

ST. MARY OF MOUNT CARMEL / BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH – FALL 2013

MORE GOOD NEWS



**VISION
2013**

A faith experience

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THIS ISSUE A GIFT FROM AN ANONYMOUS DONOR

Volunteers lifeblood of parishes

Recently, more than 200 of our parish volunteers enjoyed an evening of dinner and music and friendship at the Ramada Inn.

Several were unable to join us due to previous arrangements, illness or being out of the area. But whether a volunteer was at the party or not, each one of any age certainly is to be considered a treasure of the parish household.

Beginning with our baptism and sustained with the sacraments that we so often share, God's word, the Eucharist and the blessings of our Catholic seasons and saints, faithful volunteering is established and nurtured over the years.

No Catholic parish could exist, and certainly not flourish very long without the good work and generous hearts of many who volunteer.

The next time you see geese heading south for the winter flying in V formation, you might be interested in knowing what science has discovered about why they fly that way.

It has been learned that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. By flying in V formation, the whole flock adds at least 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own.

Christians who share a common direction and a sense of community also get where they are going quicker and easier because they are traveling on the thrust and uplift of one another.

Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone, and quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front.

If we have as much sense as a goose, we will stay in formation with those who are headed the same way we are going.

Finally, when a goose gets sick or is wounded by gunshot and falls out, two geese fall out of



FATHER JIM



ABOVE: The many parishioners who volunteer at St. Mary of Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Parish were honored Saturday, Sept. 7, 2013, at the Volunteer Recognition Dinner at the Ramada Inn in New Hartford. More than 200 people attended and enjoyed an evening of food, camaraderie, music and fun. **BELOW:** Father Jim presented three parishioners with framed letters from Bishop Robert Cunningham in which he thanked them for their devoted service to the parish. From left: Lucy Levine, Vicki Perritano and Gordon Schindler.

formation and follow him down to help and protect him. They stay with him until he is able to fly or until he is dead; and then they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with their original group.

The geese who helped each other shared. Sharing is serving and giving. It is a part of our stewardship. We believe that it is the privilege of the Christian to dedicate time, talents and possessions; how we use these is a choice we make that

indicates the depth of our faith.

Volunteer hero

The cruise ship captain gave a party for the volunteer - the oldest man on board - who had jumped in to rescue a young woman swept overboard in a sudden gale. "Speech, speech!" the other passengers demanded. The man rose slowly. "OK," he acquiesced, "but before I say anything, I'd like to meet the wise guy who pushed me in!"

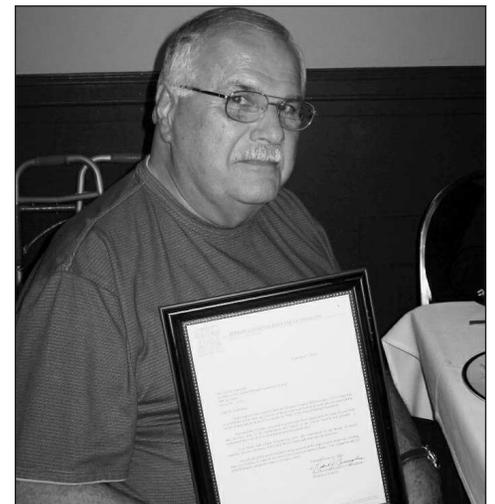




Photo by CHRISTINE GRAY

At Union Station in Utica, Father Jim sends off the the students who attended Vision 2013 at the University of Notre Dame. From left: Patricia Mazzatti, John Siniscarco, Father Jim, Angelina Mancuso, Taylor Gray, Gianna Amerosa, Isabella Mancuso, Keaton Kukowski, Greg Torres and Brooklynne Wickman (St. Paul's Church).

Visions become reality for teens

Youths experience journey of faith at Notre Dame

The University of Notre Dame.
South Bend, Ind.

The names evoke a number of visions: Irish football. Touchdown Jesus. Knute Rockne ("Win one for the Gipper!").

For several teenagers this summer, the visions were a bit different. Notre Dame was a place to meet young people their age, share their faith and grow closer to God — and have fun doing it.

Eight teenagers from Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament and one from St. Paul's Church in Whitesboro traveled in July to South Bend to take part in Notre Dame Vision 2013.

"Notre Dame Vision is a five-day Catholic youth conference that includes dynamic large group experiences, reflective small group time, profound liturgies and excellent music," said Anne Elacqua, parish Faith Formation coordinator for seventh through 12th grade. "Speakers from all across the country break open important themes throughout the week and help the participants to relate them to their own lives. There are 65 Notre Dame under-



Photo by CHRISTINE GRAY

"The Crown of the Blessed Virgin" was first exposed to view at the time of the raising of the statue of the Blessed Virgin in May 1866 in an old university building at Notre Dame.

graduates that serve as mentors."

The students who attended were Gianna Amerosa, Taylor Gray, Keaton Kukowski, Angelina Mancuso, Isabella Mancuso, Patricia Mazzatti, John Siniscarco, Greg Torres and Brooklynne Wickman (St. Paul's).

The program isn't free. The fee is \$425 per person, which includes room and meals at the conference. There are other costs, too, including the train trip and other meals.

To pay for the journey, Anne said they raised funds selling candy and flowers. Several groups from the parish also donated.

The trips to Notre Dame began four years ago. "Anna Mancuso started out the whole trip," she said. "She went four years ago with Paul Hanley as her chaperone. The next year she got five kids to go and we went with St. Bernard's in Waterville. Last year, Chris Gray went as our chaperone and took six kids, and this past year she went with nine."

One of those nine was Keaton Kukowski. The Vision 2013 experience was his first.

"I heard about Vision a couple of years ago when some of the kids who went spoke about how much they enjoyed it and how much they learned," said the 14-year-old Notre Dame Junior-Senior High School freshman. "When I was invited to go, I thought it would be great.

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'In my house, God comes first'

Maria Panuccio recognizes importance of faith

Maria Panuccio embarked on a new chapter in her life this fall. She's a college student. Maria's enjoying the freedom her new life gives her but remains grounded in the lessons she learned from her family and church.

You graduated from Proctor High School in June and have just started your freshman year at SUNY Cortland. How is the transition going?

The transition is actually a lot harder than I thought it would be. It's a huge adjustment because your life is completely changing and everything is different from what you're used to. I love it so far though.

I know it's been only a short time, but what do you like about college and what's your least-favorite part?

College is great. It is really nice to be on my own and to be able to do my own thing. It's also fun meeting new people. My least favorite part is the definitely the workload.

You were selected one of 30 Observer-Dispatch Teen All-Stars this year. What does that honor mean to you?

I was really shocked when I was nominated, let alone selected. It was exciting knowing that out of so many kids in the area, I was selected.

You worked part time at Nicky Doodle's to help pay for college. Do you think all young people should work part time while in school?

It really just depends on the individual. Everyone is different and is under different financial circumstances. I do think that a job is important because it teaches responsibility.

Dancing also is an important part of your life. What has that activity meant to you?

Being away at college and not dancing has made me realize that dance means a lot more than I thought. I never thought I would say this, but I miss dancing at least four days a week. Dance has taught me that even though you may not be the best, to never give up and to push yourself to be the best you can be.

You grew up at Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament. What place does the parish have in your heart?

Whenever I walk into the church, I feel at home. Everyone and everything here is so familiar to me, especially since my family is so active in the church.

Your family is deeply rooted in faith. Tell me a bit how that upbringing and your faith



Maria Panuccio said she has grown more wise with age when it comes to the faith instilled in her by her family. "We say prayers before meals, have to attend Mass every week and there is hardly ever a conversation where God isn't mentioned. While I was growing up, I used to get annoyed with that, but now that I am older and more mature, I realize how important that is."

MARIA PANUCCIO

Age: 18.

Family: Mom Terri, Dad Nick, older sister Nicole and younger brother Vinny.

Education: 2013 graduate of Thomas R. Proctor High School and current freshman at SUNY Cortland.

Favorite TV shows: "Glee" and "Pretty Little Liars."

Favorite movie: "Bride Wars."

Favorite book: "The Outsiders."

Things you like to do: Bake, hang out with family and friends, eat ice cream.



Photo courtesy of the Observer-Dispatch
Maria worked part time at Nicky Doodles in North Utica to earn money to help pay her college expenses. She's a freshman at SUNY Cortland.

What's the best advice you can offer to people your age?

There is a lot of pressure and stress put on people my age. I would probably just say to be yourself no matter what, and that everything happens for a reason, even though it may not be the outcome you want.

What do you hope the future holds for Maria?

I hope to finish college with a good GPA and get a good job in the field of speech pathology/audiology or deaf education. I hope to travel the world and one day fall in love and get married. But for now, I'll just enjoy every moment.

has guided your life.

In my house, God comes first. We say prayers before meals, have to attend Mass every week and there is hardly ever a conversation where God isn't mentioned. While I was growing up, I used to get annoyed with that, but now that I am older and more mature, I realize how important that is. My faith has helped me to get through hard times, and I know that there is always something I can turn to when things don't work out the way I plan.

What's the best piece of advice anyone ever gave to you?

When I was a little girl, my grandma used to always sing the song, "Que Sera Sera," which means "what will be will be." That is the best advice because you cannot control what fate has in store for you.

A CONVERSATION WITH ...

Angelo Amodio



Angelo Amodio, with his wife, Philomena, says his faith has grown, even during very difficult times. "After the death of our son Michael, our faith became stronger than ever and it was because of our faith that my wife and I have been able to cope with the worst thing that could happen to any parent."

Angelo Amodio has been a fixture at St. Mary of Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament for years. His booming voice can be heard from the lectern and from his pew near the middle of church. He has chaired the annual parish festival for a number of years, including this year's very successful endeavor.

You were chairman of the 2013 Parish Festival. It was a great success. Did it turn out the way you expected?

The 2013 festival was a challenge for me because we were faced with unexpected expenditures that we never had previously. However, the end result was close to the goal I had set for our parish.

You've chaired the festival many times. How long does it take to plan for it and what's the hardest part?

I chaired the festival for seven years when Father Salerno was pastor. To be successful, the chairman must begin to plan from the month of January. The hardest part for me has always been to try and change the mindset of some of our people regarding the urge to overspend and to make them realize that the festival is our only major fundraiser.

Why do you do it?

There are many reasons why I have chaired the festival so many times. The primary reason

is my deep devotion to the Blessed Mother. She has done so much for me and my family that there would not be room for you to print it all.

I know you've had some rough times in your life, including the death of your son. How did you make it through it all?

After the death of our son Michael, our faith became stronger than ever and it was because of our faith that my wife and I have been able to cope with the worst thing that could happen to any parent.

How is your faith different now than the way it was in your younger days?

My faith is much stronger now than when I was younger because of the many things that have happened to me in my lifetime. God certainly has a way of bringing us to our knees, and I can truly attest to that. Another reason for my strong faith is what I consider to be a miracle that happened in my family in January 2012. I never thought I would live long enough to experience what I did at that time, and because of that experience my Catholic faith has soared 2,000 percent.

What has been the most important lesson that you've learned in your lifetime?

Not to be judgmental and to see the face of Jesus in everyone I meet, no matter how difficult the situation.

ANGELO AMODIO

Age: Only God knows

Where you live: New Hartford

Occupation: Funeral director

Education: Utica College, major in public address; Simmons School of Mortuary Science

Family: Married to the former Philomena Scalz; daughter and son-in-law, Teresa and Steve Lawrence who reside in Albany; two sons, Anthony and Philip; five grandchildren, Matthew, Brianna, Angela, Stephanie and Michaela. Our youngest son Michael died at the age of 24 in 1998.

What you like to do in your spare time: Read; play pinochle with friends.

Favorite book: Anything written by John Grisham.

Favorite movie: "The Long, Long Trailer" with Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz.

Favorite TV shows: "The Big Bang Theory" and "Long Island Medium."

Favorite quote: "Ask not, what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." -- President John F. Kennedy.

Papal nepotism gone, returns

Last in a series. Read all four installments online at www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com (search for Our Parish Heritage).

In this issue, we examine the images found in the final three cross vaults on the nave on the east side (Mohawk Street side) of our church.

FOURTH CROSS VAULT

St. Damian: Twin of St. Cosmas. By his side we see **Pope Pius VIII (1761-1830 / Pope 1829)**. Born Francesco Xaverio Castiglione, he was schooled by the Jesuits in Osimo and later studied canon law in Bologna and Rome. He held several important posts in the church and was arrested in 1800 for refusing to pledge allegiance to the new

French king of Italy. In 1816, he became a cardinal, and as early as 1823 was considered a contender for the papacy. In 1829, he was again a candidate, and after a five-week conclave was elected. As an act of conscience he made all his relatives to resign their positions in the church. It is he who established the practice that the church would only bless a wedding and a priest could actively participate in a marriage ceremony if the couple promised to give their eventual offspring a Catholic education. His last years were dominated by political tumult in Europe and the beginnings of nationalistic movements on the Italian peninsula.

St. Pascal Baylon (1540-1592). Pasquale in Italian. Born in poverty, he spent his youth as a shepherd who toted along religious books, begging passersby to teach him how to read them. In 1564 he joined the Reformed Franciscan Order as a lay brother. He preferred living in poverty because he had no expectations to leave his life-long condition of destitution. He was considered a mystic, spending nights in prayer and having ecstatic visions. Pope Leo XIII proclaimed him the Seraph of the Eucharist.

Pope Urban VIII (1568-1644 / pope 1623): Born Maffeo Barberini to a Florentine noble family, he grew up in the household of his uncle Francesco in Rome. There, he was educated by the Jesuits and later received a Doctor



A.J. VALENTINI

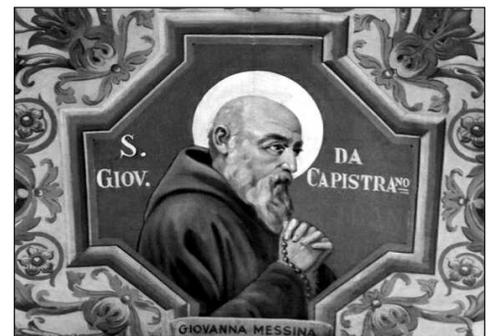
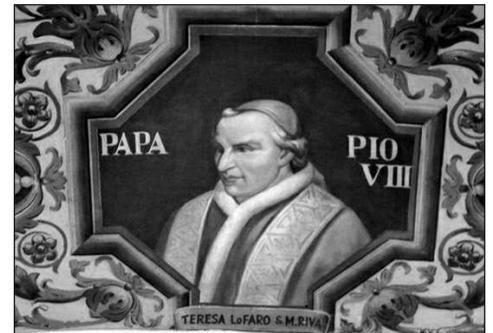
of Laws from the University of Pisa. He served several positions for the Holy See and became the papal legate to the court of France. For that work he was made a cardinal-priest by the pope. He then became an important organizer and facilitator in the church. During his papacy the great Italian scientist Galileo was tried for heresy for his scientific views. Urban was criticized for the nepotism he elevated his family members in titles and riches. He outlawed slavery of South Americans and opened Asia to evangelizing by religious orders other than the Jesuits. His politics tended to favor the advancement of his particular interests and was the last pope to expand the Papal States. During his reign many artistic wonders were created to embellish the Roman landscape. It is he who ordered the dismantling of the bronze of the Pantheon to create canons and the famous "baldachino" over the high altar of St. Peter's Basilica. This rubbed many Romans the wrong way and gave rise to the saying, "What the barbarians didn't do to Rome was done by the Barbarini!"

FIFTH CROSS VAULT

Pope Clement XIV (1705-1774 / pope 1769): Born Vincenzo Antonio Ganganelli, he was at the time of his elevation the only Franciscan Friar in the College of Cardinals. He became a Franciscan at age 19, taking the name Lorenzo Francesco. He was asked by Pope Benedict XIV to investigate the tradition of blood libel against the Jews, and Ganganelli found it to be untrue. He became a cardinal-priest in 1759. He was chosen as pope after a four-month conclave, after heavy lobbying of European royalty that were against any Jesuits. As pope, Clement worked constantly to smooth relations among the European crowns and the church and those parties. He was amazingly adept at diplomacy given his humble beginnings. An interesting story goes that Clement XIV was so impressed by the 14-year-old Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, upon his complete transcription of the liturgical piece "Miserere mei, Deus" after only a single hearing, that he knighted the young man who forever after could claim to be a noble. Mozart never, throughout his life, received a similar recognition.

St. John of Capistrano (1386-1456): Known as the Soldier Saint. Though a Franciscan friar, at age 70 he led a crusade

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NOTRE DAME

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“Vision gave me a chance to make friends and share our thoughts about God and being Catholic. I met kids from all over, and we toured the various religious sites on campus, attended workshops, prayed and sang, and just hung out together.”

This was Taylor Gray’s second experience at Notre Dame Vision. The 17-year-old Thomas R. Proctor High School senior said she was most impressed with the one-on-one time with the Notre Dame Vision mentors and how they were able to connect and relate with the high school students.

“It was great to be around other teenagers that share the love of God and spirituality,” she said, “meeting new people and getting more connected with my faith.”

Taylor’s mom, Christine, was a chaperone this year. It was her first time participating in Notre Dame Vision program, but her second trip as a chaperone.

“Anne Elacqua approached me last year about chaperoning six youths,” she said. “It was too late for me to register for the Vision

program, so I stayed in a rectory on campus and self-guided the campus, basilica and history of faith on campus.”

She’s thrilled her daughter got to experience the program.

“(It was) a positive experience in her journey with faith and a rooted connection to her vocation in the Catholic Church.”

John Siniscarco, a 16-year-old junior at New Hartford High School, said he had a pretty good connection with God before he went to Notre Dame. Now, that’s changed – for the better.

“Before going to Vision, I felt that I had a good personal relationship with God,” he said. “Since going to Vision, I feel closer to God and to my faith. I prayed a lot at Vision and I asked for continued guidance in my life. God has always been there for me and I feel that even more since going to Vision.

“I learned so much about my Catholic faith, too, and it made me appreciate my faith more. Being able to spend time with God and prayer for a week just gave me the alone time to focus on my faith. All year long I am so busy with school and sports; it is nice to just have some

time to focus on your faith.”

Though summer has ended and the teens are back in school, the enthusiasm from their summer experience has carried over.

Taylor Gray said she’s told her friends about it: “Definitely! They would really like to attend with me next year.”

So has Keaton Kukowski: “I talked to several people about the experience and everyone said the same thing – that it was probably beautiful there and would I go back. I said ‘yes’ to both right away.”

John Siniscarco is not shy about sharing his experience with his peers: “I talked to my friends about the trip. They thought it was really cool that I went. I have never been afraid to talk about my faith to my friends.”

The excitement has spread to the adults who can’t wait until 2014.

“I have not attended,” Anne Elacqua said. “I think I will be going this coming year as my son David really wants to go and he will be old enough to go now. The kids who go come home so excited and they are the drive that entices new kids to go.”

Knute Rockne would be proud of this group.

CEILING

Continued from Page 6

against the Ottoman Turks who were besieging the city of Belgrade. He is the patron saint of jurists and military chaplains. Born in the Abruzzi town of Capistrano, he was sent to broker a peace between Perugia and Sigismondo Malatesta in 1416 and was thrown into prison by Malatesta for his efforts. During his prison time he renounced his wife and studied theology. He became a religious force for orthodoxy. His rhetoric was legend, one time preaching to a crowd of 126,000 in Brescia. He was a fanatic anti-Semite persuading many areas of Germany to expel or burn them at the stake. He represented popes and kings on diplomatic missions all over Europe.

Pope Gregory XVI (1765-1846 / pope 1831): The son of a minor noble family of northern Italy, Bartolomeo Alberto Cappellari entered religious service as a Benedictine on the island of Murano (Venice). He was a renowned theologian and linguist and became a member of the Academy of Catholic Religion. When Napoleon took Rome, Cappellari fled back to Murano, only returning after Napoleon’s defeat. Cappellari became pope after a 64-day conclave only because the front-runner, Giacomo Giustiniani, was vetoed by the king of Spain and there was a deadlock between the next two most likely candidates. Cappellari was not yet even a bishop. He chose the name Gregorio from his 20 years being the abbot of the San Gregorio monastery in Rome. As pope, he opposed innovations such as gas

lighting and railroads, seeing them as invitations to commerce that would promote the bourgeoisie and liberalism, diminishing the power of the papacy. As unrest increased in the Papal States, extreme punishments were exacted on the perpetrators causing much ill will. In 1839, he issued an encyclical, “In Supremo Apostolatus,” against the Atlantic slave trade.

St. Paul of the Cross (1694-1775): The last person portrayed in this area, was from the Piemonte region of Italy. He believed that the way to find God is through the Passion of Christ. When he was 26 years old he had a vision of himself dressed in a long black habit that bore on the front an image of the heart of Jesus surmounted by a white cross. Within the heart were written the words “The Passion of Christ.” He would go on to found a community called The Poor of Jesus, and today is known as the Passionists.

SIXTH CROSS VAULT

Pope Clement XII (1652-1740 / pope 1730): Lorenzo Corsini became Pope Clement XII at age 78 after a four-month conclave. He was seen as the man to clean up the Vatican debt and clean house of the corrupt papal ministers. His mother, of the Strozzi family, made him the product of two of the most illustrious families of Florence. Due to his advanced age and blindness, he directed much of his papacy from his bed, but managed to expose those responsible for looting the Vatican treasuries, re-establish a public lottery that gave him the funds to take on some major building projects

and gave restitution to those who had been robbed of their wealth through the devious acts of nefarious Vatican officials. He also was able to reunite the Greek-Malachite community with the church. He supported St. Paul of the Cross in his establishment of the Passionists. Through his efforts, 10,000 Egyptian Copts with their patriarch were reunited with the church. He died at age 88 maintaining his faculties to the end.

Clement IX (1600-1669 / pope 1667): Born Giulio Rospigliosi, he was a scholar and professor of philosophy. After having served as archbishop of Tarsus and nuncio to the Spanish court, he was living in retirement before being called back into action by Pope Alexander VII as secretary of state and cardinal-priest. Ten years later, he succeeded Alexander as pope. He was admired for his erudition, his business savvy, his charity and his affability to all. He even continued to hear confessions in St. Peter’s two days every week. He visited the sick and gave generously to the poor. He not only refused to have his name put on any buildings during his lifetime, he refused to further the personal fortunes of his family through his office. He negotiated a peace between Spain and France, admonishing Louis XIV of France against the aggressions he promulgated. Before his death he asked to be buried below the floor of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome with a simple inscription “Clementis IX, Cineres” (Clement IX, Ashes). He was one of the most beloved of all the popes.

IN THE SWING AT PARISH GOLF TOURNAMENT

The first Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Parish Golf Tournament teed off Sunday, Aug. 11, 2013, at the Stonebridge Golf and Country Club in New Hartford. More than 70 golfers participated in the best-ball event that raised more than \$9,000 for the parish. There was lunch at the turn that included hamburgers and hot dogs, and dinner after the tournament. There also were door prizes — one for each golfer.

