



*You may have heard that
Father Pete had an agreement with God
that if we continued to shepherd
the Maria House ministry,
God would work through His children to take
care of the practical needs.*

*God works His love and graces through us and
thankfully, the agreement continues to be in place!*

Please donate on
ERIE GIVES DAY
Tuesday, August 14th from 8AM to 8PM

- Donations are made online through the *Erie Community Foundation* at www.eriegives.org
 - **VISA, MasterCard** and **Discover** credit cards are accepted
 - Minimum gift amount is **\$25.00**

**If you feel uncomfortable making a donation online or don't have a credit card
or access to a computer, call Joe Tarquinio on August 14th at the
MHP office (814-454-0891) and he will assist you
OR**

**you can mail your gift directly to the
MHP office at P.O. Box 10682
Erie, PA 16514**

and we will process the donation in your name.

**Last year your generosity placed us in
the top 19 out of 374 nonprofits in
donations received, AND 13th in number
of donors contributing!**

**The Erie Community Foundation and their sponsors
will enhance your gift by providing a prorated
match to each donation received.**

Thank you and may God bless you!



MARIA HOUSE PROJECT
P.O. Box 10682
Erie, PA 16514

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Maria House Project

MAIN OFFICE: 1218 French Street, Suite 7 Erie, PA 16501
Phone: 814-454-0891 Fax: 814-454-0899 E-mail: mariahouseproject@verizon.net



House Happenings

Joe's Thoughts.....



Newsletter
AUGUST 2018

I often think of the advice that Father Pete gave me throughout my life. "Learn to accept God's will and trust that He will always love and protect you." "To worry is a waste of energy, it produces anxiety and indirectly tells God that you don't fully trust Him." Father would also jokingly add "Don't give God advice because He knows how to run things without your help."

A few weeks before Father went to the Kingdom, he saw that I was feeling anxious about MHP's future. He reminded me to trust in God's graces. He promised that he would also be with me in spirit and I could rely on his brother Tom and Deacon Bill for support and guidance. Everything that Father said held true for the next five years.

Then about five months ago, Deacon Bill told me that he was planning to retire but he and his wife Pat would volunteer for some of the religious activities. I started to feel anxious since I would be losing Deacon Bill after 11 years of dedicated service. However, I relied on Father's advice and God sent Deacon Joe Cicero to MHP. I was relieved and optimistic.

Unfortunately, my optimism was shattered a month ago when Tom joined his brother Father Pete. For the past 19 years, Tom has been more than MHP's board president to me. He has been my friend,

mentor and sometimes even a second father. Every week, Tom would attend staff case review meetings at the Lodge besides daily contacting me or visiting the office. He always answered my questions, gave me direction and counseled me when I needed it.

For me to say that I am not a little anxious about the future of MHP would be a falsehood. However, I plan to again follow Father's advice and I'm sure that Our Lord will send Tom's spirit to the MHP's brotherhood.

Joe Tarquinio - Executive Director



Tom Peterson, Joe Tarquinio and Jean Peterson

Fr. Pete's 5th Annual Memorial Golf Tournament, September 15, 2018 at Union City Country Club

The Saint Thomas More Club (founded by Fr. Pete) and Friends will be sponsoring the Fifth Annual Father Pete's Memorial Golf Tournament at the Union City Country Club on September 15, 2018. Registration, coffee and donuts will be served at 8:00 AM with a shotgun start at 9:00 AM. Lunch and beverages are included at the turn and a buffet awards dinner will be served at 3:00 PM at the Union City Country Club. The four person scramble includes greens fees and cart for \$75.00 per person (\$300.00 per team). Prizes include awards for top scores, hole prizes for men and women, a Brand **New 2018 Car** hole-in-one contest, cash prizes, raffles, door prizes and much more. Come join the fun while supporting Maria House Project!



Don't golf...have a schedule conflict?
Become a hole sponsor or major sponsor!

Major Sponsor: \$500 - \$1,000 includes acknowledgement of sponsorship at course, foursome and dinner

Hole Sponsor: \$100 includes acknowledgement of sponsorship for single hole

For more information or to register call Marty Radock at 814-882-0916 or

visit www.unioncitycountryclub.com/Fr_Peterson_Tourney.html

Brochures and registration forms can be picked up at:

- M.H.P. office: 1218 French Street, Erie PA
- Union City Country Club
- Golf Committee Members

All proceeds benefit Maria House Project

Just Say Yes



Papa Joe and Dustin

"My past is what made me the man I am today. I may have scars, and people may judge me, but I am proud of who I am! The scars are part of my story." Dustin Snyder turned to drugs at the young age of thirteen to mask his pain and to take away his feelings of deep sadness. The lack of a father-figure in his life left a void which he just couldn't seem to fill. Addiction became a way of life which eventually led to his arrest on May 15, 2016.

After only seven months of incarceration, Dustin received an unexpected visitor. The guard informed him that a man by the name of Joe Tarquinio was there to talk with him about Maria House Project. He thought for sure the guard had the wrong person since he never requested the visit. In fact, he knew nothing about Maria House Project.

One of the first questions Joe asked Dustin was, "Do you believe in God?" Dustin's answer was "I don't know." Joe asked him if he would be willing to go to his cell, get on his knees and pray. He told him to ask God if Maria House was the right program for him. So that was exactly what he did, and he listened for God's answer.

A few days later, Dustin was called to the probation office and was informed that Maria House Project was willing to take him. Something inside Dustin's gut, at that very moment, told him to say yes. He may not have known at the time, but he knows now that the Holy Spirit gave him the answer he prayed for....*just say yes!*

Dustin was at the Lodge in time to celebrate the Christmas Season which launched his spiritual journey. He found hope at the Lodge and began to believe in himself. When asked if he has a favorite Bible verse he immediately responded with, "yes, Proverb 3:11" *My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline, and do not resent his rebuke, because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.* Dustin finds healing by this promise of a Father's love.

The Holy Spirit has eased some of the emptiness in Dustin's heart as he now lovingly refers to Joe Tarquinio as *Papa Joe*. Dustin has made peace with his family and continues to strengthen those relationships. In fact, he said he finally believes that he has found his purpose, which is to be a positive role model for his little sister, Autumn, and his little brother, Devin.

Dustin recently suffered a tremendous loss with the death of his older brother, Randy. He accredits his Maria House family with getting him through this difficult time in a positive way, especially his friend Josh and his wife Ashley who encourage him daily to keep focused on his journey. Although you can never replace a brother, Josh and Dustin are brother-like. You can't help but laugh when they are together as they banter back and forth, finding respite in their humor.

Dustin had many close calls in his life and knows that he is alive by God's grace. He reads God's Word daily and is grateful for the Holy Spirit's guidance... one moment at a time. Dustin now inspires others with his story and proudly knows that *by his scars, he is healed.*

Sandi Matts - Vice President



Sandi Matts

The journey continues! The Maria House Project journey began back in 1971 by Father Pete and has continued to be under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and under the protection of our patroness, Mary, our Blessed Mother. We also believe that Father Pete continues to walk with us throughout this journey as he promised before his passing.

Now, Maria House Project has another heavenly protector and guide in Tom Peterson! As most of you know, Tom was welcomed into the Kingdom on June 20, 2018. As the president of Maria House Project for many years, Tom worked side by side with his brother, Father Pete, to carry on the mission so important to all of us. Today, we are comforted by our belief that they continue to walk with us on our journey. It would take volumes to record their good works and the profound impact the Peterson brothers had on the countless men and women who make up the Maria House community and who knew and loved them. Staff, volunteers, our board of directors, and supporters like you, have faithfully prayed for Maria House Project and have shared their gifts and God's blessings.

One of the most significant reasons that Maria House Project has enjoyed such success over the years lies in the great working relationship between Tom and Father Pete. As you know, Father Pete was always keenly focused on the spiritual aspect of Maria House Project. In his own quiet, kind and confident manner, Tom used his leadership skills, good judgment and gentlemanly demeanor with the staff, board, volunteers and residents. He was always there to sort out any problems, counsel those in need and to keep things on track. He will be deeply missed by all! Please keep Tom, his wife Jean and the Peterson family in your prayers.

As our journey continues, Deacon Bill Sproveri has recently retired from his position as chaplain to Maria House Project. Thankfully, he and his wife Pat will continue to walk the journey with us as volunteers. I know that I speak for residents, staff and volunteers in expressing our sincere gratitude for Deacon Bill's profound impact on our program and our delight that he will continue with us in a new capacity.

Because of God's goodness and the guidance of the Spirit, Deacon Joe Cicero has been appointed by Bishop Persico to replace Deacon Bill. We are thankful that both Deacons have worked together to ensure a smooth transition. We welcome Deacon Joe to the Maria House community and are excited to have such a talented chaplain to share his spiritual gifts with us.

Just a few words regarding our fiscal journey. I ask you to please remember Maria House Project on "Erie Gives" day, Tuesday, August 14, 2018 and to support us as you are able. This is one of two major fundraisers that we desperately depend upon your generosity. You will see a separate article in this newsletter with further details of "Erie Gives" 2018!



Msgr. James Peterson (Father Pete) and Tom Peterson

Don't forget the annual "Father Peterson Memorial Golf Tournament" on Saturday, September 15, 2018. Enjoy a great day of golf and/or consider a sponsorship if you're not a golfer! All proceeds go to Maria House Project! See details in this newsletter!

As you know, we depend on your donations to keep Father Pete's mission going! Please continue to pray for us and our residents in their healing journey and thanks for continuing to walk this journey with us! God Bless!

Bob Boeh - Board President



Bob Boeh

Deacon Bill Sproveri

"This ministry has been transforming! It has opened doors to a deeper relationship with God in my spiritual life." Deacon Bill Sproveri spoke these words as he thanked the Board of Directors for allowing him to serve these past eleven years. He then gave tribute to his wife Pat as he said, "I couldn't have done this without her. She took time to get to know the men and she really connected with them." He called her a fine woman and a very good listener. He attributes his spiritual growth to their relationship, which is why together they are a very dynamic team who will be greatly missed.

On February 12, 2018, Deacon Bill's assignment as Chaplain at Maria House Project came to an end when he officially retired from active ministry within the Deaconate Program. Words can never express our appreciation for all that Deacon Bill and Pat have done to enhance the spiritual life of the men we serve.

When asked how he feels about the guys, he became emotional and said, "I think I get more from them than I could ever give." When describing his experience, he used the words *Trust* and *Space*. He considers it an honor that the men trust him enough to share intimately the deepest part of their lives, allowing him into their personal space. He felt it a privilege to help the men understand with healthy relationships everything flows, and that we do not need to earn God's Love.

Joe Tarquinio said, "Deacon Bill has the innate ability to see good in all the guys, to see Christ in them, and to meet them where they are instead of where others think they should be." Deacon Bill has been a gift to Maria House, and we are so very pleased that he has agreed to stay on as a volunteer, leading Centering Prayer at the Lodge.

Deacon Bill looks forward to retirement, to his new role as volunteer, and for the opportunity to continue building relationships with the men. He said he feels good knowing that he is leaving Maria House in capable hands. He described his replacement, Deacon Joe Cicero, as a great man.

Deacon Bill... you have planted seeds that have yet to bear fruit. Wishing all God's blessings as new beginnings blossom for you!

Sandi Matts - Vice President



Deacon Bill & Pat Sproveri

From Your Deacon ~

This spring Deacon Bill Sproveri retired from his exemplary role as MHP Chaplain. My name is Joe Cicero and I've been a permanent deacon since 2009 and was appointed by Bishop Persico to replace Bill. I've lived in Girard, PA for over 35-years, where I'm assigned as resident deacon to St. John the Evangelist. I'm father to 5 children and have 8 grandchildren. Betti, whom I was blessed to have as my wife for 41 years, passed away in April, 2017. I'm retired after having worked in industry for nearly 40-years. I served as an officer in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam Era. I've long been active in prison ministry and I hope to make a positive and spiritual impact on the men of Maria House.



Deacon Joe Cicero

At present, we're conducting a *Leisure in the Spirit* retreat at the Hope House in Union City. When we conclude the retreat in late August, we'll have a *Day of Recollection* in September at Joe Tarquinio's camp in Ripley, NY. I feel blessed to be a member of the MHP and I'm prayerful that Christ will guide and use me in the best interests of the residents. Please pray for me as I enter this new ministry. May the Good Lord bless and keep you all!

Deacon Joe Cicero - Chaplain