



The Weave

August 2009

Volume 13 Issue 4

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

Summer Fun

By Paula Coughlin

Not planning a vacation trip this summer? Looking for a fun family outing that doesn't have to cost a lot of money? The Feast of St. Rocco is the place to go!

For the 31st year, St. Mary's Parish will hold their St. Rocco Festival. This is a weekend celebration of food, fun and faith, a traditional North End-style Italian festival without having to travel into Boston.

All of the food booths are run by the parish and all proceeds go to the parish.

This year's festival begins on Sunday, August 9th with the Opening Mass at 10:30. On Saturday, August 15th, there is a Healing Mass with the Anointing of the Sick at 10am. The Closing Mass is held on Sunday, August 16th, at 10:30am followed by the procession of the statue of St. Rocco over to the festival grounds.

The field events begin on Thursday, August 13th and continue through Sunday, August 16th. During that weekend there is something for everyone.

There is entertainment on the bandstand throughout the festival. Bring up your lawn chair and sit in front of the bandstand and enjoy a great mix of music.

On Thursday, you can dance to the sound of the Bodacious Banana Extravaganza. Friday night, The Reminisants play a mix of music, with a concentration on 50s-60s music. During the day on Saturday and Sunday, there is a DJ on the bandstand. Saturday night features the band, Itamia, which has been playing at St. Rocco from the beginning. The Jerry Secco band will be playing Sunday night until the closing at 9pm.

Saturday afternoon we are having the annual Chocolate Chip Cookie Contest, sponsored by the Milford Daily News. If you have a favorite cookie recipe bake up a batch, and enter it in the contest. If you don't feel like baking come on down and watch the fun. There are usually samples available at the end of the contest.

For the kids we have a Reptile Show on Saturday afternoon. Kizzy the Clown will be strolling the grounds Saturday and Sunday, making balloon creations for the kids. Face Painting (or arms, knees, hands) is available for a nominal fee.

Food and ride prices are expected to remain the same as last year. Ride tickets can be purchased singly or in packets of 20, 30 and 55 tickets.

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Christ the Teacher

By Joan McGuire

God's plan for us was not based on a minimum performance ratio in which we check off rules to be obeyed or avoided; rather it is a call to an inclusive relationship of love. Considering our human frailties this seems an impossible achievement. Fortunately, God sent His Son to teach us the way by word and example and the Holy Spirit to continue to guide us along the way. Matthew tells us that Christ taught by parables and, in true Middle Eastern style, rarely ever answered a direct question.

Why the Parables? Story telling is a common teaching method in the East. The use of stories opens our minds to new ideas and helps us to avoid rigidity in judgment. We sometimes forget that a point of view is also a view from only one point and therefore is biased. The parables are allegories that challenge us to take on the persona of the people in the story and see events and reaction to events from different points of view. Jesus tries to get us off balance, diminish our false egos as to what is absolutely the only right way, and to think outside the box.

The more one studies the parables the more they can be categorized into the different messages. Here are only a few examples:

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The St. Mary Parish Council Providing Leadership to Footsteps: Walking Together with Christ and Each Other to Build a Stronger St. Mary Parish.

By John Ristaino

In the Autumn of 2008, St. Mary Parish launched a series of initiatives under the umbrella of "Footsteps: Walking together with Christ and each other to build a stronger St. Mary Parish." This series of initiatives was started as the result of the St. Mary Parish Survey taken in May 2008. Over the past few months you have seen the results of several of these initiatives. You will see and hear about more results in the near future. The purpose of all these initiatives is to build a stronger St. Mary Parish community.

You may be asking; "Who are the members of the St. Mary Parish Council?" Twelve parishioners currently make up the St. Mary Parish Council. They are; Dolores Brunelli, Pandora Carlucci, Bob Crowley, Faith Flaherty, Frank Fiorillo, Sheila Hooper, Anne King, Joan McGuire, Pat Netto, John Ristaino, John St. Martin and Dot Steeves. These individuals have successfully implemented many of the suggestions made in the survey and will continue to work on leading efforts which will build a stronger St. Mary Parish Community.

St. Mary Parish is a vibrant and strong faith community with a wide variety of members, resources, talents and needs. God, the Church, and prayers remind us that we are a pilgrim church here on earth. As such, we journey with Christ. We walk with him to strengthen our faith, increase our love for our

neighbors and to foster faith in our ever growing parish family.

Many of the suggestions for improvements you made have been addressed. Looking back, here are some of the Footsteps we have already taken to build a stronger St. Mary Parish Community. We have patched and painted the interior of the upstairs church. Railings were installed in the upstairs sanctuary to make it easier to climb the stairs for those who need support in doing so. The parish website was revitalized (If you haven't checked it out recently, you should do so: www.stmarysfranklin.org). Notice of the St. Mary Parish Council meetings are posted in the bulletin and parishioners are invited to attend. Summaries of the St. Mary Parish Council meetings are posted on the St. Mary Parish web-site. The *Arise* Program is alive and thriving in providing religious and faith education to our parishioners (Season 3 is gearing up, watch for details in September). Last Christmas we celebrated with the first Midnight Mass in over 30 years. We are beginning a job/employment network to assist the unemployed.

In the coming months you will see us building on our Parish successes and addressing our needs. You will see the very successful Youth Mass built upon and expanded. We are a very busy and active parish. You will see us examine and take action on the limited meeting space we currently have. The Sanctuary in the upper Church will be revitalized. The Mass schedule will be revamped to allow more parishioners to actively attend Mass. Hospitality events will be started in an effort to unite us as a community. Music at the Masses will be examined. *Arise* will continue to be our adult education program.

Please look in the Weekly Parish Bulletin under the banner "Footsteps." This will be where your suggestions for improvement will be celebrated and success towards those ideas reported. It will also be the banner under which requests for additional suggestions and assistance will be sought.

Our first larger initiative will be to exam-

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Families' Corner

By Katherine Ginnetty

One of our traditions at St. Mary's Parish is the Baccalaureate Mass held every June, in which parishioners come together to pray for the graduating high school seniors in our community. Many of them arrive for the Mass in colorful caps and gowns representing the various high schools they attend. Every year one of the seniors prepares a short sermon for the event, sharing his or her thoughts on faith with members of the graduating classes and the congregation in attendance. This year, Patrick Slight delivered the speech, which is reprinted here for everyone to read.

And you all thought you were out of here after the closing prayer.....now you have to listen to me for 45 minutes...I'm kidding....only 35

When thinking back in my life from a religious stand point as well as from a regular stand point the one theme that continues to occur to me is faith. One of the most important aspects in life to is being able to believe in something; for us that most likely means God, for others it may be different. It's not important what it is you believe as long as you have faith and believe in something. Its so important because no matter what God is always going to be on your side, and we have all had bad days where nothing goes right and we have all asked for God's help because we believe. There will be days in the future where we may need help and we have something to believe in but, there may days where everything we wanted and needed has come to fruition. We have to thank God, because yes he likes to here he's done good once in awhile.

Something equally as important, however, is believing in yourself. Before you have faith in anything else you have to have faith in yourself. Everyone in this building is capable of greatness but that can not be achieved unless you believe deep down that you can actually do it.

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The Weave



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Reflections from Father Brian

By Fr. Brian Manning

The sense of community and faith of Saint Mary's Franklin are well known throughout the Archdiocese by clergy and lay people. When I was asked to come to Saint Mary's, I already knew about this wonderful Parish. My "Yes" was made with great joy and a deep sense of honor to be asked to be pastor here. As an experienced and senior (only slightly!) pastor, I have found in my initial weeks that Saint Mary's is a parish filled with extraordinary people living a life of faith and service. As the days progress I come to witness, be part of and lead this community seeking "the Way of the Lord."

In listening to many people, with prayer and reflection I have come to appreciate the great strengths of our Parish and hope that I will be able to lead our parish to continue living this life of faith.

Our Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) and Parish Finance Council (PFC) have met with me and are already assisting me with prayerful and practical advice. The many working committees of our Parish are about the work of our life together. I thank the PPC, the PFC and the many committees for their sensitive, caring and faithful work. I look forward to their continued involvement and assistance. The PPC and the PFC, along with many Parishioners, have told me of particular needs that should be addressed in the beginning of my, hopefully long, tenure. While the PPC will be beginning the task of shaping and forming a long-term vision of our Mission for the Parish in the Fall, we do need to address some ways of living our faith today.

A major practical principle that I value and use comes from the following question: "What is for the greater good of all, or almost all, the Parish or Parishioners?" Oftentimes, people, both lay and clergy, see things in terms of only themselves or a very few, and want to think it is for the good of all. Oftentimes parishioners think or say "Father Brian likes, or dislikes something" because our Parish has it,

or does not. This is not true. What is for the greater good of the Parish determines our Parish life. This is similar to parents and their families. How often have you experienced this in family life? There can be an inappropriate selfishness that harms everyone else. Also, I use the value that "if you do things in the same way with the same results" and if everything is good, then continue, if the results are poor or horrible, then change. Sometimes you change the way you are doing things and sometimes you add or change the leadership. I have asked some Parish groups "to stop blaming others" and look at what they do in light of this principle.

Our Saturday/Sunday Mass schedule needs to reflect the needs of the greater population of our Parishioners. It is obvious it does not. At present, we are working on the following possible, and most likely as this article is written, changes. The new schedule would be: Saturday 4 PM, Sunday 7:30 AM, 9 AM (with a separated Liturgy of the Word for young Children), 10:30 AM, Noon and a 5 PM Contemporary Music Youth Mass welcoming all ages. This change would take place in the Fall. The change date is not yet determined.

We need to address "meeting space" for our Parish groups. We are planning to take the back 25 feet of the lower Church and create a large meeting room there, along with the "bull pen" becoming a room. We would then close the Olive Branch. This change in space for the lower Church would still allow daily Mass and small groups up to 150 or so. The expenditure would be significant, but until we determine the long term needs and plan of our Parish, this would be a modest, practical and effective route to go.

Fall comes quickly. My God, June is near its end as I write this. I hope that this article helps you to understand

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View From the Pew

By Joan McGuire

Garden of Love

As I looked out at my garden through raindrops that have been falling regularly for the last two weeks, I am amazed at the unruly height of my usually well behaved garden. It is a clear lesson that too much of a good thing can cause havoc. Various plants that usually bloom in succession are blooming simultaneously.

Even though it is a little early in the season, I am taking time to sit in my enclosed breezeway with a cup of coffee to enjoy the vibrant palate of color that splashes across my back yard. Some years ago Madeleine Faenza and I took The Massachusetts Garden Tour and visited several formal rose gardens. Although they were lovely I much preferred gardens with exciting variety both in the flowers and in the landscape arrangement.

Christ was an itinerant preacher. He preached sitting on rocks, under trees, and standing in meadows. When I visited the Holy Land and stopped at these sites, I was impressed at the lush fields of red, yellow, blue, purple and white wild flowers waving in the breeze.

We are all the flowers in God's garden. Some of us serve as Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Ushers, choir members and members of the Altar Society. Others teach religious education, work with St Vincent DePaul ministry and help at St. Rocco's Festival. We serve as bereavement ministers, drivers for those who need transportation, and cooks who arrive at the homes of the sick with delicious nourishing meals.

Some are high profile flowers some are accent flowers and some are foliage. They are all important for the perfection of His garden. I promised myself that I will take time to appreciate and celebrate the individuality and variety of talents of all God's children. Will you join me?



Mark Your Parish Calendar

- Aug. 9** Opening Mass of the Feast of Saint Rocco 10:30am
- Aug. 10** Respect Life meeting
- Aug. 11** St. Vincent de Paul meeting
- Aug. 13** Feast of St. Rocco
Rides and midway open
Limited food booths open
- Aug. 14** Feast of Saint Rocco
All food booths and rides open; entertainment begins: 6pm
- Aug. 15** Feast of Saint Rocco
Anointing Mass and Sacrament of the Sick, 10am on the festival grounds
All Food booths and rides open, entertainment begins 11am
- Aug. 16** Feast of Saint Rocco
Closing Mass and Procession 10:30am
All Food booths and rides open, entertainment begins: noon
Raffle drawings: 9pm
- Aug. 23** Baptisms
- Aug. 23** Youth Mass
- Aug. 25** Mass at nursing home
- Aug. 25** Grade 1 Religious Ed registration 9am-3pm; 6-8pm
- Aug. 26** Grade 1 Religious Ed registration 9am-3pm; 6-8pm
- Aug. 30** Baptisms
- Sept. 11** Mass at Forge Hill
- Sept. 13** Baptisms
- Sept. 14** Confirmation practice
- Sept. 15** Confirmation practice
- Sept. 17** CWC Opening Mass 7pm
- Sept. 19** Confirmation 10am & 1pm
- Sept. 20** Confirmation 2pm & 5pm
- Sept. 22** Mass at nursing home
- Sept. 27** PPC Meeting 3pm
- Oct. 4** Baptisms
- Oct. 9** Mass at Forge Hill
- Oct. 10** CWC Bake Sale
- Oct. 11** CWC Bake Sale
- Oct. 11** Baptisms
- Oct. 15** CWC Meeting
- Oct. 18** Catechesis
- Oct. 18** Baptisms
- Oct. 25** Baptisms
- Oct. 27** Mass at nursing home
- Nov. 1** Baptisms
- Nov. 8** Baptisms
- Nov. 13** Mass at Forge Hill
- Nov. 15** Baptisms
- Nov. 19** CWC Meeting
- Nov. 22** Baptisms

Book Review



same kind of different as me,
Ron Hall & Denver Moore
with Lynn Vincent, Thomas Nelson

Again, a parishioner has steered me to a very touching story. Although she didn't suggest that I review it for the *Weave*, she assured me *same kind of different as me* is indeed a true, spiritual story, and so I concluded that she thought it a good choice for our newsletter.

This book is the story of an unlikely friendship between Denver Moore, a modern-day slave, who has become a homeless drifter, and Ron Hall, a wealthy international art dealer. It is also the story of a beautiful Christian woman, Deborah Hall, Ron's wife, who was responsible for bringing about that friendship. Deborah was inspired by Ecclesiastes 9 – 15. "But in the city lived a man who, though poor,

was wise, and he delivered it through his wisdom. . . ."

Denver came reluctantly to the friendship. His explanation was that he had been intrigued by the white man catching a fish and releasing it while the black man catching a fish showed it to all his friends and then took it home, cooked and ate it. Denver wondered if the white man did the same with friendships. This charm and wisdom of a man who experienced no formal education whatsoever is only one of many examples throughout the book. The story is one that emphasizes that each person is important.

The format of the book is unique. Chapters alternate between the voices of Ron and Denver. The friends first inform the reader of their backgrounds and then comment on the experiences they share. The reader gains the different perspective of each for the same situation. In the back of the book, a reader's guide is supplied making this book useful for book clubs or other discussion groups.

Have you been wondering about the strange title of this book? Perhaps, these concluding words by Denver will explain.

Even though I'm almost seventy years old, I got a lot to learn, too. I used to spend a lotta time worryin that I was different from other people, even from other homeless folks. Then, after I met Miss Debbie and Mr. Ron, I worried that I was so different from them that we wadn't ever gon' have no kind a' future. But I found out everybody's different – the same kind of different as me. We're all just regular folks walkin down the road God done set in front of us.

I found this story sad, funny, instructive and inspirational. Both the Olive Branch and the Franklin Public Library have copies in their collection.

Clara Lodi

...Christ

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Good Samaritan - the good people are not always as good as they seem but have great excuses (Priest and the Levite) and the unacceptable does good even if it is not appreciated (Samaritan). The Prodigal Son - the elder son who always did everything right for the wrong reason, the younger son who made mistakes, was sorry, and trusted his father and, of course, the magnanimousness of the father. (Luke 15) Henri Nouwen the great Dutch spiritual writer claimed that all of our relationship with God is contained in that parable.

The Lost and Found Themes - In these parables people lose things, search for them and rejoice when found - the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin (Luke, 1 Matt 18)

Growth and Slow Transformation - The mustard seed, the yeast hidden in bread, (Luke 13) are but a few.

Matthew and Luke are particularly rich sources of the parables. If you can make the time in the summer, read, reread and think about them each time you read a parable you can find a new message directly from Jesus to you.



Holistic First Aid

By Nan Rafter, Parish Nurse

Summer has finally arrived, and with more outside activities planned, it is important to prepare for unexpected emergencies. However have you ever thought of other situations in need of "first aid." How do we also prepare for emotional and spiritual emergencies or "accident" prevention?

First Aid and the Physical Dimension:

When we think about first aid, we usually consider treatment of injuries and accident prevention for our bodies. Taking care of our bodies is grounded in our relationship with God. "For you created my innermost being, I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made." Ps.139:13-14) We can care for our bodies by making sure our homes have a well supplied first aid kit. You can buy one or assemble one yourself. It should include: Hand cleaner, antiseptic solution, antibiotic ointment, Q-tips, scissors, tweezers, various sized Band-Aids, gauze pads and bandages, tape and butterfly closures. It is important to include cold packs, a small ace wrap, gloves, a mask, plastic bags along with Benadryl, pain relievers (aspirin, Tylenol for adults and liquid for children, syrup of Ipecac and poison control information. I usually keep a "mini" kit in my car.

First Aid and the Emotional/Relational Dimension

First aid and accident prevention is also needed in our emotional and relational lives. St. Paul provides this "prescription" for our relationships...*Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves, be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.* (Rom.12:9-18)

We are called to care for God's people who are in need, practice hospitality, rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn, live in harmony and be at peace with everyone (Many times difficult to do).

First Aid and the Spiritual Dimension

As children of God we also need "first aid and accident prevention" in our spiritual life. First, to cleanse our wounds, we need confession or reconciliation. The sacrament of reconciliation is a healing balm for our soul. The sacrament of the sick unites the one who is sick with the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus so that the sick may know the healing presence and love of Christ, be strengthened in faith and be supported by the church. This sacrament may be given at the beginning of an illness or prior to surgery. It may be repeated during a long illness or given to the elderly to ease everyday challenges. *Is anyone among you suffer-*

ing? Let him pray. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. (James. 5:13-14)

St Rocco is known for healing the sick. Every year during the festival, our priests celebrate a Mass for healing and offer the sacrament of the sick to those in need. This special Mass will be celebrated at the festival field on August 15 at 10:00 A.M. As this summer continues, take the time to prepare your first-aid kit so you will have a safe, healthy and peaceful season.

...Footsteps

(Continued from page 2)

ine how our celebration of the liturgy might be enhanced. Many suggestions were made about how we might go about accomplishing this worthy ideal. The areas under which most of the suggestions fall are: times of the Mass, music at the Mass, and audience specific Masses (i.e. Children's Liturgy, Youth Mass, etc). Beginning in June 2009 a team of parishioners was organized to lead the initiative to examine how we might enhance these areas of our liturgical celebrations. Currently Celeste Johnson, Deidre Doherty, Karen Tardif, Tara Rhotagi, Denise Hurdelbrink, Nan Rafter, Drina Menard, Marty Dietrich, Pat Netto, Tom Duval, Sarah Drake, Joan McGuire, Katie McNeice, and John Ristaino are working on these initiatives. Working closely with Father Brian and Father Frank, this team will be announcing their ideas and plans in the very near future. Autumn 2009 will be a very exciting time to be part of the St. Mary Parish Community.

Our parish enjoys a beautiful church structure. Its presence and its shelter has impacted us at daily and weekly Mass. It has hosted our Holy Day and sacramental celebrations. It has also been the place we come to mourn our dead and to find comfort from the storms of life. You passed along many suggestions about how to improve our beautiful church building. These thoughts along with the suggestions of providing opportunities to socialize

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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 and rectory staff:

Father Brian Manning: bmannings@stmarysfranklin.org

Father Frank Campo: fcampo@stmarysfranklin.org

Paula Coughlin: parishpublishing@stmarysfranklin.org

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, rectory or school, for your meetings, events, etc. it is very important 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.

Personality Profile - Eleanor Prindeville

This is the first in an annual series profiling various St. Rocco volunteers.

By Annmarie Prindeville

Eleanor Prindeville started volunteering at St. Rocco's Italian festival thirty years ago this August. Initially she spent time at the hamburger and hot dog booth. She really didn't enjoy that too much. The next year she got recruited by Jeannie Gately for the manicotti booth and within a year she found herself totally in charge. Over the years the manicotti booth's menu has grown to include other things such as chicken and eggplant parmesan, sausages and of course, everyone's favorite, manicotti. To help with the demand for the best food during St. Rocco's, Eleanor has worked hard to maintain her volunteers. It is a family oriented booth including her children and grandchildren who have also worked for many years

together. Eleanor begins recruiting her volunteers as early as June, not an easy task. Most people are thrilled to work with her and many return year after year. She shows her appreciation and gratitude by personal thanks, by phone, or mail to all that have helped in her booth.

During the entire festival, Eleanor can be found in her booth, never wanting to leave and go home, always making sure her volunteers are comfortable and there is enough food in case there is a "rush of people," because the lines at her booth are the longest at St. Rocco. In addition



Eleanor Prindeville

tion to devoting her entire weekend at her booth, Eleanor stays up late washing all the aprons she provides and spends a lot of time untangling the strings. Over all the years, Eleanor has never complained about devoting her entire weekend at St. Rocco's, in fact she looks forward to it. She states, "It's a great chance to help out and socialize with the many friends I have made."

Over thirty years, there have been many changes, people come and go, food menus change, memories made, but the constant is Eleanor in the manicotti booth with her family, friends and the wooden sauce stirring stick her husband created for her many years ago...Thanks Mom...

...Summer Fun

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Wristbands that allow an individual to ride all the rides for \$18 are available on Thursday night from 6-10pm, Saturday afternoon from 11am-3pm or Sunday from noon to 3pm. Wristbands are good only on the day purchased. Ticket packets can be used throughout the weekend.

For many people the food booths are the highlight of the festival. On Thursday night the only booths open are the Pizza and Hamburger and Hot Dog booths.

Friday night all the food booths open. There is a wide variety of choices available. There are many inexpensive options, especially for kids. Pizza slices, hot dogs, burgers, fries and onion rings are all available for \$3.00 or less each. The fries and onion rings are large enough to share. There is a Rocco dinner available that is made for sharing. It has chicken fingers, an ear of corn and fries or onion rings. Whole pizzas with a variety of toppings are available for \$9.

Almost everything else on the field is available for \$7 or less (fried clams are

\$8) and most are less than \$6. There are dining tents with tables and chairs for those who want to sit and enjoy their dinner and listen to the music.

There is also plenty of "walking around" food. We have everything from clam cakes and fried clams and scallops to Italian pastries like cannoli and lobster tails. Fried dough is always a favorite and last year's big hit was the Poco Platter with chicken fingers, mozzarella sticks and toasted ravioli.

All the traditional Italian favorites are available; including subs of all kinds, manicotti, eggplant and chicken parm. The Italian tomato salad, available in a cup, or over pasta is always a sell-out. Don't wait until Sunday for this taste treat.

For those who think late morning is too early for a big meal there is always "Breakfast at Rocco." Head over to the Belgian Waffle booth and pick up a waffle covered in peaches or strawberries and topped with whipped cream. Add a beverage and enjoy a great breakfast for \$5 or less!

Whether you come up for the entertainment and the socializing or to enjoy some great food, there's something for everyone at a price that won't break the bank at the Feast of St. Rocco.



...Footsteps

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will be addressed by a team of parishioners which include; John Carroll, Joan McGuire, Deidre Doherty, Pandora Carlucci and Helen Brunelle.

You communicated in the survey many additional areas which might be enhanced. This group of initiatives, spelled out above, is the first set of ideas to be examined. The current St. Mary Parish Council will be meeting in September to set their goals for 2009/2010. Your suggestions as well as other areas will be considered as we move forward on this wonderful journey with Christ to build a stronger St. Mary Parish. Please look for the "Footsteps" banner in the Weekly Bulletin and in The Weave. This is where you will find what has been done, what is being planned and how you can help.



Three Weeks at Saint Mary's

By Father Frank Campo

The late Giaconda "Jackie" Cataldo observed there is no better place to live than Franklin; and there is no better church anywhere than St. Mary's, save for St. Peter's in Rome. Jackie, a daily communicant and one of the matriarchs of Franklin, was a very convincing woman.

When I first arrived in Franklin, and was driving down Main Street to meet with the Pastor, Father Brian Manning on Memorial Day, I noticed immediately the statue of St. Therese of Lisieux in front of St. Mary's. I then knew that St. Therese had been very active in my being assigned here.

St. Mary's parishioners form a true parish family: active; committed, faithful to the Church's liturgy, welcoming, emanating Christian graciousness and joy at its finest. Whether it be a delicious dish

of trippa (tripe) arriving at the parish, or an array of other kind gestures, or the draw of upcoming St. Rocco's festivities....Jackie Cataldo's observation, that Franklin is a gem of a town and St. Mary's a jewel of a Church, becomes more and more convincing.

Moreover, in addition, both Father Brian Manning and I are discovering the extended St. Mary's parish family by becoming a part of the Franklin community through our pastoral presences: attending a rally for Cancer Survivors recently; visiting the Olive Branch, the Catholic Information Center, nursing homes such as Forge Hill; the new Senior Center across from St. Mary's; the graduation festivities at Franklin High School; visiting parishioners at Milford Hospital and Leonard Morse hospital in Natick...in sum, by being readily available to the St. Mary's Parish family in whatever the situation calls for.

...Fr. Brian

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that our Parish is a center of faith to thousands of people. We are a community of many, many hundreds (literally over 1000) of committed people in the service of the Lord. We are blessed with the great Festival of Saint Rocco. We are blessed by dedicated Religious Education leaders and catechists, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, Mass Servers, Choir Members, Home Bound and Hospital Visitors, Bereavement Ministers, St. Matthew Society, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Youth Service and Youth Program leaders, and on and on. Our Pastoral, Professional and Support staff are about caring for and helping this be a community of deep faith and life.

Father Brian



...Families Corner

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Leaving here will provide us with many opportunities and with those opportunities come temptations. It is important to remember who you are, where you from and what you stand for. We have all had morals instilled in us whether they be our times at CCD classes or just life lessons. We are capable of doing the right thing, the only thing left to do is follow through. Its important to remember the sacrifices people have made for us. And when we have bad days its important to remember the one Guy who had a worse Friday then any day any one of us will ever have. He did that for us, so that we be free and forgiven.

We have all made mistakes and we will all make mistakes again probably more than we would like to but it is important to remember all you have to do is ask and you're forgiven. No matter what you do God is by your side. With these mistakes we will most likely harm someone or something and it is important to seek forgiveness for these acts as well. Keeping this in mind, we have an obligation as Catholics to forgive people who have trespassed against us. We tend to forget

this sometimes but we need to realize just as we make mistakes so do others. Holding resentment against them really truly only hurts us so its important to forgive and move on.

People will remember you for how you make them feel. Take the morals you have been given and be the best possible Catholic you can be; but most of all be the best possible person you can be.

Your destiny is not by chance it's by choice, seize every moment you're given and be thankful for it. Believe in yourself and achieve what you desire.

I was looking for a quote to be able to close this off. I thought of things people had said to me that had impacted me and nothing really seemed to stand out. I had been looking through some of my books and came across one written by one of the greatest authors of our time, who brings his characters to life and is able to teach such valuable lessons without us even realizing it. The author, of course, is Dr. Seuss.

*"You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.*

*You can steer yourself in any direction you choose.
You're on your own.
And you know what you know.
You are the guy who'll decide where to go."*

We have been given the basic skills and faith needed to survive now it is up to us what we do with it. One of God's many gifts to us was free will and with that free will comes choices. Each one of us has to choose what is right for us and we control our own destiny.

We may all be from different school but we do have one thing in common....as the class of 2009 we are the greatest class to ever grace this church and town. So do yourself and this great town of Franklin proud.

Remember who you are, remember where you're from...dream big, have faith and believe in yourself and achieve what you desire and most of all be happy with yourself in whatever you choose to do.

I thank you and God bless.



Welcome Father Frank Campo

By Joan McGuire

Recently ordained Father Frank D. Campo, an Alumni of Blessed John XXXIII has been assigned to our parish. He was born and attended school in his native Pennsylvania. He was one of five children born to Lee Butera Campo and the late William Campo. His brother William and sisters Bruna and Virginia are deceased, and his sister Sylvia lives in Toronto, Canada. He graduated from Indiana University in Pennsylvania with a BA in Music and New York University, N.Y. with a MA. in English Literature. Fr Frank has had vast career experiences as a writer, a teacher and a restaurateur. It was at Ricardo's restaurant in Georgia that he met his wife Judith Sirmans. After their marriage they moved to New York and both continued their writing careers, Judy was a convert to Catholicism and as frequently happens when one makes such an important conscious choice, her questioning led to a deepening of both their spiritual lives. This was a great grace as they had to face the trial of her life threaten-

ing disease. After an intercessory visit to the shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on 116th St. in New York, (known as the Lourdes of NY for the cures attributed to Our Lady there) and with a prognosis for Judy of six months to live, they moved to a house that they had previously procured in Chartres, France where she could go to Curie Hospital in Paris for treatment. They had three more years together before she went home to God.

The years that followed Judy's death were filled with professional writing and teaching. He worked as a volunteer with the Little Sisters of the Poor and became a third order Carmelite. These were the spiritual building blocks that prepared Fr Frank for a further commitment to God. Driving a friend to Blessed John XXIII Seminary set the spiritual wheels in motion and eventually led to his study for the priesthood.

Besides his devotion to St. Padre Pio, St. Therese of Liseux and St. Joseph, three people have had a lasting impres-

sion on his priestly development. When his wife was dying at the Curie Hospital in Paris, he was looking for a priest to give her the Sacrament of the Sick He went to two churches and no priest was available. At the third parish the house-keeper said that the priest was having a meeting with some important people but she would give him the message. When Fr Michel Leroux got the message, he excused himself from the auspicious group and immediately accompanied a sorrowing husband to his wife's bedside at Curie Hospital to care for a dying woman whom he did not know simply because she asked for a priest. Sister Albertina Parma M.D., a surgeon and sister of the Divine Master who was working at the Regina Cleri in Boston made a great impression by her compassion to the sick. The third was Fr. Joseph Fagan member of the St James Society and his spiritual director.

The example of these three people, as well as many others along the way, was influential in developing the vision of his priestly role. It can be summed up in a three word motto:

Presence, Availability, Compassion

The Weave

St. Mary Parish Family
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