



COURIER

Volume 19, Issue 1

May 2016

First Communion 2016



by Lucille Guzzone

Months and weeks before May 1, at the 9:00 a.m. Mass, many young parish children had attended the Sunday liturgy with their families and wondered why they were not invited to partake in the reception of that special small Host which the priest was offering to their parents and older siblings. So, after two dedicated years of preparation, and on that special day, forty-three of these young parishioners finally received the Eucharist for the first time. This was the culmination of classroom study, homework assignments, projects, rehearsal and a retreat.

So, at last, Monsignor Vincent Haut and Father Xaviour presented the Host to these sweet little people who were adorned in white garments, depicting an image of angelic innocence!



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Divine Mercy Sunday

by Deacon George Barletta

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday and we heard in all the readings about God's mercy. It is about how we need to trust in faith. We all have the need and desire for forgiveness of sin. We heard throughout the responsorial psalm, "*His mercy endures forever.*" God revealed His love and mercy for us by sending His only begotten Son. The only begotten Son, who suffered, died and rose from the dead for us.

Today's Gospel according to John tells us about Jesus instituting the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Jesus said to His disciples "*Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.*" He then said, "*Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven and whose sins you retain are retained.*" We have every opportunity to be forgiven and it is as close as the confessional. Take that first step and take advantage of what God is willing to do for us and forgive us. We should accept the invitation of God to celebrate and practice mercy. Going to frequent confession and learning from our mistakes helps us with that opportunity.

Also in the Gospel we hear of the importance of faith - The importance to believe without having to see. We are invited to remove any doubts by surrendering our lives to Jesus, Our Risen Lord, and Our Lord of Mercy. It is our chance to open our hearts and to receive the mercy of God in the form of the Holy Spirit. We can attain this by going to confession and receiving that absolution and forgiveness of our sins. Taking time for additional prayer and going to spend time with Jesus in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. As mercy has been shown to us, we need to show mercy to others. "*Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.*" As we are always given mercy from God, we need to show mercy to others always and everywhere.

We show God's mercy to others by our actions, our words, our deeds, our prayers and our intentions. Practicing the corporal and spiritual works of mercy in our daily lives and interaction with others radiates God's mercy.



The Divine Mercy message reminds us just how simple it can be. It's as simple as ABC.

"A"-Ask for God's mercy. Turning to God in prayer, approaching Him constantly, repenting of our sins and asking Him to pour out His mercy upon us and the whole world.

"B"- Be merciful. God wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow to others through us. God wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others as He does for us.

"C"- Completely trust in Jesus. God wants us to know that the graces of His mercy are dependent upon our trust. The more we trust in Jesus, the more we will receive. Jesus entrusted the apostles with His mission to preach the Good News of love, mercy, forgiveness and salvation. The apostles were given the authority to forgive sins in His



name. We are reminded that the clearest way of expressing our belief in the presence of the Risen Jesus among us is through our own forgiveness of others. We cannot form and have a lasting Christian community without such forgiveness.

We also heard in the Gospel about "Doubting Thomas." Since he did not see Jesus, he refused to believe. We should take note of this. How many "Doubting Thomases" do we know and have we been a "doubting Thomas"? It can be difficult for some to believe when we do not strengthen ourselves with the fellowship of

believers. Let our doubts help us to grow in faith. Let us have the courage to share our faith. "*Blessed are those who have not seen, but believed.*"

Thomas makes the great profession of faith "*My Lord and My God.*" This is the foundation of our faith as it is based on the Divinity of Jesus as proven by His Resurrection. Thomas made his own self surrender to Jesus. It is that type of self surrender to God that leads us to serve those we encounter with love. We must come to know Jesus personally and intimately. We must strengthen our faith by the power of the Holy Spirit through our personal and community prayer. We should share wholeheartedly in Jesus by frequent confession and the Holy Eucharist. Let us think of all the people who believed in Jesus without ever having seen Him.

How many have felt the presence of Christ in their lives, seen prayers answered and have been helped through hard times because of their faith in God's promises. Happy are those who believe without seeing. Happy are those that realize life is stronger than death, good is stronger than evil and love is stronger than hate. There is happiness because of our belief in Jesus who gives life meaning, richness, goodness and love. There is seeing, feeling and experiencing all that we believe and receive from God. Belief comes first and sight follows. And that is when you believe, you see and you become and you live.

On Easter Sunday, Mother Mary Angelica left this good earth to enter into eternal life. She is a fine example of someone who placed her trust in Jesus. Mother Angelica defied all odds in order to spread the Good News and to become one of the great evangelizers. Even through the hard times in the early founding days of EWTN as well as her own personal sufferings. Mother Angelica never doubted and always placed her trust in Jesus.

I have been going to the Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament for many years and constantly tried to meet and talk with Mother. I would go after morning prayer, after Mother had breakfast and was told I could not see her as she was not doing well. She had suffered the effects of a stroke and I just did not get to see her. But I did not give up. I am one stubborn Italian.

Continue on page 4

The Divine Mercy Chaplet is prayed each and every Friday in the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament at 3:00 p.m. Come join us, it only takes a few minutes and you have the opportunity to sit with Jesus, our Savior.

Christ the King Courier

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The mission of *Christ the King Courier* is to provide our Christ The King Family with information and news regarding our faith and parish ministries. The goal is to share information, happenings, and stories that abound within the ministries of our parish in the hope that people can use this information to bring them closer to God and our parish church family. Wisdom and enlightenment are two of God's many gifts, and through *Christ the King Courier* parishioners can share in the joy, love, and fellowship of Christ the King Parish. Our desire is to serve our God, share his message of love and hope with all, and to encourage others to spread the message of the Gospel of Christ.

As the official publication of our parish family, *Christ the King Courier* sees the reading from St. Paul's Letter to the Colossians as exemplifying the content and character of this publication.

"As the chosen of God, then, the holy people whom He loves, you are to be clothed in heartfelt compassion, in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other if one of you has a complaint against another. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, put on love, the perfect bond. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together in one body." Colossians 3:12-15.

The *Christ the King Courier* is a quarterly newspaper published by Christ the King Catholic Church. Publisher reserves the right to refuse articles, poetry, advertisements, etc. contrary to paper's policy and standards. Publisher reserves the right to edit all materials submitted for publication.

Letters



Thank You – for Donna Run Donations

I'll start by saying that we are completely blown away by all the support and kindness that we have experienced throughout this incredible journey. Ultimately, with your help, we **raised \$4,000** that goes directly to the research needed in finding a cure to defeat cancer. These funds also are used to aid the people who receive the life-changing news that their world will suddenly be turned upside down. Listening to a young lady tell her story at a dinner the night before the race is something that would impact us all. She is just one example of many that have been blessed by the support of people like you. It's heartbreaking to think, that without the generosity of others, some families would experience loss at the greatest level. Donna and I feel extremely fortunate to have played some kind of a small part in taking the next step towards the **hope** that so many need. **Thank You!**



So for the race – We finished at just under 3:55 (8th in class). A special thanks to all the people who made their way to somewhere along the course. Certainly couldn't have dialed up anything better than a few close friends that waited for hours to catch us at a time that was probably the darkest few miles of the race, somewhere around 21. From that point I don't believe there was ever another doubt. Crossing the finish line to family and friends will be something that will be with us forever.

All the best to you and your families!
Tim and Donna Johnson



Mark Your Calendars for the Murder Mystery Dinner!!!

MAY 21! Our 3rd annual Murder Mystery is coming!
We will have a lunch and a dinner showing.
We start selling tickets on May 7/8.
**Please, join Miss Scarlet, Professor Plum,
 Colonel Mustard and more for a horrifically
 enjoyable night!**

Editor's Corner



Christ the King parish has had the most beautiful Easter season. I do believe that the altar flowers this year were the most beautiful in many years. The lily distribution organized by the Safety Patrol was unique and created new involvement of the parishioners, which is always a good thing. Not only had we celebrated the Resurrection itself and Divine Mercy Sunday, but we had an excellent, long list of new communicants and a similar group of confirmandi. All of these are featured in this issue of *Courier*, and thanks to the sharing participants we are able to include lots of pictures.

The students at Christ the King School have been extra busy and have filled us in on their school play, the science and math programs, athletics, and more. In addition we have news from the Boy Scouts and American Heritage Girls. Perhaps, we should be calling this the Youth Issue, as we can advertise the fact that the CTK High School Ministry will be hosting their third annual Murder Mystery on May 21, and then will be participating in Steubenville FLORIDA youth conference taking place in Orlando in July.

Our center pages are entitled *Postcards from Mexico*. These "postcards" are short notes from the pilgrims who traveled to Mexico City to the shrines to Our Lady of Guadalupe and the many churches connected with her and Juan Diego, the Aztec peasant to whom she appeared for the first time in 1531. Father Thanh was our spiritual leader and we celebrated Mass together each day in a different church or chapel. I believe that the most impressive aspect of the trip for me was observing the public devotion of the general populace to Our Lady.

The article about ICARE is meant to let you know that various aspects of the Year of Mercy are being dealt with in our civil society. Father Boddie has made it clear that he wants us to participate in efforts to improve our community by means of the ICARE organization, whose initials stand for Interfaith Coalition for Action, Reconciliation and Empowerment. The main thrust of their action this year has been reestablishment of a day resource center for the homeless; jobs, primarily for the northwest area of the city; ex-offender reentry programs; restorative justice and civil citations, thereby reducing the number of teens being suspended from school and arrested for non-violent misbehavior.

I have come to the conclusion that the month of May needs at least two more weeks added, so that we can enjoy more of the activities that seem to be scheduled during this month. It does become such a scramble. In any case, I hope that I will see lots of our *Courier* readers and contributors at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner on May 7. This will be a fun and tasty way to thank the volunteers who make Christ the King the welcoming fun parish that it is.

Happy Father's Day



Courier Guidelines Notice

Readers, you may notice in this and other issues of the *Courier* certain inconsistencies in rules for capitalization regarding God, the Bible, gospel quotes. The reason for this is that, when we use direct quotes from other sources, we cannot make any changes. Therefore, if His, He, Him referring to Jesus, God, or the Holy Spirit are not capitalized in the original, we do not "correct" them.

Divine Mercy Sunday

Continued from page 2

When Bishop Baker was installed as Bishop of Birmingham, he invited Monsignor Danaher, myself and two other guys to the installation. We flew up there and again tried to see Mother. We were told that there was a 10-minute window to see Mother before the Papal Nuncio. We were told to go to the parlor and Mother would be brought in. We had maybe one minute each. Mother was wheeled in and was behind the grill of the cloister and we sat next to the grill where it was open on the bottom. We each had individual private time with Mother.

When it was my time, I reached in and held Mother's hand and asked her to pray for me for my vocation to the diaconate. She squeezed my hand and gave me a little smile. I also asked her to pray for me as I was the only Italian in the group. Her face lit up, her eyes were beaming, and she squeezed my hand tighter, gave me a bigger smile and nodded her head. I remember that moment as if it were yesterday.

I continue to make regular trips to the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament and I encourage you to do the same. I also encourage you to read and learn about Mother Angelica and all that she did as it is truly a remarkable story.

In closing I would like to say, Mother Angelica:

Because of you, we have EWTN,

Because of you, many have come home to the Church,

Because of you, many have seen the fruits of evangelization and catechesis,

Because of you, I am who I am.

And I can hear Mother say, "Well, Deacon, it is not because of me, it is because of Jesus." Jesus we trust in you. Amen.



L to R: Monsignor Mortimer Danaher, Jim Kersch, Deacon George Barletta, and Tony Zeaiter visit with Mother Angelica in her parlor several years ago.

Christ the King Catholic Church 2016 First Communicants

Grace Amato
Jonas Artega
Anthony Austin
Sebastian Barrett
Ansley Bishop
Jamey Byron
Karmela Celos
Jah'zara Davis
Jacob Dodson
Stephen Dornier
Lily Drozdowski
Savannah Edmond
Lorenzo Espinoza
Miguel Fernandez
Kevin Flanagan
Aidan Granert
Ethan Jackson
Stella Jones
Ella Love
Victoria Lu
Hayden Navarro
Kai Nguyen
Daniel Phillips
Alexa Prudhomme
Nathan Reckers
Aaron Resch
Violette Roberts
Luke Rodil
Adrian Rodriguez
Andres Rodriguez
Luke Rothwell
Franchesca Sanchez
Brayden Sandoval
Noah Shah
Michael Shannon
Cosmo Sian
Isabella Sifuentes
Matthew Smith
Abigail Soto
Hailey Swain
Maria Valencia
Tristian Vila
Haylee Wessel
Kennedy Yates

Religious Education Students Honor the Year of Mercy

by Lucille Guzzone

Many children naturally want to help others when the need for assistance arises.

So, in keeping with the Year of Mercy, the children in the religious education classes were asked for suggestions as to how they could become more merciful toward others through kindness, sharing, and sacrificing.

A few wrote about how they would help a younger sibling with homework, aid an elderly person with preparing a meal, doing housework for their busy moms, or making homemade gifts and donating toys to less fortunate children.

One idea which was very special was the designing of original greeting cards with happy messages for people in nursing homes and then sending them off in the mail.

So, we hope that they will keep their promises about the helping and aiding, but the cards were definitely mailed. Now the students are anxiously awaiting a reply indicating that their heartfelt messages did indeed reach the intended people.



OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL

by Frank Becht

Are you aware this Perpetual Novena is prayed every Monday before the 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Mass by the assigned priest at Christ the King? Do you know the story of the Miraculous Medal?

Catherine Laboure was born of a farmer father, Pierre, and wife Louise, in Fain-les, Burgundy, France, on May 2, 1806. At an early age, she felt a call to the religious life. In January 1830, she answered her call to the postulancy at Chatillon and shortly thereafter entered the novitiate of the Daughters of Charity.



Catherine Laboure was a very religious person and at 24 years of age had her first apparition of the Blessed Virgin in July 1830 in the Chapel Rue du Bac 140, Paris, France. Again on November 27, 1830, she had a second apparition at Chapel

Rue da Bac, Paris. Here she received instructions from the Blessed Virgin Mary to create a medal with the lettering: "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."

During the next year, this apparition came to her five times more with the same message to create a medal and those "who wear it will receive great graces, especially if they wear it around the neck." The medal was first named "Holy Mary's Immaculate Conception." Seven years later it was changed to the "Miraculous Medal."

Members of the Association can enjoy a plenary indulgence on the following days: July 8, the anniversary of the Association; August 22, the Feast of the Queenship of Mary; September 27, the feast of St. Vincent de Paul; November 27, feast of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal; and November 27, the feast of the Miraculous Medal. To receive the indulgence, you must go to confession, to Communion and pray for the intentions of the Pope. These indulgences are to apply to the souls in purgatory.

Come 10-15 minutes before Mass and join with others, to pray for your intentions and theirs.

Vietnamese Community Christ the King

by Nhuy Nguyen



On April 10, 2016 the Holy Spirit was again present and fell upon his people; last Sunday, the youth of the Vietnamese Christ the King Parish were confirmed by Bishop Estevez. In Catholicism, two of the most rewarding sacraments are Communion and Confirmation. In Communion, the presence of the Lord in the Eucharist becomes a part of our human soul and bodies. To strengthen and confirm the faith that Communion had nurtured, Confirmation calls on the Holy Spirit to further ignite our spirit.

Our goal was to lead these Confirmandi to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and after a year of preparation, the 27 young men and women were ready to take the next step. The Confirmandi had been prepared mentally and spiritually to deepen their relationship with Jesus through the Holy Spirit and the church was filled with anticipation for this special day in which the Confirmandi would be fully initiated into the Church as full-fledged members. As a prelude, Bishop Estevez spoke of the Gospel, telling the story of how Jesus told the disciples to cast their nets. He asked the

Confirmandi if they knew where Jesus told the disciples to cast their nets: one Confirmandi replied correctly, much to Bishop Estevez's approval. That day's Gospel highlighted that it is imperative that we have the utmost trust and confidence in the Lord during times of struggle, in which we may have been casting our "nets" on the wrong side of the boat.

For many, this day was an exciting start of a new phase; it was a time of hearts yearning for more of the Holy Spirit. One student, Andrew Nguyen, said that he felt "different" after the Confirmation. Another student, Duy Vu, felt empowered to go out and spread the Gospel. After the Confirmation, the community celebrated in light of the Confirmandi's diligence in pursuing the Lord. We celebrated not just the beginning of their journey with the Lord but a celebration that the Holy Spirit fell upon them on such a Holy Day! It is truly a joyous occasion that Jesus came into the lives of these fine young adults in such a magnificent manner. We hoped that as they matured in their journey with the Lord, the Holy Spirit will lead them to do great things!

The Easter Vigil; RCIA class of 2016



by Darlene O'Neal

After months of preparation, the RCIA class of 2016 reached its goal — to become members of the Catholic Church. The final step in the RCIA process is the Easter Vigil, which is the most important liturgy of the year. St. Augustine said that on this night "the Church keeps watch for the Lord, and the Lord keeps watch over the Church."

On this day, the elect look back and reflect on the journey each has taken, and with their sponsors, prepare to go forward with the rest of the faithful as they enter into the Catholic Church.

The Easter Vigil began at sundown in the Paschal Garden beneath the crucifix that so vividly projects the agony and suffering that Christ endured for our sins. The service began with the Fire Rite or The Service of Light. A fire pit was prepared where the fire and the Paschal Candle were blessed and the candle lit. The Paschal Candle is a symbol of the light of the world, Jesus Christ. It is used to bless the baptismal water when the base is immersed into the water. It is also used to light the candles of the newly baptized. This candle will be used throughout the year at baptisms and funerals.

The Mass began with Deacon George Barletta chanting the Exultet, or the Easter Proclamation. This ancient hymn has been in use in the Roman Catholic Easter liturgy from between the fifth and seventh centuries. Catechumens and Candidates processed in with their sponsors as the choir led the congregation in singing "Christ Be Our Light."

The liturgy of the Word began with a reading from Genesis, reflecting on the story of creation and ending with a reading from Romans: "We are dead to sin and living for God in Christ." These readings revealed

God's plan for salvation throughout history. After the gospel, the Catechumens were called for Baptism. The Baptismal water was blessed and Mary Doss and Hector Rodriguez were asked to renounce sin and make a profession of faith. After their baptism, they received a blessed candle to keep along with a white garment they wore for the baptism. All were invited to renew their baptismal promises, and the priests walked throughout the church, blessing and sprinkling holy water on the faithful.

The Candidates, Chris and Michelle Baumgartner, Beverly Chapman, Grant Engelhardt, Zack Engelhardt, Robert Jones, Emily Tuliao and Christian Tuliao were called forward for full reception into the Church and for Confirmation. Receiving the Eucharist for the first time was, for most of the class, very emotional.

A special thank you to the sponsors, Tammy and Gary Foxworth, Norma Landers, Mary Rouse, Theo Naessens, Stephanie Engelhardt, Denise Smith, Gerry Schmidt, Jocelyne Whaley, and Pat Birch.

Thank you to RCIA director, Joe Birch, and team members; Mary Rouse, Mary Jo Hiers, Norma Landers, "Tito" Espejo, Theo Naessens, and Gerry Schmidt. A special thank you to Father Boddie and Deacon George Barletta for their spiritual guidance.

Following the Vigil, a small reception was held in the Shirley David hall. Some of the team members had met earlier and decorated the hall. Thank you!

Welcome to Christ the King parish to all the new Catholics. May God continue to bless you.

A Reflection on Reconciliation and Mercy

by Martin Ibeh

The parable of the prodigal son in Luke 15 gives us a clear and precise description of the way to reconciliation. Drawn by false freedom and fleeting worldly pleasure, the son took away his father's treasures and wasted them in the life of dissipation. After some time, he found himself in extreme wretchedness. He had lost all: food, friends and favor. To survive the sting of hunger and thirst, he resorted to eating with the swine. It came to a point when he opened his heart and responded to the bidding of grace. He had a change of heart and returned to his father. Pleading with his father, the prodigal son accepted that he was unworthy to be called his son. It was amazing to him that his merciful father joyfully welcomed him in a very dignified manner. The father clothed him with the princely garb and threw a grand party in celebration of his son's return (cf. Luke 15:11-32; CCC, 1439).

The Church teaches us about the three steps in the sacrament of Reconciliation. Firstly, there must be sincere contrition. In contrition, the penitent acknowledges his or her fault and feels sorry for failing to love God (Love) and the neighbor. The repentant makes a firm resolution to sin no more. Secondly, the penitent confesses his or her sins before a priest, whom Christ, through the Church, entrusts with the authority to exercise the "ministry of reconciliation" (2Cor 5:18; cf. Matt 16:19; John 20:23). It is true contrition that moves the penitent to this second stage, the confession of his or her sins, naming them plainly. In doing so, the penitent is opening himself or herself to reconciling with God, who is Love, as St. John calls Him. Thirdly, the penitent makes satisfaction for the sins committed, that is, he or she carries out certain penance in reparation of the injury done by the sin he or she committed. These three steps: contrition, confession and satisfaction, must be complete before one's reconciliation will be fruitful. We see that the prodigal son felt contrition for what he had done. He confessed before his father, and was willing to do penance for his transgression.



The father's mercy is at the heart of the parable of the prodigal son. In the parable, one could see the tender heart of the father, a heart full of boundless mercy and love. Even though the son deliberately chose the life of wantonness, the father was yearning for his son's return. He waited longingly and mercifully for the home-coming of his son. When the son ultimately came back, the father did not recount the heartbreak and damage the son had caused him. Rather, with arms outstretched in love and mercy, the father ran to embrace his son who was returning to him. This is how the Lord yearns for our conversion of heart and return to Him. As Pope Francis says, the Lord does not tire in forgiving us; it is we who tire in asking for pardon. The Catechism teaches that the finest robe put on the repentant son, his new ring and noble celebration symbolize the joyful "new life" of one who has a change of heart and returns to the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church (cf. CCC, 1439).

Reflecting on this parable, some thoughts came to my mind. We see that the son flew from his home, from his family, from his father. He truly flew from himself, for he stripped himself of his true identity, his princely dignity and settled for a debased state of life. His father did not force him to stay with him because the son had the free will to choose either to follow the path to life or the path to doom. Can a man be fittingly called a prince when he denies his princedom? The prodigal son first rejected his privilege as the heir. Soon he wasted away his inheritance and was tormented by hunger and thirst. He lost his happiness and peace and found himself sunk into the husk of darkness and bitterness. He began to dine with pigs, a sign of his misery and filth - his sinfulness. Like the prodigal son, when one chooses to turn away from God and indulges in sinful lifestyle, one dines with the swine. One's soul then lacks true life-giving food and, thus, suffers the spiritual starvation of a lost soul. Nothing can satisfy the inner hunger and thirst of our soul but

God. In vain does the soul search for happiness and freedom in created things, for, as St. Augustine says, our souls cannot find any rest except in God. Note that it was when the prodigal son allowed himself to be found by grace that he realized that he was not where he was made to be. He recognized that he was clinging to the passing pleasure, instead of embracing the enduring treasure which his father offered. In the same way, people of faith understand that enduring life is not found in temporal inheritance but in the timeless heritage in the Father. In vain does one seek security in the shadow of the world. Salvation is found only in our Savior, Jesus Christ. In Him is our peace and happiness.

Notice that when he realized that he was lost, the son made the intentional decision to return to himself, to go back to his root (his father). He acknowledged his sin with sincere contrition. He took the step to return home to confess his sins before his father, so as to amend his life. For one to be free from the slavery of sin, one must have a sincere sorrow for one's sins, confess them and do penance. We see all this play out in the life of the prodigal son. He repented and returned to his father to make his confession of his sins, with determination to amend his life.

When we examine ourselves and find that through our thoughts, words, and actions, we have ruptured our relationship with the Lord, we should be quick to go back to the Father through the sacrament of Reconciliation. No matter how far we have drifted from the Lord, we can make the conscious effort to return to him. Assuredly, our merciful father is willing to receive, forgive and heal our brokenness, insofar as we confess our sins humbly, sincerely, and entirely.

Arlington Lions Club

by Peter Lamb

ARLINGTON EYE
CLINIC INC.

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The Arlington Lions Club was chartered in 1949 and has been serving the people of Jacksonville for sixty-seven years. The club supports many charities, both local and those of Lions Clubs International. A few of the local ones are Arlington Community Services, Police Athletic League, Southeast Guide Dogs, and many others.

The Arlington Eye Clinic was opened in 2015. It is located at 1420 Rogero Rd. (two blocks north of Arlington Rd.). The clinic provides, free of charge, complete eye exams and prescription glasses for needy people who meet financial guidelines. These exams are performed by a licensed volunteer optometrist. At this time there is not a set schedule of hours of operation, due to a shortage of doctors. To schedule an appointment call 744-9844 or 900-1551, leave your name and phone number and you will be contacted. Remember the Lions motto: WE SERVE.

Altar Servers Attend Chrism Mass

by Eleanor Dioso

On March 23, 2016, the Christ the King Altar Server ministry once again participated in the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Augustine. This special Mass is attended by priests, deacons, nuns, seminarians, altar servers and the faithful from the Diocese of St. Augustine. During the Chrism Mass, the following oils are blessed, to be distributed to all churches in the diocese for use during the year: “oil of catechumens, the oil of the infirm and holy chrism” (Saunders 2005). A total of 42 kids, including servers from the Vietnamese community, our ministry was the most represented. After the Mass, we headed to Chick-Fil-A for food and fellowship.

Reference:

Saunders, Fr. William. “The Chrism Mass.” *Catholic Exchange*. Catholic Exchange, 05 Mar. 2005. Web. 28 Apr. 2016.



A Strange Encounter with a Rattlesnake

by Karen Sigl

Several years ago my husband and I were in Alabama praying the Stations of the Cross in an open field. We proceeded along a path into a wooded area to the Thirteenth Station. As we stood there, Eddie gently put his arm in front of me and signaled me to stay quiet and not move.

I looked down and there at the base of the cross was a timber rattler coiled and in striking position. We knew that it was a rattlesnake because we clearly saw his rattles. The strange thing was that this snake poised there ever so quietly, never moving or making a sound. My husband wondered if he was alive or perhaps a fake that someone had put there as a joke to scare folks.

Eddie slowly and carefully backed away to search for a stick, which he found nearby. He prodded the snake and there was movement, so we realized that, yes indeed, he was very much alive! Other than that slight movement of his head this snake did nothing. Even though he remained coiled he made

no movement to strike. It was like he was mesmerized and under some sort of spell. It was not normal behavior for a rattlesnake. However, we realized that we were still in clear and present danger.

We heard the sound of children in the distance making their way toward us and Eddie knew that he must get that snake out of there to protect those children—and ourselves as well. He picked up that snake with the stick but it fell off onto the ground. He picked him up once again and flung him into the bushes as far as he could, and the snake quickly slithered away.

We have shared this story with a number of people and all have said there was something wrong with that snake! We agree—indeed there was! We believe that Jesus and our Blessed Mother had him under their control protecting us.

Genesis, Chapter 3, verse 15

“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers;

He will strike at your head, while you strike at his heel.”



Final Inspection

By: Sgt Joshua Helterbran
Taken from the Internet

The Soldier stood and faced God
Which must always come to pass
He hoped his shoes were shining
Just as brightly as his brass.
“Step forward now, you Soldier,
How shall I deal with you?
Have you always turned the other cheek?
To My Church have you been true?”
The Soldier squared his shoulders and
said, “No, Lord, I guess I ain’t
Because those of us who carry guns
Can’t always be a saint.
I’ve had to work most Sundays
And at times my talk was tough,
And sometimes I’ve been violent,
Because the world is awfully rough.
But, I never took a penny
That wasn’t mine to keep...
Though I worked a lot of overtime
When the bills got just too steep,
And I never passed a cry for help,
Though at times I shook with fear,
And sometimes, God forgive me,
I’ve wept unmanly tears.
I know I don’t deserve a place
Among the people here,
They never wanted me around
Except to calm their fears.
If you’ve a place for me here, Lord,
It needn’t be so grand,
I never expected or had too much,
But if you don’t, I’ll understand.”
There was a silence all around the throne
Where the saints had often trod
As the Soldier waited quietly,
For the judgment of his God,
“Step forward now, you Soldier,
You’ve borne your burdens well,
Walk peacefully on Heaven’s streets,
You’ve done your time in Hell.”

A Really Different Destination

by Carol-Ann Black

Responding to, “How was your trip?” has A Really Different Destination not been easy. I am rarely at a loss for words, but explaining my reactions to my recent three-week visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain hasn’t been simple. Bahrain is certainly not simple.

I made the lo-o-o-ng trip in order to visit my son and daughter-in-law and their youngest, now a junior in high school, daughter. That would be Gene and Lori and Helena. This will be a two-year tour of duty with the US Navy for him and therefore for the family.

The very first activity Lori and I enjoyed was the Bahrain Flower Show. A flower show in a desert country seemed an odd concept. I have enjoyed the Philadelphia Flower Show, the granddaddy of them all, a number of times. It is lush and almost gaudy in some ways. Not true in Bahrain. Yes, there were many blooms to enjoy and lots of greenery, but it seemed to me that the main thrust of the event was environmental awareness, conservation, and education. All of this makes eminent good sense, when you consider that they must use wisely all of their natural resources. We enjoyed the exhibits and the representatives of various companies—seeds and chemicals (many organic products) for improving crop yields and schools that offer agricultural programs. As well, there were several nurseries and potters with wonderful containers for container gardening. We carried home some roses for her courtyard container gardening. Lori tells me that they are now in their second flush of bloom and wonderfully fragrant—the reason for their choice in the first place. They are certainly not hybrid teas or knockouts that we are used to. A Bahraini hybrid seems the right way to go.

Gardening is not for the faint of heart in Bahrain. The summer temperatures go well into the hundreds of degrees. Geraniums must be brought indoors or they will perish. I knew geraniums in Greece where the temperatures went into the low hundreds, but they grew like trees. Everything in its own time and place, I guess. I wonder if the roses will have to come indoors.

Aside from the airport on arrival, the garden show was my first introduction to the ladies in their abayas. I was fascinated by the variety of these garments. Most were black, but not all. Some of the women covered their hair; some their faces. But lots of the abayas were quite beautiful—beaded, embroidered, gracefully cut. Their shoes often showed off an interest in western styling. My favorite young woman had wildly flowered leggings on under the abaya and when she moved quickly they peaked out to the world. Makeup was often very artful.

Our first tourist adventure was to visit some of the houses where the pearl merchants of old lived and ran their trade. Pearls were one of the first economic engines of Bahrain, now not particularly important. Oil is king, of course. These old houses have been carefully restored and most of them showed off their libraries and some of the local textile arts.



Next come the forts, which were often built for defense against various neighboring countries or tribes or European invaders. But many were built for the leaders of the time as residences. The largest one that we visited dated back to early Christian times.

The museum that was part of the “park” was wonderful. I’m not always enthusiastic about

displays of bits and pieces and shards of pottery, but this was so beautifully done it was a pleasure and of course there were many other artifacts as well. Much of the archeological work has been done by European teams in the last fifty to seventy-five years.

Many of these forts were originally constructed along the sea (The same was true of the homes of the pearl traders.), but as time passed and the country needed to expand, the land mass was increased by filling in along the coast line, which made them seem oddly located. What sort of defensive arrangement was this? Once you realize that landfill is the only way to increase territory, it begins to make sense. Along the highway that we drove daily to shop or to go to the high school, there was a new “development/subdivision” being built—for 53,000 new inhabitants. I cannot imagine the traffic insanity when these are all occupied by commuting residents. Driving in Bahrain is much like the gardening—

not for the faint of heart. I did not even give it an attempt, but perhaps I will when I go again next spring.

Most of the marketing for the family is done on the local economy. The excellent food stores are located in large malls. You park in the parking garage and when you go inside, you can find all manner of shops and restaurants. (In the heat of the summer this is your out-of-the



house destination. One doesn’t stroll the beach at 125 degrees.) To do your grocery shopping you generally go to the second floor of the mall by way of a moving ramp. Kind of like an escalator, but without stairs. You push the grocery cart onto this “escalator” and once all four wheels are on, they lock. The cart cannot roll back on you, and when you leave you don’t careen down the ramp behind all your groceries. Quite a remarkable system. The variety of fresh foods is amazing. And it is all imported from every country imaginable. Roast beef and lamb come from everywhere—Scotland, New Zealand, Australia. Chicken is local or from more nearby countries. The same for vegetables. And dried fruits of every kind are available from middle-eastern countries.

Every two weeks or so, Lori cooks for local workers who come from many countries nearby and far away. They labor for not-much money, which they send home to families in India, Pakistan, the Philippines, Vietnam, etc. She cooks rice and or beans with vegetables, which can be easily eaten straight from the tubs she serves it in or warmed wherever they wish to eat it. She adds bottled water or juice, fruit, something sweet. She creates twenty to twenty-five bundles and then delivers them to a fridge outside of a shop in their neighborhood. By the next morning all will have been taken. There is no security—it is just there and available to those who do need. We couldn’t do such a project in this country because of our food regulations. Just couldn’t happen. This is a charitable project that is “advertised” to foreign families via a blog on the Internet and apparently it is steadily well stocked and appreciated.

One of the fun things we did during my visit was to attend a “rug flop.” You invite or are invited into someone’s home, where a rug merchant has set up with a huge pile of oriental rugs. He brings the excellent evening snacks—kebab-like things wrapped in flat bread similar to pita. If the host wishes, wine and beer are made available and the party is underway. The merchant presents each rug by “flopping” it on the floor and then telling you of its pedigree—where and how it was made and its expected selling price. If you like a particular rug, you indicate that you would like to have a closer view and it is brought to you. At the end of the evening, you buy a favorite rug or not and a good time was had by all.



A Really Different Destination



People have asked me how the schooling works out for Helena. She attends a school run by DOD for the children of service members stationed overseas. Helena's particular school also has a fair number of local students whose parents choose to pay tuition for their children to obtain a western-style education in preparation for largely American universities. There are even boarding facilities for the non-resident students. I reckon that this arrangement provides a good diplomatic interface for these young people. Helena plays basketball and soccer for the school teams and soccer for a local women's league. There is a considerable desire for Bahraini young women to be competitive in the world of international women's sport. Expats willing to help fill in local teams are made welcome.

I happen to be a newspaper hound—does that surprise you—and the Times Union is not delivered in Bahrain on a regular basis. You can find the Wall Street Journal or the New York Times or other foreign papers in some locations at considerable cost. So my paper of choice became the Gulf Daily which was published in Dubai and covered the news of the nearby countries. I completely enjoyed the coverage of the day-to-day activities of citizens of Dubai, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia. All of these countries have the same concerns that we do for our nation, our cities, our citizens—national security, education for our children, health care for all our people. In the west we read almost exclusively about unrest and violence. I was startled to realize that Dubai had to cope with some really serious flooding during my visit. The rains just wouldn't stop and homes were damaged and destroyed just like everywhere else in the world. In the desert??? Who would have thought of it? Certainly, not I.

The editorials were all directed to the expat foreigners who read the paper. Our primaries were underway and it was refreshing to see the different perspectives offered by international writers. Not straight from CNN or Fox News for sure. My most favorite piece of news told of the Global Teacher Prize awarded by the Varkey Foundation of the UK to a Palestinian primary school teacher Hanan al-Hroub. She has spent her career teaching non-violence to children who are growing up in a very damaged and violent society. No small wonder that it was Pope Francis who announced this award.

One last thing. I did not have to don an abaya out in public. That seems only to be a requirement in Saudi Arabia, which is vastly more conservative in regard to non-Saudis as well as their own citizens.



We, the children of the '30s and early '40s: "The Last Ones" A Short Memoir

Taken from the Internet submitted by Annie Sabatino
(Author: Unknown)

Born in the 1930's and early 40's, we exist as a very special age cohort. We are the "last ones." We are the last, climbing out of the depression, who can remember the winds of war and the war itself with fathers and uncles going off. We are the last to remember ration books for everything from sugar to shoes to stoves. We saved tin foil and poured fat into tin cans. We saw cars up on blocks because tires weren't available. My dad was an air raid warden.

We are the last to hear Roosevelt's radio assurances and to see gold stars in the front windows of our grieving neighbors. We can also remember the parades on August 15, 1945; VJ Day.

We saw the 'boys' home from the war build their Cape Cod style houses, pouring the cellar, tar papering it over and living there until they could afford the time and money to build it out.

We are the last who spent childhood without television; instead imagining what we heard on the radio. As we all like to brag, with no TV, we spent our childhood "playing outside until the street lights came on" or, if you lived in the country, we played outside long after dark with nothing to worry about as there was no crime. We did play outside and we did play on our own, either with siblings or friends from the neighborhood. There was no little league, no skating rinks, no arcades, no movie theatres (especially if you lived away from town because not many had a car to transport you); maybe there would be one in the city where you lived.

The lack of television in our early years meant, for most of us, that we had little real understanding of what the world was like. Our Saturday afternoons, if at the movies, gave us newsreels of the war and the holocaust sandwiched in between westerns and cartoons. Newspapers and magazines were written for adults. We are the last who had to find out for ourselves.

As we grew up, the country was exploding with growth. The GI. Bill gave returning veterans the means to get an education and spurred colleges to grow. VA loans fanned a housing boom. Pent up demand coupled with new Installment payment plans put factories to work. New highways would bring jobs and mobility. The veterans joined civic clubs and became active in politics. In the late '40s and early '50s the country seemed to lie in the embrace of brisk but quiet order as it gave birth to its new middle class. Our parents understandably became absorbed with their own new lives. They were free from the confines of the depression and the war. They threw themselves into exploring opportunities they had never imagined.

We weren't neglected but we weren't today's all-consuming family focus. They were glad we played by ourselves 'until the street lights came on.' They were busy discovering the post war world.

Most of us had no life plan, but with the unexpected virtue of ignorance and an economic rising tide we simply stepped into the world and went to find out. We entered a world of overflowing plenty and opportunity; a world where we were welcomed. Based on our naive belief that there was more where this came from, we shaped life as we went.

We enjoyed a luxury; we felt secure in our future. Of course, just as today, not all Americans shared in this experience. Depression poverty was deep rooted. Polio was still a crippler. The Korean War was a dark presage in the early '50s and by mid-decade school children were ducking under desks. China became Red China. Eisenhower sent the first 'advisors' to Vietnam. Castro set up camp in Cuba and Khrushchev came to power.

We are the last to experience an interlude when there were no existential threats to our homeland. We came of age in the late '40s and early '50s. The war was over and the cold war, terrorism, climate change, technological upheaval and perpetual economic insecurity had yet to haunt life with insistent unease.

Only we can remember both a time of apocalyptic war and a time when our world was secure and full of bright promise and plenty. We experienced both.

We grew up at the best possible time, a time when the world was getting better not worse. Proud to be one of the 'last ones'!

An Amazing Man

by Yolanda Cerqueira

This last March at the Eucharistic Congress one of the speakers was a man familiar to the people of this parish. This man was Father Richard Ho-Lung and he weaved an inspirational story of how God worked in his life to bring about the Missionaries of the Poor.

Father Ho-Lung was born in the late 1930s to Chinese parents in Jamaica who had immigrated from Hong-Kong. The family lived out in the country. They were poor; they had no electricity but he had very warm loving parents. His parents were Buddhists and so Father naturally started life as a Buddhist. Buddhism is more a way of life than a religion. In this faith one seeks for harmony and peace within oneself.

As Richard got older his parents moved to Kingston, the capital city. As a lad he attended a Catholic school where he was taught by the nuns. He stated that the nuns were very kind and caring; he remembered going to the chapel where the Blessed Sacrament was exposed and the sense of mystery he felt about it.

At 12 years of age he converted to Catholicism; and it was not long after that, that his mother converted followed by three more siblings, and finally his father.

When he was ready for high school he was enrolled in a Jesuit school. He soon realized that these priests were entirely dedicated to the Lord. The love of discipline was stressed by his teachers which helped him in later life. By the age of 14 he knew that he belonged to God. He recalled that when he told his father about his intentions, his father looked at him and said, "Serve the poor." So Richard Ho-Lung went off to Boston to study for the priesthood. When his studies were completed Father Richard, newly ordained Jesuit priest, returned home to teach in the Jesuit high school. A few years later he went back to the States and received his advanced degrees which allowed him to teach in the university.

Over the years Father Ho-lung became a very respected member of the community. He enjoyed teaching at the university but something was gnawing at him. He felt God was calling him to do more. At Sunday Masses he found himself preaching the Word of God, but felt that he was not really living the Gospel message in his personal life. All around him there was desperate poverty. The streets of Kingston were filled with poor suffering people; the anguish of their lives clearly shown on their faces. He would ask himself, "Am I my brother's keeper?" He was now 40 years old and life was going to change for him in a very dramatic way.

One day he was out walking and saw a young boy tied with strips of cloth on a board-like bed out in the hot sun. His body sat in his own mess. Father cut the boy's strips of cloth. He looked up at Father and said, "Feed me." Father fed him, gave him water to drink and tried to comfort him. The boy then asked, "Are you my brother?"

At that moment Father felt God's hand on him and he knew what he must do! Father became aware of the hypocrisy of his own Christianity. He continued, "I began to understand that the Crucified Christ is imperative in my life if it is to have meaning."

Father gave up his degrees, his comfortable life, and resigned from the Jesuits, but not from the priesthood. He understood that he was his brother's keeper. We are all brothers and our job is to serve one another as best we can.

At first Father was not sure exactly how this would work out. In the beginning there was just himself and two brothers who would go into the slums and try to answer the needs of the people they met. Father learned that life as a Christian is a matter of the heart not money. "Soon other men joined us in our effort. All we needed to do, was to care and love these people."

Father put his faith and trust in the Lord as he embarked on these works of mercy. He and the brothers forged ahead working in the slums and ghettos, caring for the sick, bringing food to the hungry and doing whatever else was needed. There were people of influence who saw what he was doing and they began to support him. They were able to secure land and put a building on it and then to take in the poor abandoned souls in Jamaica. Father asked and received permission from the Bishop to organize as a formal religious order and they took the name Missionaries of the Poor. The brothers deny no one entrance when in need of care. If one visits the facility in Jamaica one would find abandoned children, lepers, elderly men and women, the homeless—all in need of care. It is said by parishioners that have gone to Jamaica on a mission trip that it is a very happy place filled with music and song. The brothers who do this work, do it joyfully and consider it a privilege to do so. The presence of the Gospel message stands out like a beacon in the midst of surrounding poverty and despair. Surely Father Richard Ho-Lung has more than answered that call that began as a tiny gnaw so long ago.

May the Good Lord continue to bless the Missionaries of the Poor as they spread across the continents of the world.

ICARE Nehemiah Assembly

by Carol-Ann Black

On Monday, April 11, twelve members of Christ the King parish attended the ICARE meeting held at Abyssinia Baptist church on the north side of Jacksonville. We were among 2,000 attendees who had assembled to learn of progress made in the past year with regard to various social justice issues and to ascertain the commitment of various city leaders in achieving further improvements. The mayor, sheriff, and school superintendent were there to respond to the needs expressed by the ICARE leadership.

ICARE meetings such as this are pretty tightly scripted events and are held to a very strict time schedule. You go past the allotted time for your speech and the STOP sign goes up. They get out the hook next, I reckon. This is a real asset when the invitations go out to attend one of these meetings. You are fairly guaranteed your exit time. No going on and on and on, which definitely leads to low attendance.

One of the first things I noticed, when compared with my experience with ICARE twelve or so years ago, was that there were more Catholic clergy in attendance and participating in the meeting itself. Bishop Estevez led the opening prayer; Father Tim Lozier of Most Holy Redeemer Catholic offered the welcome, the agenda and plan of action for the evening; Pat Meisner of Most Holy Redeemer spoke of progress of Superintendent Vitti in the school system, particularly with regard to Restorative Justice in the schools, which keeps disruptive kids out of the justice system. The program is now in 97 schools compared with only two schools just two or three years ago. It not only saves these youngsters serious criminal records that would haunt them well into their future lives, but saves the sheriff's department huge amounts of money, by avoiding arrests for non-violent offences. Mr. Vitti has dealt with the school board at frequent difficult meetings over school policy. This one was a cakewalk for him. He was willing to commit to maintaining the program and expanding it.

Wealth Building in Northwest Jacksonville was the next topic. The need in this neighborhood, as we all know, is jobs that provide living wages, so that folks who wish to "move up" don't have to "move out."

The request from ICARE was that the mayor support the committee (currently operational) with a fulltime staff person who will be responsible for implementing this model. He was able to offer a reluctant yes—if we can see our way in the budget.

Again came Mayor Curry, who definitely had the toughest time of it at the meeting. ICARE specifically wanted the mayor to agree to support a Homeless Day Resource Center, which would require a commitment of three hundred-odd thousand dollars in this year's budget. A "yes" was never won on this one. The mayor repeatedly insisted that nothing could be promised until the city pension crisis was dealt with. And this was the essence of the exchanges with the mayor. My perspective?—He should have been a bit more sympathetic to the request, given the success of a previous resource center. In addition he could have urged ICARE to support his fix for the pension problem; to get out the vote when the issue is on the ballot. But that didn't occur.

Next came the sheriff. Sheriff Williams detailed his training program and future plans for the restorative justice and civil citations program in the schools. Needless to say, his remarks were greeted with approval from the assembly. He also was able to offer a "yes" to ICARE's efforts to improve the prospects of ex-offenders. Efforts are already in place to assist felons recently released from prison to obtain identification documents, work in the community, housing, etc. These efforts are bearing fruit, but need to be expanded considerably. Although Sheriff Williams wasn't willing to agree to all of the dollar investments required by ICARE plans, he was willing to offer a "yes" to the request of a meeting in the next six months to discuss future progress.

That covers the business of this ICARE gathering and the meeting was closed with a prayer. The bywords for ICARE at this time are *action for justice*, which of course dovetail with the exhortations of Pope Francis on behalf of the poor. Perhaps that is at least partly the reason for the increased numbers of Catholic clergy and participants. Father Boddie has made it clear that our parish must be more relevant to our surrounding neighbors and to the revitalization of Arlington in general. ICARE is certainly a tool useful for those aims. *Courier* will keep you posted on future activities of ICARE.

Father Rene Robert



by Charm I. Saults

Father Rene was truly a man of mercy, always with an outstretched hand. Always reaching out to others, offering help or saying a kind word. John and I have known him for 19 years. I met him in St. Augustine at San Sebastian Catholic Church. When I decided to go back to the Catholic church Father Rene was my sponsor for my confirmation. I left the church when I was 12 years old, because my mother took us out of Catholic school. As the years went by I always felt there was something missing in my life. When I talked with Father Rene he reassured me God would accept me back into the fold.

Another special day was when John and I were able to renew our vows in the Catholic church. Father Rene was there as a witness. During the last five years of my mother's life Father Rene would visit her often. She became very ill and Father Rene gave her the last rites. She recovered and lived for six months, with the help of Father Rene. He was able to get her to pray the rosary daily and watch Mass on TV.

Father Rene was very special: warm, kind, understanding and a great listener. He also had a sense of humor. When he was in New Mexico during July, one year he wrote me and said it was extremely hot and he only had a ceiling fan. He said, "If Hell is this hot, I am going to do more good deeds and say more prayers, because I want to be sure to go to Heaven."

The last time I saw him was last June. I was sick for two weeks, and he drove all the way from St. Augustine just to visit me. He would often send emails. Father Rene read my grandson's (Nicholas Johnson) article and was very impressed. There is a sadness in my heart, but I know Father Rene will always be with me and I know he is in Heaven.

Remembering a Priest and Friend

Excerpt from *Next Step News* by the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine, FL May 2016

On April 24, the Sisters at Our Lady of Lourdes Convent held a simple remembrance service for Father Rene Robert. Sister Margaret Jeanne prepared the prayer and reading from the feast of the Franciscan saint. A brief period of reflection was followed by sharing what the Sisters remembered about Father. At the conclusions of the sharing, Sister Mary Esther led the Sisters in singing "Prayers of St. Francis" as Sister Beatrice carried a remembrance picture to the front foyer of the convent. Sister Joan of Arc hung the picture at the entrance to the hallway of the chapel where Father Rene so often celebrated Mass for the Sisters.

Many of the Sisters were able to attend the wake and the funeral Mass for Father Rene. Father John Gillespie, pastor of San Sebastian Church, and Father Tim Lindenfelser, pastor at St. Anastasia Church, shared words that so gracefully represented the life and ministry of Father Rene.

The funeral Mass was celebrated on Tuesday, April 26. Sister Rita Baum proclaimed the first reading as a member of the deaf community signed at the pulpit. Sisters Joan of Arc and Margaret Jeanne were invited to participate in the Offertory Procession.

The family has asked that Father Rene's chalice and paten be returned to Our Lady of Lourdes Convent to continue being used for Mass where Father so frequently celebrated.



Filipino Ministry Diocese of St. Augustine
FMDOSA



Dinner and Dance Fundraiser




To Benefit a SHRINE for Filipino Saints
Lorenzo Ruiz & Pedro Calungsod
At Marywood

The First Filipino Saint was a simple layman who died as a Martyr for the FAITH. His extraordinary fortitude in the face of sufferings is an example that Christians must imitate.

Filipino Roman Catholic Martyr killed while doing Missionary work in Guam in 1672. He was beatified on March 5, 2000 by Pope John Paul II

**July 23, 2016 - Saturday,
6 PM - To Midnight
@ Resurrection Parish Hall
3383 University Blvd., North
Jacksonville, Florida 32277
Dress Casual—Music DJ
\$30.00 per person**

Fund Raiser Raffle

1st. Prize : \$600.00
2nd Prize : \$250.00
3rd Prize : \$150.00

\$2.00 per ticket or 6 tickets for \$10.00

For more Information Please Contact:
Netto Espejo—(904) 616-3560 (for Christ The King)
Jose Praxedes - (904) 716-9523 (for Resurrection)



THE CHOICE Wine

— 7 STEPS —

TO A SUPERABUNDANT MARRIAGE

Choice Wine is available every Friday evening. Are you interested in enriching your marriage in order for it to become a Superabundant Marriage?

If you are, then you will be interested in participating in a marriage enrichment program titled, *Choice Wine*, a program specifically designed for couples that provides the pathway to authentic marital happiness.

The Diocese of St. Augustine has partnered with Paradisus Dei, the creators of *Choice Wine*, and has approved the program for presentation throughout the Diocese.

Choice Wine is a nine-session program that leads the participants through 7 Steps to a Superabundant Marriage and is offered every Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. in the Saint John XXIII Parish Hall. Babysitting is provided.

Come join us and enjoy the taste of *Choice Wine*.

For more information contact:

Tim McClellan
Tel: 904-728-2205
Email: tim.mcclellan@comcast.net

Post Cards from Mexico

Dear Family,

While on the pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, I saw many beautiful churches and monuments in Mexico City and outlining areas. The most impressive site for me was the incredible religious spirit of the Mexican people. This includes the stories of Juan Diego seeing Our Lady for the first time and the Mexican people standing and dying against the attempted closing of the Catholic Churches in Mexico by the Mexican government. I would hope that my faith would be as strong as those of the Mexican people.

Charles Cadoura



We are two days into our Guadalupe pilgrimage. Don't expect that I'm much holier for all the effort and prayer, but I do know a few things about Our Lady of Guadalupe, and Juan Diego and Juan Bernadino. These are the three stars in the cast of characters in this Marian-Aztecian tale. Mary appeared to Juan Diego in 1531 making him the emissary for Catholicism to the Indians of Mexico. Mary and Juan Diego and their followers, succeeded in spades. Catholicism in Europe was in a decline (Remember the Reformation and Martin Luther?), but in Mexico the numbers rose dramatically. I began to realize my total ignorance of the history of the Indians of Mexico, particularly the Aztecs, who were the power in the years before the arrival of the Spanish.

Mom
(Carol-Ann Black)

Having an awesome time! The weather is cloudy but nice!

Jesus gives me JOY that makes my heart sing!

Each day I wake knowing that no matter what life brings, I have the strength to move forward with joy that comes from within my heart!

Judy Koziolk

We went to so many churches on our pilgrimage, Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Chapel of Tepeyac, the Church of El Pocito, the Tulpetlac Church and many more. Each one was more unique than the other. Beautiful murals on the walls, painted ceilings above the altar, amazing columns, etc. We were privileged to celebrate Mass each day in a different church. What impressed me was even though Father Thanh said Mass in English, many non English speaking Catholics participated in our Mass. They did not know the words we were saying but they definitely understood the Mass! They celebrated by receiving communion and wishing each other "peace" during Mass. It reminded me of my mother's words "Celebrating a Catholic Mass is universally the same in any city, state, or country!" This experience was proof that our Catholic faith is world-wide.

Terry Cadoura



Greetings from Mexico City – the land of 2000 Catholic Churches! I am inspired with the number of young people who stop by a church and reverently make the sign of the cross and prayer briefly in front of the statues of saints and Blessed Mother.

The Church is alive in this country!

Mary Ann Sullivan



My trip to Mexico is something I never thought would come in my lifetime.

To be on such holy land, with so many beautiful churches and then Mass in one of them each day was magical.

Our Lady of Guadalupe was with us all the way. And to have my daughter, Susan, with me was just another blessing.

Jean Sell (Foxy)

Post Cards from Mexico



During our Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe, I was struck by how faithful the people are. We saw people walking on their knees to the entrance of the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in thanksgiving for what Our Lady has done for them. I was very touched at what I saw at the Chapel of the Holy Rosary. There, I saw a boy who looked no more than 10 years old leading a group of primary school-aged children in saying the Holy Rosary. I did not see one adult in the side chapel where they were reverently sitting together saying the Rosary.

Also, it was clear to me that being together as a family was important to the people of Mexico. On Sunday, we saw multi-generational families (children, parents, and grandparents) spending time together at the Shrine. We saw a line of many families standing patiently in line at the Baptistry to have their child baptized. Although they didn't know it, I was evangelized by the people of Mexico.

Dan Yip

Mis Recuerdos de Mexico

Thank you, Lord, for giving me the opportunity to go back to Mexico with my Catholic family, to visit Our Lady of Guadalupe. Through Father Thanh's homilies, that always touched each one of us personally: through the Mexican people's visible honor to Our Lady; through the gracious hospitality received from everyone we encountered; my faith was greatly nourished.

Gracias Dios mio por Guadalupe!!!

Terry Yip



Michael con el padre

Michael Fontana



Patty con el ombre del Sombrero!

Patty Fontana

Our five-day pilgrimage to Mexico was a non-stop whirlwind of celebrating Mass daily, learning about Juan Diego and Our Lady of Guadalupe, visiting pyramids, learning about the Aztec Indians, drinking water from the Eternal Springs, singing and dancing with a Mariachi Band. One of the most touching emotional activities we did was when all 26 pilgrims prayed the Stations of the Cross together on the plaza of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It was a perfect ending to our amazing pilgrimage.

Terry Cadoura





Christ the King Council of Catholic Women

by Carol-Ann Black

The adventure continues. Christ the King Council of Catholic Women has been very busy in the past couple of months. Perhaps the most exciting activity for us was the February 20 Bunco Night that was so successful. It was successful socially with very good attendance and lots of laughing and scratching. We had many who had never played the game before and they were expert within two rounds. Thanks to Nero's the pizza was great, and it contributed to the financial success. Funds raised, \$600.00 went towards the convent renovation fund. I do believe that two bunco nights next season won't be too many.

The calendar moved ahead quickly and, as has become our tradition, CKCCW provided the soup and bread on Good Friday. This activity makes it possible for folks to participate fully in the Good Friday services more easily. Generosity is the byword for Soup and Bread. Panera gives us the bread at no charge and a great quantity it is. A generous amount goes over to Harbor House afterward. Bread freezes well. And the number of contributors to this crock-pot effort was amazing. Thank you, ladies.

The next major event was the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's convention the weekend of April 16 and 17. The location this year was the same as last year, Embassy Suites on Baymeadows Road, except that the renovations that were ongoing then are now complete and the result is excellent. We had many more vendors this year to serve the interests of

our Catholic sisters. (My favorite is always Catholic Relief Services, with the excellent quality handcrafts from many nations of the world and some of the fair trade food items that they have to offer.) These vendors are of course, just icing on the cake, as our speakers were excellent. Nationally known correspondent for Our Sunday Visitor, Theresa Tomeo spoke on Marriage and Family in Today's Environment. Dr. Mary Soha, a Jacksonville pediatrician and mother, spoke on the Enemies of Marriage and Family Today. Dr. Soha speaks from her heart as a mother with her professional knowledge thrown in. (In addition, she has been active in the effort to have canonized the Martyrs of La Florida—look them up on the Internet. What a background Dr. Soha has.) Finally, Dr. Leonard Chuwa, a medical ethicist working from St. Vincent's Hospital, spoke on End of Life Decisions: Ethics and Mercy. He didn't have nearly enough time to cover his topic and answer all the questions.

Besides the pleasure of our speakers, business of course had to be done. We heard the treasurer's report, commission and deanery reports, and voted for new officers. Ann Cuellar is the new president of DCCW and Staci Duncan—our Staci who works so hard for Christ the King—will be the head of the South Jax Deanery. We also heard from Debra Capley who presented a check to Catholic Charities for Camp I Am Special, in the amount of \$21,300.00, all raised from the luncheon-fashion show held each year at St. Matthew's Church on Blanding Boulevard for this purpose. We ended our convention with Mass celebrated by Bishop Estevez and an excellent banquet.

Christ the King Council of Catholic Women rounds out the year with the sale of Mother's Day and Father's Day spiritual bouquet cards, and the installation of a new slate of officers for the year 2016-2017. They are Secretary, Shelby Miller; Treasurer, Betty Kuehl; Vice-president, Cheryl Davis; President, Carol-Ann Black. We all look forward to serving Christ

Spring Youth Retreat



Thoughts on my Retreat

by Deanna Dinh

Retreat weekends are the set weekends on my calendar where I can't make plans with anyone. People already know that I will not be able to do anything with them during retreat weekends. I make sure I make time to attend these retreats, not only for how much fun they are, but in order to keep my relationship with God strong.

I have loved every single retreat that I have been on. I have been on five Christ the King youth retreats and I definitely plan on going to as many as I can. I enjoy these retreats because I am always enlightened on something new or reminded of very important things either about God or ways to strengthen my faith.

Not only is there great company, delicious food, and a beautiful environment, but I have the amazing opportunity to return to my home away from home twice a year. Special thanks for John, Wendi, the core members, the parents who cook, and all the youth who attend the retreats. You all have made a huge impact on my life.

Spring Youth Retreat

by Ashley Anderson

The buses unloaded our teens full of a sense of excitement. Bags were taken to the pavilion and teens chattered with each other about past

retreats, the bus ride, and what they hoped was to come on this, the Spring Retreat 2016.

This retreat started off like so many before it; a talk, a discussion, a midnight snack, and then bed. Even though the material changes from retreat to retreat, sometimes it can feel repetitive. But not this time. I don't know if it was the energy of the kids, the Holy Spirit working or just the feeling of being out at camp, but something was different.

This retreat we tried to focus on HISTORY and how each disciple's story formed them into who they are. They are a part of the formation of the Church and we are a part of the Church... meaning we are all a part of His (Christ's) story which in turn, is our story. Hard to follow I know, but somehow in the chaos of that statement the kids really got the message.

Our stories are continuously being written. Every decision, every person we come in contact with affects our story and if we keep Christ in the center, well... we are going to be just fine.

He should always be our Author; our stories are not intended to be autobiographies.

As the weekend progressed the teens opened up and truly let the spirit work. I am so blessed to be able to be a part of these retreats. Every time we go through the planning process I ask myself, "Is this worth it?" And every single retreat I can honestly say, "I wouldn't want to be anywhere else."

My favorite part of the weekend was Mass outside by candlelight. In the moonlight, you could just feel Christ out there with you, it was truly a beautiful moment.

I look forward to the next retreat. We are so incredibly blessed with such an amazing community! From the bottom of my heart, thank you so much for your continued support.

We couldn't do what we do without you.





Tim Talks

Tim McClellan, President Pastoral Council

I have had the distinct honor to serve as the president of the old Parish Council, and the newly created Pastoral Council for the past eight years. In looking back over the course of my tenure, we have seen a great deal of change in the overall dynamic here at Christ the King for the council, and more broadly, for the parish community. Navigating through these changes has proven to be challenging, but also extremely rewarding.

Since assuming my role back in 2008, we have seen the landscape change dramatically around the parish from the renovation of the church to the addition of the Garden of Paschal Mystery. We celebrated the addition of the Vietnamese Cultural Center, and the construction of the childcare center along Arlington Road. We've seen new signage along Arlington Road, and additional parking in front of the rectory. It is indeed a very different place from eight short years ago.

During that stretch, we have seen many Parochial Vicars and priests come and go, we've greeted two new deacons, James Scott, and George Barletta, and said goodbye to the former when he moved to his new assignment. We have seen transition in the rectory staff, and a new direction for our community introduced during this window.

One of the more pivotal changes in our community was the departure of Father Thanh Nguyen after 17 years here at Christ the King, 12 of them as our pastor, and the introduction of Father James Boddie, who started his priesthood here in the parish more than 30 years ago, and has come back to us as pastor with a new vision during a period where the demographic of our community has changed dramatically.

We have seen our parish lose many of the people who helped to build it into the thriving community we have been a part of for more than six decades, and we have watched as new faces have risen to step into leadership roles at the ministry and parish levels.

During all of this change, the one constant has been the spirit and dedication of the parish community. New ministries have breathed new life into Christ the King, and provided new avenues for men, women, young adults, families, and children to get involved in parish life. Whether it is our fabulous teen and middle school ministries, CRHP, That Man Is You!, Choice Wine, or the many established ministries like the CKCCW, St. Vincent de Paul, Kings and Queens, Knights of Columbus, or Christ the King School itself, our parish has proven that through all of the changes we have endured, we have proven to be a resilient and robust community.

Through the efforts of a group of dedicated volunteers, we have been able to set the path for the next five years and beyond with our Pastoral Plan. We will welcome nuns in-house to our parish for the first time since I was a fourth-grade student here at Christ the King back in the mid 1970s. The convent and the chapel are both getting much needed enhancements and renovations to serve us for many years to come. We are now doing a much better job of tracking the real-time health of our parish so that we can be more proactive in serving the needs of all parishioners, while also regaining status in the Arlington area as a leader for change and growth.

It has been a very active and eventful eight years to be certain. It has been an honor to serve in my role during that time as a lifelong member of the parish community. There are too many people to thank to list them individually here, but I will take this time to thank my parents and family for instilling me with my Catholic faith, and with the spirit of stewardship that called me to serve this community. To those who have served on the council during my time here, thank you for all of your support. To Father Boddie, thank you for your vision and your trust. We are in a much better place today, and the future is bright for our parish.

I will continue to encourage parishioners to find their own way to get involved in the community. Find a ministry or an event that strikes your interest and join in. The only way to help Christ the King continue as a thriving parish is to get involved, and to bring more people into the fold. We all must do our part!

Memorial Day 2016



Father Emil Kapaun



Father Vincent Capodanno

by Carol-Ann Black

Each year at the end of May we celebrate Memorial Day, when we remember the men and women who have served our country in the military forces. This year I want to recall Maryknoll Father, Vincent Capodanno, who died in Que Son Valley, Vietnam, caring for his fellow marines, and Father Emil Kapaun, who served heroically with the army in Korea not only in battle but in the prisoner of war camp where he died. Both of these men are being considered for sainthood. I ask you to remember them and those with whom they died, in your prayers.



We are Knights

Serving Christ the King and Resurrection Catholic Churches

by Nick Klepac, DGK and Frank Becht, PGK:



Family Spirituality Night - "Symbolon"- Friday, April 1 at 6:30 p.m. was our third session of Symbolon. We may be familiar with different aspects of our Catholic faith... but how does it all fit together? And what difference does it make for our lives? *Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained* is a stunning new video series that systematically presents the BIG picture of the Catholic Faith. Filmed on location in Rome, the Holy Land, Calcutta, and in the Augustine Institute studios in Denver, dozens of nationally-known teachers clearly present the beauty and brilliance of

Catholicism.

Come and enjoy the learning of our Faith and the Church for the fourth presentation on Friday, June 3 at 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located on 6030 Arlington Expressway (www.council4727.com). For more information contact Robert Roldan at 904-534-8581 or email adayformen@gmail.com.

This is a Pot Luck event. Please bring a dish to share. Refreshment drinks available.

Brotherly Care - on the second Saturday of each month, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Christ the King, fellow Knights visit our sick and distressed brothers and widows. Please join us in this very important ministry of Bring Our Lord to Our Family.

Road Cleanup - The Knights, under the direction of Mike Stirna, conducted the monthly road

cleanup on Lone Star Road (second Saturday of each month). We meet monthly at the parking lot of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church at the corner of Lone Star Road and Carlotta Rd at 8:00 a.m.

Jacksonville Jaguars Tailgate party - The Knights met for our last tailgate party of this season on January 3 and watched the Jaguars versus the Texans. Even though we lost the game, we had a blast watching our favorite sport! The potluck snacks and camaraderie was great! Join next year when the new season starts.

Walk for Life - The Knights and other members from Christ the King walk and pray each Monday at 1:00 p.m. in front of the abortion clinic on University Boulevard, weather permitting. Come join us and let our pro-life voice be heard. Knights and other members from Resurrection walk and pray each

week in the same location. See the Resurrection Parish bulletin for the schedule.

Corporate Communion - The Knights and families will be attending their quarterly corporate communion at Christ the King on Sunday, April 17. If you aren't a Knight, this is a great opportunity to discuss what the Knights do at every Mass in the church reception area. It is a great opportunity to put your faith into action.

Family Dinner and Movie Knight - The Knights hosted a potluck dinner and movie night at the hall, open to all. The movie watched this month was "Amazing Grace" (1986) starring Tom Conti. A funny movie about what happened when the Pope got accidentally locked out of the Vatican.



Honor Roll Breakfast - on Tuesday, April 5, the Christ the King Honor Roll students were honored with breakfast in the Christ the King hall. The coordinator and head cook was John Klinkenberg, PGK. Students enjoyed French toast, eggs, sausage and fruit cups. Congratulations to our CTK students for making the honor roll and thank you teachers for a job well done!



Squires Bar-B-Que at Key Auto - The squires cooked hamburgers and hotdogs for the employees and customers of Key Auto on South Side Blvd as a fund raiser, March 19.



Bunco Night - Another great Bunco night was held at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 19, with the next one scheduled Saturday, May 14. This event is open to all parish members of both Christ the King and Resurrection. Come out and join us for Bunco. Over 59 million people play this game yearly. Bunco is a social dice game involving 100% luck and no skill, although we have a few regular players that would disagree!



ACA Cleanup - The Knights held spring cleaning March 19, at their hall on Arlington Expressway which included the routine indoor facility cleanup (sweeping, mopping, dusting) and external repairs and cleaning.



We are Knights

Serving Christ the King and Resurrection Catholic Churches



Squires Spaghetti Dinner - The Squires Circle 2121 hosted their annual Spaghetti Dinner "FunRaiser" at the Knights hall Saturday, April 2. About 50 people joined Father Boddie and the Knights in seeing these young men put on a feast! Almost \$200 was collected during the event. Thanks to the Knights, led by Mike Stirna for cooking!



PBJ's for the Saint Francis Soup Kitchen - on Friday, January 19 and April 29, Deputy Grand Knight Nick Klepac and his wife, Bernie, K'Ce's president, hosted the quarterly Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwich-making for our homeless neighbors. With the help of many Knights, families and friends, over 600 sandwiches were made. Everyone enjoyed sharing pizza afterwards. The next PBJ event will be July 29.



Annual Easter Egg Hunt - was held at CTK playground Saturday, March 26. Even though the weather was questionable, a great crowd of kids and their parents attended this annual event to hunt for eggs, visit with the Easter Bunny and enjoy a picnic. Hosted by the Knights under the direction of John Lewis and family, the Knights, K'Ce's (women's auxiliary), and the Columbian Squires (young men) assisted during this grand event.



Times Remembered

by Yolanda Cerqueria



How many of you loyal readers of the *Courier* can remember penny candy, the rumble seat, the ten-cent loaf of bread, or the party-line phone? Well, “Dee” Delores Klima is going to take us back there and even to the one-room schoolhouse.

Dee was born in Salina, Kansas to a farming family and was the third youngest of seven children. The family did not live there long before they moved to Nebraska and continued farming. There they raised cattle, wheat and corn. Dee remembers that the corn was either harvested in June or July. The family always prayed that it would not rain or hail at that time as the crops would be destroyed, which would not be very good for a farming family.

When it was time for her to start school she went to a one-room

schoolhouse where there were 18 or 19 students of all ages. She stayed at that school until she was ready for high school. Dee attended Wauneta High in the town of Wauneta. This school was some distance from her home so she boarded at the home of a married couple who had health problems. Dee stayed at this couple’s place for four years to help them and also worked after school. She was a very good student and her goal was to become a teacher. Upon completing high school she enrolled in McCook College, also in Nebraska, and began her program of studies. She also worked throughout her college years. At that time only two years of study was required before being able to teach. So you can imagine how young Dee was when she was hired for her first teaching assignment. It was the Voda Elementary School out in a rural area and, of course, it was a one-room schoolhouse.

The duties of a young school teacher then were quite different when compared with today. Dee had to rise early and be at the schoolhouse by 6:00 a.m. The reason for this early hour is that the schoolhouse was warmed by a wood stove. It was the teacher’s job to see that the fire was warm enough when the children arrived

for school. In addition, there was no running water in the schoolhouse; so each family contributed 10 gallons of water. The family would do this for a week on a rotating basis.

Dee usually had between 15-22 students in her school. She said that the older kids would help out the younger ones.

At lunch time she had a big electric skillet and usually the children would bring pot pies for lunch. Then she would heat up these pies in the skillet and she and the children would enjoy lunch together.

Another memory—cloak rooms! Dee said that the children would come with their overcoats and boots and whatever else to bear the cold winter weather. It was unusual to close the school when it was snowing. Sometimes the children would ride their horses to school; the horses would stay outside all day waiting for the return trip home. When they left school, the horses would swiftly return them to their farms where they always had chores to do.

The biggest and most exciting event occurred at Christmas time when Dee and all of her students would participate in the school play. Dee said it was a great deal of work as the one-room schoolhouse would be turned into a theater-like

setting, with a stage and curtains for the students to perform. Entire families came for this most exciting event. Imagine a one-room schoolhouse that had been turned into a faux theater with all the children’s families coming together to celebrate the Christmas tradition. It started off with each family providing food for all, followed by the children’s performance. Dee said that even though it took many hours of work it was all worth it to see the children with their proud parents being filled with the joy of the season.

Dee has more of these priceless memories of a time when life seemed less complicated than it is today. After leaving the country school she furthered her education and taught for 38 more years. It should come as no surprise then to learn that Dee volunteers in the school library several days a week, easily steps in as a substitute teacher when needed, is involved in the Ministry of Hope, and is a proofreader at the *Courier*.

Dee’s son is Mike Klima who keeps everything in tip-top running order on our campus. Dee also has another son who lives in Nebraska and will visit this summer. We are very fortunate to have such an energetic and dedicated volunteer at Christ the King.



Country Store Spring Sale total sales: \$3,905.28 We had competition on Saturday, there were three other church sales in the area, but Friday and Sunday were awesome.

I would like to thank all my volunteers for their hard work and help on each day of the sale.

We will be accepting donations for the Fall Garage Sale from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the following dates:

April 16, 23, 30
 May 14, 21, 28
 June Open every Saturday
 July Closed all month
 August, September, October Open every Saturday

All donations are welcome except: medicine, paint, office electronics (unless the instruction book is with them), TVs, computers, monitors (unless they are flat screens.)

We can schedule a pickup for large items.

Fall Sale November 4 - 6.

Any questions, please call Charm 377-1299

Queens and Kings

By Annie Sabatino

Valentine’s Day meeting and social gathering was very colorful with red decorations on the tables and around the room. Some of the refreshments were red — including cakes, cookies, jello, etc. The group was entertained by Edward Latimer playing the violin. Edward is the son of Charlene Montague, a member of Queens and Kings, and is currently studying at Jacksonville University.

Our St. Patrick’s Day meeting was held on March 13. Green colored finger food was brought in by members. Bingo was played and we had a 50/50. Birthday and anniversaries were remembered for those celebrating in the month. Father Boddie gave a blessing to Marilea and Bob Bilik who celebrated their anniversary.

The spring meeting was held on April 10; turkey and ham were served and members brought in side dishes.

Our next gathering will be on May 15 at 1:00 p.m. It will be a crazy hat and ice cream social. Our last meeting before summer break is June 12 with a picnic lunch. Village Players will be there to entertain.

Come join us if you are 55 years and older. Check the bulletin for times and dates. Dues are \$5 for the year – a bargain.

Needed for the Country Store

The Country Store needs new signs to be put out on the road and signs for inside the store.

Volunteer will have 6 months to finish the project.

Please contact Charm - call or text 377-1299 or email

csaults@gmail.com

Christ the King American Heritage Girl (AHG) Troop 1125

Our Mission is: "Building women of integrity through service to God, family, community and country."

by Adriana Giles

In the second half of last year the Christ the King American Heritage Girls (troop 1125) participated in various activities and fundraisers including: regular meetings every other Monday, Lenten service project, mother/daughter tea party, cleaning the CTK Grotto and attending the

procession and of course earning badges throughout the school year.

In one of our meetings the girls taught each other and learned new skills. The Pioneers and Patriots (older girls) joined the Pathfinders (youngest girls) to talk about St. Valentine and decorate cards for the nursing home. The Lenten project was a diaper-thon in which our girls collected diapers and money from

their families, friends and neighbors and made some lower income families with babies very happy. On February 20 the girls and their moms went to Ashes Boutique and Tea Room to enjoy an afternoon of tea and fellowship.

On February 25 the troop did their regular CTK Grotto cleaning in preparation for the CTK rosary

procession and attended the procession.

We meet every other Monday on the CTK campus. For more information please contact Troop Coordinator Jeanette Sullivan

Phone: 904-614-5498, email: fl1125ahg@gmail.com



Scouts of the Year

by Harry Jinks

On February 7, 2016, the seventy-eighth annual Catholic Boy Scout of the Year breakfast ceremony was held at St. Matthew's Catholic Church. Each year the award is presented by the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Diocese of St. Augustine to a scout nominated by each Catholic troop and Crew units.

This year's award was presented to Taylor Smith of Crew 5 and Max Baldwin of Troop 5, both from Christ the King Catholic Church.

Taylor is an active leader in Crew. She attended the council's National Youth Leaders Training last year and has been selected to be on staff for the summer and winter sessions this year. Taylor is a junior in high school and spends countless hours volunteering at San Mateo Elementary School performing a variety of jobs. After high school, Taylor plans on going to college to be an historian.

Max Baldwin is the senior patrol leader of Troop 5 and a Star Scout. He has served as an assistant patrol leader and patrol leader. Max attends Christ the King Catholic School. He participates in basketball, soccer, softball and is an honor roll student. He also volunteers at the Clara White Mission serving meals.



Scout Winterfest

by Amanda Priester

During the weekend of February 11-14, Boy Scout Venturing Crew 5 attended the Boy Scout Winterfest in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Winterfest is the nation's largest annual gathering of Explorers and Venturing scouts.

The weekend consists of completions and various activities. Some of the activities that were available: snow skiing, shooting sports, zip-lining at night, building a canoe out of duct tape and cardboard, and rock climbing. The funniest activity was zip-lining at night when the temperature was 35 degrees. We, also, got to explore the shops, restaurants and museums in Gatlinburg. It was a fun weekend.



St. Mary's Home and L'Arche Harbor House

By Paul Ghiotto

(Ed. Note: this article is the fifth in a series about various buildings – present and past – on the church grounds)

During the fall months of 1955 Christ the King Catholic School began its first year on the second floor of Immaculate Conception Catholic School in downtown Jacksonville while the spanking new Arlington campus was being constructed. “Charter” parishioners attended Sunday Mass in the new Swisher gymnasium on the campus of what was then known as Jacksonville Junior College.



But, Grasshopper, did you know what buildings were the first to occupy the new Christ the King campus? The answer appears in four paragraphs.

Long-time Jacksonville residents who attended Immaculate Conception Catholic Church will remember St. Mary's Orphan Home

for Girls. It was founded by a nun, Sister Mary Ann, in 1886, making it Florida's first child care institution. Sister Mary Ann had been born in Ireland in 1828 and came to America in 1848 after fleeing the infamous Irish potato famine.

Sister Mary Ann served at St. Mary's for many years before passing away in 1914. So great was the impression created by Sister Mary Ann in her work for homeless youth that upon her death the Duval County Commission by official resolution acknowledged and proclaimed her to be “Jacksonville's Angel of Mercy.”

Five motherless girls were the inaugural residents. St. Mary's operated downtown as a home for girls until 1952. It was long located in a three-story downtown building that dated from 1902, a year after Jacksonville's Great Fire destroyed one of the orphanage's earlier structures. (In fact, a new chapel had just been completed at the facility the day of the conflagration.)

St. Mary's stood on the southeast corner of Ocean and Church streets, behind the Church of the Immaculate Conception. The former location of the institution is now a parking lot. The orphanage contained a beautiful little chapel that served as the scene for many weddings for former St. Mary's girls. Some of the other orphanage's other residents, though, followed in the footsteps of the nuns who staffed the facility.

In October 1952 St. Mary's Home for children – boys and girls - reopened in the once remote wilderness but now booming suburb of Arlington. With both boys' and girls' halls, the new “home” finally allowed brothers and sisters to stay together with boys living in Joseph Hall and girls in Mary Hall. If I recall correctly, most children weren't necessarily orphans but, rather, came from broken homes.

Once Christ the King Catholic School opened, elementary age school children attended there. George Karras, a classmate, stayed at St. Mary's.

The new St. Mary's also had a chapel inside and to the right of the main building's front door. In it a future major league baseball Hall of Fame member got married on June 9, 1966, to his fiancée, Nancy McIntyre, a National Airlines stewardess. Father Larkin did the honors and James and Emma Fogarty served as witnesses. Still married today, the couple now lives in the Napa Valley area in California where they own a winery. Do you recall the name of this former Jacksonville Sun AAA pitcher? (Answer at end of article)

Christ the King charter member Emma Duncan shared the following memories of St. Mary's. First and foremost was that, with little fanfare, countless parishioners of Christ the King pitched in and did whatever they were asked to do whenever they were needed. Remember, this was a time when images of the work of Father Flanagan's Boys Town flooded the homes of good Catholics.

The Knights of Columbus Bishop Kenny Council was a major supporter. Stalwart men like Harlo Everett and Harry Shimberg were among many Knights – and their wives - who responded to the call for assistance.

Christ the King Church's first pastor, W. Thomas Larkin, initially lived in a room at St. Mary's which he shared with the nuns. Emma donated two free-standing



room dividers for his privacy. Later, after Fr. Larkin moved to a new home in the Seabrook Manor community next door to CTK, the nuns at St. Mary's asked Emma if they could keep the dividers. It seems they needed something to shield from view their lingerie hanging on lines behind them!

Emma's daughter, Kathleen, would often stay at St. Mary's after school until Emma could return from work and retrieve her. Emma paid the then director, Sister Bernadette, what she would have paid for childcare elsewhere. Kathleen quickly learned the value of a loving, two-parent home.



A parishioner, Gino Alesi, had a barbershop on Rogero Road and gave the boys free haircuts. Emma took children to see doctors and helped with their studies as time permitted.

The only time boys and girls were together was at mealtime. Otherwise, Sr. Bernadette kept them strictly segregated. The dining room

was inside the front door of the main building.

Emma recalled how someone donated, for riding, a white horse named “Madam” to St. Mary's. Her son Stephen enjoyed feeding carrots and other treats to “Madam” while Emma attended Ladies Guild meetings at the green scout hut nearby.

Following Fidel Castro's rise to power in Cuba in 1959, upwards of 35 Cuban boys and girls—part of Operation Pedro Pan—arrived at St. Mary's for a certain period of time beginning in 1961. Parishioners responded to help these children adjust to their new lives until they could be reunited with their parents.

Parishioner Rose Musseau was a skilled seamstress who was asked by the good sisters to design and construct new habits for them when they set aside the old black and white ones. Rose did so but accepted no payment for her work. Why? Rose had been raised by the nuns in the original St. Mary's Home.

Sister Carol Wells, SSJ (retired), recalled her time serving as a “mom” for the girls.

St. Mary's had an outdoor basketball court and a large open playing field which stood for many years until the new Christ the King Childcare center was built in 2003. The building that Sisters Enda and Therese lived in - and now Mr. and Mrs. Do - was a residence for the maintenance man



and his wife. The nuns who served as home directors lived upstairs in the main building. Except for a newer administration building for L'Arche/Harbor

House, built adjacent to the overflow church parking lot, all other buildings are the original 1954 structures.

Mainly due to changing times and improvements in the foster care system, St. Mary's closed its doors in 1978.

The buildings served the needs of Christ the King in a variety of ways until Harbor House opened in the former St. Mary's Home in 1985. The community joined the international federation of L'Arche communities in 1992. Founded in the Catholic tradition, it welcomes people of all faiths. L'Arche Harbor House is the only L'Arche community in Florida.

The French word “L'Arche” rhymes with marsh and means “the ark,” a symbol of refuge and the first covenant between God and humanity. Its founder, Jean Vanier, expressed its mission like this: “L'Arche believes in the dignity of every person. This is expressed in a life shared between people with an intellectual disability and those choosing to join them in community. We seek to help each other to grow and develop toward our potential.”

A simple answer to how L'Arche works can be found in the Charter of L'Arche International: Home life is at the heart of a L'Arche community. The different members of a community are called to be one body. They live, work, pray and celebrate together, sharing their joys and their suffering and forgiving each other, as in a family. They have a simple lifestyle that gives priority to relationships.

L'Arche/Harbor House has five homes and the Blanchart Community Center situated next door to Christ the King Church on Arlington Road. The Rainbow Workshop, an off-campus day program that nurtures creativity and personal growth, is also in Arlington. Executive director of L'Arche in Arlington is Melanie Saxon and Shannon Henderson is chairman of its board of directors.

St. Mary's Home and L'Arche Harbor House

Currently, 20 adults with intellectual disabilities are in residence. L'Arche has made a commitment to care for these core members for life. Numbers fluctuate, but L'Arche strives for a one-to-one assistant-to-core member ratio. Most assistants live in the community. A few live outside the community. All assistants share daily life with core members.

The Christ the King community is indeed blessed to have the L'Arche residents and their caregivers in its presence. They remind all of us what is truly important in life – to love God and one's neighbors.

Volunteers are relied upon to sustain the work of L'Arche.

Volunteer opportunities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Rainbow workshop aides
- Board, Auxiliary, and Current Committee members
- Fundraiser participants
- Special projects workers
- Friends and visitors

Individuals, churches and groups are welcome! Please contact L'Arche to find out more. A good way to start a relationship is by attending a Community Night, held most first Thursdays of the month at 6:00 p.m. in the Blanchart Community Center at L'Arche Harbor House.

Please contact L'Arche at 904-721-5992 for details and/or check out the website at www.larchejacksonville.org. The L'Arche Facebook page brings one up to date quickly on all the activities at this excellent successor to St. Mary's Orphan Home.

Sister Mary Ann would indeed be proud!

(note: primary information for this article came from the archives of the Jacksonville Historical Society, writer Glenn Emery, parishioner Emma Duncan, the 1964 Christ the King Tenth Anniversary yearbook, and the L'Arche/Harbor House website)

Answer: George Thomas "Tom Terrific" Seaver

CTK School Play

by Adriana Giles

On Tuesday, April 19, our Music teacher, Mrs. Cindy Stillson, and 71 students of Christ the King once more amused us with another wonderful school play, *The Sword in the Stone*. Mrs. Stillson made a beautiful adaptation and incorporated all the grades in the school.

The play had forest animals of the Kingdom of Camelot, Squires (Knights in training), Renaissance Ladies, and Knights, all of which were played by students in Kindergarten to fourth grade.

The speaking roles were:

- Arthur – Katie Yarborough (8th)
- Merlin – Lacey Taylor (8th)
- Queen Igrain – Diana Lindros (7th)

- King Uther/Archbishop – Caroline Moneyhan (8th)
- Sir Rawlins – Regan Yates (6th)
- Sir Belden – Ami Moneyhan (6th)
- Sir Ector – Jasmine Perez (6th)
- Sir Kay – Alvie Hopely (4th)
- Sir Galahad – Hallie Alkire (5th)
- Sir Lancelot – Isabel Hildreth (5th)
- Sir Belfast – Abigail Swain (5th)
- Narrator – Mariah Myers (6th)

We would like to thank the Videographer—Peter House; the Technical Director—Tim Mehl; and all the other volunteer students, parents and teachers.

Thank you, Mrs. Stillson, for the dedication, time and passion that you put into the music programs at Christ the King.



Bishop Kenny Honor Roll Third Quarter 2015-2016

Principal's Level		Alice Pham	10
		Rylee Schroder	10
Blessing Essien	9	Sydney Barrett	11
Regine Hilaire	9	Taylor Bonnicksen	11
Bryanna Racke	9	Caryn Chinault	11
Victoria Reep	9	MaCayla Harrell	11
Michael Winston Jr.	9	Gina Nguyen	11
Isabel Devore-Suazo	10	Shadia Salem	11
Nicolina Graves	10	Makenna Vance	11
Emily Duncan	12	Janica Erin Zenarosa	11
Emily Tackett	12	Harrison Abercrombie	12
Katherine Wnuk	12	Shelby Asher	12
Honor Roll		Paulo Barrera	12
		Christopher Luyando	12
		Kiana Mallinson	12
Reed Abercrombie	9	Caroline McClellan	12
Marissa House	9	Carolyn Morgan	12
Arianna Nicole Palomo	9	Jennifer Saliba	12
Jared Bowling	10	David Williams	12
Sarah Crocco	10		

School Events

CTK School – School Retreat

by Adriana Giles

On Monday, February 22 Christ the King Catholic School teachers and staff had a surprise retreat for the students; the retreat was led by the Sisters of the Home of the Mother. The retreat focused on the works of mercy and homeroom teachers in all grades read the book *A Wolf at the Gate* by Mark Van



Steenwyk in preparation for the retreat. The book is inspired by the legend of Saint Francis and the Wolf of Gubbio. Our fabulous eight grade students took a leadership



role and they acted out a play based on the novel. The retreat was a success due to the contributions of Sisters of the Home of the Mother; the art teacher, Mrs. Marina Davidson; the music teacher, Mrs. Cindy Stillson; and all our volunteers.

CTK School – Modern Woodmen of America Speech Contest

by Eileen Brown

The Modern Woodmen of America Speech Contest has been sponsored by Modern Woodmen for over 60 years.

Students in grades five through eight in schools across the nation compete in this public speaking contest. The topic for 2016 was "Hunger in America." The speeches must be at least three minutes and no more than five minutes long and be in the student's own words. The competition started in each class, then there was a CTKS competition. Miriam Alrahil and Katie Yarborough represented CTKS and Katie Love represented Morning Star at the Diocesan competition on March 15, 2016. Katie Love was awarded second place in the competition. CTKS Language Arts program supports this contest as a valuable

opportunity to practice communication skills.

CTK School – Kindergarten STEM Project

by Adriana Giles



Each fall, millions of monarch butterflies migrate from the United States to areas in Mexico and California where they wait for winter to pass and fly back in the spring. The monarch migration is truly one of the world's greatest



natural wonders, yet it is threatened by habitat loss in North America. For this reason the STEM Project for Kindergarten KA/KB is a Certified Monarch Way Station. The children and their teachers



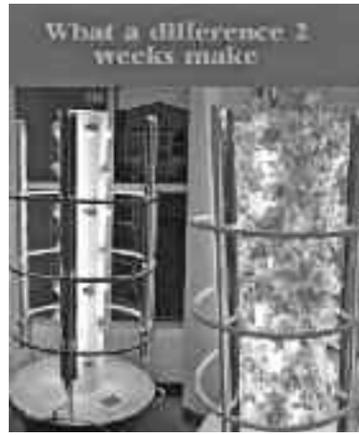
have planted milkweed and other flowers that will provide food for the caterpillars and the butterflies. Both classes have been following the life cycle from an egg into a caterpillar and now some of them are in the stage of a pupa. All this is happening in the back yard of our school. They have been learning about the life cycle through real life experiences with our station.

In the future when the pupa changes into a butterfly they will put trackers on them so other Certified Stations can track our butterflies and we all can follow the north and south migration.

CTK School – Hydroponic Project

by Adriana Giles

We now have a hydroponic project for the lower elementary school. The project is called Seedifferently and it is a collaboration between Atlantic Beach Urban Farms and the First Coast YMCA. Christ the King is



the only school in Jacksonville participating in this project. The children will be growing kale in a hydroponic environment with the end result being some delicious kale smoothies.

CTK School – Engineering Curriculum

by Adriana Giles

The engineering curriculum for the second part of the school year is going well. Kindergarten to fifth



grade are working on wind and designing windmills and sixth to eighth grades are working on timers. During an hour every week the children in grades K to fifth



have been exploring types of machines including household machines, learning about wind, designing sails and testing which sail will work the best on a boat. Their next task will be to design and test windmill blades. Grades six to eight have been learning



about timers and working on different timers. They have also learned that all timers work differently. The students have been

testing timers against regular clocks, timers against timers and timers created from various medium. They are having fun being engineers, using their critical thinking, problem solving and conflict resolution. It is great to see the children working cooperatively to learn new and beneficial skills.

CTK School – Ravens Softball

by Sue Pietrusza

It has been another exciting year in softball at Christ the King! The Lady Ravens ended their season with a record of 6-0. Led by Coach Sue Pietrusza the team once again earned the title of Division I League Champions. The girls team was made up of returning players Jodasea Peterson of Morning Star School and Brooke Pavek. Both of these eighth graders have shown amazingly hard work and dedication to this team for the last few years. The team dynamics will definitely change without them, but we wish them the best as they move on to high school. The team also had return players Kylie Wnorowski, Elyssa Audije, Gili Garner, Layne Baldwin, Erin Kress, Veronica Mella, and Emmie Williams. This group welcomed new comers Anyssa Searcy, Sklyar Fick, Alvie Hopely and Alex Ryan with open arms. Together all of these wonderful young athletes worked hard to have fun, improve their game and win the division.

We were excited to once again have a boys' softball team this year! The season started off tough for Coach Chris Hildreth and Assistant Coach Joey Klinkenburg at 0-3, losing two of those games by one run. But when you mix Coach Hildreth's determination, game knowledge and skills with Coach Joey's hard work, positive attitude and dedication, you end up with the Ravens having a record of 2-4. The coaches "never give up" attitude was present in all players. Eighth graders, Kyle Hicks, Max Baldwin, J.D. Garner, Alejandro Mella and Aidan Webb dominated at the plate and will truly be missed next year. The rest of the team, Hunter Daniels, Ethan Sapp, Hadden Barras, Gavin Meehan, Jacob Webb, Carlton Payne and Colin Jackson of Morning Star School will hopefully return again next season for some more great plays! Coach Hildreth's team all ended the regular season with an incredible showing of teamwork and new nicknames!!!!

Both teams will play in the Division I playoffs. The boys will play on April 25, the girls April 26 and we are crossing our fingers.....or our bats.... that both teams will be playing in the Division I championship games on April 27.

School Events

CTK School – Jacksonville Science Festival

by Kathryn DeBellis

On Saturday, February 27, our eighth grade class attended Science Festival. They were presenting



their engineering projects. The students had to make something useful using recycled plastic bottles. Among the projects were a rain recovery system, a backboard, hydroponics systems, and a class art project. There was also an art



project using paint and bottles for younger kids attending the festival to do. Throughout the day, the eighth graders explained their projects and assisted the younger kids in their art. While they did coax a number of votes from those who visited their tent, they sadly did not win. Regardless, they had a good time and made some good memories.

CTK School – The Year of Mercy through a CTK student eyes

by Sandy Hill

During Lent this year, Christ the King School participated in a one day religious retreat that focused on mercy. Following the retreat, the third, fourth and fifth grade students were asked, “What does Pope Francis mean when he says it’s the year of mercy?” Here are a few of their responses:

What I will do for the Holy Year of Mercy. I will feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and shelter the homeless. I will try to be kind and not fight with my brother and sister. I will be patient with my friends and if someone is bothering me I will ask them to stop. I will earn money for my ricebowl and give clothes to the poor. I will do my Spiritual and Corporal Works of



Mercy. I will visit my grandma who is sick, and I will say extra prayers. I will attend Mass every Sunday and pray for my family. That’s what I will do for the Holy Year of Mercy.

Paul Elhajj third grade

For the Holy Year of Mercy I will pray more often to God and I will be more kind and pray for other people. I will also obey the Spiritual and the Corporal Works of Mercy. I will also obey my parents and listen to my teacher. I will give up something for Lent and help my younger sister. I will be nicer to my brother and I will be less selfish. I will save money for my ricebowl and I will do my chores without being asked. Those are all the things I will do for this Holy Year of Mercy.

Sam Ross third grade

Today I learned that not all people have the same amount to eat every day. So for the Holy Year of Mercy I will earn money for the poor. I will also give them clothes. I will try hard not to waste my food for all of the starving children in the world. Also, on Wednesdays I go to my Meemaw’s house because she is old and lives alone.

Chloe Villa third grade

The Jubilee Year of Mercy means to be kind to others and to give to the less fortunate. It means not to just beg for forgiveness but to forgive others when they do wrong.

Oluwaji Eziemefe fourth grade

The jubilee Year of Mercy means giving to the poor equally. Give to the poor as your parents give unto you. Stop acting proud and start showing love to the poor. Start praying for others that just need help. Start going to charities and help give out food and clothes. Last but not least stop being a modest follower and be a leader that gives to charities, the poor, the needy, and the imprisoned and a person that devotes their life to Christ.

Malcolm Warthen fourth grade

The Pope has declared this year the Year of Mercy. This year will teach us to be sorry for our sins and be thankful and giving. I went on a

retreat and it was all about mercy. It taught me to be more giving and to think about what I have and to be thankful for it. I also went to confession. This helps me to focus on God and to be sorry for all the sins I made. Some nuns came to our school. They taught us how to be more merciful.

The Year of Mercy should help everyone be more giving and caring. We should always be thankful for what we have and give to others.

Trinity Aralar fifth grade

The Pope proclaimed this year a year of Mercy. People can help in many ways to help make it a year of Mercy. People can go to confession, bring canned goods or an envelope to set an example for other people. A fifth grader can write a letter to a person in prison to comfort them and bring clothes to the naked. All of these are examples of Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy.

People can learn a lot about Jesus through retreats. I just went on a retreat with my friends today. I learned we need to be God’s Hands. He always loves us and more. I also learned that people in the U.S. get to choose what they want but in other countries they don’t. I learned to be grateful for what I have.

Lent helps us to be free of sin before Easter. People can go to confession to confess their sins. The sister that talked to us said that we can pray the Rosary three times before we go to bed to show Mercy. People also go to confession to grow closer to God.

If we take a little bit of our time and do a good deed, we could make a difference. We can also pray for people in purgatory to help them enter Heaven. Overall we need to do good deeds in this year of Mercy. If you have time to do something, do a Corporal or Spiritual Work of Mercy. Like Blessed Mother Theresa of Calcutta once said, “You did it to me.”

Camden Thornton fifth grade

CTK School – Father-Daughter Dance and Middle School Dance

by Adriana Giles



On Friday, April 8, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. the school held a Father-Daughter dance for Kindergarten to fifth grade students and their dads.



The dance was sponsored by FSA and included a DJ, pictures, flowers and refreshments. A good time was had by all. Some of the fathers even danced!

Following the Father-Daughter dance the FSA also sponsored a Middle School dance.

Middle Schoolers from other Catholic schools were invited to attend. All of the children enjoyed their evening! A big thanks to all our volunteers for their hard work, without you these events could not have been possible.

CTK School – Thanks a bunch

Christ the King Faculty and Staff would like to thank the following:

- A special thank-you goes out to Mrs. Hill and our Christ the King families for this year’s MATH-A-THON! This year we raised **\$1,903.05** for St. Jude Children’s Hospital. This brings our 29-year grand total to \$104,089.65 ! Our 3 top fund raisers were:
 - 1 Stefon Judge (fifth grade)
 - 2 Luke Shannahan (seventh grade)
 - 3 Lacey Taylor (eighth grade) & Daniel Phillips (second grade)
- AMAZING JOB CTK!** Do math. Help lives! For more than 35 years, the St. Jude Math-A-Thon, benefiting St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, has been America’s largest education-based fundraiser. To participate, kids in grades K-8 ask families and friends for pledges to solve math problems in the St. Jude Math-A-Thon Fundbook, developed by scholastic.
- Mrs. Charm Saults for taking the time to organize and run the Country Store twice a year and also the volunteers that helped her. The funds raised from this effort help to support the school.
- The Knights of Columbus for always providing breakfast for our Honor Roll students every quarter.
- To our volunteer coordinator Mrs. Colleen Webb, FSA board and all the volunteers!! Because of you our school is a better place.

Thank you!!!

Miracle of Strangers

by Suzanne Carson

Note from Mary Ann Sullivan, Associate Editor

Last year, I attended a fundraiser for the Women's Help Center—Gala for Life—with some friends. It was a wonderful evening of friends gathered for such a worthy cause. Our inspiring speaker was Rick Santorum, but the highlight of the evening was the dinner companions who joined us. By the end of the evening, their story was told to us.

April, 2015, any afternoon. In beautiful sunshine, hurrying to the airport, I do not want to be late picking up my guest. Traffic is building. Another text message says he is boarding a connecting flight now coming from the North. Soon... so soon, he will be here. Anxious thoughts start to rise. Not quite sure what someone, even he, would think of this birthday gift.

Pushing anxiety back down now, I beat doubts away. The significance of this meal would not be lost on my guest. It would be an intimate evening. Only he and I could share this special experience.

Now, I am at the curb and he is standing there smiling. Several hugs later, we are together driving to the venue for our elegant dinner with a few friends and hundreds of strangers. Cocktails—and small groups are mingling. He sips his beer. It has been a long journey to reach this place.

It all began early in the morning, many years ago and ends with this unexpected evening dining out. Tables have been assigned and all the guests are lining up. We find our table. All around us introductions are being made by acquaintances and old friends, plus fellow diners, who will soon be new friends, at least for this evening event.

Diners are called to stand for grace and the anthem. Soon servers are moving between the tables, delivering salads, bread and butter, water. Our eyes lock and we smile, conversation drifts around us as the main course is served. The evening proceeds as speakers address the packed banquet room of attentive listeners. Another glance—one of the many sent his way that evening reminds me that this handsome man sitting next to me, so tall, so strong, is my son. Smiling, he too was enjoying the intimacy of this night, this special evening, and its meaning was not lost on my long distance traveler.

It had taken us forty-two years to find each other, to reunite and to savor these moments. I had found my son and we were now sharing his 42nd birthday. Each event in our lives now is a first together—dancing, cooking, hiking, laughing and crying. This miracle of strangers. We were separated 42 years ago, with the *right choice*. Reunited 42 years later, now celebrating his birthday at the Pro-Life Gala. A most extraordinary memorable event, so precious in our lives forever, to God be the Glory!



Premier Preview:

A Legacy of Faith: The Sisters of St. Joseph

by Jeanette Ghioto

Alumna of St. Michael's Catholic School '64;
taught by the good Sisters of St. Joseph,
Mission Advancement Director



On a beautiful St. Augustine evening in February... no, let's start this again – on a cold and

rainy February 6, 2016, 800 people, from as far away as Minnesota, came to pay tribute to the Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine, FL, in honor of their 150th Anniversary. Historians and former students came to find their former teachers or remember favorite memories - and just say "thank you." The weather would not deter these good people as they remembered that absolutely nothing would stop the Sisters from doing the work – of whatever they were capable - to make a difference for their "dear neighbors" throughout the years.

The Sisters were first honored at a reception at The Treasury on the Plaza, hosted by Ms. Brenda Bushell and organized by Brandy Boulette. Thanks to the efforts of volunteer 150th Committee member Mary Harms, and a small army of volunteers from Cathedral Parish, the evening was flawless. All guests were greeted by melodies from the harp and the musical genius of Mary Jan Ballou and then served a delicious fare as the stories and memories flowed.

And then, as if by Divine Providence, and a little help from Becky Hesson, also on the 150th Committee, a Red Trolley arrived, in the rain, to deliver the guests to the Lewis Auditorium of Flagler College. In the 819-capacity-auditorium, Yvonne Spiller, another member of the 150th Planning Committee, had arranged the preview showing of the WJCT/PBS produced documentary *A Legacy of Faith: The Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Augustine, FL*. This presentation was possible thanks to the benevolence of Laura Stevenson and the Flagler College Administration. Violinist Rocky DiGeorgio welcomed the guests as they came streaming through the doors to take their seats, guided by more Cathedral Parish volunteers.

When the lights dimmed, Father Tom Willis, Pastor of the Cathedral Basilica and working Chairman of the 150th Planning Committee, came to the podium and welcomed the guests. As a former student of the Sisters, Father Tom would have many wonderful memories. Father shared the very profound commitment he had made that he would ALWAYS give the Sisters his best. He knew the Sisters had always given him their best. And they deserved no less.

Sister Jane Stoecker, SSJ, General Superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph, stepped up to say thank you to all who made the evening possible and to honor and remember the many Sisters who had gone before and upon whose "shoulders the Sisters now stand."

Father Tom then introduced the Most Reverend Felipe Estevez, Bishop of St. Augustine and honorary chairman of the 150th Committee, whose own memories as a child of the Sisters were profound as they taught him and many other children from the Pedro Pan airlift from Cuba to Florida.

President and CEO of WJCT/Public Broadcasting Michael Boylan then shared his own personal journey of discovery of the Sisters. After visiting the Archives, Museum and Motherhouse of the Sisters on sleepy St. George Street in St. Augustine, he thought there might be a significant historical story to be told. His instincts were confirmed after reading Sister Thomas Joseph's book, *Beyond the Call*. Written in 2007, Sister's book shares the history of the Sisters since 1866, through the letters exchanged between the Sisters who arrived in Florida to educate the freed slaves and their Motherhouse in Le Puy, France. Michael appointed the "best story teller" on his staff, director/producer, Rich Conner, to research and tell the story assisted by Michelle Simkulet and Demetrius Ballard of WJCT-CreativeworX Inc.

Anticipation built as the film began. There were some tears and many smiles as memories flowed – and then some laughter as some of the "bloopers" were shown. It was the most perfect 45 minutes and who thought it could get any better when the Sisters in the auditorium all stood and sang "Sancte Joseph" to all of their 800 guests...and more tears flowed.

"Amazing," "so inspirational," "more than I expected," "who knew all that they have done?" were all statements that could be heard as guests left the auditorium for a coffee and cake reception in the lobby and more reunions with their favorite Sisters.

It was a lovely evening, but only the beginning of the tributes in the coming year.