



The Good News from the Parish of the Holy Cross

Back to School (and Church) !!!

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The final days of summer are upon us. I love the summer. It is an opportunity to enjoy great weather and hopefully have some play time or to work on a project, that never seems to get done during the year.

Although there is a sadness in saying goodbye to the

warm weather, I have to conclude that I had a wonderful summer. I did some traveling with friends out to Yellowstone National Park. In addition to that, I tackled a number of outdoor projects around the house. I was also able to catch up with some work in the office.

Although things slow down during the summer here at the parish, there are still many activities that take place. Please enjoy the following articles that highlight some of the good things that took place over the last few months.

By: Fr. Michael Holzmann, Pastor

Reflections on Parish Outreach

In the beginning of the parish in 1988, the Pastoral Team (Fr. Joe Schlafer, Fr. Bill Breslawski, Sr. Jane Halligan and Marianne Mione) believed that a parish consisted of 3 components: Liturgy, Education, and Outreach. They believed that ministering to the struggling people in our community was as important as good Liturgy and an excellent Religious Education program.

So when the volunteers went to homes to ask for pledges for our Worship Center, they told people they could allocate 1, 2 or 3% of their pledge for seed money for Parish Outreach. The volunteer also gently ascertained if there were issues in a household that would benefit from a priest's visit or a call from a Parish Outreach worker.

I was personally so enthused about this new parish and felt drawn to Outreach Ministry. Frs. Bill and Joe asked me to seek out these families to see how the Parish could help them. Because part of the team's vision was sharing ministry with a partner, Mary Anne McCulloch soon joined me to co-coordinate this program.

That was 28 years ago! Hard to believe!! As I prepare to retire, I reflect on the amazing journey it's been for me. The parishioners, many whom have become friends, have been generous whenever we asked for anything. The folks we minister to have taught me so much about life and about God's love.



It has been a blessing to serve the parish through Parish Outreach. I can't imagine my life without the friends I've made, the mentors I've been privileged to have or the people we've served. They have all deeply enriched my life and touched my heart.

By: Connie Calabro

HOLY HOUR FOR PEACE:

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place the first Saturday of the month from 3:45-4:45 PM in Church. Please come and pray for God's gift of peace for our broken world.

PARISH OF THE HOLY CROSS

Founded 1988

“Let All Who Enter Be
Welcomed as Christ”

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Porch Chats return to the Courtyard

For the second consecutive summer, Dominican Sister Pat Duffy brought her wisdom and humor to Holy Cross. On Monday, July 17th, a perfect summer evening, approximately 120 people with lawn chairs filled the courtyard. The large crowd was not unexpected as Sister Pat has a great following on Long Island.

The topic for the evening was “Life Is All About How You Han-

dle Plan B”. Who cannot relate to a situation where your original plan fails and plan B needs to be put into place? And often times, you do not even have a plan B!

Sister Pat, with her wit and humor shared her own experiences of when she has had to put her own plan B into practice. And while her examples were unique to her all in attendance could relate. Sister Pat gave her friends practical advice.

Sister Pat said that we must always keep in mind

the four “F”s when we go into Plan B mode. They are: Faith, Friends and Family, Flexibility and Future.

Sister Pat and her ministry of plain speaking and practical advice is not limited to the summer. Throughout the year there are many opportunities for prayer and talk with Sister Pat. For more information email Sister at sisterpatduffy@gmail.com and ask to be placed on her mailing list.

By: Ellen Fox

Vacation Bible School — Maker Fun Factory

This year’s VBS theme was *Maker Fun Factory* and fun it was for volunteers and campers alike. The week kicked off with the theme “God Created You” and the campers would reply “WOW GOD!!”

There were 72 campers and over 100 volunteers in attendance at this most amazing week at Holy Cross. Each day the campers were greeted by their counselors in the church, and off they went for their day of fun with faith. The campers engaged in all types of activities by moving from station to

station including Bible Stories, Kid Vid, Crafts, Faith in Action, Games, Sing and Play, Helping Hands and Snack. Some of the highlights were watching our robot being built each day with God’s toolbox in the Maker Fun Factory workshop, taking a walk up to our Community Garden, listening to our invited guest Sgt. Adu -Amanfoh from the Army speak at one of our clos-

ings, having “Saints” come to visit us daily and, of course, our finale which included a huge world presented to “Jesus” as the campers and volunteers sang “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands.” In addition to all of the fun we also thought about others less fortunate and raised \$560 with our spare change for clean water in Peru. It was a week where we were “Geared Up for VBS” at all times throughout the week to make *Maker Fun Factory* a huge success!!

By: Roseann Conforti



Maker Fun Factory — A Counselor's Perspective

For me, being a part of Vacation Bible School (VBS) every year is one of the first things that comes to mind once summer begins. The great team of VBS coordinators, led by the Director of Religious Education, Ellen Fox continues to make this program better each year, not just for the campers but for all the helpers as well.

At first glance, five days may seem like a long time, but it goes by faster than you'd think. Seeing all the campers smile each day as they walk through the front doors shows the great effect it has on the kids beginning at such a young age. Having children and helpers take part

in this camp teaches them more about the church while bringing them closer to God and their spirituality.

I have been a part of VBS for four years now, all spent with the snack station. Each year I've been the oldest helper at this station and have been one of the helpers that others look up to. All four years that I have taken part in VBS, I've had the privilege to work alongside my mother Josephine who's not only been the snack station leader, but the camp's nurse as well. The compassion she shows to each and every child is so heartwarming, knowing that they are under the best supervision possible.

Each year I meet new people along the way and this past year was no different. No matter what age or station you'll end up in at VBS, you're almost bound to meet many new people every year.

By: Vincent Matula



Pictured are the Volunteers from VBS 2017 with Fr. Michael, VBS Co-Directors Roseann Conforti and Dana Iovino, and Director of Religious Education, Ellen Fox.



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We're on the Web!

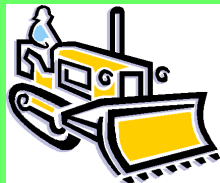
www.pothc.org



Fr. Michael is calling for writers from different ministries and editors from the parish to help us with this seasonal publication. If you're interested, please contact Fr. Michael or the office staff during office hours (9:00 - 4:00, Monday - Friday).

PARISH CLEANUP DAY

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th from 9:00am — 3:00pm



TO DO LIST:

- Pulling Weeds
- Hauling Junk
- Cutting Branches
- Cleaning Garden
- Serving Lunch for the Volunteers



RSVP to the Parish Office at
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All Welcome