

The Weave

July 2016

Volume 20 Issue 3

A Newsletter of St. Mary Parish Family, Franklin MA

Disciples in Mission

by Fr. Brian Manning

Many years ago the late Pope, Saint John Paul challenged all of us “to put out into the deep” concerning our faith in Jesus Christ. What a wonderful image for us to envision and reflect upon as we try to live our faith in our Parish of Saint Mary. Cardinal Sean also challenged each one of us a few years ago to become a “Disciple in Mission” for the Lord Jesus. Each one of us is to be a person who actively and consciously walks with the Lord and helps each other along the way. We are to witness in faith each day to our spiritual identity and person, to our hopes and dreams and to our beliefs. Our Cardinal’s powerful challenge is an invitation for each parish of the Archdiocese to re-image, re-shape and re-envision the faith community so that it may be a great center of belief, worship and service. I would suggest that “putting out into the deep” is what captures my mind and heart at this time.



Archdiocese of Boston

In the last three years at its many meetings, our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) has spent hours praying, learning, reflecting and conversing to discover how we can be the best possible faith community. We have faithfully prayed, read books and articles by leading church leaders and

professors, ordained and non-ordained, and also attended seminars sponsored by the Archdiocese’s Office of Planning so that our PPC may form for us the vision, mission and spiritual and pastoral care of Saint Mary Parish in

the coming years.

Part of the long range process has been that I, as pastor and appointed as leader by Cardinal Sean, have attended many meetings and seminars for over 2 years to learn how to lead and help our parish in order to become a more vibrant faith community. The Parish staff now

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Christ - the Message As Well As the Messenger

by Joan McGuire

If Jesus came only to bring us a message, we could carefully read the scriptures and try to imitate and admire everything He said and did. Meanwhile we could continue to live comfortably saying our favorite prayers and practicing our own personal devotions in our own riskless universe.

Because He is also “THE MESSAGE,” our Baptism, Holy Communion, Confirmation and the Eucharist are the continuing graces given to us to develop a relationship with God.

In Exodus (chapter 33) Moses asks to see God’s glory. God tells Moses to stand on a rock and as he passes God covers Moses’ face and allows him to see only His back. At this time Moses had not developed the relationship with God that allowed for the vision of His face.

A face to face relationship with God takes a life time to develop. It is not intellectual; it is a matter of encountering, trusting, developing intimacy and finally complete surrender to God. We cannot do this alone. We are members of the Body of Christ. Our interaction with each other in our daily lives and our recognition of Christ within each other is a means of growing in relationship. God needs nothing from us except a desire to give ourselves completely to a relationship with Him.

Mary is an example of complete surrender and so was the perfect receptacle of the “Word made Flesh.”

Heaven is not a place. It is our eternal intimate relationship with God.

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An Election Year Point to Ponder

by John M. Ristaino

2016 is a presidential election year here in the United States. Now, please relax in knowing that this article is not about politics at all. It does take a question that is often asked every four years and then looks at it from a different perspective.

The question we hear during many presidential campaigns is something along the line of “what type of America will we leave for following generations?” Let’s ask the same question but with a focus on our Catholic faith: What type of Catholic faith are we leaving for future generations?

How important is it to us (to you and to me) to leave a strong and vibrant Catholic faith to future generations? What does that look like to you? What are you doing today to help build the future of the Catholic Church? I have no easy answers or simple solution. Each of us needs to answer these questions for themselves. I will offer some observations from the past, some suggestions for the present and some wishes for the future.

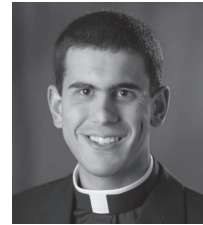
As a parish we stand on the shoulders of those generations of parishioners who preceded us. Growing up in Franklin, I have memories of many wonderful faith-filled people who helped make St. Mary Parish the wonderful community it is today. They cared enough about their Catholic faith to leave us the parish we have today. They did this through prayer. They did this through participation in the Mass. They did this through financial donations. They did this through volunteering. They did this because their Catholic faith mattered.

Are we praying? Are we participating at Mass every Sunday? Are we financially supporting St. Mary Parish? Are we financially assisting those less fortunate with gifts to the St. Vincent De Paul Society? Are we volunteering our time and talents to St. Mary Parish? The Weekly Bulletin and the parish website (<http://www.stmarysfranklin.org/>) provide information about each of these areas.

In 1849 five people attend Mass offered by Fr. Charles O’Reilly in the home of John L. Fitzpatrick. Thus were the seeds of the Catholic faith sown in Franklin, MA. Many wonderful changes have occurred since then. Each change was the result of people, parishioners, parishioners of St. Mary Parish. For generations the Catholic faith in Franklin has grown because of the people who were and are St. Mary Parish. We are the Church. What are we doing today to leave for future generations a home for God’s love? My hope is that more and more of us pray, attend Mass regularly, financially support the parish and its good works and volunteer to assist the many areas of the parish which need all of us to thrive. My hope is that future generations will look back upon 2016 and say “their Catholic faith was important to them.” What is your wish for future generations of St. Mary Parish? What are you doing and what are you going to do to make that wish a reality?

Father Patrick Fiorillo- Pride of St Mary's

by Joan McGuire



On May 21st excited members of St Mary's Parish made an early trip into The Cathedral in Boston to witness the ordination of a young man who was born and raised in Franklin. Patrick Fiorillo is the son of Francis and Vivian Fiorillo and the younger brother of Christopher and Timothy. He attended Benjamin Franklin Charter School in Franklin and St John's High School, Shrewsbury. At his Mass at St Mary's on Corpus Christi, in his homily he witnessed how influential his undergraduate study at the Hart School of Music at the University of Hartford was to his budding vocation.

Besides his studies he was very involved in the Newman Club and served as a member of the executive board. Patrick mentioned that he developed close friendships that nurtured his spiritual life and supported his spiritual discernment. It was through experiences here that he decided to embark on the path to the priesthood. After watching the 2006 Grassroots Films documentary “Fishers of Men” that explored the many facets of the priesthood in today's world, he realized that many of his gifts and the life paths that he was pursuing would be perfectly fulfilled in the priesthood. In his final year at college Patrick applied and was accepted to St John's Seminary. At the seminary he found “the structure of the life that avails us of so many opportunities to grow in many ways; intellectually, spiritually and humanly.”

Two years ago he had the opportunity to practice all he had learned the previous four years when he was assigned to Our Lady Comforter of the Afflicted in Waltham. He served there as Deacon until his ordination on May 21st.

As he begins his first priestly assignment at the St Ann-St Brendan Collaborative he realizes, “there are many challenges ahead but is ready to face the challenge.” He will be supported by the prayers of the many parishioners of St Mary's who will always cherish him as one of our family.



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

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**Bereavement Support
Group to begin**

A seven week Bereavement Support Group will begin on Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 7pm in St Mary's lower church. This faith based group is offered to anyone who has experienced a recent loss. For additional information or to register, please call Nan Rafter at 508-528-0020. Space is limited.



...Disciples in Mission

(Continued from page 1)

joins me every 2 months or so for education and development at 4 hour seminars by an outside Church expert from the Catholic Leadership Institute, located in Philadelphia. This expert is also leading and training a special "Team" of parishioners who will be writing a "plan" for our parish to follow for three years to achieve the wonderful goal of Saint Mary becoming even a more robust and an inviting faith community. We know that we already bring, every day, a lot of life and faith to this process and task, and thus we will be even a livelier and stronger faith community when we are finished. We will have put out into the deep and have brought ourselves closer to the Lord as his disciples. The team is composed of PPC members, a Parish Finance Council Member, Pastoral Staff and a broad base of parishioners by age, background and life experience.



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
 Mozzarella Sticks
 Toasted Ravioli
 Hamburgers & Hot Dogs
 French Fries
 Onion Rings
 Fresh Squeezed Lemonade
 Italian Pastries
 Cannoli
 Belgian Waffles

One of the many materials which our Writing Team is using is the DIM survey that parishioners completed last Spring. The response was excellent and indeed our ratings were usually high from 80 to 95%. As we all know, it is very hard for a parish in this day and age to achieve such a strong support of spiritual and pastoral life. Our parish serves many, many people well. This means good things for us as we move forward on the journey of life for our Parish. Saint Mary Parish will indeed be full of "Disciples in Mission" who will be walking with the Lord Jesus and each other.



Feast of St. Rocco Information

38th Feast of St. Rocco August 7-14

Thursday, August 11
 6pm-10pm All rides open
 Hot dogs, burgers, pizza available

All rides and food booths open
Friday, August 12 6pm-11pm
Saturday, August 13 11am-11pm
Sunday, August 14 12noon-9pm

Bracelet Days
Ride all rides for \$25
Thursday - 6-10pm
Saturday 11am - 3pm
Sunday 12noon - 4pm

Liturgical Services
Sunday, August 7
Opening Mass
10:30am in the upper church
Saturday, August 13
Mass and Sacrament of
Anointing of the Sick
10:00am on the festival grounds

Sunday, August 14
Closing Mass
10:30am in the upper church
followed by the
Procession of the St. Rocco statue
to the festival grounds

View From the Pew

by Joan McGuire

The Beauty of the Day

As a child, Clausen Point in the Bronx was my whole world. There was only one trolley marked "V" that took you out to the point. It was a wondrous place. The point jutted out into the East River. Some of my friends lived on houseboats and I was so jealous. At the end of my street was a large baseball field. Semi-Pros played there as well as neighborhood schools. I am told that scouts used to come out to watch the games to see prospective players. Also in the neighborhood were retired vaudevillians and some circus people. Before the games some of these entertainers would dress up in their clown apparel and put on a show for the little children waiting for the game.

How thrilled we were if the clown pulled a dime from behind someone's ear or a bouquet of flowers was presented to someone's mother. Since the clown knew me I got to hold the bunny rabbit he pulled out of his hat. I talked about it for days. I felt so special.

I recalled all this as I was sitting on the porch reading Psalm 139. "I praise how wonderfully you made me"

Let us thank God for making us so beautiful. As we age some of our parts may need oiling, but they were well constructed. Our loving God made me and is caring for me all the time. I often took pleasure in the clowns when I was young and that was only make believe magic. But the God of our every day holds each one of us in His hand and finds us loveable and worthy of His loving care. While at Mass in the morning when the priest says, "By the mingling of this water and wine may I share in your divinity as you humbled yourself to share in our humanity," I am thrilled. When I look around and see God's unconditional love in every one around me I find my cause for joy that day. May you share this with me.





Mark Your Parish Calendar

- July 26** Mass at nursing home
- July 31** Baptisms
- Aug. 3** Mass at The Estate
- Aug. 7** **Feast of St. Rocco Opening Mass, 10:30am**
- Aug. 7** Baptisms
- Aug. 7** Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- Aug. 10** Mass at Forge Hill
- Aug. 11** **Feast of St. Rocco**
Rides and limited food booths only, 6-10pm
- Aug. 12** **Feast of St. Rocco, 6-11pm**
All rides and food booths open.
- Aug. 13** **Feast of St. Rocco Anointing Mass, 10am**
- Aug. 13** **Feast of St. Rocco, 11am-11pm**
All rides and food booths open.
- Aug. 14** **Feast of St. Rocco Closing Mass, 10:30am No Noon Mass**
- Aug. 14** **Feast of St. Rocco, 12-9pm**
All rides and food booths open. Raffle Drawing, 8:30pm
- Aug. 20/21** SVdP Backpack/School Supplies Drive
- Aug. 21** Baptisms
- Aug. 23** Mass at nursing home
- Aug. 28** Baptisms
- Sept. 7** Mass at The Estate
- Sept. 11** Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- Sept. 14** Mass at Forge Hill
- Sept. 15** Catholic Women's Club Mass and Ice Cream Social, 7pm
- Sept. 24** Friends of the Poor Walk
- Sept. 27** Mass at nursing home
- Oct 2** Baptisms
- Oct. 9** Baptisms
- Oct. 12** Mass at Forge Hill
- Oct. 13** Bereavement Support group begins
- Oct. 16** Ministry Expo
- Oct. 16** Baptisms
- Oct. 16** Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- Oct. 20** CWC Meeting, 7pm
- Oct. 22/23** CWC Bake Sale
- Oct. 23** Baptisms
- Oct. 25** Mass at nursing home
- Oct. 30** Altar Care Meeting, 11:15
- Oct. 31** **All Saints Vigil Mass: 4pm**
- Nov. 1** **Feast of All Saints Masses: 7am, 7:30pm**
- Nov. 2** Mass at The Estate
- Nov. 5** Mass of Remembrance, 11am
- Nov. 6** Baptisms
- Nov. 6** Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- Nov. 9** Mass at Forge Hill
- Nov. 13** Baptisms
- Nov. 15** Holy Hour of Mercy, 1pm
- Nov. 17** CWC Meeting
- Nov. 24** **Thanksgiving**



Living the Year of Mercy at St. Mary's

by Donna McGuane

In keeping with Pope Francis' Holy Year of Mercy, St. Mary's has published information in the bulletin and on the parish website listing both the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy, as well as prayers and opportunities to participate in Year of Mercy activities, both locally and throughout the diocese. Two fall events are in the planning stages.

In October, we are planning a pilgrimage to the Holy Door of Mercy at La Salette Shrine. There will be a Holy Hour of Mercy on November 15. Please watch the bulletin and the website for further information. If you would like to help organize or work with us on these events, please call the rectory.



Friends of the Poor® Walk



This year's SVdP "Friends of the Poor Walk" is on Saturday, September 24, 2016. Please mark it on your calendar and

join us in our major fund raiser. Your generosity enables us to provide help to our struggling neighbor families. Watch future bulletins and check out www.stmarysfranklin.org for further details.



**St. Rocco
Bone Marrow Registry Drive
Friday, Aug. 12: 6 - 10pm
Sat., Aug. 13: 12 - 7pm
Sunday, Aug. 14: 12 - 6pm**

You must be between the ages of 18-55 to participate.

We Wish to See Jesus (John 12:21 RSV)

by Father Jack Sullivan

You watch a landscaper build a New England stone wall. The worker slowly selects the pieces of rock and puts them together, balancing one stone upon another. This working artist is patient, fitting together all these ragged pieces of stone so that they may stay together without cement. Imagine Jesus as a patient artisan who arranges his friends to resemble a New England stone wall. Jesus is dedicated and deliberate in his work. Jesus is patient as he brings us all together. Jesus is always alert and generous in recognizing our ragged and broken edges. Jesus as our high priest is able to sympathize with our weaknesses (see Hebrews 4:15). Pope Francis deepens our experience of the saving work of Jesus by teaching us that "The Eucharist, although it is the fullness of sacramental life, is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak" (Ev G 47; Amoris Laetitia, footnote 351).

Saint Thomas Aquinas teaches us to regard the Eucharist as the self-gift of Jesus to his table-companions at the last supper. Saint Thomas Aquinas composed these lyrics of Pange Lingua - to this band of twelve Jesus gives himself as food. At every celebration of the Eucharist, Jesus continues to give himself as food so that we might have a comparable strong generosity to feed our neighbors-in-need. If you ever observe our St. Vincent de Paul Society members delivering grocery-bags of food to our neighbors-in-need, you will rejoice and exclaim: This is what the Kingdom of God looks like. In the slide-show of the good works of St. Mary's Parish, we demonstrate that we glorify the Lord by our lives. The risen and glorified Lord Jesus has no hands but our hands. We work as the hands of Jesus Christ in bringing food and relief to our neighbors-in-need. Pope Francis, in his visit to the UN's World Food Program, said "Poverty has a face... While the headlines may change, the pain, the hunger, and the thirst remain; they do not go away."





A Time to Rest and Relax

by Nan Rafter, Parish Nurse

We live our lives in a manner in which we define ourselves by what we do rather than by who we are. For many of us, if we are not working, we may feel like we are wasting time and energy. Unfortunately it seems that our culture over-values productivity and under values self-care. I am always reminding the seminarians that I supervise that self-care is important if they are to be effective in ministering to others. How can you take care of others if you don't take care of yourselves? Don't the airlines tell us to put on our oxygen first before helping others? Self-care may seem like a luxury which few of us can afford. We seem to be addicted to "quick fixes" and have little patience for long-term. Living a healthy balanced lifestyle takes time, commitment and effort each day. Our human condition seems to be more aligned with chaos than balance. If this were not true we would not need a God to bring balance, peace and wholeness to our lives.

Jesus is an example for us. We see in Scripture that Jesus grew tired and needed to rest. (Mk.6:31) And Jesus promises us rest in the midst of our chaotic world (Mk.11:28-30) AND Jesus reminds us that balance IS possible if we keep our life based in Jesus. Jn. 10:10 "I have

come that they might have life, and have it to the full."

How do you rest and relax?

There are several specific ways to nourish the gift of rest and relaxation. We need to look at our present life in terms of energy investments, values and priorities. Are we spending our life activities in a positive, healthy way? One way we can begin to try to integrate rest and relaxation in our lives is by practicing deep-breathing or Centering Prayer. Sit quietly and recite the word "Abba Father" or "Jesus" as you slowly breathe in and out. As you sit quietly, think about your body as it slows down and becomes calm, peaceful and happy. For this next little while you have nowhere to go and nothing to do. Or why not take a "mini-vacation." Leave your desk or your home and imagine that you are at your favorite place. (Mine is the beach) Sit outside and just daydream. Let your mind wander. Resting your mind can help you to relax and get rid of the daily stresses you carry. Set aside time each day to take a walk outside. So many times we are in hurry and we don't see God's creations which are all around us. I find peace when I am lying in my hammock, looking at the puffy white clouds, listening to the birds. It is a wonderful place to pray.

This summer, make a commitment to play. Fly kites with your children. Go to the beach. Go into your closet and find your tennis racquet or learn how to play golf. Adult coloring books have grown in popularity because it helps to decrease stress and relax. Several of the people I visit spend time coloring. It can be fun to choose the designs and then "lose yourself" in the colors and even color outside the lines! Why not look at discovering a new talent that has yet to be discovered. Take an art class or learn a how to play an instrument. Set aside family time to play a board game or card games. Do things that make you happy. As we enter into the summer season, it is more important than ever to slow down, rest, and refresh your body and your soul.

"My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from Him" (Ps.62:1)



St. Rocco Entertainment Schedule

Friday, August 12

6-8pm on the field
Andi the Clown

6-10pm on the bandstand
The Reminisants

Saturday, August 13

1:30-4:30pm on the bandstand
Bob Costello DJ

3-5pm on the field
Andi the Clown

6-10pm on the bandstand
Sea Breeze

Sunday, August 14

12-4pm on the bandstand
Bob Costello DJ

3-5pm on the field
Andi the Clown

4-7pm on the bandstand
Jerry Seeco Band

7-9pm on the bandstand
Bob Costello DJ

8:30pm Raffle drawings

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

Father Jack Sullivan: jsullivan@stmarysfranklin.org

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Terry Kerr, Music Director: terry.kerr@att.net 508-541-3286

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.



St. Mary's Music Notes!!

by Terry Kerr

The St. Mary Adult Choir recently recorded a Christmas CD. The choir's singing was exceptional.

The CD will be released and available for purchase at the St. Rocco Festival in the Italian Pastry booth.



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Stop by the Italian Pastry booth to hear selections from the CD.

All proceeds from CD sales will benefit St. Mary Parish.



Fr. Brian at last year's St. Rocco Anointing Mass

Finding Joy at Mass and Jesus Alive In Our World Heralded at Baccalaureate Mass

by John M. Ristaino

On Sunday, May 29th at the 10:30 Mass, St. Mary Parish paid tribute to, and celebrated the members of the community who were graduating high school. Forty young people festooned in the caps and gowns of their respective soon to be alma maters participated in this Mass with their very proud family, friends and members of St. Mary Parish. The Mass was concelebrated by Father Brian and Father Jack. Julia Guilmette, parent of Henri Guilmette a member of the Franklin High School Class of 2016, led those present in song. Rose Determan, Adam Duval and Samantha Moccia, members of the Franklin High School Class of 2016 served as Lectors and Sydney Majka a member of the Bishop Feehan Class of 2016 was the altar server at this Baccalaureate Mass.

As tradition has allowed in the past, at the conclusion of Mass two graduates shared their thoughts and perspectives on the role their Catholic faith has played in helping them get to this wonderful stage in life. This year's Baccalaureate Mass speakers were Julie Harrington from Franklin High School and Jonathan Tomaso from Bishop Feehan High School.

Julie Harrington, who has served as a Lector at St. Mary Parish for the past six years, spoke first of her connection to the parish as a Lector, a 5th grade religious education teacher and a member of the Rock Youth Ministry. Despite these wonderful connections to, and participation in the parish, Julie explained that sometimes she was less than enthusiastic at the thought of going to Mass. Her remarks then went on to explain what happened every time she attended Mass (whether enthusiastically or reluctantly). Julie would find joy at Mass!

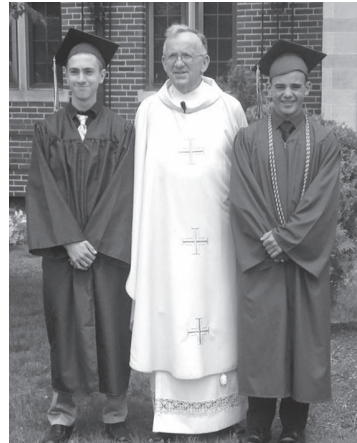
This joy which Julie found took many different shapes and happened at various times during the Mass. Sometimes it was

while shaking hands during the Sign of Peace. Other times it was found processing in with the altar servers and priest. Still other times when she saw the faces of her family and friends there in church, Julie found joy. This expressed joy, found "every single time that I go to church" as explained by Julie led her to the conclusion that this joy will be found for the rest of her life every time she attends Mass.

Julie encouraged her fellow graduates to continue to attend Mass in order to find the joy in "shaking your neighbors' hands... and receiving communion." She went on to explain to the Class of 2016 that their faith can be a bridge between the known of their past and the unknown of their future. Julie concluded her remarks with a prayer from "The Notre Dame Prayer Book for Students, Day by Day" titled "Guidance and Direction" and with her own wish for the Class of 2016: "...I wish you the best of luck in your coming endeavors. May you always find peace, comfort and love in God for He and the Church will always be there to welcome you."

Jonathan Tomaso shared the story of his faith journey while a student and a student leader at Bishop Feehan High School. He explained that God had played a huge role during his entire time at Bishop Feehan but he hadn't realized it until last year.

Jonathan described how enthusiastically his journey in the Catholic faith had begun during his freshman year. With a foundation of God's miracles which were worked through the prophets and Jesus, Jonathan was ready to see modern day miracles come to life. He spent sophomore year looking for such a sign; a grandiose miracle such as seeing the Blessed Mother appear on a peaceful



Father Brian Manning (c) poses for a picture after Baccalaureate Mass with two members of the Class of 2016: Christopher Danksewicz (l) and Jonathan Tomaso (r).



John Ristaino congratulates and thanks Julie Harrington (r) from the Class of 2016 during the reception following the Baccalaureate Mass.

(Continued on page 7)

Become “Part of the Family!”

by Paula Coughlin

By the time you receive this copy of *The Weave*, the coming of the Feast of St. Rocco will already be apparent. The St. Rocco sign on the corner of Main and Pleasant Streets has been up for several weeks. The tents should already be up, waiting for the equipment to be put in place. Posters are in shop windows and information is in the bulletin every week. The St. Rocco Facebook page is being updated regularly.

However, the heart of the Feast is missing.

The heart of the Feast is the people. And there are many people involved. From the organizers who make sure the food is ordered, the tents are up, the equipment is in place, to the booth chairpeople and the volunteers who work in the booths, the volunteers who help with set-up and break-down, the entertainers, the wonderfully creative people who make and donate items to be raffled off, the volunteers be-

hind the scenes and the people who come to take part in this tradition that has gone beyond St. Mary’s Parish and has become a Franklin tradition.

Ever since the first festival in 1979 parishioners have volunteered countless hours to make the Feast of St. Rocco a success. Whether they worked for one shift in one booth for one day or they have been involved for 38 years they have all had a part in creating an event that is rooted in faith, food, family and fun.

The faith is embodied in the three St. Rocco Masses. The Opening Mass, held this year on Aug. 7 at 10:30am, is celebrated for all the deceased friends and family listed on the banner in church and in the St. Rocco program book. At this Mass rolls are blessed and given out to the people in honor of St. Rocco, the patron saint of healing. The story of St. Rocco can be found in the program book.

The Anointing Mass on Saturday, Aug. 13 at 10am, will be held under a tent on the festival grounds. This always attracts a large, reverent crowd. There is something moving about seeing all these people attend Mass and receive an anointing for healing, even as the booth volunteers are readying their booths to serve the people coming for lunch.

And finally, on Sunday Aug. 14 the Closing Mass is held at 10:30am followed by a procession with the statue of St. Rocco from the church to the field.

Food and family go together. Everyone has childhood memories of the family gathering to share a meal. Many of the food booths have several family members who volunteer in the booth. Countless adults began working at St. Rocco as kids, stuffing cannoli, making pizza, lemonade, subs, or fried dough, scooping slush or shucking corn. In some cases the third and fourth generations are now filling those roles.

The visitors to the Feast are also part of the family, whether they come every year, or this is their first experience. Some, having moved away, come back to visit old friends. Others who grew up coming to the feast, now bring their own children. Still others come for the very first time. Throughout the festival you can see families; children, parents and grandparents relaxing and enjoying the food, the entertainment and the atmosphere.

The fun is found not just in the rides, games, and entertainment, but more importantly in the friends, new and old, that you meet at the feast.

As Fr. Brian says in the letter in our welcome package for new members,

“When you witness and participate in our great Saint Rocco Festa with its food and fun, then you will no longer be just friends, but instead part of the close family of St. Mary’s.”

There are still opportunities to volunteer. Please consider becoming “part of the family.”

...Jesus Alive In Our World Heralded at Baccalaureate Mass

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hilltop or some other physical, visible and tangible incredible action! No such “miracle” ever came and Jonathan explained that he entered his junior year of high school with a tarnished and lacking faith and was simply going through the motions to make it appear he believed, when in fact he had doubts because he hadn’t seen the miracle he felt he deserved as a true believer and sought to witness.

Towards the end of his junior year, Jonathan explained that HE began to change. He and his friend Owen had become retreat leaders for the sophomore class. In one small group activity a participant in Jonathan’s group shared an experience of service he had provided. The example shared by this young man was one about his working at a facility for people with developmental disabilities. He explained that he had learned to respect the dignity of all human beings no matter what their situation or condition. The young man in Jonathan’s group went on to share that in working with people with developmental disabilities, and respecting the dignity of all, that he was “the hands of Christ.” This sharing stayed with Jonathan for

weeks and worked in his heart and mind during an end of the school year camp when it gave birth to a revelation of faith. The revelation of faith which this journey of Jonathan’s showed him, and that he shared in his Baccalaureate address is this; “Jesus lives in us, in you and me. He lives in the simple acts of love and kindness that we receive every day. Jesus is alive and with you from a simple act of love and mercy. When we come together and commit larger acts of kindness the community of love grows stronger, the body of Christ grows stronger. Jesus becomes more alive than ever.”

Jonathan concluded his remarks with the following: “If you ever find yourself in a time of doubt and trouble with your relationship with God, don’t look for Morgan Freeman to appear in a white suit, but rather think of all the sacrifice your parents have done for you. Think of a kind act that a person did for you yesterday or today. Think of the smile that comes to your face when you see your best friend... That is real. That is alive. And that is Jesus.”

May God continue to bless Rose, Adam, Samantha, Sydney, Julie, Jonathan and the entire Class of 2016.



Welcome Father Chris Bae

by Joan McGuire

On May 21st Father celebrated two events - His ordination to the priesthood and his thirty-third birthday. Born in Seoul, Korea, Fr Chris, his parents Peter and Cecilia Bae, and his younger brother Jason emigrated to the United States in 1999 and settled in California. The year before, his parents had converted to Catholicism. Encouraged by his mother, Chris completed the RCIA program and was baptized in a Korean Church near his home.

After graduating from high school in Cypress, California and receiving his degree in mechanical engineering from UCLA, Father Chris came to MIT for graduate studies. After completing his Master's degree in mechanical engineering with neuroscience research, he worked for two years as an analyst at Accenture in Boston. Commuting to work provides a great deal of quiet time to evaluate one's life, Father Chris began to evaluate his life values. As



Father Chris Bae after his ordination.

a result, a few months later he accompanied his parish group on a mission trip to Haiti. This was an experience that changed his life. For ten days he worked along side the Missionaries of the Poor, a religious

order of brothers who ministered to the orphans and the elderly. The smiles that he saw on the faces of the poor in Haiti made him realize that happiness was not found in the comforts that money can buy. Soon after coming back from the mission trip, he turned to his pastor Father Dominic Jung, C.P.P.S for advice on the next step. These conversations nourished the seed in his heart and stirred his inquiring scientific mind.

“If I don't know how to use a smart phone, the best person to ask is the engineer who developed it. If I don't know how to use my talents and gifts, the best person to ask is God who engineered me.” Four months after returning from Haiti, Father Chris entered St. John's seminary. The rest is history. We are fortunate to have as our new parochial vicar a priest who has both clarity of mind and devotion to God's will. Welcome Father Chris - a man for all seasons.

The Weave

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