



"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

Autumn/Otoño 2019

## Welcome Father Sean English

by Sandy Sasso

Over the summer, Archbishop Chaput announced some clerical reassignments, and Msgr. Tracy, our pastor of eleven years, moved on to Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Southampton. In turn St. Stanislaus received a new Parochial Administrator, Father Sean Paul English.

Some in the congregation may wonder why he is not called "the Pastor" of St. Stanislaus. Fr. Sean explains that the Archbishop has to appoint him that title. According to Canon Law "A parochial administrator is bound by the same duties and possesses the same rights as a pastor unless the diocesan bishop establishes otherwise" (Can. 540 §1.). It basically still entails the day-to-day operations of the Parish like a pastor. The *St. Louis Review* notes "the administrator title will be given to a priest who is new to the role of pastor, for example, and then later will have the title changed to pastor after having some experience in the role" ([www.archstl.org](http://www.archstl.org)).

Father Sean was born and raised in Delaware County, Clifton Heights, Pennsylvania. St. Charles Borromeo in Drexel Hill was his parish growing up. He was raised by Catholic parents, his father from Ireland, and his mother from southwest Philadelphia. They were dedicated to Marian devotions. He has two younger brothers, and one sister who was called home to her eternal rest at only 35 years of age.

Some family influences in his Catholic upbringing came from his Uncle Bob, who is Superior General of the

Christian Brothers. Fr. Sean credits the seeds of his priestly vocation to a visit from his childhood pastor, Monsignor Daniel Murray, who later became Pastor at St. Rose of Lima. Father Murray came to speak to his eighth grade class at St. Charles Borromeo Elementary school, inspiring the young Sean English. Father Sean went on to attend Monsignor Bonner High School. After college at Lehigh University, where he received degrees in Psychology and Religious Studies; he was still unsure about a priestly direction.



In 2007, Father Sean felt the need to inquire with the vocations office at the Archdiocese even though he still was not certain of his future endeavors. However, surprisingly, Father Daniel Murray called him asking about whether he considered a vocation in the priesthood. That instilled the desire to enter St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in 2008. He attended the Seminary for six years, although today you must have seven years to graduate from the seminary. Upon graduation, Fr. Sean received his Masters in Divinity and a Masters in the Arts with a concentration in scriptures.

Upon ordination, Fr. Sean was assigned to serve the Catholic community and installed as a Parochial Vicar at St. Christopher's in Northeast Philadelphia where he stayed for five years. He was then assigned to Visitation B.V.M. in Norristown. However he only had an opportunity to serve for eight weeks there before being transferred here to St. Stanislaus.

*continued on page 6*

# Honoring Our Community's Veterans

by Norm Berger

I'm a veteran and proud to have served our country. But don't get too excited. I wasn't in Vietnam or any other war (although I was classified for any benefits as a Vietnam-era veteran). Lucky, I guess. But, wait a minute; this is not really about me, but about celebrating Veteran's Day with fellow veterans at MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL.

I came to learn about this annual event from friend and fellow parishioner, Michael "Bish" Rieg, a vocal promoter of the event being a veteran himself, and his wife Betty. You see, Betty was involved with the idea early on with fellow teachers at Mater Dei, Bonnie Marino and Linda Brown. They guided their students to write letters to some sixty veterans thanking them for their service. With the help of Diane McCaughan, then principal of Mater Dei, this blossomed into the affair it now has become where veterans are welcomed in the gym by all the classes at Mater Dei and celebrated with patriotic songs, readings, prayers and finally a lunch of hoagies, munchies, sodas, and bottled water.

So, come with me now, as I join my fellow veterans entering the gym and are ushered to the hall in the school to await the start of the tribute from the schoolchildren. Here stand knots of men and women, some a little shy, and others sharing greetings with past participants. You can hear "war" stories being told of their time in the service. It is interesting to see the varieties of clothing worn by these veterans. Some wear casual clothing or street clothes. Often mixed in are some items of military wear or patches from the veterans' service units. There are also attendees in full uniform, some of whom are active military personnel, but also those who have constructed something approaching a full uniform from bought gear or cobbled together what still fits from what was taken home



with them from service and only brought out at times like this. A motley crew indeed!

Finally it is time to parade into the gym and be welcomed by the assembled schoolchildren representing all grades at Mater Dei. The lights in the gym are momentarily dimmed and a spotlight highlights the entering vets. What greets our eyes and ears are patriotic music and the younger students sitting on the gym floor and, with wide excited eyes, looking at us including their veteran aunts, uncles, grandparents or even parents shuffling in to take our designated seats of honor. We all then are treated to patriotic songs with words shown from a projector unto a big screen and presentations from selected students representing different grades. A blessing is given from one of our priests or a deacon.

The program ends with the "command" to rise and proceed outside where we walk across Lansdale Avenue and enter the cemetery and proceed to the stone monument flanked by the tombs of the venerable pastor Monsignor Shade and other priests. Here there is a stone monument that has embedded in it plaques with names of

*continued on page 6*



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# Parishioner Spotlight

## *Deacon Juan and Blanca Valentin*

by **Dianne Spotts**

While the blueprints for vocations (including marriages) are drawn in heaven, at times one's parish is the local assembly plant.

While Juan Valentin and Blanca Rodriguez both hailed from the Arecibo area in Puerto Rico, they met in Trenton New Jersey, in Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish.

Blanca left Puerto Rico when she was approximately eight, with her widowed mom, grand-mom, and four sisters. They settled in Trenton New Jersey, where other family members were living. She grew up in a strict religious home, loved to read, and thoroughly enjoyed the new experience of television after arriving in the states. In her new parish, she became part of the Daughters of Mary, a religious organization at Mount Carmel Church.

Juan, on the other hand, was child number 10 out of 15 and experienced both farm and city living in Puerto Rico. It was not until he was 21 that he came to the States with his mother, father, and the younger five children, meeting up with the remainder of their family who had already settled in Trenton N.J.

Growing up, Juan was an athlete and loved all sports. When he was seven, he began to teach himself to play guitar. He has written hymns that are currently used by the Hispanic Prayer Group during their Tuesday night Prayer meetings. As a young man, he was part of a music group called *Almas de Colores* (Souls of Colors) which recorded their music on cassette.

Once settled in Trenton, he worked in a factory, and joined Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish where he was involved in many Catholic ministries: The Holy Name Society, Cursillo, Charismatic Renewal, the music ministry and others..

Blanca and Juan met when he was 21 and she was 18 (in 1967) at OLMC. They married in 1970 and had four children (three daughters and a son, now ranging in age

from 40 to 48). Blanca always loved being a mom. While employed by the City of Trenton, she became the Director, Division of Real Estate, for 38 years, until her retirement. When she was not at work, her time was dedicated to their children and home.

Juan was always very religious and very involved with the church. He felt a calling to become a deacon but there were obstacles that were holding him back. After discerning the call to the diaconate program, he asked the Lord that if HE prepared a way for him, he'd enter the program. The discerning continued through personal inspiration (the Bible) and reflection on Blessed Mother, and friends who encouraged him. He asked the Pastor for

a meeting – and as grace would have it – both of them had the same thing on their minds. Eventually his pastor sealed the deal by asking him to consider being a deacon. One friend told Juan he had envisioned him dressed as a deacon, moving to the altar from the congregation. Though he had already been a lector, this 'vision' touched him and with Blanca's eventual encouragement, he entered the diaconate program. He said Jesus called him and Blessed Mother pushed him – with

Blanca's hand helping him along the way, especially since the program was being taught in English and Juan was concerned because his English was limited.

Blanca was able to assist him in his journey, translating his Spanish notes into English and encouraging him through the four and a half years of the Diaconate Formation Program.

Deacon Juan's first assignment was at St. Mary's Cathedral (which by then was their parish). His next was Sacred Heart Church. Both assignments covered 17 years, after which they retired and moved to Florida where he was accepted as a permanent deacon in the Diocese of St. Petersburg. After he served for 9.5 years in Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, the couple moved back to this area to be near their children and 4 grandchildren. Deacon Juan took his position at St. Stanislaus in September, 2016.

*continued on page 6*



# Father Sean Says

One of my greatest joys in the priesthood is the reality that we are sent. We promise respect and obedience to the Archbishop and his successors, and immediately we are asked to obey this promise with our first appointment. We are commanded to know, love and serve the people to whom we are sent, with the compassion of Christ.



This very year I was called to serve three parishes with this same commission: St. Christopher, Nativity B.V.M. and now St. Stanislaus. As in all changes in life, there are necessary pains that must be endured. However, within the mission of the church, there is always a dying and rising. And in experiencing the pains of saying goodbye to one parish, there has been in each case the beauty of seeing Christ anew, like the Church on Easter Morning.

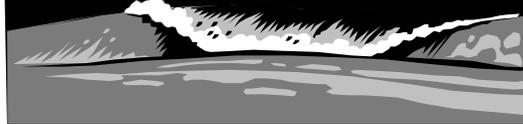
In two months here at St. Stanislaus, I have witnessed the Risen Christ. I have seen his face in all of you, (and even struggled to hear Him at times through our sound system). He is present in all aspects of our parish life: from the joys of children learning to love him at Mater Dei and in PREP; the times we gather for movies, welcome brunches and Spanish Prayer groups; to the times we suffer at Lansdale/Abington or at home. And most importantly, he is present here each time we celebrate the Eucharist in our Church and daily Mass Chapel.

Before the Apostles were sent by Jesus, they were called first to know and love Him. They lived with him, ate with Him, and cried with Him. They made mistakes and were forgiven by Him. Above all, they were loved by Him, and were called His friends. One of our greatest gifts here at St. Stanislaus is our Adoration Chapel. We have a place that is open 24/7 to spend time with Christ like the Apostles. It is a place to be ourselves before Jesus and learn from Him, who desires our presence like a true friend.

At the end of Mass, each member of the parish is sent ("Go forth the Mass has ended!"). We share the commission of the Apostles to announce the Gospel of the Lord. I hope that we can build on the solid foundation of almost 150 years of being sent, here at St. Stanislaus. Please join me in continued prayer for the success of our mission here for many years to come.✠

## Surfing Around?

Don't forget about the many resources for developing your Catholic Faith that are available free of charge at FORMED. For a link to the site and how to sign up see <https://www.ststanislaus.com/formed/>



## 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



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.

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# Leadership Changes at Mater Dei Catholic School

When MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOL opened its doors this fall to start its eighth year, it was with a newly implemented administrative structure in place. Miss Diane McCaughan who has served as Principal of the regional school since it was formed by the Archdiocese in 2012 became President of Mater Dei Catholic School and Miss Elizabeth Waltrich was hired as the second principal in the school's history.

So why the change? The President-Principal model is one that is now common in private and Catholic high schools, but it is not the standard in elementary schools which often have just a principal or else a principal-vice principal when the student population is very large. Yet something Mater Dei has recognized is that the "standard," traditional way of doing things is not necessarily the best. The fact is the regional school, guided by a Board of Limited Jurisdiction was created because the old parochial school model as a whole has been failing for many years.

As such, Mater Dei has been at the forefront of numerous innovations; early on they established a focus on development by hiring a full-time Advancement Director; soon after the school initiated an Annual Fund to shift how fundraising is done; and most recently they opened the Mater Dei Childcare Center in Hatfield answering the needs of parents who need childcare for pre-K children, but who want the same care and attention central to the Mater Dei philosophy. All these innovations have allowed Mater Dei to prosper, steadily maintaining enrollment of 500+ while remaining affordable yet financially viable.

The Mater Dei Board has known that for a school to continue to prosper there must be that focus on advancement: marketing, enrollment, and fundraising. Even with an Advancement Director, the head of the school plays a major role. Potential donors want to meet with the leader of the school to understand the school's mission. Likewise parents of future children need to hear from the school head. Miss McCaughan, in her role as Principal, was called upon to perform these functions more and more frequently. Yet meanwhile she of course needed to direct the academic direction of the school. Frankly there were not enough hours in the day for all those activities to be done well. Surely students' experiences and learning could not be impacted because Miss McCaughan needed to be at an Advancement event!

Hence the need to divide the work between two people, a



*Father Sean with Principal Elizabeth Waltrich and President Diane McCaughan on the first day of school*

President and a Principal. In an April letter to parents, Board Chair Paul Cutajar outlined how the two roles would work at Mater Dei:

The President will be responsible for the day-to-day operation, including the vision of our school and the overall management of the institution. The President will provide visible leadership and the promotion of the school to the community by overseeing strategic planning, community relations, development, marketing, and fund-raising. The Principal's responsibilities will include academic curriculum, faculty training and development, as well as student advising and discipline. The Principal will report to the President and together they will provide leadership, support, and continuity to the families, faculty, staff, and community of Mater Dei Catholic School.

Moving Diane McCaughan into the President role was an easy decision, as Miss McCaughan's leadership and inspiration has long been essential to the success of the school. After a detailed hiring process evaluating a number of candidates, Elizabeth Waltrich's selection was unanimously agreed upon by the Board, the President, and all our schools' pastors. Not only are Miss Waltrich's credentials exceptional, her experience at Mater Dei as a seventh and eighth-grade teacher since the school began means she understands and fully embraces all of the mission of Mater Dei Catholic school and is more than eager to contribute to its continued development.

Faculty, parents, and students have all embraced the change. Even though two people are now performing the duties previously done by one, both have found their days completely filled. Unsurprising, as both are dedicated to the advancement of Catholic Education. Our children and our school clearly stand to benefit.✠

## Seasonal Woes

by Sonia Fries (1926-2009),  
Parishioner, St. Stanislaus

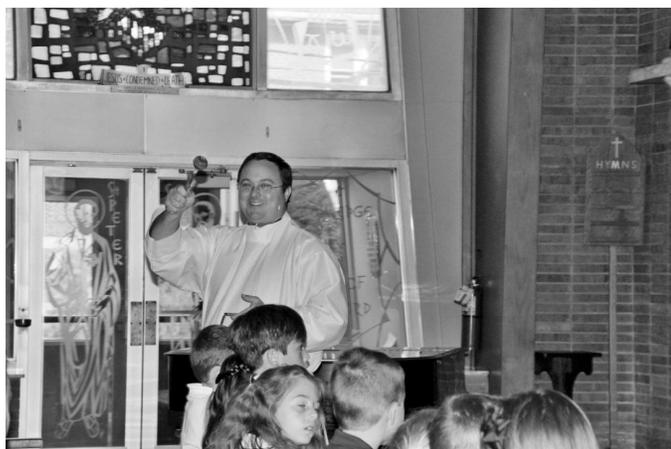
We've unearthed the sweaters, the quilts  
and wool socks,  
Stacked up lots of wood for the fire.  
We've replaced the worn-out weather  
stripping  
Turned the thermostat cautiously higher.  
When winter approaches, we often  
complain  
It's harder to get out of bed.  
I listen with interest and shiver a bit  
When I hear what the weatherman said.  
But when I get nostalgic for summer,  
I've discovered a great remedy,  
I just think of mosquitoes, sunburns, and  
reruns  
And that awesome humidity.✠

## Welcome Fr. Sean

*continued from page 1*

Father notes how he feels psychology and theology go hand in hand, and as a priest, he has the awesome opportunity to bring the face of Jesus to everybody he meets and allows himself to do what God wants and directs him to.

Welcome Father, we look forward to your assisting the congregation in our spiritual journeys!✠



## Veterans at Mater Dei

*continued from page 2*

the fallen who were parishioners at St Stanislaus Parish and who served in World Wars I, II, Korea, and Vietnam.

We are accompanied by some of the students "detailed" for this "duty" along with two student trumpeters who, when all have assembled around the monument, play taps to pay tribute to our fallen comrades who were not so blessed as those of us assembled in respect to our long-gone comrades.

After a blessing and short talk, all of us troop back to the gym for a nice luncheon with each other and family members while schoolchildren pass among us giving out medals hung from red, white, and blue ribbons to remember the occasion. There is also a Wall of Fame with pictures to honor our Veterans. My wife, Patty, has joined me every year since as she enjoys socializing here with other veteran's wives.

As noted, this is an annual event: Ms. Brownback and Ms. Kehan from the school keep the tradition going. This year's event was held Friday, November 8. It is one of the most popular events at the school and in the community. It is an enjoyable, memory-filled time for which I and my fellow veterans are filled with gratitude for Mater Dei Catholic School's having honored us who have served the Red, White, and Blue. ✠

## Deacon Juan and Blanca

*continued from page 3*

Deacon Juan has always loved teaching and helping others grow in the Lord. He appreciates the universality of our Catholic faith and its diversity in our cultures, languages and varied expressions of faith. This is lived out in St. Stanislaus Parish's Hispanic Community where some 300 members come from many different countries, unified by their faith and sacramental life.

When I first approached Juan and Blanca about this interview, she quickly responded there was very little that was interesting about them, saying "We are simple humble people who love God and trust Him with each day."

God certainly prepared a way for Deacon Juan. As he and Blanca trusted Him, the plans fell into place and a beautiful vocation has been lived. In 2020, Deacon Juan will celebrate 30 years as a Deacon. Happy Anniversary Deacon Juan!✠

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# St. Elizabeth of Hungary and Thanksgiving

by Anne Kaler

How does the existence of a 13th century saint help us understand Thanksgiving, the sacrifice of the Mass, and our subsequent need for charity and care of the poor?

The name Elizabeth is derived from the Hebrew word *Elisbeba* which translates as “God is my oath” or “God is my abundance.” As one of the four most popular names in European Catholic history, the name of Elizabeth has blessed a long line of worthy saints. Certainly the Biblical Elizabeth, mother of St. John the Baptist, is worthy of praise while the more modern St. Elizabeth Seton, foundress of Catholic education in USA, deserves honor.

St. Elizabeth of Hungary personifies both riches and poverty in her life and her actions. As a young child of four, she was taken from her family to be raised and betrothed to a prince of Thuringia, a central state of Germany. At six, she learned of her mother’s murder. At fourteen she married happily her husband Ludwig and had three children before he died, leaving her a widow. Soon afterwards, when she was thrown out of the royal household and her children spirited away, Elizabeth sought to live her poverty as a Third Order Franciscan (now Secular Franciscan).

As a royal princess, her way of helping the poor had been to assure that they had enough bread to eat. She had already used her own money to establish a hospital for the poor of the city and she was known for her personal piety and simplicity. Just as the Church herself is meant to feed the spiritually impoverished among us, so also did St. Elizabeth accept her poverty and discipline without complaint.

As the wife of a nobleman, she would smuggle bread out of the castle for the poor of the city, hiding the basket under her cloak. One winter day, when her husband confronted her and asked her to open her cloak, miraculously what the onlookers saw was that her basket overflowed – not with loaves of bread – but with masses of red and white out-of-season flowers.

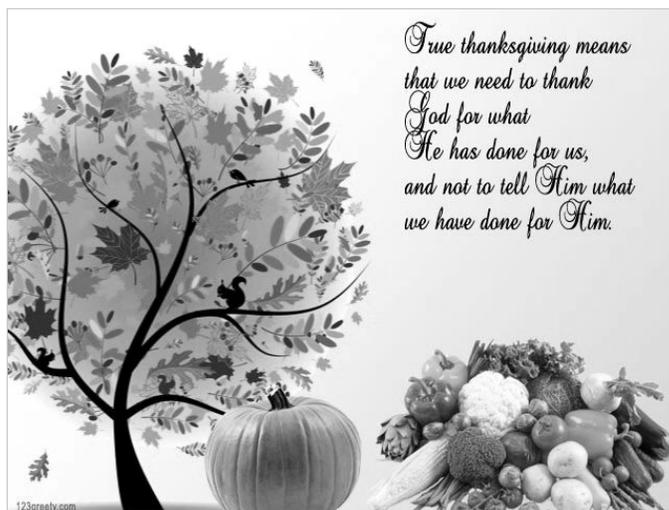
The harvests of autumn make us aware of winter’s rapid approach when food (or the lack of it) becomes scarce to all living things. At Thanksgiving time, the smell of bread baking reassures of our home and our security and our yearly feast.—the one day of the year when there is more food than we can eat.



Picture from [www.catholic.com/saints/saintelizabeth.html](http://www.catholic.com/saints/saintelizabeth.html)

To Catholics, the sacrifice of the Mass always reminds us that the breaking of bread with family and friends encourages community. Shouldn’t our Thanksgiving feast also remind us that bread is not available to everyone, that not all of our larger community have enough to eat every day, not even on Thanksgiving?

Since the Church feeds our impoverished souls with sacred bread to sustain us, shouldn’t our learning about the lives of the saints encourage us the share our bread and our gifts with those in need?✠



*True thanksgiving means  
that we need to thank  
God for what  
He has done for us,  
and not to tell Him what  
we have done for Him.*

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

- 1 *Welcome Father Sean English*
- 2 *Honoring Our Community's Veterans*
- 3 *Parishioner Spotlight: Deacon Juan & Blanca Valentin*
- 4 *The Pastoral Pen*
- 5 *Leadership Changes at Mater Dei Catholic School*
- 5 *GIFT Programs*
- 7 *St. Elizabeth of Hungary and Thanksgiving*

**Parish Census Data for July – September 2019**



Emma Rose Cashley  
Jose Angel Castillo  
Vincent Hunter Clayton  
Kinsley Elizabeth Clipp  
Emely Ximena Cortez  
Bridget Rose Elias  
Ariella Isabel Guerra  
Truett Thomas Johnson  
Lucas Alexander Komatick  
Jorge Reyes Perez  
Sophia Juliett Sangurima  
Sophie Joanne Schmid  
Catalina Carmen Seminario  
Sloane Katherine Slotter  
James Matthew Stampler  
Jaden Jesus Rios Triana



Welcome Our New Members

Maria Elisa Ascencion	Frank & Tanya Nace & Shaffer-Nace
David & Marie Buczkowski	Jennifer Panoc
Zoila Castro	Thomas & Ann Rush
Juan Pedro Castro Pulla	John & Jennifer Russell
Juan Chavez	Eric Sanville
Michael Czerwonka	Gustavo & Sophia Seminario
Jacquelyn Darrah	Elsa Solis
Joseph & Carmela DeCicco	Ambrose & Jennifer Souder
John Duke	David & Kristen Stocklos
Jorge Espinoza	Julie Stratton
Gina Falcione	Lisa Takacs
Patrick & Colleen Gordon	Maria Vicuna
Marguerite Gryga	Tyler Viers
Samantha Gudz	Edvin Welchez
Justine Marara	Marcela Yunga
Robert & Barbara Masusock	Juan Zhagnay
Michael & Briana McCloskey	Forrest & Kelly Zove
Epitacio & Consuelo Mejia	
Ashley Meszaros	
Thomas & Megan Mustachio	



IN MEMORIAM

John Brown  
Dolores A. Curley  
Sylvia Strayer Creighton

Evelyn Dehner  
Caroline O. Dougherty  
Timothy E. Fortmann  
Joseph N. France  
Harry P. Franzoni  
LeRoy "Bud" Funk  
Paul N. Garvin  
Robert F. Gilmartin  
James J. Glackin, Jr.  
Maxine Greely  
Rosemarie M. Hartz  
Elsie (June) Kelch  
William F. Kerr  
Grace G. Leonida  
J. Boyd McIlvaine, Sr.  
Maria Monkovic  
Charlotte M. O'Sullivan  
George J. Paptzun  
Teresa Pulli  
Eugene S. Rausch  
Louis Riccio  
Richard Thomas Sands  
Gregory W. Witynski  
William Woebkenberg



WEDDINGS

Jose Coronado & Antonia Flores  
Timothy Daley & Alexandra Roth  
Christopher Halpin & Jully Leal  
Matthew Lockard & Nicole Bodrog