

The Weave

Easter/Pentecost 2017

Volume 21 Issue 2

A Newsletter of St. Mary Parish Family, Franklin MA

Moving Forward in Parish Collaboration

by Fr. Brian Manning

The march of time continues every day. The season of Advent and Christmas 2016 are now far in the rear view mirror of time and life. We move forward into Ash Wednesday and Lent during these days of growing daylight and above freezing temperatures. With Easter "so late this year," our Lenten journey of faith starts in better weather with greater hope of fulfillment. Quietly throughout the winter season, The Parish Writing Team for our "Disciples in Mission" obligation has been hard at work.

In each issue of *The Weave* for almost two years, I have written an article about how our Parish of Saint Mary has been involved in following the vision of Cardinal Sean that every parish become part of the "Disciples in Mission" Plan that he has developed for our Archdiocese. We started over two years ago to prepare ourselves to become engaged in this dynamic process. Pastoral and Professional Staff, Parish Pastoral and Financial Councils and various Lay Leaders have been attending seminars and programs to become informed about how our Parish can be a richer and deeper faith community of disciples of Jesus Christ. One of the ongoing activities is the work of the Parish Writing Team. A selected group of Clergy, Staff and Lay

representatives has participated in additional educational formation and supervision to reflect upon the life of our parish and to eventually write a plan that would enable our parish to become a stronger faith community over the next three years. All through last year and also all through the summer season into the Autumn, this Team has been meeting, praying, talking, reflecting, sharing and writing.



Archdiocese of Boston

This Plan has been reviewed by the Parish Pastoral Council and also by the Office of Planning of the Archdiocese and the Catholic Leadership Institute of Philadelphia. The Plan was based upon an analysis of the special Disciples Survey that all parishioners participated in, the material and protocols provided by the Office of Planning and also by the Catholic Leadership Institute with a vision and goal of becoming better "disciples in mission" for Jesus Christ. The plan reflects the vision, hopes and dreams of Cardinal Sean's Plan for the Archdiocese.

Within the next 4 months, we hope to share this Plan with all of you in various ways. Needless to say, the essential mission and work of the Parish will continue as it always has. Sunday
(Continued on page 3)

The Basin and the Towel

by Joan McGuire

Jesus planned the Passover supper very carefully. Nothing occurred "off the cuff." Da Vinci's Last Supper does an injustice to the occasion. He portrays a feast with only twelve apostles around the table in a very stilted manner. It does not truly portray the usual Seders that I have attended. In a true Seder there is an extended family and friends enough to eat and finish the lamb. That meant that there were men, women and children everywhere.

What a shock it must have been when Jesus removed His outer garments and started to wash the feet of his guests. These feet were not neatly garbed in clean socks and shoes. They were not the recipients of daily baths or showers. At best they were clad in sandals at worst they were barefoot. Christ reached out to feet that were crusted with dirt and mud. They were calloused, bruised and possibly infected. In the Middle East the slaves provided the guests with towels and water but were not expected to wash their feet. The guests did that themselves. This act of Jesus was an ultimate act of loving care.

I don't believe I would have the courage to carry the cross to Golgotha and my complete understanding of the Resurrection will have to wait until I have the perspective from heaven but I do get the message of the Last Supper from the Mass. At each Mass as at the Last Supper there is a twofold message. We re-

(Continued on page 4)

inside...

**One Century of Fellowship, Faith and Fun
Investigating the Words at Mass
St. Mary's Music Notes
Pause and Silence**

**page 2
page 4
page 6
page 8**



**One Century of Fellowship, Faith and Fun!
The Sacred Heart Council Celebrates Its 100th Year**

by Tom Seery

The Knights of the Sacred Heart Council No. 1847 enthusiastically marked their Centennial Anniversary on March 19th with a Mass celebrated by Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley followed by Sunday Brunch at the Tri-County High School.

The Knights of Columbus was established by Father Michael J. McGivney in 1882 to provide financial aid to members and their families. The essence of the Knights is to offer mutual aid and assistance to the sick, disabled and needy members and their families. Social and intellectual fellowship is promoted among members and their families through educational, charitable, religious, social welfare, war relief and public relief work.

The Knights of Columbus has grown in the last 135 years from several members in one council in New Haven, CT to 15,342 councils and 1.9 million members throughout the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Mexico, Poland, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Panama, The Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Cuba, Guatemala, Guam, Saipan, Lithuania, Ukraine, and South Korea.

The Sacred Heart Council, the council which members of St. Mary Parish helped to found, was the 1,847th council chartered by the Knights, hence the number in our name. Father Daniel P. Scannell, the fourth Pastor of St. Mary Parish called a group of men together for a meeting to discuss forming a chapter in 1915. On June 18, 1916 a Charter was issued to the Council which was made up of fifty men. Fr. Scannell became our first Chaplain.

Many of the family names on the Charter are still prominent today in Franklin. The Charter reveals names as Bourbeau, Code, Costello, Crowley, Cataldo, Colgan, Conroy, Feely, Fiorani, Geb, Keefe, Kearney, McGrory, Supple, Vena, and

Pendergast who was our first Grand Knight.

The Sacred Heart Council has flourished in Franklin and our membership peaked in excess of 400 men over the years. At present, we have 266 members and the Council has participated in and contributed to many of the great annual traditions of Franklin, including The Independence Day Celebration, Christmas Tree Lighting on the Common, and the St. Rocco Festival.

Council records for the first fifty years have been lost, but assuredly the period was comprised of one challenge after another as the period spanned World War I, the rebuilding of St. Mary Church after two fires, the Great Depression, World War II, and the entrance into the nuclear age.

After nearly 50 years of renting quarters in various locations in Franklin, the Council decided in the early 1960's to create their own home. A seven-acre plot was identified on West Central Street, Route 140. After many hours of volunteer work, the new Council Home was completed and opened in 1965.

For many years, the Council grew in its new home, and several additions were made. The Sacred Heart Council's charitable spirit and community goodwill was exemplified through the new home as it supported all levels of church and civic programs within the community of Franklin as well as the state.

In 2008 the Council reluctantly decided to sell the property. It was our good fortune that Fr. Brian Manning, Pastor of St. Mary Church and our Council's Chaplain, invited Sacred Heart Council to relocate to the lower level St. Mary's Church. Funds from the sale of the building were used to renovate the lower level parish chapel and create Sacred Heart Hall.

The Knights of Columbus have a profound understanding and appreciation of charity, the greatest of all virtues. It is the first principle upon which our Order is founded, and we are ever conscious of our responsibility to share not only our financial support of those less fortunate, but to soothe the unhappy, sympathize with the unfortunate and to restore peace to the troubled soul. We have been fortunate over the years to have been led by men who have sought out means by which our Council could bring its heart to those in

(Continued on page 6)

"Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart" a Journey in Faith

by Susan Dietrich,
with a forward by John Ristaino

The following article is written by Susan Dietrich, a very active member of the St. Mary Parish family. It is another example of evangelization being alive and thriving around us. It is a wonderful example of God's love, the power of faith and the wonders of the Holy Spirit. Enjoy!

For many people, it can be difficult to summarize a journey of faith – when did it begin, what influenced it, etc. For me, I can recall the exact moment that my faith changed my life, and it happened at the age of 18. A friend of mine, a former high school exchange student from Germany, came back to my hometown in California to visit. He was a Pentecostal Christian with a deep faith, and he shared with me that everywhere he had been in the year before his return, he continued to encounter the same Bible verse. His own pastor had shared it with him; missionaries from other churches came up to him to share it; people he scarcely knew felt compelled to share this verse with him; and he felt compelled to share it with me: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart" [Proverbs 3:5]. We talked about how he had embraced this simple truth in his life, and I could see the Holy Spirit working through him.

Wanting to find something in my own faith journey to share with him, I went home that night and searched through a manila envelope of items I had received at a parish retreat the year before. Nothing "spoke" to me, until I reached into the envelope to find a small card lodged at the bottom. Printed on this card, no larger than a standard business card, was one Bible verse: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart" [Proverbs 3:5]. Stunned, I could not remember receiving or seeing this card before that moment, and I found it difficult to sleep that night. The next day, I met up with my friend to share this amazing experience. I remember telling him that the card must be for him because so many others had brought the same Bible verse to him, but his response to me forever changed my heart. He told me that he believed the card was meant for me, and that the Holy Spirit had brought us back together across thousands of miles so that he could be the messenger of this Good News in my life.

At that moment, it was like the floodgates opened and the Holy Spirit washed over me. My friend showed me firsthand what evangelization looks like, and it wasn't Bible-thumping or preaching on television or any of the other stereotypes I had held up to that

(Continued on page 3)

The Weave

Published three times a year
(March, July
and November)
by Saint Mary Parish, Franklin MA



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...Disciples in Mission

(Continued from page 1)

and Weekday Eucharist, Sacraments of Baptism, Matrimony, Anointing and Reconciliation, also with Wake Services, Funeral Masses or Services and also Internments, Religious Education for Grades 1 through Confirmation II and also Adult Faith Formation, Visitation to those at home and in hospitals, the work of caring for the needy and fragile and all the other necessary healing, comforting and grace giving Catholic activities will continue.



... "Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart"

(Continued from page 2)

point. For the first time, I understood the power of a heartfelt connection and the willingness to share with others the faith I had previously taken for granted.

Shortly after that encounter, I returned to my Catholic college in Boston, where I met my husband, Marty, and we began to build our own lives together. As husband and wife, every major decision we have ever made lies rooted in our abiding trust in God and His plan for us. Time and time again, we have stepped out in faith, relying on the Lord and our love for each other, and we have been incredibly and abundantly blessed.

In our mid-20s, we both quit good jobs with excellent career potential and moved to Florida, where we had no family, no jobs, and only knew one couple, all while expecting our first child. On the surface, it sounded crazy, and on paper it made absolutely no sense. We had no idea how it would all turn out, but the three years we spent in Florida were a time of great spiritual growth for both of us, and we made many lifelong friends.

While in Florida, we fully embraced the Biblical principles of giving, not just of our time and talent, but also of our treasure, including tithing, firstfruit offerings, almsgiving and sowing seeds. When we found ourselves with looming expenses and too many days to go before the next paycheck, we learned the discipline of faithfully giving with the confidence that God would continue to provide for us. And provide He did. We could share countless examples of times when the math just didn't work, and yet somehow, we always made it through and found ourselves enriched by the process.

After Florida, we subsequently moved to New Hampshire for three years, until a job

The life of this Parish is strong and vibrant because of the hundreds of volunteers who assist in the mission of Jesus Christ. We are blessed by so many people who believe and share their belief not only in words, but in actions. Our parish does not simply talk about faith in Jesus; we live by our worship in church and more importantly by the witness of our volunteers in service.

transfer brought us to Medway, where we have lived since 2008. Though we moved around quite a bit in our younger years, we always made it a priority to find a parish that felt like home. In some cases, this meant attending the church just down the road; but in the case of St. Mary's, we made a deliberate choice to raise our family here. I'll admit that St. Mary's was not our first choice. We attended Mass and talked with people at several other parishes in the area before we made our way here. In fact, we were beginning to wonder if we would ever find a church that "fit" us the way others had in our past. From our first Mass, we felt welcomed and inspired to share of our time, talent and treasure, and we have found St. Mary's to be a dynamic faith community for parishioners of all ages and interests. On any given Sunday, you might see me as a lector or in the choir loft, or Marty as a Eucharistic minister, or our two sons as altar servers. Perhaps most exciting to us, we have seen the parish grow and develop over the years into a vibrant place of evangelization, and we look forward to continuing to contribute to this in the years to come.

I had an experience about a year ago that relates to the beginning of this story, so I hope you will indulge my sharing it. Since the age of 18, I have carried that card with the verse from Proverbs with me at all times. I managed to remain in infrequent contact with my friend over the years, though truthfully it was little more than a social media connection (Linked In). Two years ago, I lost my job, and I struggled to determine what that meant for me. Despite the significant financial impact, Marty and I made the decision for me to remain home with our boys, which has unquestionably been the best decision for our family. Since

(Continued on page 7)

View From the Pew

by Joan McGuire

Jesus the Comforter

During his time on earth Jesus had many names - "the Word made flesh," the teacher and the suffering Christ. Now after his Resurrection he must meet with his followers - the living seeds of His message of love and mercy. These followers were guilt-ridden and ashamed of their behavior on the Friday before - and rightly so. But Jesus had no plan B. They were his chosen ones. He had so little time with them before He ascended into his glory. He had to encourage them to be all that they could be.

In the garden, calling Mary Magdalene by name was so comforting to her. (Anyone who has gotten up with a child frightened by thunder or a nightmare knows the soothing effect of just whispering his or her name.) She rose up with new courage and left the garden to spread the news of his Resurrection.

As the sorrowful and frightened disciples walked to Emmaus, Jesus walked with them listening intently to their fears and discouragement. He comforted them. Their hearts were set on fire by his consoling words of hope.

Walking along the water's edge with Simon Peter, Jesus gave him the opportunity three times to confess his love. Without any recrimination Jesus entrusted him with the responsibility to "feed my sheep." He appeared to his followers many times in the days before His Ascension giving each of them the comfort and encouragement they needed. Most memorably, Jesus appeared to them in the locked upper room. "Do not be afraid. Peace be with you." He breathed on them and said "receive the Holy Spirit." The breath of a person is the sign of his life. Christ breathed His life into them (John 20:19-23).

As Children of the Resurrection we must accept His Breath of Life and become comforters - to forgive those who have hurt us without asking for an apology; to listen intently to those who are sorrowful and fearful and to stand beside those who feel they don't fit in.

Remember God has no Plan B. We are it.



Mark Your Parish Calendar

- Mar. 22** Mass at The Estate
- Mar. 22** Confessions, 6:30-8pm
- Mar. 23** Adult Spirituality Talk, 7:00pm
- Mar. 23** Children's Choir rehearsal
- Mar. 24** Stations of the Cross, 5:45pm
- Mar. 25** Respect Life Baby Shower
- Mar. 26** Respect Life Baby Shower
- Mar. 26** CWC Communion Breakfast
- Mar. 26** Baptisms
- Mar. 28** Mass at nursing home
- Mar. 29** Confessions, 6:30-8pm
- Mar. 30** Adult Spirituality Talk, 7:00pm
- Mar. 30** Children's Choir Rehearsal
- Mar. 31** Stations of the Cross, 5:45pm
- Apr. 2** K of C Coffee & Donuts
- Apr. 2** Baptisms
- Apr. 5** Mass at The Estate
- Apr. 5** Confessions, 6:30-8pm
- Apr. 6** Adult Spirituality Talk, 7:00pm
- Apr. 6** Children's Choir rehearsal
- Apr. 7** Stations of the Cross, 5:45pm
- Apr. 9** **Palm Sunday**
- Apr. 9** Baptisms
- Apr. 9** Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- Apr. 12** Mass at Forge Hill
- Apr. 12** Confessions, 6:30-8
- Apr. 13** **Holy Thursday**
- Morning Prayer, 7am
- Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7:30pm
- Apr. 14** **Good Friday**
- Morning Prayer, 7am
- Cross Walk, 12pm
- Stations of the Cross, 3pm
- Good Friday Service, 7:30pm
- Apr. 15** **Holy Saturday**
- Morning Prayer, 7am
- Easter Vigil, 7:30pm
- Apr. 16** **Easter Sunday**
- Masses: 7:30, 9:00 (2), 10:30 (2), 12:00
- Apr. 19** Mass at Magnolia Heights
- Apr. 20** CWC Meeting, 7pm
- Apr. 23** Baptisms
- Apr. 25** Mass at nursing home
- Apr. 29** Anointing Mass at Central Park Terrace, 10:30am
- Apr. 30** Baptisms
- May 3** Mass at The Estate
- May 6** **First Communion**, 10am & 12pm
- May 7** Baptisms
- May 7** Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- May 10** Mass at Forge Hill
- May 14** Baptisms
- May 17** Mass at Magnolia Heights
- May 21** Baptisms
- May 21** Prolatio Concert
- May 23** Mass at nursing home
- May 24** **Vigil Mass** for the Feast of the Ascension, 4pm
- May 25** **Feast of the Ascension**
- Masses: 7am & 7:30am
- May 28** Baccalaureate Mass

...the Basin and the Towel

(Continued from page 1)
 ceive the gift of love - Christ's body and blood. At the end of the Mass, the priest sends the people out to share the great loving gift with everyone we meet. Unfortunately some people leave Mass right after communion and they miss the second message of the **basin and the towel**.

We are sent to pick up our basin and towel to serve the community of mankind daily. Whoever they are and however I meet them - without a personal agenda.



St. Mary Parish is currently in the process of moving to all-electronic communication. If you do not currently receive emails from us please send your name, address, phone number and email address to parishpublishing@stmarysfranklin.org

Thank you for your assistance in this effort to keep our contact information as up-to-date as possible.



- May 29** **Memorial Day**
- 9am Mass at the Cemetery
- June 4** Baptisms
- June 7** Mass at The Estate
- June 10** Emmaus Retreat
- June 11** Baptisms
- June 11** Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- June 14** Mass at Forge Hill
- June 21** Mass at Magnolia Heights
- June 25** Baptisms
- June 27** Mass at nursing home
- July 2** **No Noon Mass**
- July 5** Mass at The Estate
- July 9** Baptisms
- July 9** Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30pm
- July 12** Mass at Forge Hill
- July 16** Baptisms
- July 23** Baptisms
- July 25** Mass at nursing home
- July 30** Baptisms

Investigating the Words at Mass

by Father Jack Sullivan

As you listen to the public, official liturgical prayers at Mass, you do not have enough time to search on your smart phones for the meaning of baffling words and unfamiliar expressions. The Merriam-Webster dictionary editor's advice was "tell the truth about words" (Boston Globe magazine, Sunday February 19, 2017). Many people at Mass regard the word "mysteries" as perplexing. Most often in the prayers over the offerings of bread and wine and in the prayers after communion, "mysteries" refer to the Blessed Sacrament, the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ. In other prayer-texts, "mysteries" refer to the seven sacraments and our liturgical memorials of distinct moments in the life of Jesus – his birth, death, and resurrection.

I appreciate the page of the Roman Missal that includes a clarifying comment about the theological expression "Paschal Mystery" in the Instruction at the beginning of the Palm Sunday liturgy: "Today we gather together to herald with the whole Church the beginning of the celebration of our Lord's Paschal Mystery, that is to say, of his Passion and Resurrection. For it was to accomplish this mystery that he entered his own city of Jerusalem."

During the Eucharistic Prayer, we learn the purpose of our gathering at Mass: "as we celebrate the memorial of the blessed Passion, the Resurrection from the dead, and the glorious Ascension of Christ, your Son, our Lord"(EP 1), "as we celebrate the memorial of his Death and Resurrection"(EP 2), "as we celebrate the memorial of the saving Passion of your Son, his wondrous Resurrection and Ascension into heaven"(EP 3), "as we celebrate the memorial of our redemption, we remember Christ's Death and his descent to the realm of the dead, we proclaim his Resurrection and his Ascension to your right hand"(EP 4).

Theologians, in describing their work as faith seeking understanding, strive for a higher viewpoint so that they might better describe the interconnection among the truths of faith. The theological expression "Paschal Mystery" memorably

(Continued on page 5)



Sacred Spaces

by Nan Rafter, Parish Nurse

The world that we live in today is not a peaceful place. I have found that I need to take the responsibility for my own happiness and that means bringing peace into my life. Creating a peaceful environment is important so that I can take care of myself and help my family and others.

Going to Mass and receiving the Eucharist gives us strength and guidance in our lives. I love to go into morning Mass a little early and sit quietly, taking in the warmth and glow from the candles, enjoying the peace that surrounds me - a great way to begin my day.

However, not everyone can come to church. A sacred space can be any place where you find God and peace. Sitting at the beach (maybe in a few months), walking around local shrines or the abbey, or staying in your home. Sacred space can be a little area in your home with a comfortable chair, candle and religious object or picture. My special, sacred place includes a plant, candle and icon cross. When I enter into this place, I can feel God's presence and peace. This is my special time to be with God.

My sacred place helps me in good times as well as the challenging ones. When

we or our loved ones become ill, we may question our spirituality and God. Spirituality is the source of life's meaning... Why am I here? Why is this happening? What is my purpose? What connects me to the sacred? Sacred moments and spaces can connect us to God.

The connection between spirituality and health has been found to be a proven connection. Medical studies indicate that spiritual people have improved blood pressure, reduced depressive moods, exhibit less stress and have a greater total satisfaction for life. Researchers measured the blood levels of cancer patients and found a connection of increased immune system function with positive mood states. There was also a connection of improved function and healing with people who had heart disease, diabetes, strokes, stress and depression.

When I take time to be in my sacred space, I find that I become spiritually grounded, closer to God and that helps me to be well. I have downloaded the Centering Prayer app on my phone which aids in my daily prayer practice and includes a period of silence. Become protective of your sacred space. Maya Angelou talks about being very careful about what kind of words are

brought into our space. Unkind words can get into your space and create a non-peaceful environment.

During this Lenten season why not take the time to identify the sacred spaces in your life. If you don't have one, create one. Try turning off the computer or television, especially the news. Play quiet, spiritual or classical music, encourage your children to have some quiet creative time and enjoy the peace. When folding your laundry, standing in line at the grocery store or sitting in the drop-off line at your child's school, make that a time of prayer and remember someone who may be in need of some peace or healing.

May the peace of God be in your heart, your mind and your home.



...Investigating the Words at Mass

(Continued from page 4)

links together the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Easter preface - prayer #1 names us as beneficiaries of Christ's Paschal Mystery - Jesus is "the true Lamb who has taken away the sins of the world; by dying he has destroyed our death, and by rising, restored our life."

I was delighted to find in the Roman Missal a plain-spoken prayer, an exceptional prayer that directly speaks to Jesus the Risen Lord. Here is the prayer over the offerings of bread and wine on the occasion of the conferral of Baptism. "Open the door to your supper, O Lord, for those who approach the bread that is prepared and the wine that has been mixed, so that celebrating the heavenly banquet with gladness, we may be numbered as fellow citizens of the saints and members of your household."

PARISH COMMUNICATION

This parish is very large and active. It is important for us to be able to give you accurate information and for you to be able to contact us as needed. If you wish to contact anyone at the rectory we can be reached by phone, 508-528-0020; Fax, 508-528-1641; or email. Here are email addresses for the clergy, Religious Education and rectory staff:

Father Brian Manning: bmanning@stmarysfranklin.org

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If your parish group or organization would like to place a notice in the bulletin, we must receive it **in writing (email is preferred)** by 5pm Sunday afternoon for the following weekend. Information can also be submitted for inclusion on the parish website at any time. Bulletin or website information can be emailed to parishpublishing@stmarysfranklin.org

If your organization is planning to use any parish facilities, such as the church, church hall, lower church meeting rooms or the school, for your meetings, events, etc. it is **necessary** that you call and reserve the time and place that you want. This is the **only** way that you can be assured of having your activity at the desired location.

CHECK OUT OUR PARISH WEBSITE: www.stmarysfranklin.org. There is a wealth of information available there.

Emmaus Ministry for Grieving Parents
whose children of any age have died of any cause, no matter how long ago

One-day Spiritual Retreat
Pre-Registration required

St. Mary Parish
Saturday, June 10
Call 508-528-0020 or 617-542-8057



St. Mary's Music Notes!!

by Terry Kerr

Adult Choir: St. Mary's Adult Choir led us in song for our Third Annual "Festival of Lessons and Carols Service" on Sunday, December 11, 2016. The Adult Choir continues to flourish and expand their repertoire for each new liturgical season. Our Adult Choir's singing was superb for our Lessons and Carols and the entire Christmas season!!

Adult Choir Christmas CD: The Adult Choir's Christmas CD, "Glory to the Newborn King" was extremely well received by the parishioners of St. Mary's Parish. The recording truly reflects the outstanding sound our Adult Choir produces on a weekly basis. The Choir is most grateful to everyone who purchased a CD. All proceeds from the CD sales benefit St. Mary Parish.

Adult Choir welcomes new faces:

The Adult Choir has already begun preparing for the Triduum and Easter Season and is always happy to welcome new faces and voices. They rehearse on Thursday Evenings in the Upper Church Choir Loft from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Children's Choir: The Children did a marvelous job singing at the Horace Mann School for the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Liturgy! The Children are now preparing music for the 9:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass in the Upper Church.

The St. Mary Children's Choir rehearsal schedule is on the following Thursday afternoons from 5:15 p.m.-6:00 p.m. in the Upper Church:

March 23
March 30
April 6

If you are interested in having your child participate in the St. Mary Children's Choir Program this fall, please check out the bulletin or contact Terry Kerr, Music Director, for more information. The more - the merrier!!



...One Century of Fellowship, Faith and Fun! The Sacred Heart Council Celebrates Its 100th Year

(Continued from page 2)

need. Whether we were collecting for a Christmas Toy Drive, supporting the Saint Vincent de Paul Society, working to support the Pro-Life movement, or working on a blood drive, our brothers are forever sharing their God given resources with others.

Sacred Heart Council has actively encouraged our youth to enhance their athletic and mental skills via exciting and challenging tournaments. The Council's annual Free Throw Basketball Tournament is held in late December or January each year and is looked forward to by girls and boys alike. The tournament is held among 9 to 13 year old youngsters who are given an opportunity to competitively show their foul shooting proficiency. Winners of the Franklin competition move on to compete at the District level where our winners compete against the Champions from Bellingham, Foxboro, Norton and Plainville. Those winners go on to Regional and State competitions.

Our Keep Christ in Christmas poster contests have produced many stimulating and artistically creative art works depicting the youngsters' knowledge and understanding of their faith. It also gives youth who have developed proficiency in various art forms an opportunity show their skills in creative ways and share their love for the Christ Child in a non-commercial manner.

Opportunities to share one's faith arise in unusual ways. The late Deacon Bob Hackett, a St. Mary parishioner, came across a distressed tabernacle in the Diocese of Boston at the very time that Milford Medical Center was looking to expand its chapel to accommodate the Extraordinary Ministers who were bringing Holy Communion to the medical center's patients. Deacon Bob asked the Council for funds to help the Franciscan Handmaids of the Immaculate in their effort to clean the tabernacle and replace the interior lining of the tabernacle. The Council was delighted to help. It could have been the proceeds of a Tootsie Roll Drive that provided the funds!

Our annual Tootsie Roll Drive has been the basis of many of our projects over the years. The proceeds of these drives are used as charitable support to those in need. The funds raised from the sale of the caramel treats also provide seed money for Council projects providing for the less fortunate. We are very appreciative of the support of local merchants who permit members of the Council to stand for hours in front of their business and sell these candies.

The Council's bingo games were a great source of entertainment in town, and provided a tremendous support to the Council's various charitable programs. The Council enjoyed many years at its West Central St. home, and the entire Franklin community shared in the hospitality the Knights generously shared.

The challenges of life do bring stress to be sure. Even well-meaning projects while providing a healthy diversion can add to stress levels. For that reason, we do our best to have fun!

Our picnics have provided much fun and relaxation. Who doesn't enjoy a healthy water balloon toss? or a good chicken dance? What's a bog walk? Yes, it is good to be able to get away from the lawn, or taking the kids to their games, and simply drive over to the St. Rocco field, enjoy some friendly company, and share some great food. It's good healthy fun - you'll love it!!

In 2011 the St. Vincent de Paul Society asked us if we could help them with a Food for the Poor Walk they were planning. They wanted to purchase shirts for the walk and some fruit for the walkers. It was not a very complex project, and it has become an annual event that the men look forward to each fall. The Walk has become quite successful and we are proud of the fine relationship we have with the St. Vincent de Paul Society. One of our brothers developed a program generating a five-figure sum utilizing a commercially available program and the profits go directly to the Society. We are very pleased with our fine relationship with the St. Vincent de Paul Society and look forward to a long relationship.

In this our 100th Anniversary the members of our Council are eternally grateful to Father Daniel P. Scannell for his vision and guidance. The leadership of our first Grand Knight James F. Pendergast and our Charter Members who together persevered in the formation Sacred Heart Council. We are also proud of all those Knights who have preceded us and carried forward the principles of charity, unity and fraternity. We are also very grateful for the support given us by the parishioners of St. Mary Church and the entire community of Franklin has given us the ability to share our values and expand our brotherhood. We look forward to many more years of service to our brothers, our Church and our Community.



St. Mary Parish Knows How to Celebrate!

by John Ristaino

As the Catholic faith community located in Franklin, MA we are always celebrating! That's right! On a daily basis, we celebrate Mass. Each weekend we also gather as a community of Faith to celebrate Mass. We also join together and celebrate the Holy Days each year. Celebrations at St. Mary Parish are sometimes tied to the reception of certain Sacraments; Baptisms, First Communion, Confirmations and Holy Matrimony are all milestones where family, friends and parishioners join as a community to joyfully witness our Catholic faith. Our beautiful church also houses the celebration of Funeral Masses. During these celebrations we remember the lives of our deceased loved ones and take comfort in our Faith.

Annually, St. Mary Parish marks special events in the lives of our parishioners. The first Sunday in February each year we celebrate Scout Sunday. On Lataere Sunday the Catholic Women's Club hosts a Communion Breakfast after celebrating Mass. In May St. Mary Parish acknowledges the educational successes achieved by our high school seniors as they graduate at the celebration of a Baccalaureate Mass. On Memorial Day, Mass is celebrated on the sacred ground of the St. Mary Cemetery honoring those parishioners who gave their lives defending our country and all those who have been laid to rest in our cemetery. There are three special Masses during the Feast of St. Rocco each year; the Opening Mass, the Healing Mass and the Closing Mass. On the first Saturday of November we celebrate the lives of all those parish-

ioners who have lost their lives in the past year during a Mass of Remembrance. In December we celebrate Mass with the young people of our community who are members of the St. Mary CYO Basketball Program.

Sometimes we celebrate unique and wonderful happenings and anniversaries. One such celebration is this year's 100th Anniversary of the Knights of Columbus Sacred Heart Council. On Sunday, March 19th Cardinal Sean celebrated the 10:30 Mass to commemorate this wonderful milestone. Last year St. Mary Parish celebrated the ordination of two priests; Father Patrick Fiorillo and Father Chris Bae.

St. Mary Parish is a faith community that remembers, celebrates and believes! What do we actually mean by "remembering, celebrating and believing?" At Mass we remember the life of Jesus and the sacrifice he made for all of us. We celebrate this self-less sacrifice that gives us forgiveness and redemption. We believe all of this to be true. This is our Faith and our Faith is a celebration of love.

Each Mass is a celebration. As with all celebrations and life events, we get out of it, what we put into it. How can we get more out of each and every celebration of Mass? We need to bring our presence. Such presence is participation at the celebration of Mass and this requires active listening and prayer. We are in the holy season of Lent and soon Palm Sunday and Holy Week will herald the arrival of Easter. Are you ready to celebrate?

As we approach the end of Lent and the arrival of Easter remember it is never too late to join the celebration. Mass is offered twice a day during Lenten weekdays; at 7 AM and at 5:15 PM. Each weekend Mass is celebrated at 4 PM on Saturdays and at 7:30am, 9am, 10:30am, 12pm and 5pm on Sundays. YOU are invited to come celebrate with a faith-filled community!



Thanks to the generosity of the Sacred Heart Council Knights of Columbus this beautiful new Processional Crucifix, donated in commemoration of their 100th anniversary, will reverently add to the celebrations at St. Mary Parish. It is also light weight which makes it much easier for our younger altar servers to carry.

...Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart

(Continued from page 3)

I found myself with more time during the days, I expanded the time I had been volunteering at the Medway Village Food Pantry, ultimately taking on an assistant director position last year. Shortly thereafter, the pastor of the Medway Village Church pulled me aside to chat, and in the course of the conversation, he referenced his time as the pastor of a Christian church in Geneva, Switzerland, in the early-2000s. To make a long story short, I soon discovered that my long-lost friend from Germany not only knew the pastor of the Medway Village Church but had attended his

church in Geneva and been friends with the pastor and his wife.

No longer believing in coincidence, this experience brought full-circle for me the power of the Holy Spirit to guide us where we belong, if only we "trust in the Lord with all our heart and rely not on our own understanding." What are the odds that I would meet someone from Germany in my small town in California as a teenager and then find myself connected again to that very person 25 years later in a small town in Massachusetts, the same person who brought me the greatest message of hope on my journey

of faith? For me the answer is simple: sometimes God, in His wisdom and mercy, reveals to us a glimpse of His plan for our lives, if only to help us know when we are on the right path or might need a course correction. Marty and I are teaching our boys to listen for the voice of God in their lives, as we have done for many years. We tell them that sometimes it will be very faint and other times it will boom from the heavens, but if we all listen and trust that the Lord is always with us, He will grant us peace in our hearts and carry us through anything that lies before us.

Pause and Silence

by Fr. Chris Bae

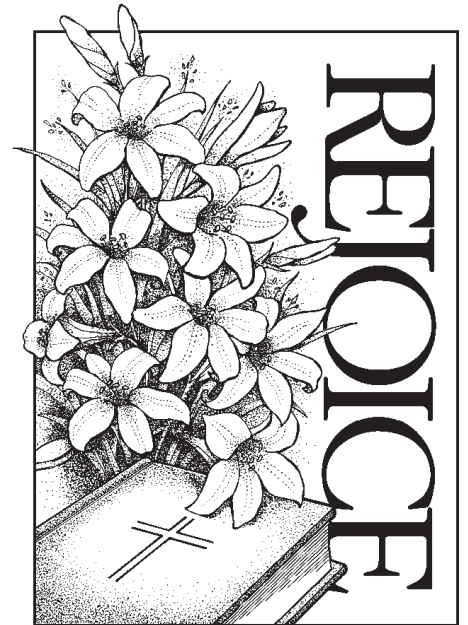
Late spring a few years ago, I went on a retreat at St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, MA. This abbey has beautiful grounds and scenic views: a meadow filled with wild flowers and green leaves of trees swaying in the breeze. I love praying in nature. So, one day after lunch, I was walking around this peaceful abbey, listening to the leaves rustling under the gentle sunlight.

I stopped at a scenic spot, taking in all the beauty of nature that God presented before me. When I looked down, I saw wild flowers growing at the outer edge of the paved road. Some of them were tiny, so I stooped down to look at their petals. I was amazed by the symmetry and beauty present in such small creatures. Looking at these little flowers, I smiled because I knew God placed these flowers before me. I thanked God for giving me this time to communicate with Him in silence and through the beauty of nature.

We live such a busy life. We are pressured to go from one commitment to another. Sometimes, we need to press a pause button in our lives because we might miss God's whispering message for us. Such a message can come at any moment of the day: during a brief moment of prayer in the morning, through the beauty of a sunset, or at night as we look back over the day.

When we pause and enjoy silence in the midst of our busy lives, it can be a great first step to deepen our relationship with God.

I would like to leave you with this quote about the silence:
"Silence [is] not simply an absence of noise, but that the silence [has] substance. It [is] not absence of something but presence of something...At the heart of the silence there [is] He who is all stillness, all peace, all poise" [*Beginning to Pray* by Anthony Bloom].



The Weave

St. Mary Parish Family
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inside...

- page 1 Moving Forward in Parish Collaboration
- page 2 "Trust In The Lord With All Your Heart" A Journey in Faith
- page 3 View from the Pew
- Page 4 Parish Calendar
- page 5 Sacred Spaces
- Page 7 St. Mary Parish Knows How to Celebrate!

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