



SPCC Happenings



850 W. 4th St.
Fallon, NV 89406
775-423-2846
st.patricksfallon@yahoo.com

Volume VI Issue 4

Website: www.stpatricksparish.org

April 2017

St. Pat's Confirmation Students Complete 2-Day Retreat

Approximately 46 youth from northern Nevada parishes and/or missions attended a youth retreat held at St. Bellarmine Church in Fernley during the March 25-26 weekend. The majority of the teens came from St. John the Baptist Church in Lovelock and St. Patrick Church in Fallon.

The theme of the retreat for Confirmation students was "Timeless" and was based on a Life Teen International program.

According to its website at www.lifeteen.com, Life Teen, a movement within the Roman Catholic Church, leads teenagers and their families to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church.

The retreat's format included discussions on the 1980s when God, of course, existed even before the youth were born, the 2000s when the teens came into the world where God is ever-present, and the 1920s and 1930s when people experienced difficulties that tested their faith. Different speakers facilitated the sessions, and adult leaders conducted follow-up classes and/or meetings. The opportunity for reconciliation, with Father Tony Quijano, Jr. of St. Pat's and three other priests participating, was provided. An adoration service and Mass were also conducted during the course of the two-day weekend.

The overnight stay at St. Bellarmine's was chaperoned by four male adults, including St. Pat's youth coordinator Paul Loop and parish council member Rudy McElvain, and St. Pat's 1st year Confirmation instructor Monica Breitenbach was among the five female chaperones.

"It was a wonderful weekend," Paul said.

There are a number of other youth functions coming up in the next few months:

- Peer Ministry Leadership Retreat, June 25-June 28, Camp We Ch Me at Galena Creek, for 9th-12th grade teens, through Diocese of Reno
- *Youth on a Mission* four-day discipleship training camp for Catholic teens, Thurs., July 20-Sun., July 23, Cal Maritime Academy in Vallejo, CA
- ON FIRE NorCal Jam, Sat., Sept. 16, Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo, CA

In addition, a youth retreat for middle school students may be offered this summer in Sacramento.

For more information contact Paul Loop, Youth Coordinator, St. Patrick Church, by calling the parish office at 423-2846 during normal operating hours.



RETREAT PARTICIPANTS—Among St. Pat's teens who participated in the youth retreat held in Fernley were. In the back row, Denise Pedigo, Brittaney Butori, Kimberly Park, Kenna Hamlin, Jace Harmon, Sarah McCormick, and Trey Brooks, and, in the front row, Angela Cornejo, Danna Correa, Laura Rabe, and Jacob Icala. Not pictured but attending were Ryan Bitter, Josegnacio Gonzalez, and Kevin Maya.

ADULT ASSISTANTS—Pictured to the right are the adults who helped direct the Fernley youth retreat: Christina Davis, a diocesan youth ministry director; St. Pat's parishioner Monica Breitenbach; St. Pat's Youth Coordinator Paul Loop; and Nancy Nuti from St. John The Baptist Mission in Smith Valley. The theme of the retreat session when this photo was taken was focused on the 1980s.(which explains their costumes).



Parish Appreciation Dinner April 23

St. Patrick Church will host a parish appreciation dinner on Sun., April 23, beginning at 5 p.m. While parishioners are asked to bring their favorite dish to the potluck, the parish will provide meat and beverages for the dinner. A few surprises during the course of the evening are planned. There is no charge to attend. For free tickets contact the parish office at 423-2846.

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duganmv@cccomm.net



The Ladies Guild of St. Pat's is offering a

\$500 scholarship to a practicing Catholic woman who has been a parishioner for at least two years and has received the sacraments. New and returning students may apply. The scholarship can be used to attend classes at a higher education institution or a vocational/trade school. Applications, available in the Rose Room and at the parish office, must be submitted no later than May 1, 2017, and include all required documents.

Mother's Day—Sun., May 14

Gary and Susan Imelli's Memorable Trip

Editor's Note: In February of this year parishioners Gary and Susan Imelli experienced "a trip of a lifetime" when they spent a month in Africa at a time of the year when the southern migration occurs and the young of the indigenous animals are born as the various species trek across the Serengeti. When asked about their trip Gary and Susan provided the editor with the following narrative which is printed in its entirety because of its vivid description of their adventure.

The Africa trip was arranged through Cheeseman's Ecology Safaris which operates out of Saratoga in California and was recom-

mented to us by friends. We spent two weeks in Tanzania, one week in Kenya, and one week in Rwanda. Taking this trip was Susan's dream since her childhood and the family's monthly subscription to the National Geographic magazine. Our journey began in Arusha National Park. Dropping down into the savannah was like a scene out of *The Lion King*—filled with zebras, elephants, giraffes, lions, cave buffalo, baboons, and wildebeasts.

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The venture in Tanzania took us through many game reserves and national parks to observe the African animals and their young in their natural settings—oblivious to our presence. The most emotional moment for us was observing a lioness rushing a zebra, bringing it down, and killing it within five minutes. It was difficult to watch, but the "circle of life" was revealed to us as another lioness brought her four cubs and three young sisters out of the bush to feed on the remains.

In Kenya we saw different animals that only live in Kenya, particularly the white and black rhinos, both of which are endangered. In Rwanda we hiked into the Virunga Mountain Range to observe the mountain gorillas in their natural habitat. This was the biggest thrill of the trip. To be so close to these magnificent beasts ("gentle giants") was a humbling experience.

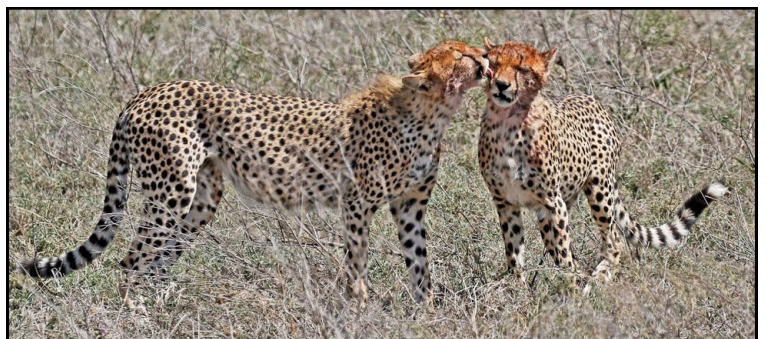
The people of Africa are so very poor but so full of joy and life. Ninety percent of the population of the countries we visited is Christian with Catholics comprising the majority. Rwanda was the most beautiful country and is becoming very progressive after a horrific genocide tore the nation apart (in the early 1990s) when close to a million inhabitants died as neighbors turned on neighbors.

We feel blessed to be born in the United States of America and even more blessed to be able to have experienced the beauty and the people of Africa.

(Thank you, Susan and Gary, for sharing your journey with us!)



SCENE STEALER—Pictured are Gary and Susan Imelli during one of their hikes in Africa. Note the silver-backed gorilla in the background (behind Susan's right shoulder)..



KISSING CHEETAHS—This is one of the remarkable photos taken during Gary and Susan Imelli's February trip to Africa.

Our two-week ad-