

ST. MARY OF MOUNT CARMEL / BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH - WINTER 2021

GOOD MORE NEWS

PAST ... PRESENT ... FUTURE

WE ARE THE CHURCH

As the parish enters its 125th year, it's the people
who are the lifeblood of our community

PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

After 125 years, it's time to look beyond ourselves

As St. Mary of Mount Carmel / Blessed Sacrament Parish celebrates and recognizes its 125th anniversary in this year of 2021, we are reminded of the importance of not only looking back, but also looking toward the future.

There is much to be proud and grateful. The significance of this Catholic parish in the lives, education and special grace-filled moments of so many families and individuals — especially in the founding and formative years with the Italian immigrant populace of East Utica and beyond, through difficult times as well as seasons of success and peace and advances in prosperity and growth.

When one gathers in memory the blessed weddings, baptisms, First Holy Communions, consoling funeral services, feasts and summer festivals, novenas and so many Christmas and Easter splendid worship experiences, it becomes a radiant and splendid memory.

Grateful for the priests and nuns, devoted lay people, those whose gifts of music and teaching, and leadership and plain old sweat and effort have made this parish the jewel of East Utica.

Of course, this 125th-anniversary year also invites us to look to the future, even during the

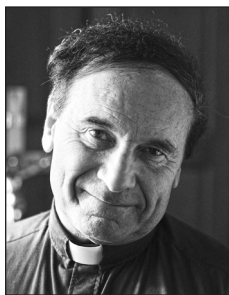
current challenge of a pandemic.

Every Catholic parish must consider possible plans to join together, consolidate and cooperate with other parishes in some activities and programs as well as the more efficient use of buildings and facilities. To be creative in facing the needs and maintaining the traditions and services of our Catholic people is so important into the next years and even decades ahead.

One dimension of the Catholic parish in the future, more and more, will be the ability and willingness to reach out to draw new members, light the light of faith, as well as to serve the needs of the surrounding neighborhoods.

Over these 125 years this parish has had many blessings and graces through the help and powerful intercession of the Mother of our Lord, honored as Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Maybe that is why God has found favor with this parish through thick and thin. So many have entered the doors of this beautiful work of art and grace-filled church looking for God.

Of course, the words of St. Augustine are so true, "You only can look for God, because God has already found you."



FATHER JIM

CELEBRATING THE SAINTS

St. Blaise

Feast day: Feb. 3

We know more about the devotion to St. Blaise by Christians around the world than we know about the saint himself.

His feast is observed as a holy day in some Eastern churches. In 1222, the Council of Oxford prohibited servile labor in England on Blaise's feast day. The Germans and Slavs hold him in special honor, and for decades many United States Catholics have sought the annual St. Blaise blessing for their throats.

We know that Bishop Blaise was martyred in his episcopal city of Sebastea, Armenia, in 316. The legendary Acts of St. Blaise were written 400 years later. According to them Blaise was a good bishop, working hard to encourage the spiritual and physical health of his people. Although the Edict of Toleration (311), granting freedom of worship in the Roman Empire, was already 5 years old, persecution still raged in Armenia.

Blaise apparently was forced to flee to the back country. There he lived as a hermit in soli-

tude and prayer, but he made friends with the wild animals. One day a group of hunters seeking wild animals for the amphitheater stumbled upon Blaise's cave. They were first surprised and then frightened. The bishop was kneeling in prayer surrounded by patiently waiting wolves, lions and bears.



The legend has it that as the hunters hauled Blaise off to prison, a mother came with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At Blaise's command the child was able to cough up the bone. He is the patron saint of throats.

Agricolaus, governor of Cappadocia, tried to persuade Blaise to sacrifice to pagan idols. The first time Blaise refused, he was beaten.

The next time he was suspended from a tree and his flesh torn with iron combs or rakes. Finally, he was beheaded.

Four centuries give ample opportunity for fiction to creep in with fact. Who can be sure how accurate Blaise's biographer was? But biographical details are not essential. Blaise is seen as one more example of the power those have who give themselves entirely to Jesus.

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

SUNDAY, JAN. 3, 2021
CELEBRATING 125 YEARS: 1896-2021

St. Mary of Mount Carmel Blessed Sacrament Parish

ABOUT THE PARISH
Address: 648 Jay St., Utica, NY 13501.
Telephone: 315-735-1482; fax: 315-735-9806.
Office hours: Masses must be worn.
• 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: stmaryparish@nyrcio.org
Hearing impaired: Listening devices available in the sacristy.

MASS SCHEDULES
Weekend
Saturday: 4:30 p.m.
Sunday: 8 and 10:30 a.m.

WEEKDAY
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:30 a.m.
Rosary for the Union and Divine Mercy Chaplet: Thursday after Mass.

Holy Days
Consult the bulletin and website.

RECONCILIATION
Saturday: 3:45 p.m.

MARRIAGE
Make arrangements six months in advance.

BAPTISM
Call the parish office to arrange. New parents are encouraged to attend the parent class before the birth of your child.

RITE 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.

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

PARISH STAFF
Pastor: Rev. Jim Costa
In Residence: Rev. Luis Dignin
Coordinator of Faith Formation K-6: Terri Piazza-Pencocco
Coordinator of Faith Formation 7-10: Anne Carbone-Elacqua
Maintenance: Patrick Zaza
Music director: Peter Elacqua
Website manager: bulletin, publicity: Fran Perricone

Mount Carmel School students in 1904.
Rock Gersce, Tony D'Acunto, Al Candido and Joe Zalewski.
Mount Carmel Cadets basketball team from 1931-32.

... and more

- Weekly prayers, reflections, photos, videos and more to enrich your faith.
- Father Jim's "Wise and Otherwise"
- History of the parish
- Lector, minister, altar server schedules
- Mass schedules
- Parish news
- Ministries
- Event calendar
- Weekly reflection on Sunday's readings
- "More Good News" articles
- Links to our social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

COVER STORY

Embracing the past; envisioning the future

In the late 19th century, Italian immigrants in Utica longed for their own church. Brick by brick, they toiled to erect their dream. On Dec. 20, 1896, they celebrated the first Mass in Santa Maria di Monte Carmela in the basement of the unfinished church. Now, 125 years later, generations have called this place home. We asked parishioners to share their memories of our vibrant parish and their hopes for the future as we enter our next chapter.



Jean and John Reale Jr.

Memories are everlasting; tomorrow begins today

By JOHN M. REALE JR.

I have many great memories of our parish, especially having gone to the parish school as well — from those school days, to the many festivals and liturgies, working pizza frita since I was 16, being in the choir and just being part of a great and loving parish family. All of those have contributed greatly to my development as a Catholic Christian.

Our parish means a lot to me. It's a place I call home and can definitely feel the sense of the sacred. It's a sacred place of fond memories of important moments in our family from celebrating new life through baptism, first Eucharist and weddings, to bidding farewell to loved ones who returned to God's holy dwelling place.

I have learned a lot over the years from many different generations at our parish but most especially my grandparents' generation and how Mount Carmel parish was the center of their lives and that Our Lady of Mount Carmel was always there to guide them through any challenging times. The parish is certainly a source of my internal strength to get through those difficult moments as well as sharing in my many blessings.

Please see REALE, Page 7



Annette Zarelli Parsons and her son.

Parish the 'center of life' for the Zarelli family

By ANNETTE PARSONS

Mount Carmel Church has had a profound effect on the Zarelli family for three generations.

Though I'm not sure how my grandparents Vittorio and Lucia Zarelli came to be parishioners at Mount Carmel Church after arriving from Italy, I do know that my grandfather died when my dad, Guy Zarelli, was 9 years old.

My grandmother could neither read nor write, and times were hard, so she was forced to resort to welfare to feed her six children. Dad attended Mount Carmel School, which, thankfully, was tuition free at the time. My grandmother tried to reciprocate by sewing altar linens and surplices for the altar servers.

Dad, who didn't speak English until he entered school, was a good student with a lively personality who always seemed to be in trouble with the nuns. Dad's mother, Lucia, died when he was in his early teens, leaving him in the care of an older sister. Fortunately, the pastor, Father Pizzoglio, stepped in, and for many years served as a parental

Please see ZARELLI, Page 7

PAGES 7-8: MORE SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS AND ASPIRATIONS

A CONVERSATION WITH DR. ANTHONY PALUMBO

Doctor sees his life clearly

Dr. Anthony Palumbo says the joy he gets out of life is dedicating himself to others. From his years as an ophthalmologist to his love of his parish, his main objective is the betterment of those around him.

You've been an ophthalmologist and eye surgeon for more than four decades. What enticed you into that profession?

My mother's lifelong ambition was to serve others beyond her own needs. Mom's example, rich with compassion and devotion, became the beacon to illuminate life's unknown journey. Serendipity awakened. I read a story consisting of five sightless children, bonded in brotherhood, living remotely on a small farm in Sicily, parents impoverished and uneducated, clearly became a pivotal mindset in my life. My mother's unselfishness, adding dad's empathy, provided a willingness to sacrifice and contribute to the reality of my dream and the necessary resolve to serve the visually impaired for as long God wishes.

What has been your greatest reward?

Giving of oneself. The spirit of gratitude speaks to me asking, "Why was I born?" Imagine being deprived of the most precious gift in life — your sight. Yes, God blesses us with the miracle of sight. His blessings glorify his love resonating the gift of "le mani d'oro." I am humbled to accept His consecrated gift of body and blood. In the spirit of gratitude, this is my reward for service to Him.

You spent time in the military. What were the one most important things you learned?

Never be satisfied with mediocrity; maintain a positive attitude; team is a collection of trust; respect begets respect; be proud of your country, your uniform and yourself; discipline is paramount to survival; live by the Golden Rule; trust in God always.

You have been involved in the community over the years. If you could pick one community association that meant the most to you, what would it be?

The Utica Rescue Mission, second to none. Dedicated by virtue of definition, success triumphs over failure. The power of giving promotes opportunity, from which inspiration creates renewal and growth. These are the essential pillars of strength from which hope and self-improvement are born. Therefore, a positive mindset will change by action and ultimately shine with accomplishments. It is from these accomplishments that dreams come true.

You work at the parish festival, have been a member of the parish council and are a eucharistic minister, among others. Why do you do what you do?

It's all about the people. I found good chemistry with Monsignor Ronald Bill. From this relationship, I willingly offered to volunteer to be parish chairperson for the Hope Appeal 2003. Monsignor Bill was a much beloved (interim) pastor and fun to work with. More so, many were mesmerized by his gifted voice and inspi-



From left, Clarkson University President Dr. Tony Collins and wife Karen, and Phyllis and Dr. Anthony Palumbo share an evening in October 2019 at Delmonico's as part of the restaurant's celebrity series.

Dr. Anthony Palumbo

Age: "Timeless."

Former occupations: Chemical engineer, Clarkson University; commissioned officer, U.S. Navy; research scientist, Masonic Research Lab, DNA study on aging; ophthalmology / photo refractive surgery, Dove Eye Center, director; graduate teacher, University of Rochester Eye Institute.

Family: Wife Phyllis; daughters Joanne Mozloom and Terese Lyn Palumbo; son-in-law, Peter Mozloom; grandchildren Anthony and Elise.

Things you like to do in your spare time: Travel, meet new people, family and friends, read, exercise, journaling, classic movies, count my blessings.

Favorite book: "To Kill a Mockingbird."

Favorite movie: "It's a Wonderful Life."

Favorite TV shows: "I Love Lucy," "Carol Burnett Show."

Favorite musical genres: Operatic and classical.

Favorite quote: "Climb every mountain, ford every stream, follow every rainbow until you find your dream."

rationale. This became the springboard for future volunteering endeavors. Church plus community both gratuitously benefit financially as well. Meeting new people and learning from others became a joy. Networking also became commonplace. Fellowship nurtured a sense of fun and entertainment. Finding humor is an excellent elixir for longevity.

What does the parish mean to you?

St. Mary of Mount Carmel became an essential part of my character from a very early age. I would attend the children's Mass at 9 a.m. on Sunday with my beloved grandmother Theresa. Impressively dressed in ubiquitous black, grandmother was the classic Christian role model and firm disciplinarian. Her love of the Blessed

Mother influenced my understanding of church protocols given due respect and obedience. A classic Florentine biscotti was the result for my compliance. Mount Carmel became home away from home. Parishioners became family, gracious and caring, while church ambiance radiated as a temple of classic Italian beauty and a Renaissance treasure of history. Such early lessons reaffirmed closeness to God and the joy of sacraments. Our baptismal ceremony, first Holy Communion, confirmation and marriage were historic highlights dating from my parents' time and now passed on to my children. At the end of the rainbow we found our dream. Mount Carmel is the best of the best. A dream come true.

How does your faith influence your life?

My life is the mirror image of my faith. Without the gift of faith, both hope and gratitude are absent in meaning. Faith embodies the belief in God, which leads to a more complete and integrated life. Church is our lifeblood, which brings meaning and purpose to one's self-worth. Prayer nurtures spiritual awareness and a strong sense of goodness. Cohesively, the fruits from prayer are gifts of compassion, love and joy all a result of faith from Christ's Golden Rule.

Based on your years of experience, what words of wisdom would you give to the younger people of our parish.

Simply, like what you do. If you succeed in completing your given task, feel a sense of fulfillment from your accomplishments, then you will be rewarded appropriately. Remember, the perception of change must begin first with you. From a person of experience, you must show a robust difference if a better tomorrow is to happen. Defy convention. Never stand still. Never be satisfied with mediocrity. Shift the paradigm and follow your instincts. ... Be kind, be polite and be ever grateful. The ladder of success begins with the first rung. The climb to the top requires perseverance and courage. Do not be afraid. God walks with you. Like what you do and you will never regret your success.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Hayley makes a difference

She's using her talents to help special-education students

We begin a new feature in "More Good News" titled "Where Are They Now." It will highlight some of the "Next Generation" young people we have featured over the past 10 years. This issue catches up with Hayley Oliver, who we featured in the Fall 2014 issue.

It's been a little over six years since you were last featured in "More Good News." How would you describe your life now compared to back then?

Looking back on where I was six years ago is very surreal. I was still in high school and not sure what I wanted to be doing once I graduated. I now have a college degree and a full-time job.

You graduated in May from Le Moyne College with a bachelor's degree in English Literature and Adolescent/Special Education. You are pursuing your master's degree at Utica College and are a full-time teacher working with eighth-grade special education students. Why did you pursue this career path?

I initially was drawn to teaching because I knew I wanted to be an English major and do something with literature. The more I thought about teaching, the more right it felt. I had always liked the idea of being a teacher, but never thought I had it in me to do it. After I started doing some field work and eventually student teaching, I knew I found the right path.

What are the challenges and rewards working with special education students?

Working with special education students is filled with great reward and great challenge. In one day of teaching I can have a moment that I know will stick with me forever, and another that makes me question everything. I think it takes a great deal of patience and love for my students, and I simply have to remind myself every day that I am making a difference. I am there to help them to grow, learn and succeed, and it's an honor to work with them every day.

Your final year of college must have been very challenging, coping with the pandemic and remote learning. Describe how you were able to manage during that time.

As soon as the pandemic hit in full swing, I was about to switch to my second student teaching site. I was thrown headfirst into teaching during a pandemic while I was supposed to be practicing my skills and truly seeing if I could do this. It required a great deal of effort and faith that everything would work out in the end. I feel that all of these experiences have made me a better student, educator and overall person.

With COVID-19 still a major concern, describe the challenges of being a special-ed teacher and still going to school.

Hayley Oliver

Age: 22.

Family: Don and Grace Oliver.

Education: New Hartford High School, Le Moyne College, Utica College.

Things I like to do in my spare time:

Spend time with friends and family, read books, being crafty.

Favorite book: "A Court of Thorns & Roses."

Favorite movie: "Sound of Music."

Favorite TV show: "Game of Thrones."

Favorite musician or musical genre:

Young the Giant / alternative or Broadway.

It takes a great deal of patience to be a special education teacher during hybrid schooling. There is a lot of extra planning that takes place, but the biggest challenge is helping the students cope. Many of them do not understand why they need to be doing all of these new protocols and schedules we now have in place. They have a hard time keeping their mind in school-mode, and it's really about keeping them grounded and focused on their studies.

When you were in high school, you were active in theater and acting. Have you been able to continue to pursue those interests?

To an extent, yes. While I was in college I tried to be as active as I could in the theater and music programs. During my freshman year I was able to be the assistant stage manager to the biggest of the spring productions. I was a member of the Le Moyne College Chamber Choir for a few semesters. I also was a member of the campus ministry choir "Joyful Noise."

When you were in high school, our parish was a special place for you. What were some of your fondest memories of that time, and now that you're older, how has your love of the parish matured?

Some of my fondest memories of our parish are the Christmas Eve Mass. It is one of the highlights of the holiday for me. Something about being up in the choir loft and hearing everyone's voices together in song is so beautiful. I think as I have gotten older and had more experiences, my faith in general has deepened and my appreciation for how amazing our parish is.

In 2014, you said you pray by having conversations with God. Have those conversations taken on a deeper meaning now?



Hayley Oliver now is a teacher, working with special-education students. "I think it takes a great deal of patience and love for my students, and I simply have to remind myself every day that I am making a difference. I am there to help them to grow, learn and succeed, and it's an honor to work with them every day."

As we all get older, our prayers become deeper as we realize the truth of our lives and what we hold closest to our hearts. I think I have taken on a more mature outlook of the world and my prayers have reflected this.

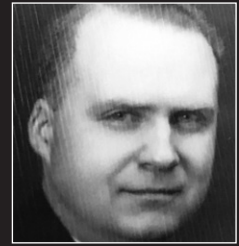
Has your life taken the path you envisioned, or have you been guided down a different road?

For the most part, yes. The plans that I had made right before I left high school were dreams I hoped of achieving, and I am proud of what I have been able to accomplish in that time.

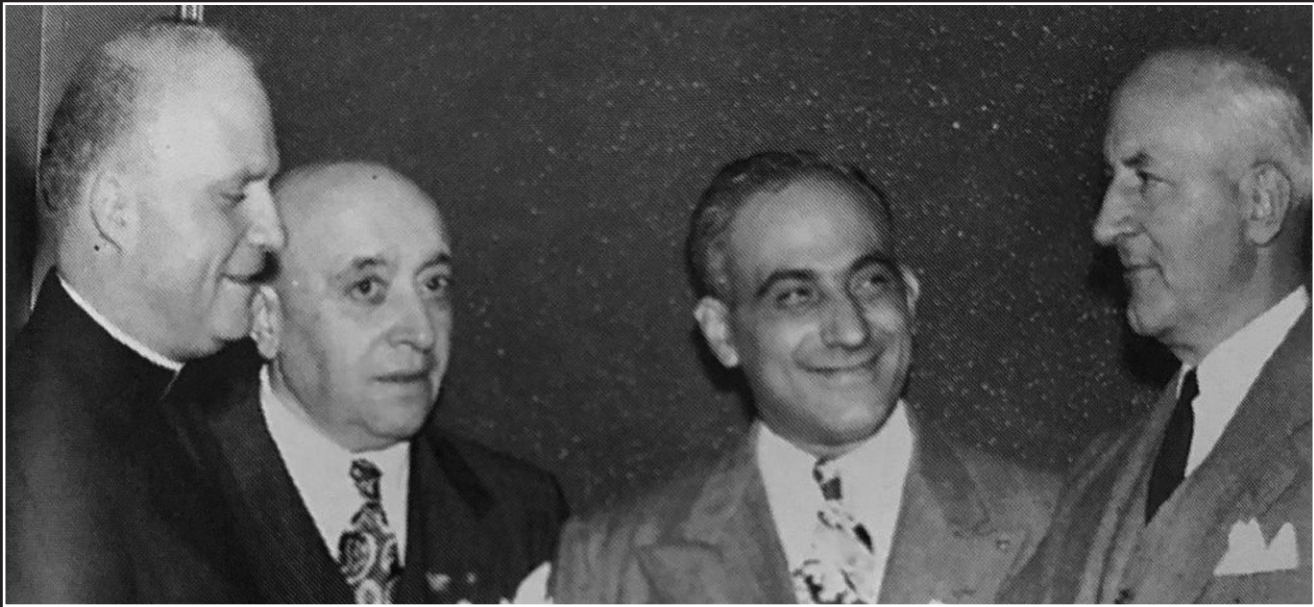
What has been the biggest change between 16-year-old Hayley in 2014 and now 20-something Hayley?

The biggest change has been my confidence. I was, and still am, a very shy and introverted person. As I have gotten older there were things about myself I always wanted to be. My faith over the last six years has truly helped me to grow into the person I always hoped I would be. I would hope that 16-year-old Hayley would be proud of the woman I am today.

Father Pizzoglio a man of action



REV. WILLIAM PIZZOGGIO



Father Pizzoglio celebrating his 29th anniversary with Rufus Cavallo, Dominick Timpano and Utica Mayor Boyd Golder.

This is the fourth in a series of articles highlighting the history of our parish leading to its 125th anniversary. Previous articles and issues of "More Good News" are available at www.mountcarmelblessedsacrament.com.

1934-1950

When Father William Pizzoglio became pastor in 1934, the parish had 2,035 families and 12,700 parishioners.

His first endeavor was to conduct a parish census that reflected that the congregation consisted of 2,035 families and 12,700 parishioners. Father Pizzoglio's primary goal was to nurture the spiritual needs of both young and old, and so it was that catechism classes were expanded and religious instruction classes intensified for public school children.



A.J. VALENTINI

Another noteworthy task undertaken by him was the decoration and painting of the church in preparation for the 40th anniversary in 1936. Professor Antonio D' Am-

brozio of New York City was commissioned to decorate and paint the church. Three new marble altars were designed and installed by the DaPrato Firm of New York.

In 1939, Father Pizzoglio, who was a great lover of music and a composer, installed a new organ in the choir loft of the church.

Father Pizzoglio also opened a clinic for children on Elizabeth Street operated by the Utica Visiting Nurses Association, with the church incurring all costs.

When World War II broke out, Pizzoglio kept in touch with the 3,000 parishioners drafted into the armed services and established a day care center for the children of the wives left behind who had to work outside the home during the war.

Father Pizzoglio left our parish after 17 years of service, but upon his death in 1973, his body returned here to lie in state for one last visit before burial in St. Agnes Cemetery.

Source: History of St. Mary of Mount Carmel (prepared by the History Committee for the 1996 centennial celebration)

REALE

Continued from Page 3

I have a great admiration toward our ancestors who built our parish to what it is today. It takes a lot to keep anything strong for 125 years, but here we are with our Blessed Lady to guide us along the way. I think if we continue to be Christ centered and God continues to bless us with great spiritual leadership, we should be around as a parish family, no matter how that may look, for quite a while.

Our church building is beautiful and well known in the area, but what I think sets us apart is our parish family. Just as a house is a structure but a home is made by the people who reside in the house, I feel the same with our parish. It's great to have such a beautiful edifice to our Lord through the guidance of His Blessed Mother, but it's the people who make up the parish family that will continue to sustain us.

For us as a parish to continue for another 125 years I think we need to continue to be open to other cultures. We have embraced the Burmese and Vietnamese communities, which is great, but how can we further that what more can we do to reach out to them and other migrants.

Our parish was founded by Italian migrants, and Bishop Scalabrini who blessed our cornerstone made serving the migrants and refugees the mission of his order. I treasure our Italian heritage and traditions, but we need to include other ethnicities to bring us into the future. We should also further develop our outreach to the local community. I know we already do many different things, but how else can we expand upon that and especially help those parishioners who may be in need?

Lastly, we need to better evangelize to our youth. As most parishes, we see fewer and fewer of our youth. We certainly cannot sustain ourselves as a parish if we have fewer young families participating.

My advice to those who will be the lifeblood of the parish in the future is to embrace your parish family and make practicing your faith a priority. Parish life can be very life giving and most importantly our beautiful Catholic faith.

Let our Lady of Mount Carmel continue to guide you and watch over you to bring the mission of our parish into the future.

'It smells like home; it feels like home'

By AMY PERRITANO EDDY

When the call was made for memories of Mount Carmel, I knew I had to contribute. Like many, I can speak of sacraments, the school, the annual feast, holidays and other such commonalities.

So, what could I contribute that would be more unique to me?

St. Mary of Mount Carmel has meant three things to me — family, home and inspiration.

My earliest memories are of being a child coming to Mass with my parents, but mostly my dad. As a very young child, able to read quite well, I would follow along in the missalette rather than just listen. Homilies could not keep my attention so easily, and often I would ask my dad, "What time is it?" to which he would semi-patiently reply, "Five minutes from the last time you asked me." Reading along served to keep me focused, as my mind tends to wander even now.

As a child and art enthusiast, my mind and my eyes would wander to the paintings on the ceiling. They always captivated and fascinated me as I took in every detail. Because of where we sat, the two paintings I observed the most were the one above the altar and the middle one above the main aisle depicting the Assumption of Mary.

The latter work was the one that captured my imagination the most. I loved her beautiful face and how her hair splayed out over her shoulders. I also admired the angels gathered all around her and the different colors of all of the figures' clothing. I'm sure that these works of art helped to inspire my own desire to draw from a young age.

My more vivid memories are of attending Saturday vigil with my Gram (whom you all know as Vicki Perritano), Aunt Eliz (her sister / my godmother) and Uncle Gil (Eliz's husband). I remember every now and then

getting a shiny quarter from Gram, Aunt Eliz and/or a random old lady to go light a candle or two. I loved to take those quarters and watch the candles light up like magic! I'd inevitably say a prayer for my grandfather in Heaven and go sit back down.

Paintings were not the only type of artistry that I found inspiring. The music of Mount Carmel was just as significant to me. I would sing and follow along in the choir book. I would always wonder who the voice of the beautiful angel was upstairs (some years later discovering it was none other than Regina George), imagining that I would go up there myself one day and learn all the songs that weren't in the book.

When I was 16, I joined the choir. At long last, I could meet the owners of all the beautiful voices, especially Peter and the Elacqua family. Many of the choir members were on the "Confirmation Team," and I began to consider the choir a second family. I remember my first time singing with them during Saturday Mass, and when I went to shake someone's hand for the Sign of Peace, I was told, "We HUG up here!" I felt so welcome and so much like I belonged.

Of course, time changes things in many ways. Uncle Gil, and then Aunt Eliz years later, found their way to Heaven. I stopped singing in the choir after I had my son. I've attended other churches from time to time for various reasons. But whenever I step back into Mount Carmel, it is home. It smells like home. It feels like home. There is a warm invisible presence that just embraces you as you walk through the door.

Perhaps it is the Spirit of God, or perhaps it is the spirits of so many others' memories, of others who came before us, or of those who are yet to be to carry on the traditions, or even make new ones, for future generations.



ZARELLI

Continued from Page 3

figure and a mentor to my dad. Dad and my mother always credited that relationship with setting the trajectory of my dad's life.

St. Mary of Mount Carmel Church continued to be the center of life for my dad as he grew into adulthood. He and my mother, Francesca, would often reminisce about the fun they had in the early days of their relationship, singing in the choir, acting in the Drama Club, or performing in the yearly Minstrel Shows.

With Father Pizzoglio's (and mom's) encouragement, Dad eventually went to college with the idea that through education he could help other students in challenging situations reach for a better life, as Father Pizzoglio's had done for

him. Dad was a teacher and a principal for many years, and the testimony of so many of his former students attests that his dream of making a difference by helping others came true.

Years later, I, too, attended Mount Carmel School, and sat in the same classrooms where Dad had begun his education. I went into the family business of education, eventually overseeing Catholic schools and Christian Formation for the Diocese of Richmond, Va., and serving as the K-12 education consultant to U.S. bishops for the USCCB. The same call to service that the priests and sisters of Mount Carmel inspired in my dad was infused into my little graduating class of 1967. The names of my classmates: Perritano, Bono, Siniscarco,

LaNeve, DeSarro, Elacqua, Luvera and the service they continue to provide this parish is a testament to what we learned here.

Twenty-five years ago, during the 100th anniversary, Dad was still alive and we toured the school together sharing our memories. A few years ago, the class of 1967 had a 50th reunion. It was wonderful to see how many of our classmates have retained close friendships throughout the years.

My mother, Francesca, died two years ago, at 94, and this church was the center of her life until her last days. So many blessings!

On behalf of three generations of Zarellis, I celebrate St. Mary of Mount Carmel Church with a grateful heart.



Parishioners offer more memories, advice for future

Lucille Chapman

Age: 78

Years a parishioner: 78

Memories: A memory I have of the parish is when I was 7 years old and took my First Holy Communion. I was able to join the Angel Society. It was a group that would meet once a month for Sunday Mass. We would sit in the first row and receive communion together. I would look forward to that Sunday. Mount Carmel means a lot to me. I took all my sacraments there and was married there. Our children went to Mount Carmel School and took their sacraments there also and were married there.

Josephine Clerrico

Age: 86

Memories: Bazaar, church decorations, get-togethers, Christmas Eve Mass.

What this parish means to you: Beautiful and decorative, homey and friendly.

The future: Keep it going. Don't stop what you are doing. Inside of church is beautiful and the grounds well maintained.

Jack and Devina Giambrone

Years as parishioners: 65

Memories: The best thing was the St. Rosalia Feast carrying the (statue) and stopping at porches with bed spreads hanging over the rail, people saying a prayer and lots of stands selling food and things.



Joe and Laurie Siniscarco

Joe Siniscarco

Age: 66

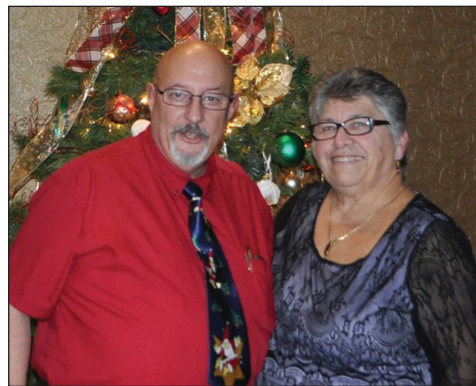
Years a parishioner: 66

Memories: As a young schoolboy, the yearly musicals the school participated in. And going downstairs of the church to see movies and plays.

What this parish means to you: Simply, "Family."

The future: Use of more technology and getting our young adults and parents more involved. They are our future.

Advice: Treat our parish as an extension of you own family.



Bill and Jackie Thibault

William M. Thibault

Age: 66

Years a parishioner: 42

Parish involvement: Parish trustee, five years; president of the Parish Council, five years; member of the Parish Council, eight years; usher, 12 years; past president of the Holy Name Society (1990s); volunteer at the parish festival, 40 years.

Memories: Many people volunteering to create one larger Catholic family socializing with large events such as the Italian Festival.

What this parish means to you: A great way of retaining past traditions in our Sunday Masses.

The future: Instill in our younger parishioners that the family traditions of going to Mass should be a priority.

Advice: Please step up and volunteer in the various duties that surround our Masses. Become a lector, eucharistic minister, usher, choir member, etc.



Connie Watkins

Connie Watkins

Years a parishioner: 10

Memories: I love our novena each year for Our Lady of Mount Carmel. It is very special. Our church is decorated so special for Easter and Christmas. Simply beautiful! My parish is part of my life — a very important part. The parishioners are another very important part of our church. The meaning of working together, and most of all praying together.

The future: I believe our parish should continue as it always has. We need our novena to always continue, our annual festival and functions to bring our people and others together. I would like to see more prayer groups and more gatherings as the current COVID situation ends.

Bob Zumpano

Age: 58

Memories: My family has been part of this parish for 100 years. All four of my grandparents were married and buried there, as well as both of my parents, as well as many aunts and uncles and cousins and some of my siblings. I am the eighth of 10 children. Me and my oldest brother, John Zumpano Jr., currently run and operate Avico Distributing and Broad Street Cash and Carry. I've have been active in the church for the 25 years, especially helping out with the annual Italian Festival every July. We have always supplied the church with all their food and paper goods over the years. I currently go to the 4:30 Mass every Saturday with my sister and 84-year-old father, John Zumpano Sr.