

MORE

GOOD NEWS



Visiting St. Kateri Tekakwitha shrine

Parishioner shares her personal perspective

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PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Come home to church; God's light will be on

A few years ago, a well-known motel chain came up with a TV ad campaign that showed a porch light on and the words, "Come home to us, we'll leave the light on for you."

It's was an effective approach because it appealed to something so basic to most folks — returning home and being welcomed, accepted and embraced.

Also, at schools and colleges, one of the best and most-welcomed times is home-coming weekend. Students and families sometimes bond together and actually enjoy one another more than ever.

During these early days of autumn, even before the leaves really change their colors, some good Catholic people of different ages might consider "coming home" to practicing the faith and being present at weekend Mass.

As far as being Church, it is so true that we look our best and are the better when more of us are present to each other and present to the Word of God and the sacraments of our precious faith. People carry in their heart and mind their memory and experiences different things that have kept them absent and away from the household of faith and the Mass. Some excuses



FATHER JIM CESTA

are very shallow; some are serious.

But coming home to weekend Mass and participating with brothers and sisters who share the faith might need just one step — or a short drive and just one hour that can make a big difference for the whole week.

Is that something you might encourage friends or family to try?

Last fall, one young woman returned, and 20 minutes into the sacred liturgy she thought, "Lord, it's good for me to be here."

The light isn't the porch light of the motel commercial; it is of course the light of the wisdom of God's Word we hear and the splendor of the sacrament of the altar that is shared in Communion.

CELEBRATING THE SAINTS

The Solemnity of All Saints Celebrated on Nov. 1

The earliest certain observance of a feast in honor of all the saints is an early fourth-century commemoration of "all the martyrs."

In the early seventh century, after successive waves of invaders plundered the catacombs, Pope Boniface IV gathered some 28 wagon-loads of bones and reentered them beneath the Pantheon, a Roman temple dedicated to all the gods. The pope rededicated the shrine as a Christian church. According to Venerable Bede, the pope intended "that the memory of all the saints might in the future be honored in the place which had formerly been dedicated to the worship not of gods but of demons."

But the rededication of the Pantheon, like the earlier commemoration of all the martyrs, occurred in May. Many Eastern Churches still honor all the saints in the spring, either during the Easter season or immediately after Pentecost.

How the Western Church came to celebrate this feast, now recognized as solemnity, in November is a puzzle to historians. The Anglo-Saxon theologian Alcuin observed the feast on



Nov. 1 in 800, as did his friend Arno, Bishop of Salzburg. Rome finally adopted that date in the ninth century.

This feast first honored martyrs. Later, when Christians were free to worship according to their consciences, the Church acknowledged other paths to sanctity. In the early centuries the only criterion was popular acclaim, even when the bishop's approval became the final step in placing a commemoration on the calendar.

The first papal canonization occurred in 993; the lengthy process now required to prove extraordinary sanctity took form in the last 500 years. Today's feast honors the obscure as well as the famous — the saints each of us have known.

— www.franciscanmedia.org

PARISH WEBSITE

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



St. Mary of Mount Carmel Blessed Sacrament Parish

www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com and www.facebook.com/mountcarmelblessedsacrament

ABOUT THE PARISH **BAPTISM**

Address: 648 Jay St., Utica, NY 13501. Telephone: 315-739-1482; Fax: 315-735-8806. Office hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Closed on Friday and national holidays.

Faith Formation and Sacraments Center: 315-724-3950. Email: stmaryuta@nydioc.org

Hearing impaired: Listening devices available in the sacristy.

MASS SCHEDULES **NEW PARISHIONERS**

Weekend Welcome to our parish family. We invite you to become an active participant of our parish community. Please be sure to register by calling the parish office.

Saturday: 4:30 p.m. (livestream on parish YouTube channel) Sunday: 8 and 11 a.m.

Weekday **PARISH STAFF**

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:30 a.m. **Pastor:** Rev. Jim Cesta

Rosary for the unborn and Divine Mercy Chaplet: Thursday after Mass. **In Residence:** Rev. Luis Ojugin

Holy Days **Trustees:** Rocco Arcuri Sr. and Bill Tibault

Consult the bulletin and website. **Parish Office Manager:** Terri Piazza-Panuccio

RECONCILIATION **Faith Formation K-6:** Terri Piazza-Panuccio

Saturday: 3:45 p.m. **Faith Formation 7-12:** Anna Carlone Elacqua

MARRIAGE **Music Director:** Peter Elacqua

Couples must make arrangements six months in advance. **Website Manager, Bulletin Editor:** Fran Perritano

Buildings and grounds: Lonny Jones



... and more

Scan the QR code below to get the mobile version of the website and save it to your home screen Here's some of what you'll find:

- Wedding Planning Guide.
- Funeral Service Planning Guide.
- Weekly prayers, reflections, photos, videos and more to enrich your faith.
- Photo galleries
- Mass schedules



COVER STORY

A spiritual journey

Parishioner walks the paths of history at St. Kateri Tekakwitha shrine in Fonda

By AMY PERRITANO EDDY

On a beautiful June day, I decided to pack up some snacks, my camera, a journal and drive to the St. Kateri Tekakwitha National Shrine and Historic Site in Fonda.

It is a straight drive east on Route 5. A couple of months earlier, I visited Our Lady of the Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville and made it a goal to visit “the other shrine” in the near future.

We previously learned all about St. Kateri’s life from A.J. Valentini in the spring edition of this magazine. A remarkable, young, indigenous woman of the Mohawk tribe, her family was hit by tragedy when smallpox took her mother and little brother along with her own health. She became visually impaired, visibly scarred and physically weakened.

She was known as Tekakwitha because it means “she who fumbles her way” or “she who bumps into things.” She was a healer because of this disability, for it was believed that enhanced healing skills came with impairments in vision or other senses.

So, while it might seem like a terrible name to call a kid today, it was just a matter of fact in those times. It makes sense even now, though. We each have our own strengths and talents, despite our weaknesses.

St. Kateri (or Catharine, as she liked to be called), was born in the village of Ossernenon, which is the site of Our Lady of the Martyrs. The people there were forced to flee due to attacks from the French. They moved north to Caughnawaga village, which is where my journey, and my story, takes me.

When I arrived at the shrine, I visited the Native American exhibit first. Though it is small, it does an effective job telling the history of how human beings came to be where we are living today and how archaeology has helped identify these people, objects and purposes of such in the past. There is a topographical map of the area that lights up (sort of, it clearly needs maintenance) to show you what tribes were where and how those areas relate to the places we know today.

Also in this museum is a separate room that tells the story of St. Kateri in textual plaques on the walls. Starting on the right with her birth around to the left with the story of how she finally became canonized by Pope Benedict the XVI in 2012. Within her story is a portrait that is said to be the only accurate image of her, painted after her death by the Rev. Claude Cauchetiere, a Jesuit priest who knew her. Al-

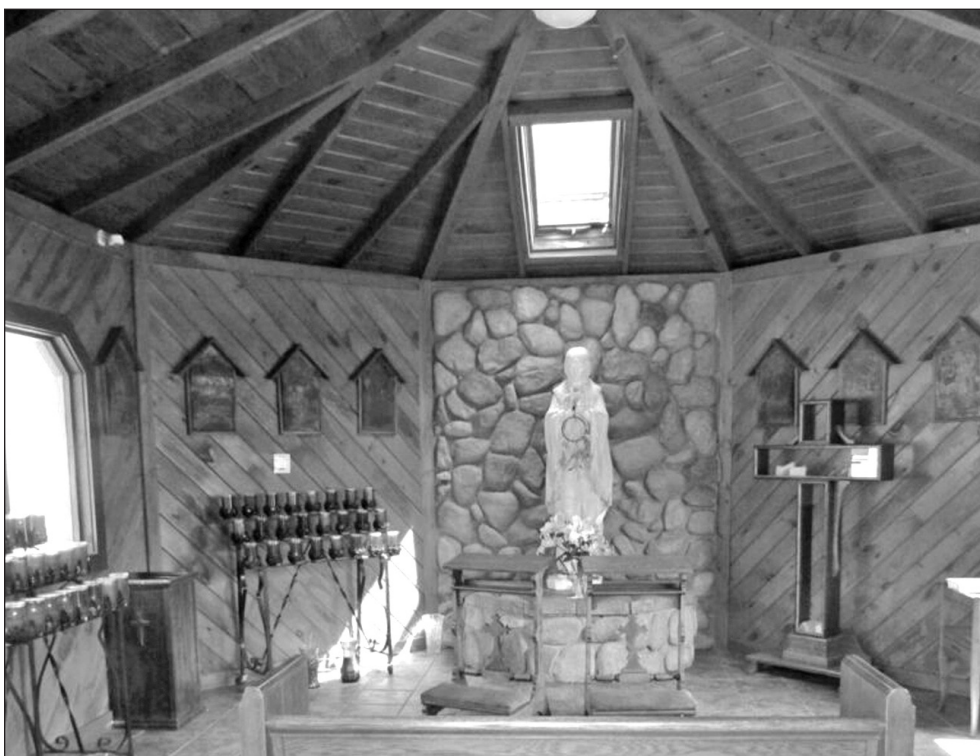


Photo by AMY PERRITANO EDDY

The Candle Chapel, where you can light real candles. Before entering the chapel, there is a little picnic table with various sized twigs and string so that you can make your own cross.

About the shrine

- **Where:** 3636 Route 5, Fonda
- **Telephone:** 518-853-3646
- **Email:** info@katerishrine.org

Winter season

Nov. 1 through April 30

- Candle Chapel, outdoor sanctuary, Caughnawaga Village Site, Kateri Spring and hiking trails are open year-round, dawn to dusk, weather permitting.
- Access to gift shop by appointment only
- St. Peter’s Chapel, the Native American Museum and public bathrooms are closed.
- No Masses

Summer season

May 1 through Oct. 31

- Grounds open sunrise to sunset daily.
- St. Peter’s Chapel and Native American Museum open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Gift shop open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday through Wednesday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursday and Friday.
- Masses: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, 10:30 a.m. Sunday. Sacrament of Reconciliation available beginning half an hour before service.
- Adoration begins at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday.
- Candle Chapel, Caughnawaga Village site, Kateri Spring and grotto, outdoor sanctuary and hiking trails are open from sunrise to sunset year-round.

though she resembles a nun here, she is wearing the traditional blanket of her people.

Next, I went upstairs to the St. Peter’s Chapel where Masses are offered. There is an altar, electric candles, a place to write intentions and a few murals of key moments of St. Kateri’s

Christian life. I walked around, took in the ambience, knelt at the altar and left an intention before heading to the next area.

While St. Peter’s Chapel has electric candles (that burn for five days), there also is a Candle **Please see KATERI SHRINE, Page 7**

Jack (or John) of all trades

John Jones uses his many skills in many ways

John Jones emerges every July. He's the guy who knows everything about setting up for the festival. It's a tough job, but John does it for the love of his parish.

You're a big sports fan. Hockey is your favorite; you even played it. How did you get involved in sports and what do you enjoy most about it?

My father was a semipro pitcher in a northern New York league and a big Yankees fan. He got me started watching games on TV, and I coached Little League and Pony League baseball, and he took me to Clinton Comets games where I became a hockey nut playing the game in youth leagues through the Mohawk Valley Oldtimers adult league. I most enjoy the competition at all levels of sports.

The Boston Bruins is your favorite NHL team, and you followed the Boston Celtics for years. Yet, you still like some New York teams. How did you end up being a fan of Beantown teams?

The Bruins were winning a lot in the '70s and appeared on TV the most it seemed and had a cast of real characters and good players, and I just loved their tough play. Same with the Celtics as they had won eight NBA titles in a row from 1959-'66 and were on TV every Sunday in the NBA Game of the Week. I'm a big Yankees and New York Giants fan. Go figure!

You and your wife are season ticket holders with the Utica Comets. How have you seen our city progress over the last few years since the Comets re-emerged several years ago?

The Comets brought new life and energy to Utica as a quality of life positive for the city. The Aud was refurbished to look like it was just built with many progressive amenities for fans. The building of the Nexus Center has brought much revenue into the city's hotel, restaurant and retail businesses. We are fortunate that a city of our size was awarded another AHL franchise and the fan response to the Comets contributed greatly to the emergence of the Utica City FC soccer team calling Utica home. Both pro teams and the many bookings of hockey, soccer and lacrosse tournaments at the Nexus Center are a win-win for the city and its sports fans.

The military is very special to you, having served 29 years. What made it so special?

The military taught me structure and organization that I have invoked in many aspects of my life. The friendships made with those you serve with are everlasting and you learn to respect and understand the history of the service to our country of those who came before you. I traveled the world and saw many historical sites that I know I would have never experienced



John Jones and his grandchildren Arianna, Brian and Julianna. Another boy is coming soon.

without military service as part of my life.

You served in Operation Desert Storm — the first Persian Gulf War — in 1991. Give some insight into what you did and what the experience was like.

Well, the middle of Saudi Arabia was like landing on the moon — a landscape of sand, rock and earthtone brown — not a speck of green to be seen. I was an aircraft weapons technician that loaded bombs and missiles on F-16 fighter jets. We worked 63 straight days, 12 hours a day from the start of the war on Jan. 17 until mid-March with daytime temps of 120-plus. We slept in 10-man tents and endured many "whiteout" sandstorms. Our chemical warfare gear was with us everywhere we went. It's not the place I would recommend anyone to see their travel agent to book a vacation stay!

Home remodeling is another love of yours. What satisfaction do you get from working with your hands?

Well, some days it was a love and many it wasn't. The balance of splitting your time between work, a wife and raising four kids and all the other commitments in life can be challenging. I'm in year 50 now of a 25-year projected home renovation schedule. I learned from a few relatives and neighbors how to do carpentry, electrical and plumbing work. The materials are a major cost in home remodeling, so if you can save on the labor costs and do it yourself, that is in your favor. I get great satisfaction when I complete a job and have thanked God many times that He has blessed me with the skills of working with my hands.

Another love is model railroading. How

Please see JOHN JONES, Page 7

John Jones

- **Age:** 72.
- **Family:** Wife Rosemary, married for 50 years; sons John and David; daughters Cynthia and Maryrose; grandchildren Arianna, Brian and Julianna; another boy on the way this November.
- **Education:** Proctor High School class of 1968, Mohawk Valley Community College, Community College of the Air Force with an associate degree.
- **Employment:** Store manager Rite Aid Corp. from 1972-1986, Department of Defense (Air Force) civil service aircraft weapons technician at Hancock Field (Air National Guard) in Syracuse from 1986-2006.
- **Military service:** Retired from active duty with Air Force and New York Air National Guard, 29-year career, veteran of the Persian Gulf War / Saudi Arabia (Desert Storm 1991).
- **Things you like to do in your spare time:** Remodel my house, watch sports on TV, attend Utica Comets games, model railroading, spend time with family and great friends.
- **Favorite movie:** "Cool Hand Luke."
- **Favorite TV show:** "The Fugitive."
- **Favorite musical artist:** Neil Diamond.
- **Favorite actor:** Clint Eastwood.
- **Favorite quote:** "The object of war is not to die for your country but to make the other bastard die for his." — Gen. George S. Patton

NEXT GENERATION

Brother and sister act

Kiernan, Addison take responsibilities seriously

If you attend the 4:30 Saturday Mass, you know this brother and sister. They are very dedicated to altar serving and participating in other ceremonies. They also help at the festival. Not bad for two people still in their early teens.

Kiernan

You are involved in a lot of sports in school and out — soccer, basketball, baseball and ski club. Why do you love them so much?

I've loved sports ever since I was very little. As I have grown older, I have gotten better at the ones I enjoy most.

What is your favorite sport and why?

My favorite sport is baseball. I feel this is where I have the most talent. I love to play with my dad and friends, and to have fun while also taking it seriously.

What kind of experience is it participating with other players from around the area in American Legion baseball?

I played for Clonan Post 1000, located in Chadwicks. It is always fun meeting a new group of kids and getting to play the sport that I love the most.

One of your favorite places to visit is Skaneateles. Why there?

I love Skaneateles for a few reasons. First, because it has many beautiful homes right next to the crystal-clear lake, and local restaurants with great food. Elephant and the Dove is a great Mexican restaurant in town, I highly recommend it! Lastly, Skaneateles has a very calming effect on me. I hope to have a home there some day.

Why do you serve Mass?

I serve to assist in the flow of Mass. I also enjoy training new recruits in the Mass process, just like how I trained my sister. It makes me feel good to see her wanting to help the church.

You also worked at our parish festival. What did you do and how did you like the experience?

I love working at the parish festival. I helped set up tables, chairs and fencing before it started. On Friday, I help my family at the clam booth bagging clams so they are ready to steam as soon as the festival begins. I also help in the café carrying the large totes filled with cookies when they need to be restocked. I worked at the game booth with a couple of friends as well. I really liked the experience mainly because I love talking to people and making new friends.

What have you learned about faith and God and how does it affect your daily life?

I have learned that God can really motivate me to do things, and He can push me to try my best. If I fail, I know that God has my back.

What advice would you give your friends about having faith in God?

I would tell my friends that believing in God can give them an advantage in life in knowing He will always be there.



Kiernan and Addison love volunteering in the parish as altar servers and at the festival.

Kiernan

- **Age:** 14 (15 in November).
- **School:** Freshman at Sauquoit Valley High School.
- **School activities:** Soccer, basketball, baseball and ski club.
- **Activities outside of school:** American Legion baseball.
- **Favorite TV show:** "Breaking Bad."
- **Favorite movie:** "The Simpsons Movie."
- **Favorite music:** I mainly like rap and my favorite artist is Drake.

Addison

- **Age:** 13.
- **School:** Eighth grade at Sauquoit Valley Middle School.
- **School activities:** Ski club and choir.
- **Activities outside of school:** Dance at Dance Works Studio, Acro.
- **Favorite TV show:** "Stranger Things."
- **Favorite movie:** "Moana."
- **Favorite music:** Queen.

Addison

You are involved in dancing. What or who got you into the activity and why do you like it so much?

My mom first introduced me to dance at a very young age. I love how dance keeps me active and allows me to express myself. I like being with my dance friends who share the same passion.

You like to swim, hang out with friends

and travel to Enchanted Forest Water Safari and Virginia Beach. What do you love most about traveling and being outside?

Traveling gives me the opportunity to explore new places, meet new people and most importantly try new food! Kiernan and I have adventurous palates and will eat and try things that most kids our age won't. Our area gives us so many beautiful places. I think it is a sin not to enjoy them.

Why do you serve Mass?

My brother trained me to serve, and I feel proud to be up there with him. I like serving because I am helping the church.

You also help with religious education classes, dance at the Easter Vigil and work at the church festival. Why do you participate in these areas?

All the activities at church, like helping and serving, make me feel like a part of the church family and I love helping others. Volunteering at church has influenced the person I am by teaching me new things and allowing me to feel safe when I go out of my comfort zone.

What have you learned about faith and God and how does it affect your daily life?

Both my dad and mom are faithful people. They have passed that down to me and my brother, and we hope to keep that faith alive. God impacts my daily life by reminding me to not be scared — that not only will God be with me at the good times, but I know I can count on him through the rough times, too.

What advice would you give your friends about having faith in God?

I would tell my friends to have faith. That if they look hard enough you can see God in action.

Societies' glorious history

Celebrating parish's wonderful Italian traditions

In our parish today there are dedicated people who participate in one or more of the many, sometimes unnoticed, ministries to help carry on the day-to-day functioning of the church.

- A group of nine women shares the chore of laundering of the altar linens and tend to the vestments used in daily and weekend Masses.
- A roster of lectors shares the duties on a revolving schedule of reading the writings of the Old and New Testaments at Mass.
- A number of eucharistic ministers distribute the body and blood of Christ at Mass.
- Our Social Committee plans activities for parishioners, including the yearly Communion Breakfast following Sunday Mass.
- A group is trying to return after a hiatus during COVID to perform Eucharistic service and visit the housebound and residents of nursing homes.

• The Music Ministry prayerfully embellishes the celebration of Mass and funerals.

• A decorating committee sees to it that the altar and sanctuary are appropriately garbed for the liturgical seasons.

• Volunteers help spruce up the plantings and gardens on the parish campus.

During more than 125 years of its history, St. Mary of Mount

Carmel has engaged its brothers and sisters, within our parish and into the greater community, in many acts of faith and kindness. Groups, or "societies," were attached to their roots in far-off towns and villages from which parishioners emigrated, to their patron saints and honor cultural, familial and community bonds. Some were goal-oriented groups established for specific needs of the congregation. Some were designed to nurture and strengthen faith in our youth while others were designed to extend a hand at the end of someone's life.

In the past, the calendar was filled with monthly devotions to this or that saint. These occasions included a solemn-high Mass and panegyric (a speech or proclamation of the virtues of the specific saint) and a procession with the faithful with musical accompaniment. These celebrations were usually held on the Sunday closest to the feast day of the targeted saint. Often, dinners and sometimes street festivals were included in the celebration.

Other societies were dedicated to specific or special causes. But like the population of the parish, activity has ebbed and flowed over the century and a quarter. At one time, more than 600 young men and women were confirmed at



A.J. VALENTINI



The Mount Carmel Society, originally the Madonna del Carmine, has been existence since 1898. Society members and parishioners march behind its banner during the Festival Procession this summer.

a time, necessitating two shifts of blessings by the visiting bishop. By 1923, there were 1,500 people in the various societies in the parish.

Today, though perhaps diminished in numbers, the good work of a few of these groups persists.

• **Mount Carmel Society:** Originally the Madonna del Carmine, it has been existence since 1898, it helped clear debt incurred in establishing building a new church and rectory. By 1901 it had achieved that goal. In 1903 it was officially founded and still is in existence today. It is a coed society that sponsors charitable work, makes donations in funds and volunteerism for the less fortunate, and makes occasional gifts to the parish, such as the outdoor shrine to Our Lady of Mount Carmel. It is this group that is the driver running our annual parish feast.

• **St. Anne Society:** Still extant, it was the first English speaking religious society for women. It became a sort of "mother's guild." It assists the poor and disadvantaged of the parish and community, while observing reverence to the mother of the Blessed Virgin.

• **La Congrega di Santa Rosalia Vergine Palermitana:** This society was founded independently from the parish in 1915 but has collaborated with Mount Carmel for more than 107 years. Composed of immigrants and descendants of those arriving from Palermo and its province in Sicily, it was dedicated to the devotion of their patron saint, Santa Rosalia, aka La Santuzza. It originally was an all-male group but has morphed over the century to include men and women, as well as devoted individuals descended from families outside of Palermo and Sicily. It has enjoyed a recent revival over the

past two years after having lost its tax-free status and almost losing its beloved chapel.

Glorious past

The list below includes groups that are no longer active or have entirely ceased to exist.

• **Altar Rosary Society:** This society spread devotion to Mary through recitation of the rosary and works of charity.

• **Altar Society:** Founded in 1923 by the Rev. John Marchegiani, it gifted the church sanctuary with the white Carrara marble flooring, communion rail and pulpit in 1931.

• **Busy Bodies:** Founded during the pastorate of the Rev. Carmen Negro (1979-83), the objectives of this group were social and to stay connected with, and support, the ill and housebound in the parish.

• **Holy Name Society:** As per its national website, "The Confraternity of the Most Holy Names of God and Jesus (Holy Name Society) promotes reverence for the sacred names of God and Jesus Christ, obedience and loyalty to the Magisterium of the Catholic Church, and the personal sanctification and holiness of its members.

• **Italian Benevolent Society:** Founded in the early years of our parish, it lent support to new immigrants to the community.

• **Junior Holy Name Society:** This group was founded in 1923 by Marchegiani as a group for youth.

• **Mount Carmel High School Association:** Founded under the pastorate of the Rev. William Pizzoglio (1934-50) for parish students, it was a precursor to the CYO.

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KATERI SHRINE

Continued from Page 3

Chapel with real candles. I did light a candle here but did not linger long as the bees and wasps seemed to appreciate the chapel's beauty as well.

Before entering the Candle Chapel, there is a little picnic table with various sized twigs and string so you can make your own cross.

With my own cross completed, I began walking the trail of the Stations of the Cross. I really wanted to sit quietly on the bench in front of the crucifix to write some of my thoughts so far. There were butterflies, but they eluded my attempts to catch them with my camera. There also were some biting insects. I recommend bug spray.

Finally, I walked through the woods on the St. Kateri Tekakwitha Trail. It is not an easy path. There are several steep areas, and the recent rain had made some areas a bit soggy. Also, there were many mosquitoes. (Did I mention wearing bug spray?)

The thing about this trail though, is that I could put myself in the time of St. Kateri, and as hard as it was for me to walk it, it was something they did every day as a routine activity. Of course, the lay of the land and the size and type of vegetation was much different hundreds of years ago. I'm certain there were quite a few more wild animals than can be seen here today. But walking the trail, putting myself in that time, was a very spiritual experience.

Where does this trail lead? It goes to the original Caughnawaga village site. There are assorted color poles sticking out of the ground and a sign there tells you that they are archaeo-



Photo by AMY PERRITANO EDDY

The welcoming sign at the entrance of the shrine.

logical tools representing the sites of longhouses, the gates and the living quarters of the long houses. To the right there is another small trail that leads to the grotto and Tekakwitha Spring. I did not get to sit and reflect as I wanted to due to the mosquitos.

You do not have to walk the long trail to get to the Caughnawaga/grotto site. It is on Hick-

ory Hill Road, and you can easily drive there. I am glad I took the difficult forest path, however, even if I had to sit on a log every now and then to rest.

Yet, I am grateful to have had the experience of walking the land that the Lily of the Mohawk trod and being able to reflect on her spiritual journey and my own.

JOHN JONES

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did you get into that and what have you accomplished with that hobby?

My father worked for the New York Central Railroad for 40-plus years. I spent my youth in Utica's beautiful train station most summers as my father would take me to work with him many times. We took the train to many places as a family. The '50s and '60s were wonderful decades for train travel. I have attended many model train shows over the years buying numerous HO scale trains, buildings and accessories. I never had time to start my layout while working and raising a family, hoping to do so when I retired. I started later in life than I expected but now try and get down my cellar every chance I get to "work on the railroad." I'm in a model train club with a half dozen others and we operate trains on their layouts different days each month. It is a fun and self-rewarding hobby.

You've been an integral part of our festival in setting up the grounds. You know where everything goes and workers follow your lead. How did you get involved doing that and what satisfaction do you get from it?

I took over as festival chairman in 2009 after Father Rose (who labeled me Jack) asked me to do so. I was the chairman for four years through 2012 and learned the setup and all its

nuances from the previous chairman, Mark Spiridigloizzi. Somehow, after relinquishing my chairman duties, the job morphed into the "walking boss" or "job-site foreman" of the festival grounds setup and teardown — a job that takes us 10 to 12 days to accomplish. It is very satisfying to see it all come together on the opening Friday night when the grounds are full of people, the bands are playing and the people of the parish and community are enjoying great food and drink and each other's company.

You also have what you call your "festival bible." Please explain what that is.

It is a large three-ring binder with information from A to Z on every aspect of the organizational makeup and planning of the festival. There is a breakdown of the month-to-month requirements and deadlines that any chairman must adhere to and accomplish beginning in January of the year in order to have a smooth running and successful festival. I spent many hours on my computer putting it together and hoped that would be my legacy to Mount Carmel (just kidding). I know Father Jim relies on it after the first of the year comes around and much time it is visible and has a home in the rectory office atop the counter.

You've been a parishioner for years. Put into words what our parish means to you.

Yes, baptized at Mount Carmel and a lifelong parishioner. I had three of my children attending

Catholic school here when, unfortunately, the school closed. I have a connection to the Italian heritage of the parish as my mother was Italian and our family grew up and lived in East Utica all our lives. The parish is very welcoming and the programs and social activities that are offered enhance the closeness and friendships you see and feel amongst our parishioners. My wife and I have been blessed to have met and have made many long-lasting friendships within the parish faithful. Our church is a crown jewel in Central New York, and we must carry on its teachings and traditions for years to come.

Many of our volunteers are getting on in years. Explain why new blood is needed to carry on our traditions.

Being involved with the festival more so in the last 17 years since my retirement, I have seen many of our festival core workers and people in the know decline in health and / or pass on. The knowledge and work ethic they displayed annually at festival time was immeasurable. Some passed on their talents and recipe secrets to their children and grandchildren. That is why today's veteran festival volunteers must insist the younger generations within their families get involved in the festival before it declines in quality or ceases to exist entirely. I once had a boss who said, "Nothing is forever." A truer statement there is not.

SOCIETIES

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• **League of the Sacred Heart:** Founded by Father Pizzoglio (1934-50), was organized to develop the devotion and consecration of families to the Sacred Heart.

• **Legion of Mary:** A group dedicated to devotion of the Blessed Mother.

• **Morning Glories:** A women's group that met regularly for Mass and breakfast.

• **St. Agnes Sodality:** Founded in 1923 by Father Marchegiani, it no longer exists.

From the 'Old Country'

The following societies were associated with the roots of their members:

• **Castagnese Society:** Composed of immigrants and descendants of those arriving from Castagna, a small village in Carlopoli of the province of Catanzaro, region of Calabria, Italy. There were two societies under this umbrella: Società Uomini (men) di Scandale and the Società Scandale di Mutuo Succorso (mutual aid).

• **Società Nicastrese:** Composed of immigrants and descendants of those arriving from Nicastro, a small town in the province of Catanzaro in the Calabria region of southern Italy, it was under the umbrella of the Società Femminile di Sant'Antonio (St. Anthony of Padua) di Nicastro and Nicastrese Society.

• **Società Calabria:** Composed of immigrants and descendants of those from Calabria.

• **Società Scandalese:** Composed of immigrants and descendants of those arriving from Scandale, a town in the province of Crotona, in the Calabria region of southern Italy.

• **Società Femminile di San Donato di Missanello:** This group of women had roots in the Italian region of Basilicata.

• **Congrega di San Rocco:** Also with roots in the region of Basilicata, it was one of the largest groups in the parish. It sponsored a three-day feast on Mohawk Street and then at Quinn's Playground and was open to anyone regardless of their place of origin.

• **Terz'Ordine di San Francesco:** A deeply religious group, it was associated with the Franciscan Nuns that staffed our parish school.

Mutual aid societies

• **Società Pugliese:** Origins in the region of Puglia, sponsored annual student scholarships for many years.

• **Minturnese Society:** Origins Minturno, Latina.

• **Sicignanese Society:** Origins Sicignano, Salerno.

• **Nicastrese Society:** Origins Nicastro Catanzaro.

• **Castagnese Society:** Origins Castagna-Loomezia, Catanzaro.

• **Avanti Savoia Society:** Origins from the Sons of Italy (Savoia was the royal family of Italy 1860-1946).

• **Società Progresso e Aiuto:** A businessmen's association in the early 20th century.

We would like to express our appreciation to Jim Delitto, Rosemarie Chiffy and Vicki Perritano for their help in recalling some of the history of these important components of our parish from the past and present.



Tee time is fun time

The 10th Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Golf Tournament teed off Sunday, Aug. 27, at Twin Ponds Golf and Country Club in New York Mills. About 120 people participated in the tourney. For the \$120 entry fee, participants played 18 holes with carts, lunch at the turn, coffee and doughnuts in the morning and drinks on the course. At the end of the tournament, all enjoyed a steak dinner.



View more photos on the parish website at www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com

