

ST. MARY OF MOUNT CARMEL / BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH - FALL 2016

MORE GOOD NEWS



SPECIAL EDITION: A NEW GENERATION

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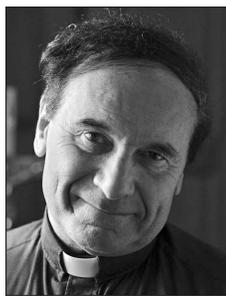
THIS ISSUE IS A GIFT OF CARUSO'S PASTRY SHOPPE

Our youths are evolving, they need encouragement

Our parish magazine this autumn season highlights some of the ways in which we really celebrate the gift that our young people are in the household of faith.

Some have had a truly awesome and memorable experience with the University of Notre Dame's Vision program for Catholic youth. Those being signed and sealed with our prayers at Confirmation and the gifts of the Holy Spirit carry with them the hope of their being a real presence and blessing among us, especially at weekend worship and Mass.

So many young people seem to be trying, pushing and even struggling to achieve and make a mark to be successful in the areas of their busy lives. That's good, but some



FATHER JIM

seem not to know or have clear goals or anchors with which to attach their efforts and energy.

It's important for all of us to encourage and even inspire our wonderful teens and young adults to keep up the struggle and push for the higher goals and blessed trophies of faith. Sometimes, a young is ridiculed for being a practicing and genuine Catholic; our affirmation will win out over attempts to put them down. Tell that kid to remember nobody liked or thought much of the artist Van Gogh's paintings, now the world admires his work.

If any Catholic/Christian community of faithful people is going to have a future, then

“Some seem not to know or have clear goals or anchors with which to attach their efforts and energy. It's important for all of us to encourage and even inspire our wonderful teens and young adults to keep up the struggle and push for the higher goals and blessed trophies of faith.”

our young people must be recognized and appreciated. They are the future.

There is in God's beautiful word the psalm that sings about children and young people, that they are "like olive plants gathered around the table." These are tough times for young people to hold on and get to enjoy the gift of a faith that is put into practice, especially on the weekend. Current lifestyles, family schedules, marriages that are broken, the competition of high-tech gadgets and trash entertainment create a frantic and frenzied life.

But without the higher goals, the anchor of the Lord's presence and God's spirit dwelling in a young person's heart and soul, that frantic and complex life can lead to harmful and hurtful things.

We hold great hopes and we pin on the young people of our parish household many good wishes and prayers for their spiritual treasures as well as their goals for their many seasons and years to come.

PARISH MINISTRIES

Below are several parish ministries that reach out to our parishioners and the public. For a complete list, visit www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com. If you are interested in joining one of these groups, call the parish office at 735-1482.

Neighbor to Neighbor

This program is a way for members of the parish to reach out to those most in need in the larger neighboring community. Each month, a different need is identified and parishioners are asked to drop off the specified items in the Neighbor to Neighbor box in the back of church. Volunteers are needed to help collect, assemble and distribute items.

Parish Nurse Ministry

Active and retired nurses have come together to integrate the practice of faith with the practice of nursing. They use education to promote healthy lifestyles and assist people to understand the connections between lifestyle, faith and healing. The ministry does not provide hands-on nursing but instead provides other vehicles to achieve its goal, such as organizing blood drives. This group provides support through an experienced facilitator and serves to provide referrals to community resources.

Prayer Line

A group of dedicated parishioners gently holds in prayer any intentions that are requested through the parish office.

Pastoral Visitors

Parishioners who no longer are able to leave their home or reside in a nursing home appreciate having the Eucharist brought to them. Volunteers are needed to bring the Eucharist and provide a friendly visit.

PARISH WEBSITE: THE LATEST INFORMATION

Visit www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com for the latest parish news and announcements. There's even a mobile version for your smart phone. You can donate online and check out our social media sites and more.

PHOTO GALLERIES



BULLETIN

A Community on a Journey of Faith November 21, 2011

ST. MARY OF MT. CARMEL BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH
648 Jay St., Utica, NY 13501 • www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com
Facebook: www.facebook.com/mountcarmelblessedsacrament

Parish Office
Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Saturday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Reconciliation: Saturday 2:00 PM

Parish Meetings
Nov. 21, 2011 (Sunday)
Nov. 22, 2011 (Monday)
Nov. 23, 2011 (Tuesday)
Nov. 24, 2011 (Wednesday)
Nov. 25, 2011 (Thursday)
Nov. 26, 2011 (Friday)

Parish News
Nov. 21, 2011 (Sunday)
Nov. 22, 2011 (Monday)
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Nov. 25, 2011 (Thursday)
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Parish Announcements
Nov. 21, 2011 (Sunday)
Nov. 22, 2011 (Monday)
Nov. 23, 2011 (Tuesday)
Nov. 24, 2011 (Wednesday)
Nov. 25, 2011 (Thursday)
Nov. 26, 2011 (Friday)

... AND MORE

- Father Jim's "Wise and Otherwise"
- History of the parish
- Lector, minister, altar server schedules
- Mass schedules
- Parish news
- Ministries
- Event calendar
- Weekly reflection on Sunday's readings
- "More Good News" magazine
- Links to our social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

Notre Dame Vision helps youths, adults see clearly

By FRAN PERRITANO

Since 2011, teenagers from our parish have traveled to South Bend, Ind., for Notre Dame Vision, a series of five-day conferences that include dynamic large group experiences, reflective small group time, profound liturgies and excellent music.

It's been a wonderful experience for the teenagers as they discover their own relationship with God in the majestic setting at the University of Notre Dame.

"They see and hear from the speakers how they have found their gifts and how they can share them," said Anne Elacqua, parish Faith Formation director for junior-senior high students. "They each grow in their faith and see that this journey is definitely worth it. They really love being here, meeting new friends and hearing the speakers. Their words truly touch them."

Twenty-one students from Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament attended Vision in July, along with teenagers from other parishes in the area.

Making the trip with the teens are several adults, who are more than just chaperones. They feel the experience themselves.

"The adults attend the Young Adult and Youth Ministers conference," Anne said. "We attend our own sessions with speakers and presentations and then have sessions with the students. Notre Dame puts on musicals based on some Bible stories. We get to see them and we often attend Mass with the kids as well."

One of those adults who has experienced Vision is Sharon Kukowski, who has made the pilgrimage three times.

"Notre Dame Vision is a very special part of my life," said Sharon, who was accompanied by her husband, Stephen, and son Keaton. "For me, there is no place closer to heaven on Earth than that beautiful campus and its surroundings."

She said she was able share ideas with other adults about how to keep youth involved in faith formation programs and how to inspire adults and young people.

"Personally, I've also made new friends and increased my knowledge of our faith," she said.

Sharon said this year was special for her, more so than her previous visits.

"It was bittersweet," she said. "My son Keaton is now a high school senior and will be starting a new chapter in his life after this school year. He had the great fortune to attend Vision for four years and has gotten so much out of it. It will be nice in the coming years to hear from parents and students about how Vision has benefitted them."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SHARON KUKOWSKI

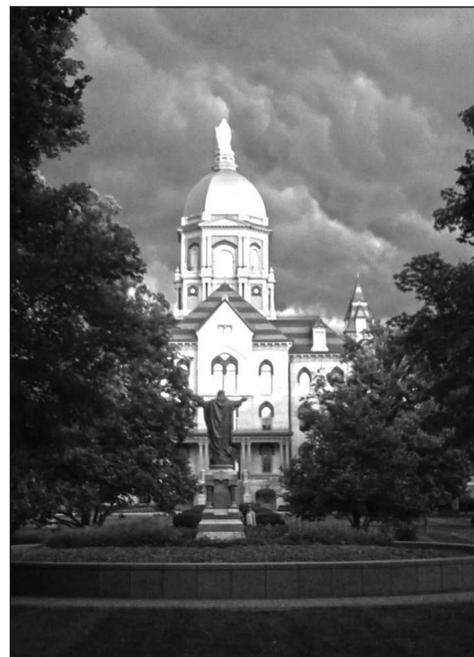
ABOVE: Sharon Kukowski, left, and Anne Elacqua were two of the adults who participated in Notre Dame Vision 2016 in July at the University of Notre Dame. **BELOW:** Notre Dame's Main Administration Building. Atop of the building is the Golden Dome, one of the most recognizable landmarks of the university. **COVER PHOTO:** From left, Rachel Surace, Mari-Lea Gazzal, Hannah D'Accurzio and Rachel VanDeusen were among the 21 students from Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament who attended Notre Dame Vision.

Anne, who has gone to South Bend three times, also is moved by the experience.

"This year was by far my favorite," she said. "The topic was 'The Year of Mercy,' and it truly brought to light just what Pope Francis' Year of Mercy meant and how we can make it a part of our lives. It also has helped me to learn ways to reach our students. Finally, it has helped me to deepen my own personal relationship with God."

Attending the five-day conference isn't cheap. It costs \$425 per person to attend, which includes the conference, room and meals. An additional cost is chartering two buses, which costs about \$650 for the trip, which includes two meals.

"This year we had to raise \$30,000 to attend," Anne said. "Each family does pay for some of the trip, plus we work hard fundraising. We have sold World Finest candy bars, gift cards, (conducted) a Topsy Palette painting event, had a pancake breakfast, pizza frita sales, and we are fortunate that our parishes



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A CONVERSATION WITH ... JOANNE GERACE

Who's the boss? She is

Joanne Gerace is the prototypical independent woman. She owns and operates her own restaurant, was a general manager of a minor league baseball team and has traveled the world. But she's also devoted to her family and her parish. She takes care of her 95-year-old mother, grew up in the parish and volunteers her time. She manages to fit it all in during a 24-hour day.

Sports are a very big part of your life. You love the Yankees, are a big hockey fan and you were general manager of the Utica Blue Sox when they won the New York-Penn championship. How did you learn to love sports so much?

I listened to Yankee baseball on the radio from when I was a very young person and watched the Giants football team on TV, black and white of course. I, for some reason, fell in love with baseball and wanted a mitt and ball and bat for Christmas.

You were general manager of the Utica Blue Sox when they won the title in 1982. What was that time like?

It literally was a storybook situation. We were a so-called ragtag team, what I would refer to as a Cinderella team, who won the New York-Penn League championship against all odds. It was hiking uphill all season long with a lot of energy in motion and a gut feeling that we might win this thing, and we did

Famed author Roger Kahn was part owner of the team because he wanted to write a book, which he did ("Good Enough to Dream"). What was he like and how was it working with him?

Roger Kahn was an outsider and a huge sports person. I don't think he anticipated what was going to happen that season — the field, the resistance from the league, our awful conditions of our ballpark, the bus, etc. Not great material to work with. I am the person responsible for him coming to Utica, so it was my duty to "guide" him. It was very difficult and we both learned a lot from each other.

You love to travel.

I have traveled all over the world, from Tahiti to Canada. I do not mind hotels, airplane rides, etc. I traveled with the teams and also to six (Major League Baseball) winter meetings.

You've owned Tiny's for 26 years, carrying on a long tradition. How did you get involved with that and how have you been able to make it a success?

I got involved because I always wanted to work in baseball and I always wanted to own a



Joanne Gerace has owned Tiny's Grill on State Street in Utica for 26 years. Joanne said Tiny's was not her first choice when she decided to own a restaurant: "I took advantage of the fact it was an original bar and grill. I like tradition. Success comes with hard work in this business."

JOANNE "JO JO" GERACE

Age: 64.

Resides: Utica.

Occupation: Restaurateur (owner of Tiny's on State Street in Utica).

Past occupation: Former general manager of the Utica Blue Sox of the New York-Penn League.

Education: Mount Carmel School, Utica Catholic Academy, Mohawk Valley Community College, Utica College.

Favorite activities: Go to sporting events, movies, camping, traveling.

Favorite sport: Baseball

Favorite TV show: "I Love Lucy."

Favorite movie: "Key Largo."

Favorite books: John D. McDonald's Travis McGee novels.

Favorite quote: "Let each become all he is capable of being."

restaurant. Tiny's was not my first choice. I took advantage of the fact it was an original bar and grill. I like tradition. Success comes with hard work in this business. I have worked every day, unless I was sick, and even then. Working every day is key.

What's your favorite part about owning a restaurant and what's the toughest part?

Owning is that you can make it your way — the food, décor, sponsoring, etc. The worst is the expenses and the managing of employees.

Your family is very important to you. You take care of your 95-year-old mother. How difficult is that?

I choose to take care of my mother. I always tell her that she is going to live forever as long as I take care of her. I cannot turn her over to anyone.

Mount Carmel also is a very important part of your life. You went to school and received all your sacraments here. What does the parish mean to you?

The parish means home. Home is a place you can always go back to. We move around, we have our lives to live, but you can always come back to Mount Carmel. I love my church. I was very active in it when I was younger (CYO) and have found a lot of fulfillment here in whatever I can do for the church.

What do you hope the future holds for you?

Good health and happiness. And I would like to retire and see the rest of the world that I have missed.



The Elacqua boys, from left: Matthew, David, Nicholas and Michael. Their generation is continuing the family tradition of service to the parish.

Carrying on family legacy

Current generation of Elacquas making its mark in parish

St. Mary of Mount Carmel Church is 120 years old this year. For much of that time, the Elacqua family has been a major contributor to the parish. For several generations, members of the family have volunteered, worked and strived to make worship in the parish one of the best. The latest generation is no exception. Matthew and Michael, sons of Lois and Vincent, and David and Nicholas, sons of Anne and David, are following in their parents', grandparents' and great grandparents' footsteps.

You gentlemen are continuing a long line of several generations of Elacquas who have been an integral part of our parish. What does that history mean to you?

Matthew and Michael: Our great-grandparents were parishioners here. Our grandparents were parishioners for most of their lives and our grandmother even taught in the school here. Our parents have been active here our whole lives. Mount Carmel has been a part of every generation in our family, so it is like home to us, and it does mean more knowing we've always been here.

David: The Elacquas have been in our parish for such a long time. We have been very involved in our community, mostly in the music

“ I keep volunteering in the parish because I have such a fun time doing it. Being surrounded by supportive members of the parish community makes it all the more fun.”

David Elacqua

ministry. I feel honored to be a part of this history and it makes me proud to be an Elacqua.

Nicholas: The history of my family in our parish means a lot to me. We've always done so much for the parish, and I want to continue to do so also.

While you were growing up, were you encouraged to volunteer and did you feel obligated to because so many of your family members have in the past?

Matthew and Michael: We didn't really feel obligated. It just seemed like the natural thing to do. Our father played guitar in the choir and our mother taught in Sunday school, so being involved was just what we were used to, and adults in the parish always made us feel good about being involved.

David: While I was growing up, I was encouraged to volunteer in the parish by my parents and family, and because of our history I felt somewhat obligated to volunteer. I am very thankful for the encouragement because I have come to love volunteering in our parish.

Nicholas: As I became old enough, I did feel obligated to volunteer in the parish, but I really like helping out, especially when we work the pizza frita sales.

As you get older, why do you keep doing it?

Matthew and Michael: We really enjoy ourselves here, and we have learned the value of contributing. There is a good feeling that comes from being involved, and our parish community is an important part of our lives. In a lot of ways we probably get more out of it than we put in.

David: I keep volunteering in the parish because I have such a fun time doing it. Being surrounded by supportive members of the parish community makes it all the more fun.

Nicholas: I continue to volunteer for the parish because it's a lot of fun to do. Since my family members and friends are doing the activities, too, it makes it even more fun.

At one time or another, you all were altar

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Disunity rooted in history

Roman Catholic-Orthodox fissure centuries in the making

Almost every evening, as we watch the world news, we hear of conflicts within the Muslim faith between Sunnis and Shiites.

It may be puzzling to westerners how one faith can be fractured between its adherents.

For the record, historically, upon the death of Muhammad in 632 AD, the Sunnis chose Abu Bakr, the prophet's adviser, to become the first successor, or caliph, to lead the Muslim state. The Shiites favored Ali, Muhammad's cousin and son-in-law. Ali and his successors are called imams; they are considered to be descendants of Muhammad.

There are some differences between the two groups in their interpretation of Islamic law. Shiites honor Muslim saints but Sunnis do not. Saudi Arabia is predominantly Sunni, while Iran is predominantly Shiite. The two power-houses do not get along.

To the casual observer this doesn't seem to be enough to trigger the bloody scenes we see from the comfort of our living rooms. But if we look to our Christian past we can see division and conflict as well.

The world looks upon Christianity as a collection of several faiths, the largest of which is Roman Catholic, that believe in a common savior. We are Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox. There are many contributing factors to the rise of Protestant communities from the 16th century on, but the oldest division is that between Catholicism and Orthodoxy.



A.J. VALENTINI

In its infancy the "church" existed as nascent communities founded by Christ's apostles around the Mediterranean and to the East. By the 5th century, these communities were organized under five patriarchates: Rome, Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem.

That of Rome, founded by Sts. Peter and Paul, was considered first among equals. In the 4th century, the Roman emperor Constantine moved his capital from Rome to Constantinople, and with that a rift for dominance in leadership in the church began.

Over the next 600 years, several contributing factors led to the Great Schism of 1054. Rome lost its political power, and due to invasions from Western Europe it was weakened even more. Islam began to take hold, toppling the patriarchates of Alexandria, Antioch and Jerusalem.

The patriarch of Constantinople centralized power becoming the sole patriarch of the East. The move was seen as a conflict of sovereignty. The pope based his claim to leadership as

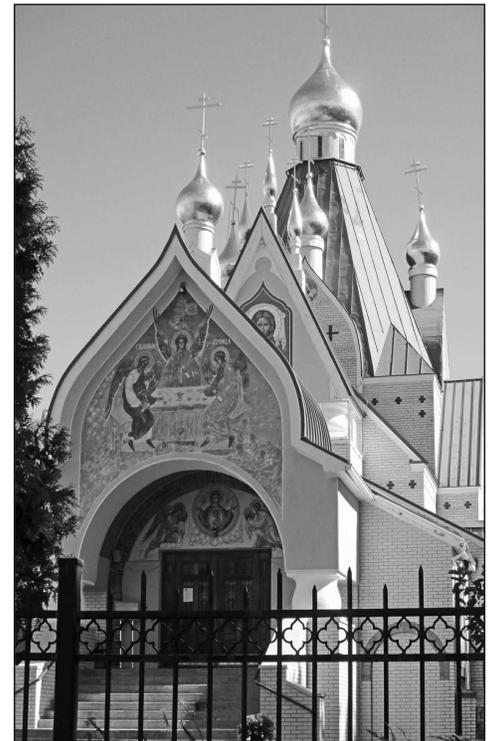


the successor to Peter ("And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." – Matthew 16:18).

The Church of Rome made interpretations of dogma to which Constantinople objected because it never was allowed input. The Catholics see the Trinity as a unity of essence. The Orthodox explain the Trinity as three distinct persons. There also are disagreements as to the perpetual virginity of Mary and the nature of original sin. In the 9th century, Rome objected to the elevation of the Byzantine emperor to the position of patriarch of Constantinople.

The Roman Church used Latin, while the Orthodox used Greek. This created many conflicts because some words don't translate well from one language to the other and nuances that the clergy held dear were misinterpreted.

The most egregious conflict between the factions occurred after the capture and sacking of Constantinople during the Fourth Crusade of 1204. The Catholic westerners sacked the Church of Holy Wisdom (the mosque known as Hagia Sofia today but then the equivalent to the East's Vatican), destroyed monasteries and the great library of Constantinople. In truth, as much damage was reeked on the Crusader's Christian brethren as on their Muslim enemies



TOP PHOTO: St. Peter's Basilica, the center of Roman Catholicism, in Rome, Italy. ABOVE: Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville, part of the Russian Orthodox Church.

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ELACQUAS

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servers. Why did you do it and what did you get out of it?

Matthew and Michael: This probably started because of our older cousins. Every one of our cousins who are parishioners here were altar servers and they were pretty committed to it. As young servers, we had opportunities to serve with our older cousin Bethy because even as an older cousin, she still helped whenever she could.

David: I became an altar server because I loved watching the altar servers on the altar before I became one. Now as an altar server, it has allowed me to become more involved in our parish and I feel my faith has deepened because of it.

Nicholas: All of my older cousins were altar servers before me, and that made me really want to become an altar server, too. Altar serving has been a lot of fun for me, especially around the holidays like Christmas and Easter. Also, it allowed me to be more involved in the church.

You like to decorate the church, especially for Easter. Why do like that so much?

Matthew and Michael: That really is a lot of fun. We think our parish celebrates Holy Week really well. The sense of community that week is so unbelievable with so many people, young and old, contributing. It really has become a tradition to work behind the scenes that week for so many people. We would really miss it if we didn't do it. It just wouldn't feel the same.

David: Decorating the church for Easter is so much fun. All the Elacqua kids get together and we carry all of the flowers in for Holy Saturday Mass in our Cesta T-shirts, and we all just have a great time doing it.

Nicholas: Holy Week is such a special time for me, and decorating the church for Easter makes it even better. After decorating, the church looks amazing and it's great to be a part of making it look so good. It's also a lot of fun to decorate because it's like a special family activity.

How important is your faith?

Matthew and Michael: In a way, it's a part of everything we do. It's hard to imagine our lives without it and we think that we're better people and happier people because of it.

David: My faith is so important to me because it gives me strength in both good and difficult times. My faith has guided me throughout my entire life and it will continue to do so.

Nicholas: My faith is really important to me. I was taught to always go to church throughout my life, which has strengthened my faith a lot, and going to church every week allows me to not forget about my faith.

What's the one thing your parents have taught you that is most meaningful to you?

Matthew and Michael: Never give up. We learned that we can make a difference if we try to live right, love the people in our lives and keep God and our faith close.

David: My parents have taught me to always trust in God because He will always get you through the good and tough times. Anytime you need help, ask God because He will always give you the answer in one way or another.

Nicholas: My parents have taught me to always go to church and to rely on God to help me.

What advice would you give to friends who might not be as faithful as you?

Matthew and Michael: That faith and being involved in a church community really can have an effect on the way you see the world around you. Faith can give you a good reason to be hopeful when things are tough.

David: I would tell friends that aren't as faithful as me that God will help them through whatever they need. Praying to Him also gives you a sense of relief and comfort that is difficult to get anyway else.

Nicholas: They should give God a try. I would tell them that God has a place in my life and that maybe they could find a way to have God come into their life, too.

VISION

Continued from Page 3

have also contributed. I also wrote two grants and we received one from the Good News Foundation and the other from our diocese. We were very fortunate to reach our goal. It was hard work."

But it all pays off, especially for the youths.

Mari-Lea Gazzal has attended Notre Dame Vision twice, including this year.

"I decided to go because I wanted to experience meeting new people and understand what the program would teach me about myself," she said.

Mari-Lea said her favorite part about the conference is "how they make you think deeper about your faith."

She even shared her experience with her friends.

"I told them and explained to them about having a deeper way of looking at things than before going to Vision," Mari-Lea said. "I would tell them to go experience this program because it will change your life."

Jackie Adamo attended Vision for the first time, along with her sister. She said the experience "has 100 percent enriched my faith."

"This was by far the most amazing adventure I have ever been on," she said. "Amazing mentors and guest speakers made each day a new beginning for me. I had an enormous amount of time to myself to sit and reflect on my life and make sure I'm doing the right thing. The campus was breathtaking and each building that I walked into gave me chills. It was so overwhelming to the point that it was beautiful. I now feel that my relationship with God has grown and will continue to grow."

Anne said if there is one thing that stands out about Vision, it would be the speakers.

"They are incredible," she said. "They speak from the heart and it allow the kids to see that being Catholic is cool. The music here is also great. Everyone is so dynamic. It is an uplifting experience."

Anne encourages parents of teenagers to consider the Vision experience.

"I know as a parent, sending your child 10 hours from home for a week is a scary thing," she said. "This trip is so worth it. Once you are on this beautiful campus, it is an incredible experience. There is so much to see and do on the campus besides the conference. We make sure that we include a tour so the kids can see all that there is there and it also helps those who will be looking for colleges to see what a big campus is all about.

"Besides that, the experience of finding a personal relationship with God and deepening your faith in a fun way allows the students to see that being Catholic is cool and that their faith has meaning. It grows to be a part of their life just like eating and sleeping. ... It is definitely an experience that is well worth the journey."

OUR CATHOLIC HERITAGE

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who held the Holy Land.

Souvenirs of their conquest were brought back to Europe and still decorate churches such as Venice's St. Mark Cathedral and other churches and palaces today. In 2004, Pope John Paul II apologized to Bartholomew I, the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, saying that the plundering 800 years ago caused him "pain and disgust."

There are several differences in the practices of the two churches today. In communion, the Orthodox use leavened bread and Catholics use unleavened bread. The Orthodox Church believes that Christ is mystically present in communion while Catholics believe the bread and wine are transformed into the body and blood of Christ. The mural over our altar is a

copy of the top half of a famous fresco that depicts the discussion of exactly what the transubstantiation is.

The Orthodox Church is led by patriarchs who administer specific geographic areas. They are considered equals with none having authority over the others. The Orthodox refusal to be beholden to the will of the pope in Rome is one of the main factors in the ancient split.

Today, there are about 1.18 billion Catholics in the world. About 60 million of those are in the USA. It is estimated that there are about 200 million Eastern Orthodox adherents, the largest group being the 100 million Russian Orthodox. The USA claims 1.5 to 3 million Orthodox.

Fortunately, in this country, we manage to get along.



Receive the Holy Spirit



Twenty-one of our young people were confirmed by Bishop Robert Cunningham on Thursday Oct. 20. They are: Jacquelynn Marie Adamo, Samuel Lorenzo Bianco, Michael John Paul Boyer, Giovanni Nicholas DeCarlo, Maya Mary DeFazio, John Michael Dellerba, David Ronald Elacqua, Michael Anthony Elacqua, Rocco Louis Fanelli, Hsar Kpru John Htoo, Aja Angela La, Anthony Damian Latella, Salvatore Cosmas Latella, Kyaw Luke Lay, Alaina Maria Marsala, Michael Vitus Morrissey, Brianna Maria Nassar, Dominic Joseph Nicoletta, Jennifer Philomena Piccola, Bas Kar Pascal Reh and Serafina Bridgid Sortino. View more photos at www.mount-carmelblessedsacrament.com.

