



"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 2021-22

Looking to the Pandemic Saints

by Anne K. Kaler

In Revelation, the last book of the Christian Bible, the writer refers to the end of our time as an Apocalypse led by the famous images of the Four Horsemen threatening our society – Famine, War, and Death and Plague or widespread of disease. Of these four fates, we have most recently confronted the last one – plague or pandemic. But we are not the first to live through the times of pandemic, and we can perhaps gain some solace and inspiration from those saints that lived through plague times as well.

Among the hundred or so of recognized plague saints are the Fourteen Holy Helpers. Catholics have been praying for twenty centuries to this group of early martyrs, three of whom are women.—St. Margaret of Antioch, St. Catherine of Alexandria, and St. Barbara.

St. Sebastian, a Roman soldier in the fourth century was shot with arrows of his own troop. Rescued days later by a pious woman, he was healed enough to return to his death, still declaring his wish to die a Christian.



Picture from the Rijksmuseum at www.lookandlearn.com

St. Damien of Molokai



Picture from the Wellcome Collection at www.lookandlearn.com

St. Roch

So also was St. Roch from France who spent his life on a pilgrimage to Rome where he helped nurse plague victims in the city until he caught the plague himself. When he retired to the forest to die, he was fed by bread which a dog brought as his daily food until he healed. He is always pictured with his pilgrim staff and the dog at his side.

Did you realize that St. Charles Borromeo is a major plague saint? The 16th century Archbishop of Milan, St. Charles Borromeo faced the same problems as our own leaders do when faced with a plague or epidemic that sweeps through the city killing its inhabitants. Instead of fleeing as many rich people did, St. Charles rounded up medicine and food for Milan's poor suffering from the Black Plague. He not only spent his entire fortune to help the powerless but he went himself to help them.

continued on page 6

Parish Picnic Plans

by Phil Ricciardi

One of the hallmarks of a healthy, thriving Christian community is a spirit of fellowship. And fellowship is something that has been in short supply in these days of the pandemic. So, St. Stanislaus parish is doing something about it – announcing the 2022 Parish Picnic! As the classic Bob Marley song said, “Let’s get together and feel all right.” Please plan to attend and share some good times safely outdoors with your fellow parishioners. Here are some particulars:

Date, Time, and Place

Sunday May 22, starting at Noon, on the lawn in front of the priests’ residence.

Cost

This will be a FREE activity for all parishioners. To help fund it, the parish will accept free will donations toward the costs of the picnic, and there will also be a 50/50 Raffle during the event.



Face-painting was popular with the kids at our last Parish Picnic in 2019!

What's Cooking?

The parish will serve hot dogs, hamburgers, water ice and other desserts, and beverages. Attendees are asked to bring their own side dishes.

continued on page 6

Focus on: Respect Life Committee

by Sandy Sasso

The Catholic Church recognizes our innate existence begins at conception. Leave it up to God to use a man and woman to assist in the creation of a unique human being with inalienable rights! The definition of inalienable says it all “incapable of being transferred or given up.”

Our Respect Life Committee is dedicated to the truth of our existence, the life of the child growing in a woman's womb, and dedicated to lifting up women with spiritual, material, and medical assistance. It is the pro-life people who are responsible for that assistance through many planned events and organizations.

The Committee started in the early '90's, and since that time has organized and participated in events throughout each year. They have attended the 40 Days for Life vigil with prayers at our local Planned Parenthood in Warminster since 2007. They participate in the national March for Life in Washington, DC, on or near the anniversary of the Supreme Court's egregious decision to legalize abortion in January each year. Every March they have a diaper drive for pregnancy care centers. During May we all celebrate Mother's Day, and the Respect Life

Committee commemorates this holiday by giving out carnations to mothers – sometimes augmented bake sale. A bake sale is also regularly held each October during, respect life month.

The Respect Life Committee participates in raising funds through the Legacy of Life Foundation, or directly, to assist many pregnancy care centers such as Morning Star Ministries-Souderton, North Penn Pregnancy Counseling Center (Lansdale), Guiding Star Ministries (Philadelphia), Crossroads Pregnancy Care Center (Quakertown), Mothers' Home-(Darby), Our Lady's House (Jenkintown), and Blessed Margaret of Castello Home (Bristol). Through these organizations and with assistance from Catholic Social Services, women can get counseling and room and board, while they wait for their children's arrival into the world. They are able to shelter from whatever dangerous circumstances they had to endure, like rejection from the father or parents, and pressure from sexual abusers.

The Respect Life Committee also has information on current pro-life laws introduced in Harrisburg and Washington. To be informed on who represents us in

continued on page 6

Parishioner Spotlight

Harry Herman

by Norm Berger

If you go to the 9:00am or 11:00am Mass at St. Stanislaus, you probably recognize a fellow parishioner, Harry Herman, although perhaps you didn't know his name! Where have you seen him? It may be at the 9:00am Mass, at the side of the altar when Harry takes his turn among other cantors in St Stan's Music Ministry leading the congregational singing until the Gospel reading and homily when he returns up to the loft to be part of the St Stan's Choir. Or else you may recognize him as part of the singers and other musicians at the 11:00am Mass in the Contemporary Music Group under Dianne Spotts. So as Ralph Edwards used to say on the TV program: This is Your Life, Harry Herman!

Harry came from Wilmington, DE, but later his family moved to Barrington, NJ and then to Haddon Heights, NJ. When he was in the 5th grade, his family moved yet again, but much further away: to Smithton, Illinois, just south of St Louis, Missouri. There he attended a public school. He later went to a Catholic high school in Belleville, north of Smithton, but still in Illinois. Eyeing colleges, Harry decided to apply to St Louis University (SLU), a Jesuit institution in St Louis, and went on to receive both a Bachelor's and a Master's degrees in chemistry from SLU.

Harry met his first wife, Tammy, at SLU. They were married after college and settled in St Louis where Harry began his first job at then-Sigma Chemical Co. Two girls were born to Harry and Tammy. Harry then wishing to move back to the East Coast where his parents had previously relocated, applied for and obtained a job offer from the old-line chemical company Rohm and Haas. Harry and his family moved to East Norriton while searching for a home and where their third and youngest daughter was born at Suburban General Hospital. They



eventually moved to a home in Lansdale. Unfortunately, Harry and Tammy later decided to go their separate ways and Harry moved to Perkasie while his girls were schooled at St Stan's Parish School.

Music formed a part early in Harry's life. It started in 5th grade where he took up drums and did a *hang-up* job with them. In 8th grade he began playing the clarinet liking its sound and then in high school he added bass clarinet and later baritone saxophone to his repertoire so be able to enter a school jazz band. This experience led to Harry and some buddies into forming a jazz band after high school which grew to twenty members who hired themselves out to play in different venues and was a lot of fun according to Harry. Harry did some singing at SLU as well.

After Harry was on his own, he was sitting in the pews one Sunday Mass at St Stan's and after Mass went up to the loft and inquired about singing with the choir. Then music director Bill Wilson encouraged him to join the choir and think about becoming a cantor. Harry did become a cantor – although as he told me he really is not a stand-before people guy and not

a "show person" as he put it. He did make the acquaintance of Judy Sherman who teaches voice and piano out of her home near St Stan's (as well as being an organist and singer at our church). He began voice lessons with Judy shortly after joining the choir and learned a lot.

Another benefit of joining these musical activities was that Harry met Roseann a fellow choir member and oncology nurse. They married and became a blended family with shared children and grandchildren until Roseann became seriously ill and Harry became her caregiver. Roseann passed in August of 2020. I'm happy that he now has his youngest daughter and her baby son living with him while he helps her start a new business.

Keep singing, Harry!✿

Father Sean Says

Since his installment as Archbishop of Philadelphia, Archbishop Nelson Perez has been consistently preaching a message of hope. Whether it's meeting with his priests, speaking to students in the schools around the diocese, or launching initiatives online and in the media, he speaks of hope for our Church in Philadelphia and around the world.

It's a remarkable message considering just a month after his installation Mass, the COVID-19 Pandemic cast a shadow over the world; closing businesses, churches, schools and for many, any glimpse of hope. As our shepherd in Philadelphia, the message he proclaims is not a reaction to a negative situation, but the proclamation of the reality of our mission, to be a light to the world. Reading this *NewStan* issue, I can't feel anything but hope because of the great people of our Parish.

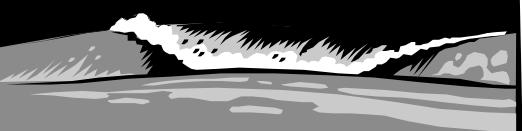
I look forward to celebrating as a community at a parish picnic in May. It is a day to enjoy each other's company and shared gifts, and it is the inspiration of parishioners who serve the Church on our Welcoming Committee. It will be the culmination of hard work, planning and parishioner support, and most importantly the enthusiasm of those who will attend. Our Parishioner Spotlight of Harry Herman, shows us how God works through grace and inspiration. A gentle encouragement in prayer, an invitation from another parishioner, leads to years of dedicated service and witness in liturgy.

And, the *NewStan* itself is the gift of parishioner initiative. Thank you especially to Paul Cutajar, who has shared his gifts and vision as editor of the *NewStan* for 20 years! If you know someone who could use some hope, show them this issue and share the joy that is happening at St. Stan's. Better yet, invite them to join you at Mass and our many communal events coming soon!✿



Surfing Around?

Getting a little stir-crazy from the winter, the pandemic or both? Check out the Parish website for activities and ways to get involved in the parish but also outside the parish at <https://www.ststanislaus.com/beyond-the-parish/>



NEWSTAN

MISSION STATEMENT

In response to the St. John Paul II's call to evangelization, St. Stanislaus Parish started publishing *NewStan* to serve members of the parish community and the community at large, to inform parishioners and members of the North Penn region about new developments in the parish, and to serve as a channel for communications among St. Stanislaus parishioners and benefactors.



EDITOR

Paul Cutajar

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Norman Berger, Anne K. Kaler, Tom Pepe,
Philip Ricciardi, Sandy Sasso, Dianne Spotts

PARISH STAFF LIAISONS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Trish Cunningham,
Rev. Sean English



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.

Would You Like to Vacation in Sea Isle?

Saint Stanislaus Parish would like to turn your winter blues into summer waves...

The prize for this year's parish raffle is a 10-day vacation in June 2022, in beautiful Sea Isle City, NJ, summer vacation home (your choice of dates)! This getaway features 4 nicely appointed bedrooms (2 master suites) with ceiling fans, kitchen and dining area, and a great spacious living area leading to a wonderful front deck. It's a light, bright, fun home for your family's comfort that sleeps 8, has 3.5 baths, and a large backyard. Other features include:

- ☒ Nonsmoking
- ☒ Off Street Parking/Garage use
- ☒ Outside Shower
- ☒ 4 TVs with cable, Prime, and Netflix installed
- ☒ Full Internet Service
- ☒ Washer/Dryer, Microwave, Coffee Maker, Garbage Disposal
- ☒ Furnished Decks
- ☒ Charcoal Grill and Electric Grill
- ☒ AC
- ☒ Beach tags



The house is located on Landis Avenue within walking distance of Acme, CVS, dining and shopping and best of all – 1.5 blocks from a great beach. (Note: no pets –sorry!)

Raffle chances are \$100 each. Drawing will be on March 17th, 2022. Father Sean will contact the winner via the information provided below. 100% of the raffle ticket cost is being donated to our Parish. Please return the form that can be found on the website to the Parish Center or drop it in the collection basket at Mass, along with a check made out to St. Stanislaus Parish, with "Beach House" in the memo line, and mark the envelope "Legacy Committee". Take a chance and maybe you will have a summer to remember – for sure you will have something to look forward too for the rest of this winter! ☒

SPREAD THE GOOD NEWS

Thanks to Social Media, The Good News at Mater Dei Can Be Shared With Alum

With all the great things happening at Mater Dei School, the variety of today's social media platforms gives the school's many alumni a chance to stay connected to its alma mater. If you or someone you know went to one of our four legacy schools ~ St. Rose, SASH, St. Maria Goretti, and St. Stan's ~ you can find memories and more on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Click on the links below, join, and share the Good News always on the grow at Mater Dei!

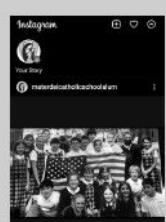
Join, Share, Comment



FACEBOOK

INSTAGRAM

Follow
@materdeicatholicschoolalum



LINKEDIN

Parish Picnic Plans

continued from page 2

What's Happening?

Are we doing more than just eating? You bet we are! There will be an inflatable obstacle course, face painting, and balloon art for the kids, cornhole and ladder golf games for all ages, and our resident Jeopardy Champion Phil Ricciardi is planning to run a trivia contest for the adults. The St. Stanislaus Youth Group and the Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts will provide some additional activities.

There will also be music! The Spanish music group, from the 1:00pm Sunday Mass, will provide musical entertainment.

How Can I Help?

We will need some coolers and tubs we can fill with ice to keep our tasty drinks cool. If you have any that are portable, we will also need some barbecue grills to help prepare the hamburgers and hot dogs.

If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, it would be most appreciated. Please contact John and Bonnie Henry at jbhenny16@gmail.com.

I Sure Hope the Weather Is Nice.

What Do We Do If It Rains?

We do NOT have a rain date planned for this event, since we have to reserve the inflatables and many volunteers will not be available on multiple weekends. But we do have a contingency plan – if the weather is rainy, we are prepared to move the event into the Mater Dei Catholic School cafeteria. We will have a fun time either way!

When Will We Hear More?

Look for a “Save The Date” announcement in the weekly bulletin in February. If you have submitted your email address to our Constant Contact system, you will also receive an email as we get closer to the date. During the weekend of April 23 & 24, the Welcoming Committee will have a table set up in the parking lot after all Masses. Please come visit the table and sign-up to attend the picnic.

We hope you're as excited about this event as we are, and we look forward to seeing you there! ☩

Respect Life Committee

continued from page 2

Harrisburg and Washington is a very important part in advancing a respect for life in our country.

There are many who refuse to see the reality of legalized abortions. The late Congressman Henry Hyde knew exactly how legalized abortion would affect us and our country. His words were profound when he stated, “When the time comes, as it surely will, when we face that awesome moment, the Final Judgment, I've often thought, as Bishop Fulton Sheen wrote, that it is a terrible moment of loneliness. You have no advocates. You are there standing alone before God, and the terror will grip your soul like nothing you can imagine. But I really think that those in the pro-life movement will not be alone. I think there will be a chorus of voices that have never been heard in this world, but are heard beautifully and clearly in the next world. They will plead for everyone who has been in this movement...And God will look at *you* and not say, ‘Did you succeed?’ , rather He will say, ‘Did you try?’ ”

If you would like to try as well, come join the Respect Life Committee and help make a difference. ☩

Pandemic Saints

continued from page 1

Among more modern plague saints is St. Damien of Molokai, the 18th century priest from Belgium who undertook both the spiritual and physical care of the lepers in Hawaii. In a sense, Damien was a wanderer also since he chose to go to Hawaii to replace his brother who had died. St. Damien stayed to minister to the lepers for 16 years before he died from leprosy at age 49.

St. Marianne Cope, a Franciscan nun, answered the next call of the lepers by establishing homes for women and girls on Molokai. She spent her last years encouraging cleanliness and medical help on the island of lepers.

Yes, these worthy saints have helped generations before us with their prayers. Pray to them for those who have died in this *our* plague.

Let us not forget the tremendous number of saints-in-the-making – our own medical professionals in our hospitals and nursing homes. Those warriors, along with myriads of EMT's, ambulance drivers, firefighters, police, so many volunteers, the National Guard, have each risked their lives, sacrificed their time and efforts for those stricken by this plague. Let us pray for them! ☩

Discovering Bible Study

by Tom Pepe

Looking back, it is difficult to say how I got started. There was no conscious decision. Bible study was not on my bucket list. Like many, my understanding of the Bible was sketchy at best and what I thought I knew did not make a lot of sense to me. So why am I writing an appeal for everyone to enjoy Bible study?

It started on a whim. Over the years, I have always read a lot. Series with 20 or 30 books always attracted me, but I was always disappointed with character drift, meandering storylines, or plots that fall apart. With age came reading glasses, and reading became more of a chore than carrying around a book. Then I discovered Audible and those annoyances went away. After I finished those (disappointing) series, I moved on to greater challenges. *Moby Dick* is so nice when someone reads it to you. People talk of Adam Smith's, *A Wealth of Nations* like it is a mystery. It's not, but it is a brilliant observation of human nature with respect to financial transactions and outcomes resulting from imbalances. In 2017, Russia was on my mind, and I gravitated to Dostoyevsky. I was captivated by *Crime and Punishment*, and found it impossible to avoid reading everything the man wrote. Dostoyevsky's understanding of the human condition is beyond comparison. Dark, but it cuts very close to the bone, because there is a reality to it. And that is when I realized what I was looking for, a true exploration of the human condition. No fantasy. No happy endings. People convince themselves of the silliest things, make poor decisions, and suffer consequences. You know, life.

In my never-ending quest for entertainment, one day I downloaded the Bible on Audible. I forgot to mention, I jog about 20 miles a week and listen to audiobooks while I trot along. My first pass through the Bible, I recognized certain touchpoints: "Valley of the shadow of death," "When I was a child, I did childish things," and those lines Peter, Paul, & Mary lifted from *Ecclesiastes*. You get the gist. Safe to say, 99.9999% did not stick. The human condition was dripping off of every page, but I wasn't getting it. Undeterred, I gave it a second listen, then a third. 10 minutes per mile, times 20 miles per week...

After my tenth time through the Bible, my familiarity with it was greatly increased. I had several favorite books and would always enjoy them when they came around. But I just could not help but feel that I was missing something. Something major. And the answer was right in front of me



all along. Context. Basically, what do these stories mean? So, in my spare time I started exploring "expositions" on various books of the Bible. These are books that summarize various books of the Bible, and there are thousands of them. Interpretations of meaning. Cross-references to other books of the Bible. Historical context. Entire books dedicated to verifiable military conquests and ruler lineage from the beginning of time to Jesus. Just as with life and politics, it is difficult to find a middle of the road interpretation. There are plenty of fringe theories, but those are fairly easy to identify and I flagged those authors to avoid in the future.

What I found has been absolutely amazing. No doubt, the Bible is the most complex and intricate narrative ever. There's nothing written by man that comes close.

If you have ever read a good heart-wrenching book that you feel has really impacted your life, prepare yourself. Remember the strong emotions and sense of better understanding you felt? Wherever that landed on your emotional dial, imagine turning that dial to 100%, but only once you make the effort. Sure, you need to understand who the characters are, where they live, who their enemies were and why, etc., etc.. In fact, there is no person in the world that can pick up the Bible and understand 1% of it. Without context, the stories are meaningless. But once you put in the effort...

Pick any book of the Bible. Each is a facet of the human condition. Naked emotion. Choices and consequences. These are not cutesy stories to amuse, uplift, and entertain us. These stories are a warning of what each and every human is capable of, both good and bad.

In upcoming issues of *NewStan*, I hope to contribute interesting, original Bible study essays. My goal is to be thought-provoking, timely, and concise. Ultimately I would like you to reach for the Bible, even if your intention is to prove me wrong. My current view is that the Bible demands that we think for ourselves. If you are still not convinced, read God's words in the 1st chapter of Isaiah, "Come, Let us reason together." I hope you'll join me.¤

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 *Looking to the Pandemic Saints*
- 2 *Parish Picnic Plans*
- 2 *Focus on: Respect Life Committee*
- 3 *Parishioner Spotlight: Harry Herman*
- 4 *Father Sean Says*
- 6 *Would You Like to Vacation in Sea Isle?*
- 7 *Discovering Bible Study*

Parish Census Data for October 2021 – December 2021



Skylar Marie Ciamaichela
Callin Colon
James Anthony Diaz Benitez
Jacob Howard Gist
Lucas James Harris
Honor Marie Kinneman
Bryce Samuel Kohl
Hannah Lopez
Ruayan Roque Machorro
Anthony Yariel Marcos Medrano
Madison Emilia Marcos Medrano
Ricardo Joel Ramos Medrano
Eleanor Rose Milroy
Collins Caroline Ostapenko
Olivia Barbara Potemski
Georgia James Rathore
Esme Jillian Russell
Theodore John Sarris
Rohan Isaiah Stangler
Niall Ryan Thome



Matthew & Kaitlin Bean
Anita Campbell-Lee
Russ & Kristen Crouthamel
Angela McClellan
John & Linda McNulty Sr.
Jose & Reina Mejia
Enrique & Nelia Morales - Romero
David & Danielle Parson
Mark & Anne Parzych
Ron & Mary Riley
Brian & Jamie Smith



Timothy McCann & Erin Decker
Alec McConnell & Kaitlin Kiernan
Keith Bunch & Lauren Connely



Geraldine Clunk
Donna DeFilippo
Elizabeth Gilbert
Josephine Giuliano
Holly Hill
Gladys Homa
Cletus Jacobs
Genevieve Kalinowski
Jeffrey Kratz II
James Maguire
Bruno Martire
Eugene McDonald
Marion Morrissey
Anne Marie Mullen
Patricia Rush
Dr. Thomas Shields
Elizabeth Stein
Margaret Varzaly
Irene Williams
Gerard Woods
William Yourl