

"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

Summer / Verano 2019

The TORCH is Lit!

by Dianne Spotts

You've heard it said that 'youth is wasted on the young.' Well I'd like to introduce you to a group in our parish that is not wasting anything: not time, not the opportunity to enjoy each other's company, not meaningful activities, and definitely not ways for our parish youth to grow in their faith, all under the leadership of Joe Campbell.

The group is our new Parish Youth Ministry, which has been named TORCH. When Joe drew the logo for the group, he thought about young people passing the torch of faith, shining their light on their age group, and being light in the world:

Live as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. (Ephesians 5:8 & 9)

The group's focus is on teens. In the Spring, Joe sent a communiqué to parents announcing the new organization and detailing some of the concepts around which TORCH was organized. In the letter Joe explained: "When teens

feel safe and cared for they will actually let their guard down enough to consider issues of faith and wrestle with what it means to follow Jesus."

Hope went on to relay the mission of the youth group saying, "I will work, along with Father Ravert primarily and with Monsignor Tracy and the deacons of the parish to create an engaging atmosphere for teens. We will help them foster holy friendships that will deepen



their experience of community, knowledge about their faith, and strengthen their love for God."

They sure hit the ground running!

On June 9 they held a Kickoff, basically an information night for parents and youth. A few short weeks later their first official meeting was held. There the teens received their official TORCH tee shirts. Twelve registered, but others soon followed.

During the summer, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, TORCH visits St. Mary Manor, escorting residents to the Chapel for the 11:00 am Mass. All attend Mass, and then the kids return the residents either to their rooms or to the dining hall for lunch. They have also assisted at Manna on Main Street and are planning visits with the residents of Elm Terrace.

June 30 found them at one of the games of the semi-pro Bux-Mont premier soccer team -- also called TORCH!

In their orange shirts, group members will be easy to spot at our Parish Festival, helping wherever help is needed.

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TORCH

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In between their activities, they visit the Adoration Chapel, almost filling each seat. Recently the teens have assisted in taking food that has been donated to Social Ministry down to the Food Cupboard.

I've had the opportunity to capture some of the teen's sentiments: "(The group) is a good way to get involved," declares Tara Moore. "To be helpful in the community, even though we're young." Abby Friend emphasizes the spiritual aspect of TORCH: "I am able to celebrate my faith with others in the group, and I also get to celebrate it in the community too – and it's really fun to do with other people." Her sister Maggie Friend "likes Adoration for the peace she receives."

Joe Campbell, is newly "retired" from a position in Sales/Customer Service on the cutting edge of technology, but he isn't new to the parish's youth culture. He has been on the cutting edge of sports in St. Stanislaus Parish having coached "just about every sport there is at St. Stan's CYO" – for 23 years!

Joe was born in Philadelphia, however the Campbell family moved to Lansdale and St. Stanislaus Parish in 1964. He attended St. Stanislaus Elementary School and LaSalle High School, and graduated from North Penn High School. Joe is an avid runner (a five-mile run is an average day's exercise). He has taken part in obstacle-course racing, cross fit training, and his new adventure: kayaking. From my vantage point, he is still enjoying his own youth, even though he is the father of two thirty-something daughters.

The activities listed above will continue through the summer, as well as an evening in July with a guest speaker from the Seminary, and another guest speaker in August, this one from Gen Life.

On September 1, there will be an outdoor Mass on the Parish grounds, with the youth doing the serving, reading, etc. A picnic will follow. Also ahead is a day at Abby Fest, where the music and speakers are dynamic.

You can keep up to date on the group's activity with St. Stanislaus bulletins each week and our parish website. TORCH is also on social media and you --or your teens – can follow TORCH on Twitter: @ministrytorch and on Instagram: torch_youth_ministry.

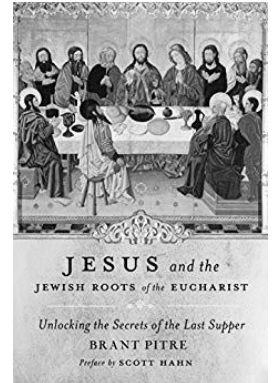
Thanks to TORCH, our parish teens are not wasting, but making the most of their youth. Thank you, Joe, for your energetic leadership! ✠

NewStan Book Review

Devotional Jews and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist by Dr. Brant Pitre

by Lorraine Miller

In *Jews and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist* Brant Pitre (Ph.D., University of Notre Dame) sheds new light on the Last Supper by looking at it through Jewish eyes. Dr. Pitre is a scholar who studies ancient Jewish writings that include the Dead Sea Scrolls, the works of



Josephus, etc. His book explores connections between ancient Jewish beliefs about the Passover of the Messiah, the miraculous Manna from Heaven and the mysterious bread of the Presence. These are the keys that have the power to unlock the original meaning of the Eucharistic words of Jesus. Pitre explains how Jesus united the Last Supper to his death on Good Friday and his Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

To understand our faith, it is helpful to look at the lives and times of the ancient Jewish peoples. For First Century Jews, seeing Jesus take bread and say, "Take, eat; this is my body," and give them a cup and say "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (*Matthew 26:26-28*) was a hard saying. Many were offended and "no longer walked with him" (*John 6:66*), and He let them go. Jewish scripture told them, "You shall not eat flesh with its life, that is its blood." (see *Genesis 9:3-4, Deuteronomy 12:16, and Leviticus 17: 10-12*)

Jesus was Jewish. He lived in that culture, and observed its rules. Until he was 30, he was a part of the community. It's interesting to learn that people in that time did not think as we do today. According to the author, "We tend to reduce reality to the visible, material realm...if modern people believe in a supernatural realm at all, we are vague about what it is like. Ancient Judaism saw the material world as a kind of visible sign of an invisible world, a supernatural realm in the heavens with God at its Head." And why not? They had real experiences of communicating with God: Moses receiving the Ten Commandments, the Exodus of their people from the captivity of Pharaoh of Egypt, and the gift of Manna in the desert to name a few examples.

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Parishioner Spotlight

Rosemarie Malfatti

by Norman Berger

Those of you who may have some familiarity with our subject, Rosemarie, as I do, know that she is Italian and has an interesting accent. Rosemarie was born and raised in a small mountain village named Fai della Paganella, in the Dolomite Mountains of Northern Italy. If you have never heard of this village, you could look it up on Google Maps, but for a beautiful picture of the town and some of its history you can check out www.trentino.com/en/trentino/dolomiti-di-brenta-paganella/fai-della-paganella.. The village is in the district of Trentino, on an altiplano or tableland over 3000 feet above sea level and is surrounded by towering mountains.

When I saw the picture, I started imagining Rosemarie as another Maria Von Trapp singing in a mountain meadow in *The Sound of Music*, but she just laughed at the suggestion. Rosemarie did grow up with two brothers. Her father worked as a maintenance man for a major convent in Trento. Every Monday morning, he walked a mile to a funicular (or cable car) terminal and rode it into Trento about seven miles away. There he transferred to a bus to get to the convent. He roomed there in a separate building and came back home on Saturdays.

Rosemarie grew up among sheep (for wool), goats (for milk), chickens (eggs) and rabbits that provided the meat for some family meals. She really wanted to be a teacher, but her parents could not afford schooling beyond the obligatory eighth grade so her father arranged for her to be an apprentice in Trento to learn sewing. After she passed her apprenticeship, she came back home and took in sewing from villagers. As payment was mostly in eggs, sausages, etc., with little money to help the family, she took jobs as a housekeeper for a doctor and for a hotel.

Later she started dating “a local,” but that didn’t work out. So Rosemarie consulted a friend, her local pastor, as she now wanted a husband and family of her own. The pastor told her that he knew of a man in his hometown not far away that was looking to get married. He told her this man had immigrated to America nine years before, however he

was coming to visit his family at home in the springtime. The pastor then looked at Rosemarie (probably with a twinkle in his eye) and asked her whether she would be interested in meeting him. So it happened that she and the pastor’s friend met in her parish center.

They started dating and it wasn’t too long after meeting her parents that this man, Agostino Malfatti asked her father for her hand in marriage. The parents were saddened, however, when they learned that after they were married, he, Agostino, would be returning to America with his bride and they would be seeing little more of her. Well, before anything like that could happen, her father went down over the mountainous country to the district capital, Trento, to gather information on this mystery man from the man’s uncle, a Monsignor. Apparently, the information

was on the “up and up,” and Rosemarie and Agostino were married on August 31, 1968. Soon after, the couple saw “Lady Liberty” with her golden torch from high in the sky, and a new life began for Rosemarie.

And what a life it has been! From Schuylkill Haven, Agostino found a job at Standard Pressed Steel, first in Jenkintown and later in Hatfield. The couple began a family that came to include Christina, Maurice (now living in North Carolina), Roberta,

Joanne, and eventually six grandchildren.

Rosemarie helped out at St Stanislaus Parish School for a while when her children were small. When the youngest entered parochial school, she began to work full-time at Brittany Pointe Estates to enable her children to have the college education she was denied. She ended up working there for 23 years! Rosemarie’s parish resume includes work for the RCIA program and involvement for over twenty years in the Altar and Rosary Society where she washes and presses purificators, altar cloths, and albs. She also does the priests’ laundry weekly. She helps Sister Barbara with the food distribution to needy families. As if this were not enough, she also works with the gardening group beautifying the parish grounds. She says “I like to keep busy!”

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Our Pastor's Pen

Dear friends / Mis amigos queridos,

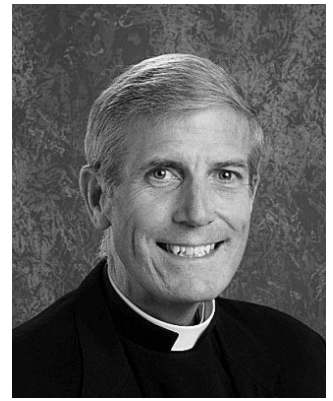
The last of anything is often difficult because of the many mixed emotions that are stirred. So it is with this, my final "Pastor's Pen" for *NewStan*. By the time you receive this, I will likely be in my new assignment at Our Lady of Good Counsel. For me, parish administration will again become secondary, as my primary role there will be pastoral, supporting the pastor who has been doing things largely by himself in a busy, fairly large faith community.

The one thing that I want to communicate in this last column is my gratitude to you for welcoming me and supporting whatever efforts we worked on together for the deepening of faith and the building up of God's Kingdom in the Lansdale/North Penn area. I feel that YOU did the work; I sort of conducted much like Nezet-Seguin when he takes to the podium at the Kimmel Center. We have accomplished much, but I am not so naive to think everyone was a fan of mine. If I said, wrote, or did anything to offend or impede anyone's Roman Catholic faith, I am sorry. Obviously I was here to do the opposite. To those current and former members of the parish and school staffs who made me look good and did their work quietly "behind the scenes," I am indebted.

So many things come to mind for which I am grateful: the weekly generosity to the Parish, which enabled us to shake off an enormous debt (we have been debt-free for a number of years now) while still providing for improvements from bathrooms, doors, and signage, to sanctuary and rectory repairs, approximately two dozen new trees planted around the property, increased utilization of technology in communications and record-keeping, re-paved parking lots, and so much more. There were new spiritual initiatives like our Bible Study and Marian devotion groups; plus the tremendous faithfulness of the long-standing groups like the Festival Committee, Altar & Rosary Society, Scouting, CYO, Gardening Angels, and choirs. How blessed to have a cadre of Eucharistic adorers who faithfully kept their hours of prayer with Jesus continuously for over 12 years!

Praise God St. Stanislaus is resource-rich in people who really care about their faith and about others. Your support of a simple food cupboard that acts as a safety net each month for 65 needy area families is amazing! So too has been your rock-solid commitment to Catholic education, both at ST. STANISLAUS and MATER DEI CATHOLIC SCHOOLS. Parents dig deep to keep Catholic education accessible and affordable for our youth. The wider Catholic community, those with older or no children in school, has also done a tremendous job financially and morally to keep a 125+ year old ministry alive. This past year's celebration of Mater Dei's Blue Ribbon School of Excellence status highlights the hard work, community-building, leadership, and devotion of our school families, staff, and benefactors.

So what's a next for the future of this justifiably proud parish? You are getting a good priest in Fr. Sean English, the new administrator of St. Stanislaus. Please kindly lend him the support you have extended to me! Like it was to me in 2008, being a pastor will be new to him. Different talents, new ideas, and a complementary vision for the future will be good for the parish. May Fr. English's stay with you be as enjoyable and fulfilling as mine has been. Wishing you the best until we meet again, I am, sincerely yours in Christ,



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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Will the Real St. Lazarus Please Stand Up?

by Anne K. Kaler

St. Stanislaus Church had a “visitor” recently -- a poor man using a crutch, dogs licking his wounded legs, a crown of thorns on his head, bloody bandages acting as clothes on his emaciated body.

Who among us, he seemed to ask, would take care of his diseased, mentally unstable, or homeless brothers and sisters?

St. Lazarus is popular in the Hispanic culture as a manifestation of suffering of the marginalized among us. Often mistaken for the suffering Christ, this St. Lazarus is shown as a beggar, lacking even a pilgrim’s garb as he wanders homeless, starving, diseased, and ignored.

But what are his origins, this poor, wandering man?

Christ’s parable of Lazarus and Dives illustrates the ultimate lack of hospitality by using food and the denial of food as examples, while Christ’s parallel parable of the Good Samaritan offers charity for everyone.

Because parables are meant to teach, Christ selects specific names to suggest His intent. Lazarus, as a name, is a form of Eleazar which means “God has helped” while Dives is the generic name for a rich man or “one who feasts on food.” Remember that the second part of the parable has the poor man Lazarus enjoying the heavenly banquet while Dives is forced to beg for a drop of water to ease his burning lips as he is condemned to hell.

Since we work best when we can visualize a concept such as universal suffering, the statue of St. Lazarus which visited us is the mixture of several tales of the name Lazarus. What we remember best is the story of Christ raising his dead friend Lazarus of Bethany from his four-day stay in his grave. At Christ’s bidding, the brother of Mary and Martha, Lazarus came forth from the tomb, alive and well, to the astonishment of his family and followers. He lived for some years after and legends grew around his final death and resting place. France claimed that he and his sisters were transported to southern France to establish the Christian church in that country.

The figure of Lazarus has evolved over the years into anyone who is marginalized from society, such as lepers were. The twelfth-century Order of St. Lazarus, a military order of Hospitalers consisting of some lepers themselves, was established to nurse the afflicted soldiers returning from the Crusades.

To kiss a leper became a sign of sainthood, as in St. Francis of Assisi’s act of doing so. St. Peter Damian and St. Marianne Cope chose to live their lives with the lepers on Molokai’.

Even after leprosy was eradicated, the figure of the suffering saint spread out to represent any diseased or non-functioning member of society. The homeless, the disadvantaged, the mentally and emotionally challenged are often treated as modern day lepers. Even the lazaretto became a holding place for the unwanted, often becoming the only buildings large enough to hold immigrants.

So as our “visitor” St. Lazarus* speaks to us, let us respond with grace. ✠



*The “visitor” was a statue of Lazarus recently displayed by the painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe

NewStan Book Review

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In the foreword, Scott Hahn tells us that while present-day Catholics see Jesus crucifixion as a sacrifice, first-century Jews who actually witnessed the event would not have seen it as one. The only place a sacrifice could have happened was the Temple. St. Paul made the connections for his generation, and especially his fellow Jews. Paul’s vision shows us that it is not merely about how Jesus suffered, but how much he loves. Love transforms suffering into sacrifice.

Rosemarie Malfatti

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Her spiritual side is not neglected either. She and Agostino are daily Mass communicants and they have been faithful adorers the entire time that the Adoration Chapel has been in operation. Thanks Rosemarie, and Agostino (who contributes annually to festival booth electrification and teardown), for your contributions to help make St. Stanislaus Parish what it is today! ✠

What a Day for a Picnic!

Story & photos by Bonnie and John Henry

After a rainy week, God blessed us with a beautiful, sunny afternoon for the St. Stanislaus Church Picnic, on June 23rd, which was conveniently held on the front lawn of the rectory. Musicians entertained the gathering as parishioners mingled with both new and familiar friends while enjoying lunch and dessert.

There were many activities for all ages including corn hole toss, puzzles, a water-balloon contest, Scrabble, giant checkers, Twister, rock painting and more.

Mother-and-daughter team Sheila and Nora Sanapen delighted the children as they creatively transformed faces and hands with their painting skills.

The Boy Scouts set up their Rain Gutter Regatta competition utilizing water bottle boats created by the participants. Trophies went to the winners!

The Girl Scouts entertained us with a limbo competition, games and a showcase of their yearly activities. And as clichéd as it sounds, a good time was had by all!

Thank you to everyone who attended the picnic, as well as all those helped with set up, and clean up. ✕



The Musicians



The Girls



The Artist



The Girls, Part II



The Scouts



The Lawn Gamer



The Regatta Participants



The Best Friend



The Water Balloon Contestants



The Committee

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Parish Census Data for April – June 2019

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