

ST. MARY OF MOUNT CARMEL / BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH – WINTER 2013

MORE GOOD NEWS

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SAINT MARY OF MOUNT CARMEL

**FATHERS
AND SONS**
March retreat will
help solidify bond
between generations

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Sabbath Day — God's piece of the weekend

"Why do I gotta go to church?" is part of the ritual on weekends in many good households.

Parents of faith try using patience and skill to persuade kids to be part of the household of Catholic people at Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday.

In this Year of Faith we are all invited to support and encourage the practice of weekend worship with people of every age, our relatives and friends, co-workers, fellow students.

The first thing God "made holy" was the Sabbath Day — not a mountain or an altar, but

a day. Now, we have to admit that just being at church doesn't totally fulfill what it means to be a practicing Catholic or a happy and holy Christian. It's the source of wisdom, energy and inspiration for living as a friend of Jesus each day and everywhere.

Somebody said sitting in church doesn't make me any more a Christian than sitting in the garage makes me an auto mechanic.

But it's gotta help. It can't hurt hearing the Gospel Word and gathering at the table of our sacrament and being with others who share the very faith we say we are part of.

A famous Jewish Rabbi said, "The Sabbath Day is for recovering one's strength and becoming ever more fit for the journey of walking with our God."

How much more important it is for us to hear the words of our Lord over and over again, "Do this in memory of me." It is the same Jesus who, the Gospel tells us, was himself in the custom of going to worship on the Sabbath.

He didn't skip, how can we?

Each year God gives us 365 days, 8,760 hours; 168 hours every week. God asks only for about one hour in return to say, "Hello, thank you."

It will be a surprise, perhaps, to some people who always say about being an active presence at weekend Mass, "I just can't fit it in," when knocking at the gate of heaven a voice says, "I'm sorry, I just can't fit YOU in."

Let's make an effort to get the invite out there in a year of faith.



FATHER JIM

HISTORY CORNER

After Castelli's death, Father Formia becomes second pastor

This is an occasional series on the men who shepherded St. Mary of Mount Carmel Church. For more on the history of our parish, visit www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com.

After Father Antonio Castelli died in October 1903, he was succeeded by Father Joseph Formia, who became the second pastor of Mount Carmel.

His first undertaking in 1904 was the organization of a parochial school. Funds, as usual, were low and there was already an enormous church debt, but this did not discourage the young pastor.

Early in September 1904, however, 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.

Since no house was available as a convent, the sisters went to and from St. Elizabeth Hospital until Father Formia found it possible to rent a small house on Albany Street, some six blocks away from the school.

After much search, an appeal was made to Joseph Tomaino, a prominent and active member of the church, to purchase the little two-story frame house on Catherine Street adjacent to the church, which was in

turn rented by the parish for the sisters' dwelling.

After organizing the school and seeing that the sisters and the children of the parish were adequately accommodated, Father Formia, pastor for 18 years, returned to his native city in Italy in 1921. Father Formia died on July 16, 1942, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Father John Marchegiani came to Mount Carmel as Father Formia's successor. Born in 1880, he was ordained a priest in 1903. His first 11 years as a priest were dedicated to various parishes, preaching at missions and novenas.

In 1920, he joined the Scalabrini Congregation, expressing his desire to work with the immigrants in America. On June 21, 1921, Father Marchegiani was appointed pastor. With his appointment, new hope came to the parish. He not only led his people from the pulpit, but also in manual labor. He and his assistants made many repairs and constructed the corridor that connected the rectory with the sacristy of the church. Father Marchegiani organized social church bazaars and the famous Mount Carmel Minstrel Shows in order to raise funds to help offset the church expenses. These activities not only brought the necessary funds needed in the parish, but also brought forth a spirit of camaraderie that has carried through the years.

In 1922, Bishop Grimes, who came to Mount Carmel to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation, noticed the tremendous crowd in church. He suggest-

ed to Father Marchegiani and his assistant, Father Nazareno Gambini, the idea of enlarging the church to accommodate the growing congregation.

The bishop's idea, which first seemed a challenge, soon became a realization. The church basement was lowered and a stage for dramatic presentations was constructed. The convent was enlarged to accommodate the growing number of nuns who were teaching at the school. Two naves were added to the main church, thus accommodating the growing number of parishioners.

However, this was only part of the plan. By 1928, the school had been completely renovated and a new gymnasium was opened and, by 1931, the sanctuary was enriched with beautiful altar railings and marble floors.

During Father Marchegiani's pastorate, Mount Carmel made tremendous progress. Societies were organized, religious vocations flourished and many buildings were enlarged or remodeled.

In October 1933, after 13 years of serving as pastor, Father Marchegiani was named provincial superior of the Eastern Province of the Scalabrini Fathers and assumed his new position in New York City. He left the United States in 1938 to serve as rector of the Shrine Piedigrotta in Naples, Italy.

Father Marchegiani died Oct. 1, 1966, in his home town of Gubbio, Perugia.



FORMIA



MARCHEGIANI

Reinforcing father-son bond

Retreat a way for generations to connect

By FRAN PERRITANO

If there is an old movie playing somewhere, you're likely to find Stephen and Keaton Kukowski's eyes fixed on the silver screen.

Or, if there's a stereo playing some of the "oldies," the father and son might just be groovin' together.

There are many bonds between fathers and sons, but a special one between Stephen, 44, and his 13-year-old son is watching classic films and listening to not-so-modern music.

"We especially enjoy watching vintage films together and share a similar sense of humor and taste in music," Stephen said. "I often marvel at Keaton when he mentions an actor or film from, say, the 1930s, and wonder whether any other kids his age share such interests. It's things like that which help create a special bond between us."

Keaton, a student at Notre Dame Junior-Senior High School, seconds that.

"We like watching old movies and go to see a lot of them at the Capitol Theatre in Rome," he said. "I also listen to a lot of the music my parents grew up with. That, and just spending time together, is great."

The pair is going to get another chance to watch an old movie together in March when they plan to be a part of a Father-Son Retreat sponsored by Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Parish at the Good News Foundation.

The 1989 film "Dad" — starring Jack Lemmon, Ted Danson, Ethan Hawke and Olympia Dukakis — will be part of the retreat Friday, March 8. The overnight retreat for father and sons (ages 12 and older) begins at 6:30 p.m. March 8 and ends at the 4:30 p.m. Mass Saturday, March 9, at Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament.

"Saturday sessions will deal with 'It's Not Easy Being a Man,' 'What Am I Supposed to Do with My Life?'" and 'St. Joseph and Jesus' as role models for fathers and sons," said Mike Zasa, who will facilitate the retreat. "There will be free time to share together and spend time learning more about and deepening relationships."

Mike said the idea for the retreat came to him as he was reflecting on what we could do as a church community during the year of faith that started in October.

"Very often, men are lacking from church activities for one reason or another, and fathers and sons really don't spend a lot of time shar-



Stephen Kukowski and his son Keaton at Disney World in 2012. On the cover, the pair stand outside of the front of the church.

FATHER-SON RETREAT

What: An overnight retreat for fathers and sons (age 12 and older).

When: 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 8, through 4 p.m. Saturday, March 9. Participants will attend 4:30 p.m. Mass at Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament.

Where: Good News Foundation, 10475 Cosby Manor Road, North Utica.

Cost: \$80 per father-son pair with \$25 for an additional son. The fee includes a double-occupancy room that has a double and single bed plus its own bathroom. There are a few rooms with three single beds.

Amenities: Breakfast buffet (French toast, scrambled eggs, sausage, home fries, fruit cocktail, toast, butter and jelly, coffee, tea, juice and condiments). Lunch (ham and turkey wraps, tossed salad, chips, olives and pickles, cookies, soda and water).

Information: Call Anne Elacqua at 724-3950 or 941-7447.

ing their beliefs and spiritual experiences with each other," he said. "I thought this would be a good time to do both."

Anne Elacqua, Faith Formation director for seventh through 10th grades, said it would be wonderful if at least 12 to 14 families participated.

"I would truly hope that many more would attend," she said. "Since I don't have anything to compare it to, it is just high hopes that God will motivate fathers and sons to want to spend some

quality time together journeying in their faith."

Stephen and Keaton spend quite a lot of time together as it is, and they believe the retreat can only enhance their relationship.

Keaton said he's looking forward to spending "some time with my dad, you know, just the guys, and to see how other kids are with their dads."

His father agrees.

"Without a doubt, Keaton and I have a strong relationship," he said. "The retreat will help us build on that and learn from other fathers and sons about what makes their relationships strong."

Stephen said part of what makes his relationship with Keaton solid is balancing being a father and a friend.

"There are different thoughts on this, with some people saying, 'You're a child's parent, not his or her friend,'" he said. "I disagree. You can be both. A child, or any person, might be more willing to confide in or turn to a friend in times of trouble, and that's a role I play as a parent. It also speaks to the quality of our relationship because there is built-in trust, love and respect between us."

Keaton likes that approach, even when they don't quite see eye to eye.

"We try to work out a compromise," he said. "I know that he and my mom want the best for me."

Anne Elacqua said that way of communicating is important and she hopes the retreat will be a chance for sons to see their fathers in a different light.

"I would hope they can see the depth of them as men and as believers," she said. "I hope that the boys learn a way to communicate with their dads, and that time together in faith is just as fun and meaningful as going to a ball game."

5 questions with ... John Reale

This series features people "In the Pews" at Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament that you see every weekend and might want to know a little bit more about.

You have been a parishioner of this parish since you were born. What does Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament mean to you?

Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Parish is a very important part of my life, and of who I am. I owe a lot of my formation as a person, worker, husband, father, son to being a part of this parish community. It is like my second home and I just feel complete when I am volunteering where I am needed as well as experiencing a sense of the sacred during the liturgies.

I have literally grown up here having made all my sacraments here including my marriage, and having graduated from Mount Carmel School where I made friendships that I still hold dear today. I have experienced the wisdom of those who have been members for a long time and my heart is overjoyed to see the parish growing with new members of varied backgrounds as well as young faces.

You work for a living, are raising a family and you still are very involved in parish life. Why do you do it?

I guess the short answer is that when something is that important and means that much to you, you find the time and energy. I believe that God gives us the strength we need when doing God's will. My love of God and devotion to Our Lady of Mount Carmel calls me to be active in the parish.

Because I view the community as a family, an extension of my home family, when family needs us we make the time. I am so thankful to God for my wife, Jean. She not only has begun to volunteer in the parish, too, but knows how important my involvement in the parish means to me and is very gracious and understanding. She's been told by some in the parish that when she married me she married the church.

In a past life, you wanted to become a priest and even went to the seminary for a short period of time. You had second thoughts and returned home. How hard of a decision was it for you to make?

From when I was young I always felt a calling from God, and being involved in the church from a young age I felt that calling was to be a priest. Going through the process was a learning experience, one I will never forget. While in my mind I thought I was following God's call for me, it wasn't until I listened to what was in my heart to know that priesthood was not the calling God had in mind for me. It was a confusing and difficult decision for me to make especially after all the affirmations I received on being a priest and enjoyment I had with being a strong part of the church.



John Reale, his son Matthew and his wife, Jean. "I am so thankful to God for my wife, Jean," John said. "She not only has begun to volunteer in the parish, too, but knows how important my involvement in the parish means to me and is very gracious and understanding. She's been told by some in the parish that when she married me she married the church."

John Reale

Age: 42.

Occupation: Procurement supervisor at Utica National Insurance Group.

Education: Bachelor of science degree in accounting from SUNYIT.

Family: Wife Jean, son Matthew.

Favorite book: "The Shepard" by Joseph Girzone.

Favorite movie: "Field of Dreams."

Favorite TV show: "Rizzoli & Isles."

However, God had other plans for me and I have learned in my journey thus far (and it has taken until now to really know) that when you are open to what God has in store for you rather than what you think he has in store for you, then great things will happen (my wife and son). The experience of formation and seminary again has been a part of my overall formation as a man, but it is amazing how when you follow God's will, the decisions just feel right. It is a feeling of affirmation that only God can give.

Who is the person in your life that you most respect and try to emulate yourself after?

There have been many thus far, but if I really had to focus on one person that would be my Grandpa Grassi. He, too, was a big part of my formation growing up right up to his passing in 2003. He was very much a gentleman yet

strong, being a Marine and all. He taught me how important family is by how much he enjoyed having all of us together. He always took a great interest in what I was doing. He was always willing to lend a helping hand to those in need in a very modest way.

Grandpa definitely was a faithful man, a man of deep spirituality, but yet one of great humility. One thing for sure, I am still learning from him is his enjoying the lighter side of life and his great sense of humor. He taught me how to see God in all of creation and in the faces of others.

You have a baby son named Matthew. Someday, when you're old and gray and Matthew is a young adult, what would be the one thing that you would want him to say about you?

That his dad is a man of great faith. I hope to be able to pass along my love of God and God's ways to my son by the way I live my life. Being a father (even though it's been less than a year) has been the best blessing I have ever experienced. I want to be able to instill a faith in him that he will keep alive when he becomes an adult.

As I have pointed out in my other responses, family is very important to me as well, both my home family and parish family. I want Matthew to have that same sense of importance of family as he is growing up along with the traditions our family has come to know and cherish. I feel the best legacy that a father can leave to his children is that of his faith, love of God, love of family and his integrity.

'God must be in your life full time, never part time'

Vito Valenzi loves music. He first hit the "stage" when at age 4 he sang "New York, New York" to residents of a nursing home. He's been singing ever since, not only music, but of his faith as well.

You have been coming to Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament since you were young. What is it about the parish that you like?

I like the family atmosphere of the parish; everyone always cares about what is happening in your life and they are always happy to see you participating in Mass and parish activities. I especially like the history lessons I receive from the "old-school" parishioners.

You've been an altar server for a number of years, starting right after First Communion. Why do you continue to do it as you get older when many others quit?

When I took my First Communion I wanted to do something to be part of the faith community, so I decided to be an altar server. After a few years I realized how important it was to actually be part of the most sacred part of our faith. I also enjoy training new servers and try to be an example to them so that they, too, continue to serve just as I have. Hopefully in the near future I would like to participate in another part of the Mass such as lector or Eucharistic minister. Staying involved is important. It allows me to always learn more about my faith and the different parts of the Mass.

Do you and your friends ever discuss faith and God and what they mean to you?

Not many of my friends talk about their faith and God, but if given the opportunity, I would always support my beliefs and how they can impact your life. I like for God and faith to be part of my everyday life, not just when there is a crisis of some kind. If God is part of your everyday life, and different situations come up, you already have the foundation of how to handle it. God must be in your life full time, never part time. God never gives us more than we can handle.

I know you're young, but how has your faith influenced your life so far?

My faith has given me my moral compass in life. When I'm faced with challenges and decisions, it always directs me to what my faith has taught me to help make the right choices. My



VITO VALENZI

Age: 15.

School: Sophomore at Whitesboro High.

Family: Parents, Vaughn & Jamie Valenzi.

Favorite things to do: Sing, photography, art and tennis.

Favorite book: "Life Is a Gift," by Tony Bennett.

Favorite movie: "The Social Network."

Favorite TV shows: "Friends" and "The Voice."

faith has also taught me the importance of doing service to others and how I can make a difference in someone else's day just by a simple act of kindness.

Tell me some of your interests and why you like them so much.

My first passion has always been music and singing. I have been singing since I was about 4. At that age I sang "New York, New York" at a nursing home for all the residents. It was a big hit and it put a smile on all their faces. Nowadays, I sing throughout my school whenever a teacher or classmates ask me. I also enjoy photography and the ability to capture expressions on people that tell a story of what they have endured in life.

Who has been the biggest influence in your life so far?

My mom has always been a great influence in my life. Her willingness to always help others has always made me proud of her, no matter what the task is, her answer is always yes. She always taught me the importance of values and how they influence the decisions I make in life today and how they affect me in the future. Whenever I have to do something challenging or difficult, she always points me in the right direction. Even if I don't think it's possible, somehow her guidance helps me complete the task without ever giving up. She always taught me the importance of having faith and God in my life because it will lead me down the right

paths, and to always treat others as I would want them to treat me.

What's the best piece of advice anyone has given you?

Don't let opportunity pass you by, live for the moment, always take chances because if you don't you will always wonder what could have been.

What's the best piece of advice you've given someone else?

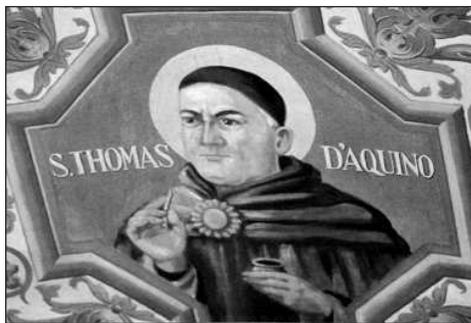
Don't change who you are to please someone else. Just be who you were born to be.

What is it about yourself or your family that you're most proud of?

I was born in America and I am of Italian decent. I have enjoyed the many traditions, old stories and, of course, the food of my Italian heritage. I feel it is important to learn about the traditions of years ago so it doesn't become a dying generation. I would like to keep the stories and traditions alive so I can someday pass them on to my children. It is important to know where you came from so you know where you are going. Hopefully, someday I will be able to add a story or two of my own for the next generation to enjoy.

What do you hope the future holds for Vito Valenzi?

My personal goal is to continue to be part of my faith community, pursue a career in the music industry and to someday have a family so I can share all my Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament memories with them.



Look up, who are those people on the ceiling?

First in a series. Watch for the next installment in the spring issue.

In the past, this column has explored the history of our building as well as some of its artwork. In this issue, we dedicate ourselves to the images that grace the vaulting of the western nave (on the right side of the church as you face the altar).

Between the ribs of the vaulting, imbedded in the grotesque-style decoration (in art, that doesn't mean ugly, it means a type of decoration used on the ceilings of ancient Roman buildings) are the portraits of 22 popes and saints.

Who were these people?

If we start at the first cross vault nearest the St. Joseph altar and work to the back of the church, we will encounter the following images:



A.J. VALENTINI

FIRST CROSS VAULT

Pope Pio XII (Pius in English) – b. 1876 – d. 1958: Pope from 1939 to 1958. In 1933, as cardinal secretary of state of the Vatican, he made a concordat with Germany to protect the church against Nazi fascism. In recent years his “silence” during the Jewish Holocaust has

come under intense scrutiny. The church did, however, protect many European Jews from slaughter.

Santa Rosalia – b.1130- d. 1160: Rosalia is patron saint of Palermo, patroness of Sicilian mariners. Though a descendant of Charlemagne and well off, she rejected the material world and became a hermit on Monte Pellegrino, overlooking the city of Palermo, where she died. In 1624, her remains were found during a plague. When her remains received a proper burial and paid due honor, the plague ceased.

St. Tomasso D'Aquino (Thomas Aquinas) – b. 1226- d. 1274: A “doctor” of the Catholic Church, he is considered the greatest of its theologians and philosophers. In examining classic and neoplatonic thought, he developed Christian doctrine. He noted that prudence, temperance, justice and fortitude as cardinal virtues are revealed in nature, however, the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity are expressions of faith and directed toward God.

Pope Pio XI – b. 1857 –d. 1922: Pope from 1922–1939. As Pope during the rise of Nazism and Communism, he declared those two movements as demeaning to human dignity and a violation of human rights. He accused the democracies of the west at that time as a Conspiracy of Silence for their lack of support in his protests against persecution of the

church in places such as Spain, Mexico and the Soviet Union.

SECOND CROSS VAULT

San Donato: An early Christian, his family was persecuted in Rome. Left an orphan, he came under the wing of the Monk Ilarino of Arezzo. He became a priest and was credited for many healings and miracles even before he rose to be bishop of Arezzo.

Pope Benedetto XV (Benedict) – b. 1854 – d. 1922: Pope from 1914 to 1922. Proclaiming World War I “the suicide of civilized Europe,” he declared the Vatican neutral in hopes of negotiating peace. Rejected by the warring factions, his papacy concentrated on humanitarian aid to the afflicted in the conflict.

Pope Pio X – b.1835 – d.1914: The only pope of the 20th century to have had much experience at the pastoral level. He was a plain-spoken man who did not curry much affection from aristocrats. He promoted religious instruction in the vernacular and a lifestyle of Christian virtues. Under his administration the first Code of Canon Law was assembled in one volume.

Santa Lucia – b. 283 –d.304: St. Lucy was from an aristocratic Roman family and a Christian martyr. She refused to marry a pagan and gave her dowry to the poor. She was con-

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School shootings monumental test of faith

BY AMY PERRITANO EDDY

I was raised to be a good Catholic. I went through all my sacraments, went to church every Saturday or Sunday (sometimes both), joined the choir as a teenager, and have always been, most importantly, of very strong faith in God.

There were a few times that I might have struggled, such as when I felt lonely as a teenager and when my husband and I went through several years of infertility before I finally “let go and let God.” Soon after, we were blessed with our beautiful son.

I believe that every single thing happens for a reason, and we may either find out that reason later, or we may never discover it, but we learn something in the meantime. I believe that God’s timing is perfect, and I believe that everything works out just as it’s supposed to.

Some might say this is naiveté, but I say it’s faith.

At least this is how I’ve felt — how I’ve always felt — up until the afternoon of Dec. 14, 2012.

Newtown, Conn., had an earthquake in the person of a sick and twisted gunman, and the aftershocks shook my faith in all my beliefs like no other episode in my life.

Nothing made me question my faith like this awful, evil act. I said, “God! How could you let this happen?” I could not wrap my head around it.

I struggled so much trying to reconcile what happened with what I know and have experienced through my faith. Mostly, I kept imagining those poor children; my son also is in first grade. You can just imagine how much it hit home for me, as I’m sure it did for so many parents. I couldn’t wait to get home to my son and give him the biggest hug ever.

While people were praying, I didn’t feel like I could pray. I felt like I couldn’t talk to God at all because all that kept coming out was, “How could



Amy Perritano Eddy and her son Joseph.

you do this? How could you let this happen?”

Later that night, while watching a “Dateline” special on the Newtown tragedy, I saw the father of one of the little girls that was killed. He said they would get through because “we remain strong in our faith and we are praying for the shooter’s family as well.”

What an amazing man, I thought. If he could stand there and display such adamant faith after losing his precious little girl in such a brutal way, how dare I feel the way I feel.

Saturday morning, I woke up from some weird dream state and just sobbed. I thought about the parents waking up without their children (assuming they even slept) and brothers and sisters awaking without their siblings.

I went on Facebook and asked for help from my friends to help me find my faith again, to please impart some words of wisdom or inspiration. I got few responses, which told me that others were feeling the same way. I contemplated not going to church that Sunday.

By the time Sunday came, I did decide to go to church, for my son’s sake. I was teary-eyed even as I sat there. It probably was the first time I prayed in two days.

I actually did get some good responses to my Facebook inquiry. I have a friend whom I consider my mentor in spiritual matters, and I always feel like God is speaking through her to me. Her words always make sense and she always knows just what to say.

One of the things she said was, “This world is not our own, we are only travelers on our way through to what is our home. Those children are there now.”

I began to picture them celebrating Jesus’ birthday right there with Him, but I still couldn’t stop thinking, “Why did they have to die the way they did?” I was reminded that there is much evil in this world. Much evil.

But there is kindness. Ann Curry started #26, which was a call to perform 26 random acts of kindness in memory of each of the children and teachers who lost their lives.

On the other side, people are talking now — about guns, about mental health — though, doesn’t it always seem like it takes a major tragedy to bring about change?

Once in a while we hear a story of kindness — of God in another human being — such as the police officer who bought boots for the homeless man. Regardless of what the man did with the boots afterward, it was the officer’s act of kindness that mattered.

The more kindness we show each other, the more we can combat this evil. The more we pray and let God into our hearts, the less of a foothold that evil can take on our world.

I have obviously chosen to hold on to my faith after all of this. I simply concluded: Who else do I have to turn to?

As travelers on this Earth, all we can do is be kinder to each other, for each act of kindness is another slap in the face to evil, and hold on tightly to the ones we love because we never know when we’re going home.

CEILING

Continued from Page 6

demned by the Romans to be a prostitute but, of course, she refused. Unable to move her or burn her, the governor of Siracusa, Sicily, had her eyes gouged out and put to the sword. She is the patron of sight.

THIRD CROSS VAULT

Pope Leone XIII (Leo) – b. 1810 – d.1903: Pope from 1878 to 1903. One of the longest reigning popes, his papacy is noted for its dedication to Mary and the rosary. He was at the same time an enlightened pontiff declaring that science and religion co-exist. He opened the Vatican Archives to bona fide scholars and re-founded the Vatican Observatory. He was the first pope to make a sound recording or a movie. He succeeded in bringing back the luster of the papacy after the fall of the Papal States during the unification of Italy.

Sant’Antonio – There are two St. Anthonys: the first lived in Egypt (251-356) and the other, more familiar one, was born in Portugal in 1195 and eventually settled in Padova, where he died in 1231. He is known as the patron of lost things and missing people. Because of his extensive travels he also has become a patron of travelers. Early in his career, he did missionary work in Morocco but when he relocated to Padova he became known for his oratory and was commissioned by the Vatican to write a series of “Sermons for Feast Days.” In 1946 he was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church.

San Marcellino (Marcellus): There are three San Marcellinos. The first was pope from 296 to 304 during the early Christian persecution under the emperor Diocletian. The second Saint Marcellino was a great friend of St. Augustan and a martyr of the 4th century in what now is Tunisia. The third was a martyr

from Piedimonte d’Alife in the province of Caserta. Given our parish’s long history with the Italian-American community, it is probably the later whose image is on our ceiling. There also is a town called San Marcellino.

Pope Leone XI – b.1535 –d.1605: Pope in 1605. Born Alessandro Ottaviano de’ Medici, he was a member of the extended ducal family of Florence. The Grand Duke of Tuscany, Cosimo de’ Medici used him as his ambassador to the Vatican for 15 years. Prior to becoming pope, Clement VIII sent him to France where he helped wrest the influence of the Huguenots at the court of Henry IV and strengthen the power of the Church in France. It is said that due to his work there and to the fact that the queen of France, Maria de’ Medici, was his relative that the king contributed heavily to ensure is eventual elevation to the papacy. Almost immediately upon assuming the papacy, he became ill and died within a month.



Christmas 2012 revisited

