

The Weave

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A Quarterly Newsletter of St. Mary Parish Family, Franklin MA

35 Years of Memories

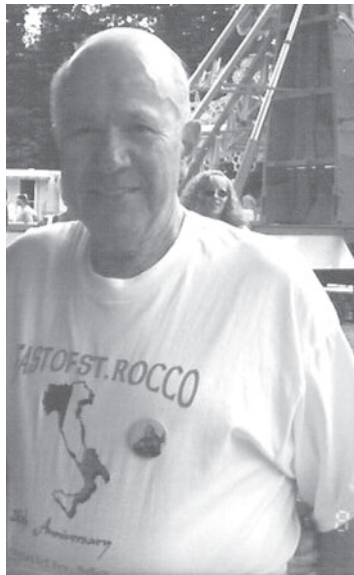
by Paula Coughlin

As I was thinking about this article I began perusing old St. Rocco program books. I have vague memories of the first few St. Rocco festivals. We had only been in Franklin for two years in 1979, the year of the first festival, and we had a young toddler. I remember attending but I am fuzzy on many of the details.

The early books reflect both change and constancy. There was always good food, entertainment and activities for all ages. In the early years, the Opening Mass was held on Thursday or Wednesday instead of Sunday. The events at the festival included a chicken barbecue and a Cabaret performance. There was also a dunk tank, a greased pole and bocce. Some of the ads in the books are for businesses that are now only memories.

Many of the names in the books, both volunteers and supporters are now also memories. Some have moved away, some are no longer able to participate and many are no longer with us.

Since I was new to the parish and had not yet begun to get involved in parish activities most of the names then were unfamiliar to me. As the years went on and I became more active, I got to know many of the people who were only names in a book in 1979.



Vinnie DeBaggis.

Once I began working at the rectory 20 years ago, I, of necessity, but also enthusiastically, became much more involved with the St. Rocco Festival.

Beginning around April each year, two of the festival organizers, Peter Brunelli and Vinnie DeBaggis became frequent visitors to the rectory.

As I look back in the old books, Peter's name first shows up in 1980 as co-chair of the calzone booth with Paul Ficco.

Peter is still involved as the "food guru" of the festival. He always knows how much to order. In good weather years he's on the phone late

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Till We Have Faces

by Joan McGuire

At St Rocco Festival, I enjoy watching the children getting their faces painted. They are so involved in the process and intently watch the Face Painter. It always reminds me of the title of a C.S. Lewis book "Till We Have Faces." I have never read the book but the title opens my mind to many aspects of my relationship with God.

God is the Divine Face Painter, and the many colored paint brushes are the people and the events-joyful, painful and monotonous that we encounter in our daily lives. Like the children sitting before the face painter, we must lift our face and look intently into the face of God as he gently applies the brush strokes to create our persona. In order to be changed we need to imitate Christ in his ultimate vulnerability to people and situations. One only has to read his encounters with the Syrophoenician women (Mark 7:24-30), the woman with the hemorrhage (Mark 5:25-34) and the Roman Centurion (Luke 7:6-10) to mention only a few, in order to see how he allows his humanity to be effected by the people with whom He comes in contact. After His Resurrection, He not only came to the sorrowing people in the garden of entombment but also to the discouraged and disheartened on the dusty road to

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Summer Ends and Our Journey Continues

by John M. Ristaino

The calendar tells us that the time for the Feast of St. Rocco is close at hand. Summer is at its peak; flowers are in full bloom, vegetable gardens are exploding with bounty and vacations are in full swing from the mountains and lakes to the cities to the beaches. Soon though, it will all quickly change. College students, home for the summer, will depart for their campus housing. Teachers will return to their classrooms to prepare for the arrival of this year's students. School busses will once again pick up students in their neighborhoods and transport them to their schools. Vacations will end. Beaches will be vacated. Gardens will start to fade. The days will grow shorter, and the sun will burn less warmly. The end of the summer is a ritual of change. This change can be a time for us to refocus our attention and energies to our journeys in Faith.

September is a month when our daily and weekly routines return, reshape and transform our lives. We return to work and to school with great anticipation and renewed determination. September in many ways is the start of a "new year." Our Faith journeys are reshaped and re-energized too. We find ourselves again attending Mass at St. Mary Parish on a weekly basis. The vacation and weekend homes are closed up for the winter ahead. Our spare time changes too. It is at this time of year when we seek new activities, new hobbies and new connections. It can be a time when we seek out opportunities to become more involved in our lives; to volunteer in areas which interest and challenge us. Some will take on physical athletic challenges raising

money for very worthy causes. Others will register for educational classes; some for professional growth, some for personal growth and others for spiritual growth. We seek ways to fulfill our need to connect and/or reconnect with people, organizations and activities we love.

St. Mary Parish offers us many different types of opportunities to get involved, to learn, to grow and to have fun in the process. The coming weeks and months are exciting ones for our parish! Change always carries with it the opportunity to join and make a difference. Shortly after Labor Day, the Music Ministry will welcome a new leader. This new era in our Music Ministry provides the chance to raise our voices in song at Mass and to volunteer as a member of the choir. In the past have you sung in the choir? Perhaps now is the time to rejoin. Have you thought about joining the choir in the past and for whatever reason(s) you never did? Well, the door is open for you to try. The existing choir and members of the Music Ministry are very talented and FUN people. Please consider joining them.

Earlier this year, in the quiet of winter, we lost a member of our parish family. Vinnie DeBaggis passed away in January after a brief illness. Vinnie was a man I knew and admired my entire life. My admiration was based on many facets of his life. One aspect of Vinnie's life that shines forth in my memories of him is the service (the love) he gave to St. Mary Parish. In his later years, Vinnie served as a Lector at Mass. This was just one wonderful way he volunteered for St. Mary Parish. He and his wife Alma started the Italian Pastry Booth at the annual St. Rocco Festival (a tradition their grandchildren continue to this day). Over the years Vinnie served as an usher at Mass, a CCD teacher, and as a member of the St. Mary Finance Committee just to mention a few. Vinnie knew that by giving back, he also received the blessings of Faith and friends. He was blessed by both. I am not sure whether Vinnie ever thought he

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Families' Corner

by Katherine Ginnetty

One of our traditions at St. Mary's Parish is the Baccalaureate Mass held every year in June, in which parishioners come together to pray for the graduating high school seniors in our community. Every year one of the seniors prepares a short talk for the event, sharing his or her thoughts on faith with members of the graduating class and the congregation in attendance. This year Michaela Lonati delivered the speech which is reprinted here.

Everything happens for a reason. I have been raised to believe that. I have been raised to trust that saying, to know that even when we don't understand why, there is a reason. And I have come to take great comfort in believing that. There is a reason. And for those of us with a strong faith and belief in God it isn't difficult. It helps me to accept so many things, from the simple to the frightening. Have you ever been in the car, late to wherever you're going and a school bus pulls out in front of you? You are so frustrated knowing that now you will be even later. But if you believe there is a reason for everything, perhaps that school bus keeps you from getting a speeding ticket or even getting in an accident had you been further down the road. I like to believe God is watching out for me and whatever comes my way is part of His plan. We've all had disappointments, not making a team, not getting a part in a play, not getting that job. But, there is a reason. If you think back over the last 4 years of high school, you can probably figure some of it out. Had you made that team, played that part or gotten that job, you would not have been available for a better opportunity, one that put you on a more successful path. We have to believe God has a reason.

There will always be times we don't understand the reason. Why did a loved one get sick, why did someone die? But that is part of our faith. Trusting and accepting that God knows what He's

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The Weave

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35 Years of Faith, Family and Fun





Mark Your Parish Calendar

- Aug. 4** Feast of St. Rocco
Opening Mass
- Aug. 5** Rocco set-up, 8am
- Aug. 7** Rocco set-up, 8am
- Aug. 8** Rocco set-up, 8am
- Aug. 8** Feast of St. Rocco
Rides & Limited food booths
open, 6-10pm
- Aug. 9** Rocco set-up, 8am
- Aug. 9** Feast of St. Rocco
All booths and rides
open 6-11pm
- Aug. 10** Feast of St. Rocco
Anointing Mass, 10am
- Aug. 10** **No 8am Mass**
- Aug. 10** Feast of St. Rocco
11am-11pm
- Aug. 11** Feast of St. Rocco
Closing Mass and procession
of statue, 10:30
- Aug. 11** Feast of St. Rocco
12-9pm
- Aug. 12** Rocco breakdown, 8am
- Aug. 14** Mass at Forge Hill
- Aug. 14** **Vigil Mass - Assumption,
4pm**
- Aug. 15** **Feast of the Assumption
Masses: 7am, 9am, 7:30pm**
- Aug. 17** SVdP Bookbag Collection
- Aug. 18** SVdP Bookbag collection
- Aug. 18** Baptisms, 1:30
- Aug. 18** Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- Aug. 25** Baptisms, 1:30
- Aug. 27** Mass at nursing home
- Sept. 8** Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- Sept. 8** Baptisms, 1:30
- Sept. 11** Mass at Forge Hill
- Sept. 15** Baptisms, 1:30
- Sept. 21** Friends of the Poor Walk
- Sept. 22** Baptisms, 1:30
- Sept. 24** Mass at nursing home
- Sept. 28** **Confirmation, 10am, 1pm**
- Sept. 29** **Confirmation, 2pm**
- Oct. 6** Baptisms, 1:30
- Oct. 9** Mass at Forge Hill
- Oct. 13** Baptisms, 1:30
- Oct. 20** Baptisms, 1:30
- Oct. 20** Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- Oct. 22** Mass at nursing home
- Oct. 27** Baptisms
- Oct. 31** **Vigil Mass - All Saints Day
4pm**
- Nov. 1** **Feast of All Saints
Masses: 7am, 9am, 7:30pm**
- Nov. 2** Mass of Remembrance, 11am
- Nov. 3** Baptisms, 1:30
- Nov. 10** Baptisms, 1:30
- Nov. 13** Mass at Forge Hill
- Nov. 17** Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- Nov. 17** Baptisms, 1:30

Feast of Saint Rocco Schedule

**35th Annual
Feast of St. Rocco
August 4-11**

**August 4
Opening Mass
10:30 in the church**

**Thursday, August 8
6pm-10pm
All rides open
Limited food booths open**

**Friday, August 9
6pm-11pm
All rides and food booths open
Entertainment on the bandstand
by The Reminisants**

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

**11am-11pm
All rides and food booths open
1pm Chocolate Chip
Cookie Contest
DJ Bobby Costello 12-6pm
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 12-3pm, 6-9pm
Jerry Secco 3-6pm
Raffle drawing at 8:30pm**

- Nov. 23** Thanksgiving Food Collection
- Nov. 24** Thanksgiving Food Collection
- Nov. 24** Baptisms, 1:30
- Nov. 26** Mass at nursing home
- Nov. 28** Thanksgiving
Mass at 8am

View From the Pew

by Joan McGuire

Mix by Hand

In our family a birthday was a big deal. My mother always made the person's favorite cake and we had a party with our family, my cousin's family and my grandmother. On my sixth birthday, my baby brother who was a preemie (born in seven months) and not yet a year old was having trouble breathing. As my parents were rushing to get him to the hospital, my mother promised she would be home to make my cake (there was no such thing as a cake mix). I knew from other times that they might be gone the entire day so I decided to bake the cake myself. I got out my mother's hand written cookbook, assembled the ingredients and went to work. When my mother got back from the false alarm a little while later I was up to my elbows in batter. As I looked at her face, I knew an explanation was in order, "**The recipe said mix by hand.**" She didn't say a word as she handed me the large wooden mixing spoon out of the drawer. She returned after the cake was baked and put on her special icing and the home made cake decorations for which she was famous. That night as she served the cake she announced that I had made the cake, not mentioning that I had been a little too literal in following the directions.

We are God's children. If our human parents can look at our actions with love even when they do not always turn out exactly as planned how much more should we trust God our Father to make our mishaps right. All through the Book of Exodus we see the extraordinary care and patience God had for our ancestors who he claimed as "His people." We the people of the Gospel have the greatest sign of His love - the sending of Jesus "to be like us in all things except sin." How can we question His Love or turn from Him when we do not understand some happening? I must have done some questioning myself since I found my response in the pages of my journal- "Sometimes God calms the sea as in Galilee but other times he holds me close in his lap and calms me in the midst of a raging storm."



Family Histories: The Gift of Generations

by Nan Rafter, Parish Nurse

As you enjoy the lazy days of this summer, why not take time to create a family history?

I recently saw a cartoon showing a family going on vacation to the beautiful mountains and it was noted that the kids were texting and e-mailing and the parents were checking voicemails. More than ever families need to be relational and document their history and memories. How many pictures of our children and grandchildren are stored on our phones?

A family history is an organized recording of important events in the life of a family and any related feelings. The creating of family histories is a very healthful activity for people of all ages and can strengthen family relationships. Family histories can be created in words and pictures, in video or audio tapes. Many times an important task of someone who is terminally ill is to do a life review and record their life history for family members so they can continue to celebrate their lives. However I encourage you not to wait for a crisis or illness to force you

to document the important events of your family life.

In Exodus Chapter 12, we read an account of the first Passover. The Lord established this religious practice when He redeemed His people from bondage in Egypt. The celebrating of this family history (in the Passover) became a way for the Israelites to remember their deliverance and live as redeemed people in the present and future. The Gospel writers documented their understanding of Jesus's teachings and sacrifices which has helped us to grow in our faith and learn compassion and love.

Research has identified several healthful aspects of family histories. First, family histories allow us to make some meaning out of life experiences and strengthen relationships between generations. Second, family histories can strengthen our unity, reduce feelings of isolation and strengthen family relationships. The sharing of our family's life story reemphasizes our interdependence on other people and validates our common life within a family context. Third, family histories can help us remember the ways in which God has been faithful.

In order to develop a family history, you only need to follow three simple steps: Remember it, Record it and Relate it. First, consider what format (written, video/cd or audio) you want to use. Second, consider looking at pictures, letters and other remembrances to stimulate the flow of memories. Third, enjoy the process of creating your family history, not just for the final product. Your family history project is a wonderful way to strengthen your family as you begin to see the hand of your loving Father in the joys and struggles of your life.

Lord, you know and understand our stories, a narrative made and shared with all who have a place in the history of our lives. Guide us now as we tell our stories with compassion and care. Amen



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

Sausage, pepper, ricotta cheese calzone

Returning Favorites

The "Original" Rocco Calzone
 Baba-rum (in honor of Vinnie)

See You There!
 August 9-11

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

Father Anthony Le: ale@stmarysfranklin.org

Karen Ackles: reled.grades1-6@stmarysfranklin.org

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Claire Perry: cperry@stmarysfranklin.org

Paulette Thomas: pthomas@stmarysfranklin.org

Nan Rafter: nrafter@stmarysfranklin.org

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

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.

Walk a Mile in My Shoes

by Helen Brunelle

As you are filling in your calendar for September, please write “**Friends of the Poor Walk**” on Saturday, September 21. The Walk is organized locally by our St. Vincent de Paul Society. Registration begins at 9:00 a.m. in Sacred Heart Hall (lower level of church). After registering, walkers may begin The Walk. We’ll walk a total of 3 miles: along Oak Street, up Iroquois Drive, and back. The Walk ends at 11:00 a.m.



people who call St. Mary’s in need of help.

Check out www.stmarysfranklin.org/120 for all the necessary information for the local Walk. Also, people may register on the day of The Walk.

Last year’s Walk was extremely successful, raising over \$6200! This money was put right back into the community to help families who are struggling with utility bills, housing, heating bills, food, and transportation.

Participants collect pledges in fixed amounts. All money is collected at the time the pledge is made, and should be turned in on the day of The Walk. 100% of the money raised in Franklin stays in Franklin, to assist

We invite the whole community to show concern for friends and neighbors by stepping up and joining together for this worthwhile, pleasant fall event. Ready! Set! WALK!

...Summer Ends

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would serve St. Mary so richly when he first raised his hand. I am sure he did not regret any service he gave our parish. Won’t you please consider following Vinnie’s example and volunteer to help support St. Mary Parish? Vinnie paid it forward for generations to come. Will you do the same?

This is the time of year when St. Mary really needs many volunteers. There is a need for new Ushers (aka Greeters), Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Religious Education Teachers, St. Rocco Festival Volunteers, St. Vincent DePaul Committee Members, Bereavement Committee Members, Choir Members, Parish Visitors, and as volunteers for the Rock Youth Ministry. You will find a complete list of “Groups and Ministries” here at St. Mary Parish on our parish website: stmarysfranklin.org. Get involved! The gifts you get back are more numerous than the stars.

For those who are moving away or heading back to college; remember your Faith goes with you along with our love. Volunteering at your new parish and at your college or university is a great way to meet new friends. It builds on what you know; your Faith experience and it strengthens Faith and friendships. Please know you are always welcome here at St. Mary Parish. Visit often if you are moving away. If you are heading off to college, keep in touch and let us know when you will be home; we welcome you to serve at Mass during your trips home.

The best way to let us know that you are interested, willing and able to get involved is to e-mail us at parishpublishing@stmarysfranklin.org or by calling 508-528-0020. Training is provided for most positions.

Summer will soon end. That door will close. As the saying goes; “whenever God closes a door, He opens a window.” One such window that opens is the window for you to get involved; sing, read, teach, greet, pray, support and/or advise. Each and every one of these gifts you give is repaid in love. Our Faith journeys are paved with such love. The window is opening; come take a look!

...35 Years of Memories

(Continued from page 1)

into the night on Saturday trying to find suppliers that can provide food for sold out booths, so they can open again on Sunday. Last year, when bad weather had been predicted for days before the festival opened, he was calling to cut down on the amount of food that was due to be delivered. We had enough to sell but not much left over, in spite of the weather.

Vinnie DeBaggis I knew of long before I met him. He was a name I read in the newspaper and a face I saw in church. Vinnie was active in both town government and St. Mary’s Parish long before we moved into town.

As I got to know him, I realized not only how involved he was in so many groups and organizations in Franklin, but what a nice person he was.

He was always willing to chat, about the town, the parish and his family. As he talked about his family I could see

how much he loved them and how proud he was of the people they had become.

Sometimes, as we talked about events, or issues, we would agree to disagree. But that never affected his willingness to share ideas or opinions with me.

In January, Vinnie passed away. Vinnie’s name has appeared in every Rocco book as a volunteer. First as the chairman of the Italian Pastry booth with his wife, Alma. Then, in later years, as one of the co-chairmen of the festival.

This year, for the first time his name will be missing from that page. And this year, when I go over to the field to help set up our booth, something tangible will be missing. A friend.



Reading the Bible with Imagination

by Father Jack Sullivan

When I am walking along the sidewalk, I'm always respectful to runners. After all, runners are performing at a higher level of exertion. I step aside when I hear a runner behind me. Psalm 23 assures us: "only goodness and kindness follow me all the days of my life" (Psalm 23:6). A more precise translation of this verse of Hebrew poetry is: only goodness and love will pursue me all the days of my life. The ancient poet imagines God's gracious activity as movement. The psalmist is confident that God will draw near because that is God's way of relating to his creatures. An Advent prayer in the Roman Missal displays a similar imagery of movement: "May your grace, almighty God, always go before and follow after, so that we... may receive your help both now and in the life to come" (Advent 3, Friday). "By grace, we mean God's free, loving gift to us, his helping goodness... Grace is being looked upon by God, our being touched by his love" (Youcat, 338).

Friends, have you ever considered how much Jesus resembles a runner chasing after us every day? The Resurrection was a great evolutionary leap for Jesus. Jesus Christ, who is now and forever risen from the dead, resembles runners who perform at a superior level. At Christmas in the Liturgy of the Hours, the Catholic imagination reads Psalm 19:6 with reference to Jesus and rejoices in Jesus as an athlete who joyfully runs his course. As the mighty Savior, Jesus is always running after us so that he might offer us a share in his victory, that great evolutionary advance of risen life, the hope of dwelling in the house of the Lord forever.

The Catholic approach to the Bible includes an appreciation for the unity of the Old Testament and the New Testament and a recognition of the unity of the divine plan. Especially in the arrangement and celebration of the Liturgy, we rely upon Saint Augustine's saying: "the New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New" (Catechism, n. 129). In using the

Psalms for our meditation and prayer, we find that "...the Psalms are a mirror of God's marvelous deeds in the history of his people, as well as reflections of the human experience of the Psalmist" (Catechism, n. 2588). In the Book of Psalms "...God gives us words to speak to him, to place our lives before him, and thus to make life a path to God" (Verbum Domini, n. 24).

...Families Corner

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doing even when we don't understand. For those of us graduating high school and moving on to the next chapter, we need to believe that what happens next is part of a plan. If you are going on to college, even if it turns out not to be your first choice, know that you are meant to be there. Maybe it's where you're going to meet your future spouse or the professor who will inspire you in your career. If you are going into the workforce or the military, believe that you will be there for a reason, to accomplish something you may not even know yet.

Everything happens for a reason. We may not know what that reason is, but trust that God does.

Nativity Display

by Helen Brunelle

Our FOURTH ANNUAL NATIVITY DISPLAY will take place in Sacred Heart Hall after all Masses on Saturday, Nov. 30, and Sunday, Dec. 1, which is the First Sunday of Advent.

Help us kick off the holiday season by sharing your special Nativity set with the rest of the congregation.

We have space to display 25-30 Nativity scenes. The displays may be set up at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday and may be picked up between 1:00 and 1:30 p.m. on Sunday.

We would love to have you stand by your display during any or all of the viewings. However, we will provide con-

stant supervision throughout the entire event.

Previously we have featured hand-carved, handmade, and hand-painted Nativity scenes by parishioners, both young and old. We have viewed wonderful displays from Mexico, Bethlehem, France, Germany, and the Philippines, to name a few. Won't you consider sharing your special Nativity scene with us this year? It's a wonderful way to start the Christmas season. Watch the weekly church bulletin for more information. Pho-

tos of last year's Nativity Display may be found at www.stmarysfranklin.org/115.



Till We Have Faces...

(Continued from page 1)

Emmaus and to the guilty and confused on the sandy seashores of Galilee.

Our faces are complete when we have empathy with the plight of everyone we meet - without judgment. After all, God only judges us after we have completed our lives and have been transformed by our mistakes - even more than by our successes. It is only then that we see that He has created on us the "mirror of His Face."

Welcome Father Anthony Le

by Joan McGuire



This June we welcomed Father Anthony Le from the the combined parishes of St Brigid and Sacred Heart in Lexington here to St. Mary's. Just in time to get settled

and get ready to judge the chocolate cookie contest at St Rocco's festival.

He was born in Mo Duc, Vietnam, He was the youngest of a family of nine. As Catholic in a Communist controlled land he was not allowed to go to college after he finished high school. He worked to support his family and find a way to get out of his country. He escaped by boat in 1980 with thirteen other people, five adults and nine children. Because it was so

expensive to get a place on the boat, he was the only member of his family to leave Vietnam.

They were at sea for seventeen days. Ten of those days without food. They survived by drinking storm water. Ships past them and they were finally picked up by a Norwegian ship. He was taken temporarily to a refuge camp in Singapore and later went to Norway where he became a Norwegian citizen.

At last he was able to pursue his desire to become a priest. He was sent Rome for his studies. A bishop from Vietnam was a friend of Cardinal Law and recommended the seminarian Anthony Le to him. Cardinal Law was interested in providing spiritual help for the increasing population of Asians in his diocese and extended an invitation to the young seminarian to come to Boston. So the world traveler

arrived in Boston to add English to the plethora of other languages he spoke. After his ordination in 1999, he spent a short time at St Mary's in Brookline before he was sent back to Rome for two years to get his licentiate in biblical theology.

In 2001 he was assigned to St. Paul's in Hingham. In 2004 he was able to visit his brothers and sisters in Vietnam, 24 years after he escaped. His parents had already died in 1983 and 1984. In 2005 he was assigned to St. Ambrose in Dorchester to minister to Vietnamese, Spanish and English parishioners. From 2010-2013 he served in the combined parishes of St Brigid's and Sacred Heart. Many of the parishioners here at St Mary's have already mentioned his quick smile, his sense of humor and his friendly greeting. After all his life experiences Fr. Anthony says "life is too short not to be happy."

The Weave

St. Mary Parish Family
One Church Square
Franklin MA 02038

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