

## The Art beside Our Baptismal Font by Fr. Jerry



Photograph by  
Joanne Schabinger

In 2015 I asked one of our young adults, Mary Lou Patnaude, to create a rendition of the Baptism of the Lord to be placed on the wall by our Baptismal Font. I told her I wanted the picture to be “kid friendly” and colorful. Mary Lou delivered! We took her original drawing to Nancy Scans, Inc., in Chatham, NY and they recreated the art work on three 5 x 4 foot raised panels and we attached them to the wall behind our font. Now as you walk into the front of the church and bless yourself with baptismal water, your eyes are immediately drawn to the beautiful picture of Jesus being baptized by John the Baptist. We recall Jesus’ baptism and our own baptism as we touch the water.

In the center panel, we see Jesus in the Jordan River being baptized by John. The water flows freely and abundantly from John’s hand. Both Jesus and John have the halo of sanctity surrounding their heads. Above Jesus is a dove reminding us of the presence of the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity. Just above the dove is the large bright sun reminding us of God the Father, pouring the light of life and love upon Jesus and all of creation.

The panel to the right has a couple colorfully dressed looking upon the scene of Jesus being baptized. At their feet are two children looking amazed as they see the presence of the dove hovering over Jesus. One only wonders what is going thru their young minds. At the top of the panel is the verse of Scripture from Matthew 3:17: ***“This is my beloved Son. My favor rests on him.”***

The panel to the left of center again shows three people colorfully dressed, representing the community and witnessing the miraculous event of the Son of God being baptized. Jesus sets an example for all of us. As we pray at the end of the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism: *“By God’s gift, through water and the Holy Spirit, we are all reborn to everlasting life. In God’s goodness, may God continue to pour out his blessings upon all of you, God’s sons and daughters. May God make you always, wherever you may be, faithful members of God’s holy people. May God’s peace descend upon all of you who are gathered here, in Christ Jesus our Lord!”*

The rendering of the Baptism of the Lord was given lovingly to our community by the late +Ed and +Marilyn Giaquinto. How grateful we are for this, and the spirit of their gift lives on in Mary Lou’s work!

## Ministry Updates

### Hospitality—First-Year Reflections from Ministry Leader Julie Ashcroft

Our group serves light refreshments in the gathering space following Mass the first Saturday and Sunday of each month, between September and June. We have just completed our first year!

The Bakers Dozen Ministry provides delicious homemade baked goods after the Saturday Mass, and we supplement those goodies with donuts on Sunday. I think we would all agree, however, that it's not about the food; it's about the fellowship.

I encourage any ministry leaders to contact me if they are interested in being highlighted at a Hospitality Weekend. An extra table will be provided for you to set up anything you may want to display. You will need members to be there after each Mass to answer questions or discuss your ministry.

I have personally found this role very fulfilling. I simply love serving my parish family, whether it is with a cup of coffee or a listening ear. I look forward to seeing each of you even if it's for a moment. I consider each Hospitality Weekend a little party which we're all invited to. Thank you for all your words of encouragement and compliments this past year!



Getting to know the other members of the team has brought me great joy, and a real sense of belonging. My cup overflowed when I started asking people to help form this ministry. We like what we're doing and we're having fun at the same time. Each brings something unique, but all are friendly, warm, giving people who love serving this parish as I do.

Please consider joining our team in September! Send me an e-mail or call me for the details. Our next Hospitality Weekend is scheduled for September 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. I can't wait! In the meantime, enjoy your summer!

Contact: Contact: Julie Ashcroft: 630-5389; jandjashcroft@gmail.com

### Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus Council 10013

The goal of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus is to help the Knights. The group is a fellowship of ladies supporting the Knights, each other, and the parish.

Rita & Bill Vullo organized the Knights annual picnic in June, which was attended by 56 people. It was family and fraternity time for the Knights and the Ladies Auxiliary.

Diana Byron, vice president, was awarded the Ladies Auxiliary Member of the Year Award. At all of our meetings Diana provides decaf coffee and hot water for tea, as well as plates, cups, etc. for our refreshment and social time. The Knights join us when their meeting is over. She is also in charge of ordering our nametags, and aprons.

We again assisted the Knights with the Father's Day Pancake Breakfast.

The Ladies Auxiliary meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7PM in room 4, the same time the Knights meet. Meetings include a Scripture Sharing from the book "Prayer Time, Faith-Sharing Reflections on the Sunday Gospels." New members are welcome.



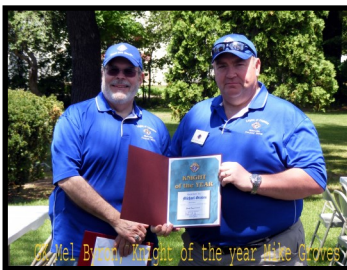
## Ministry Updates-cont.

### Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus, Council 10013 completed its fraternal year in June with its Annual Family Picnic on the church grounds; approximately 56 participated in the fun. Many in the parish of the Immaculate Conception have been involved in activities led by the Knights throughout the year. About 70 people participated in December's Christmas caroling at Glendale Nursing Home, led by Dan Clapper. In conjunction with the St. Vincent DePaul Society (SVDP), parishioners donated over 5000 canned goods at Christmas and during Lent. On three separate weeks, over 300 people attended the Knights Fish Fry Dinners on Fridays during Lent.

For the past three years, the Knights have been putting on the Father's Day Pancake Breakfast. This year, approximately 100 people were served after the two Sunday Masses.

For the first time this past year, the council purchased over 100 "Coats for Kids" which were distributed by



SVDP Society. Over \$3000 was distributed in the form of scholarships and aid to Catholic schools.

Congratulations to Brittany Feurstein, the winner of the \$2000 "Fritz Neumann" scholarship. Congratulations also to Mike Groves who was named Knight of the Year for his many contributions to the Council.

In the fall, the Knights will be starting a "Squires Circle" for young men ages 10 to 18 to impart to them the ideals of Columbianism: Charity, Fraternity, Unity, and Patriotism and prepare them to become members when they turn 18. This will be the first Squires' Circle in operation in the capital district in many years.

Aidan Mongan is leading this effort along with Tom Rigatti, Patrick Zeigler, and Anthony Lotano.

Many thanks to Ladies Auxiliary, which has supported our Council in so many ways, Christine Goss and the Youth Group for their enthusiastic help, and to all who have supported the Knights of Columbus during the past year.

Contact: Mel Byron: 3468954; mbyron1@nycap.rr.com

### Faith Formation

As we wind down another year in Faith Formation, we are also bidding farewell to some of our catechists. It is always sad to say goodbye when a catechist moves on. Although being a catechist is such a wonderful gift to our parish and children, it is so much more than that. We become family and friends, so it is the loss of catching up on each other's lives each week, sharing laughs, or just having a cup of coffee together before or after class. Michele and I will miss these amazing women, and we will always be grateful for their dedication to the Faith Formation program, and for our time together.

HELEN PETEL	25 YEARS
HOPE FEUERSTEIN	9 YEARS
LILLIAN LOBAIDO	7 YEARS
ALISON SECOR	5 YEARS
PATRICIA MANOCCHI	4 YEARS

As we are sure everyone has heard by now, our building is under construction. We are getting two newly remodeled,

handicapped-accessible bathrooms and two classrooms, with rooms 3 and 5 being turned into four classrooms giving us some more much needed space for classes, especially on Sunday mornings. So there is a lot of action going on in this building, and we are getting excited for the coming year.

Another change for the 2015-2016 session will be a time change for Tuesday classes. This year the Tuesday class will be offered from **5:15 to 6:30 PM**. We are hoping that this time change will accommodate working families, and catechists who need a later class time.

Our office will be opened during the summer on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, from 9 to 4. We are planning a very busy and exciting year, and are looking forward to our halls and classrooms once again being filled with the wonderful sounds of children.

Have a safe and happy summer! *Madeline & Michele*

Contact: Madeline Fretto: 399-9210; mal417@nycap.rr.com

## Ministry Updates-cont.

### Youth Ministry—Can a conference really be “life-changing”? by Christine Goss

*This 3 part series will look at the National Catholic Youth Conference: what it is, who from Immaculate is attending, and how the conference experience impacts their faith and their lives.*

each participant’s cost. The balance is met through a combination of fundraising efforts and individual family contributions.

#### Does NCYC have a theme?

Every year the conference has an overall theme. For 2015, the theme is “Here I am Lord.” Each of the three days of the conference also has a specific scripture theme which is the center of the keynote presentation for that day.

#### What’s the point?

NCYC offers high school students and their adult chaperones multiple opportunities to interact and learn more about our Catholic faith. From general sessions to workshops to occasions to be of service and participate in the sacraments to the chance to dance or play basketball, NCYC attempts to engage the head, heart, and hands of all participants.

#### How does someone participate in NCYC?

Our parish delegation of 11 teens and 2 adult chaperones is currently set for NCYC 2015. If you are going to be a high school student in Fall 2017 and are interested in attending NCYC – get involved in Youth Ministries and our Parish now! The preparation and fundraising for NCYC goes on for almost an entire year before the trip, so the 2017 delegation will be identified in late 2016. Details are always posted in the Parish Bulletin.

Contact: Christine Goss: 399-9203; cicoyouth@nycap.rr.com

#### What is NCYC?

NCYC is the National Catholic Youth Conference, the largest Catholic youth-based conference in the country. It is organized by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) and held every other year.

#### Who attends NCYC?

Catholic high school teens from across the country attend NCYC, along with youth ministers, chaperones, priests, deacons, and more! In 2013 over 23,000 young people and chaperones attended NCYC.

#### Where is NCYC?

NCYC 2015 is in Indianapolis, Indiana – held between the Convention Center and Lucas Oil Stadium (where the Indianapolis Colts play!).

#### How much does it cost? Who pays for it?

Costs for the trip vary from year to year, but typically cost about \$1,200 per person. Our parish, under the leadership of Fr. Jerry with approval of the Finance Committee, has generously paid a portion of

### Respect Life Ministry

The annual Fortnight for Freedom, sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, was June 21 to July 4. During this time, our liturgical calendar celebrated a series of great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political power—St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher, St. John the Baptist, SS. Peter and Paul, and the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome. The theme of this year’s Fortnight focused on the “freedom to bear witness” to the truth of the Gospel.



*"Keeping the spirit of the Gospel means that Catholic institutions are to bear witness in love to the full truth about the human person by providing social, charitable, and educational services in a manner that fully reflects the God-given dignity of the human person." - Archbishop*

*William E. Lori, Chairman, Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, on the "Freedom to Bear Witness". . .*

Parishioners prayed a rosary in the parish hall for this intention after the Sunday masses on June 28.

Contact: Larry Smith: 384-0882; LPJTSmith6@msn.com

Do you remember the fun you had watching the 60's sitcom "Father Knows Best"?

We're going to put our own twist on this favorite show and recapture its fun and enjoyment at our Parish Family Picnic:



Father Knows Best  
↑  
Jerry



Save the Date:  
September 13, 2015; 12:00 PM



Music by Cap Capello and Deacon Mike

Fun Games and Activities

Great food: Brownie Bake-off, Church Chili Pot, Burgers, Hot Dogs, Sausage and Peppers, Corn, Salads, and, of course, "Sweetie Pie" Desserts



Photographs by Joanne Schabinger

### Lynn Winterberger's Cheesy Potatoes

Mix together in large bowl:

- 1 pkg (20 oz) shredded hashbrown potatoes (refrigerated Simply Potatoes)
- 1 10 and 3/4 oz. can of cream of chicken (or celery/mushroom/broccoli) soup
- 1/2 - 1 cup sour cream
- 2 cups shredded sharp cheddar cheese

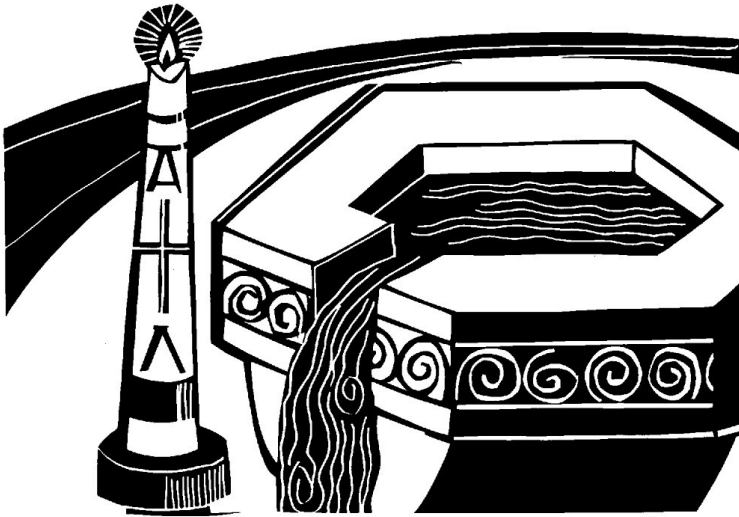
Spray 13 x 9 glass or metal baking dish with non-stick cooking spray.

Bake at 350 degrees for 70 minutes, or until golden brown and potatoes are cooked through.

When I make it for my family, I usually triple or quadruple the recipe (using 2 cups of sour cream regardless) and cook it overnight in the 6-quart crockpot on low. If I need to, I throw in on high in the morning for an hour or so.



## Times of Joy—Sacramental Milestones



*Congratulations and welcome to these children who received the Sacrament of Baptism during the months of January through June of this year. We pray for the grace these families need to grow in their faith.*

Conor David Franze, child of David & Amy  
 Evie Maryann Brewer, child of Brian & Sarah  
 Sofia Elizabeth McLaughlin, child of Brian & Diana  
 William Minor Gaylord, child of Christopher & Katerina  
 Rowan Dietz Bruce, child of Alexander & Elizabeth  
 Ella Marie Carrero, child of Dominick & Nicole  
 Liam Kevin Moughan, child of Kevin & Karen  
 Lucy Ann Alverson, child of Ryan & Tara  
 Toby Stanley Curcio, child of Jason & Valerie  
 Lily Kathleen Dyminski, child of Chad & Catherine  
 Miles Joseph Christy, child of Michael & Sarah

*These couples were married in our church from January through June this year. We wish God's blessing upon each one.*

Matthew Danton to Amy Wuest  
 Jason Rodgers to Allison Wildy  
 Kyle Scheffler to Grace Nally  
 Michael Hinkle to Alissa Giacobbi

## Meet the Staff: Fran Rossi Szpylczyn, Pastoral Associate for Administration



Fran Rossi Szpylczyn (*SPIL-sen*) says that the best part of her job as Pastoral Associate for Administration is welcoming people. This is not a surprise to anyone who calls or stops in at the rectory!

Born and raised near New York City, Fran graduated from SUNY Oswego with a BA in Communications, with a concentration in broadcasting. She worked at Nielsen Ratings for more than twenty years, becoming a Senior Vice President before she married her husband Mark in 2007 and moved upstate. Unemployed for the first time in her life, she became involved in St. Edward's Parish in Clifton Park, attending daily Mass, becoming a catechist for teens and adults, starting a parish blog, as well as assisting with funerals, and other liturgical ministries. In 2008, she enrolled in St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry, and began her work as the parish secretary here at Immaculate Conception. In 2013, she received an MA in Pastoral Studies with a concentration in Theology.

Juggling diverse duties that go beyond her initial welcome, she composes the Prayer of the Faithful, manages Father Jerry's calendar, coordinates scheduling of parish facilities, and other office work. Fran manages the sacramental paperwork for baptisms, weddings, and funerals. As needed, she assists with families planning a funeral, which is one of her most beloved duties. She attributes her comfort level with this difficult time for families to her mother who taught Fran from an early age that death is a part of our faith and our

lives. At the heart of this is her pastoral ministry of welcome and hospitality.

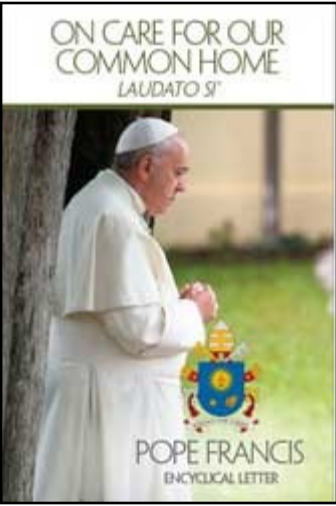
When not working here, Fran remains immersed in the life of the Church. She is a contributor to *Give Us This Day*, a monthly periodical of prayers, mass readings and reflections, and to *Homilists for the Homeless*. This charitable book project has won awards from *The Catholic Press Association* for three consecutive years and has raised over \$70,000 for homelessness, help for mothers and newborns in need, women in crisis and more. She has been published in *The Evangelist*, *The National Catholic Reporter*, and the *Times Union*, which also hosts her blog. She is a social media consultant, a public speaker, and retreat leader. For seven years, Fran has been involved in digital evangelization, using social media in the interest of faith.

With all of this activity, Fran still finds time to relax with her husband Mark, and stepdaughter, Erica, who will soon study at the University of Arizona. Fran enjoys gardening, walking, photography, cooking, and reading. She describes herself as an “experimental cook.” For her, recipes act as “suggestions” and cooking is “a contemplative act.”

Growing up in an Italian-American neighborhood in the 60's she was a “church nerd,” loving everything about it, from the nuns and the bells to the incense. She attended public school, but her family was deeply involved in their parish, including her father who had been raised in the Jewish faith; Fran's mother was Irish Catholic. For various reasons, Fran left the church in 1972, and then returned in 1990 after traveling to Medjugorje, a trip she took after her mother's recovery from an illness.

Returning to the Catholic Church is a source of tremendous gratitude for Fran. She is very thankful to be “working for God,” and greeting people is a great privilege. This is obvious to anyone who contacts the rectory. Gathering and welcoming one person at a time is how we integrate the Body of Christ, where every life has value. This is the way that Fran has come to understand and live the ministry of Jesus.

**Ask Fr. Jerry\***



**Question: WHAT IS A PAPAL ENCYCLICAL?**

**Answer:** We've been hearing a lot about the Papal Encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, so Father Jerry suggested that I write about them for this issue. An encyclical is something that the Holy Father writes, but what does it mean? There are different kinds of Vatican communications, documents, or decrees. For example, there are Exhortations, Constitutions, Letters, Bulls, and Encyclicals, which we examine today.

What then, is an encyclical? The word comes from the Greek, *εγκύκλιος*, which transliterates to *egkyklios*, meaning circle. In the early days of the church, written documents would be carried to their destinations. These **encyclicals** were meant to be "circulated" among the bishops, who would then share them with their flocks.

The more contemporary encyclical dates back to Pope Benedict XIV in 1740. Encyclicals are written in Latin, and then translated into the vernacular. Until fairly recently, this task was burdensome, translating the original text into Latin, and then, translating back into various languages. Today, this happens far more quickly. An encyclical may be sent to all bishops, or to a certain group, depending on the meaning or teaching, but in general, they are universal.

The title of an encyclical is taken from its first sentence, pointing to the topic to be addressed. For example, Pope Francis' first encyclical was called, *Lumen Fidei*, or *Light of Faith*. *The title of Laudato Si' departs from this formula. First, it means "Praise be to you" in Umbrian, or Central Medieval Italian, a reference to words used by St. Francis of Assisi in his Canticle of the Sun. In addition, the title of the encyclical always has a subtitle, in this case, "on the care of our common home."*

All of this is a long way of saying that an encyclical is a form of

communicating to the bishops, to the Catholic world, and to *all interested people of good will*. That last part is important, because it clearly illustrates the universal and evangelical nature of our faith.

The documents are available to us online, and they can be downloaded. You can find a link to *Laudato Si'* on our website ([www.icglenville.com](http://www.icglenville.com)). They may be purchased in book form from the US Catholic Bishops' website ([www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)), or even from Amazon. The Vatican website (<http://w2.vatican.va/content/vatican/en.html>) is an excellent resource for online versions of documents.

*Laudato Si'* is a long encyclical, and highly misunderstood. This is a reminder to read the encyclical itself, and not just about it. In addition to *Laudato Si'*, here are some encyclicals that I recommend:

- Rerum Novarum (On Capital and Labor) - Pope Leo XIII, 1891*
- Pacem in Terris (Peace on Earth) - St. John XXIII, 1963*
- Laborem Exercens (On Human Work) - St. John Paul II 1981*
- Centissimus Annus (On the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rerum Novarum) - St. John Paul II. 1991*
- Ut Unum Sint (That They May Be One) - St. John Paul II, 1995*
- Deus Caritas (God is Love) - Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, 2005*
- Spe Salvi (Saved By Hope) - Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, 2007*
- Caritas in Veritate (Charity in Truth) - Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, 2009*

We can learn so much from studying these papal documents. They are not beyond us; they are meant to be read, studied, discussed, and shared amongst ourselves and others. Remember those earlier words - "*to the Catholic world, and to all interested people of good will.*" We learn, we live, and we evangelize with our lives, so reading and praying with an encyclical is a holy act.

**\* The answer to this question was written by Pastoral Associate for Administration Fran Szplczyn.**

In this seventh issue of the *Parish Pipeline*, some of our ministries have updated their activities. Immaculate Conception is fortunate to have many more ministries which will be highlighted in coming issues. For a complete list of ministries,

- see the church website: <http://www.icglenville.com>
- contact Maryann Haskell, 399-6706, e-mail [maryann.haskell@gmail.com](mailto:maryann.haskell@gmail.com)
- fill in the information below and drop it in the collection basket. You will be contacted.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in the following ministry/ministries:

\_\_\_\_\_

October 17-18: Next issue of the Pipeline to be distributed.

October 8: Submissions due.