written by Teresa McCausland, RN✠

Stewardship Fair

Rescheduled from its originally planned date in April, Saint Stanislaus will be holding a Stewardship Fair after all Masses on Sunday, October 8 in the MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL gym.

What exactly is a Stewardship Fair? According to Dianne McCaughan, "The Stewardship Fair is a way to help the parishioners come to know all the ministries that Saint Stanislaus Parish offers to its members." Each organization in the Parish will have a table or two set up to display the work of the ministry. Normally tables will be decorated, featuring pictures, brochures and other items that illustrate what the group does in the community. Members from each of the groups will be there to tell about their ministry and answer any questions from parishioners.

And of course, if you discover something that matches an interest or talent, this is a perfect opportunity to join one of the ministries and share the gift of your stewardship with our Parish community!

Setup for the fair will occur the Friday night and Saturday morning beforehand with Mater Dei student volunteers around to assist organizations in setting up.

In addition, the Evangelization Committee is working on a video presentation for the Parish which will contain pictures from many of the organizations and showing activities that have been happening in the parish all year long.

Finally, The Knights of Columbus will be serving breakfast that morning as well. So you can indulge in a scrumptious pancake and sausage breakfast as you watch the video and then learn all about the different parish ministries – and likely meet some new fellow parishioners in the meantime.

So have you ever wondered what the Legion of Mary is or what the Altar and Rosary Society does? Or would you like to find out more about activities for seniors in the Seniors Group or preschoolers in the Little People's Playgroup? Or maybe you just want to see some of the faces behind the articles in *NewStan* and find out how you can become one of them (wink wink, nudge nudge). Well, now is your chance. Come down to the Stewardship Fair and find out about all the wonderful organizations that make up Saint Stanislaus Parish.✠

Parishioner Spotlight

Freddie Davis

by **Dianne Spotts**

The lady in our spotlight has moxie: spirit and courage. At 93 years young, she still drives, is happily active in both spiritual and sporting activities at Foulkeways (in Gwynedd) where she has lived for 14 years, and is generally an inspiration to everyone who knows her.

Her moxie kicked in when she was just a teen during the Holocaust, as she recounts in her book *Girl in the Belgian Resistance (A Wakeful Eye In The Underground)*, where she skillfully relates her experiences as a 16 year old.

Born Fernande Keufgens, Freddie was one of 8 children in the town of Montzen, Belgium, close to the border of Germany, which was annexed as part of Nazi Germany after Hitler's rise to power. Living in a war zone brought many horrors to their doorstep. She and her family survived, but many friends and neighbors died in enemy raids, or became homeless. More importantly, many lived, all because of Freddie: including Jews who reached safety through the efforts of the complex network of fellow underground workers.

"I had all kinds of courage and guts; I don't know where that came from," says Freddie.

Freddie's uncle, Father Hubert (a pastor) was part of the underground efforts. When her family members were forced to work for the Nazi cause, Freddie was deported to Danzig to work in a munitions factory. However, on the way there, refusing to assist the enemy's efforts, she jumped off the train with a few others, and sought asylum in her uncle's rectory.

Given papers that would establish a new identity, her mission began. Being fluent in German was a great aid in trying to hide Jews, or to help them escape. Her father advised her to face the enemy with courage whenever she was in a tight spot, speaking German clearly and with authority. Her mother reminded her to call on her guardian angel for help. Their advice paid off.

"We led a life of fear, skepticism, anger, excitement, and caution – always caution. Every step I took, every door I entered, every person I met, every waking moment, held the possibility of adventure or tragedy."

After the war, she secured employment; her wages helped her family. Then she entered Brugmann University School of Nursing in Brussels in 1947. Two years later, she moved to the United States, and married Bill Davis, the love of her life whom she had met in Belgium (he was part of the Allied forces). They had two children, Patricia and William. They first settled in Doylestown, but soon moved to Lansdale and Bill was employed as a Deputy Treasurer in

the Montgomery County Courthouse in Norristown for 35 years. Freddie continued her education at Temple University and Gwynedd Mercy College where she earned a B.A. in French. She taught French at Gwynedd Mercy Academy and College and at Germantown Academy, earning the Outstanding Teacher of the Year award from Germantown Academy in 1981. She retired in 1986.

A friend from GA urged Freddie to write her story. When her book *Girl in the Belgian Resistance* was ready for publication in 2008, the same friend arranged for her to attend a summer international language conference in Belgium near Freddie's home village. There her book premiered, and the hundreds in attendance gave her a standing ovation.

Since then, Freddie has retold her story in countless high schools, colleges, and synagogues. Perhaps the most prestigious invitation has been that from the Holocaust Symposium put on each year by the Jewish Federation in Philadelphia. For eight years she has taught four classes – with 350 to 400 students in each one.

Today, Freddie enjoys being with her children, five grandchildren, and soon-to-be five great grandchildren. She loves playing "Golf Wimbledon," a croquet-like game, on Foulkeways' local and travel teams.

Freddie chaired various committees during her teaching

continued on page 7

Our Pastor's Pen

Dear friends / Mis amigos queridos,

In this edition of *NewStan*, story authors have attempted to examine problems that are often burdensome for those who carrying them, and to honor those from our own community at St. Stanislaus who've made a difference helping others carry their crosses. "Best practice" solutions about dealing with the human condition come from many sources, chief among them the Judeo-Christian Bible.

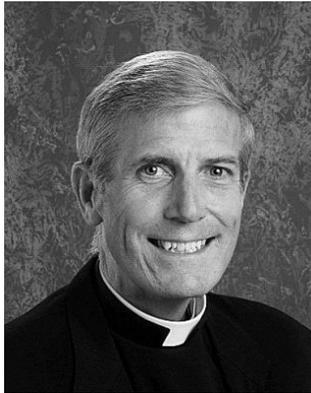
In Gen 4:8-10 an important question is asked by Cain to God: "Am I my brother's keeper?" The question is phrased in Luke's gospel parable of the Good Samaritan: "And who is my neighbor?" Unfortunately, Scripture does not come right out and give a direct answer that says, "Thou shalt be thy brother's keeper." However, it does explain elsewhere in the Gospels. Jesus gave a New Commandment (see Jn 13:34) that said, "a new commandment I give you, Love one another as I have loved you so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."

The idea of a keeper is someone who guards, watches, protects, oversees; but it does not mean that he/she take on ownership for what others should be taking ownership for. As I learned in my Social Work studies, the goal of social work is to help people find their own strengths in order to find solutions to their problems and the do it for themselves. It is not my answer which solves another's quandary what should be done; it is his/her own answer concerning what he can do. It is not a "hand out," but a discovery of internal strengths that make people independent and determine what to do for themselves.

Someday each of us will face the judgment seat of God, where God will challenge us with some form or other of those "best practice" questions from the Scriptures: Did you feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the sick, ease someone's suffering? Did you pursue peace and justice for the downtrodden and forgotten, and make life easier rather than difficult for them? Did you make the world a better place by doing what was right and good?

Plan now on how you would answer questions like those. If the answers are insufficient, God may reply: "But, my child, you were supposed to be your brother's keeper."

Enjoy the fall, and God bless you and your families. Hope to see you in Church! ✠



Mesgr. Joseph Tracy

Surfing Around?

Want a preview of the organizations that will be at the Stewardship Fair? You can always learn about our parish groups at : www.ststanislaus.com/service-organizations and www.ststanislaus.com/social-organizations.

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.



EDITOR

Paul Cutajar

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Norman Berger, Dan Miller, Lorraine Miller,

Cathy Nicodemus, Dianne Spotts,

Marianne Thomas, Lino Viola, Nancy Viola

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Ed Kunze

PARISH STAFF LIAISONS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Trish Cunningham, Maureen Fillenwarth,

Karen Smith, Msgr. Joseph Tracy



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



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.

Parishioners Perform Service in Nicaragua

Father Chuck's Challenge (FCC) is a small local charity which works in conjunction with Food for the Poor to help "clearly identified, desperately poor people." Twice a year, FCC makes mission trips to Nicaragua and Haiti to help these poorest of the poor. This past June, two St. Stanislaus Parishioners, John Meyers and sixteen-year-old Tyler Cajina, traveled to Nicaragua with FCC where they truly performed some incredible service.



John with a grateful mother and daughter who received a new home

FCC's Nicaragua trip took place during the week of June 19-24 and included eight pilgrims besides John and Tyler. It was a busy and blessed week. On Monday they arrived at Managua International Airport and then made a four-hour trek to the northernmost area of the country, the Department of Ocotal. After being refreshed from a very long travel day, they celebrated the Liturgy to bless the trip. In fact, Mass was celebrated each morning in a different community.

The beneficiaries of past efforts were eager to offer heartfelt thanks and share how new, safe homes had changed their lives. Xiomara Elizabeth, a mother whose family received a home during a past trip relayed, "I am very happy and thankful to God and the people who helped. It is a dream come true to own my own house that has water."



Tyler poses by the new St. Lucy School cornerstone

Evangelization

by Lino Viola

At the end of the celebration of Mass we are summoned to,
"Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord."
The simplest path for evangelization is in bringing
The Joy of the Gospel into every human situation.

Works of love directed to one's neighbor
Knows no limit
And are the most perfect manifestation
Of the interior grace of the Holy Spirit.

Pope Francis calls us to be
Like a mother with an open heart.
The Church is called to be the house of the Father
With doors opened, always wide apart.

Each Christian must discern
The path that the Lord points out,
Leaving our comfort zone to reach
The 'peripheries' in need of the Gospel light.

All of us are asked to obey His call
It is our underlying vocation
From the Great Commission, as per Matthew;
"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.

Note from author: Most of the thoughts in this poem came from reading The Apostolic Exhortation Evangelii Gaudium of the Holy Father Francis. This work, aka, The Joy of the Gospel was covered in a Convocation of Catholic Leaders held from July 1-4 in Orlando and attended by 3100 lay and religious from 160 dioceses and 185 national organizations.✠

On Tuesday and Wednesday, the group visited the Holy Family Community in El Jicaro (est. 2016) and the Holy Family Community in Mozonte, each of which received 25 homes last year. A new school in El Jicaro, the St. Lucy School, was under construction and Tyler, John, and the others helped make some further progress.

Back in the early summer, St. Stanislaus parishioners were asked to contribute small toiletry items and the response was overwhelming. Tyler and John and the FCC mission team brought all of these items with them for distribution throughout their trip. One place where the donated items went was the San Patricio Community in San Ramon. There they met a large family of five adults and nine children in dire need of housing. Currently the family is

continued on page 7

St. Stanislaus Parish Picnic

by Christina Williamson

photos by Jeanne Williamson

What a great day we had at Fischer's park on June 25! Under a cool pavilion, families enjoyed their picnic lunch while nature's scenic beauty was in sight. Dessert tables were filled with baked goods, fruit, cupcakes and a wide variety of tasty treats, each brought by a different St. Stanislaus family. A live band entertained with music that perfectly suited the warm summer's afternoon. When the sun was shining at its hottest, a water balloon toss began, creating an atmosphere of friendly competition. Between various walking trails, playgrounds, a babbling creek and a field ideal for a game of baseball, football or soccer, Fischer's park provided unlimited fun for all ages of Saint Stanislaus parish.

A special thank you to the Evangelization Welcoming Committee for coordinating such a fun afternoon filled with hospitality, community, and happiness!✠



Monsignor Tracy gives the parish picnic a thumbs up!



What better way to beat the heat than a water balloon battle!



Live music helped create a festive atmosphere!



Parishioners of all ages had a great time.



The Fisher's Park facilities were ideal.



Is that a NewStan editor at that picnic table?

Freddie Davis

continued from page 3

career and continues to fill leadership roles in retirement. She serves on the hospice team, and sets up for both a monthly Mass (during which she is an Extraordinary Minister) and a prayer service. She enjoys water aerobics, stretching, and generally working on her health.

Freddie inspires me, as she does everyone who knows her. She uses the gifts God has given her, and has blessed everyone around her. Her moxie hasn't diminished, even though her daily life has no enemy planes flying over with threats to her life. She continues to serve others, and is a reminder that no matter how young or how advanced your years: God has a job for you to do.

God bless you Freddie. Keep up the good work.

To purchase Freddie Davis's book, you can contact her publisher at www.BEACHLLOYD.com, call 610-407-9107, or order it at Amazon.com.✘

Upcoming GIFT Programs

Tuesday, September 19: Freddie Davis will present on her experiences as a teenager in WWII. If you found her story fascinating, you can't miss hearing her in person!

Tuesday, October, 10: Dr. Peter Kleponis speaks on the topic of fighting pornography.

Programs begin at 7PM in the Parish Center Lobby Meeting Room.

Parishioners in Nicaragua

continued from page 5

living in a shack with mud floors. The daughter-in-law is expecting a baby in August and will deliver her child in that horrible dwelling. Along with the St. Stanislaus donations, the group gave the family bags of rice and beans, water, and a pair of rain boots. The hope is by next June, they will have a new home.

Opportunities for care-giving and stewardship are everywhere: One doesn't need to go to Nicaragua. But for those who take that extraordinary extra step, like John and Tyler did, the impact is amazing and, as demonstrated by FCC, long-lasting, making a difference for families that lasts many years after.

Note: much of the content for this article was adapted by permission from the "FCC Summer Report – 2017 Nicaragua Pilgrimage."✘

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 *The Vocation of Caregivers*
- 2 *Stewardship Fair*
- 3 *Parishioner Spotlight: Freddie Davis*
- 4 *Our Pastor's Pen*
- 5 *Parishioners Perform Service in Nicaragua*
- 6 *St. Stanislaus Parish Picnic*

Parish Census Data for April – June 2017

	Peter James Langen	Michelle		Sean and Aubrie	Andrea Montalto
	Luis Leon Tacuri	Sandoval		Cunningham	Alison Randall
	Adaline Gloria	Peralta		Stella Doherty	Alexandra Rechis
	Linskey	Paulina Santillan		Brian and	Thomas Strayer
	Charles Otto	Perez		Caroline Kelly	Mark and
	Lockwood	Richard W.		Josephine	Margaret Teoh
	Adrian Romaldo	Surprise		Kulakowski	Douglas Tillman
	Loja Loja	Keira Marie		Peter and	and Kellina
	Liliana Montano	Tartar		Stephanie	Hughes
	Lina Jazmin Naula	Hannah		Langen	Christopher and
	Loja	Elizabeth		James and	Jessica Welch
	River Edward	Thomas		Gertrude	Laura Woods
	Joseph Fisher	Owen Gael Tula		Maguire	
	Ritter	Johan Moises		Shawn and Sarah	
Aurora Josephine	Tula	Matthews			
Sabatino	Joshua A. Wilson	James Miller			

	Thomas R. Check & Jodi Lynn Leidy		Ruth K. Corrado	Margaret F.
	Patrick J. Gordon & Colleen M. Fitzgerald		Francis M.	Kimmey
	Brian Timothy Hawley & Ashlee Nicole Fleming-Hawley		Costello	Gerard J. Leahy
	Paul David Kriebel & Barbara J. Field		Eugene J. Dehner	Howard J. Mason
	Mauricio Alejandro Martinez & Silvia Yaneth Guerra Lopez		Giorgio	Jeanette R.
	Christopher John Markley & Sandra Marie Mongan		DiCarlantonio	Mazzone
	Tyler Michael Noles & Megan Elizabeth Schneider		Brunhilde R.	Charles Murgia
	Bryan Sean Perry & Amanda Marie Barlow		Durbec	Howard B.
	William Joseph Rose & Kathryn Marie Gillen		Mary M. Durkin	Spofford, Jr.
	Richard William Surprise & Anne Mary Frank		Mary Ann Greve	Mary Tammaro
			Francis Michael	
			Harrington	