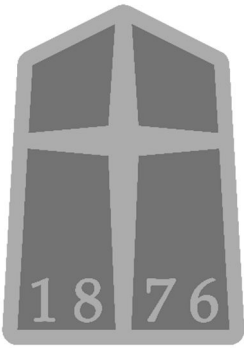


---

"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



# NEWSTAN



The Newsletter of St. Stanislaus Parish

El Boletín de la Parroquia de San Estanislao

Winter 2022

Invierno 2022

---

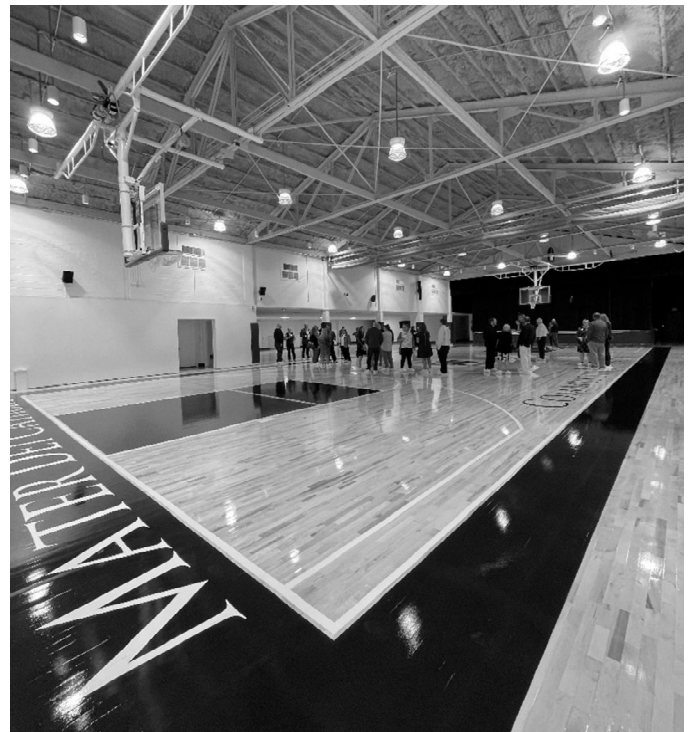
## A Dream Becomes a Reality

by Tom Pepe

For generations the school on the corner of Lansdale Avenue and Main Street – first Saint Stanislaus School and now Mater Dei Catholic School – has been a core of the Lansdale and St. Stanislaus Community. The most central part of that building itself, in many ways the most public face of the building, has always been the gymnasium. The gym has been host to innumerable events attended by the Parish and North Penn Community: Christmas Craft Fairs, Bingo, Cub Scout Pinewood Derby's, the Festival, School Musicals, Trivia Nights, dances for both students and parents; not to mention CYO Basketball and other sporting events and hundreds upon hundreds of gym classes!

So many people in our Parish have at least some memory of an event in the school gym. Often the thought right after that memory has been: "Boy, the gym really needs to be renovated." Indeed all of those years and activities had indeed taken a toll and the gym while still a central location for activities has for many years been showing its age.

No longer.



For many years, times and costs were too challenging for a gym renovation project to be anything but a dream. But in the 10+ years that Mater Dei Catholic School has progressed, due to the efforts of the Board of Limited Jurisdiction, school administrators, the three Pastors of the Regional Parishes, and many in our community that have supported both church and school, through volunteer efforts both large and small, much has changed. Enrollment is at an all-time high. Pre-School demand is such that classes have expanded to the campus of St. Maria Goretti. As seen in our last *NewStan* issue, the new Summer Camp program was a success. Due to the generosity of many donors, Mater Dei's Annual Fund has grown in that time, allowing for the gym renovation to become an actual target of the annual

*continued on page 6*



---

# Oktoberfest Success!

by Norm Berger

Coming out of the 9:00am Sunday Mass on September 18, anyone could see it was a beautiful day. It only took a further glance around the parking lot to see the big tent erected with rows of tables lined up family-style inside and almost 250 chairs to know that something big would be starting soon.

That “something” would be an attempt to create was the first-ever St Stanislaus Parish Oktoberfest happening for all St Stan’s families – even those that were not “card-carrying” German/German-American! This was the brainchild of our Pastor Father Sean English. Having put together a working group to implement his plan.... the result was...

Well, let me describe what I saw when I arrived back there around two PM in my lederhosen with suspenders, German shirt and green Tyrolean-type hat.

First, there was a lively band playing between the tent and the Third Street sidewalk which attendees seemed to be enjoying. Someone had erected German and Bavarian state flags and hung them inside the tent providing more color. Then, there were booths set up outside the tent backing up to the parish cemetery. One booth served as a beer tent serving a choice of beers – including dark and light selections from Staatliches Hofbräuhaus München – and soft drinks. Next door was a booth where one could purchase authentic St Stan’s glass beer steins to hold one’s Oktoberfest beverage of choice. There was also an



*The Oktoberfest German troubadour, our own Norm Berger*

authentic German food booth providing Wiener Schnitzel (tenderized breaded pork chop) along with gravy if desired, as well as potatoes and vegetables for purchase. Dessert was available in an adjacent booth featuring funnel cakes with whipped cream or ice cream. Additionally, the new St Stan’s quarter-zip up fleece sweatshirts were available for purchase.

What I thought was a great idea was a booth on the Crestview Ave side of the tent staffed by a photographer and his assistant ready to take an attendee or attendee group photo at *no expense* to the subject. Shortly after the photo was taken, a printing machine printed a copy for the person or copies for people in group photos. Each photo as printed was merged with an autumnal-themed picture frame with “OKTOBERFEST 2022” printed at the top left of the frame and “St Stanislaus Catholic Church” printed at the bottom right of the frame. The merged photo provided a great souvenir of the day to each recipient. I’m not sure whose idea this was – but it was a great one!

In addition to the band, a German-American parishioner entertained the attendees with his singing of traditional German drinking songs as sung at the original Oktoberfest celebrated in Munich every year. The crooner also added in a few traditional German folk songs. Attendees could sing along with some provided printed lyrics.

By the way, I couldn't help noticing that Father Sean

*continued on page 5*



---

# Parishioner Spotlight

## *Father Jonathan Rice*

by **Dianne Spotts**

St. Stan's Parochial Vicar, Father Jonathan Rice, arrived here on September 1, 2022. He was transferred from St. Mary Magdalen in Media –one of the shortest journeys he's ever taken.

Jonathan was born in Corning, New York, on Sept 8, 1986, the first of seven children born to Robert and Mary Elizabeth Rice. After a year, his family moved to Boulder Colorado where he was raised (except for one year in Philadelphia while his parents were serving on a mission).

Jonathan knew at five years of age that he wanted to be a priest ("before the age of reason" he likes to say). He felt a real connection to Jesus and as a young child played Mass (see photo below). He was inspired by his pastor, a Benedictine Abbot as well as a missionary from Spain, Father Angel Molina.

After high school he was invited to volunteer in a retreat house in Israel: *Domus Galilee* where he performed very basic domestic chores, including cleaning toilets. Some nicer tasks included serving dinner at night. There he discovered how intently God loved and forgave him just exactly as He was.

His ministry there lasted a year, before he entered a Redemptoris Mater Seminary. He fulfilled the basic requirements, one of them being his willingness to go anywhere in the world as he was sent.

His travels took him to Lugano Switzerland for seven years, the last two spent in Italy in Porto San Giorgio. During the holidays, he and the other seminarians visited the rest of Italy and many parts of Europe.

In 2013 Archbishop Chaput asked that a Redemptoris Mater Seminary be established in Philly. After one year he spent a time of mission in a couple of other states, as part of his formation. He was ordained on May 18, 2019.

He is a Diocesan missionary priest - willing to go wherever the Archbishop decides.

Father Jonathan puts great value in being part of a community and thanks everyone for the warm welcome he has received here. Also, to continue to grow in his Catholic faith, he participates with what he calls "his community" every Wednesday and Saturday evening at St. Martin of Tours Parish on the boulevard. These celebrations are part of the itinerary of Catholic formation through the Neocatechumenal Way.

His vision is that people discover their mission within the Church. What do you want of me, Lord? How else can I serve You? Are we willing to give up some of our comforts to help the Church be more attractive to the next generation?

Among his favorite privileges as a Priest are saying Mass and hearing confessions. He has had the awareness of God's great love and forgiveness for him, and longs to convey that grace to everyone.

We are happy, Father Jonathan, that your travels have included St. Stanislaus. In the future, may the roads rise up to meet you, may the Holy Spirit wind be at your back, and wherever the Lord sends you, please pray for your friends in Lansdale. We'll be praying for you!✠



# Father Sean Says



I hope you enjoy the articles in this NEWSTAN issue, because they speak of the renewal and hope that the liturgical season of Advent preaches. We long for the presence of Christ in our lives, and our Parish should be the place that makes that a reality. Through our liturgical celebrations, our communal gatherings, and the people who make St. Stanislaus home, we see that presence of Christ alive in the world. Thank you all for your commitment to St. Stanislaus, and your willingness to share your time and presence with us.

Christmas is so special in the life of a Parish, because it is usually the time when most of us come together as a Church. Sometimes, we fall out of the habit of coming to Mass, but there is something about Christmas which draws the greater number of us back to our spiritual home. God is the Prodigal Father who uses anything to welcome us home, to share in the light that the gift of His Son Jesus brings to the world. As the presence of so many parishioners together at Christmas Mass brings life to the Parish, so too does the presence of Christ in our lives bring joy and hope to the world. I look forward to seeing you during this season, and in the new year to come.✠

## Surfing Around?

Are you a new convert to Catholicism, know someone who is interested in converting, or just interested in reading about conversion stories, check out the Coming Home Network website at <https://chnetwork.org/>



## 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, Lori O'Donnell

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](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.



# Sea Isle City Vacation House RAFFLE

Saint Stanislaus Parish...  
turning the winter blues  
into summer waves



WIN A 10 DAY VACATION IN SEA ISLE CITY, NJ

JUNE OR SEPTEMBER 2023  
YOUR CHOICE OF DATES

SLEEPS 8 | 4 BEDROOM | 3.5 BATHS  
(2 Master Suites)

MANY AMENITIES INCLUDING:

Heated Pool

Beach Tags

Off Street Parking/Garage

3 Furnished Decks

1.5 blocks from a great beach  
On Landis Avenue



Raffle Tickets – \$100 Each

Drawing will be on January 1, 2023. 100% of the raffle ticket cost is being donated to our Parish.

[www.StStanislaus.com](http://www.StStanislaus.com)



Interested in purchasing a Raffle ticket or a Fleece?  
Visit [www.stanislaus.com](http://www.stanislaus.com) for order forms!



STAY WARM THIS SEASON WITH YOUR

## ST. STANISLAUS 1/4 ZIP FLEECE JACKET

THESE BEAUTIFUL AND FUNCTIONAL JACKETS WILL KEEP YOU COZY AND  
DECLARE YOUR LOVE OF OUR PARISH. THEY COME IN VINTAGE NAVY BLUE  
AND INCLUDE THE ST. STANISLAUS 1876 LOGO ON THE LEFT CHEST.



PRICE \$55.00 EACH. ORDER TODAY!  
WILL MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS!

## Upcoming GIFT Events

Growing In Faith Together continues to be an important program of adult formation at St. Stanislaus.

You are invited to come attend our next presentation:

✘ Tuesday, March 14: : *Legacy of Life Presentation*  
(Speaker TBD)

Check the Sunday bulletins and Parish website for updated information. GIFT programs start at 7:00PM in the Parish Center lobby meeting room. ✘

## Oktoberfest Success

*continued from page 2*

accompanied by newly-arrived Father Jonathan kept themselves busy greeting the many attendees. In addition, I saw Father Sean frequently looking around to see how everything was going around him. The event was a rousing success. Many parishioners stopped in and even more came and stayed from start to finish – quite a few had to be shooed off as the party winded down (or drafted to help break down tables!)

Bravo, to Father Sean and to all who were on the committee and participated in arranging this “shindig!” Hopefully this is a new traditional that St. Stanislaus parishioners can look forward to each and every fall. Prost! ✘



---

# Gym Renovation

*continued from page 1*

maintenance plan. Add to that a Capital campaign called “All In for the Gym” and dreams became a reality.

A small committee was formed to drive the effort, led by Mater Dei Finance Committee Chair Micky Dominick serving as Program Manager and Mater Dei Facilities Committee Chair Marty Reddington serving as Project Manager. They were joined by Mrs. Suzanne Verzilli, the School Business Manager, and Dennis Johnson and Bob Devico, both long-time school parents who have led many events and groups in the gym and who had excellent knowledge of how to best refurbish the school gymnasium and make limited funds go as far as possible.

The results are amazing.

Gym efficiency and capability has improved for the students. The basketball hoops have been replaced with a pair that can be not only retracted but lowered to different heights depending on the age of the players. The drop-ceiling has been completely eliminated, meaning CYO Volleyball can actually be played on campus. The room itself has been expanded due to reconfiguration of the entryways and removal of the old radiators. All new LED lighting has been added within the room and on the stage. And partitions and a cover for the entire floor has been included to allow the room to be reconfigured as needed.

But the real center of attention is the new gym floor itself. The floor has been completely resurfaced, a brand-new Mater Dei Catholic logo has been added to the center, and the elements of the Mater Dei Catholic mission have been proudly placed around the perimeter:

FAITH EXCELLENCE SERVICE COMMUNITY

The grand opening of the gym was held on October 30, 2022. The pride and excitement of both staff and student are easy to see when visiting the school. Anticipation for the grand opening of the gym was too much for many of the students who tried to peek in every time the door was left open a crack. And how could you blame them, there is much to be excited about.

Such a monumental task as this requires a very large team effort. In addition to the core team named above, a number of other individuals were also critical to making this dream and hope a reality:

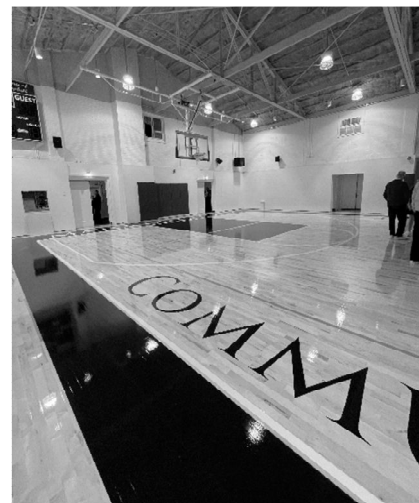
- ✘ Miss Diane McCaughan, President
- ✘ Miss Elizabeth Waltrich, Principal (and floor designer!)



- ✘ Pomme Lee - Lighting Design - Parent
- ✘ Swartley Engineering (Electrical)
- ✘ Hardcourts Commercial Flooring (Floor)

These are just a few of the names involved. The challenges overcome and sacrifices made are too numerous to mention here. If you recognize one (or several) of the names above, go ahead and start a conversation with them about the school gym. Each can tell you a funny and/or incredible tale about how the project came together – and all within 9 months of development!

Even if you do not know any of the above, look around. There are probably half a dozen people within a couple paces of you that have spent many an hour in that gym. At the Mater Dei Annual Fund Lead Gift event held a few days before the gym opening, one speaker mentioned that they had actually slept overnight in the gym at a scouting event! Many attendees nostalgically recalled CYO and other events spent in the old gym. You might have such memories yourself. Be nostalgic with a purpose, reminisce about the past, and ponder the hopes and dreams and new memories that will be created in the new gym for of generations to come!✘



---

# Aren't All Religions Basically the Same?

by Phil Ricciardi

In our previous Apologetics article last Spring, we discussed why what you believe is important. Belief must be grounded in truth if it is to be of any value. People may see the value in believing in God. However, they may feel confused or non-committal when trying to determine how to enter into a relationship with Him. They may ask questions like:

- ✘ Don't all religions teach what amounts to the same thing?
- ✘ Aren't the various religions simply different ways to improve your life?
- ✘ Isn't it true that we all end up in the same place no matter what religion we belong to?

Religions are the maps of life. A good map or GPS represents the area accurately, shows you where to turn, and steers you to your desired destination with a minimum of trouble. It makes true claims about the landscape and the roads.

Humans have questions like where did we come from? How do we fix the problems of the world? Where are we going when this life is over? Different belief systems answer these questions in quite different ways:

- ✘ Buddhists do not worship a God per se because they believe worship interferes with enlightenment. They follow an Eight-Fold Path to try to break a cycle of reincarnation, and their goal is the end of suffering through the extinguishment of self, like a candle flame being blown out.
- ✘ Hindus worship multiple "avatars" of God. As with Buddhists, they believe the soul reincarnates over numerous lives, but their goal is not obliteration of self but the joining of the soul to the universal soul called the Brahman, like a raindrop falling into the ocean.
- ✘ Muslims must perform the Five Pillars of Islam – declare faith, pray five times daily, give to charity, ritually fast during Ramadan, and perform a complex pilgrimage to Mecca at least once during their lifetime. These are mandatory for Muslims to achieve heaven, a place where whatever you desire is provided, and carnal pleasures are fulfilled.
- ✘ Orthodox Jews follow 613 separate laws, or mitzvot, as detailed in the Torah. To what end? Judaism does not provide any clear teaching about heaven. For example, Rabbi Nicholas de Lange said "the accepted sources of

knowledge, whether experience, or reason, or revelation, offer no clear guidance about what is to come. The only certainty is that each man must die – beyond that we can only guess."

There are many other faiths we could list, but did you notice something about them all? They are what I call "do" religions. Your goal requires you to perform a series of acts and develop a particular mindset on your own, through ritual, meditation, study, and other practices. Your salvation is akin to a test, a test it is easy to fail.

Christianity is the "done" religion. Jesus was unlike any other religious leader. He did not claim to show the truth. He claimed He was the truth. His sacrifice opened the door to heaven, and we can go through that door simply by believing in him. As C.S. Lewis said, "Christ offers something for nothing: He even offers everything for nothing. In a sense, the whole Christian life consists in accepting that very remarkable offer."

Our baptismal promises reflect the simplicity of our faith. Do you reject Satan and his works and empty promises? Do you believe in the Father, the creator of all? Do you believe in Jesus, in the story of how He came to earth, saved us, and that He rules with the Father? Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, your Church, your forgiveness and resurrection and eternal life as a gift from God? If you answered "I do" to these questions, you're on God's team! Through His love and grace, He offers eternity for free.


You can see that which religion you follow will have a huge effect on how you live your life and the ultimate outcome of that life. The belief systems are profoundly different, so you need to pick the one that is true. But how can anyone say they know the truth? Look for our next article in this series, where we will try to answer that very question.


*Apologetics is a genre of religious writing which involves the formation of reasonable, logical arguments for the truth of faith. As modern Catholics, we probably are confronted with tough questions from non-believers even more frequently than in the past. If you have any questions you'd like addressed, please drop them off in [NewStan](#) mailbox in the Parish Center. Note, we have decided to roughly alternate between our Bible Study feature and our Apologetics feature. We hope that together you find them a way to enhance your Catholic knowledge.- Ed.✘*

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE**


- 1 *A Dream Becomes a Reality*
- 2 *Oktoberfest Success*
- 3 *Parishioner Spotlight: Fr. Jonathan Rice*
- 4 *Father Sean Says*
- 5 *Sea Isle Vacation House Raffle*
- 5 *Upcoming GIFT Events*
- 7 *Aren't All Religions Basically the Same?*

**Parish Census Data for August 2022 – October 2022**

	
Jaylen Elias	Jack Dominic
Acevevo	Lombard
Max Eduardo	Sabas Isaac Lopez
Alarcon Salazar	Duarte
Antonella Victoria	Benjamin Dennis
Arrazabal	Maco
Jacob Mateo Castro	Amy Maravilla
Loja	Antonio Miguel
Riley Rose Conlen	Martinelli
Grant Alexander	Chloe Rose
Criscuolo	McGinty
Vivian Grace Derr	Eleanor Marie Nuss
Ava Marie Derr	Pieta Rose Patteson
Stella Jade	Louis Martin
DiGiacomo	Pauzano
Hayden Han	Savannah Rose
Domingo	Pauzano
Eli Frenel	Emmanuel Reyna
Sofia Eileen	Callie Roberts
Giovanniello	Iverson Lorenzo
Ila Ann Irick	Rossi
Agnes Faustina	Toretto Anthony
Kaczmarek	Strouse
Jack Edmund	John Kenneth
Lawler	Sullivan
	Mariana Viveros


<p style="text-align: center;">Welcome Our New Members</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Diane Black</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Giuseppe &amp; Maria D'Assaro</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Robert &amp; Margaret Gumula</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Joseph &amp; Larissa Lamb</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Daniel &amp; Catherine Mintz</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Francesco &amp; Cinzia Musso</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Kevin &amp; Mary Kate O'Donnell</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Matthew &amp; Katerina Sally</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Ryan &amp; Bethany Squillante</p>

																												
<table border="0"> <tr><td>Mae Jean Baker</td><td>Robert Reynolds</td></tr> <tr><td>Carmela DeCicco</td><td>Margaret Riling</td></tr> <tr><td>Margaret Fagan</td><td>Georgine Schmidt</td></tr> <tr><td>Mary Fitzgerald</td><td>Peggy Jane</td></tr> <tr><td>Patrick Gagliano</td><td>Schnable</td></tr> <tr><td>Christine Greer</td><td>Charles Sulzbach</td></tr> <tr><td>Anne Hobb</td><td>Jr.</td></tr> <tr><td>George Lordi Jr.</td><td>Alice Tarlecki</td></tr> <tr><td>Leonard Mazeikas</td><td>Margaret</td></tr> <tr><td>Karen Meservey-</td><td>Tonnesen</td></tr> <tr><td>Montross</td><td>F.L. "Larry"</td></tr> <tr><td>George Nickels Jr.</td><td>Wendler III</td></tr> <tr><td>Henry O'Hara Jr.</td><td>Karen White</td></tr> <tr><td>Charles Petrusky</td><td>Cynthia Wurth</td></tr> </table>	Mae Jean Baker	Robert Reynolds	Carmela DeCicco	Margaret Riling	Margaret Fagan	Georgine Schmidt	Mary Fitzgerald	Peggy Jane	Patrick Gagliano	Schnable	Christine Greer	Charles Sulzbach	Anne Hobb	Jr.	George Lordi Jr.	Alice Tarlecki	Leonard Mazeikas	Margaret	Karen Meservey-	Tonnesen	Montross	F.L. "Larry"	George Nickels Jr.	Wendler III	Henry O'Hara Jr.	Karen White	Charles Petrusky	Cynthia Wurth
Mae Jean Baker	Robert Reynolds																											
Carmela DeCicco	Margaret Riling																											
Margaret Fagan	Georgine Schmidt																											
Mary Fitzgerald	Peggy Jane																											
Patrick Gagliano	Schnable																											
Christine Greer	Charles Sulzbach																											
Anne Hobb	Jr.																											
George Lordi Jr.	Alice Tarlecki																											
Leonard Mazeikas	Margaret																											
Karen Meservey-	Tonnesen																											
Montross	F.L. "Larry"																											
George Nickels Jr.	Wendler III																											
Henry O'Hara Jr.	Karen White																											
Charles Petrusky	Cynthia Wurth																											


<p style="text-align: center;">Luz Mariuxi Loja Castro &amp; Luis Antonio Castro Pulla</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cynthia Montano &amp;</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Alfredo Ignacio Arila</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Grace Marie Gaus &amp; Andrew Philip Oneglia</p>