

MORE

GOOD NEWS

PARISH FAMILY TIES

Part One
of a year-long
series about
priests who have
special connections
to Mount Carmel

Page 3

MONSIGNOR RONALD BILL

Photo courtesy of The Catholic Sun

Parish priests still have special place in our world

It is a wondrous wonderous mystery that an institution such as the Catholic priesthood has endured for more than 2,000 years.

Priests no longer have any human advantage. Celibacy, solitude, suspicion, derision and the indifference of a secular world apparently seem to have no longer need for priests. But to the contrary, people cherish their parish priests.

An older and very wise priest gives us these words:

"The priest is not an angel sent from heaven. He is a man chosen from among men, a member of the Church, a Christian. Remaining man and Christian, he begins to speak to you the word of God. This word is not his own. No, he comes to you because God has told him to spread God's word."

"Perhaps he has not entirely understood it himself. Perhaps he adulterates it. But he believes, and despite his fears he knows that he must communicate God's word to you. For must not some one of us say something about God, about eternal life, about the majesty of grace in our sanctified being; must not some one of us speak of sin, of the judgment and mercy of God?"

"The priest is not an angel sent from heaven. He is a man chosen from among men, a member of the Church, a Christian. Remaining man and Christian, he begins to speak to you the word of God."



FATHER JIM CESTA

"So, my dear friends, pray for him. Carry him so that might be able to sustain others by bringing to them the mystery of God's love revealed in Christ Jesus." — *the Rev. Karl Rahner*

Coming in 2027

Over the next several issues of "More Good News," we will be discussing priests who have special connections to our parish. This issue features Monsignor Ronald Bill, who served as interim pastor in 2002. In future issues, "More Good News" will highlight the Revs. John Rose, Joe Salerno, Scott VanDerveer and Tom Servatius.

CATHOLIC Q&A

Psychics and mediums

Question: Are Catholics allowed to visit psychics? Why or why not?

Answer: It's part of human nature to experience some sense of unease and fear about the future. This can lead some people to seek out the services of psychics or consult horoscopes or turn to other occult practices or resources (e.g. Ouija boards or tarot cards).

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is very clear that Catholics should avoid such practices: "Consulting horoscopes, astrology, palm reading, interpretation of omens and lots, the phenomena of clairvoyance, and recourse to mediums all conceal a desire for power over time, history, and, in the last analysis, other human beings, as well as a wish to conciliate hidden powers. They contradict the honor, respect, and loving fear that we owe to God alone" (no. 2116).

Despite the uncertainties we might feel, we are called to have faith and trust in God, confident of God's desire for what is best for us. This means that we are called to surrender, to pray and to reflect on how we can best move into the future in hope, knowing that God is with us.

Dropped host

Question: What happens to a consecrated host if it accidentally falls to the ground?

Answer: This is a very practical question because, as we all know, accidents happen, even during the most careful celebration of the liturgy.

The short answer is that nothing happens to the consecrated host. The Real Presence of Jesus remains in the consecrated host or any consecrated wine that might accidentally be spilled.

Another question we might ask is: How should the ministers respond if the Eucharist is dropped or spilled? If this happens, the priest, deacon or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion should immediately pick up the dropped host and consume it. If it is a case of the Precious Blood being spilled, the minister would use the purificator (and additional purificators if needed) to clean the spill and then the area should be reverently washed as soon as the Mass is over and the water poured into the sacarium (a special sink that is located in church sacristies for reverently disposing of holy water, the water used to clean sacred vessels, etc.).

— *Liturgical Publications*

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**
- Address: 648 Jay St., Utica, NY 13501.
 - Telephone: 315-735-1482; fax: 315-735-9806.
 - Office hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Closed on Friday and national holidays.
 - Faith Formation and Sacramental Center: 315-724-3950.
 - Email: stmaryutic@ny.rr.com
 - Hearing impaired: Listening devices available in the sacristy.
- MASS SCHEDULES**
- Weekend**
- Saturday: 4:30 p.m. at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Parish.
 - Sunday: 8 and 11 a.m. at Mount Carmel; 9:30 a.m. at St. Anthony.
- Weekday**
- Monday and Tuesday: 8:30 a.m. at St. Anthony & St. Agnes.
 - Thursday and Friday: 9:30 a.m. in our parish.
 - Please note: No morning Mass if Utica schools are closed due to inclement weather.
- Holy Days**
- Consult the bulletin and website.
- SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**
- Saturday: 3:45 p.m. at St. Anthony & St. Agnes Parish and by appointment by calling Mount Carmel parish office.
- MARRIAGE**
- Couples must make arrangements six months in advance.
- BAPTISM**
- Call the parish office to arrange. Parents must attend a preparation class prior to the baptism of their child.
- ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**
- Adults or children, 7 or older who have never been baptized or confirmed or received the Eucharist, are invited to call the parish office for information about this process.
- NEW PARISHIONERS**
- Welcome to our parish family. We invite you to become an active participant in our community. Call the parish office.
- PARISH STAFF**
- Pastor: Rev. Jim Cesta
 - In Residence: Rev. Luis Olguin
 - Treasurer: Marco Acunzi Sr. and Tony Leone
 - Parish Office Manager: Terri Piazza-Paruccio
 - Faith Formation 8-6: Terri Piazza-Paruccio
 - Faith Formation 7-10: Anne Carbone-Elacqua
 - Music Director: Peter Elacqua
 - Maintenance: Patrick Montminy Sr.
 - Website Manager, Bulletin Editor: Fran Perittano



... 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



Monsignor Ronald Bill, 95, grew up in Syracuse, graduated from Christian Brothers Academy before attending the seminary. He was ordained in February 1957. His long ministry includes serving parishes across Upstate New York. He also was as a military chaplain during the Vietnam War, retiring as Army brigadier general. He directed Catholic Charities in the Syracuse diocese, assisting refugees and impoverished communities. One of his most inspirational times for him was when he became interim pastor for nearly year at Mount Carmel in 2002.

I still think of Mount Carmel as my real parish

What drew you to the priesthood? Was it a gradual calling or was it one of those lightning-bolt moments?

Oh, I think it was gradual. I thought about it when I graduated from high school. I went to CBA (Christian Brothers Academy) in Syracuse, and I was associated with many, many priests and brothers there. So, it gave me the idea. And then I talked to a very spiritual priest and a wonderful man, Father Walsh. He was a pastor Lady of Pompei in Syracuse. And he kind of steered me that way. And so, before you know it, I tried it out. The first year I was not enthused with it. It was an education. But I thought I should stay another year. And I did, and then I never left.

What was your first assignment and what was it like being a new priest?

It was a little different because I was sent to Oswego as the Catholic Charities director, and I was also teaching at the Catholic high school, — three classes a day. In those days, there were big classes, like 40, 50 kids in a class. And they were all sophomores. And there, it was a joy. So, in the morning I was in my role as the person to help people, and in the afternoon of teaching.

All these years later, how did the priesthood change for you?

It changed quite a bit. When I was first ordained, you heard a lot of confessions. Saturday was almost devoted completely to hearing confessions — 4 to 6, 7 to 9 — and big lines of people. It was quite an experience. And that's all changed today — less people who are going to confession, maybe even going to church.

In addition to being a priest, you also were in the military for a number of years.

I enrolled in the Army in 1968, I believe it was. I was down in Binghamton. I stayed part-time for over 20 years. It was a great experience. I met such wonderful people in the in the service. Men and women. They were outstanding people. I was enthused by their faith in the way they expressed it the way they went to church on Sundays. So, you'd come in marching in. The weapons were near the wall. We had Sunday services every Sunday my whole life there. And it was just a wonderful, wonderful thing.

Where were you stationed?

Most of the time I was in different places in the United States. I started out in the infantry. I ended up in the artillery as a general. I was sent to Corning and places like that where there

Please see **MONSIGNOR BILL**, Page 7



"I enrolled in the Army in 1968. ... I stayed part-time for over 20 years. It was a great experience. I met such wonderful people in the service. Men and women. They were outstanding people. I was enthused by their faith." — Army Brigadier General Ronald Bill

CALL OF DUTY

Vincent Scalise served his country for 24 years; he continues to support fellow veterans at home

Vincent Scalise spent 24 years in the military in service of his country. He's seen war and the effects it has on military personnel. After his discharge, he founded the Utica Center for Development, an organization that aids his fellow veterans.

You joined the Marines in 1991. Why did you decide to go into the military?

Love of my county and wanting to serve.

In 2003, you were deployed to Iraq in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Tell us what you did there and what that experience was like.

I was an assistant squad leader in an infantry platoon. Our main mission was stabilization of the county and counter insurgency operations. We were constantly on patrol in our area of responsibility, engaging with the locals and searching for insurgents and IEDS (improvised explosive devices). We experienced operating in extreme climates and terrain.

What was your mental state while serving in the war? We're you nervous, scared, determined to fight? Trying to survive?

All of the above. Everyone is always nervous and scared when you first get there, but as time goes on you start to normalize everything.

You returned from Iraq in 2005 and were stationed in the states for about seven years. What were your duties during that time?

After returning, I was assigned to the New York State Armory on Culver Avenue where I remained in an Infantry Battalion for the rest of my career and had many different position including Squad leader, Operations NCO and Training NCO.

In 2012, you were in a warzone again, being sent to Afghanistan. What were your thoughts about going to war again?

I had no issue with deploying again. I was much more experienced and had very good soldiers with me.

What was it like there?

It was extremely different than Iraq, but still both had extreme climates and terrain to deal with. Very mountainous and rocky with a period of 120 days of wind where the wind and sand never stop blowing.

We always hear about the "lessons of war." What lessons did you learn?

Stay alert and stay alive is the most important thing and always make sure your equipment is well maintained.

We now are in another war. With your experience, if you were commander in chief, what decisions would you make about sending our sons and daughters into battle?

I would never look forward to sending our young people off to war, but I understand that sometimes it is extremely necessary to do so,

Please see SCALISE, Page 7



Vincent Scalise served in the U.S. Marine Corps for four years and 20 years in the New York Army National Guard. His military experience and knowledge of the difficulties some veterans face guided him to become founder and current executive director of The Utica Center for Development in 2008. "We operate a true one-stop shop for veterans and their families," he said. "We have 50 units of housing for homeless veterans; we offer financial assistance to those who need it; we do VA claims and appeals; we offer case management, food, clothing, household items, medical equipment; we offer peer groups and suicide prevention programs."

Vincent Scalise

Age: 54.

Education: Proctor High School, Mohawk Valley Community College, Southern Vermont College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Studies.

Occupation: Founder and current executive director of The Utica Center for Development since 2008.

Family: Wife Jennifer, son Andrew, daughter Adrianna.

Military service: U.S. Marine Corps for four years and 20 years in the New York Army National Guard.

Awards and decorations: Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal with two bronze oak leaves, Army Achievement Medal with two bronze oak leaves, Good Conduct Medal 6th award, National Defense Medal with one bronze star, Af-

ghanistan Campaign Medal with bronze star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M Device and numeral two, Armed Forces Service Medal with one bronze oak leaf, Outstanding Military Volunteer Award, Army Reserve Overseas Training Ribbon, NCO Professional Development Ribbon with numeral two, Army Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon with numeral two, the Combat Infantry Badge and the Col. Governor Morris Citizen Soldier Award.

Favorite activities: Fishing and hunting.

Favorite movie: "It's a Wonderful Life"

Favorite TV show: "M*A*S*H."

Favorite book: "Moby Dick,"

Favorite musical genre or artist: '60s rock and the Animals.

Home sweet home

Carol loves helping make American Dream come true

Carol Scampono calls herself a people person. That's how she became a successful Realtor. She enjoys helping people make their dreams come true. Though the real estate business has changed a lot in her more than 40 years on the job, she still believes the one thing she brings to the table is honesty and willingness to help her clients succeed.

You've been in the real estate business for years. How and why did you enter that profession?

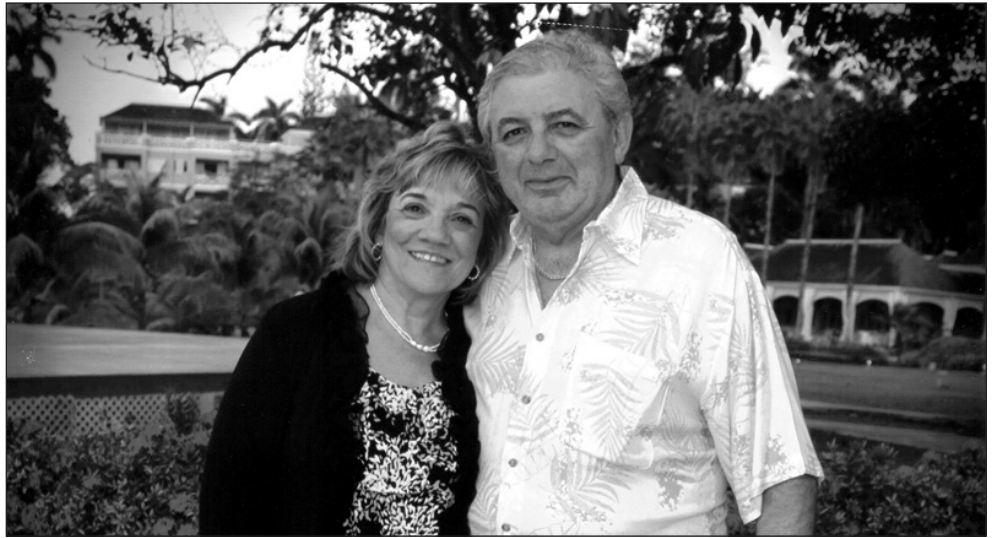
I have been in real estate for 42 years. Our friend Thomas Mazzotta was talking to me about real estate and thought I would enjoy it and be good at it, as I like to meet people. So, I took the course and went to work for him (he had an independent office). And that was the beginning. I never looked back. I worked for Mazzotta Real Estate for a few years and then joined Coldwell Banker Faith Properties. After several years there, I realized I had built my name in the business and decided to work for ReMax Realty. ReMax at the time did business in a completely different way than most companies. Their commission structure was different, but as an agent you were responsible for most all expenses — advertising, signs, office space, etc. I think this is where I really became successful. I was working with builders in new housing developments as well as listing and selling existing homes.

Why did you decide to open your own business?

In 2002, after discussing the idea of opening my own company with my husband (who was always there to encourage me in my profession from Day One), I took the plunge and thus Scampono Real Estate was born. I wanted to be able to make my own decisions, treat people how they really should be treated — that they were simply not a commission check as they were making probably the most expensive purchase in their lifetime. They needed guidance and honesty and someone to walk them through the transaction from searching for the right house, signing the contract and being there for any questions and advice they needed, to the actual closing of the property when they are handed the keys to their “dream home.”

What advice would you give prospective homebuyers and sellers?

My advice to today's homebuyers is to be sure you have the right agent working for you. Some will have you sign a buyer's agent contract, which locks you to that agent for a period of time they insert in the contract. This could work for you, but if you find that you feel that your relationship isn't what you had hoped for, you may find yourself paying a commission to that agent if you purchase a house from another agent. I always believed that the agent should be as honest as they could be, as long as they are not breaking any rules. If you have ques-



Carol's husband Philip (Phibby) died in 2003 at age 80. “My husband was my best friend and the love of my life,” she said. “We were married On Oct. 8, 1966, and we would have celebrated our 60th anniversary this year. He was a wonderful husband, father and Papa to our three granddaughters. We had a good life and got through the tough times together.”

tions, ask; nothing is too ridiculous.

As a seller in today's market, things have gotten a little crazy. There is still an inventory shortage of homes in a certain price range, so if you see something you really like in your price range and it meets most of your needs, don't hesitate. Since COVID, the market has really become a seller's market, with most times, multiple offers on a listing. I think that has slowed a little but not completely. Remember, no house is going to be perfect. You will probably always say, “Well, I wish it had this” but is that “this” a make or break for the deal. There are things you can always change and there are things that no matter what you can't change — like location!

You once ran a small floral shop (strictly silk flowers) and made arrangement for weddings, showers, parties, etc. Please describe what that was like?

My small floral shop was called Carol's Creations, and it was on the corner of Bleecker and Mohawk streets. I started out of my home, and when this space became available, I moved into it. I loved working with the brides and creating their arrangements not only for the bride and bridesmaids, but usually for the tables at the reception, decorating the church and back then, most people gave out “favors” to their guests, so I usually made some or ordered something for that as well.

You mentioned that visiting Lake George has a special meaning for you. Why is that?

Yes, Lake George is a very special place for us. It's a place we went every year when we had our children. We sometimes went with another couple whose children were the same age

Please see SCAMPONE, Page 7

Carol Scampono

Family: Husband Philip (Phibby) deceased 2023; daughters Gina Szuba (husband Wally is deceased) and Carla Dumoulin (husband Dan); granddaughters Gianella, Sophia and Mia.

Education: Proctor High School. Took the salesperson course and Real Estate broker course through Mohawk Valley Community College and continue to take Real Estate continuing education courses online every two years through Realty Institute.

Occupation: Owner of Scampono Real Estate.

Previous occupations: At one time had a small floral shop (strictly silk flowers) and made arrangement for weddings, showers, parties, etc., and sold wedding invitations to the brides-to-be. Local manager for Sarah Coventry jewelry for many years. Worked part time for the Wedgewood Apartments as office manager from 2021-2024

Volunteerism: Eucharistic minister and money counter for many years and served as a lector at one time and on the Parish Council. In the past my husband and I volunteered for the Parish Festival. I have also been on the committee at Mount Carmel that volunteered to make sandwiches once a month for Mother Maryanne's Soup Kitchen.

Music favorites: Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Steve Tyrell, Beatles and music of the 1950s.

Having trust in faith

Which of the many definitions applies to you?

If you consult Webster's Dictionary you will get several definitions of faith:

1. Allegiance to duty or a person: loyalty.
2. Fidelity to one's promises.
3. Sincerity of intentions.
4. Belief and trust in and loyalty to God.
5. Belief in the traditional doctrines of a religion.
6. Firm belief in something for which there is no proof.
7. Complete trust.
8. Something that is believed, especially with strong conviction.

I thought it interesting that you must get all the way down to No. 4 before the dictionary speaks of a relationship with God. I suppose that reflects the current hierarchy of priorities in a secular world, increasingly run by insentient technology and artificial intelligence. In a digital world of ones and zeros things either "are" or they "aren't." Faith is a leap far beyond what can be quantified.



A.J. VALENTINI

Let's talk about the ways faith can be construed.

No. 1: Placing one's "allegiance to duty or a person" absolves the giver of decision making. In a way, such people are like sheep, placing their wellbeing in the hands of another or in a construct. If we look at pre-World War II Germany, we can see the effects of following an uncontested leader and its disastrous consequences for that country and especially for "der Fuhrer."

No. 2: Probably at no other time in history can we see better the failure of believing in blind promises. Since the beginning of time politicians have promised a multitude of unfulfilled rewards for their trust (faith). To that regard, one could say, "The only certainty is uncertainty." People want desperately to believe in their leaders, but the world, especially in our time, is so interconnected that an event in one faraway place can trickle consequences on the other side of the world (i.e. a drought or violence in Central America can trigger food migration and search for a safe haven to the North, bringing competition with the natives of those areas for jobs, goods, food and services, triggering resentment-driven military intervention, triggering public outcry etc., etc.

No. 3: The best "sincerity of intentions" can sometimes go awry if the person who has them doesn't have the entirety of the information and resources to achieve them. This would give the



classic occasion of a "leap of faith," hoping that all the necessary components of the goal fall into place.

No. 4: As a Christian community we profess our faith in the Apostle's Creed (I believe in God the Father Almighty...). Paul wrote in Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace are we saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God." Recipients should be gracious in accepting a gift. Too often people place their faith and trust in God for an objective, and when they don't get what they want, out of anger or disappointment, they reject their faith (and loyalty to God).

No. 5: The "doctrines of a religion" provide a guideline for the faithful to lead good and virtuous lives and, hopefully, salvation. Going back to the recognition of a secular, digitally guided world, the pathways of faith may encumber or inconvenience some individuals. We need to ask ourselves, "Is this short life that we have on this planet and our self-gratification therein all that there is?" What's the next chapter? Isn't that the infinite existence for which religious faith prepares us? Infinite is a whole lot bigger than the 79 years that the CDC says is the lifespan of the average American today.

No. 6: The "firm belief in something for which there is no proof" is a cornerstone of organized religion. When we look about ourselves and witness the beauty and majesty of

the world and cosmos, we can't help but think that a greater power drew it all together. Of course, one could say mankind isn't doing such a great job as custodian of God's creation. And the afterlife; no one has ever come back from the dead to tell us it exists (discounting some tabloid stories to the contrary). Our faith says it is so.

Nos. 7 and 8: I wrap these two together because they are gradations of the same thing. A "strong conviction" is a step toward complete trust. A strong conviction may be supported by empirical evidence; there is this, that and the other thing, and therefore, such is so. Complete trust needs no evidence; it is "just so."

Take time to examine the nature of your personal faith. Jesus said you don't need a huge amount of faith, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; Nothing will be impossible for you." (Matthew 17:14-20).

In Luke 17:6, Jesus tells His disciples, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you."

Both analogies speak to the infinite power of faith, even if it's a little bit it has the potential to grow. It's a concept worthy of your consideration.

SCALISE

Continued from Page 4

and it is always better to stop a problem at the start and not wait till the problem grows out of control, which would just lead to more death and destruction.

Tell us about the camaraderie military people share.

To this day some of my closest and best friends are men I served with. There is an unbreakable bond made when you serve with someone, especially when you're deployed. You do everything together — eat, sleep and live.

After returning from war, you witnessed many veterans having all kinds of problems without having many options for assistance in Central New York. You founded the Utica Center for Development. Please tell us what inspired you to do that?

I was stationed at the Utica Armory and I had soldiers that I served with coming in looking for assistance for many different problems and I couldn't find anywhere to send them except to Syracuse or Albany. I just wanted to help my brothers and way I could.

Describe the center and the kinds of problems with which you help veterans cope.

We operate a true one-stop shop for veterans and their families. We have 50 units of housing for homeless veterans; we offer financial assistance to those who need it; we do VA claims and appeals; we offer case management, food, clothing, household items, medical equipment; we offer peer groups and suicide prevention programs.

How can other people help?

Donate, volunteer and spread the word about the center.

For younger people thinking of a military career, what advice would you give them?

Talk to someone that served so you can have a better understanding of what you can do in the military. The military has many opportunities, but it's on you to make it happen.

You are a parishioner at Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament. What does this parish mean to you?

It means a lot! I have been a member of the parish since I was baptized there and consider it my family.

How has your faith helped you cope with everything you have witnessed?

Our faith grounds us and calms us, and I always turn to it for those reasons.

Do you believe God has had a hand in keeping you safe and guiding you to help others?

Absolutely! I truly feel that I received a calling to help others in need.

Is there anything else you want to add?

Over the past 18 years, the Utica Center for Development has grown tremendously. We have offices in Utica, Rome, Watertown and Oneonta. We offer services for youth, people living with autism and developmental disabilities for the general community on top of all we do with veterans.

MONSIGNOR BILL

Continued from Page 3

was a flood. They sent me to Rochester when there was a problem during the war. After I retired, I was asked to resettle a great number of Vietnamese people who had helped the United States during the war. They asked me to resettle 2,500 people. I did that from my knowledge in Catholic Charities. I had a lot of contacts.

What's the toughest part about being a priest today?

I think, being this age, I miss a lot of the camaraderie I used to have with the other priests. You know, I'm kind of stuck in one place. Being a priest gives you so much to think about, and there were a lot of things to do when I was younger — going to the hospitals, stuff like that. But you know, right now you don't get those calls.

What many people remember about you is you love to sing

Oh, I did!

Why do you love music so much?

I don't know. When I went to the seminary, somebody said to the director, "Why don't you ask Father Bill?" He was looking for some people, especially tenors. And so, he came to me and asked me if I would sing some songs for him. I said, well, I don't really know any songs. I was trying to get rid of him. And he said, "Well, you don't know any songs?" I said, "I do know songs, but I really don't sing them." I thought that would be enough, but he said, "OK, just sing anything." He said sing "do-re-me-fa-so-la-ti-do!" And I was in. The next

year. I was the director of the choir.

What led up to you coming to Mount Carmel in 2002?

I was asked by the bishop to go there and fill in for a little while. I still remember walking into church. I had never been there. And it was all dark. And all of a sudden, all the lights in church went on. And these two guys came out and they said, "We thought you were the new pastor." And I loved being there. It was a wonderful place. They had wonderful music. A lot of funerals. Just a great experience for me.

What was your first impression of the parish?

Oh, I loved it. In fact, they wanted me to stay and be the regular pastor. But the parish had been promised to another priest, and I didn't feel it was right for me to come in. It was a wonderful, wonderful place. The people were so warm, so great. I still think of that as my real parish. Even today I get some of my inspiration from being there.

How do you hope the people of Mount Carmel remember you?

Oh, I hear from a lot of them. About a couple of weeks ago, I went to a restaurant — Eddie's in Canastota on the beach, and there were some women there. And all of a sudden, they saw me, and they all, you know, scrambled over and we had a wonderful talk.

Is there anything you'd like to say to our parishioners?

Tell them to keep up the good work that they do. They make the priests feel good and make them look good, too.

SCAMPONE

Continued from Page 5

and sometimes we would go just the four of us. It was different back then — not as many condos as now. Six Flags was Storytown back then, and right in town was Gaslight Village, a smaller amusement area. The beach was great, and every year we took the boat ride. It never got old. One year we had a "Fresh Air Child" from the Bronx come stay with us for a week and we took him there. What a joy that was to make that little boy happy and experience something he never would have had the chance to experience. When the girls got married and had children of their own we went with them occasionally and we were blessed to make more memories.

Your husband Philip (Phibby) died in 2003 at age 80. His obituary described you as his best friend.

My husband was my best friend and the love of my life. We met in 1965, I was working at a small insurance agent's office above what was the Marine Midland on Bleecker Street. I'd walk up to the corner of Mohawk and Bleecker streets for lunch at Toni's Sweet Shop, a small luncheonette. My friend was working there, and I got to know the regulars. One day I was sitting in the booth facing the door and in walked this very handsome young man and I said to the person I was sitting with, "Who

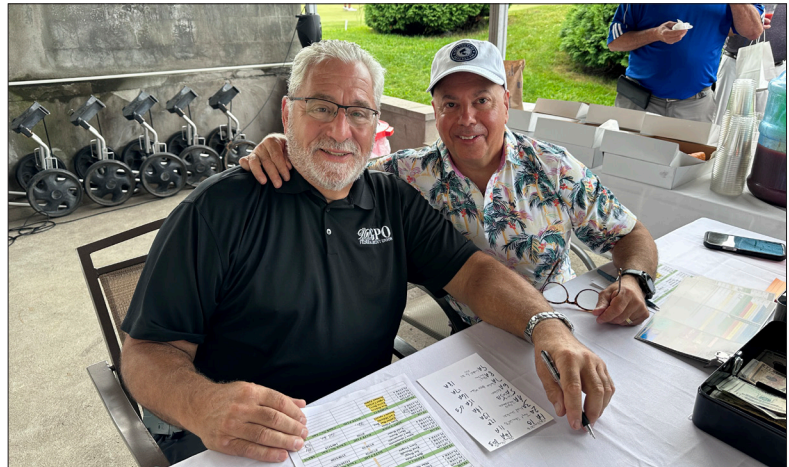
is that?" The friend introduced us, and for me, that was it! Truly, love at first sight! We started dating, and after he graduated from college that May he had plans to work as wait staff with two of his friends at the Hidden Dude Ranch in Lake George. I would go up to Lake George with my girlfriend on the weekends and Phibby and I continued our relationship. Then one day we were in one of the places we liked to go to when he was off work, and he proposed in his own sweet way. Thus, the reason Lake George is so special to us. We were married On Oct. 8, 1966, and we would have celebrated our 60th anniversary this year. He was a wonderful husband, father and Papa to our three granddaughters. We had a good life and got through the tough times together.

What does Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament mean to you?

St. Mary of Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament is an important part of my life. My grandparents, my parents were all members of Mount Carmel. All my sacraments have been received here and most of my children have as well. My father was active in the church. He was an usher and was a member of the Holy Name Society. So, the example was set for me. I feel like I have another family here. When I attend Mass on Sunday, not only does my spiritual mind get renewed, I get to visit with my parish family. It brings me peace and joy.

Celebrating summertime

From our Parish Festival in July, to the annual golf tournament in August and the volunteer chicken barbecue in September, parishioners and the community had a lot to celebrate



View photo galleries on the parish website at www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com