

Rain Could Not Dampen the 'Tri-Parish Picnic.

photos by Julie Ashcroft and Maria Yorkshire



See Picnic, page 2, for more pictures

St. Vincent de Paul Holiday Update by Joan Bunn



Thanksgiving and Christmas- we will be giving food baskets to families of need. We will also be distributing Christmas gifts to the children. Our green cards will be hanging from the Bethlehem Trees.

Food- We would like to thank all our church families who generously donate food throughout the year, so we are able to help needy families. Since we provide food for about 60 families for Thanksgiving and 70 families for Christmas, we can always use more help. We are in need of tuna fish, canned corn, beans, fruit, and soup. Our containers are located in the gathering space of the church!



Volunteers- We need help sorting the food items on Thursday, November 16th and Friday, November 17th. If you are able to help, please call or text Joan at 518 669-6300. Thank you for all your help!

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat...” Matt 25:35

Picnic, continued from page 1



“Made for Better Things” Respect Life Ministry Update by Larry Smith

Respect for life from conception to natural death is a tenet of our Catholic faith. Your parish Respect Life Ministry strives to help parishioners educate themselves on respect life issues.

This message of love comes directly from Archbishop José H. Gomez’s second Pastoral Letter *For greater things you were born*, where he writes:

“*Nothing can contain our greatness!* What a statement. The first disciples lived their Christian identity and proclaimed their faith with this overwhelming sense of astonishment. And so should we, my brothers, and sisters! It is time for all of us in the Church — bishops, priests, deacons, seminarians, consecrated, religious and lay people — all of us should be alive with a new sense of awe at our greatness in the eyes of God.

“We must learn again to see what the saints can see — that the human person is something marvelous in the universe. You and I are God’s masterpiece, each of us made in his image as a unity of body and soul, endowed with reason and free will, and given the vocation to imitate God and to share in his divine work, serving and ruling over his creation.

“We are made in the image of the Lord of history, the Author of Life, the Maker of heaven and earth! God is Love and so we are



made in the image of love. I have always appreciated the poet Dante’s description of God as ‘the Love that moves the sun and the other stars.’

Nature’s designs speak to us of God’s love and truth; and our existence is part of God’s plan of loving goodness. The human person is exceptional, we are not just one more crea-

ture in God’s creation. We are not just something, we are someone.

“Alone among all earthly creatures, the human person can build computers, fly into outer space, and discover the inner workings of the human body and mind. Alone among all creatures, the human person alone can write songs and poems, make paintings and symphonies. And alone in the material universe, the human person can love, sacrifice, and offer worship to his Creator.

“We are made in the image of the God of all creation. All the universe was made for us, and in all of creation, we are the only creature that God wills to share in his own life.

“This is our greatness.”

(Excerpt taken from Archbishop José H. Gomez, Pastoral Letter: *For Greater Things You Were Born*, 13)

Times of Joy-Sacramental Milestones

Congratulations and welcome to these children who received the Sacrament of Baptism from May 28, 2023 to October 4, 2023. We pray for the grace these families need to grow in their faith.

Miles Justin Scherer, child of Brian and Karen

Waylon Everette Bezio, child of Brendan and Kayla

Ryan Marie Walrath, child of Nicholas and Alexandra

Nora Ellen White, child of Craig and Natalie

Denver Rae Sauer, child of Eric and Sara

Samuel John Bosy and Callan Stanley Bosy, children of Justin and Mariah

Jax Blanco Ehrcke, child of Kenneth and Jacquelyn

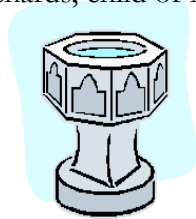
Eva Marianne Kiltz, Thomas Holland Kiltz, and James Matthew Kiltz II, children of James and Taylor

Ziann Enzo DeJesus, child of Giann and Endrienne

Julian Fredrick Hawes, child of Nathaniel and Kristen

Salvatore James Fifield, child of Ryan and Drue

Giavanna Catherine Richards, child of Nicholas and Michelle



These couples were married between May 28, 2023 and October 4, 2023. We wish God's blessing upon them.



Cassandra Maresca and Steven Mach

Kaitlyn Mahoney and Kyle Daley

Bridie Schnore and Brandon Artymowycz

Natalia Gondim de Almeida and Kyle Matthew Springer

Allison Caron and Winston Chu

To Fill a Heart

Daniel Nosek

Some acts are done joyfully; some, conceded;

But decrease, responsibilities won't.

We must do all that which is needed

Whether we want to or we don't.

The world loves a joyful giver,

Though it's more fun to receive;

Only by giving does a heart fill ever,

That much I do believe.

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Our Lady Queen of Peace Prayer Group – A Little Bit of History

By Daniel Nosek

The Our Lady Queen of Peace Prayer Group first met on April 19, 1993, the day after Divine Mercy Sunday, and has been meeting continuously for thirty years. The group was founded by Mary Sesselman of our parish and is named for the Virgin Mary. Our Lady started appearing as Our Lady Queen of Peace to six child visionaries on June 24, 1981 in Medjugorje (pronounced med-you-gore-ya), a small village in the mountains of Yugoslavia (now Bosnia-Herzegovina). She is still appearing on a regular basis 42 years later, though to only three of the original visionaries. Our Lady's



main reason for appearing in Medjugorje is to lead us to her Son Jesus Christ through prayer, fasting and conversion. While some of her messages are of a personal nature to the visionaries, many of them, particularly those which occur to Marija on the 25th day of each month, are directed to the general public. These can be accessed at several websites which can easily be found via an Internet search. May 12, 2019, Pope Francis officially authorized pilgrimages to Medjugorje, such that they can now be officially organized by dioceses and parishes in order to favor and promote “the fruits of good” at Medjugorje while not yet providing “an authentication” of the events there.

Mary Sesselman first heard about Medjugorje from her daughter and bought a book on the subject from the Madonna Shop in Schenectady. That book, “Medjugorje – The Message” by Wayne Weible is still available to be purchased and tells how this Protestant newspaper publisher ended up believing in Our Lady's mission in Medjugorje and at her request became perhaps its greatest supporter and promoter. Mary Sesselman became so intrigued after reading the book and by magazine articles that I believe were likely written and published by Mr. Weible as well, that she eventually went on a week-long pilgrimage to Medjugorje in October of 1992, in a group of 28 pilgrims. In

her words, “...there were so many miracles at that time that were being reported... that I just decided one day that I had to go”. During that trip, she had experiences that were “truly special”, including the opportunity to meet several of the visionaries. According to Mary, “a lot of things were happening there that were totally out of the ordinary”.

Upon her return from Medjugorje Mary learned that St. Mary's Parish in Ballston Spa had a prayer group with a weekly program that was approved by the priest of the parish in conjunction with the clergy in Medjugorje. At that time, they said all three sets of mysteries each time they met. Later, in 2002, when the Luminous Mysteries were added by Pope John Paul II, they cut back to two sets of Mysteries as four seemed like a lot for a prayer meeting. According to Mary, one of the magazine articles she had read referred to a message from Our Lady that she would like for each parish to establish a prayer group dedicated to her; that is, to Jesus through Mary. And so, it wasn't long before Mary decided to establish a “Medjugorje” prayer group at our Immaculate Conception parish. She was careful to copy the format used at St. Mary's church.

Over the years, my wife Marie and I would sporadically attend the prayer meetings, but in September of last year, we decided to commit to going on a regular basis. By January of this year, Mary was planning a move to assisted living in Saratoga due to her declining health. By then, I was already helping out as Mary's “secretary,” updating her membership lists and prayer sheets, so she asked if I would be willing to take over and I did so on February 1st.

The Our Lady Queen of Peace Prayer Group continues to meet every Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. for about an hour. We say two complete Rosaries and a few other prayers often associated with the Rosary. I hope some of you, after reading this, will decide to join us.

Spotlight on Manuel and Barbara Salorio

by Annette Botsford

In this *Pipeline* series, we hope to familiarize parishioners with those among us whom we see often but know little about. Readers are invited to contact Annette Botsford at annettemarie829@gmail.com with suggestions of future subjects for this feature.

Manny and Barb have been members of The Church of the Immaculate Conception since 1977. Both have served in several ministry roles through the years.

Manny was born in 1939 in New York City. Upon the death of his father when Manny was just 7 years old, the family moved to Wilkes-Barre PA to live with his grandmother, Mary Konopka. Barb was born in 1939 also and grew up in Wilkes-Barre. They first met while working on a vegetable farm at the age of 13. Manny knew at that time that Barb was “the one”. They were high school sweethearts and after a long 7-year courtship they married on June 24, 1961. The Salorios celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary in June of this year.



Barb graduated from Hanover Township High School in the class of 1955. She was just 15 in her senior year, turned 16 and graduated a few days later. She was known as the “Baby of the Class of 1955”. Manny graduated from Hanover High

in 1956 and earned a 2-year Associate degree from Penn State extension at Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

She started as a bookkeeper for the Triangle Shoe Company in 1955. In 1962, she took time off to raise their 4 children before returning to work as a bookkeeper in 1975. She enjoyed staying home for 13 years, baking, cooking, doing crafts, and sharing recipes with neighbors. During that time, she also sewed clothes for the three girls and herself and did hand quilting. She retired in 1994.

Manny started working for General Electric in Endwell, NY as a draftsman and transferred to General Electric Apollo Systems at the Marshall Spaceflight Center, Huntsville, AL in 1963 to work on the Apollo Moon project. GE designed and built the firing room launch control panels along with a simulation lab which tested each launch program long before actual firing of each Apollo mission. With the end of the Skylab program he transferred to GE Gas Turbine in Greenville, SC. In 1977 he took a job with GE Projects Engineering Operation, Installation & Service Engineering Business Division as a Design Technician in Schenectady. There he instructed draftsmen & designers in CAD operations and supervised some of the first CAD workstations in the Schenectady plant. He helped install the first Ethernet in the plant, managed some of the first large scale computer systems, programmed and managed CAD system software and individual engineering computer workstations. He retired in 2000.

See Manny and Barbara Salorio, page 7

Before and after marriage, Barb worked as a bookkeeper for corporate and private companies.

Manny and Barbara Salorio, continued from page 6

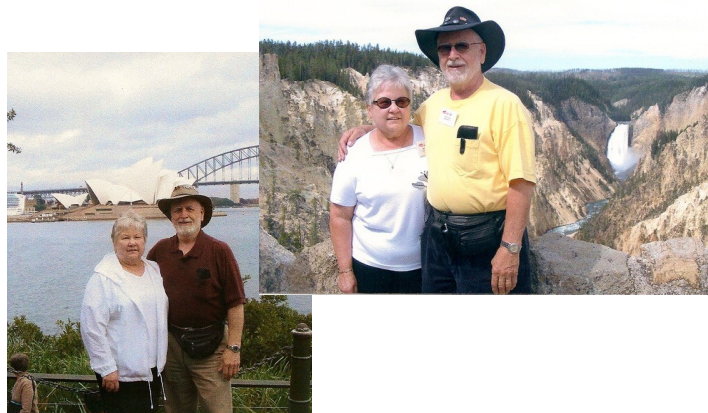
Manny and Barb have four children, 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Their daughter Susan is living on Grand Island NY with her husband Norman. Maria lives in Glenville with partner Al Kuhn. Sandra lives in North Carolina with partner Michael Hine and Manuel and his wife Tammy live in Burnt Hills.

The couple stays busy keeping up the house, yard and vegetable garden. They can and freeze the harvest from their garden. They enjoy bird watching, doing puzzles, playing cards and Scrabble. Manny also enjoys working with wood to build gifts for the family, modeling, and scrollwork.

Both volunteer in several ministries at ICC. They love the community of people from our church. One evening, Manny volunteered to help usher at mass and after a few weeks, the head usher quit leaving just him. Barb met up with Father Jerry who was handing out worship aids one Saturday evening and looking for someone to be a greeter. He asked Barb, she accepted and she has been a greeter ever since. Manny is an usher, Eucharistic minister, counter and 4th degree member of the Knights of Columbus. Barb volunteers as a greeter, counter and is a member of the Women's Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus. They also help with the annual church picnic.

In the community, both are members of the Glendale Home Auxiliary where they volunteer for various activities. Barb is treasurer and Manny is vice-president. Manny has a poker club at the Glendale Home each Tuesday and also distributes communion as needed at the nursing home. Barb manages the Eucharistic ministers that distribute communion on Tuesdays and both volunteer to help at the monthly bingo.

They started traveling in earnest for their 25th wedding anniversary with a 2-week trip to Hawaii. Since then, they have traveled to all 50 states, some 3 or



more times. Other vacation destinations include Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Oberammergau Passion Play, Austria, Switzerland, and Spain. They have enjoyed European river cruises and a few Caribbean cruises. Every 5 years they have a family reunion at the Outer Banks as part of their wedding anniversary celebration.

It has been a pleasure getting to know a bit about this couple's unique story.



The Blessing of the Animals

photos by Julie Ashcroft & Marge Rizzo

