

Live summer 'grace-fully'

Thank you, Lord, for this season of sun and slow motion, of games and porch sitting, of picnics and light green fireflies on heavy purple evenings, and praise for slight breezes. It's good, God, as the long days of your creation continue.

Let this season be for me a time of gathering the pieces into which my business has broken me. O God, enable me now to grow wise through reflection, peaceful through the song of the cricket, recreated through the laughter of play.

Most of all Lord, let me live easily and "grace-fully" for a spell, so that I may see other souls deeply, share in a silence unhurried, listen to the sounds of sunlight and shadows, explore barefoot the land of forgotten dreams and shy hopes, and find the right words to tell another who I am.

As summertime continues with earnest with hot weather and refreshing breezes, boating with motor or sail is seen on New York state

Summer storms on lakes come up and are to be considered with care and caution. It reminds us of something related to a famous artist and his painting.

Rembrandt composed a painting that portrays the Biblical story of the storm on the Sea



of Galilee. Perhaps of you have seen the little ship occupied by Jesus and the Apostles being hit by a huge wave. You can feel the shudder running through the boat. The storm is all around. The rigging is loose and blowing in the wind. And the disciples are panic-stricken.

It is marvelous to realize that amid all this storm, panic, fear and danger, the disciples had to awaken Jesus to tell Him about it. It wasn't because He didn't care or because He was indifferent, it was because He had such trust in God. He had sunk Himself down so deep into the being of God for that period of refreshment that He was sleeping right through the storm.

You can look at the painting and say to yourself, "I've got to learn that from Him - to have complete trust in God."

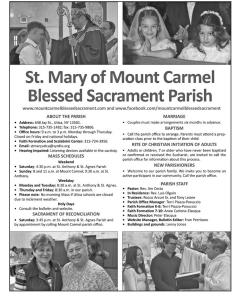
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PHOTO GALLERIES



BULLETIN



Priests & marriage counseling

Should a divorced Catholic pursue an annulment?

CATHOLIC Q&A

Ouestion: After a civil divorce, is a Catholic obligated to pursue an annulment?

Answer: Many Catholics are not exactly sure what an annulment does. An annulment does not deny that a marriage took place, nor does it deny that there once was love. It does not mean that people say anything untrue, such as they never loved each other or that everything in their marriage was wrong. An annulment does not negate children, nor make them illegitimate.

An annulment addresses the spiritual aspect of marriage. In effect, an annulment says that at the time of the wedding, there was either something present or something absent that prevented the sacrament from taking place. It is a spiritual determination that, if granted in the affirmative, allows a person to marry in the Church.

Annulments have no legal standing and are unable to be used in a civil court. Therefore, a Catholic has no moral obligation to pursue an annulment. When a divorce occurs, and there is no hope for reconciliation, annulments may help bring some spiritual closure to a person's life. Some people have found the process to be healing, and others have found it to be difficult. Speak to your priest or a member of the Diocesan Tribunal staff to decide what is best for you.

Question: How can a priest counsel people

about marriage when he has never been married?

Answer: If a marriage counselor is in a bad marriage does that mean that he or she will be a bad counselor? If one's counseling ability depended upon first-hand experience, would that require counselors to be perfect before they can help others? Obviously not.

Essentially marriage is a relationship, and we've all been involved in different kinds of relationships: in our family, with our friends and with God. And so counseling people about marriage is really helping them to look at the issues that really are part of their relationship, finding ways to better understand themselves in relationship to one another and in relationship to God.

In many ways a priest's training, background and experience, as well as his personal knowledge of many different relationships in families and couples, gives him a broad background from which to draw upon. Most priests are quite capable of helping couples prepare for marriage and discussing the issues that are important as they begin their life together. And they do not do it alone. With the help of married couples and specially trained counselors, most parishes offer very good preparation for the sacrament of marriage.

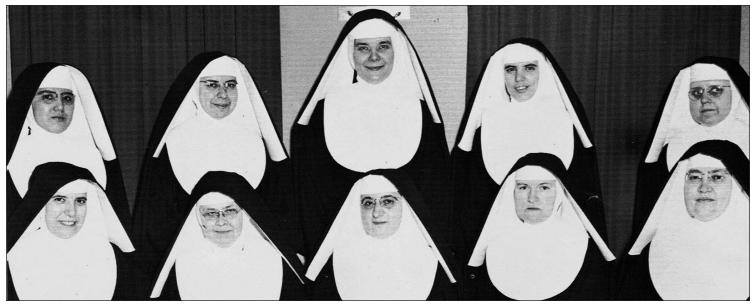
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- · Wedding Planning Guide.
- Funeral Service Planning Guide.
- Weekly prayers, reflections, photos, videos and more to enrich your faith.
- Photo galleries
- Mass schedules





Some of the Sisters of St. Francis, who taught at Mount Carmel for about 80 years. ON THE COVER: Father Gino is celebrated at a reception.

Fathers and sisters

Parishioners recall men and women in black

By FRAN PERRITANO

On Sunday, Dec. 20, 1896, parishioners of St. Mary of Mount Carmel Church — Santa Maria di Monte Carmela — celebrated Mass for the first time in a church building they could call their own.

That Mass was offered by the Rev. Antonio Castelli in the new church that, in reality, was the basement of the building. He was the first of the Scalabrini priests who served our parish for more than 90 years.

Mount Carmel's second pastor, the Rev. Joseph Formia, started Mount Carmel School. Early in September 1904, the unfinished school building was surrounded with eagerly waiting children. The doors still unhung, windows gaping with empty frames, daunted neither children nor teachers. Three Sisters of St. Francis organized and conducted classes alongside the resounding blows of the workmen's hammers.

The Sisters of St. Francis continued to teach the parish's children for more than 80 years.

Our parish is blessed with a sacred history of dedicated priests and nuns who served generations of families. And memories of those years still are vivid decades later.

"I have only good things to say about the Scalabrini priests," said Mary Teti. "They were so humble, prayerful, friendly, caring and so involved with parishioners and especially with the youth."

Terry Reale remembers her formative years well.

"The Scalabrini priests were the heartbeat of our parish," she said. "They were well-respected pastoral leaders, but sometimes they were also a little scary. Very authoritative in how they handled our spiritual leadership, they Were the heartbeat of our parish. They were well-respected pastoral leaders, but sometimes they were also a little scary. ... The nuns were wonderful! They all had their special ways and all left special memories in my heart."

—Terry Reale

made it intimidating at times. It wasn't easy to interact with them, especially for girls, who weren't allowed to be altar servers back in the day."

Scalabrini and Franciscans

Our parish is steeped in history involving the Scalabrini priests and Franciscan nuns.

The Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Charles Borromeo, commonly called the Scalabrinian Missionaries, was founded by St. Giovanni Battista Scalabrini in Italy in 1887. Scalabrini laid the cornerstone of Mount Carmel Church and priests from the congregation served here for nine decades.

The Rev. John Marchegiani came to Mount Carmel as Father Formia's successor. On June 21, 1921, Father Marchegiani was appointed pastor.

In June 1934, the Rev. William Pizzoglio, arrived at Mount Carmel to assume his pastorate. Under his guidance, the good works initiated by Father Marchegiani continued to flourish.

The Rev. Joseph Berton, an experienced as-

sistant who had served under Father Pizzoglio for 10 years, pastored Mount Carmel from December 1950 to October 1964. Father Berton spent 26 years of his priesthood at Mount Carmel.

On Oct. 10, 1964, Father Berton was succeeded by another former assistant, the Rev. Peter Bortolazzo. Father Peter arrived at Mount Carmel during its transitional period. Within a few months, many of the homes that surrounded the church were razed by the City of Utica Urban Renewal Program. Many parishioners moved away from the area but remained faithful to their beloved parish.

The year 1973 found Mount Carmel under the pastorate of the Rev. John Corraro. Father John emphasized the development of the area surrounding the church. Before leaving Mount Carmel, Father Corraro recommended to the provincial as his successor a soft-spoken caring priest, the Rev. Carmelo Negro.

Father Negro assumed pastorship in May of 1979. On May 3, 1980, Father Negro presided at the first Mass celebrated by Mount Carmel's native son, the Rev. Joseph Salerno.

Father Henry Benin succeeded Father Negro in the fall of 1983. Having previously served as assistant to Father Bartolozzo from 1967 to 1974, he was well remembered and loved for work with the youth of the parish.

The parish was again in a period of transition. Father Henry was faced with two major problems. First, the Sisters of St. Francis, who served Mount Carmel for 80 years, were withdrawing due to a lack of vocation and, secondly, the school was closing because of declining enrollment.

Please see PRIESTS AND NUNS, Page 7

Remodeling his faith

Lyle Shorey loves home-improvement projects; likewise, his religious beliefs are stronger than ever

Lyle Shorey is a relative newcomer to our parish. Though he considered himself Catholic as a youth, he never was baptized. He was fully initiated into the church at the 2024 Easter Vigil. Since then, he and his wife have become active in our parish. He resurrected our livestream Mass (and equipment), and his wife is a Eucharistic minister. In addition to remodeling his faith, he also delves into home improvements, genealogy and history.

You have many varied interests in your life. One of them is home improvements. What have you done around the house and why do you like it so much?

In the 25-plus years in our house, I have installed vinyl siding on the house (all by myself). I have remodeled our kitchen once and the bathroom twice. I have pretty much gone through the entire house. I do all the construction, plumbing and electrical work myself. I added a three-season room to the back of the house, and just recently finished a paver patio with a gazebo. In my real job, I do office work all day, so home-improvement projects give me chance to work with my hands, and I love to enjoy the finished results.

Along with that, you love woodworking. What kind of projects interest you and what have you designed?

I have made jewelry boxes for my grand-daughter and grandniece. I make Bible stands, oak shelves, birdhouses and whatever I am in the mood to do at the time.

Genealogy is another interest. What got you into that area and what have you learned about your ancestry?

I became interested in genealogy when my grandmother passed away in 2001 and my father had given me some of her paperwork for keepsake.

One item in the paperwork was my grandfather's death certificate. My grandfather died in 1929 when my grandmother was only 19 years old and my father was 11 months old. So, no one in our family knew much about the Shorey side of the family. After doing some research, I was able to trace the Shorey family back to the late 1500s, early 1600s. Our family came from England to Boston, to Blue Hill, Maine and eventually to Stittville in the 1840s. My fourth great grandfather and his two brothers fought in the Civil War. They signed up in Rome into the 117th NY Vols. All three survived the war. They fought in some pretty well-known battles.

One of my relatives way back was in Gen Washington's Guard during the Revolutionary War. Washington's Guard is like what the Secret Service is today. I also found I was distantly related to Princess Diana, the Baldwin



Lyle Shorey and his wife, JoAnn, have become active members of our parish since Lyle was fully initiated into the Catholic faith at the 2024 Easter Vigil. Lyle resurrected the livestream Mass, donating his time and equipment. JoAnn is a Euchartistic minister at the 11 a.m. Sunday Mass.

brothers and John Lithgow.

You love reading about American history. Why?

One of my teachers in high school would talk about current events in the classroom each day. After school I would go home and read about the current events in newspapers or watch them on the news. Eventually, reading about current events led me to start reading more about past events. It started, I think, with U.S. presidents, and then U.S. wars, U.S. politics and it evolved from there. While I am reading or watching history events, I like to imagine what it would have been like during that period of time. It is interesting to me how people lived during those periods of time.

You have been in banking for a good portion of your career. What drew you to that industry?

When I was 19 years old, I was looking into going to college. I visited admissions and was trying to find ways to pay for tuition. My older brother, through a friend, was able to get me an interview at Savings Bank Trust Co, in Marcy. I was hired and began working there part time. Before long, I was offered a full-time position, and I really enjoyed working in that field.

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Lyle Shorey

- Age: 60.
- Family: Wife JoAnn, daughter Sarah, son-in-law Elliot and granddaughter Isidora.
- Resides: New York Mills.
- Occupation: MetLife for 18 years; currently a vendor relationship manager. Previously worked in banking at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in computer operations and as a business consultant. Also worked for other banking institutions throughout 23 years in banking.
- Things you like to do in your spare time: Home-improvement projects, woodworking, genealogy, reading about American history, riding my motorcycle.
- Favorite movie: "Lincoln."
- Favorite TV show: TV really does not do too much for me. I watch a lot of sports.
- Favorite musical genre: Top 40 pop and Top 40 country.
- Favorite food. Prime rib.

'Never give up'

Marsha learns life sometimes is full of surprises

One thing Marsha LaBella has learned in her time on Earth is that good things in life sometimes take time. She met her husband Mike later in life. She's helped people working in a hospital and continues to help by volunteering in our parish. She advises others to "never give up."

You worked in a hospital for 42 years. Please describe what you did.

I started as an aide in the emergency department and then learned to draw blood and do EKGs and some clerical work. Then I worked in pre-admission where I got patients ready for surgery.

What kind of satisfaction did you get from the job?

It usually was a good day. I met a lot of different people. It was my real first job and I just enjoyed it and stayed on. I loved learning new things and meeting and helping patients.

On the other hand, what was the most difficult part?

Sometimes the outcome wasn't good news and watching someone's last moments.

You graduated from Mount Carmel School in 1969. What do you remember most about those years?

I remember going down to the cafeteria and out to the playground. The nuns were strict, but I got a good education. I remember my eighthgrade graduation in the school gym was my first father-daughter dance.

You met your husband, Mike, online. How did all that transpire?

I met Mike at match.com. I was just looking one day and he wrote to me then we chatted for months. When Mike and I first met in person at Dunkin Donuts, I walked in and saw him said to myself, "Oh, my, it's my grandfather!" He was dressed in a white dress shirt with a sweater vest. My grandpa Martino always worn same thing. He made up for it with roses and homemade chocolate chip cookies. We joke about it now. I'm a lucky lady, He treats me like a queen.

What was your first date like?

Our first was dinner at Delmonico's and the play "Romeo and Juliette" at the Stanley. We dated for two years then married in 2010.

What advice would you give to someone looking for a partner in life?

Never give up. It's not too late.

You and Mike enjoy taking rides to "discover new things." What are some of the things you have discovered?

We've found many different waterfalls, parks and restaurants.

In our parish, you and Mike set up for 11 a.m. Mass, you help at the feast selling water and soda, and you are a Eucharistic minis-



Mike and Marsha LaBella met later in life online. They chatted for quite a long time, dated for two years and were married in 2010.

Marsha LaBella

- Age: 70.
- **Family**: Married to Mike LaBella. The oldest of seven siblings. Forty-three nieces and nephews.
- **Education**: Graduated from Mount Carmel School in 1969 and Utica Free Academy in 1973.
- Occupation: Retired from St. Elizabeth Hospital after 42 years; work as a nurse technician two mornings a week at Mia's

Place for children.

- Activities: We like to try new foods around the area, enjoy the casino, going for rides to discover new things, watching my TV shows, working on my computer.
- Favorite TV shows: "Chicago Med," "Chicago Fire" and "Chicago PD."
- Favorite movie: "Overboard."
- Favorite musical artist or genre: Old rock 'n' roll and rhythm and blues.

ter. Why do you volunteer your time?

I volunteer to give back to my church and mostly because it makes me feel good and closer to Jesus.

Having grown up in our parish, what does Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament mean to you?

It means everything. I'm happy and comfortable there.

What does your faith mean to you?

My faith is an important part of our lives. I believe everyone should believe in a higher power than us.

You've learned a lot in your 70 years. What's the one piece of advice you can share with others?

Always remember family and friends and be there for each other.

Summertime celebrations

Famous saints have their day in sun



Summer has arrived, and with the warm weather comes a myriad of Catholic celebra-

In many towns, patron saints are celebrated with Masses, festivals and banquets. In our own community we see similar parish festivals, such as those of St. Anthony, Santa Rosalia, and our own St. Mary of Mount Carmel. The Universal Church celebrates some feast days.



Corpus Christi

Celebrated in late May or early June, this feast honors the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, often marked by processions with the consecrated host.

We can trace this feast back to the Miracle of Bolsena. In 1264, a parish priest, who was at the time having conflicted feelings about his beliefs, was offering Mass. At the point where he raised the host at the Consecration, it dripped blood onto the altar cloth.

The feast of Corpus Christi was proposed by Thomas Aquinas, doctor of the Church, to Pope Urban IV. The pope was living in the Umbrian town of Orvieto, and a great Basilica was erected there to house the stained cloth, and remains there today.

Sacred Heart of Jesus

In 1675, Jesus told St. Margaret Mary that He wanted the Feast of the Sacred Heart to be celebrated on the Friday after the Corpus Christi octave. In 1856, the celebration of the Sacred Heart became a universal feast. It remembers Jesus' love for humanity.

During this celebration Catholics are encouraged to seek healing and reunion for broken families and pray the Litany of the Sacred Heart. Catholics believe that Christ died on the cross for all people. No one is beyond forgiveness. We pray for our enemies as well as our friends.



Feast of St. John the Baptist

This feast is celebrated in the Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Anglican and Lutheran churches on June 25. It celebrates the birth of Jesus' cousin as related in the Gospel of Luke.

For Christians, John prepared the way for Jesus. Even the circumstances of his birth mirror, in a way, those of Jesus. John's father Zecharia, a Jewish priest, and mother, Elizabeth were childless and well beyond their child-bearing years. The Archangel Gabriel appeared to Zecharia to inform him he would be a father, but because the old man couldn't believe Gabriel, he was rendered speechless until the baby was born.

Jesus's birth was also announced by Gabriel, and Joseph doesn't speak a word in the Gospels. This is one of the oldest feast days on the Christian calendar, going back at least to 506 CE. It is sometimes called "summer Christmas," remembered with bonfires, blessings of herbs and flowers, and is tied to the midsummer celebrations.



Feasts of Sts. Peter and Paul

This feast on June 29 honors two foundation-

al figures of the early Church. Legends say that the two founders of the Church were executed on the same day. Historical records, however, put Peter's death in 64 CE and Paul's in 67 CE.

Peter was crucified upside down (he didn't feel worthy to die in the same manner as Jesus) in Nero's circus on the Vatican Hill. Paul was beheaded because he was a Roman citizen.

In a sermon in the year 395, St. Augustine of Hippo said: "Both apostles share the same feast day, for these two were one; and even though they suffered on different days, they were as one. Peter went first, and Paul followed. And so, we celebrate this day made holy for us by the apostles' blood. Let us embrace what they believed, their life, their labors, their sufferings, their preaching, and their confession of faith."

Though no longer a Holy Day of Obligation in the USA (since 1840), it is observed as such in some other countries.



The Assumption

This feast on Aug. 15 celebrates Mary's bodily assumption into heaven.

The belief in Mary's Assumption dates to the early Church and was declared officially by Pope Pius XII in 1950. It is a defined dogma of the Catholic Church, meaning it's a belief that is considered essential to the faith.

Her Assumption is a reminder to the rest of us of our belief in our own resurrection and eternal life. The feast is celebrated by attending Mass in most places. In Siena, Italy, where Mary is the patron of the city, the "Palio," a bareback horse race around the city's main piazza, takes place. As a colorful procession in Medieval costumes progresses around the piazza, reverence is paid to Mary at an outdoor chapel built in the front of the city hall.

Then 10 of the 17 contrade (or neighborhoods) of the city have horses to represent them in the brutal race three times around the clay-covered track. The winner (whether the jockey stays on the horse or not) wins the palio, a special banner bearing the image of Mary, and remains "top dog" until the next running of the Palio.

PRIESTS AND NUNS

Continued from Page 3

Father Henry was the last Scalabrini priest to serve Mount Carmel.

After Father Henry left, priests from the Syracuse diocese pastored Mount Carmel, first by Father Salerno, followed by the Rev. John Rose and now the Rev. Jim Cesta, who succeeded Father Rose in July 2009 and celebrated his 50th anniversary as a priest in 2024.

For more than 80 years, the Third Order of St. Francis sisters taught generations of children. They lived in the convent next to the church and even ran a nursery school in what now is a parking lot next to the gymnasium.

Many have fond memories of these women in black and white. Sometimes they were tough and oftentimes gentle, dedicated to the craft, Christ and instilled moral values in the lives of little girls and boys.

The memories

"More Good News" reached out to parishioners via email and Facebook. Here are excerpts from those who responded.

Mary Teti

Mary will be 88 in September and has been a parishioner for almost 55 years. She has fond memories of the priests who served the parish.

We came to Mount Carmel and quickly became a part of the Mount Carmel family thanks to the priests asking us to be involved in many ways. My husband and children were asked to join the newly formed Mount Carmel Folk Group, each playing musical instruments, guitars, flute and saxophone.

My husband and I were asked to chaperone a number of youth activities and then to become CYO advisers. The youth were very involved and active at that time with many activities. Father Gino Marzola was a spiritual adviser. The youths were his main focus. He loved working with them, and they loved him.

The Scalabrini were all special and influential in so many of our lives. They were part of our families. Our homes were always open to them. I cherish the many times we had the youth, choir, parents and priests to our home to celebrate Mass and friendship and dinners together.

Because of the inviting and welcoming atmosphere, the Scalabrini made all of us feel a sense of wanting to help.

It's difficult to have a special priest because all were so special and caring. We spent so much time with Father Gino, so he is the one most special to my family. Of course, Father John, Father Francis and Father Henry are all at the top of the list, too.

Thanks to the Scalabrini fathers for so many wonderful memories. All of the Scalabrini priests helped make Mount Carmel what it is today — a loving, caring community. And I am forever thankful to be a part of it.

Annette Guido

Annette is a lifelong parishioner who graduated from Mount Carmel School in 1966.



A group of Scalabrini priests who served Mount Carmel Church.

Father Berton was scary, Father Moffo was friendly and jolly. Father Peter was also scary and very strict, Father Guido did not interact with us much. Father DiOrio was a painter. We as students did not know him. Father Mario was a joy. He used to come into our classroom to learn English in eighth grade.

Father Henry was a good priest. He interacted well with children and adults. Father Luddy (Ludwig) was close to our class through CYO and basketball. Those of us who went to Italy in the UCA class our junior year got to spend some time there with him. He was a favorite of many of our class members and continued to be in touch with some of us even after he left the priesthood.

CYO was a team-building environment and fostered much camaraderie as did our baseball team. Our class was close. We enjoyed parties, the basketball team, the school spirit, the novenas, even the many processions and May crownings.

Sister Canisha was so good with the nursery. I used to drop off my sister before I went to school. She was so kind, calm, always happy.

Sister Prisca was tough. She was invited to be part of staff when Father Joe was pastor. I served as Human Development chair as well. We went on an afternoon retreat day at the Franciscan Center in the Syracuse area one day and she was so proud to introduce some of us who had been her students to the sisters who were that day. Working alongside her was nice — much different from being in her classroom. That experience was very nice. I also remember her calling our house to ask my dad to drive her places.

My memories of Mount Carmel were pretty positive for the most part. I loved that we had a library, a successful basketball team, good school spirit, so many religious events, but we did need a more solid foundation for math and science.

Camille M. Morgan

Camille is 68 years old and said her great grandfather (Saverio "Sam" Grandinetta) help build the church. Her family were longtime parishioners.

When Father Peter was a newly ordained priest, he would visit my grandmother (Elizabeth Battista) daily, as she was sick with bone cancer. He was a great comfort to her. She passed away in 1944 and Father Peter said her funeral Mass. Father Peter also married my parents in 1949. I believe he may have been stationed at a parish in Buffalo at the time, and they spent part of their honeymoon in his rectory there. I know he went to Niagara Falls with them. He performed the funeral Mass of my sister in February1953 and my father in May 1971.

My sister Elizabeth Morgan and John La-Bella had their First Communion picture taken with Father Berton and it was published in the O-D at that time.

My sister Elizabeth attended and graduated from Mount Carmel in 1964. My brother and I attended from kindergarten to fourth grade and second grade, respectively. I remember the navy-blue jumpers with the gold Mount Carmel patch. Then we moved to Whitesboro but kept attending Mass at Mount Carmel and received our sacraments there. I still have my Our Lady of Mount Carmel statue I received for First Communion.

Sister Mary Bede was a very good friend of my family and spent many Sunday dinners with us. She had a nun doll that had the exact same habit as her made for my sister Elizabeth (complete with the black stockings and the white robe around the waist) because my sister was considering a vocation.

Unfortunately, my brother (William Morgan III) had a bad experience with Sister Joachim — she picked him up by his earlobes!

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LYLE

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When I was 23 our daughter was born, and I started to focus more on my family and career.

You're kind of a computer geek, in a good way. What fascinates you about technology?

While working at the bank, I applied for a Computer Operations position. This was like in 1988, and I knew very little, if nothing, about computers. I was given the position and my fascination with computers took off. In those days we were working in a room filled with disk drives and tape drives. It kind of looked like what you see in 1980s movies that show computer rooms with the tapes spinning. My supervisor at the time started teaching me basic programming. He taught me to write IBM job control language and also how to design forms for Xerox laser printers. I would design checking and savings paper statements for some of our customers. By then I was hooked on computers.

You nearly single-handedly resurrected the parish's livestream in a short period of time. Why did you decide to help, donate your time and some of your equipment?

When JoAnn and I joined the church, we decided that not only will we attend church and practice the faith, but we also wanted to give back to the church. I read in the church bulletin that volunteers were needed with the livestream. There was also help needed in other areas of the church. So, we decided that this would be a good opportunity to give back to the church. I volunteered to do the livestream and JoAnn volunteers as a Eucharist minister. The livestream needed a boost. We had help from other volunteers who added a new platform that was really nice, however, nobody was familiar with that platform, and it did not quite work out. We decided to go back to the OBS platform. Apple IOS software is a great platform to run OBS. So, JoAnn and I decided to donate an iMac Mini computer and monitors needed to do the livestream on the OBS platform. It seems to be working out fine.

Back in 2024, you were fully initiated into the Catholic faith at the Easter Vigil celebration. Please explain your journey to becom-



Lyle Shorey operates the livestream equipment in the choir loft.

ing a Catholic, why you did it and how you ended up in our parish.

My father and mother were both Catholic. My father went to Catholic school. However, for some reason or another, I was never baptized into the church. I always believed in God and always considered myself Catholic. When I was in grade school all my friends would go to religious education class at Our Lady of Lourdes Church and my brother and I would go with them. I am pretty sure the teachers knew we did not belong to the church, but they never said anything. JoAnn has been a Catholic her whole life and we were married at St. Peter's Church in North Utica. My mother-in-law, Jackie Grande, would often ask me when I was going to be baptized. I would tell her that when I am baptized I want to be fully committed to the Catholic faith and to the church. When my mother-in-law passed away, her services were held at Mount Carmel. I promised myself that day that I would join the church and that I would practice the faith with all my heart.

How has your faith grown over the years?

My faith has always been there, but it was more distant than it is now. As I go through life, I have always thanked God for all the gifts he has given me/us. I finally reached a point in my life where I needed to be more in touch with my faith. I will never look at faith from a distance anymore.

You and your wife have been at Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament for a short time. So, what are your thoughts about the parish and its people?

I fell in love with the church from the first time I visited. The church is beautiful and the people are as well. We feel we are now part of a new family.

What do you hope the future holds for Lyle Shorey?

I have always been hesitant to look too far into the future. I have been blessed with a beautiful family, extended family and friends. I would just like to enjoy every day that we have on Earth and thank God for the wonderful gifts he has provided us.

PRIESTS AND NUNS

Continued from Page 7

Terry (Grassi) Reale

Terry is 76 and has been a parishioner all those years. She graduated from Mount Carmel School in 1962.

My favorite Scalabrini priest would have to be Father Peter Paul Polo. He was the first one I could actually feel like I could interact with. Of course, I was a young adult by then. Also, he married John and I, so he was really special to us.

The nuns were wonderful! They all had their special ways and all left special memories in my heart. By the time I was in sixth grade, I wanted to spend as much time around them as I could. Since we lived on Catherine Street, I was not far from the convent. We had established

that I would love to spend time there helping out wherever I could, and they'd have me do little things like dust and "do the Hoovering" for them. It also helped that my teacher, Sister Barbara, resembled Ingrid Bergman in "The Bells of St. Mary's," at least in my eyes anyway, so at that point I was seriously considering being a nun.

Sister Florentine, my eighth-grade teacher, was also very memorable. She took a keen interest in me and really motivated me to get good grades. Sister Augustine, my seventh-grade teacher, on the other hand, was memorable because of her short fuse with the wise-guy boys in my class. She ended up cracking her pointer over one of their heads at one point and

the poor thing felt awful about it.

Angela Barresi Ferdula

Angela is 76 and has been a parishioner all her life. She graduated from Mount Carmel School in 1963.

I remember Father Berton's gruffly voice but sweet demeanor. I remember Father Guido and his reddish hair and bouncing a little on the pulpit when he spoke. Interesting how one of our parish priests ended up in the "The Godfather" movie. (That was Father Joseph Moffo).

I enjoyed Mount Carmel School for the most part Sister Barbara and Sister Florentine were both down to Earth and genuine. Sister Florentine was easy to talk to.