



Multi-Ministry Event in Honor of Our Lady of Fatima

The one hundredth anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima are being commemorated here at Immaculate Conception. On Wednesday, October 11, there were two showings of the movie "Fatima-Message of Hope" for adult audiences, and a viewing of "The Day the Sun Danced" for children. On October 13, the adult movie was shown again. The event, culminating in a Living Rosary, annually coordinated by Mary Sesselman, will be held on Tuesday, October 17. An integral part of this final ceremony will be the presence of the Pilgrim Statue of the Blessed Virgin.

In 1947, Monsignor Harold V. Colgan of St. Mary's Parish in Plainfield, New Jersey, decided to make Our Lady's appearance at Fatima the focus of the Marian devotion which had become his life's work. One day, he asked parishioners to wear something blue and "become the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima." In response to this, the Bishop of Fatima commissioned a statue of Mary, as she appeared to the children in Fatima in 1917. The four-foot-tall statue was carved from cedar and contained several fragments from the tree upon which Mary had stood during the apparitions. The Bishop of Fatima presented the statue to Monsignor Colgan as a gift. When the Monsignor died, he left it to a close friend, Robert Froehlich, the founder of the House of Loretto Marian Center in Cohoes, and the statue came to this country. When Mr. Froehlich died, his parents gave the statue to Mildred and Ed Breitenbach who then founded the St. Joseph Marian Center in Altamont. Bishop Howard Hubbard named the St. Joseph Marian Center as the Blue Army's representative in the Albany Diocese and the custodian of the Pilgrim Statue. Since 1978, the



Statue has travelled throughout the Diocese and has appeared at many devotions and processions. The caretaker for the Statue is Joanne O'Hara.

A musical prelude will begin the Living Rosary at 6:30 p.m. Weather permitting, participants, holding candles to commemorate each bead of the Rosary, will walk, led by the Pilgrim Statue of the Blessed Mother and the Holy Eucharist, from the Parish Center, across the parking lot and into the church, where the Fatima song, "Fatima Ave," will be played as the entrance hymn. Participants will process to the front of the church and around to both sides of the altar. Those representing the Our Father will carry bouquets of roses. Reciting the Glorious Mysteries, each person will begin his or her prayer, and the congregation will complete the second part. The final prayer will be "Hail Holy Queen," candles will be extinguished, and the lights in the church will come on. Fr. Jerry will offer a reflection followed by Benediction and a singing of "Queen of the Holy Rosary." Finally, the ceremony will conclude with the exit song "Fatima Farewell."

Everyone attending the ceremony will be given a packet containing a Rosary, an Our Lady of Fatima prayer card, a Divine Mercy prayer card, a pamphlet on how to pray the Rosary, a napkin to wave as the statue leaves the service, and paper and a pencil on which petitions can be written. These petitions can be left in a basket in the gathering space. Since they are prayers to Our Lady, they will go with the Statue and be prayed over at the St. Joseph Marian Center.

See Fatima, page 5

Ministry Updates

Respect Life Ministry

October is Respect Life month! The Respect for Life Ministry is keeping busy in its mission to promote respect for life from conception to natural death:

40 Days for Life Ongoing through November 4, this world-wide program of prayer, fasting and community outreach to end abortion returns to Schenectady. Many of our parishioners participate and you can too by contacting 40 Days for Life of Schenectady:
<https://40daysforlife.com/schenectady>

Respect Life Sunday On October 1, the church emphasized concern for all human life, especially that of the unborn, the elderly, persons with disabilities, the terminally ill, immigrants, and others whose lives are threatened. Ministry members and friends handed out the US Conference of Catholic Bishops' Respect Life Sunday flyer and provided an information table in the Gathering Space after the weekend Masses.

From the flyer – *When battered by life's storms...we may feel alone and unequipped...but remember "Do not fear: I am with you" (Isaiah 41:10). The Lord suffered greatly so he is not just an observer of our pain. Reflecting on this we see difficulty can be where God manifests victory... He is always with us and gives us the mission to "Go be my hands and feet" with a woman who is unexpectedly pregnant, a friend facing reprisal at work for taking a pro-life stand, visiting an aging parent, and other actions. We don't need to have everything figured out. We can follow our Blessed Mother who said "Do whatever He tells you"...Walk with each other; don't be afraid to embrace God's gift of life; whatever we face, we are not alone, He is with us, "Behold I am with you always until the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20).*
<https://usccb.org/prolife>

Spiritual Adoption Individuals "spiritually adopt" in prayer an unborn child in danger of abortion. Over sixty parishioners are praying for mother and baby for nine months until we celebrate these babies' births. Updates on mother and baby appear in the bulletin to inform us on Baby's development and how Mom is doing. It's the eighth month already and with our prayers, these babies are almost here! <http://www.spiritualadoption.org/>

If you think activities like these are worthwhile, consider joining us at our meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Watch the bulletin for meeting announcements.

Contact: Larry Smith: 518-384-0882 or LPJTSmith6@msn.com

Teen Parishioner Isabella Lotano Attends Camp Esther Pro-Life Boot Camp

The Immaculate Conception-Glenville chapter of the Knights of Columbus sponsors scholarships for parish youth to attend Camp Esther, the pro-life "boot camp" run by New York State Right to Life. The Knights asked the Respect Life ministry to select scholarship recipients based on an essay describing why the applicant wants to attend Camp Esther. Our scholarship winner was Isabella Lotano, a high school senior who was confirmed in our parish this past spring. Youth Ministry made sure Isabella knew about this opportunity. Isabella wrote a compelling essay about her concern with the "Culture of Death" that pervades our world through teen suicide, abortion, embryonic stem cell research, and assisted suicide. She wrote about her desire to learn how to engage those she meets in a way that will attract their interest in her point of view, and that Jesus shows us the better way, the "Culture of Life." Here is what Isabella had to say after returning from Camp Esther:

"At Camp Esther, I met amazing people, had a more in depth lesson on abortion, Planned Parenthood, assisted suicide, euthanasia, and even health care. The classes were very long, and extremely intense. These topics are not easy, especially when you learn about them more in depth. We learned about the different kinds of abortions and what can go wrong during the abortion. There were speakers that actually have talked to women that have had abortions. They all suffer from depression, and PTSD. We even read different situations of women after they had an abortion. One was about a woman who had a D&C and she couldn't go to the dentist without being put out, because the tools they use have the same sound. The mood of most of the topics was chilling and ultimately unbelievable! Now that I know this, I know that I will have the right information to tell people the truth. The people there were so awesome, and very passionate about being pro-life, and they were all centered with God. The speakers were so helpful and informative, and they printed out notes for us in a big binder in case we forget anything. Our culture really is one of death and lies. I think every person that goes to Camp Esther will inevitably become a soldier for the unborn, the elderly, and for the vulnerable. I know that I certainly feel confident in the information I have learned, and ready to educate this culture."

Isabella Lotano
July 2017 Camp Esther attendee

Ministry Updates-cont.

Book Club

Book Club started meeting in April 2015. Since our first monthly meeting of 8 women, we have grown to a roster of 23. There is no age requirement, just a love of reading and discussion among women about our preselected book. We choose books based on group input and have read Christian and Catholic authors, as well as best selling authors viewing all the literature we read through a Catholic lens. Most recently we read Good Sam, by Dete Meserve in September and discussed how helping others in turn helps ourselves. Often the book is not the topic of discussion, but the themes and how we can apply the message to our daily life become central to the discussion. The parish website has a list of the 25 books we have read since starting over two years ago, as well as other suggested reads. Check out the list for reading inspiration, as well as our upcoming books and dates. Contact Simone McGuinness at 518-399-9506 or jmcginni@nycap.rr.com if you're interested in trying it out!

Graces - Catholic Upcycling!

by Simone McGuinness

Graces is a ministry that was started by the late Carol Sanders. I took over the ministry around 2007. Each month, I collect gently used and new Catholic materials and find new homes for these materials. There are many times throughout the year that I display items for anyone to take home with them. Look for a table at hospitality weekend, as well as the Fish Fries during Lent. If you are looking for a specific item (book, music, prayer card, rosary, medallion, etc), give me a call – I might have it, or find it in donated items. Additionally, if you have materials you want to pass on, I collect those for redistribution. Currently, I have a large collection of books that are available. Look for the next Graces display at the Fatima event in October. If you would like to have Graces visit your event with a specific theme contact Simone McGuinness at 518-399-9506 or jmcginni@nycap.rr.com.

My Just Five Days Experience

By Carrie Watkins



Back row: Sarah Callinan, Carrie Watkins, Siobhan Farrell

Front row: Jenna Vaughan, Emma Biesty, Sophia Goss

For the first time this year, our parish sponsored a group of young adults to learn and grow in faith during a Just Five Days mission trip. For those of you who don't already know what Just Five Days is, we went on a week long service retreat to meet with other Catholic kids who, just like us, wanted to help people. For more information, visit the organization's website at <https://www.cmdnet.org/j5d>

We spent many months preparing for the trip. We held meetings, raised money, and made posters for the trip's theme: "Saints Among Us: Young World Changers." I thought the most important part of the meetings was learning to work with each other, because I didn't know anyone. Eventually, we worked all the important stuff out like: who liked food the most; who was the best at charades; and who knew the most Ed Sheeran songs. Eventually, we were friends.

See Five Days, page 6

570 Enjoy Luau Picnic



Those that came were well fed!

- 300 hot dogs
- 225 hamburgers
- 150 pounds of pulled pork sandwiches
- 2 bushels of corn
- 22 pounds of fried dough
- 2 very large pans of church chili
- 750 pieces of dessert

Many thanks to all who volunteered and worked to make the day a success.



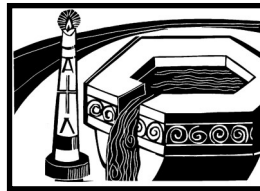
Fatima, continued from page 1

Several ministries from Immaculate Conception have cooperated on this special event. The Knights of Columbus will be the honor guard for the statue, the Rosary makers are providing the Rosaries and the flowers for the Our Father bouquets, and the music ministry will perform the music with choir members from Immaculate Conception. Singers from Our Lady of Grace and St. Joseph's have been invited to join our choir. Greeters will distribute music aides and packets, lector Lucille Dintrone will read, and altar servers will act as candle and incense bearers. Graces will have a display table of Our Lady of Fatima items for people to take, Julie Ashcroft will take pictures, and Rachel Winters will arrange for the homebound to attend the ceremony. Christine Goss, Pastoral Associate for Youth Ministries, and Karen Ronca of the Adult Faith Enrichment ministry handled publicity. Hospitality provided refreshments for the adult movie showings. Finally, a sincere thank you goes out to the core group, comprised of Jeanne Corrigan, Linda Levine, Kathy Richard, and Mary Sesselman, who coordinated all of the activities for this celebration.

The combined efforts of all of these ministries points to the importance of this celebration. Linda Levine hopes that people will learn more about Our Lady of Fatima and recognize how powerful the Rosary can be for personal petitions and the fulfillment of Mary's requests for prayer, penance, and sacrifice in order to bring about the conversion of sinners, world peace, and the protection and strengthening of the church.



Times of Joy—Sacramental Milestones



Congratulations and welcome to these children who received the Sacrament of Baptism from June 29, 2017 to October 6, 2017. We pray for the grace these families need to grow in their faith.

Lincoln George, child of Jason & Helen Snell

Antonio Gaetano, child of Melissa & Benito Ponce

David Francis, child of Michael & Sarah Christy

Penelope Walker Mary, child of Brian & Kathryn McClimans

Payton Elizabeth Rose, child of Jeremy Pease and Codie Addington

John David William, child of Jacob & Lauren Patterson

Anna Marie, child of Timothy & Katie Krause

Abigail Blanche, child of Nicholas & Jessica Fragnoli and Jessica's child, Tristan.

These couples were married between June 29, 2017 and October 6, 2017. We wish God's blessing upon them.

Joseph C. Coons to Pamela A. Kulak

Nicholas A. Jones to Christine Berninger

Katelyn M. Nardini to Dakota L. Aker

November 4, 2017—Our Second Annual Morning of Service

The 2nd parish-wide Morning of Service will take place on Saturday November 4, 2017. There will be opportunities for over 400 people to “serve our community with love, mercy and humility.” There are projects for all ages and all abilities. You can sign up online at www.icglenville.com/2017-morning-of-service or fill out a volunteer form located in the gathering space.

Ten projects will be held in the parish center. For example, our volunteers will produce fleece blankets for the Ronald McDonald House and Northeast Parent and Child Early Headstart, Christmas cards for active military personnel, pencil pouches for Operation Christmas Child, and scrapbook pages for Albany Med NICU.

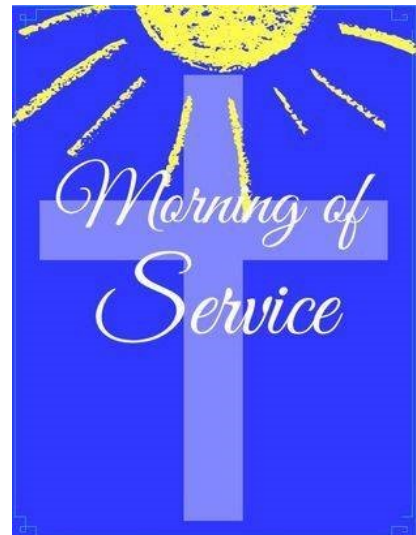
Our people will be helping out at fifteen area agencies such as Glendale Home, Regional Food Bank, Things of My Very Own, Joan Nicole Prince Home, City Mission, Jack’s Place, Schenectady YWCA, and Habitat for Humanity.

On the morning of November 4, volunteers will gather in the church to meet their team leaders and get directions. We will then participate in a brief prayer service led by Father Jerry before proceeding to our on-site or off-site volunteer activities. There will be hospitality and

fellowship in the parish center throughout the morning and into early afternoon so that we may all celebrate and reflect on the goodness of the day.

When completed, over 700 hours in service to the community will be accomplished on November 4. While the agencies will surely benefit, our people will benefit more by experiencing the personal and spiritual reward of giving of themselves “with love, mercy and humility.”

Please join us.



Five Days, continued from page 3

Friends or not, we left for Springfield, Massachusetts right after Monday morning Mass on July 24, 2017. When we arrived, we found out our project would be helping the elderly people at Mercy Life Adult Day Care. Every day, we would wake up, eat, and learn about a Saint or saintly person. We learned about people like Mother Teresa, Blessed Oscar Romero, and Father George and Homeboy Industries. When we got back to the parish where we were staying after work, we learned more about how we can be more like these saintly people and shared about our day. We prayed together every day.

Wondering what our service days were like? Around 9:00am, we loaded up our minivan and headed off to work. On our first day, things were a little awkward, but soon we got to know the elders. I found that talking to them was a lot less

stressful than talking to kids my age. They didn't judge us, they were just happy to have the company. Even when we were trying to figure out how a craft worked, they seemed to enjoy just watching us, and it made me feel better knowing we were bringing them joy. Some of the elders would ask us endless questions about our life, while others would launch into their life story the moment we sat down. We played cards, colored, played sitting down volley ball, and just had a lot of fun in general. We all loved everything about Mercy Life.

All too soon, the week was over. I feel like the week really changed me. I am really happy with all the new friends I made, both my age and at the center. I really feel like the whole experience taught me a lot about my Catholic faith, what it means to follow the examples of the Saints by helping people, and it made me happy to make someone else's life a little easier. I definitely can't wait till next year!

Have You Seen Tom Bigos?

by Annette Botsford

When meeting Tom Bigos, you immediately realize that he is enthusiastic about his volunteer work at The Church of the Immaculate Conception. In October, he is already planning for Advent and Christmas.



Tom doesn't have an official title for what he does for the church community. He can be found on campus nearly every day. He sees his role as getting ready for things down the road. Advent, Christmas and Easter are the major times that need a great deal of preplanning. As a member of the decorating and liturgy committees, Tom helps to coordinate volunteers who come out to make our church and services very special. He will contact florists for the flowers, but he doesn't do plant care. He apparently has a brown thumb.

You will often see Tom at any mass you attend on the weekends. He is a Eucharistic Minister and trains and oversees the altar servers. In Tom's words, he likes anything to do with electronics and technology. He was there daily when the new sound system, organ and speakers were being installed behind the organ pipes. He has been the primary contact for the new sound system, lighting system, air conditioner programming and outdoor bells programming. As a member of the finance committee, Tom has given the presentation the past few years.

Tom has been influential in the use of the on-line system dealing with sign-ups for the annual picnic, Day of Service, etc. and mailings going out to individuals who want to volunteer to participate.

As a native of Northern New Jersey, Tom and his wife Diane grew up in the same town. Tom attended Catholic schools and went on to receive a degree in

math from Siena College. While at Siena, he took courses in finance. His professional career in finance began right after graduation at General Electric. Work at GE has taken him from Schenectady, to the mid-west and then back to this area in 1986. He retired in 2014 after a 40-year career with GE including 17 years at the Research and Development

Center.

Tom and his wife Diane are parents of two grown sons. One son lives in Niskayuna and has three boys and the other lives in Philadelphia and has two sons.

When he is not volunteering his time at Immaculate Conception, Tom works part time driving for a local car dealership and is also an inspector for the Board of Elections. When he has free time, he enjoys doing yard work, listening to ball games (Cubs fan), and watching old movies on TV.

From the age of 7 in New Jersey, Tom was an altar server, going to daily morning mass and then walking to the nearby school. He always had an interest in the liturgies and why/how things happen during the Mass. His commitment to serving his church and community has continued throughout his life.

Tom believes that helping out is a rewarding experience. There are many people who come out each year to help with special events. Volunteers are needed for so many projects and occasions. If you have the time and are interested in helping him or the parish in any way, please contact the rectory or Tom at Bigostom@gmail.com or (518) 878-1905.

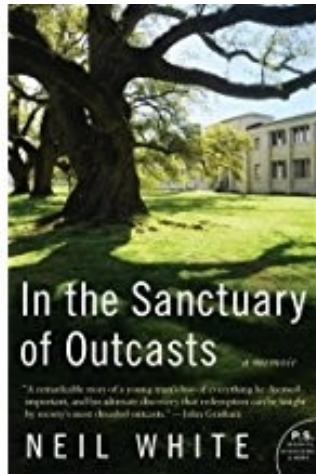
Book Review: *In the Sanctuary of Outcasts*, by Neil White

Reviewed by Kim Klementowski

On May 3, 1993, Neil White surrendered himself to Federal Prison in Carville, LA. He told his children that “Daddy is going away to camp” because “camp” was a friendlier term for children under the age of 5 than “prison” or “jail.”

Neil had owned a publishing company. Like many small companies in the early 90’s cash flow was a major problem. In order to meet payroll and pay bills, Neil would write a check from one bank for money he didn’t have, deposit it in another bank to write checks and then try to find investors to loan him the money before the checks cleared. It worked for quite a while but, one day, he got caught. It turns out that his “creative financing” was really check kiting and it’s a federal crime. Neil pled guilty on federal charges to avoid state prosecution. He was sentenced to 18 months in federal prison to be served in Carville, L.A.

The prison in Carville, LA as Neil would soon find out, was not an ordinary prison. It was in fact a large campus that housed patients with Hansen’s disease and a convent. There was a Catholic church on



campus as well. For more than a century, Carville, Louisiana was a National Leprosarium where people who contracted leprosy, also known as Hansen’s disease, were forcibly taken from their homes and put in institutions to prevent the spread of the disease. By the early 90’s, the population in Carville had dwindled down to around 130 patients so the Bureau of Prisons transferred federal

convicts to the facility. The “prison” contained nuns, patients and convicts and they all worshipped together in the tiny church and sometimes ran into each other in the cafeteria and hallways.

This is a true story, written by Neil White based on his experiences during his incarceration. I found it to be funny, moving and an exercise in Faith as well. The author’s encounters with the patients changes him and you can see him move from judgement and fear, to acceptance and then friendship.

I found this book to be a fast read that immediately captured and kept my interest. I think you will as well.

In this sixteenth 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
- 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:

January 19-20
Distribution of the next issue of the Pipeline

January 9:
Submissions due