

Our Family News

St. William Catholic Church ~ Champion, Ohio
Third Edition Volume 2 October 2015



Papal Visit 2015 ~ Philadelphia

By Cathy Poponak

How privileged we are to live in the United States of America with freedom to worship as we so choose. The city of brotherly love was a shining example of that freedom by hosting the World Meeting of Families, welcoming Pope Francis and his millions of faithful. St. William parishioners exercised that freedom by taking part in the pre-liturgical procession and Mass with His Holiness Pope Francis as Celebrant and Homilist in Philadelphia.

We were graced to find ourselves standing less than 25 feet away

from Pope Francis during the procession. His vehicle stopped directly in front of us to allow the Pope to kiss some babies. A baby girl being held by her father was very near us. She was chosen to be kissed. After the Pope kissed her, security handed the baby to us, and we passed her back to her father. Imagine the blessing we felt to be able to touch this precious child.

During his homily, Pope Francis talked about the simple acts of kindness that are so important to family life, like preparing a warm meal, or a hug for a loved one



returning home from work. He asked us if there was shouting in our homes, or do we speak to each other with love and tenderness. He said these simple acts of kindness in
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Papal Visit 1979

by Dorothy Sauer

In October 1979 Pope John Paul II visited Washington, D.C. His schedule included a luncheon at the White House (the first ever Pope to visit the White House) and a Mass on The Mall. On the spur-of-the-moment Bill and I decided to take advantage of the opportunity to see a Pope.

As we were approaching Washington International Airport, our pilot announced that landing would be delayed as the plane carrying the Pope was in front of us and "the Pope has precedence."

It was a beautiful sunny day. We were a short distance from the White House. There was minimal security, compared to today's restrictions. As the "Popemobile" came abreast of us, the Pope was standing, smiling and waving. (This was before the "Popemobile" was encased in a dome for security reasons.) In his white garments in the bright sunshine he actually seemed to glow (an emanation?). I felt a
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In Memoriam 2015

Elizabeth Petrosky
Richard Senkowitz
John Valentino
Carol Potts
Joseph Musick, Sr
James Guzan
Gerald Jackson
Helen Liepold
Margaret Nolfi
Mary Ann Lanahan
Rosaline Ianaro
Mabel Runtus

Baptisms 2015

Kaidan Elizabeth Horm
Savanna Star Wright
Vincent Daniel Wright
Abigail Grace Potts
Allison Faith Potts
Jacob Thomas Potts
Ian Ross Patterson

Adult Baptisms 2015

Kenneth Haynie
Jessica Dean

Weddings 2015

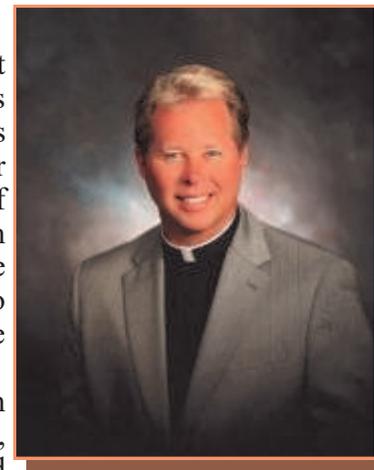
Johnathan & Amber
(Russomanno) Poponak
Nicholas & Jessica
(Dean) Lucanski
Nicholas & Sarah
(Baker) Gromek
Andrew & Kerry
(Cunningham) Kiepper

....from the Pastor

Welcome to the Season of Harvest! It is hard to believe that the calendar has turned to October and with it our leaves and landscape are getting ready for their winter sleep. It is a wonderful time of year as God splashes our horizon with bright reds, yellows and browns. The crisp air and bright sunshine beckons us to enjoy these last days of warmth and blue skies.

It is an enthusiastic time of year with footballs flying, pumpkins being carved, apples being bobbed. Soon ghosts and goblins will be roaming about on All Hallows Eve and in the Church we will honor the saints living and dead. November will begin with the Feast of All Saints, followed by the Feast of All Souls – a day to remember and reverence our loved ones who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith and who are now enjoying their eternal reward in the presence of the Lord. November will end with all of us gathering around our tables to offer “thanks” for the goodness of God in our lives and from our “thanksgiving” we will enter into our season of waiting and preparation for the coming of the Lord into our midst.

Advent begins on Sunday, November 29th and marks our immediate preparation for the celebration of the Lord’s coming. This year our parish theme for Advent will be “*Waiting in Darkness.*” It is an appropriate theme for us to embrace, especially as Black Friday sales and Cyber Monday purchases seem to be more familiar indications of Christ’s coming than Advent wreaths and penance services. This year we, as a parish, will hope to value the darkness of Advent – a time to acknowledge and appreciate the darkness around us and within us –the shorter days, colder nights, and quieter times – as well as the darkness that leads us to God. The Church will be pausing and inviting us to do the same. As a parish, we hope to focus on the darkness of our sins, our frustrations, our hopes, so that as Christmas arrives we will be more able to celebrate and be filled with the light of Christ’s glory. Advent is a time of promise; it is not yet the time of fulfillment! Fulfillment comes with Christ’s birth, with the light of Christmas and the joy of the Savior and Messiah living in our world. Fitting in time to be quiet and reflect in Advent may seem to be a luxury amidst the busyness of our lives and so each week our liturgy will invite us to “rest” rather than “rush” – to be quiet and reflect on where we are and where we need to go in our lives. May this coming Advent be a time for each of us to *wait in darkness* so that on Christmas we might more fully enjoy God’s light in our lives.



Father Balash



“–it’s a great social event for our church and the surrounding community.”

~Therese Tuttle, *Women’s Guild*, p.6



Spotlight On...

By Incognito

The spotlight is on the Mackiewicz family. Ed, Amy, and Mia Mackiewicz are our featured family for the Fall 2015 newsletter. This young, dynamic family is a regular sight at St. William. Unlike many of us, the Mackiewicz's like to switch up which Mass they attend and cannot be labeled a 5:00, 8:30, or 11:00 family.

Amy was born in 1988, at TMH in Warren, to Thomas and Theresa Weeks, who are also parishioners. With her brother Sam, a Cantor at all Masses, and her aunt, who is none other than Pat Maciejewski,

it's easy to say that Amy has strong ties to St. William. A Registered Nurse at Akron General Hospital, she is profoundly aware of God's role in her life and the lives she serves and protects. To her, it is imperative that her faith comes first, and that faith must be

Ed and Amy together was their faith. While holding Amy's hand, Ed told me, "We knew we were going to spend our lives together and our faith helps cement us together." The couple has attended regularly at St. William for the last five years and has participated as confirmation team assistants during that time.

"The world is too busy! Church for many people is an afterthought if time just happens to be available. People don't have a connection to anything significant. Our children will be firmly grounded in the church," stated Amy. Living as an example to others, Ed and Amy have indeed stood firm to their convictions and have brought their daughter, Mia, to Mass since the moment of her birth.



Mia was born in 2014 in Akron General Hospital and is a beautiful addition to the Mackiewicz family, as well as a blessing to her St. William family.

For a family that, "Didn't have anything interesting to say" about themselves, our time together in the interview passed by far too quickly. I found that the hour I spent with the Mackiewicz family was thoroughly enjoyable. I can attest to their friendliness. Next time you see them, say "Hi!" One of the things that brought

Kyrie Eleison

By Gloria Alden

My father always said
one could travel the earth
and the language of The Church
was constant whether
Rome or Jerusalem,
opulent St. Peter's
or humble Bethlehem,
and his world was secure
in knowing that.
Kyrie Eleison

He traveled through books and dreams
yet never heard Dominus Vobiscum
in Czechoslovakia, land of his father,
or in Spain or Greece. If he had
he would have understood
and there was comfort
in knowing that.
Christi Eleison

Now The Church speaks in tongues
gone the Latin; Gregorian chants
gone old women in babushkas
rosaries in work worn hands
whose only jewels
from stained glass windows,
gone incense filling air
with pungent piety
gone with my father's youth.
Kyrie Eleison

"A family is a little world created by love."

~unknown

Knights of Columbus

by Ed Runyan

Brian McCue first became grand knight of Knights of Columbus Council 7491, which meets at St. William Parish, during the 1992-1993 year, when he was only in his twenties. He also became grand knight, the top leadership position, a second time last summer. He is currently treasurer.

Involvement and leadership in the Knights for so many years has given him a great view of how the organization of Catholic gentlemen has impacted the community it serves and the hearts and minds of the men involved.

When asked recently what the Knights of Columbus means to him, Brian said, "As a Knight, you are part of a unique 'band of brothers' who share values and have the support to live out our Catholic faith more fully and the ability to accomplish things together that one could not accomplish alone.

A man who becomes a Knight has the opportunity to grow in his faith through the many programs and resources and, more importantly, to live out his faith through service to God and neighbor."

Among the topics discussed at twice-monthly meetings at St. William Parish, is the group's calendar of events, which includes fundraisers like reverse raffles, breakfasts for graduating seniors and military veterans, and where our help is needed around the Parish. For instance cleaning up after rummage sales and craft shows, parking cars at trunk sales, and helping with the parish picnics.

"As a leader in our council for more than 20 years, I have personally found it rewarding to organize projects and guide our Catholic men," Brian said. "It is rewarding for me to watch them become fully engaged in what we do and to see them find happiness and pride in the programs we complete. I have found that some are looking for ways to help out, and becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus has proven to be the way for them to accomplish that."



The Knights of Columbus was founded in New Haven, Conn., in 1882 with a vow to be defenders of their country, their families and their faith. It is a values-driven organization deeply rooted in the tradition of

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To Me, God is...

By Lynn Valentino

On my way down the road the other day, I saw a rainbow off to my left. I had just left 5:00 Mass, and that rainbow got me thinking about the magnificence of God's creations. That, in turn, got me thinking of the view of God held by Therese Tuttle in our first issue of Our Family News. I agreed. God is all of those things. However, at this time in my life, he is that and much more.

We've learned from childhood that God is a spirit. Where does he reside? Everywhere, we are told. To me, the places I see him inhabiting the most are in other people. That's right. He's in the arms of parents as they gently nurture their newborns and later guide them on their journeys through life. He is in the children themselves, who are among God's greatest miracles.

For me, most recently, I've seen him in all the people who minister to others, either formally or informally. Those who know me are aware that during the last year and a half, I've experienced some trials in my life; not the least of which were personal illness and the loss of my wonderful husband, John. There were times when it seemed life would never be good again. But it was and is; it always has been. I had simply lost sight of that fact.

God was in my daughter-in-law as she gave up months of her life to help nurse me back to health and to give assistance and support to my husband. He was in the woman who created my prayer shawl and in the people who helped to bless and deliver it. God was

(Continued on page 10)

Women's Guild

by Therese Tuttle

As summer comes to an end, let us reflect on what a great summer we had. We as a community have enjoyed the sun (when it decided to shine), the sand for those who went to the beach, and family reunions. There were vacations taken to various places where we walked in parks, rode our bikes, enjoyed a day fishing, and of course went to a couple of baseball games. The women of the Parish spent the summer planning,

preparing and executing the annual Rummage Sale. There was a tremendous amount of work involved in organizing the event but the outcome made it worthwhile.

The monetary gain is always a plus but also there are the new friendships formed, old acquaintances rekindled, and lots of laughter, hugs and conversations. You see, the rummage sale event is more than making money – it's a great social event for our church and the surrounding community.

Another fun event that occurred this summer – the annual Church picnic. *(Continued on page 10)*

More than a Meal

By Gilda Stigliano

By definition, a funeral dinner is a meal for bereaved family and friends at the culmination of a funeral service, but it's more than that. It's a meal that nourishes the soul as well as the body. The comfort food is prepared and served in a casual atmosphere for people who often meet only at funerals. Because the work is done by others, the family is free to mingle.

Twenty-eight year chair of the Bereavement

Committee, Gloria Karafa, began volunteering once her boys were in school. She started as a substitute but was soon a regular and eventually took over the chairperson role from Eileen Opalinsky. Gloria tells us that this is just one of the many service committees filled by the Women's Guild. Several men have also volunteered in preparation and service of meals.

Although the funeral fare has changed over the years, the service remains a ministry of compassion which is appreciated by all. If you would like to participate, please contact Mary Pytlik, Gloria Karafa, or Barb Robinson.

Made with Love

by Nancy Hart

By way of introduction, my name is Nancy Hart, and I joined St. William Parish at the Easter Vigil 2014. Don't worry, if you don't know my name when you see me, a lot of people don't, and it is OK. I am not in the directory. But most of you are, so that is my secret weapon! I just show up at stuff and have a good time.

When our esteemed editor-in-chief, Dan Robinson (with whom I shared a neighborhood growing up), asked me to contribute some recipes to the newsletter, I really thought I didn't have anything "fancy" to offer. But then I decided that was OK – maybe there would be some interest in some basic, tried & true recipes. I am not a fancy cook. You will not find any exotic ingredients in my dishes. In fact, recipes that call for this type of ingredient just plain annoy me.

You will not catch me putting jalapenos in the cornbread, or bacon in the chocolate.

I was fortunate to grow up spending a lot of time with my mother (MOM) and my maternal grandmother (MUDDER) learning to cook. Many of the recipes I will share are those passed down from them. Every time I prepare one of their recipes, it is a way to honor my mother's presence in my life, and the memory of my Mudder.

My husband says he has never been around people as obsessed with meals as my family. When we are together for one meal, we are planning the next! Food just says so much – "I love you...I am sorry for your loss...I care"...much like

the meal we partake in each week at Mass. It is my way of showing my love and concern for the well-being of others.

While most of us have the well-stocked pantries we need, some of us in the parish and community are not as fortunate. I think it is a great thing to have the food pantry in our own church. If you need help, stop in! If you have extra, donate! Any one of us can use a helping hand in one way or another, and this is a great way to lend a hand. Like my Mudder, I want to feed the world. I am happiest when others are enjoying what I prepared.

(Editor's Note: Every newsletter will feature one or two recipes from Nancy's collection. Trust me in the knowledge that, as "Official Taste-Tester Extraordinaire", they are scrumdiddlyumptious!)

Prayer Shawl Ministry

by Ann Sprague

The Prayer Shawl Ministry began at St. William Parish soon after my surgery in April of 2014. When I was truly at my lowest point with issues other than my surgery my sister, Maureen, came to visit and presented me with a prayer shawl from the Prayer Shawl Ministers of St. Martin of Tours in Maple Hts, Ohio.

The warmth of that shawl and knowing that I had people praying for me was extremely comforting and as I contemplated the idea of a Prayer Shawl Ministry here at St. William I became sure that our parish needed this ministry.



(Front) Mary Pytlik, Lynn Valentino, Vivian Flamini, Barb Kufchak, (Back) Marcia Kane, Theresa Petroski, Ann Sprague, Teddi Agues, Gloria Karafa

I shared the idea with Vivian Flamini and she became just as excited as I to begin this ministry in our parish. Father Balash gave us his approval and the idea was shared with other members of the parish. Thus began “St. William Prayer Shawl Ministry”.

We now have fourteen

My Father

by Gloria Alden

John Hovanic was the third child of eleven children born to Steve and Anna Hovanic in Crabtree, PA. When they moved to Champion, he met my mother, Elnora Jones at a campfire one summer evening. They started dating later and fell in love. However, Grandpa Jones objected to their getting married because dad was a Catholic, a foreigner (he was born in this country, but his father came from Slovakia as a child), a Democrat, and he carried his lunch to work. So they eloped.

Eventually, my mother converted to Catholicism, and my brother and I still toddlers were baptized. Grandpa eventually realized what a great person my dad was; intelligent, compassionate, honest, and always willing to help whenever he was needed as well as having a good sense of humor.

Dad was a devout Catholic and made sure we got to catechism every Saturday and Mass every Sunday. My parents were among the original members of St. William Church when Masses were held in the Elementary School. I was married and lived in Warren at the time, but joined St. William Church when I moved back to Champion in 1966.

The poem Kyrie Eleison, on page 4, is one I wrote about my dad in his later years and his faith.

Embarrassing Moments

By Louise Crump

Sometimes we say what we mean and mean what we say. There are times, however, when we don't say what we mean, and we don't mean what we say. Case in point; while reading at Mass some years ago, I came to the phrase, “bow in the sky.” It should have been pronounced long ‘o’ as in rainbow. I pronounced it short ‘o’ as in bow-wow. I knew I had made a mistake when one parishioner laughed out loud. It could have been worse; all 200 might have laughed, but thankfully they appeared to be sleeping. When I was asked to read again, I bowed out.

Another time, while working as a secretary, my boss, Mr. G, dictated a personal letter to his son. It was challenging to me because he kept chewing on a cigar, clearing his throat, turning to look out the window, and opening and closing desk drawers. After I had finished typing the four page letter, I waited for his approval. Suddenly, he stormed out of his office, my letter in hand and laughing hysterically. Instead of typing “shooting traps”, I had typed “shooting craps.”

My next embarrassing moment came as I was taking dictation from Fr. Mike Smar. While writing, I often mixed some English letters in with the shorthand. As Father watched over my right shoulder and said the word “assemble”, he saw me write the English word, “ass.” With a sheepish smile, I quickly added the remaining letters.

Finally, while vacationing in Georgia, I made a social blunder. I always got a kick out of hearing Southern accents. As we ordered steak in a local restaurant, the waitress, in a rather high pitched voice, asked me, “How do y'all want it cooked?” Also in a high pitched voice, I quickly replied, “Wheel done!” Realizing what I'd said and how I'd said it, I laughed and apologized. Needless to say, my family was embarrassed.

National Youth Choir

by Olivia Kochunas

This past June, I had the privilege of being a participant in the National Catholic Youth Choir, based in Collegeville, MN. I can honestly say that it was one of the best experiences of my life! The campus of St. John's is beautiful, the choristers were great musicians and the music was well chosen. The people were wonderful and we formed unbreakable bonds.



National Youth Choir 2015
Olivia Kochunas is in the middle row,
third from the left.

Dr. Axel Theimer, originally from Vienna, Austria, is one of the greatest choral directors I've ever met. He has a unique perspective on singing, and explaining music-making. He has a wealth of knowledge to share and he made the process of singing with a lot of strangers so much fun!

During the first week of camp, we had about 9 hours of daily rehearsal, intermixed with a variety of prayers, meals, and free time. The rehearsals were probably my favorite part: it's a great moment to first hear how we sound at the beginning and then, 7 days later, listen to how different it is and think, "Wow, we did this!!!"

The prayer was unbelievable, too. We had self-led compline, morning prayer with the monks, noon prayer with the nuns, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Taize prayer, and small group prayer. An extraordinary souvenir from camp is a rosary handmade in Jerusalem and blessed in the Holy Land!

We embarked on our multi-state tour during the

(Continued on page 11)

St. William Music Ministry

By Patricia Maciejewski

Our Adult Choir is back in session for the 2015-2016 year. We are in need of new voices. If you enjoy singing with a group and are willing to attend rehearsals and sing at Mass, we'd like you to join us for fellowship and prayer. We sing twice a month, plus Christmas Eve and Holy Week. Most rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at 7 pm. Our yearly schedule is posted in the vestibule and is listed on our website calendar.

Are you still not sure about investing the time? Consider these reasons to join. Not only would you grow in love and praise of the Trinity, but you would always have the best seat in the house and receive special blessings from Fr. Balash. You'd be first to arrive at parish celebrations and be informed of all liturgical "news." You'd be among

the first to learn new songs and acclamations, as well as learning to sing harmony. You'd be 'thrice' blessed by singing the songs, and by having somewhere to go on Thursday nights to socialize with fellow parishioners.

Finally, we'd like to thank the families of the following people for the purchase of new choir hymnals in their memories: Margaret Arch, Catherine Potts, Betty Jean Alderman, Katherine Sexton, Rose Makosky, and Gerald Jackson. We'd also like to thank flutist, Diana Wolf, who for many years helped to beautifully enhance many liturgies.



Plunging into God's Mission

by Haley Foster

Did you know that 1 in 5 American children are living in starvation and poverty? It is closer to home than most people would like to admit. There are many organizations in place to help ease the burden of poverty, but they simply cannot eradicate this problem in the United States.

This past July, a group of approximately forty students in grades 9 through 12 and youth ministry leaders from the Youngstown Diocese attended a retreat at the Jesuit Spiritual Center in Milford, Ohio. The retreat was called "iPlunge" due to its 4-day duration. Participants were immersed in the background of the Cincinnati area and then plunged into service. The staff provided a busy and fun-filled week of service for participants. Attending from St. William were Bridget and Christine DePascale, Tessa and Denise Butcher, Haley Foster, and Tina McCue.

Ministries served were Saint Vincent de Paul food pantry, Housing Opportunities of Northern Kentucky (HONK), Matthew 25 Ministries, Rose Garden Mission, the Peaslee Center, Over-the-Rhine tours, plus others. Each ministry provides specific services in Cincinnati. For example, Housing Opportunities of Northern Kentucky rebuilds homes for lease or sale to low income families; Saint Vincent de Paul food pantry is where they "shop" for groceries.

PSR News

by Carol Timko

The Catechetical theme for teaching throughout the country this year is: Safeguarding the Dignity of Every Human Person. This year's PSR started with the parents meeting, during which parents introduced themselves and their children, followed by the introduction of teachers. On Catechetical Sunday, we honored the following PSR teachers: Marilyn Shay, Melanie Zappia, Marilyn DeRamo, Christine DePascale, Jennifer Kusmierk, Steve Prebonick, Maria Butcher, Tina McCue, and Brian Lenhart. Morgan Nichols and Bridget DePascale will serve as aides.

Many things are planned for PSR this year. The first of four Family Faith Celebrations (FFC) will be held Sunday, October 11. We'll start with a light breakfast and conclude with 11:00 Mass. The topic will be Basic Catholic Beliefs. Our next FCC will take place Sunday, January 10.

On February 28, our seventh and eighth graders will be confirmed at St. Columba Cathedral. In preparation of confirmation, the class will join grades 4-12 in participating in Make a Difference Day on October 17. They will be raking leaves for several of our parishioners. Other service projects in which they can participate will include either volunteering for the Warren Youth Senior Dinner at St. Mary on November 14, or our Parish Dinner on December 6. Parents or sponsors are required to attend the monthly confirmation classes. A student retreat will be held November 22, at Blessed Sacrament Church.

The second graders will celebrate their First Reconciliation on Wednesday, January 13. Tina McCue will hold Reconciliation classes for students. At least one parent must attend the mandatory parent meetings on Thursday, October 23 and Monday, November 23.

2015 iPlunge Participants: (l to r) Tessa Butcher, Christine DePascale, Denise Butcher, Tina McCue, Haley Foster, and Bridget DePascale



"If 'Plan A' didn't work, the alphabet has 25 more letters. Keep moving forward!"

(Continued from pg 6) Guild

We ate hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans, corn, watermelon and ice cream. The music playing was amazing. There were games for the children and adults. But with all this fun, I think the highlight of the picnic was the fire department coming to entertain the children. They sprayed them down with fire hoses – the little ones and not so little ones ran around and through the water. It was a great way to cool off. The firefighters also talked to the children, giving them tips on safety. Thank you, Champion Fire Department for providing such a nice way to end the picnic

As fall approaches what do we have to look forward to? Well, there is always the raking of leaves, kids going back to school and canning for those who put up their own veggies. Fall is also when the

Women's Guild resumes their meetings and events. Our meetings begin in September starting with the review of our handbook. In October we had a great program where we learned the history and symbolism of the cross. Then, as the winter months approach, we begin a series of fun activities. In November we have our craft night – making crosses out of household goods. December will bring the Kolachi bake, Parish Family Dinner and the Christmas Craft show there is that to look forward to. We will enjoy Thanksgiving and Christmas with our families and after all the turkey, ham and any other traditional holiday meals are consumed, it is only appropriate to have January's meeting a Women's health night.

For more information on the Women's Guild, please visit us on the parish website

(Continued from page 5) KofC

expressing Christ's love by serving people in need of care. The organization's four primary principles are charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. There are four degrees in the Knights of Columbus.

The Knights supports vocations, especially to the priesthood and religious life. We support our nation's military veterans, financially and through our actions, and also support organizations such as Special Olympics and Blood Mobile.

The Knights of Columbus has nearly 1.9 million members in the United States, Canada, the Philippines, Mexico, Poland, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Panama, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, Guatemala, Guam and Saipan.

Father Edward Janoch, State Chaplain, recently wrote in the Knights of Columbus Ohio State Council publication, Buckeye Bulletin: "It is in our faith in Christ Jesus that we have life, so we need to work to proclaim our faith in Jesus Christ and to share His life by our words but also by our actions. The Knights of Columbus has been doing this for 133 years, and we will not stop now; 'for with God all things are possible.'"

(Continued from pg 1) 1979

"presence."

The next day Mass was celebrated on the Mall in front of the Smithsonian. The Pope's appearance was heralded with a fanfare, the trumpeters in their elaborate colorful palace guard attire. It was a very impressive moment, cloudy and cold, but The Mall was a sea of humanity.

Today, thirty five years later, when I close my eyes I still see that glowing image. I now know I really was in the presence of a saint, Saint John Paul II.

That spur-of-the-moment decision resulted in a profoundly memorable encounter. Carpe diem!

***"Have the Courage
to be truly happy!"***

~Pope Francis

(Continued from page 5) God is...

in the women who brought me Eucharist over the many months I was unable to attend Mass. He was in the priest who continually visited and administered the anointing of the sick. He was also in the many people who continued to lift me up in prayer over those many months. He was in and remains with all who reached out with cards, notes, visits, phone calls, and many other acts of kindness. He was in the family doctor and the nurses who never lost hope and who remain my friends to this day.

I have truly been blessed. Guess what! So have you. God has placed you in St. William Parish. There are limitless activities and ministries available to you. Those of you who choose not to join formally, still have the opportunity to serve by offering up a smile, a word of encouragement, a prayer, or even an invitation for friendship to someone in need. Take the opportunity. You won't be sorry.

(Continued from pg 1) 2015

our homes make a great difference for our entire world. He ended his homily by asking something of us, saying “Please pray for me. Now don’t forget!”

Humbly we received the Body of Christ consecrated by the Holy Father, distributed by 400 Eucharistic ministers. Each minister was accompanied by someone holding an umbrella over the chalice.

It was an experience of a lifetime, filled with challenges and excitement. Consider participating yourself at the next World Meeting of Families, being held in Dublin Ireland 2018!

(Continued from pg 7)Shawl

members, Vivian Flamini, Ann Sprague, Theresa Petrosky, Marcia Kane, Barb Kufchak, Claudia Valimont, Mary Pytlik, Janet Hart, Diane Jones, Teddi Agues, Gloria Karafa, Lynn Valentino, Kathy Ratliff and Gloria Mintus. We come together once a month to pray, crochet and have a pleasant evening together.

Prayer Shawls have been made for centuries and are warming and embracing. Our shawls are blessed by Father Balash before they are taken to the recipient. The Blessing of the Prayer Shawl, provides healing and comfort to the sick, the lonely and elderly, and can also share in the joy of a newborn. The presentation of a Prayer Shawl enriches the giver as well as the recipient. Our Prayer Shawl Ministry affirms to us that we are all a part of the Body of Christ as we share in our prayers, our joys and our sorrows.

Coming Soon: *Fish Dinner Season!*

by Ann Sprague

Fish dinners have been served at St. William Parish for many years; however, we began serving Lenten fish dinners in 1986. Once again for 2016 we will serve fish dinners during Lent. Due to the short time between the seasons of Christmas and Lent, we will serve seven fish dinners this year instead of eight. Dinners will begin Friday, February 5 and end on March 18. Last year one hundred and seventy eight volunteers worked diligently to make a successful event. We have wonderful people who have a high spirit of volunteerism which make all our endeavors successful. The fish dinner meeting for 2016 will be held on Thursday, January 28 at 6:30pm in the Social Hall. Please join us once again this year to make our Fish Dinner Project a huge success.

(Continued from page 8) National Youth Choir

second week: Detroit Lakes, and Duluth, MN, Chippewa Falls, WI, Chicago, IL, Dubuque, IA, and ending in Farmington, MN. At each concert, I had the time of my life, singing with a group of talented young adults in gorgeous churches. In each city we had free time: Itasca State Park, Mall of America, Millennium Park, and Canal Park, to name a few.

I made lasting friendships with others who love to sing—it was a wonderful experience! I want to thank Father Balash for arranging diocesan funding and the Women’s Guild for their generous donation, without which I wouldn’t have been able to participate in this program.

If you would like to see more photos and learn more, visit csbsju.edu/nycc.

Don’t be afraid to make mistakes!

Upcoming Events

Oct.24 ~ Kof C Reverse Raffle

Oct.31 ~ Christmas Cash Raffle Starts

Nov. 19-22 ~ National Youth Convention

Nov.24 ~ Lessons & Carols

Dec.12 ~ Parish Holiday Dinner

Jan.30 ~ Parish Appreciation Dinner



In large bowl, combine the tomatoes, water, tapioca, sugar, salt & pepper. Add remaining ingredients to and mix well. It is not necessary to brown the meat first.

Pour into greased 13 x9 baking pan. Cover and bake at 350 for 1 1/2 -2 hours, or until meat and veggies are tender.

6-8 servings

1 can (14.5 oz) diced tomatoes, undrained
 1 1/2 c water
 3 T quick-cooking tapioca
 2 tsp sugar
 1 1/2 tsp salt
 1/2 tsp pepper
 1-2 # beef stew meat, cut into 1" chunks
 4 medium carrots, cut into 1" chunks
 3 medium potatoes, peeled and quartered
 3 turnips, cut into 1" chunks
 2 parsnips, cut into quarters
 2 celery ribs, cut into 3/4" chunks
 1 medium onion, cut into chunks (optional)
 1 slice bread, cubed

Baked Beef Stew



Sprinkle top of cake with 2T sugar and 6 oz (or more) of chocolate chips.

Bake 30-40 minutes at 350F

Pour into a greased 13 x 9 oblong baking pan.

Beat well after each addition.

Add dry ingredients alternately with 2 cups canned applesauce.

Sift together 2 cups of flour, 2T cocoa powder, 1/2 t cinnamon, 1 1/2 t baking soda, and 1/2 t salt

Add 2 eggs and mix well.

Cream together 1/2 c shortening and 1 1/2 c sugar

Applesauce Cake Chocolate Chip

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