
"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

Spring / Primavera 2020

Religious of the Assumption Celebrate 100 Years

by Norm Berger

Many of us in the parish are aware of those religious women in our parish community who "wear the purple." The Assumption Sisters, the order whose official name is the Religious of the Assumption, have been a steady presence in Lansdale for many years – but they have been in the United States for a full century, as the order this year celebrates their 100th Anniversary of their presence in America.

The order was founded in 1839 by a young woman named Marie Eugenie Milleret (later known as St. Marie Eugenie) assisted by a Father Theodore Combalot, in Paris. A group of young girls gathered around Marie Eugenie and shared the desire of consecrating their lives to a higher end. In 1841, the ladies took religious vows becoming Sisters of the Assumption. There was a definite interest in educating young women which culminated in their formation of a school in France in 1842.

A French priest, Fr (Venerable) Emmanuel d'Alzon (1810-1880) become both a spiritual advisor to Sister Marie



2015 Photo of the Assumption Sisters in Lansdale from www.assumptionsisters.org

Eugenie and a good friend. Urged on by the apostolic spirit of the Religious of the Assumption, he founded two religious orders, the Augustinians of the Assumption for men and the Oblates (Missionary Sisters) of the Assumption for women. These two orders, although operating independently of the Religious of the Assumption are, nonetheless considered part of the Assumption "family." The Assumption family has since grown to include the Little Sisters of the Assumption, the Orantes of the Assumption, the Sisters of St Joan of Arc, the Brothers of the Assumption, the Little Sisters of the Presentation of Our Lady, and, the Sisters of the Cross.

St Marie Eugenie would be proud of how her order has grown as it is active in thirty-five countries and its sisters represent over forty nationalities; truly an international sisterhood. The motherhouse of the order is located on the Rue de l'Assomption in Paris within walking distance of the Ranelagh Metro Station (for anyone interested in dropping in, as I once did). Here, Sister Rekha Chennattu,



Lansdale house of the Religious of the Assumption

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Worship During the Covid-19 Crisis

Due to guidelines issued by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, all Masses at St. Stanislaus have been suspended and the Parish Center and Adoration Chapel closed for the safety of all our parish and parish staff. However, by no means does that mean our worship and prayer lives need to be put on hold. In fact, we need prayers now more than ever.

We continue to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturdays from 4:00 – 4:45PM and on Monday Evenings from 5:00 – 5:45PM. Signs are in place upon your arrival to instruct on proper social distancing within the Church. Confessions are offered face-to-face with an appropriate distance from the priest, in the main body of the Church. Please consider your health and the health of others if you are symptomatic of illness.

You can join us for a livestream of Sunday Mass by on our St. Stanislaus Parish Facebook page each Sunday at 9am.

Other ways to attend Mass include:

- ❖ Live Mass from the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame's campus in South Bend, Indiana, 10AM ET every Sunday, 9:30AM ET Monday-Friday at www.catholictv.org/masses/notre-dame-mass.
- ❖ Live Sunday Mass from St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, 10:15AM ET at www.saintpatrickscathedral.org/live.
- ❖ Bishop Robert Barron, founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, offers daily Mass from his chapel and is available for viewing every day at 8:15AM and Sundays, usually at 9AM ET at www.wordonfire.org/daily-Mass.



The Magnificat has made their online version of the Mass readings temporarily available to everyone. In addition, Magnificat is now offering complimentary access to its iOS and Android Apps throughout May. To register for free access, visit www.magnificat.com/free.

Misas en español:

- ❖ CatholicTV 8:00 AM, 5:30 PM, 10:00 PM ET, todos los domingos: www.catholictv.org/masses/catholictv-mass.
- ❖ San Fernando Cathedral: En vivo desde la Catedral de San Fernando en San Antonio, Texas, 8:00AM, 12:00PM todos los domingos: www.vimeo.com/sanfernandocathedral.

Magnificat versión en español, y para acceder a las aplicaciones iOS y Android de Magnificat durante todo mayo.✠



Online Giving at St. Stanislaus: Did you know that you have the option to use Online Giving for contributions to St. Stanislaus Parish?

We encourage Online Giving because it is: 1) easy to use; 2) safe and secure; 3) accessible via the internet.

To get started with Parish Giving visit www.ststanislaus.com and click on the link underneath the Parish Giving logo.



In Memoriam: Msgr. Joseph Murray

On April 18, 2020, Monsignor. Joseph Murray, former Pastor of St. Stanislaus from 1989 to 2008, passed away, at the age of 87. His passing was too near to our printing for us to suitably honor him here, but we wanted to acknowledge his passing and send prayers to his friends and family. We will have a full tribute to Msgr. Murray in the next issue of *NewStan*.

Parishioner Spotlight

Boyd McIlvaine

by Sandy Sasso

If the name of this issue's spotlight parishioner sounds familiar, it may be because his name figures prominently directly across the street from St. Stanislaus Church. The most heartbreaking time of our life is the loss of a loved one and it's a funeral home that helps us plan and prepare for burial. Right across the street from St. Stanislaus is Simcox-McIlvaine Funeral Home, and the McIlvaines have been parishioners of St. Stanislaus in Lansdale since 1976 when they bought the business from Hillary Simcox (whose name remains present as it is a tradition that the new owner of a funeral home keeps the prior owner's name).

The funeral business started in the McIlvaine family with Boyd's great-grandfather, who came to Philadelphia from Ireland and worked with a woodworker who made caskets. He then started the funeral home business in 1887, earning his license in 1895. His son, Charles McIlvaine, Boyd's grandfather, then joined him in the business in Philadelphia. It's not that Boyd's family history revolves solely around the funeral business. Charles won an Olympic Gold Medal as an oarsman in the category of Rowing. Boyd himself enjoyed rowing too until recently. While living in Philadelphia, his grandfather grew up with and was best friends with Jack Kelly, father of famed actress and later princess, Grace Kelly.

Boyd's father, Boyd, Sr. and his Uncle John, eventually became involved in the business. His Uncle John took over the operations on Midvale Avenue in Philadelphia until his death. That location is now managed by John's wife, Joan. Due to Boyd Sr.'s death in July 2019, the McIlvaines have only just recently hired their first non-direct descendant in 132 years to be put in a Supervisor's role, Joseph DiPinto who helps manage in Philadelphia.

Boyd was raised in Lansdale and never remembers a time without St. Stan's in his life. Other than his Mom and Dad, he feels that St. Stanislaus has had THE most vital role in

shaping him as a person. Since only 17 or 18 years old, Boyd's father exposed him to some of his work in caring for the deceased and their families. After Boyd went to Catholic University, he went on to the American Academy McAllister Institute of Funeral Services in New York City. While in New York City, he had experiences working on cadavers that were truly eye-opening. A little at a time, he overcame his nervousness in the funeral director's work, and slowly eased into the day-to-day operations. Boyd and his father were together every day for the last 20 years.

Boyd has been a licensed funeral director and supervisor since 2002.

Boyd's mother, Kathy McIlvaine taught first grade at St. Stanislaus Parish School. She began assisting at the funeral home in 1991. Kathy was diagnosed with leukemia in 1985, and at one time had a fever of 107. At the time, doctors were astounded she was still alive. They put her in ice baths to bring down the fever. After recovering she told her family of her after death experience. She told of leaving her body and seeing people talking around her, then came into a place of peace, love, serenity and joy, as she described it. She said the love and peace she felt was nothing she could describe with words; it was a

love and peace not of this world. After that experience, she was never afraid to die, and by the grace of God, she lived until her passing in 2007.

Boyd married his wife, Megan, in 2014, who is now a happy member of the St. Stan's family. She assists Boyd at times with his paperwork. Boyd says, "Even though my work may center around grief, loss and sadness, I can't think of a better job in the world for me than serving the people of the North Penn area and my St. Stan's family. I will always be here to answer THEIR call."

Boyd lives by the words in St. Matthew's Gospel: "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted." We are very fortunate to have a dedicated Catholic family in our community to assist and comfort us in our pre-planning and planning for our end of life decisions.✠



Father Sean Says

Where is the Church? The suspension of the public celebration of Mass and the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday has certainly aroused fear, anxiety and doubt among many of the faithful. I have heard this from parishioners, other priests and even relatives, especially my own mother. What does our current situation of worship as a faith community say about who we are as Church?



The answer is nothing has changed. In the first few centuries after the Resurrection, the Gospel spread with the preaching of the Apostles to the four corners of the earth. The Church has always looked and appeared differently wherever she existed. Culture, language, architecture all had influences on this. But most of all, the ever-present reality of suffering had the most influence. In the earliest days, the idea that Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection destroyed death forever would not be believed if you looked at the Church simply as a building which is filled on Sundays. For those Catholic Christians, the Church was one of martyrdom that persevered and thrived under the threat of death by the State. Countless faithful Christians, clergy and lay faithful, believed and spread the Gospel in an age where even professing the Creed would mark you for death.

The focus of early pastoral letters therefore highlights the reality of who, and therefore where the Church is in times of tribulation. Tribulations, which are a normal reality of the Church's 2000+ year history. As American Catholics in the 21st Century, who have enjoyed the freedom to celebrate our faith with normalcy, we have never experienced the Church in times of tribulation. This reality for us has changed, but for the Church as a body with Christ as the Head, nothing has changed.

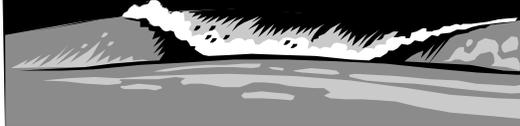
Therefore, we suffer in unity and we sacrifice. We must pray for unity of faith during this time, along with an end to the pandemic and the suffering of those affected by the virus. As a parish community, we are reacting in new ways with social media. Most importantly, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is still being offered, each day. In each Mass we remember the Pope, bishops, and all the faithful who still remain the Body of Christ. Fr. Charles and I receive the Body of Blood of Christ on behalf of you, and with heavy hearts that long for your return.

When things return to a sense of normal worship, we will be here. Having endured the sacrifice of a Eucharistic fast, I pray that our community at St. Stanislaus will be stronger, and holier than ever before. Thank you for your continued support, especially financially by mailing in your envelopes or registering for Parish Giving online. Because of you, the Body of Christ, the place where we worship will still be here. And also because of you, I have an answer to give to people who wonder "Where is the Church?"

In Faith and Hope,

Surfing Around?

In addition to the Masses listed on page 2, for a list of other live-streamed Masses in the Philadelphia area, including Sunday Mass at 11AM with Archbishop Nelson Perez as celebrant, see catholicphilly.com.



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 Father Sean 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



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.

Assumption Sisters Celebrate 100 Years

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(elected Mother General in 2018) and her associates keep eyes on the workings of the order.

This purple color was chosen by Marie Eugenie to represent penance, and, originally, the sisters wore a white veil. The color white was chosen to represent the glory gained by Our Blessed Mother through her Assumption. However, now only Assumption sisters serving in Africa continue to wear the white veil.

Now let us turn to the presence of the order in the United States since the 100th Anniversary of that presence is being celebrated this year. The first sisters of the Assumption came to America in October of 1919 at the invitation of His Eminence Cardinal Dennis Dougherty to fulfill his desire for an academy for girls¹. Cardinal Dougherty had received a donation from the daughter of the so-called “Quinine King” William Weightman² of a “magnificent stone” mansion called Ravenhill sitting on six acres of land in East Falls with an exotic garden of rare plants and flowers. The transplanted sisters turned the property into Ravenhill Academy. Thus began the work of the Assumption in the U.S. The property was subsequently sold and now is a women's dorm (that some students have reported as haunted³) for Thomas Jefferson University.

The Religious of the Assumption are located in a number of places across the United States⁴:

Philadelphia, PA

The Assumption community in West Philadelphia incorporates sisters from the U.S., Latin America, Europe, and Asia. That multi-cultural diversity helps in working with the similar parishioners of St Francis of DeSales in University City as well as local African-American and Filipino parishioners and in teaching English as second language (ESL).

Worcester, MA

Sisters working out of the Assumption Center minister to a diverse community of immigrants where ESL is also taught. After-school tutoring help is also provided for children as well as a program, “Girls With Dreams” for eleven to fourteen-year-olds to become themselves through varied experiences.

Chaparral, NM

Here also ESL is offered to immigrant families as well as recreational programs for children and adults and as well as the sisters being advocates for immigrant rights.

And then of course there are our own Assumption sisters whose houses are located on Avenue, a few blocks from St. Stanislaus Church. The sisters have been active in our parish as part of Scripture Sharing, Landings, RCIA, Music Ministry, Taizé prayer, “Purple friends” (former volunteers and young adults) and the Hospital Ministry just to name a few. As stated on their website “Our multicultural, intergenerational Lansdale community feels called to live the mission of HOSPITALITY. We reach out to all seeking to grow in their relationship with God, by offering friendship and providing time and space for prayer and conversation.” Their house in Lansdale is also happy to provide a place for the meetings of our Province and to host the Provincial finance office.” Maybe you were able to meet Sr Rekha from India last year when a reception was held for her in the Crestview Avenue house?

Originally, there were a number of events planned this year, to celebrate the Order’s 100 years in America, but unfortunately, some events that were planned, like so many events in the time of the coronavirus, have been postponed. However, keep a lookout for the anniversary-year-ending celebration Mass to be held at the Cathedral of Sts Peter and Paul in Philadelphia on October 17, 2020. We are grateful for all of our parish’s Religious of the Assumption, and all the Assumption Sisters across the United States and wish them the best in their next 100 years!✠

¹assumptionsisters.org/pre-history-foundation-assumption-usa

²https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Weightman

³<https://hauntsandhistory.blogspot.com/2010/08/philby-u-phantoms.html>

⁴www.assumptionsisters.org/where-we-are



Norm Berger at the RA Mother House in Paris, with Sr Diana, then Superior General of the order, now working at the convent in Chaparral, NM

NewStan Book Review

by Lorraine Miller

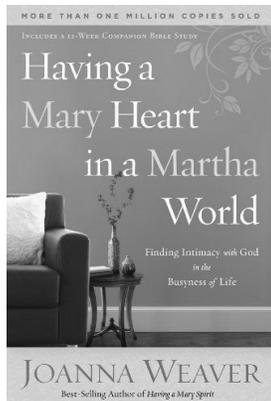
Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World, by Joanna Weaver is a book for women in today's world which is truly accessible for all.

The author says "The book is an invitation for every woman who feels she isn't godly enough... isn't loving enough... isn't doing enough. The life of a woman today isn't really all that different from that of Mary and Martha in the New Testament. Like Mary, you long to sit at the Lord's feet, but daily demands of a busy world just won't let you alone. Like Martha, you love Jesus and really want to serve him-yet you struggle with weariness, resentment, and feelings of inadequacy. Then comes Jesus...and he extends the same invitation he issued long ago to the two sisters of Bethany [inviting] you to choose 'the better part,' a joyful life of 'living room' intimacy with him that flows naturally into 'kitchen service' for him."

This book is a collection of experiences not only of the author, but those of both men and women from the Bible, friends, family, and other authors. Some are funny, some are poignant, but all are enlightening. Having sold a million copies, it is a how-to guide to be Mary in our Martha world. "Weaver's passion is to see women experience the incredible love and grace of God so that we can become all he created them to be." As members of St. Stanislaus parish, many are familiar with the writings of Matthew Kelly. Most of them tell us to "Be the best version of ourselves it is possible to be."

When reading the Bible, how many of us think of the people who lived then as actual individuals with very similar struggles to what we experience today? The author gives readers a view of Mary and Martha as real women. What would it have been like to know Jesus as a friend? The stories of Scripture are familiar to us. We believe the stories. For the people who lived in that time Jesus coming to earth as a living, breathing man would have been earthshaking. Jesus valued his friendship with Mary and Martha. As present-day, Marys and Marthas, we know him as our friend as well.

Being the best version of ourselves is everyone's goal. There are many ways to help us achieve it. This book is one of them.✘



Changed by God's Word

by Dianne Spotts

As I'm writing this, the coronavirus is everyone's uppermost concern. During these days we are frightened and yet as people of faith, we pray – attempting to remain hopeful (while taking all precautions recommended). It is Spring – life springs anew in our gardens and on our lawns while we struggle with worry, trying to keep our fear at bay.

In this piece, I'll take you back to a lovely warm day in early May 1993 when my Mom passed away unexpectedly. It was her favorite time of the year; she enjoyed the colorful azaleas and flowering cherry tree on her front lawn, and placed her favorite chair by the picture window to appreciate the grand display each morning during her prayer time.

She had been healthy and active until just 4 days before her death.

I was shocked and heartbroken – this was surreal. My family and I managed somehow to get through her viewing and funeral. Grief is hard work, extra difficult when one's last parent dies. With too little time to adjust to this devastating loss came the added weight of making decisions about her home. How I missed my mom.

I listed the house with a realtor/friend. My sadness was tinged with a little relief on the afternoon he called to let me know there was a buyer for Mom's house. That hope was dashed a few days later when he called with the news that the buyer withdrew his offer after the home inspection revealed there were needed repairs. We would meet on Sunday, to discuss our next step.

I awoke with dread. As days go, that was minus eight. During my morning prayer time, I read a verse from Psalm 112:

An evil report he shall not fear, his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.

His heart is steadfast.

My heart was far from firm and trusting.

At Mass, I prayed for strength. After collecting some hugs from good friends, I was about to get into my car when I heard my pastor, Msgr. Murray calling me:

"Dianne, I'm glad to see you. Today is your day! Every day since Christmas, I've been praying for each person who sent me a card. Today is your day!"

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Appealing to St. Michael the Archangel

by Meghan Farina

You could say that we each have a spiritual war going on inside of ourselves, a metaphorical angel and devil on our shoulders whispering in our ears, each trying to win. It is a microcosm of the spiritual battle going on all around us, and the reason we say a certain prayer after the conclusion of Mass: the Prayer to St. Michael, the Archangel.

Most of us remember a time when this did not occur, and might wonder why this prayer has recently been included. As it turns out, it's not the first time.

In the October of 1884, Pope Leo XIII finished celebrating mass in his private Vatican chapel. Witnesses observed him suddenly stop at the altar, grow pale, and stand there for about 10 minutes as if in a trance. When he came back to the present, he quickly excused himself to his private office. Shortly later, he emerged having written the Prayer to St. Michael, much to the surprise of those waiting to see if he was well. From that day, he was known to recite the prayer regularly.

We know the story behind what exactly happened at the altar from the pope's private secretary, in whom the pope had confided. He said that as he began to leave the chapel, he suddenly heard two voices, one kind and one harsh, and that they were God and the devil. He heard the devil tell God that he would "destroy His church over time." Pope Leo said that God granted this and that the devil said it would occur throughout the 20th century. Hearing this information compelled him to write the prayer, and when he was finished, the voice instructed him to have it said after every Mass. This came to pass, and was common practice for decades.

Ironically, the 20th century was when the recitation of this prayer) was removed from its place, as Vatican II included ending the practice as one of the changes made in 1964.

Decades passed, and in 1994 Pope John Paul II recommended its renewed use, saying, "Although this prayer is no longer recited at the end of Mass, I ask everyone not to forget it and to recite it to obtain help in the battle against the forces of darkness and against the spirit of this world."

Which brings us to the current day where the prayer has recently made a comeback to its former spot at the conclusion of Mass around the United States. The return is tied directly as a response to the pain the Church has

experienced in recent years related to the clerical abuse crisis. In September of 2018, Pope Francis urged Catholics worldwide to recite it after praying the rosary during the month of October. On September 29th of that year, the feast of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, numerous Bishops around the country called for the restoration of the prayer at the end of Mass, including Archbishop Chaput in Philadelphia.

As it grows in popularity, more and more among the laity request it and some bishops are mandating it. It serves as a reminder that we as humans are often powerless to stop evil from occurring. Beyond this, it brings us together in prayer, specifically to strengthen our church and our faith, as well as direct our prayers to cover the globe in God's protection through St. Michael. ✠

Prayer to St. Michael

St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle.

Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen. ✠

Changed by God's Word

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I was so moved I probably didn't regain my composure enough to say more than a teary 'thank you.' I drove over to the meeting with the realtor enveloped in a new sense of hope and the invigorating knowledge that God hadn't forgotten about my loss, or me. He was moving me into the realm of 'firm trusting' I read about in Psalm 112.

Before the end of that year, I joined new buyers at the settlement table, and made a last visit to the house, with many emotions and a steadfast heart.

Father Raniero Cantalamessa, preacher to the Papal household, in writings about priests, has said that a word of comfort from a priest is a word of comfort coming from the mouth of God.

I thank God for my pastor and his tradition – I was changed by his and God's Word. It was my day! ✠

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Parish Census Data for January – March 2020

<p>Patricia A. Alcott James M. Algeo Jeremias Arroyo Rosaline M. Bartholomew William Boris Conrad C. Cardillo George Fraga Ethel Hawley Gladys Hendricks Anne Higgins Francis J. Hylinski R. Abbey Jefferys Bertha McKinney Knorr Michael Kopecki Hector A. Luciano Elizabeth McDonald Stanley L. Miller Jr. James P. Motley, Jr. Valentin C. Ortal Giovanni Saldutti Olga Stalcup Teresa Sobetsky John Joseph Varallo Henry Virgilio Marilyn Wagner Mildred Waldspurgen Dolores M. Weiger John Joseph Yanchuk</p> 	 <p>Alana Annunziata Daniel Dwyer Douglas and Jessica Evans Vincent and Amy Feralio Shane Gotwols Francis Hamilton Kristin Lott Frank Martin</p> <p>Christopher and Vanessa Martinelli Donald J. Miller James and Amanda Mizdail Rosemary Mook Carlos and Mary Padilla Matthew Schmidt Jonathan and Kylie Steiert</p>	
	<p><i>Baptized</i></p>  <p>Graem Walter Albright Ben Xavier Bonner John Andrew Chavez-Counel Zachary Gerald Ebert Matthew Vincent Giovanniello</p> <p>Rita Rose Grau Camila Susana Guevara-Vital Angel Gutierrez Natasha Mileydi Leon-Tacuri Lorenzo Lara Milan Aileen Alarcon Ortega Carolina Romero Emily Nicole Yurgalevicz</p>	<p><i>WEDDINGS</i></p>  <p>Corina Abell & Nicholas Palagrigo</p>