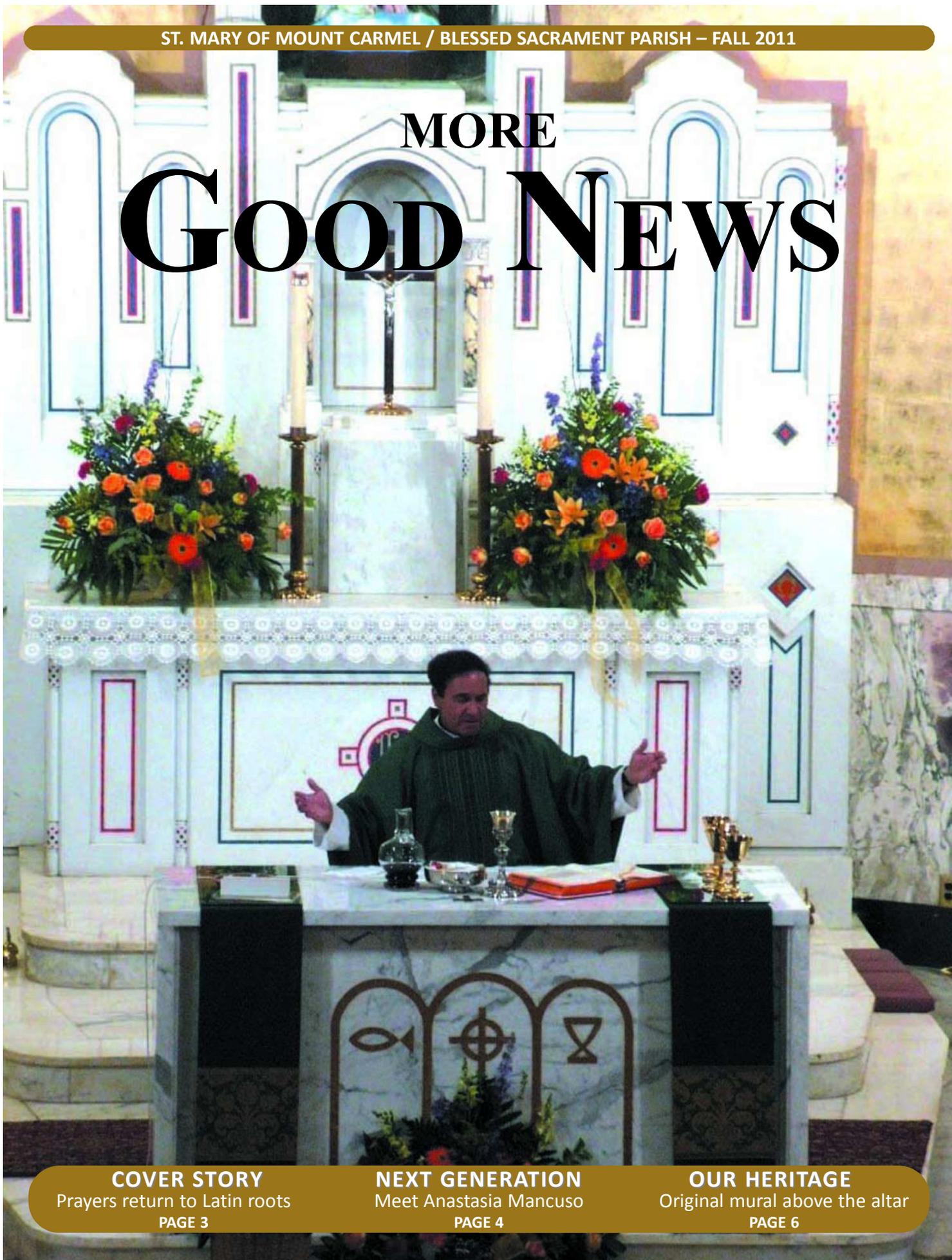


MORE GOOD NEWS



COVER STORY

Prayers return to Latin roots

PAGE 3

NEXT GENERATION

Meet Anastasia Mancuso

PAGE 4

OUR HERITAGE

Original mural above the altar

PAGE 6

Father Jim: 'The puzzle that is me'

Having been asked to offer a few words about my life, I'm happy to do so.

I blame being mostly happy and optimistic on a comfortable, spoiled and fortunate youth and school experience in those "growing" years.

I attended public school in Syracuse because Dad was a teacher, administrator and assistant superintendent – if I went to Catholic school they would have talked me into being a priest (I did it myself).

Italian family background is something many of us share and cherish. Our Lady of Pompei parish had famous, outgoing and gifted priests who influenced me. In ninth grade I knew what my life's vocation would be.

Music, art, reading, outdoor stuff – boats, hiking, swimming, minor carpentry and building – have been and still are important parts of the puzzle that is me.

My friends, priests and people of all ages are the best joy, especially connecting all of them over the years. Having served in several parishes in these 37 years, there's plenty of folks to connect.

Mother passed two years ago, devoted to the family and to her real estate brokerage firm and Republican politics. She and my father also were dedicated to veterans issues and affairs.

Pops, at 88, tells people he is my brother, don't fall for it! His humor, stories and free



FATHER JIM CESTA

advice is legend in several cities.

My sister Ann is in Old Lyme, Conn. Nice family; even married a great Polish boy from

Utica. The younger brother, Michael, and family live in Cicero. He's the hard worker with an automotive and towing business.

We all enjoy a long-time winter home in Jensen Beach, Fla., and the family home in Syracuse. I allow family to come to my summer camp at Skaneateles if they bring food; others don't need to bring anything.

I do enjoy my two nephews and two nieces and one grand-nephew.

Travel has been woven into every year, when it works out. Learning and using different languages is something I really enjoy (still getting the hang of English).

For me, the most important work of the parish priest is to preach the Good News of the Gospel and make it clear, understandable and helpful for daily living, to make weekend Mass a Catholic experience that leaves people feeling better when they leave church than when they entered.

Also, to teach, comfort and cheer up others, to connect people with different gifts and things to offer to the parish or to each other.

I know the Lord uses my outgoing ways for good things, most of the time. If the Lord is waiting for some humility to appear, it will be a long wait.

There is no community or parish that I have been in that I didn't really like and get deeply involved with – and now, here we go again!



Welcome to the 'new' Parish House

Fifty years ago, a new rectory was built at Mount Carmel. Five decades later, the newly remodeled Parish House was open to parishioners Sept. 24 and 25. The improvements include a new kitchen (top right), refurbished living room (top left) and dining room, and improvements to the living quarters upstairs (right). Lori Siniscarco, who was a student at Mount Carmel when the rectory was built, said, "I think it's very tastefully done. It's beautiful."

Prayerful changes are coming

Latin roots make bit of a comeback beginning first Sunday in Advent

“Dominus vobiscum.”

“Et cum spiritu tuo.”

For those old enough to remember, those Latin phrases were recited at Mass for years prior to Vatican II in the early 1960s.

“The Lord be with you. And with your spirit” is the strict translation.

For the decades after Vatican II, the faithful have been responding to “The Lord be with you” with “And also with you.”

That’s about to change as the wording of some of the prayers at Mass takes a step back in time beginning on the first Sunday of Advent.

“We have experienced the sacred liturgy of the Mass in our language for 40 years since Vatican Council II,” Father Jim Cesta said. “Now comes some few ‘updates’ to more fully express the splendor of the prayers, sharpen the biblical images used and draw us more deeply into the meaning and mystery of the Holy Mass – and also to bring out some of the beauty and significance that was rooted in the older Latin translations.”

The most obvious change will be when the priest says, “The Lord be with you,” Father Jim said.

“The people will say, ‘And with your spirit’ instead of ‘And also with you,’” he said. “It’s a bit more profound in carrying the message that the Lord and the Lord’s spirit is hopefully found in the priest and his ministry to the people of God.

“In other words, saying ‘And also with you’ is too much like saying, ‘Oh yeah, you too,’ like a greeting shared over the fence during a barbecue.”

The Msgr. James P. Moroney, in an article on the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops website, said the changes have been evolving



over the past 10 years and started under the late Pope John Paul II.

“Over the past decade, our conference of bishops, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has reviewed translations of the Roman Missal ... in several different forms,” Moroney said. “In November 2009, the bishops approved the last of the 12 segments of the Roman Missal by the requisite two-thirds vote of all ... Latin rite members.”

On March 25, 2010, the English language edition of the Roman Missal with all the changes was enacted, he said.

Other changes, Father Jim said, are in the confessing of sin at the beginning of Mass and

in the profession of faith after the homily.

“We will say, “Through my fault” three times to express humility and contrition, like the older Latin version ‘mea culpa,’” he said. “In the Creed, we will say now, ‘I believe’ instead of ‘We believe,’ not to hide in the crowd but make it a personal statement of faith the rest of the world says. ‘I believe,’ again, is closer to the venerable and more precise Latin Creed.”

And right before Communion is distributed, a change in the wording reflects on a biblical passage.

“The beautiful Gospel episode of the Lord healing the Roman soldier’s sick child is expressed more exactly when we will pray before Holy Communion, ‘Lord, I am not worthy that You should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.’”

Knowing that change sometimes can be difficult, there will be cards in the pews beginning the first weekend of Advent, Nov. 26 and 27, to help the congregation learn the new words.

“These changes in words used are looking forward to helping our prayer at Mass to be more spiritually rich and rewarding,” Father Jim said. “I do consider this a polishing up and thoughtful improvement on the most significant prayer we engage in – the Mass. It will enhance the saving and splendid importance especially of our weekend worship together as the Catholic Church at prayer.

“Even more important, though, is the task of everyone to encourage our faith to be practiced and enjoyed by many more who should be with us but are absent now.”

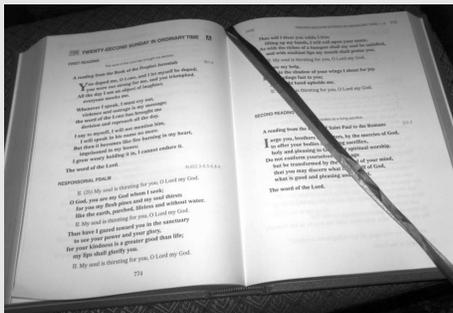
— Fran Perritano

LET US PRAY

Here is the new wording to some prayers that will begin on the first Sunday of Advent:

> I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault, therefore I ask blessed Mary ever Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

> Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify



you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the

world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

> Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb ... Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

> The Lord be with you . . . And with your spirit.

'God is like my best friend'

Question: You went to Notre Dame University this summer. What was that all about?

Answer: Notre Dame Vision is a program set up for young Catholics so they can meet other young people interested in learning about their faith.

Q: How did you get chosen to go?

A: St. Bernard's Church in Waterville was already participating in the program and sent a DVD to our church for the ninth-grade class to watch. I was interested the minute they played the DVD and knew it was for me. I chose to go the summer of 2010 and I enjoyed it so much that I brought along five other girls from Mount Carmel this summer.

Q: What was it like at Notre Dame?

A: When we pulled up to the campus I thought it was one of the most beautiful places I had ever seen. The gardens, Touchdown Jesus, the grotto, the churches - just everything was beautiful.

Q: What did you do while you were there?

A: I stayed for five days. During my time there I attended Mass three times and reconciliation once. I also attended scripture-based plays. We had groups of eight or nine other people my age, and a mentor in faith who was a college student who attended Notre Dame. We did activities that related to Mass, and activities that helped us better understand our religion. The activities helped me to grow in my faith life.

Q: Did you make any friends that you keep in contact with now?

A: I did make good friends there who I talk to now. In life, it is not easy to develop a friendship in five days, but at Notre Dame it was. I feel those relationships will be long-lasting. I am still in contact with my mentor in faith. She gives very good advice and she loves to hear from me. She always tells me, "No matter how close to God you are, or how much you know about Him, you can always grow



Anastasia Mancuso, fifth from left, participates in a scripture-based play during the Notre Dame Vision program during the summer at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Ind. "We did activities that related to Mass, and activities that helped us better understand our religion. The activities helped me to grow in my faith life," Mancuso said.

ANASTASIA MANCUSO

Age: 16

Education: Junior at Thomas R. Proctor High School

Family: Father Michael, mother Michelle, twin sisters Isabella and Angelina (14)

What you like to do for fun: Ice skating, walks with my dog, visit with family and friends, going to the movies and shopping.



closer and learn more."

Q: Was there one person who made an impression on you?

A: Julia, my mentor in faith, made a long-lasting impression on me for one specific reason. The winter after my first year of attending Notre Dame Vision, Julia was in Africa on a mission helping sick children. When I made my Confirmation in June, I choose the name Angela, after Angela de Medici (a missionary who experienced blindness while on a pilgrimage to help young girls understand/develop their faith). She is my favorite saint, and Julia reminded me of her in many ways.

Q: If you could pick out one thing you learned, what would it be?

A: Keep learning and growing and never give up.

Q: What's it like to be in the Mancuso family with mom, dad and twin sisters?

A: My family is very chaotic. My sisters and I argue a lot and get mad at each other. But then in two minutes we are over that. My parents are very loving and supportive in everything I do. I come from a close-knit family, so to be away alone was very different and scary

for me and them. But Notre Dame felt like home to me, and I felt safe.

Q: Do you feel any responsibility because you are the oldest?

A: I do feel a lot of responsibility being oldest, and I love it. I do help my mother a lot and take care of the house.

Q: Lots of young people don't care to talk about religion. What about you?

A: I love talking about religion. I know some people are embarrassed or ashamed, but I am proud to believe in what I do.

Q: What's the best thing about being a Catholic? What don't you like?

A: The best thing about be Catholic is that there is always more about our religion that I don't know. I keep learning and find new things out every day. The only thing I don't like is that religious education classes end after Confirmation. I believe that is why most teens don't come back to church until they get married. I think we should still have classes after Confirmation. And thanks to my 10th-grade religion teacher Lisa Nicoletta, it is being done. A small group from my 10th-grade class will be meeting with Lisa once a month to continue our religious education.

Q: If you had the chance, what would you tell a friend about what God means to you?

A: God is like my best friend. Best friends are there when you need something, or don't know what to do and need a little push in the right direction. And God is that for me. I am always looking to God for answers. I trust in God and understand what happens isn't always what I want, but have faith in him and endure it.

Q: Who has been the biggest influence in your life?

A: My biggest influence is my dad. He brought me to religious education and church since I was a baby. He cherishes his religion and

Please see ANASTASIA MANCUSO, Page 7



From left: Vincent Elacqua, Scott Perritano, Bob Fontana and Katherine Elacqua, members of the music ministry at Mount Carmel.

Music – and the spirit – move him

Peter Elacqua has led choir for 35 years

It might be a bit of a stretch, but parishioners at St. Mary of Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Parish might have to thank Lawrence Welk and Mitch Miller for the beautiful music that resonates from the choir loft.

Peter Elacqua has been director of music since the 1970s. And part of the reason he loves music is that he was inspired as a youngster by those two musical icons.

“I began studying piano when I was in seventh grade, but I think my love for music originated much earlier,” Peter said. “When I was younger, I was always glued to the TV for Lawrence Welk and Mitch Miller shows. It was inspiring to watch how one man could pull together so many people through music.”

Peter has been pulling it together at Mount Carmel nearly every week for about 35 years. That includes weekend Masses and the major liturgical celebrations of Holy Week, Easter, Advent and Christmas. He also tosses in some weddings and funerals for good measure.

Peter leads the music ministry of about 50 singers and musicians when they are all together, which usually is for Holy Week, Advent and Christmas. Most members come to at least one Mass per weekend (sometimes two). Some are away at college or living in other cities and only return for holidays.

“We are lucky because all our choir members are so enthusiastic, supportive and dedicated,” Peter said.

Choir members range in age from teenagers to at least one person in her 90s.

Peter joined the choir when he was 13 years old because he loved music and church.

“It was the marriage of both for me,” he said.

He prospered under Helen Ehlinger, respectfully known to everyone as Miss Ehlinger.

“I was inspired by Helen Ehlinger, who was our parish organist for over 50 years and who



PETER ELACQUA

Age: 57

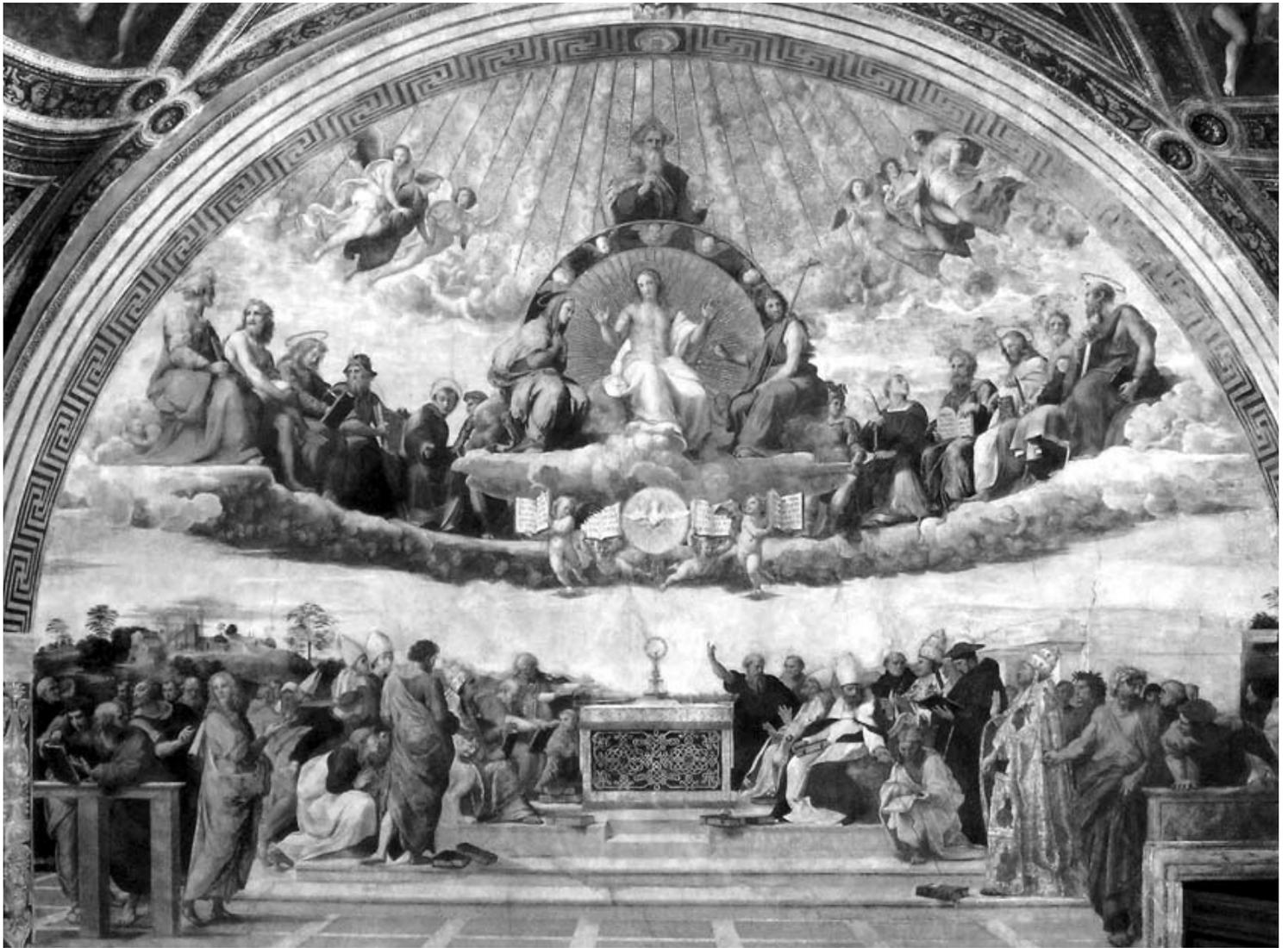
Occupation: French / Spanish teacher at New York Mills High School, MVCC, Empire State College; methods teacher at Utica College; director of music at Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Education: Master’s of arts in teaching French, Spanish and Italian from Colgate University.

Family: Wife Karen (31 years), son Joseph (28) and daughter Elizabeth (27)

Favorite quote: “The eyes are blind; one must look with the heart.” (Antoine de Saint Exupery)

Please see MUSIC MINISTRY, Page 7



Raffaello Sanzio (Rafael) painted *la Disputa del Sacramento (the Disputation of the Sacrament)* in 1509-1510.

Altar mural has rich history

Original painted by Rafael in Italy for Pope Julius II

How many of us have purposefully arrived early to Mass for a few stolen moments of quiet meditation?



A.J. VALENTINI

In those moments our eyes raise to the apse, that semi-circular alcove that shelters the main altar, to contemplate the painting there, an abbreviated interpretation of an old masterpiece.

We witness regular Masses, baptisms, weddings and funerals below the gaze of those figures placed there long ago, yet we know little of their history.



Mount Carmel's version of the Rafael painting.

The story begins with the accession of Pope Julius II in the 16th century. Not wanting to use the same quarters in the pontifical palace as his predecessor, Alexander VI, Julius hired several artists to decorate a series of rooms that would become his home.

Work began immediately, and the rooms

were embellished with frescoes by important artists of the day. At some point, however, Raffaello Sanzio (commonly known as Rafael in English) came on board. His work so impressed the pope that he fired the other artists and made the young man the sole person responsible for the decoration of his apartment (even painting over the work already done!).

The first wall completed (1509-1510) was decorated with a painting known as *la Disputa del Sacramento (the Disputation of the Sacrament)*. In the fresco Raffaello depicted heaven above and Earth below.

We are familiar with the part above, which represents Christ with Mary and John the Baptist surrounded by figures of the New and Old Testaments with God the Father above.

The part not present in our apse is the lower portion depicting an altar, upon which rests a monstrance containing the Eucharist. On either

Please see MOUNT CARMEL MURAL, Page 7

MUSIC MINISTRY

Continued from Page 5

was a legend in her time with a reputation and level of accomplishment that few Catholic organists had,” Peter said.

He said other inspirations were people who sang and performed locally.

“When I was still in high school, I would go to the Utica Opera Guild performances and was always inspired by Pasquale Caputo, who later became my teacher and friend, and by the many people who sang opera here. Roseann Giotto was one of those people and now she sings in our choir.”

When Miss Ehlinger left the choir loft, Donn Sullivan took over for two years. In 1978, Sullivan departed and Peter took up the mantle. He’s been a fixture in the rafters since.

“Father Gino asked me, Karen (before we got married) and my brother Vinny to lead a folk choir in the mid ’70s,” he said. “Karen and Vinny played guitar and I played piano and led the singing.

“Eventually the folk choir and the traditional choir merged, and I became the director of music for the parish. The folk choir began in 1976 and I became the director of music in 1978, so I have been somewhat in charge for 35 years and responsible for the entire music ministry for 33 years.

“Some people from that original group are still with us — Kathy Grandinetta (soprano), Marie Robilotto (flautist) and Angela (Barresi) Ferdula (cantor).”

Keep in mind that director of music is not Peter’s full-time job. He teaches French and



Rosemary Hanley sings in the choir.

Spanish at New York Mills Junior-Senior High School and at colleges in the area. He’s been married for 31 years and has raised a family.

How did he — and does he — fit it all in?

“I spend most of the weekend either planning liturgy, rehearsing with choir members or at Mass, funerals or weddings — directing, singing and/or playing,” he said. “Outside of the weekends, I probably spend about two to three hours a week reading about liturgy, pastoral music, checking out new music or new lyrics for traditional hymns.

Peter is even busier around the holidays.

“When Advent and Lent approach, I spend much more time preparing for the special celebrations, and for Holy Week, which takes so much more time and energy,” he said. “I have learned that every single second I put into

those celebrations is worth the effort — for me as well as for others.”

Peter said he does it because he feels “a spiritual call to this ministry.”

“I have grown in it and it has become a reciprocal gift,” he said. “I do not see my work as a gift to the parish, I see this parish community as a gift from God to me. My work is my thank you to God and to the people here who continually overwhelm me with their support and love.”

That includes his wife, Karen.

“Karen is the only woman I know who can put up with my schedule so patiently and lovingly,” he said. “Holy Week and Christmas at our house revolve around church, and so do her dinners and all her plans. Luckily, she feels the power of this ministry as deeply as I do, and she never reproaches me for the time I spend in church work.”

With all the work and time that’s involved, Peter has considered passing on the torch to someone else — but not quite yet.

“Yes, I think about it often,” he said. “Though I am not yet ready to leave, it would be difficult for me to give up this ministry to someone who does not feel as strongly as I do about it.

“Working with choir, cantors, instrumentalists, priests and parishioners requires sensitivity and openness. It is not so much about performance as it is about prayer. I hope that the person who follows me would understand and embrace that.”

— Fran Perritano

MOUNT CARMEL MURAL

Continued from Page 6

side of that altar are theologians and intellectuals discussing the meaning of the Transubstantiation.

Our portion of the fresco represents “The Triumph of the Church” and depicts the Trinity through God the Father, Christ and the Holy Spirit accompanied by some of the most influential figures who contributed to the establishment of the Church: close to Jesus, Mary (mother of Christ), and John the Baptist

(Christ’s cousin who heralded his coming).

Then, below from left, St. Peter (the first pope), Adam (father of all men), St. John the Evangelist, David (one of Judaism’s greatest kings), St. Steven (martyr), Jeremiah (a profit), Judas Maccabeus (the defender of the Jews), St. Lawrence (early deacon of Rome and defender of the Holy Grail), Moses (holding the tablets of the commandments), St. Matthew or Saint James (there is debate about this one), Abraham (the father of Judaism) and St. Paul (the defender of the faith).

Below these figures are depicted small angels holding portions of sacred scripture.

As soon as Raffaello had completed the work it was hailed as a masterpiece by no less than Giorgio Vassari who wrote: “Non potrebbe pittore alcuno formar cosa più leggiadra, né di maggior perfezzione. (“There couldn’t be any other painter who could create a more lovely thing of greater perfection.”)

Many visitors to St. Mary of Mount Carmel/Blessed Sacrament would agree. We must thank our parish forefathers for their gift.

ANASTASIA MANCUSO

Continued from Page 4

only wants the same for me. He encourages me to participate in Mass and be the best Catholic I can. When I was younger he encouraged me to be an altar server and to help out some of the religion teachers with the small children. When I turned 15 he encouraged me to be a lector. To this day he still encourages me to participate in everything I could. He is a big supporter of the church, and he hopes I will continue to be.

Q: Tell me about Anastasia, the young woman. What is she like?

A: I am loving, caring and sometimes hard-headed. I care a lot about everyone. I like to make sure everyone is taken care of. And I also like to be in charge and make sure everything runs smoothly. I am very family oriented. I love my parents, sisters, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. I also have a close relationship with my godfather and his family who I consider to be my family too.

Q: What do you hope the future holds for you?

A: In the future I hope to become a doctor and serve people as I continue to serve the Lord.

Q: Any advice for people your age?

A: Stay close to the church. Your religion is the foundation of your life. My mother took me to play group at Mount Carmel from age 3 and I have had church a part of my life since then.



Parish festival filled with food, fun, friendship

