

# The Weave

July 2014

Volume 18 Issue 3

The Newsletter of St. Mary Parish Family, Franklin MA

## Continuing to Give Back

by Karen Ackles and Rita Graci

Each year our ninth and tenth grade students are required to do community service as part of their two- year Confirmation Program. The purpose is to encourage our young people to realize the importance of giving back to their community and the people in it. Many times this brings them back to a school they once attended, a sports team that has been important to them or a community event that they find interesting. Every so often we find students who really embrace a cause and continue to want to give back long after Confirmation has taken place. This is the case for several of our students who actually continued their cause all through college and are still making a difference each day. It is our hope that after reading this story more of our young people will want to become involved in ways where they can make a huge impact - time to think "outside of the box" and make a difference.



L-R: James Perrault, Cameron Cooney, Christopher Bethoney, Jordan Whitney, Justin Graci

Kristin Graci was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia in April 2008 at the very young age of nineteen. Kristin had to leave Arizona State University during her freshman year of college to come back to Franklin to confirm her diagnosis and start treatment at Dana Farber

Cancer Institute. The Graci family has been a member of the Franklin and St. Mary's Community for thirty years and now more than ever needed the support of everyone.

Kristin underwent her first induction round of chemotherapy in April 2008 and achieved her first remission. In June 2008 she received another round of chemotherapy to keep her in remission while the Bone Marrow Registry searched for a perfect match in order to perform a Bone Marrow

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## Listening

by Joan McGuire

We are in the liturgical season called Ordinary Time. I have sometimes heard it called "a season without a reason." It seems in these frantic times if we are not constantly rushing about we are wasting time. It is no wonder that this season is not taken seriously.

This is a quiet time to sit back and appreciate all the gifts we have received from a loving God during the other liturgical seasons,

**Advent and Christmas season** - the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us

**Lent** - the opportunity to watch Jesus in His ministry of service and thereby learning how we should treat our brothers and sisters - God's other children.

**Easter time** - His three farewell gifts - the gift of His Body and Blood in the Eucharist, the gift of immortality in heaven - the Resurrection, and the gift of the Paraclete to guide us along our earthly path back to our heavenly home.

Is this season really long enough?

I had the great good fortune to have as my mentor a Biblical scholar, Fr. Stephen Doyle O.F.M who was also my guide on my first trip to the Holy Land. Each evening he prepared us for the next day's spiritual adventure by giving us an

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## Hundreds of Signs of a Dynamic Parish

by John M. Ristaino

It was Christmas 2013 when everyone attending a Christmas Mass here at St. Mary received a gift from the parish. The gift was a book. It was a simple gift, one given out of love for our Catholic faith and our parish family. The book's title, 'The Four Signs of A Dynamic Catholic,' was one which foretold its contents. The Christmas gift from the parish came with the invitation and encouragement to read the book and to then share the book with others; Catholics and non-Catholics, members of St. Mary Parish as well as members of other parishes. This Christmas gift was one which kept on giving and giving each time it was shared.

Author Matthew Kelly identified Prayer, Study, Generosity, and Evangelization as the four signs of dynamic Catholics. These four qualities were utilized as a framework for further discussion, learning and sharing by Father Anthony and a team of parishioners who created an event for all who were interested in exploring the book's contents further. This event was held on a cold winter's night in late February. Hundreds of St. Mary Parishioners attended the event held at Franklin High School. The faces and voices present were representative of actively engaged parishioners, uninvolved parishioners, longtime parishioners, new parishioners, Catholics who had been continuously practicing our faith as well as parishioners who had recently returned to regular worship. It was a gathering of our Parish family. And a beautiful family it is!

Paula Coughlin and Nancy Rafter greeted and welcomed those who came out that night. With a program booklet, a name tag and maybe a copy of the book, they found

a seat and waited for the evening's program to begin.

Those who assembled that evening were divided into four groups. Each group represented one of the signs of a dynamic Catholic identified by Matthew Kelly. Everyone got to choose the topic they wished to discuss further. Pandora Carlucci had the daunting task of introducing and summarizing the evening to those present that night. Terry Kerr led us musically. Fathers Brian, Jack and Anthony were present as well. Father Anthony led us in prayer. Father Brian, as Pastor of our parish, welcomed everyone. Each of the priests rotated between all the groups in order to hear the wonderful exchange of thoughts, ideas and questions.

Katie McNeice was the group leader for those who selected the topic of "Prayer." I facilitated the discussion on "Study." Marty Dietrich led the group which discussed "Generosity." Lisa Oxford facilitated those who chose to explore "Evangelization." The reflections, discussions, questions and ideas shared in each group were rich and varied. Each small group quickly created a bond based on our Catholic faith. Although some came into the evening as strangers all left with new friends.

Katie, Marty, Lisa and I presented a summary of our group's discussion. Facilitated by Pandora Carlucci, this was a remarkable sharing of faith. The fellowship of the evening continued with wonderful refreshments. Karen Ackles and Dolores Brunelli deliciously hosted this portion of the evening. Those present were also given the opportunity to become more active in our parish. As a result we have trained new Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Religious Education Teachers and other volunteers.

The spirit and energy of the night was so wonderful that there were many requests to conduct further sessions to share and explore the concepts introduced in the book. As a direct result of that demand, four evenings of reflection and sharing were created. Each night dealt with one of the "signs" identified by Matthew Kelly. These sessions were held in Sacred Heart Hall, located in the Lower Church. Each

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## Families' Corner

by Katherine Ginnetty

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10: 31

Let no one, then, pass judgment on you in matters of food and drink or with regard to a festival... These are shadows of things to come." 2 Colossians: 16-17

What are the two related summer time festivals in Franklin? Pentecost, in June, and St. Rocco, in August, because they are both festivals of food. Every year in August, the faith family of St. Mary Parish and neighbors and friends gather to celebrate with delicious food the intercession of the venerated Italian saint, Rocco, who is a patron of the sick. This summer we are already looking forward to the Saturday healing Mass and a variety of Italian food, pastries, rides and games at the festival August 7<sup>th</sup> through the 10<sup>th</sup>.

The Jewish people celebrated with food on the 50<sup>th</sup> day after Passover, which is the origin of the name of their festival, Pentecost. They believed it was proper to bring to God the first fruits of their wheat harvest. You might want to read to your children about the feast as it is mentioned in the Old Testament in Exodus 34:22, Leviticus 23:15-22, Deuteronomy 16:16, 2 Chronicles 8:13 and Ezekiel 1.

From the New Testament, Acts 2, verse 5 says, "Now there were devout Jews from every nation staying in Jerusalem." Because it was such an important and joyous event in their calendar, Jewish people from all over the world had travelled to Jerusalem for their Pentecost celebration. The apostles were among these visitors, gathered in a room, when the Holy Spirit descended on them. When the apostles, who had been filled with the Holy Spirit, came out into the streets from the room and began to "proclaim," it startled the many travelers who heard the words spoken in their languages. Acts 2 records the visitors

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### The Weave

Published three times a year  
(February, July  
and November)

by Saint Mary Parish, Franklin MA

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## Notes from Father Brian

by Father Brian Manning

At our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Mass of our Ordination to the Priesthood celebrated at Saint Mary's on Sunday June 8, Father Jack in his homily sharpened quite clearly for all of us the meaning and purpose of our lives. Father Jack spoke about the magnificent stained glass window in our sanctuary above the main altar. He described how the central person and largest figure in the scene is Jesus. Also in this poignant scene are Mary, His mother and Saint John, the Beloved Disciple, each standing on either side of Jesus on the Cross. Father Jack reminded us that as believers, we are followers of Jesus Christ. He is central to our lives. As Mary looks upon her son in hope with her hands up in prayer and John looks away in sadness or sorrow with his hands down in prayer, we discover by this magnificent religious portrait in our window that all of us must focus on Jesus in light of who we are in the ways that we are. We know Mary and John are both faithful to Jesus, but we need to remember and respect that each is faithful in her or his own distinctive way. We of Saint Mary's Parish, even all members of the Catholic Church, must recognize that all of us must respond to seeing Jesus in our lives. We must always recognize that Jesus is central and proclaim this in ways that are authentic to us and faithful to Jesus.

During this past Liturgical year which began with the First Sunday in Advent, we have been listening to the story of Jesus Christ each week in the Gospel. Mainly we have been listening to the Gospel of Matthew. We began the weekly Gospel reading with those who foretold of his birth, then his actual birth at Bethlehem and then his Baptism in the Jordan which was the beginning of his public ministry. We heard week in and week out his many Teachings and also how he healed and cared for the people who were searching for him. We heard in very fine detail the story of his entrance into Jerusalem with the people waving

palms. We celebrated his Last Supper and the Institution of Eucharist and the Priesthood. We commemorated His Death on Good Friday. We joined to celebrate His Resurrection at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday or at Easter Sunday Masses. We recently remembered his Ascension into heaven and the sending of the Holy Spirit to give us power and life to live His Teachings and Words. Did you know that at Christmas over twelve thousand people came through our Church doors? Did you know that from Palm Saturday at 4 PM until Easter Sunday at 1 PM, almost fifteen thousand people came to our services and masses? Did you know that over four hundred and fifty people volunteered during our Holy Week at Services and Masses?

Why did people come each week or for the major religious feasts? Why did people give of their time, their hearts and their help in service? It is because of Jesus. As Mary and John responded in their own personal way, we too must respond in our personal way. We come because Jesus is central in our lives. We come because it is only at Mass is Jesus most fully present to us in Sacred Scripture and in the Holy Eucharist. From high above the altar the eyes of Jesus are upon us as we leave Mass to live his Words and Teachings. How graced we are that we may see and hear our God and that He also sees and hears us.



### Feast of Saint Rocco Liturgical Services

**Sunday, August 3  
Opening Mass 10:30am**

**Saturday, August 9  
Mass and Sacrament of  
Anointing of the Sick  
10:00am on the festival grounds**

**Sunday, August 10  
Closing Mass 10:30am  
followed by the Procession of the St.  
Rocco statue to the festival grounds**

## View From the Pew

by Joan McGuire

### Are You God's Partner?

As I peruse any Catholic magazine I invariably come across an advertisement that blares out in big letters "DO YOU HAVE A VOCATION?" It is accompanied by pictures of priests, sisters and brothers all smiling serenely into the camera. There are days when these pictures are very enticing. Being old enough to have memorized and recited the Baltimore catechism page by page, I have some questions concerning the "exclusive vocation" bit. I believe we all have the same vocation, "To know, love and serve God in this world." (Baltimore Catechism page 1). How we give this service depends on our life path. Some spiritual writers call this our "avocation." My mother would have put it simply "Bloom where God plants you and stop complaining."

God's invitation into a life - giving relationship is often unexpected and can turn our lives upside down. Just as friends deepen their knowledge of one another when they spend time in mutual conversation so does prayer with God. Our ability to serve depends on attitude not on age or status. I learned this lesson from a child in the first grade.

It was my first year teaching and by November the children had settled down to the schedule and had gathered into friendship groups according to interests. A new student arrived. She was a little girl from India who had just been adopted by a childless couple in the parish. I introduce Mica to the class and asked them to make her welcome. At snack time as the children scurried up for their milk and cookies one little boy went over to Mica took her by the hand, led her to the snack table and helped her to get a container of milk and a cookie. He took her over to join his group of friends for the rest of recess. By the end of the day the anxiety on Mica's face was replaced by a smile and she was answering the many questions about her mysterious homeland.

At that moment I saw the reality of the words of Gerard Manley Hopkins, "The world is charged with the grandeur of God."



## Mark Your Parish Calendar

- July 13** Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- July 20** Baptisms, 1:30
- July 22** Mass at nursing home
- July 27** Baptisms, 1:30
- Aug. 3** Opening Mass of the Feast of St. Rocco, 10:30am
- Aug. 7** Feast of St. Rocco - Rides open at 6pm; limited food booths open
- Aug. 8** Feast of St. Rocco- 6-11pm; all food booths and rides open
- Aug. 9** Anointing Mass under the tent on the St. Rocco field, 10am
- Aug. 9** Feast of St. Rocco - 11am-11pm
- Aug. 9** Chocolate Chip Cookie Contest
- Aug. 10** Closing Mass for the Feast of St. Rocco, 10:30am
- Aug. 10** Feast of St. Rocco 12-9pm
- Aug. 10** Raffle Drawing at 8:30pm
- Aug. 13** Mass at Forge Hill
- Aug. 14** Vigil Mass for the Feast of the Assumption, 4pm
- Aug. 15** **Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**  
Masses: 7am, 9am, 7:30pm
- Aug. 17** Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- Aug. 24** Baptisms, 1:30
- Aug. 26** Mass at nursing home
- Aug. 31** Baptisms, 1:30
- Sept. 7** Baptisms, 1:30
- Sept. 7** 5pm Youth Mass resumes
- Sept. 10** Mass at Forge Hill
- Sept. 23** Mass at nursing home
- Sept 27** Friends of the Poor Walk
- Oct. 5** 1<sup>st</sup> Grand Annual Weekend
- Oct. 8** Mass at Forge Hill
- Oct. 12** Baptisms, 1:30
- Oct. 19** Baptisms, 1:30
- Oct. 26** Baptisms, 1:30
- Oct. 28** Mass at nursing home
- Nov. 1** Mass of Remembrance, 11am
- Nov. 2** 2<sup>nd</sup> Grand Annual Weekend
- Nov. 2** Baptisms, 1:30
- Nov. 9** Baptisms, 1:30
- Nov. 16** Baptisms, 1:30
- Nov. 23** Baptisms, 1:30
- Nov. 25** Mass at nursing home
- Nov. 27** **Thanksgiving Day**  
Mass at 8am

## Feast of St. Rocco Schedule of Events

**36th Annual  
Feast of St. Rocco  
August 3-10**

**August 3  
Opening Mass  
10:30 in the church**

**Thursday, August 7  
6pm-10pm  
All rides open  
Limited food booths open**

**Friday, August 8  
7pm-10pm  
All rides and food booths open  
Entertainment on the bandstand  
by The Reminisants**

**Saturday, August 9  
10am  
Anointing Mass and  
Sacrament of the Sick  
on the festival grounds**

**11am-11pm  
All rides and food booths open  
Chocolate Chip  
Cookie Contest  
DJ Bobby Costello 12-6pm  
Violet the Clown 3-5pm  
Sea Breeze, 6-10pm**

**Sunday, August 11  
Closing Mass of St. Rocco  
10:30am in the church  
Followed by procession with the  
statue to the festival grounds**

**12noon-9pm  
All rides and booths open  
Entertainment on the bandstand  
DJ Bobby Costello 12-4pm, 7-9pm  
Violet the Clown 3-5pm  
Jerry Secco 4-7pm  
Raffle drawing at 8:30pm**



## Friends of the Poor® Walk

As you are filling in your calendars for September, please write "SVdP Friends of the Poor® Walk" on **Sat., Sept. 27.**

- From 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
- Everything you need to register is at [www.stmarysfranklin.org](http://www.stmarysfranklin.org).
- Or step up and register on Walk day.
- Begin in Sacred Heart Hall (lower level of church) and walk a total of 3 miles along Oak St.
- Collect pledges in advance and turn in on Walk day.
- Counts toward community service hours

Let's all step up to raise funds to help individuals and families put food on the table, stay in their homes, keep the lights on, heat their homes, find shelter, pay for prescriptions, provide for their children, and stay positive. Together, we are making a difference.



## ...Families Corner

*(Continued from page 2)*

saying, "We are Parthians, Medes and Elamites, inhabitants of Meopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome...Cretans and Arabs...how does each of us hear them in his own native tongue?" Then Peter began to preach and by the end of the day, Scripture tells us that about three thousand people accepted the good news of Jesus Christ. Similar to other "shadows of things to come" that are mentioned in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit descended on the Jewish harvest feast of Pentecost, and the Apostles began to "harvest" new souls for the kingdom of God.

Perhaps some visitors who witness the love and service poured into making the St. Rocco Festival successful may be inspired to know the power of the Holy Spirit. If your family has never been involved, make this the year - come help flip hamburgers - all for the glory of God.





## Happy American Family Day

by Nan Rafter, Parish Nurse

Did you know that the first Sunday in August is Happy American Family Day? I never knew this but when I found out I decided this is good news that I need to celebrate and share with others. It also coincides with our St Rocco Family Festival... A place where families share time together, eat great food, create wonderful memories and be happy.

Unfortunately, it seems that families are struggling to be happy. Our home situations are changing on a daily basis. "Stress" has taken over our lives and not only affects us as individuals but as a family. When one person in the family is affected this in turn has an effect on many aspects of family life. Families can learn how to deal with the day to day stressors they face so it can make for a happier home.

Stressors which trigger the stress response can be anything from vacations, work demands, financial constraints, health problems/worries, or family/work conflicts. Our lives today seem to be filled with stressors. I remember when I

was a child, mealtime was a place to share the joys of our day. Now mealtime is whenever you can catch a bite to eat. When families do get time to eat together, cell phones are being checked for messages and video games are being played. It has become more difficult to relate to each other as a family and this can cause stress. (June Cleaver would never allow this to happen at her dinner table!)

Stress in the family is related to many different factors. The roles of men and woman are changing. In many families, both adults work outside of the home and are caring for both young children and older parents. Young adult children are moving back home due to financial reasons or some family members live far apart, which can add additional stress to the family. Just the busyness of everyday life can leave little time or energy to invest in family time. Financial concerns continue to be a major cause of family conflict with the ever increasing pressure to "make ends meet."

There are several things families can do

to improve their ability to cope with stressors:

We can pray for God's guidance to help care for our family and then pray for one another. In I Thessalonians. 5:17 we are told to "pray without ceasing." We can place our trust in God that our families can handle the pressures and feelings of helplessness and with His help and the help of others, identify the resources we need. Often, workable solutions are within our grasp!

It is important to develop a realistic plan for resolving our problems and then stick to it. Seek outside help and spiritual and social support. Seeking out help is a sign of family strength because it means we are committed to resolving our problems.

May all of our families be blessed with joy and peace.

### 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](mailto: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** 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](mailto: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](http://www.stmarysfranklin.org). There is a wealth of information available there.

### The Foods of St. Rocco

Manicotti  
 Chicken or Eggplant Parmesan  
 Meatball Subs  
 Sausage Subs  
 Spaghetti & Meatballs  
 Cold Cut Subs  
 Calzones  
 Pizza  
 Stuffed Quohogs  
 Clam Cakes  
 Fried Clams  
 Fried Scallops  
 Clam Chowder  
 Chicken Fingers  
 Hamburgers & Hot Dogs  
 French Fries  
 Onion Rings  
 Mozzarella Sticks  
 Fresh Squeezed Lemonade  
 Italian Pastries  
 Cannoli  
 Belgian Waffles  
 Toasted Ravioli

\*New this year\*

Apple Crisp in the Belgian Waffle booth

See You There!  
 August 8-10



## St. Mary's Music Notes!!

by Terry Kerr

**Adult Choir:** The St. Mary Adult Choir has completed their 2013-2014 season with much success, and is taking a well-deserved summer rest! The Triduum, Easter Season, and the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination Liturgy for Father Brian and Father Jack were all done so wonderfully, further enhancing each liturgy through prayerful song. What exciting times for the Music Program at St. Mary Parish!

As you are enjoying the beauty of your summer respite, please think about carving out time to sing in the Adult Choir this autumn. The Adult Choir rehearses on Thursday Evenings in the Upper Church Choir Loft from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. and sings at the 10:30 a.m. Liturgy on Sunday mornings.

Enjoy the summer!

**Children's Choir:** The St. Mary Children's Choir also had a very successful season! They did such an amazing job singing at the Easter Liturgies and the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination of Father Brian and Father Jack.

If you are interested in having your child participate in the St. Mary Children's Choir Program, please come to rehearsals at St. Mary Church on Thursday afternoons in the Upper Church from 5:15 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. The St. Mary Children's Choir sings on the first Sunday of each month at the 9:00 a.m. Mass and various other parish liturgical celebrations throughout the year!



## ...Hundreds of Signs of a Dynamic Parish

(Continued from page 2)

of the facilitators led the evening's discussion on the topic they had covered in February. Dozens of people attended these sessions. Some came to each and every session. Some attended a few while others attended just one. Everyone made time as they could to explore prayer, study, generosity and evangelization. Faith, food, fellowship, friendship and fun were shared and enjoyed at each of these sessions.

As these smaller group sessions continued, requests for more educational forums and programs were raised by those in attendance as well as those who could not make it to the sessions. Our Catholic Faith is so rich and vast people wanted the opportunities to learn more. The "Study" group had identified that learning about our Catholic faith never really ends. Learning is a journey. Sometimes we rest along the journey but after some time, we all journey on. The "Prayer" group's sharing brought to light that we all pray in different ways, for different reasons but that all prayer is meaningful and that the practice of prayer changes and deepens as we journey in faith. Those who discussed "Generosity" realized that sharing our time, talent and treasure with the parish is important and that we each do what we can when we can. "Evangelization" discussions covered many topics. One thread was that each of us, as Catholics, are daily living examples of our faith to those with whom we live, work and interact. The Holy Spirit had opened the ears, minds and hearts of those

assembled and called upon us as a parish to continue.

Father Brian heard this news, saw this energy and excitement, and presented his insights to the Parish Council in May. As a result of the thousands of parishioners and friends of St. Mary Parish who read and shared the book 'The Four Signs of A Dynamic Catholic,' the hundreds of those who attended the five book discussion sessions and those who supported the process with prayer; St. Mary Parish will be instituting a series of educational opportunities to learn about and share our Catholic faith. These learning opportunities will be explained and rolled out over the coming months. Please keep an eye out in the parish bulletin and website for the details.

Christmas 2013 saw a simple gift of love given to those who attended Mass at St. Mary. This gift of love was shared with parishioners and non-parishioners alike. It opened the doors to faith sharing and exploration. It created new friendships, new ministers and new opportunities to learn and to share. This simple gift of love opened many minds and hearts. The Holy Spirit leads us to new opportunities to love, live and learn about our Catholic faith. Thank you for all who helped in this process. The thousands who read and shared the book, the hundreds who attended the discussion sessions and those who supported the process in prayer are all signs of a very dynamic and alive Catholic parish!

## ...Listening

(Continued from page 1)

assignment from scripture to study. One particular scripture helped me to learn to listen to God. - (1Kings 19: 9-14). We were to visit Mount Horeb the next day. This is where the prophet Elijah fled to escape the wrath of Jezebel who threatened to kill him. He prayed to God to show him what he was to do. A voice told him to go and stand at the opening of the cave on the mountain because the Lord would be passing by. A strong wind blew over the mountain causing crushing stones to roll down the mountain but God was not in the wind.

Then an earthquake shook the mountain but God was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came fire but God was not in the surging flames of fire, After this there was a tiny whispering breath. When Elijah heard this he covered his face and God spoke to him.

For me, Ordinary Time is the season to be quiet and listen. Some people say that they do not know what God wants them to do in His service. Perhaps they are seeking a God who shouts rather than a God who whispers.

## ...Continuing to Give Back

*(Continued from page 1)*

Transplant for a possible cure for her leukemia. In June the doctors called to let them know that a "perfect match" had been found. Kristin underwent a bone marrow transplant in August 2008 where she received donated stem cells from a perfect stranger registered in the Bone Marrow Registry. Her donor was a twenty-six year old young lady from Europe. Kristin relapsed in March 2009 and achieved yet another remission. Kristin lost her fight against leukemia after a two year battle in April 2010.

Justin Graci, Kristin's brother, became involved with the organization Delete Blood Cancer in 2010 when he graduated from Franklin High and went on to UMASS Amherst. The first bone marrow donor drive Justin attended was in memory of Kristin, "Kristin's Celebration of Life," which was held at the UMass Amherst Campus.

Justin shared with us, "the same friends who had saved my own life during the tragic loss of my sister at the end of my senior year of high school would now go on to do even more for me."

Cameron Kuney, Christopher Bethony, James Perrault, Mary Cole, Sarah Plesh, Justin Drengburg, Patrick Caulfield, Alex Kinney, Billy Welshoff and Brendan Welshoff, all members of the Franklin Community and most of them members of St. Mary Parish as well, have all been a huge part in the successful drives over the past four years. "To date, we have become nationally known as the #1 University for bone marrow registration with over 8,000 students registered. We have gone on to find twenty-seven life-saving matches from our efforts. The national average for finding a match is 1 in 20,000, but here at UMass our chance of finding a match is 1 in 240," said Justin.

During the UMASS drive held in the spring of 2013, Ross Tanner, another

young member of St. Mary's Parish decided to become a member of the registry. "When I was first approached at UMASS Amherst to sign up to be a bone marrow donor I thought nothing of it. I signed up and gave a cotton swab of my cheek without thinking twice. Little did I know that I would be called only three months later and told



*Ross Tanner as he donates his bone marrow.*

that I was a potential match for a person with leukemia. I was shocked and nervous at first because the potential impact I could have on this one man's life was overwhelming to me. I went through several procedures and tests to prepare for the donation (that needed to be done relatively quickly). Now that the donation is over I can only hope and pray that the man's body accepted my donation and that he is on the road to recovery, and back to leading a normal healthy life like he once lived."

This is quite an amazing undertaking of so many former St. Mary's Religious Education students.

Today, Kristin and the St. Mary's Community, along with the community of Franklin, continue to give back, inspiring individuals to register in the Bone Marrow Registry by holding bone marrow drives for Delete Blood Cancer in hopes to give other families a cure and more time to make memories. Becoming a member of the Bone Marrow Registry is simple and easy. Be a hero, save a life, join the registry to help others fighting the battle of blood cancer.

Ross continues to say, "From community service hours, volunteering at Vacation Bible School, CCD, and all the genuine people that surround me, it's impossible to grow up and not feel the constant desire to help others. I look forward to September when I will hear from the Bone Marrow Registry on the man's progress. Until then all I can do is pray."

St. Mary's is very happy to announce that these former students will be holding their next Bone Marrow Drive at our St. Rocco Festival on August 8, 9, & 10. With St. Rocco being the Patron Saint of the Sick, we all feel it will be an awesome addition to the festival and a great experience for all. It is our goal to register 2000 people during the St. Rocco Festival. If we reach our goal, this will be one of the largest drives ever in the New England area.

Please visit [deletebloodcancer.org](http://deletebloodcancer.org) for more information on the Bone Marrow Registry.

### **St. Rocco Bone Marrow Registry Drive**

**Friday, Aug. 8: 6 - 10p.m.**

**Sat., Aug. 9: 11a.m. - 10p.m.**

**Sunday, Aug. 10: 12 - 8p.m.**

You must be 18 years or older to participate.

## The Seminarian Program at St. Mary's

by Father Michael Alfano

For some years now Saint Mary Parish has offered a wonderful learning experience to seminarians from Saint John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, guided and mentored by Nan Rafter and the pastoral staff. This past year your interns were Jorge Rocha, from Rhode Island and Paul Schultz, from Wisconsin. They were with you on most Tuesdays, making pastoral visits among the homebound, with those hospitalized in Milford, and with those in assisted living facilities. In their caregiving ministries, both Jorge and Paul learned how to be more pastorally aware of and present to the needs of parishioners and their families, particularly those who may be elderly, infirm in some way, or in need of spiritual support.

Saint John XXIII National Seminary was founded fifty years ago by Cardinal Cushing of Boston to serve the pastoral needs

of the Church throughout the United States. Its formation program targets the learning requirements of second career seminarians, mature men between the ages of 30 and 70, who believe that they are being called to service to the Church in Holy Orders.

Seminarians live, study, pray and minister together, over the course of 4-5 years, discerning the Lord's call for them to serve among His people as ordained priests. Their professors and mentors assist them in this process by increasing their appreciation of the Church's faith, their understanding of Catholic theological and liturgical traditions, and their development of the skill set needed for ministering in parishes effectively in the 21st century.

While visiting here in Franklin on Tuesdays, both Jorge and Paul were adding significantly to their "toolboxes," prepar-

ing for their eventual work as parish priests. Since the goal of priestly formation is the development of the mind and heart of Christ, the Good Shepherd, these pastoral learning experiences are crucial for their vocations. Other internships, such as catechetical work in parish Religious Education programs and apprenticeships with hospital chaplaincies, also hone necessary skills.

As the seminary's Director of Pastoral Ministry I am truly grateful to Nan, to Fathers Brian and Jack, to the whole pastoral staff and to the parishioners of Saint Mary parish for the generous support consistently offered to Jorge and Paul for their priestly formation. Also benefitting greatly from this fine parish internship experience will one day be the bishops and parishioners in Rhode Island and Wisconsin as the vocations of these two seminarians continue to develop through their ministry with Saint Mary parish.

# The Weave

St. Mary Parish Family  
One Church Square  
Franklin MA 02038

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