



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



# New Stan

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

Winter / Invierno 2018-19

## Snow Memories

by Dianne Spotts

The Farmers' Almanac predicted a below-normal amount of snow this year. Considering some of the storm challenges we've had in recent years, we adults will be happy if there is less freezy skid stuff, even if our children will not. But one thing you can count on is that any amount of snow precipitates a blizzard of memories and tales of snows gone by.

As soon as my Dad saw the first snowflake, he rushed to the garage, sprawled out on the floor, and began putting chains on our car's tires. Our row home was 6<sup>th</sup> in a row of 30, and my Dad, a pioneer of sorts, was always the first to plow his way out of the driveway. It was a noisy ride, albeit a safe one.



Due to our neighborhood's space limitations, Dad piled the snow as high as possible, which provided my brother and me a massive mound for a fort and hours of entertainment. We often had snow remaining at Easter.



My friend Mary Ann lived in Tamaqua, Pennsylvania. Her dad was a contractor and plied his trade each winter that had substantial snowfalls: he would build his children a fort that would hold ten happy kids! A benefit of country living!

My sister-in-law, husband and family lived in Michigan and made good-natured fun of our exaggerations about the snow. They bragged that they measured the snow by the foot, while we wimpy easterners measured it by the inch.

My friend Eunice's grandson Max has a less-than-happy snow memory. It was 1995, and he was sledding with his brother Weston, when Weston's sled hit Max in the face, chipping a tooth, resulting in a trip to the dentist and a root canal! Max was 9 1/2 – and the unhappy circumstance is etched in his memory. He celebrates the anniversary of that infamous day on each December 9.

During one of the snow storms in March last year, when we lost power for 18 hours, I still had an adventure. Sure, it wasn't fun that I couldn't make my morning coffee, open my garage door, or charge my phone. But through the kindness of a neighbor willing to give me a lift to a very crowded diner, my morning brightened. I enjoyed a good breakfast,

charged my phone, and shared a table with some interesting people (who are now my friends on Facebook).

I remember when new neighbors moved into our development – from Florida. The children had never seen snow! You can imagine their awe during their first winter in Hatfield when the much-talked about snow transformed the area. The parents had some time getting them back inside. And yes, they had hot chocolate waiting for them.

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# A Meeting of Hearts and Minds

by Norm Berger

I had a very different dream last night. It was a pretty vivid depiction of a famous meeting between two saints to be that took place in the mountains near the monastery of Monte Cassino long ago...

From what I remember, my eyes fell on this woman walking by herself, picking her way carefully on a stony path. She wore a rough-woven cloak and a veil on her head that concealed her face from me. She was approaching a small abode. She stopped and knocked on the worn door and it opened to reveal a monk who greeted her familiarly. I peered at these two faces and quickly realized that the two had similar features. It caused me to take more interest in them.

Other monks then came forward to greet the visitor who they also seemed to know and then stepped away at a look from the older monk and returned to their duties. *This older monk must be the Abbot*, I thought to myself. He helped the lady take off her cloak and laid it carefully on a rough-hewn chair. I was now aware that she was wearing a habit. He then motioned her to a chair at a table after which he drew another chair to the opposite side from her. She quickly looked around the room as if to make sure that they were alone together and as she turned back to the Abbot, her eyes seemed to sparkle with an inward light that bespoke the anticipation she was feeling of whatever would happen next.

I saw, somewhat disapprovingly, that he, on the other hand, seemed to be maintaining a forced sense of decorum he thought appropriate from his position of obvious authority. The lady seemed to take no account of this and launched into an animated greeting and then conversation with her companion. It seemed that the two hadn't seen each other in a long time and that the lady was definitely trying to make up for lost time! It was comical for me to observe her leaning forward to make a point on more than one occasion in her eagerness to obtain a response and, in return, the abbot leaning back a little as if to demand a bit of reticence on her part.

I wish that I could tell you all that was said between them, but I did hear snatches of that conversation and it was wonderful! They talked of deeply spiritual matters as one might expect of such in religion and of their shared feelings for God and in thanks for his goodness evident in all that the two of them had experienced since their last meeting. Later, a couple of the other monks came in and

quietly laid bowls of soup on the table and then left quickly respecting the privacy shared by the two.

Now the room was getting darker and tapers were lit. Suddenly the abbot looked around and motioned that it was time for their meeting to close and for him and the monks to leave and return to the monastery. The response from the lady was immediate and emotional. She implored him not to do this as she obviously felt there was much more to be shared.

“No” said the abbot sternly. “It is time for us to go”.

At that, the lady quietly responded, “If you won't stay, I'll ask God for his help!” and she bent her head to the table and, praying to God, wept copious tears. Her prayer finished, she raised her head as claps of thunder were heard and lightning flashed through cracks in the one set of window shutters in the room. This was followed by fierce howling of winds and then rain beating hard against the walls of the house. The Abbot, startled, jumped up and shouted “Sister, what have you done?” She responded in measured tones, “Well, you wouldn't listen to me so I appealed to God and he heard me.” The Abbot, even though anxious to get back with his monks to their monastery could not leave for the ferocity of the storm.

Reluctantly, the Abbot, shaking his head in disbelief, sat down once again giving in to her who seemed to love him so. On went the hours long into the night while earnest conversation ruled over the raging weather looking to have its say as well.

Waking, it came to me who I had dreamt about! It was good St Benedict and his twin sister, St Scholastica in a meeting as told in the chronicles of the Benedictines – although the chronicles have much less detail than my dream! St Scholastica's feast day is February 10. Her brother's, St. Benedict, is July 11. ✠



A depiction of Sts. Scholastica and Benedict from <https://en.nursia.org>

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# Parishioner Spotlight

*Jeanne Williamson*

by **Marianne Thomas**

Since moving to Lansdale over 20 years ago, Jeanne Williamson has become a familiar face around our parish community. Born Jeanne Naumowicz, she was raised in Norristown and was a member of St. Paul's Parish and attended both public and parochial schools. She found her love of music while at Bishop Kendrick High School, and became very involved with their music program. Her next-door neighbor, Dan Williamson and his family, her future husband and in-laws, were also members of St. Paul's Parish. She has many memories of her time volunteering at school and parish events along with her family. Jeanne later attended Montgomery County Community College where she attained her Associates degree in Accounting. One of her first jobs was at Regina Nursing Center, where she worked for almost 21 years. She started there while still in high school and continued working in various departments throughout her years in college. Her last position, before leaving before the birth of her oldest daughter, Christina, was as their Business Office Director. Thereafter, she transitioned into a casual consulting role. She values her memories of working at Regina Nursing Center and the many wonderful residents, staff and families she was fortunate to meet and work with. Each year at Christmas, she and others in the administration and various staff members would deliver Christmas trees and wreaths to some Churches in Philadelphia. At Our Lady of Hope Church (formerly Holy Child) on Broad Street in North Philadelphia, for instance, they decorated to celebrate the birth of Our Savior. This event was even more meaningful for Jeanne because this is the parish that her Dad and her grandparents belonged to when he was growing up.

After working at Regina Nursing Center, she feels very blessed to have spent the next five years working as the Assistant to the Business Manager at St. Stanislaus Parish,

alongside Frank Sobieski and so many other great staff members, priests and deacons. Shortly before having her twin girls, she stepped down from this position and worked part-time for a consulting/accounting firm. Currently she works a few days a month as a Registrar in the Emergency Room at Abington Lansdale Hospital. She is also a Safe Environment Facilitator with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and works in the Principal's office at Lansdale Catholic High School.

Family has always been important to Jeanne. She literally married the boy-next-door and they live and raise their



family close to St. Stanislaus Church and MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL. Their eldest son, Keenan, attended St. Stanislaus Parish School. An excellent student and athlete, he participated in basketball, baseball and soccer. Keenan attended Germantown Academy and then Dickinson College. Now 26, Keenan lives and works in the area. They are also blessed with four girls and two more boys. Their girls are Christina (14), Kelly (12) and twins, Avery and Jocelyn (9), all of whom attend MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL along with their little brothers, Ray (7) and Sam (6). You'll often see Jeanne with her children around church and school as the children are very active in extracurricular activities. Christina is finishing her final year in the Children's Choir, serves as an aide in the Sunday Prep Program, and loves to participate in musical productions

and the theatre. Kelly is a member of the Archdiocesan Senior Children's Choir, and is involved in CYO swimming and volleyball. Both Christina and Kelly are substitute altar servers. Avery, Ray and Sam enjoyed their first season this past fall playing CYO soccer for St. Stanislaus, and Avery and Ray are currently involved with CYO swim team and Children's Choir. You can catch Jocelyn tumbling whenever she can, either in gymnastics or Mater Dei Pep Squad, as well as singing in the Children's Choir.

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# Our Pastor's Pen

Dear friends / Mis amigos queridos,

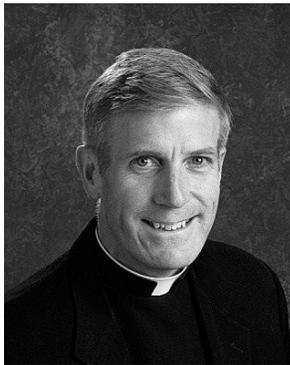
Fans of the HBO series *Game of Thrones* are well aware of the warning woven across the seven seasons the show has aired: "Winter is Coming." Well, for us, winter is HERE, like it or not. Thoughts of driving the ice rink that Route 309 becomes during snowstorms are not happy ones. Nor are the frustrations that come from finally(!) shoveling out your driveway only to have the plows block it all up again when you wake up the next morning. How nice if we were to only have winter every 8,000 years or so like the folks in Westeros!

The past several winters have not been kind to the inhabitants of North Penn. Curiously, it always seemed to snow (or threatened to snow) on a Saturday into Sunday. This created concerns here at St. Stanislaus because of people making the often unnerving trip for Sunday Mass. Snowy roads and slippery intersections make it easy to justify not going to Church, particularly if you do not feel like venturing out of a warm house on a blustery weekend.

Recognizing that for some, snowy, winter travel is impossible, a few years ago we instituted an EFT offertory system called *Parish Giving*, so that the Church's budget does not get too hard-hit because of unforeseen circumstances like a snowstorm. Based upon a parishioner's pre-authorized wishes, a fixed amount is debited from your checking account each week. The benefit to you is that you don't have to write a paper check or present to support your Church; the benefits to the Church are a consistent cash flow to take care of bills and payroll that have to be paid regardless of snow or not. If you have not signed up for this service, or desire to learn more about it, check out the parish web site. Click on the link on our webpage for more information and sign up.

Often our spirits can seem like they have hit the cold of winter. Nothing seems to be happening in our spiritual lives. It is hard to break new ground, difficult to change, we are frozen in the despair of wanting something to be different but unable to make it so. That's when we need God even more. That's when we need to sit before God (perhaps in the Eucharistic Chapel or after receiving the Eucharist here?) and implore God's help. Ask...*then listen for God's response*. Maybe a solution will not reveal itself right away, but God is still there ready to help, ready to warm us with His love. Give the problem to God and do not take it back. You are not alone with it. With God, spring is always coming. Easter is on the horizon.

Peace and all good to you and your family.



*Monsignor Joseph Tracy*

## Surfing Around?

If this winter you are snowbound and unable to get to Mass in person – or any day you want to view a Mass for the current day or a past day -- try [www.catholicv.org/masses/catholicv-mass](http://www.catholicv.org/masses/catholicv-mass)

## 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](http://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.

# Snow Memories

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Many of us still act like children when it snows and a few of my friends and I tested our grit by tobogganing down Barndt Hill in Telford about 20 years ago. We literally screamed and laughed ourselves hoarse falling all over the ground at the bottom of that hill. Now that we're all dealing with arthritis and various other aches and pains, it almost hurts to think about it. However, I'm shuddering and smiling at the same time remembering that day. And, if my memory holds true, I'm sure there was an available thermos of something other than hot chocolate.

The white winter wonderland scene, both quiet and beautiful, can trigger our memories of snow angels and snowmen. However, a reality check! Don't forget the challenge of driving in the snow, and the task to remove it. Today with snow tires and snow blowers the task may be a bit easier than 'back in the day.' My Dad would not have been able to grasp those concepts any more than we can fathom a drone coming to our homes to do the job in the future. Doubtless, the service will require a season's contract, paid in advance, and you'd be lucky to be scheduled for a window of time before noon.

With the flake-by-flake hype coming over the airwaves before, during and after snow storms, our stress levels increase. But in spite of it all, families still build snow people, make angels in the snow, and get out sleds, toboggans, disks, ice skates, or snow boards to head to the best hills in the area, wearing those new scarf-hat-and-glove sets received for Christmas – followed, of course, by hot chocolate.

My hope is that, for the remainder of this winter, we will all be safe, and have some good stories to tell! ❄️

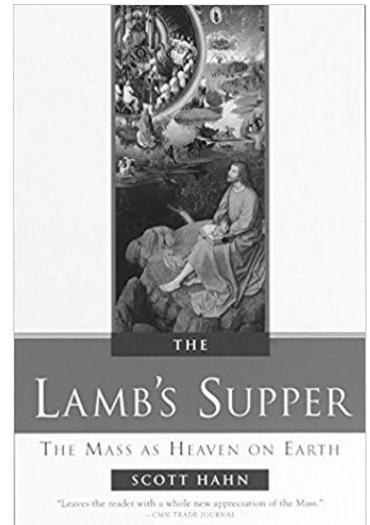


# NewStan Book Review

## *The Lamb's Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth* by Scott Hahn

by Lorraine Miller

The Mass is God's gift to us. It is familiar. It is the same all over the world, no matter what language the celebrant uses, and wherever and whenever we go to Mass. St. John Paul II described the Mass as "Heaven on Earth," explaining that what 'we celebrate on Earth is a mysterious participation in the heavenly liturgy.' Best-



selling author, Scott Hahn, a former Protestant minister and convert to Catholicism, studied the book of Revelation for many years, but never felt he understood its meaning until actually attending a Mass. For him, it was a "Eureka!" moment. His experience is recounted in *The Lamb's Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth*, an easily readable explanation of the relationship between the Mass and the book of Revelation.

Hahn tells us that Revelation is "a long-lost secret of the Church: the early Christians' key to understanding the mysteries of the Mass. Revelation mirrors the sacrifice and celebration of the Eucharist." Hahn suggests that careful reading of it will "help readers to see the Mass with new eyes, pray the liturgy with a renewed heart, and enter into the Mass more fully, enthusiastically, intelligently, and powerfully than ever before."

The book is divided into two parts. The first section outlines the Gift of the Mass, and how each segment incorporates the history of the Jewish people, the beginning of the celebration of liturgy, and the life of Jesus. In the second part, Hahn puts the Mass and the book of Revelation together with an analysis of Scripture as it relates to a fuller revelation of heaven.

Many people think of Revelation as 'weird stuff.' For many, this is not an easy book to read or understand. Its images are frightening. Its language is full of strange words

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# NewStan Focus Group

## Welcoming Committee

by Cat Mattingly

The dedicated community that comprises St. Stanislaus Parish is a common theme in many articles and pulpit announcements throughout a given year. Whether one talks about the Summer Festival, the Advent Giving Tree Drive, decorating the Church in the precious days before Christmas, or the consistent positive response to blood drives and Food Cupboard collections, St. Stanislaus parishioners seem to always answer the call to help. Parish committees and functions that have been present for many years and provide integral services to the Church are led by volunteers. The Adoration Chapel leaders and captains manage hundreds of adorers to ensure this sacred space is open for all. The Altar and Rosary Society maintains the altar and cleans parts of the Church on a rotating basis. At St. Stanislaus, it is easy to find examples of love and dedication for our Church among its people.

One committee has made a special, intentional mission of cultivating this dedication and love of the Parish for those new to St. Stanislaus. The Welcoming Committee is dedicated to helping members of our church family feel

welcome and loved. As John Henry, a longtime member writes, “Jesus told us the greatest commandments are to Love God and Love our Neighbor. God, the Father, has shared His Love for us by creating and sustaining us. How



do we share God’s divine gift of love? Do we truly love our neighbor? If so, how do we express that love?” Once a month, the committee meets to explore ways to help parishioners get to know and appreciate each other and to make St. Stanislaus hospitable to new members of the community. These meetings also include planning for events sponsored by the committee.

A few of these events include the “New Friends” brunch, held each fall. At this event, the newest members of St. Stanislaus have the opportunity to meet other newcomers and members of various parish ministries while enjoying a delicious brunch. In June, the committee hosts the Church

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## St. Scholastica Soup

by Norm Berger

If you enjoyed the story of St. Scholastica and her brother St. Benedict, maybe you would also enjoy making the soup they shared. Well, we can’t honestly say we know this is the soup they enjoyed, but we can say it make for a comforting meal on a cold February night. Enjoy!

### Ingredients

- 3 quarts water(more, if needed)
- 2 long carrots, finely chopped
- 10 tablespoons lentils
- 2 medium turnips, finely chopped
- 10 tablespoons split peas
- 1 celery stalk, finely chopped
- 8 tablespoons lima beans
- 1 small head of lettuce, finely chopped
- 2 leeks, finely chopped



3 ounces butter or margarine

4 shallots, finely chopped

Salt and pepper to taste.

### Directions

1. Pour water into large soup pot. Add lentils, split peas, and beans and bring to a boil.
2. Add the leeks, shallots turnips, and celery stalk.
3. Continue boiling our medium heat in a covered pot for 30 minutes.
4. Now add lettuce and simmer for another 30 minutes over a very low heat.
5. Add the butter, salt, pepper and stir well. Let soup sit, covered for 10 to 15 minutes.

Serve hot.☒

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# The Lamb's Supper

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and extravagant symbolism unfamiliar to present-day readers. Many limit it to a description of the Apocalypse, and the second coming of our Savior. In the foreword of the book, Fr. Benedict J. Groeschel C.F.R. says that "In fact, relatively few Catholics realize the link between the celebration of the Eucharist and the end of the world." Actually, it is a message of hope, consolation and challenge for all who dare to believe the *The New American Bible*.

Going to Mass every Saturday or Sunday, even daily, can become a habit. If it is thought of as an obligation to be met each week, the reason for going in the first place can be lost. It is important to understand that participation in the celebration of the Mass, listening to the words of the liturgy, and receiving the Eucharist are the purpose for being there. At the Act of the Consecration, Jesus Christ and all the saints are present. The priest is a "stand-in" for the person of Christ. Catholics receive the real body and blood of Jesus Christ.

Micah D. Kiel in his book, "Apocalyptic Eschatology: the Book of Revelation, the Earth and the Future" describes it as how God will renovate and renew creation rather than discarding it. I cannot speak for you, but as a Catholic, this brings me hope. ✠

## Welcoming Committee

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Picnic at Fischer's Park where there are games for children, music, fellowship, and of course, food and beverages. When you attend Mass, you may be greeted by a smiling member of the Welcome Committee. These are just some of the ways the committee opens the St. Stanislaus door to new parishioners.

The ministry is always open to new members and new ideas to enrich the lives of the St. Stanislaus family. If you have ever considered involvement in a Parish committee, consider the Welcoming Committee! It is a great way to share your love of the Parish to others and meet fellow parishioners at the same time.

If you would like information regarding the Welcome committee, please contact Sharon Bellitto at 267-446-1365, Bonnie and John Henry at 267-449-1584, or by email at [jbhenry16@gmail.com](mailto:jbhenry16@gmail.com). Take this opportunity to share your time and talents to continue the tradition of dedicated involvement at St. Stanislaus Parish and contribute to an inviting and welcoming parish. ✠

# Jeanne Williamson

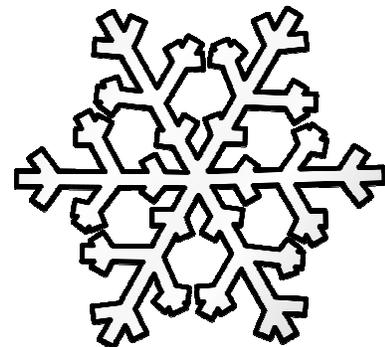
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As their family was growing rapidly, they recently realized they needed more room. Rather than move to a larger house, they chose to stay close by their church and school and built an addition onto their home. This also allowed them to add an in-law area for Jeanne's dad, who now resides with them.

Jeanne played with the St. Stanislaus guitar group from 2002 to about 2006. She is a member of the Liturgy Committee and also substitutes for Children's Liturgy of the Word when needed. She is also a member of the St. Stanislaus CYO Board.

Jeanne enjoys creating memories with her children. She loves to hear them talk about the various traditions they have for vacations, holidays, an annual "back-to-school dinner" and many more memorable events. During the Advent Season, for example, they pick Advent Friends within their immediate family. The children write notes to the person they have and pick out little gifts during those four weeks. There is much excitement when they give their final present with the "reveal" on Christmas Day to their advent friend. Jeanne says their family vacations, summer days at the 4th Street Pool, playing board games with the children, and occasionally going out on a date with just Dan are events she especially enjoys.

Jeanne relates that being a parent is so very rewarding, but it is also very challenging at times. She relies on her faith and turns to God for guidance when struggling for the best decision or which path to take. She wishes there was a Parent's Manual that contains all the answers, although, raising seven children, many feel that *she* could write that book! Jeanne is very thankful for the gift of Catholic education and is very proud to be part of both the MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL and the St. Stanislaus Parish communities. ✠



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**Parish Census Data for September – November 2018**



Welcome  
Our New  
Members

Abel Alarcon  
 Hugo Alarcon  
 Louis & Cynthia Berges  
 Sandra Deleon  
 Christopher & Kristy Dilonardo  
 Mary Dixon  
 Mary Beth Dunsmore  
 Patrick & Karen Johnsen  
 Krista Kelly  
 Colleen Lynn  
 Miluian Martinez  
 Cesar de la Cerda Mercado  
 Moises Tula Morales  
 Sean & Carissa Morris  
 Jason & Jill Noga  
 Bedelci Ortega  
 Peter & Eileen Prescott  
 Rocio Berenice Sanchez  
 Mike & Jeanmarie Schrank  
 Eileen Soley  
 Joseph & Angela Staples  
 Yeri Adriana Tula  
 Paul Webb  
 Scott & Angela Yurgalevicz



Ana Camila Yerena Acosta	William Alberto Morales
Kimberly Maria Aguilar	Max Joseph Morris
Sean James Bonner	Connor Robert
Scarlett Natasha Galicia	Musselman
Evelyn Hayes Groff	Tyler Michael Noles Jr.
Katie Kalea Ezetta Hawkins	Kaia O'Neill
Ava Mari Hoos	Lucia Pablo Teletor
Colin James Kelly	Christian Jack Pescatore
Carson Robert Langlais	Zabdiel R. Pomaquiza
John Derik Letteriello	Castro
Callen Marshall Lockwood	Daniel Szast
Jackson Carter McGarry	Dayana Guadalupe
Jorge Ezequiel Morales	Vanegas
Jose Ronaldo Morales	



Helen T. Bolacker  
 Loucky J. Colavita  
 Luigi Corrado  
 Mary Lou Denitz  
 Philip F. DiBerto  
 Maureen Doyle  
 Kevin Josur Vasquez  
 Garcia  
 Gloria Kozloski  
 Joseph Lepko  
 Loretta Lewis  
 Theresa Lynch  
 Vittoria Calafati Mason  
 Helen McCullagh  
 Virginia Prevost  
 Margarat C. Shuster  
 Mary Ann Thee  
 Cristina Veneziale



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 Noah Moshe Rosenblum & Elizabeth Ann Gaus