

Parishioners Gerard and Geraldine Havasy Are Authors of *Travels with Mary*



The Havasys have been parishioners of Immaculate Conception since 1969. They are the authors of **Travels with Mary, the Mother of God**, which chronicles some of their travels to over 50 countries. The authors describe their collection of Mary memorabilia and how she appears in different cultures. The book has been six years in the writing and over 60 years of collecting. They have an **imprimatur** and a nice testimony from Bishop Scharfenberger. Fr Dan McHale of St Edwards, Fran Szpylczyzn, Carol and Paul Heckman, and Lauren Patterson have also provided supporting testimony.

The text from the back cover is as follows:

Journey with Gerard and Geraldine Havasy as they traverse the globe, collecting heartfelt mementos of the Blessed Mother from over 50 countries. In **Travels With Mary: Mother of God**, this devoted couple invites you into their world, sharing the deeply personal and spiritual experiences that have shaped their lives and enriched their faith.

Each chapter is a mosaic of stories and photographs that bring to life the diverse and beautiful ways Mary is honored across cultures. From statues

and icons to paintings and lacework, the Havasys' collection is a testament to the universal love and reverence for the Mother of God. Their narrative is not just a travel memoir but a spiritual journey that reveals the profound connections between faith, art, and humanity.

Discover how Mary, in her many forms and titles, has touched the lives of people worldwide and guided the Havasys through their own pilgrimage of faith. This book is a tribute to her enduring presence and a heartfelt invitation to readers to explore their own relationship with the divine.

Whether you are a seasoned traveler, a devout believer, or someone seeking inspiration, **Travels With Mary: Mother of God** offers a unique and enriching experience. Join Gerard and Geraldine as they share their legacy of love, faith, and devotion, and find yourself drawn closer to the heart of Mary.

"Be faithful to the Mother of fair love. Have trust in her, as you shape your love and form your young families. May Christ always be there for you, 'the Way, the Truth, and the Life'."

— Pope Saint John Paul II

How Can You Help Us Take Kids From This to This ?



Text by Mike Groves

A luxury item is an item deemed highly desirable, but non-essential. It's considered something nobody really needs, but everybody wants.

Have you ever considered a bed as a luxury item? Sadly, there are families who have to make a decision between buying food or replacing their child's now too small toddler bed. Or, making a rent payment instead of making sure their kids each have their own bed. For them, a child's bed has to be considered a luxury that will have to wait for a time when, or if, extra funds are available. Fortunately there is an organization that thinks a bed isn't a luxury, but rather essential for every child. Sleep In Heavenly Peace (SHP) is a national organization whose dream is a world where a child's bed never has to be considered a "luxury".

SHP has chapters throughout the United States and Canada. SHP got its start like many charities in a garage. A single individual building one bed for one family and developed into something much more. With the leftover wood from that first single bunk, the question was raised, "Who else could benefit from this bunk?"

The Capital Region is served by the Mechanicville Chapter. Since its start SHP Mechanicville has delivered nearly 2000 beds with nearly 2600 volunteer hours. Nationally, SHP has built and delivered over 75,000 beds, nearly 540,000 volunteer hours. However, with all this

effort there is still a need for almost 158,000 beds. Locally today, there is a need for nearly 100 beds. That's 100 children sleeping on the floor, maybe on an air mattress, maybe not.

So how does SHP do what they do? SHP relies totally on the efforts of volunteers and generous donations including monetary, material as well as many hours of volunteers. It all starts with a build event. A core group of SHP volunteers come together and lead a group of diverse volunteers in all the steps of turning raw lumber into a sturdy twin size bed that can easily be assembled as either a single twin bed or stacked as a bunk if needed. Steps include cutting, drilling, sanding, assembling and "branding" each head/foot board with the SHP logo. I was fortunate to join in a build sponsored by the town of Watervliet. There were over 100 volunteers from all walks of life including the Mayor of Watervliet, Charles Patricelli. Many volunteers were those who have benefitted from receiving a bed and giving back to help others receive a bed. On this day, we were able to build over 40 beds to help stock the SHP warehouse up. Building the beds however, was not all that was accomplished. The greater Watervliet community came together and donated bedding necessary to complete the "making" of the beds. Enough sheets, pillow cases, pillows and blankets to fill two or three pick-ups. You see, when SHP delivers a bed, they provide everything so that the bed can be used right away. The local chapter has a group of dedicated volunteers that provide a knitted or crocheted throw as a special touch.



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January 22: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children – 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.

The USCCB has designated January 22, the anniversary date of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision, as the day of prayer for legal protection of unborn children.

The Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization overturned Roe v. Wade, ending the nearly fifty-year reign of nationwide abortion on demand. Dobbs returned the issue of abortion to the people's elected representatives at the federal and state levels. Since the Dobbs decision, many states have enacted strong legal protections for preborn children. Tragically, other states, New York included, have drastically expanded abortion. In the most recent election, ten states featured ballot initiatives that would enshrine abortion in state constitutions, with seven of them, including New York, voting in favor of abortion and overriding pro-life safeguards in the process.

Nonetheless, we are presented with opportunities and responsibilities to continue building a culture that welcomes, celebrates, and protects human life. Our prayer and action are essential to maintaining policies that protect life, where they exist, and preventing the spread of policies that lead to more abortions. As we mark the solemn anniversary of Roe v. Wade this January 22nd, recalling the millions of lives that have been lost to abortion, may we recommit ourselves to the cause of life.

In addition to our efforts to protect human life in law, we must redouble our efforts to serve women facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies, offering them the compassionate support they need to lovingly welcome the gift of their children. We must do whatever we can in every sphere to ensure that life is welcomed, and mothers are supported.

What can you do?

Sign up to join Catholics across the country in praying for the end to all abortion during the 9 Days for Life novena from January 16-24 (see the bulletin for details).

Take the bus day trip to the National Right to Life March in Washington, DC on January 24 (see the bulletin for details).

Learn more about how Catholics throughout the country are helping moms and children in need by watching a short video that can be found by searching the internet for 'youtube walking with moms in need.'

Offer some other sacrifice or prayer that you feel called to do for this intention.

Times of Joy—Sacramental Milestones



Congratulations and welcome to these children who received the Sacrament of Baptism from October 4, 2024 to January 8, 2025. We pray for the grace these families need to grow in their faith.

Leo James Laughlin, child of Connor & Kristyn

Enzo Francesco Citone, child of Robert & Chloe

Rylan Michael Haley, child of Jeremiah & Maureen

Rowan Clark Butler, child of Nathan & Kathleen

Maverick John Walrath, child of Nicholas & Alexandra

Noah Joseph Duda, child of Michael & Mary

Hudson David Kordyjak, child of Timothy & Meghan

Oliver James Lee, child of Connor & Meghan

Rory Johanna Lee, child of Connor & Meghan



There were no marriage ceremonies performed between October 4, 2024 and January 8, 2025.

Bethlehem Tree Update

By Suzi Mongan

Because of your generosity, the Bethlehem Tree was blessed again this year.



We were able to provide gifts through our St Vincent de Paul Society, St. Mary's Outreach in Albany, Birthright of Schenectady and the Equinox Residences. This year we added Baptist Health to the charities we serve. We had very few gift card requests left on the trees this year and they were covered by monetary donations.

The Bethlehem Tree Ministry is always looking for volunteers. The work is concentrated mostly on 1 weekend after Thanksgiving. If you are interested please contact Suzi at 609-240-4755.

Thank you to the dedicated parish staff of Kathy, Fran, Michelle and Chris; our Youth Ministry volunteers, who helped sort, label and bag the gifts for distribution to the charitable organizations.

Thank you for your continued support, and may you all enjoy the New Year and be blessed with health, peace and joy.



Some of this year's gifts

Spotlight on Gerard and Geraldine Havasy

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.



The Havasys have been ICC parishioners since 1969, except for a ten-year absence in the '70s. During the 47 years that they have been members of Immaculate Conception, they have served as Faith Formation teachers, Eucharistic Ministers, RCIA instructors, Adult Education presenters, and have been active in numerous parish service activities. Gerard is a 4th Degree Knight of Columbus, including serving as a Past Grand Knight. Geraldine has been the president of the Knights of Columbus Ladies Auxiliary for the past 13 years.

Gerard and Geraldine Havasy have dedicated their lives to faith, family, and community. As devout members of Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church in Glenville, New York, and St Dominic's parish in Bolingbrook, Illinois, their lives have been enriched by participation in church activities.

They are 2006 graduates of the Albany Diocese Formation for Ministry Program and spent five years leading Marriage Encounter weekends in Chicago during the 1970s, helping countless couples strengthen their marriages.

Their commitment to service extends beyond the church. The Havasys were very involved in their children's lives, serving as Girl Scout Cadette co-leaders and taking on various roles in Boy Scouting and other youth activities. This dedication to family and community has been a cornerstone of their nearly six decades of marriage.



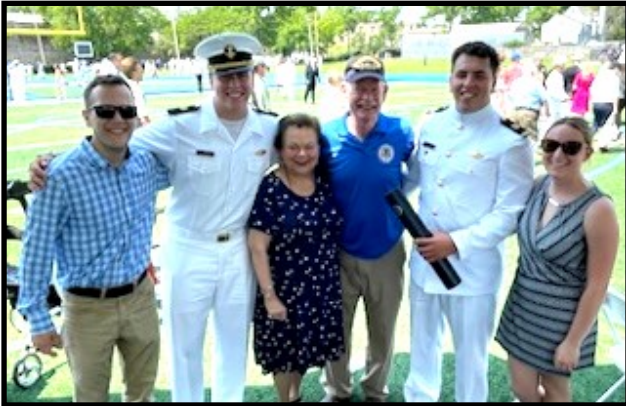
They have traveled widely, visiting over 50 countries.

Geraldine's love for travel, inherited from her airline worker father, took root early in her life. Growing up in Queens, New York, she explored the United States and parts of Mexico. A 1967 graduate of Queens College, Geraldine balanced multiple roles throughout her life. She has been a homemaker, substitute teacher, sewing instructor, and social worker.

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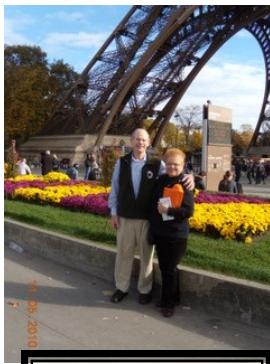
Gerard grew up near Fredericksburg, Virginia, and attended Catholic grade school and public high school in Virginia. He graduated from the US Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA) at Kings Point, New York, in 1965, served as an engineer in the US Merchant Marine, working on cargo ships and oil tankers, and later served as Chief Engineer aboard the U.S. Navy Destroyer USS Willard Keith DD775. Gerard's professional journey continued with nearly 40 years at General Electric Company, where he held various management positions in power plant construction domestically and internationally.



The Havasys with the 5 US Merchant Marine grads in the family. They also have 2 West Point grads. (2024)

Gerard has also contributed significantly to his community. He served as Past President of his Homeowners Association and a member of the Board of Directors. He is also past president of the USMMA Alumni Chapter in Albany, New York.

Gerard and Geraldine love to travel and have visited over fifty countries, including Marian Shrines such as Fatima in Portugal, Knock in Ireland, and Lourdes in France. Their shared adventures reflect their love for exploration and their deep faith.



In France (2010)

They collected Mary memorabilia from all over the world and have recently published a book entitled **Travels with Mary, Mother of God**. They have also been generous with their collection and donated a number of the pictures in the church hall.

Above all, Gerard and Geraldine are most proud of their family. They are the parents of four grown children, eleven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Their lives are a testament to the enduring power of love, faith, and service, leaving a legacy that inspires all who know them.



4 generations, incl. great grandchildren (2024)



21 family members at Thomas McGuinness' wedding (2016)

Help to turn our faith into effective action - Bridges Out of Poverty

by Jeanne Behr

In collaboration with CAPTAIN Community Human Services (CHS) in Glenville, and our Tri - Parish Community (St Joseph's, Our Lady of Grace, and Immaculate Conception Church) would like to extend an invitation to all parishioners and to the community to attend the free 2-hour introductory training session on Bridges Out of Poverty philosophy and model on Saturday February 8, 2025, from 10am until 12noon at Immaculate Conception Church, 400 Saratoga Road, (RT 50), Glenville.

Bridges Out of Poverty works across sectors to address the root causes of poverty, support individuals as they build resources and work together to improve systems in the community. We are hoping to get a cadre of people who are interested in social concerns, social justice, and community outreach activities to become potential leaders and trainers.

The Bridges Out of Poverty training is designed to equip you with a deeper understanding of poverty and what it is like for those facing it. By gaining a better understanding of the challenges faced by people in poverty, we will be able to build relationships of mutual respect with those living in poverty and create opportunities that empower them to build upon the resources,

tools, and skills needed to create lasting change in their lives and go from just surviving to thriving.

Our trainer will be Ms. Bonnie Nelson, a Certified Lifetime Trainer for Bridges Out of Poverty. Bonnie brought this model to Saratoga County and has developed and led numerous programs (Getting Ahead, Staying Ahead, Money Matters) stemming from the Bridges construct during her career at Captain Community Human Services.

A free 2-hour introductory training is set for February 8, from 10 am to 12 noon at IC. Open to all parishioners and to the community. Free, but registration is requested at <https://forms.gle/JF1gdLuMQSQ61yY1A> or scan the QR code below.

Call Mike Holley-518-369-9022 for further information.



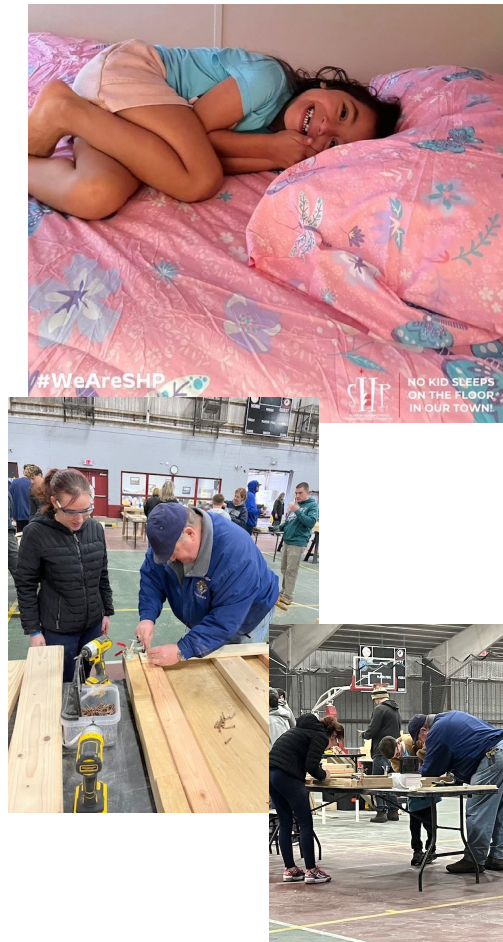
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While the Bed Build was fun and rewarding, the delivery activity is the most rewarding activity.

Last Labor Day weekend, I was able to participate in my first delivery. A team is usually comprised of 3-4 volunteers lead by a “Driver.” The driver is responsible for picking up the beds, bedding and mattress for the team. The volunteers all meet at the first delivery point. The bed is assembled usually with the help of the child, and the bed is made. and Then the reward is the smile of the child who just got probably his/her first real bed. My first bed delivery experience took me from a Scotia neighborhood to Schenectady’s Hamilton Hill delivering 5 beds to 3 households. I have since been on more deliveries and plan to do more.

The Tri-Parish Day of Service Committee is including SHP as part of our Day of Service this coming May 3, 2025. Stay tuned for more details on how you can participate then.

If you are interested in learning more about Sleep in Heavenly Peace or Volunteering, visit their website at shpbeds.org.



Planning To Date for Tri-Parish Ministry Service Day, May 3

Off-site activities:

Sleep in Heavenly Peace delivery
 Habitat for Humanity build
 MiSci
 Parkside Y
 Regional food Bank
 Guardian House
 Cookie baking for food donations
 Joan Nicole Prince Home
 Glenville parks

On-site activities:

Thinking of you cards for nursing homes
 Food for City Mission
 Food for Street Soldiers
 Food for Habitat
 Scrapbook pages for Albany Med NICU
 Letters for REC program
 Narcan kits
 Hats, scarves and blankets
 Maintenance at Cope House