

ST. MARY OF MOUNT CARMEL / BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH – FALL 2014

MORE GOOD NEWS



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THIS ISSUE DONATED IN HONOR AND MEMORY
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There's a joy in being Catholic

Pope Francis is known for being a people's pope as well as having a pleasing way about him, the common touch — being humble and reaching out to all kinds of folks.

All this is true; however, recent popes have thankfully made evident these wonderful qualities. Pope St. John Paul II certainly reached out to all kinds of people throughout the world in his pilgrimage travels and youth Masses, with holiness and humor.

Pope Benedict displayed one of the most humble acts we have seen in our lifetime, retiring from being the pope in charge for the good of the Catholic Church. Pope Emeritus Benedict simply knew he didn't have the energy or health to meet the demands of the position. What humility to give up something for love of our church.

What is the unique thing that Pope Francis offers to the world?

It is a fresh, renewed sense and feeling of



FATHER JIM

“The church is not a refuge for sad people. The church is a house of joy.”

Pope Francis

pride and joy in being Catholic in a culture and world that likes to find everything that goes wrong among us.

Like a pleasant breeze flowing over us, Catholics and even non-religious folks of all ages say that Francis brings a rather welcome tone and style of mercy, openness and joy. Recently this pope said: “The church is not a refuge for sad people. The church is a house of joy.”

Remember Jesus said to his closest friends, “May my joy be yours, and your joy be complete.” The Catholic heritage we hold — traditions, music and art; the beauty of the sacred seasons and Holy Days; the presence of Christ in our sacraments and our value given to human life; the inspiring look of our awesome churches, cathedrals and basilicas; the dignity of each baptized person — this is the source of joy in being Catholic.

Another recent quote of Pope Francis is this: “To believe in and follow Christ is something beautiful, capable of filling life with a new splendor and profound joy, even in the midst of difficulties.”

Saints who had nothing in their bank accounts, no frequent-flier miles and no reservations at five-star resorts or hotels, these are the saints who tell us of their deep and profound joy.

These days the duty or obligation of going to weekend Mass, keeping holy the Lord's Day, this does not work in encouraging Mass attendance much anymore. Maybe a good way to invite and encourage going to church is to speak of the joy that comes with practicing and living out faith.

After all, most people say that they really do feel better upon leaving weekend Mass than when they entered the church doors.

Parish Council always is here for you

BY CHRISTINE GRAY

Parish Council is here to represent you.

We share your concerns about the continued Catholic faith in our community and are aware that even though our neighbors may change, we will continue to invite everyone to worship with us at all our Masses.

This year, our Parish Council is made up of nine nominated parish members, two trustees, two youth representatives, our Faith Formation coordinators and our council secretary.

We, along with Father Cesta, work to improve your faith experience at St. Mary of Mount Carmel/Blessed Sacrament Parish.

Some of our goals include suggestions, ideas and possibilities for the long-term future of our parish. In addition the council helps to collaborate all our active committees, continue to serve our community's needs, and encouraging our youth's faithful presence at our services.

“Where there is no vision, people perish.” (Proverbs 29:18)

Through our social events, building improvements and community outreach, we are encouraged to serve and reach as many people as possible. It is with this spirited vision we continue to move forward with our parish life.

We are blessed with so many caring and loyal people. If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please bring them to the



Members of the Parish Council are, top row, from left: Maria Morrissey (youth representative), William Thibault, John Reale, Joe Briggs (trustee), Vito Valenzi (youth representative) Rick Chainey and Sharon Kukowski (secretary). Front row: Christine Gray (chairwoman), Terri Panuccio (Faith Formation coordinator) Antoinette Azzarrito, Terri LaBella, Joanne Gerace and Anne Elacqua (Faith Formation coordinator). Absent: Terry Reale (trustee), John Vella and Patti Geary.

attention of the Parish Council by calling the parish office at 735-1482.

“He who began a good work in you will

carry it to completion.” (Philippians 1:6)

— Christine Gray is chairwoman of the Parish Council



PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY NANCY GRANITI

When Nancy Graniti visited the Vatican in July, she had no idea about a chance meeting that was to take place with Pope Francis.

An unexpected encounter

Trip to Vatican, getting in wrong line pays off

BY FRAN PERRITANO

Life wasn't being kind to Nancy Graniti earlier this year.

"I was going through a difficult time with a personal loss when suddenly there was an unexpected illness in the family," Nancy said. "I felt like everything was closing in on me."

So, she decided in July to return to the place of her birth — Italy.

Nancy came to the United States in 1956 on the infamous Andrea Doria, which sank on its next voyage.

"The decision to go to Italy was unexpected and unplanned," she said. "I decided to visit my sister and family, which turned out to be the best medicine of all. No medicine or therapy can do what a loving and caring family can."

What also turned out to be the right prescription was a chance meeting Pope Francis.

This wasn't the first time Nancy, 66, has seen a pope. From a distance she saw Pope Paul VI and



Pope Francis and Nancy Graniti exchange a few words.

Pope John Paul II.

This was different. She got to talk with Francis and kiss his hand.

"I wanted to just spend time with my sister and family, but she insisted that we needed to do a pilgrimage, but none were available

because of the timing," Nancy said. "I suggested we go to Rome and who knows, we might be able to see Pope Francis."

Nancy said her niece called the Vatican to make arrangements to have an audience with the pontiff but was told that no tickets were needed because he would be in St. Peter's Square that day.

"Every Wednesday, the pope holds an audience in a large hall called Aula Paulo Sesto," she explained. "It holds about 3,000 visitors from all over the world. That is where I was able to see Pope John Paul II.

When they arrived that morning, however, there was hardly anyone in St. Peter's Square.

"For a minute, we thought plans changed and that he would not appear," Nancy said. "Instead, when we went to the other side of the basilica there were hundreds already in line. Because of the hot weather they decided to move it inside.

"We waited in line for hours not knowing if we would be able to go inside," she said. "We managed to make it in the aula. Our seats were about 30 aisles from the main

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A CONVERSATION WITH ...

DOMINICK TIMPANO

Dominick Timpano has been a leader for much of his adult life. He has had several high-ranking positions in firefighters' unions and the state, has been appointed by governors to major posts and even has been an important cog in his parish life. Today, he gets a lot of satisfaction serving others.

You were confirmed and married at Mount Carmel but you were a communicant of Blessed Sacrament Church. How did that happen?

As a boy my family lived on Clementian Street, and I attended Sunday School at Blessed Sacrament. I made First Communion there. I was confirmed and married at Mount Carmel, but was living within walking distance of Blessed Sacrament. All of my five sons graduated from Blessed Sacrament School. During those years, my wife and I and became active in the parish. My wife was president of the Mothers Club and Rosary Altar Society. We both worked at the very first festival that Blessed Sacrament ever held. My wife and I served on the Parish Council. Eventually, I was named as a trustee of the parish.

What are your earliest memories of Mount Carmel?

I have vivid memories of how everyone sang and the processions with the statues of the saints through the neighborhood. People pinned dollar bills to the sashes at a time when they didn't have the money. It was all very moving.

What are your favorite memories of Blessed Sacrament?

I can still smell the first pizza fritta at the first festival. I remember the first spaghetti dinner. Imagine everyone bringing a quart of sauce and pouring it all into milk cans. Likewise with all different meatballs! I made many lifelong friendships with parishioners, sisters and priests.

You were on the parish council during the time Blessed Sacrament was closing and merging with Mount Carmel. How difficult was that for you and the



Dominick Timpano and his wife, Kathleen. They raised five sons.

parishioners?

Merging was very difficult. I had a long history at Blessed Sacrament, but I also had one foot in each parish. Blessed Sacrament parishioners were encouraging me to fight to the end. Relatives from Mount Carmel were telling me to come home. Eventually, we all realized that this is part of the process of moving forward.

What are your thoughts about returning to this community?

We were welcomed with open arms. Old friends embraced us. We share our faith.

Who instilled faith into you as a child and why do you feel so

strongly?

I saw the faith of my father, my mother and last but not least by sister Anne, who everyone knew at Mount Carmel. My father was a sexton at Mount Carmel. I would pick him up after work. If I didn't pick him up he would walk home.

What did you enjoy most about being in leadership positions?

The greatest pleasure in any of my leadership roles was to be able to help someone when they had a problem.

In your spare time you enjoy golfing. What has the game taught you?

Golf has taught me humility.

DOMINICK A. TIMPANO

Age: 83.

Family: Wife Kathleen (Bifano); special sister-in-law Marie Bifano; sons and daughters-in-law Gabriel and Denise, Joseph, Dominick II, Michael and Anne, Robert and Mary Jo; grandchildren Kathleen, Madeline and her husband Gregory Jones, Dominick III, Edmund, William, Michael Abbey; great grandson Blake.

Education: Thomas R. Proctor Class of 1947; labor management studies at Cornell University, Syracuse University, University of Wisconsin, Rutgers University.

Former occupations: Served in Korea with the U.S. Army, city of Utica firefighter, president Local Union 32; executive vice president, secretary/treasurer, registered lobbyist for New York State Professional Firefighters Association; appointed by three state comptrollers to police and fire state Advisory Council for the state Retirement System; appointed by Gov. Mario Cuomo to the state Commission for Codes and Personnel; vice chairman Civil Service Review Board for Firefighters; administrator for Health and Welfare for Insurance and Benefits.

What you like to do in your spare time: Golf, reading, travel.

Favorite book: Biography of Vince Lombardi.

Favorite movie: "The Long Gray Line."

Favorite TV show: Anything from the History Channel.

Hayley's in Act 1, Scene 1 of life

16-year-old taking advantage of God-given talents, experiences

Hayley Oliver sometimes likes to escape. She loves acting, reading and writing – activities that allow her to become other people or live life outside of herself. But when she's back to being Haley, she is a grounded individual with a deep affection for her faith.

You're involved with the theater club at school. How did you get interested in acting?

I always thought acting and theater would be something fun to try, becoming someone else and belting out the final notes to a song seemed so intriguing. I also had a love of listening to music growing up; I always had some music on in the background if I was doing homework, little crafty things or just playing in my room. I had also seen plays growing up.

We once went to see "Annie" in Syracuse but somehow ended up at the wrong theater that was hosting a Daughtry concert. We were just a little late to the play. We also saw "Wicked" when I was in seventh grade and that was probably the point where I *knew* Broadway and theater was going to be a big part of my life.

When I got to junior high I didn't jump right into the theater program, which is a huge regret of mine. Once I was in eighth grade and heard that they were doing a junior musical, I decided to go to the audition and go for it; it was an amazing experience. From then on I tried to get as involved as I could, whether it was on stage in an ensemble or backstage on the crew.

I also joined a theater youth group called the New Hartford Town Summer Theatre; we put on shows and learned all the basics to acting. Although I was only in it for a short three years before I aged out, it is one of the things I'm so grateful I can say I was involved in.

Why do you like acting?

I like acting because it gives you a chance to become something else, live in a whole other world even if just for a moment. It gives you an escape from the everyday pressures of school, homework and things like that. It's something that's also relaxing, even if while acting you're running around to get your costume change done on time. Acting just clears my head up for awhile, and you only have to focus on the scene you're in or where your next exit is. Something about it is just very relaxing for me.

Is there something special about acting in role and becoming another person?

When you take on a role and become someone else, you get to see the world as they might see it. When you act you have to embody this person fully, to become them and really get in their head. You start to see things as someone else might, and you can really gain a respect for others through that. Albeit the biggest role that I've played was a pirate, so that's a bad



Hayley Oliver with her favorite actor, Ramin Karimloo, who has appeared in "Phantom of the Opera" and is making his Broadway debut in "Les Miserables" as Jean Valjean.

example. The roles that I dream of being able to do someday are the ones that I really start to think about the characters, and their struggles and hopes and dreams and earn that deep respect for them.

In addition to theater, you also love reading and writing.

I love reading and writing because it's this whole other world that you can enter into. It's not your everyday mundane life. It's something that can be exciting and adventurous and everything that you could ever dream of. Writing, though, is amazing because I can create a whole new world or help people to see the world as I see it, and I find that really fascinating.

You've been coming to Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament most of your life. What does this parish mean to you?

Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament has become a place that I feel safe and comfortable in sharing my faith. It's a place that I've come to know very well since I started attending religious education classes and I've grown up in my faith life there and I find that really special. It's like how people are fond of their elemen-

tary schools because that's where they learned how to write in cursive or learned how to write an essay; Mount Carmel is the place I learned the Catholic Mass and learned the songs and have grown up in faith.

You'll be making your Confirmation. Is that something special for you?

I have always been someone who has liked being able to call myself a Catholic, and I saw that Confirmation was a part of that so I went along with it. I never really saw the big picture of what I was actually doing, though, then I attended Notre Dame Vision. It changed the way that I saw my faith life and where I wanted to go with it. After that trip I really got excited for my Confirmation and can't wait to become an adult in the church. I see it now as a way to deepen my faith further and that is really quite special to me.

What was that experience at Notre Dame University like for you?

Notre Dame Vision was one of the best experiences of my life, hands down. I went because it sounded like it would be a fun time, and I got

HAYLEY OLIVER

Age: 16.

Lives: New Hartford.

School: Junior at New Hartford High School.

Family: My Mom and Dad.

Favorite things to do in your spare time: Read, write, listen to music, hang out with friends and family, watch movies and play the piano.

Favorite musical artist: Vance Joy and anything Broadway.

Favorite actor: Ramin Karimloo / Colin O'Donoghue.

Favorite TV show: "Once Upon A Time."

Favorite movie: "Star Wars" saga.

Favorite book: "Catching Fire."

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The Italian Heritage Club of the Mohawk Valley, the former Sons of Italy on Bleecker Street, currently has about 275 members. At its height, the Sons of Italy boasted more than 1,000 members.

Italian Heritage Club celebrates past with an eye to the future

Over the past two years, this column has concerned itself with the history of our parish and its buildings. With this issue we would like to focus on how the components of our community are evolving today.

It is common knowledge that the original parish of St. Mary of Mount Carmel was established by the Scalabrini missionaries to accommodate the burgeoning Italian-American community from Italy. As demographics changed and the assimilation of the original families into the American fabric has taken place the presence of the Italian Americans, though strong, is somewhat diminished in our day.

In this issue we will discuss the Italians of our church family. In subsequent issues we will talk about the other groups that make up our diverse parish today.

At one time, Utica boasted that it was home to many Italian clubs and societies that helped maintain the mother culture of their members. Among these groups were the societies that

sustained the chapels of Santa Rosalia and Sts. Cosmas and Damien. In addition, there were groups such as the Pugliese Society, the Daughters of Columbus and the Scandalese Society.

The largest group by far was the Order of Sons of Italy in America, which when it built its lodge on Bleecker Street had more than 1,000 members and was the largest chapter of the Sons of Italy of its time.

More than a year ago the membership (now fewer than 300 people) of the former Utica Sons of Italy, overwhelmingly voted to separate from the national group but carry on independently. Bob Piperata, chairman of the board of directors of the newly formed Italian Heritage Club of the Mohawk Valley, said the organization presently has 275 members.

Its four-fold mission is to: strengthen the spirit of our common culture as descendants of Italians; perpetuate Italian culture and traditions in the community in which they live; foster the principles of charity, justice fellowship and service; and promote the welfare of its members and the Italian-American community of the Mohawk Valley.

It is noted that this mission is very much in

line with the mission of the newly founded St. Mary of Mount Carmel more than 100 years ago.

The Italian Heritage Club requires full members to be of Italian heritage, though social members can be related to Italian Americans, or simply admirers of the Italian culture. The group sponsors a bocce league, has Sunday sales of meatballs and pizza frita, dinner dances such as the annual Columbus Day Gala, and holiday parties.

In addition, on first Thursdays of most months, the lodge sponsors "Pasta e Passeggiate," a series of Italian regional dinners accompanied by virtual tours of the targeted region of the Italian boot and its islands. Accommodating between 60 and 100 guests, this event raises funds for the scholarship fund that gives cash awards to local graduating high school seniors.

As the club strives to maintain the presence of the Italian culture in our community, so do other organizations for other specific ethnic groups in our parish and neighborhood. We will focus on those groups in future issues of the "More Good News" because, like the hymn says, "All are welcome in this place!"



A.J. VALENTINI

HAYLEY OLIVER

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to go to Notre Dame and I thought that was really cool. I had *no idea* what I was in for. I met so many new people and made a lot of friends who I could really connect to and look up to because of how deeply they cared for their faith and expressed it wherever they went. It inspired me and really made me want to get more involved and in tuned with my faith. I have never learned so much about myself in such a short period of time. It was a week filled with growth and faith and so much love that it's almost indescribable.

If there was one message you took away from it, what would it be?

One message would be that faith isn't something meant only to be important for an hour on the weekend, but something to celebrated in day to day life. There is one moment from the trip that will stick with me for the rest of my life that I think about a lot. The group of us 300 teens were inside this small dorm chapel; it was very simple and not as lavish as Mount Carmel or the Basilica. When it came time to sing the "Our Father," we all held hands, and I mean all of us. People stretched out into the aisle and around to the people behind them and in front of them. We were all connected in the

glory of the Lord and looking around at all those people just like me, who have struggles and worries of their own, really touched me.

How would you describe your relationship with God?

I would say that my relationship with God is mainly me having little conversations. I pray at the most random times, too, but I don't really think it matters when you do as long as you keep up that relationship. While at Vision, one of the speakers told us that he says "bless us O Lord for these our gifts ..." whenever he feels he is receiving a gift from God, and I have started to do that, too. It's surprising to see how often someone can find a gift from the Lord in day-to-day activities, and it makes you appreciate them all the more.

What's the best piece of advice you can give to someone?

My advice would be that no matter what hardships someone is going through there is always another day to make things right. As long as someone is true to themselves they can overcome anything and make any situation better. Being yourself is the No. 1 thing today because so many people are fakes and cheats and the best thing to do is to keep your head up and be proud of the person God made you.

MEETING THE POPE

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stage where His Holiness would be.

What happened next, Nancy said, still is a blur.

"My niece went to ask one of the ushers a question and he just told her the Argentinians keep moving," she said. "That is when she came and said, 'Just follow me.' and, of course, we did. We found ourselves about five rows back and in the section of the Argentina Bacio Mano group."

Somehow, Nancy, her sister and niece ended up in a line of Argentinians – from Pope Francis' native country.

"My sister and I along with my niece just looked at each other still not believing where we were and in a matter of hours we would be face to face with Pope Francis," she said. "As we saw him make his way through crowds from St. Peter's Square to inside the aula, we're still not really believing all this was happening."

"Emotion flooded through my mind, along with tears and shock, and when he finally approached me all I remember saying is, 'May I kiss your hand,' which I did, then I remember touching his shoulder as he approached my sister and that is when I plainly said, 'By the way, I bring greetings from Utica, New York.' He turned and gave a big smile and looked confused as if to say what are you doing in the

Argentinian group."

Nancy doesn't remember much else about the chance meeting.

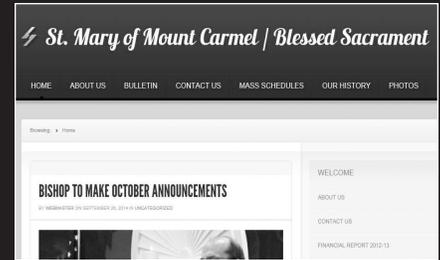
"I was in such a state of awe and disbelief that it all seemed like a movie or a dream," she said. "I do know all that is said about him is true. He is a very gentle, humble and very patient. Never during all the people he blessed and spoke with did he ever show distress. People brought gifts, which he humbly accepted, and a little boy pulled the cap off his head and he took and gave it to him."

Nancy, who has worked at Walmart for 20 years, visited a number of other places in the "Old Country" while she was there, but nothing could compare to meeting the pope.

"I have gone many times to Italy, have seen many places, have been to Rome numerous times, but having seen, touched and spoken with Pope Francis was and will always remain a most memorable time in my life."

We've all heard the phrase that God works in mysterious ways. Nancy isn't sure whether this was God's way of telling her that the troubles in her life aren't insurmountable, but she did take something away from meeting the pope.

"Has it changed my life? No," she said. "But I do know I look at life a little differently, accept whatever life brings — some good, some not so good. I also believe if you have faith you will make it through."



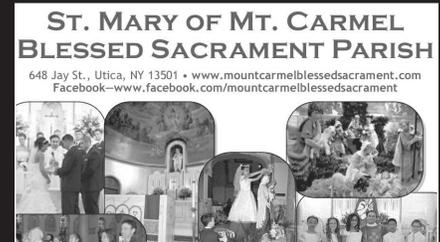
Check out our parish website

If you've never been to our parish website at www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com, you don't know what you're missing. It's constantly updated with the latest parish news and announcements. There's even a mobile version for your smart phone. Here is some of what you will find on the site:

PHOTO GALLERIES



PARISH BULLETIN



... AND MORE

- > Father Jim's "Wise and Otherwise"
- > History of the parish
- > Lector, minister, altar server schedules
- > Links to Faith Formation website and Facebook page, parish Facebook page, Daily Readings, Catholic Sun
- > Mass schedules
- > Parish news
- > Ministries
- > "More Good News" magazine
- > Videos



SUMMERTIME FUN



Summer 2014 was filled with many events in which the Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Parish family and others enjoyed. Three of the top attractions were the annual festival, the second annual golf tournament and a night at Vernon Downs.