

The Weave

July 2015

Volume 19 Issue 3

A Newsletter of St. Mary Parish Family, Franklin MA

Disciples in Mission

by Fr. Brian Manning

On this, the first Tuesday in June, the Parish of Saint Mary became officially a "Collaborative Parish" of the Archdiocese of Boston according to the "Disciples in Mission Plan." That is quite a mouthful. This has importance and meaning for our Parish's future. I have written 2 previous articles on the "Disciples in Mission" Plan for the Archdiocese and Saint Mary's Parish in the Weave so I will not repeat everything that has been said and re-said. Instead, perhaps I will offer some insights and suggestions about our Parish and its future.



Archdiocese of Boston

The ultimate purpose of the plan is for all of us to become *better disciples of Jesus Christ*. The Roman Catholic Church is, in fact, a huge bureaucratic institution with many members, over one billion. It is wonderful to know that throughout the entire world there are so many believers, yet with so many believers there are resulting problems. Our Church's mission is to bring everyone to Jesus Christ and ultimately eternal life with our God. This mission is a spiritual mission, yet it must take place in a

created world with people and things. We all know that our Church is not perfect, nor are either you or I who are members. This spiritual mission is best lived on a "real life – real time" level in parishes, not in the distant Vatican or in the Offices of Cardinals and Archbishops. The

celebration of Sunday Mass, funerals, baptisms, marriages, blessings and care of the sick and dying, teaching of our faith to the young and adult and also the care of the poor and needy are some of the real and practical elements of our faith. All of this and a lot more occur on the local parish

level. We are at our best as a Church when we are involved in the ordinary daily things of our Church. Indeed, we become extraordinary on a daily basis as a result.

The lived faith that brings us to the Risen Lord is lived out in parishes. Shrines and retreat centers help to enrich our faith in special ways, but they do not provide the necessary and needed daily care of souls and peoples as parishes do. Pope Francis

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God Squeezes Through the Cracks

by Joan McGuire

In taking a course in meditation, the instructor suggested that we quiet our minds in preparation for prayer by concentrating on a particular item such as the flame of a candle or a cup. Since my gracefulness is always in doubt and I could visualize my house burning down, I chose the cup. I put a cup of water on the table and began to stare intently. As I watched I became aware that there was some movement on the table. A puddle of water was forming around the cup. Obviously there was an indistinguishable crack in the cup. At our next meeting we were discussing our success with the assignment. I admitted mine was a failure since my cup was cracked. The instructor smiled and said "that's frequently how God gets in." She followed with this story told by an Indian Holy Man.

"A water bearer came each day to bring water to a rich man's house. He carried two pots one at each end of a pole across his neck. One of the pots was cracked and leaked as he walked up the hill to the house. He had to make an extra trip to bring the necessary water up to the house. An old man watched this activity for two years and he finally said to the water carrier. "In all this time haven't you saved enough to buy a new pot and get rid of the cracked pot?" Quite the contrary, I am retiring from this work.

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Aren't We ALL "Cafeteria Catholics?"

by John M. Ristaino

So often I hear members of our faith referred to as "cafeteria Catholics." This is a term which is usually used to refer to a member of the Catholic faith who picks and chooses what they want to believe and how they want to participate in the practice of our Catholic faith. As I reflect upon and ponder this terminology, I conclude that every Catholic is a "cafeteria Catholic" and here is why...

Our lives as Catholics are truly journeys in Faith. Each one of us travels our own unique journey. This journey is much like being in a cafeteria or buffet line. Our souls are the trays we carry and push along this line, this journey. When our souls are hungry for something, we choose to load it onto our tray. What are some of the cafeteria offerings? The menu is too vast to print here. It is inscribed on our hearts and we know all of its items. This article will touch on just a few of these wonder and faith filled gifts. Every item on the menu will strike each person differently, based on where they are in the cafeteria line (their individual journey in Faith). Do you have your tray? Are you ready to load it up?

Attending Mass on a weekly basis is one such offering. This is a menu option which nourishes the individual continually. The celebration of Mass, one demonstrative practice of our Faith, is a very satisfying menu choice. Are you ready? If not on a weekly basis, are you ready for occasional participation at Mass? Now, some members of our par-

ish family (and many other Catholics too) sometime complain and remark when Masses are crowded at Christmas, Palm Sunday and Easter. I marvel at Mass attendance on these days. Surely there are Catholics there who attend infrequently and who only attend when it's an "important" day. There are also Catholics there who are visiting family and friends in the community who celebrate with us on these occasions. Of course, those who attend regularly are there as well in great number. Isn't it GREAT when the pews are full of Catholics celebrating Mass? If during these celebrations, the pews were NOT full and only those who regularly attended Mass were present at these celebrations; what would that say about our Catholic faith? Journeys in faith travel unique paths. The Holy Spirit moves and directs people in wonderful ways. When people are ready, they place on their tray the active participation of their Catholic faith by attending Mass occasionally or regularly. Sometimes a taste of our Faith (occasional Mass attendance) leads to more frequent servings (regular Mass attendance).

When moved by the Holy Spirit, members of the Catholic faith choose to volunteer their time in some capacity to the Church through the needs of their parish family. Here at St. Mary Parish in Franklin, there are many, many "cafeteria" offerings to become an active parish volunteer. Are you ready to add one of these menu items to your tray? You can find a full list of volunteer opportunities on the parish website under the "Ministries" tab at www.stmarysfranklin.org. The parish website is a terrific source of information and "cafeteria" menu items. Are you ready to volunteer? Coming in September there will be a Mass Ministry weekend where you can learn more about assisting during Mass as an altar server, lector, cantor, choir member, Eucharistic Minister, and/or usher. Please watch the weekly bulletin and the parish website for further details. The Religious Education Office is in need of volunteers to help teach our faith. If you

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Families' Corner

by Katherine Ginnetty

If you occasionally attend the 9:00 Mass on Sundays at St. Mary's you may be reminded of the Pied Piper fairy tale because the children skip up the aisles and exit the front of the main church at the Liturgy of the Word. While the adults remain in the church to hear the word of God, the children have moved to the sacristy, listening to a special reading proclaimed at their level of understanding and to a short, child-focused sermon. The children return after the readings so that families may together participate in the Liturgy, the Eucharist and the concluding rites. Those volunteers who read and speak to the children are ministers in the St. Mary's Children's Liturgy, a specially recognized Ministry, begun in 2009 at St. Mary's Parish. Monica Baker is the Children's Liturgy of the Word Committee chair, and she invites parishioners to share in this Time, Talent and Treasure Opportunity as new volunteers.

Volunteers may be adults or confirmed teenagers who would like to share their talents as a reader or a presenter. Readers, using the Children's Lectionary, read the first reading, the responsorial psalm and the Gospel. The Children's Liturgy is an approved occasion at which a non-ordained person can read the gospel aloud. Presenters, using a resource packet of information supplied by the CLW committee, prepare a short reflection to share with the children who range in age from 5-10. It is not necessary to have any special training or to be an instructor in the religious education program to be a reader or presenter at the Children's Liturgy of the Word. There is no special commissioning or formation required to volunteer for either role.

Parents of the youngest children frequently accompany their little ones from the Church to the sacristy until the children feel comfortable enough to go on their own. The goal of this ministry is to make the readings more understandable

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The Weave

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...Disciples in Mission

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seems to have a very strong sense and understanding of how faith is not a theory or imagination, it is real and it takes on its concrete life in parish life. Thus, the ordinary is extraordinary. With this perspective, we can come to understand that in being part of the Disciples in Mission Plan, we are seeking to become a parish that lives out its mission in the best possible ways in light of who we are and what resources we have.



...Families Corner

(Continued from page 2)

to the children so that they can enjoy the Mass and look forward to it as they grow, a feeling that Moncia has witnessed. "The children really enjoy their time while learning important lessons. It is very rewarding."

Currently there are eleven volunteers participating as readers or presenters, and the leaders of the Ministry would like to keep a volunteer's Sunday Mass obligation to be once every two months. Potential volunteers are welcome to attend and observe a children's liturgy in the sacristy so that they can experience the enjoyment of sharing their faith with children. There are no other obligations associated with this ministry outside of participation during the children's Mass. Parishioners who think they may be interested in getting involved with this important ministry are invited to email Monica at monical-baker@gmail.com or to call her at 508 440 5479 to find out more about it.

St. Rocco

Bone Marrow Registry Drive

Friday, Aug. 14: 6 - 10p.m.

Sat., Aug. 15: 12p.m. - 10p.m.

Sunday, Aug. 16: 12 - 9p.m.

You must be 18 years or older to participate.

In the next year the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), the Parish Finance Council (PFC) and also the Pastoral and Professional Staff will begin the process of discovering how they can assist us in being better disciples. They are our lay leaders in faith. We look to them to help us become better disciples. They will be assisting by their thoughtful reflection, prayer and effort to help make Saint Mary's a center for the disciples of Jesus to gather. They will be attending programs sponsored by the Archdiocesan Planning Office to help them and ourselves grow in understanding of our faith. They will be assisting me by advising and guiding me in ways that our Parish can grow in faith. They will be asking you to join them as disciples in this *mission and holy work*. Were not the hearts of the disciples as they walked along the Road to Emmaus burning because Jesus was with them? Will you in the year ahead help all of us have those same hearts of faith that the disciples had so long ago?

St. Rocco Entertainment Schedule

Friday, August 14

6-8pm on the field
Kizzy the Clown

6-10pm on the bandstand
The Reminisants

Saturday, August 15

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

3-5pm on the field
Kizzy the Clown

6-10pm on the bandstand
Sea Breeze

Sunday, August 16

12-4pm on the bandstand
Bob Costello DJ

3-5pm on the field
Kizzy the Clown

4-7pm on the bandstand
Jerry Seeco Band

7-9pm on the bandstand
Bob Costello DJ

8:30pm Raffle drawings

View From the Pew

by Joan McGuire

Made From Scratch

In my mind, I can hear my mother's reproachful tone as I reach for Betty Crocker's lemon cake mix. "The type of ingredients, the amount and the resting time can give a flavor variation that cannot be achieved with a cake mix." My brothers and I all had our favorite flavors cinnamon, chocolate, butterscotch and lemon. On special days whether it was a baseball playoff, swimming meet, dance recital or a boy scout medal event we each got to choose the dessert for our day. It always had our special flavor in it. My mother always celebrated our individuality even though it put a great strain on her patience.

God must agree with my mother. He made each of us from scratch. No person is made from the same recipe. In creating us God bestows some virtues in full bloom, others are present as little plants that have to be cultivated to reach a fruitful stage and still others are seeds that have to be nurtured over time or they will not develop. Luckily for us we are provided with a Divine Gardener, the Holy Spirit who provides each of us with just the right conditions for our development. As every gardener knows the conditions vary, rain, hot sun, weeding, pruning, pesky insects and even being moved to another site. As I look back in my life I can identify many events that fit into these categories. I am not always proud of how I reacted at the time, but I can see how they have affected who I have become.

Recently I was listening to someone who was describing her life as a failure. She felt she never completed anything God gave her to do. As I mirrored back what she was telling me, God's plan seemed so clear. In some cases her talents carried the plan to a certain point and then the perfection of the plan called for her to hand off the project to someone who had another dominant talent. In other cases she needed to share the work with someone else from the beginning. This was not a failure. It was God's reminder that we are all his children and His plan for His kingdom can only be fulfilled if we remember that we are all part of the BODY of CHRIST.



Mark Your Parish Calendar

- July 19 Baptisms
- July 28 Mass at nursing home
- Aug. 2 Baptisms
- Aug. 5 Mass at The Estate
- Aug. 9 Feast of St. Rocco Opening Mass, 10:30am
- Aug. 9 Baptisms
- Aug. 9 Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- Aug. 12 Mass at Forge Hill
- Aug. 13 Feast of St. Rocco Rides and limited food only 6-10pm
- Aug. 14 Feast of St. Rocco All Food booths open Rides and Entertainment 6-11pm
- Aug. 15 St. Rocco Anointing Mass 10am under the tent on the festival grounds
- Aug. 15 Feast of St. Rocco 11am-11pm
- Aug. 16 St. Rocco Closing Mass and Procession 10:30am
- Aug. 16 Feast of St. Rocco Noon-9pm
- Aug. 22 Bookbag/school supplies collection
- Aug. 23 Bookbag/school supplies collection
- Aug. 23 Baptisms
- Aug. 25 Mass at nursing home
- Aug. 30 Baptisms
- Sept. 2 Mass at The Estate
- Sept. 9 Mass at Forge Hill
- Sept. 12 Confirmation, 10am & 1pm
- Sept. 13 Confirmation, 2pm
- Sept. 20 Baptisms
- Sept. 20 Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- Sept. 22 Mass at nursing home
- Sept. 26 Friends of the Poor Walk
- Oct. 4 Baptisms
- Oct. 14 Mass at Forge Hill
- Oct. 18 Baptisms
- Oct. 18 Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- Oct. 25 Baptisms
- Oct. 27 Mass at nursing home
- Nov. 1 Baptisms
- Nov. 4 Mass at The Estate
- Nov. 7 Mass of Remembrance, 11am
- Nov. 8 Baptisms
- Nov. 12 Mass at Forge Hill
- Nov. 15 Baptisms
- Nov. 15 Baptismal Catechesis, 1:30
- Nov. 22 Baptisms
- Nov. 24 Mass at nursing home
- Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Day Mass at 8am
- Nov. 28 Nativity Display
- Nov. 29 Nativity Display
- Nov. 29 Baptism

What A Difference A Year Makes!!

by Karen Ackles

Last year during the Feast of St. Rocco, St. Mary's held their first Bone Marrow Drive. We registered almost 400 potential lifesaving donors with "Delete Blood Cancer." We recently received notification that there have been four potential matches from our drive. These potential four people may have the opportunity to take the next step and donate their bone marrow to save a patient in need of a bone marrow transplant. Donating bone marrow is much easier than one might think.

Registering in the Bone Marrow Registry is simple and easy as well. It is a quick swab of your cheek and you become registered into the National Bone Marrow Registry. If you are a potential match for a patient with blood cancer, the registry will contact you to see if you are still willing to donate. If you are, further testing would be required to insure that you are the best match for the patient.

St. Rocco's will be holding its second Annual Bone Marrow Drive during the festival on August 14th, 15th and 16th. Please stop by and visit our "Delete Blood Cancer" booth and learn more about joining the Bone Marrow Registry. You may get the opportunity to save a life!!

To register you must be between the ages of 18-55. The cost to register is free and only takes a few minutes to join. It is truly an amazing thing to do!! Look for the "Delete Blood Cancer" booth. The booth will be open:

Friday, Aug. 14: 6 - 10p.m.
Sat., Aug. 15: 12p.m. - 10p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 16: 12 - 9p.m.



O Come Let Us Adore



Preparing for Christmas This year, our Nativity Display weekend will take place in Sacred Heart Hall after all Masses on Saturday, November 28, and Sunday, November 29, which is the first Sunday of Advent. We invite parishioners to choose a treasured Nativity scene for all parishioners to view and enjoy after all Masses that weekend. Watch the weekly church bulletin for more information.

Photos from the 2012 Nativity Display may be found at www.stmarysfranklin.org/115.

Please consider sharing your Nativity scene with the whole parish, as we prepare for the celebration of the Nativity of the Lord.

37th Feast of St. Rocco August 9-16

Thursday, August 13
6pm-10pm All rides open
Hot dogs, burgers, pizza available

All rides and food booths open
Friday, August 14 6pm-11pm
Saturday, August 15 11am-11pm
Sunday, August 16 12noon-9pm

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

Liturgical Services
Sunday, August 9
Opening Mass
10:30am in the upper church

Saturday, August 15
Mass and Sacrament of
Anointing of the Sick
10:00am on the festival grounds

Sunday, August 16
Closing Mass
10:30am in the upper church
followed by the
Procession of the St. Rocco statue
to the festival grounds



Living Life to the Fullest

by Nan Rafter, Parish Nurse

In the Gospel of John 10:10 we read: *"I have come that they may have life and have it to the full."* This summer, why not look at the way you are living each day and see if there are some things that you need to change so that you can be healthier and happier.

Physically we all know what we need to do. We can choose to consume more fruits and vegetables, some good fats like olive oil, lean meats, fish and whole grains and legumes and have a meatless meal once or twice a week. There are many creative ways to get children to eat more vegetables. Zucchini chocolate cupcakes are one of my summer favorites. Children don't always find the little green bits!

We are a busy society that teaches that if we are productive, we are valuable, however we are valuable because God created us. We need to work at balancing productivity with rest. Taking time to breathe deeply helps to relax and clear your mind. I have a "breathe" app on my phone which reminds me to take three deep breathes several times a day!

Exercise is important for wellness. Walking or riding a bicycle in safe areas can help your heart and joints. (Watch out for construction sites) Franklin has many fitness club choices and the senior center offers a variety of options including chair/volleyball exercises, Zumba and Yoga. St Mary's offers a walking group in the evening. (see bulletin)

To live life to the fullest, we need to work on becoming emotionally well. In Ephesians 4:29-32, we read *"Get rid of bitterness, all anger, harsh words, slander and malice of every kind. In place of these, be kind to one another, compassionate and mutually forgiving, just as God has forgiven you in Christ."*

This past Christmas, Fr Brian gave out the book Everybody Needs to Forgive Somebody, by Allen R. Hunt. So many people found this book helped them to become more forgiving and looked at forgiveness in a different way. The sacrament of reconciliation is offered to us to help us be in grace and harmony with God and ourselves.

Our society is also full of vicarious trauma, which is trauma and stress we receive from outside sources. Unfortunately we hear about stabbings, shootings and murders on a daily basis. Why not make this the summer of no television and limited computer time. Spend quality, relational family time by attending a concert on our beautiful common or go on a family picnic or bike ride. The sculpture park near Panther Way, offers a peaceful and creative place to walk and picnic.

Just like our bodies, our spirit needs special care and nourishing. Through the sacraments we can develop a wellness consistent with God's grace in order to live a life of peace and joy. One way to become spiritually well is to find meaning and purpose in our lives. What is God calling me to do? I Tim 4:14 encourages us not to neglect the gifts that God has given us. There are many volunteer opportunities here at St Mary. If you love to knit or crochet, why not join the prayer shawl ministry, who pray as they knit, for those who will receive the beautiful shawl. Our St Rocco Festival on August 14-16 offers many volunteer opportunities including getting screened at the Bone Marrow drive. Last year there were four possible matches! What a wonderful way to teach your children how to help people who are sick. If you are homebound, please pray for those in need.

If you have the gift to teach and share your faith, our Religious Education and ROCK programs are opportunities to volunteer with the children and young adults.

If your heart is calling you to care for those in need, our St Vincent de Paul society help so many people each day. Donate food, money or your time...all is welcome and needed.

Every week there is a list in our bulletin of ways you can share your time, talents and treasures, and doing so will help bring peace and joy to your life. *May the changes that you make this summer bring you to a place of peace, wellness and joy.*

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

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Nan Rafter: nrafter@stmarysfranklin.org

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

If your parish group or organization would like to place a notice in the bulletin, we must receive it **in writing (email is preferred)** by 5pm Sunday afternoon for the following weekend. Information can also be submitted for inclusion on the parish website at any time. Bulletin or website information can be emailed to parishpublishing@stmarysfranklin.org

If your organization is planning to use any parish facilities, such as the church, church hall, lower church meeting rooms or the school, for your meetings, events, etc. it is **necessary** that you call and reserve the time and place that you want. This is the **only** way that you can be assured of having your activity at the desired location.

CHECK OUT OUR PARISH WEBSITE: www.stmarysfranklin.org. There is a wealth of information available there.



St. Mary's Music Notes!!

by Terry Kerr

Adult Choir: The St. Mary Adult Choir has completed their 2014-15 season with much success, and is taking a well-deserved summer rest! The Triduum and Easter Season were all done so wonderfully, further enhancing each liturgy through prayerful song.

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

Enjoy the summer!

Children's Choir: The St. Mary Children's Choir also had another successful season! They did such an amazing job singing at the Easter Liturgies.

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

...through the cracks

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Did you not notice the beautiful flowers that have been growing on one side of the path? I took advantage of the flaw in the pot and planted flower seeds on that side of the path. The leaky pot watered them each day. I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers for the masters table. He was so pleased that he gave me a job as gardener. Without the flawed pot he would not have had their beauty to grace his table."

God frequently finds it easier to use a flawed worker in his vineyard than a perfectionist. They are happy to do the work at hand rather than to be "God's right hand adviser."

Baccalaureate Mass Reflections

One of St. Mary Parish's favorite traditions in late spring is the Baccalaureate Mass, at which our high school graduates gather with their parents and friends to celebrate their impressive milestone and their journey of faithfulness to adulthood. At the Mass, student speakers address the congregation to talk about their individual experiences as youthful parishioners, and The Weave is pleased to be able to share with our faith family these inspiring remarks. Two seniors spoke this year, Bradley Hickey and Anna Kroon. Enjoy their perspective!

Hello, my name is Bradley Hickey and I want to start out by thanking Father Brian for inviting me to speak today. I recently graduated from a Catholic all boys' high school named Xaverian Brothers. When I first started at Xaverian, I was skeptical of what I was heading into. The only reason I ended up going to Xaverian was because my older brother, Bryan, was heading into his junior year at the school so it was assumed that I would also attend there.

It turned out that as my freshman year went on I found my place in the school. That place was in Campus Ministry. I was able to meet great kids and to build my friendships, which was not easy for a freshman switching schools. I started to go to certain events hosted by Campus Ministry because my friends would also be there.

I began to attend a program called Spirit Hawk, which really helped me to start developing my faith. Spirit Hawk is an after school activity where we eat pizza, gather in prayer, then meet in small group discussing the topic for the night. For example, the topic can range from your relationship with your mom or dad to your relationship with God and the temptations we face. When I first started at Xaverian, I did not know how to pray. I did not really know what I was supposed to say when I was talking to God. I would pray an "Our Father" or "Hail Mary" and be comfortable with that. I was content with my relationship with God at the time, but it was a formula relationship. I was going through the motions and doing what I was told the right thing to do was. Through Campus Ministry, Spirit Hawk hosts two retreats a year and it was not until I went on my first Spirit Hawk retreat that I began to understand what it actually meant to pray. The Campus ministers taught us to talk to God and reflect with Him, that way we would be able to form our own, individual, relationship with Jesus. Not only is that more comforting to us but it also strengthens our belief and understanding. Now that I know how to pray and know how to form a strong bond with Jesus, it has become about the effort that I am willing to put into the relationship. It is easy to forget about God and get caught up in everything that happens in our lives. It is way easier to get lazy and not say a prayer before bed or not go to church on the weekend. That's one of the challenges that we all face as Catholics and certainly something that I struggle with myself.

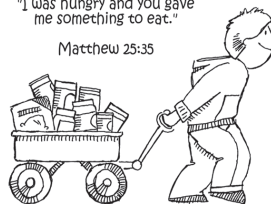
Another part of my High School experience that helped me create a stronger relationship with God was a pilgrimage to Italy that I went on with thirty other classmates. When we first arrived at the place we were staying at, the chaperones gave us journals that we were supposed to use for reflections at the end of each day. When they gave us the journals it was not something that I was interested in because I had always thought that journals or diaries were a girly thing so when the first reflection time came around I half-heartedly participated. The first two nights when I was reflecting I made it easy on myself and just wrote about what we did for the day and nothing more. On the third night we were challenged to write about the moments that we saw God throughout the day. This was an easy question for me because during the trip we spent the majority of time traveling on foot. We walked to different Basilicas,

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5th Annual Friends of the Poor Walk

"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."

Matthew 25:35



With September comes the end of Summer, the first day of school, and the SVdP Friends of the Poor Walk.

The Walk is one of the events held to raise funds to allow us to accomplish our major goal - caring for God's people in need. This year, the Walk will take place on Saturday, September 26 at 9am. Please mark your calendar and plan on participating. Full details are available online at www.stmarysfranklin.org/Ministries/StVincentdePaulSociety2015Friendsofthe-PoorWalk

...Baccalaureate Mass Reflections

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restaurants and historical sites, so along the way we had time to talk with those that were on the pilgrimage. Through the first few days it was as if we all were assigned a walking buddy, mine was Matt Greeley. Each day it seemed as though I felt more comfortable sharing personal information with Matt that I would not share with other students. Our relationship grew stronger with every conversation that we had with each other, as we found out how many things we have in common. Now, I see Matt as my brother and one of my best friends. Looking for God had never been so easy: I saw God in the friendship that Matt and I were creating. Not only did I form such a great friendship with Matt, but also one of the Chaperones and the Dean of Students at Xaverian, Mr. Vasta. He was the leader of my small group and over the ten days, he became a role model for me spiritually and morally. He has been there for me all year through the college process and has become a very important person in my life. In my journal, I wrote about the relationships that I formed with my friend Matt and Mr. Vasta as the points during the trip where I saw God. My experience on the pilgrimage taught me how simple it is to find God in the people surrounding us. All you have to do is

step back and look.

My faith journey has certainly had some ups and downs, but that is what really creates a real relationship with God. When we show that it is something that we want, not because it is forced upon us by our parents; that is when we are really able to become closer to God and see Him each and every day of our lives. I've learned that it is easy to see God in a beautiful sunset at the beach, or when the snow is falling on the mountains, but now I can find him in the ordinary, unspectacular flow of everyday life with a little reflection and prayer because he is always with us. At the end of my four years in high school, I can honestly say that I am glad my parents forced me to go to Xaverian, because I would not be the same person that I am today. Thank you mom and dad for everything, congratulations fellow graduates and God bless you on your journey.

Anna Kroon

My first memory of church is actually not wanting to go. We would go to 9am Mass which conflicted directly with my Scooby-Doo time. My dad would tape it and I would reluctantly go to Mass, counting the minutes until I could watch the animated Great Dane.

It wasn't until I was 5 or 6 that I really understood what Mass was all about. My mom explained that the whole Mass was one big story time. Sometimes the stories were about Jesus, sometimes about His disciples, sometimes about the people that came before Him. I started to listen more to understand the stories. You have to understand, books and the stories within them were my favorite things. At the time I was absolutely set on being an author. The realization that everything in the Mass is a story was amazing to me. All these stories helped me to understand myself and my faith. This was probably what drew me into the Christmas Pageant Mass. I love how this timeless story can be made more meaningful and help the children grow in their faith. In my own personal story I became more involved with things like St. Rocco's and Eucharistic ministering. As you probably saw, my grandmother and I are both Eucharistic ministers, a bond and a thread to my tale that is very important to me. My faith has grown and changed as a story does and I know it will continue to change and strengthen as I do. Graduates, I hope that all your stories continue to keep God at your side as you move on to a new chapter of your lives.

Congratulations and good luck class of 2015!



...Aren't We ALL Cafeteria Catholics?



(Continued from page 2)

are ready, you just may discover that in teaching young members of our parish family, your faith is developed and strengthened. The annual Feast of St. Rocco is a fun way to volunteer to assist St. Mary Parish. Again, please refer to the parish website (www.stmarysfranklin.org) or call the St. Mary Parish Office at 508-528-0020 to learn more and to volunteer. Training is always provided!

Sometimes while in the "cafeteria" line, we worry about others and what's on their trays. Many times such concerns are about our children and other family members. Once our trays have items, we assume that others could/would/should have the same menu offerings. At such times, we need to remember that each person (old and young alike) are on their own journey. When they are ready, they will select "Catholic cafeteria" items that they need for their journeys.

Does a loved one never attend Mass? Do you have a child who refuses to be confirmed in our faith? Do family and friends not embrace certain teachings of the Catholic faith? Have you planted the seeds of faith in their hearts? Then fear not! Pray for them without ceasing or giving up and know that the Holy Spirit will move them along in their journey when ready.

At Baptism, we are each given a spiritual tray to fill up. When we are ready, we grab "Catholic cafeteria" menu items that we need for our faith journey. Many of us neglect this tray. Many of us embrace this tray. Many of us take this tray for granted. No matter how full or how empty your tray, it's always there for you. Fill it up! Move items around on it to make room for more. Keep moving forward in the "Catholic cafeteria" line and remember you can always go back for seconds and thirds. There are family, friends and strangers ahead of you and behind you.

Ask them for their opinion on the choices offered. That's right, you are not alone in your journey in the Catholic faith. There are others with you and all of us are traveling with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The "Catholic Cafeteria" never closes. It serves 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Some Catholics feast continuously. Others fill their tray with what they are ready for and then take a rest. Some Catholics leave the cafeteria completely. Some even try other faith cafeterias. Remember, the "Catholic Cafeteria" is always open. Members of the faith can return to the line at any time. Many bring new diners with them. God is the chef and is ever ready for us! May your "Catholic cafeteria" tray be full of all of God's great gifts. You choose when you are ready to sample each. Dessert offerings come at the end of journey and are the sweetest of all!



by Paula Coughlin

The first Feast of Saint Rocco was celebrated here at St. Mary's in August of 1979. Over the years people have come and gone, as have events connected with the festival. But through it all the spirit of the festival hasn't changed.

The Feast of Saint Rocco here at St. Mary's celebrates the idea of Faith, Family and Fun...and of course Food!

From the liturgical celebrations of the Opening Mass with the blessing of the commemorative St. Rocco bread and the placing of the "In Memory of" banner in the church, through the Anointing Mass under the tent on Saturday, to the Closing Mass Sunday followed by the procession of the statue of St. Rocco from the church to the field, St. Rocco's presence is felt throughout the Festival Week. In addition, a statue of St. Rocco is on the field throughout the weekend.

The Festival is a family-friendly event. There are rides, games, activities and music for all ages. Kizzy the Clown is back after a two-year absence, walking around the field, inter-

37 years later...



acting with the kids and making balloon creations for all who want them. Face painting is also available. We have a different band on the stage every evening and a DJ during the day.

Hundreds of Franklin children have grown up attending the Feast of St. Rocco every August and now bring their own children along to enjoy the fun and festivities. Many children have grown up working at the feast, either on the grounds crew or in a booth. Some of them have continued the tradition and now are involved in running a booth.

Whether you are new to the parish or have been here forever, St. Rocco's is a great way to meet people, especially if you volunteer to work in a booth. Booths are always looking for volunteers. If interested, call the rectory or fill out the form in the bulletin. Many people come back to St. Rocco's every year, even if they have moved away. It's a great way to catch up with old friends while enjoying the atmosphere and the food.

When it comes to the food, there is something for everyone at the festival. We have

Italian specialties, including sausages, meatballs, cold cut subs, eggplant, manicotti, pizza, pasta, and of course Italian pastries. We also have fried dough, Belgian waffles and apple crisp. The seafood offerings include fried clams and scallops, clam cakes, stuffed quahogs, and clam chowder.

We have fresh-squeezed lemonade and fresh-made Italian tomato salad.

There are hamburgers and hot dogs for the kids along with fries, onion rings and appetizers galore.

New this year is our Feast of Saint Rocco Franklin MA Facebook page. There you can find the latest information about planned activities and events. Check it out to see photos of the two beautiful Patriots quilts the Italia booth is raffling off. You can also check this page during the festival for photos from the field and the latest information on weather conditions and food availability.

37 years later the Feast of St. Rocco is still going strong. Check us out August 14-16!

The Weave

St. Mary Parish Family
One Church Square
Franklin MA 02038

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