

Straight From The Heart

Volume 2, Issue 1

September—November 2009

Special points of interest:

- ?? Parish Pilgrimages
- ?? Focus on Adult Choir
- ?? Time and Talent update to be Held in October
- ?? An Invitation from the Sisters of Christian Charity
- ?? Giving Tree Ministry



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Pilgrims Visit Loretto by Martha Cullen

Recently, the Ladies Guild of Sacred Heart Church in Lewistown took a group on a pilgrimage to Loretto in the neighboring Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, the primary place of interest being the home and private chapel and tomb of Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin. He was born of a Russian Prince of Lithuanian roots and a German Countess in The Hague, Netherlands in 1770. He left his claim to nobility and came to America in 1792. Wishing to serve God as a priest, he became a student at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, the first seminary in the "new world". Bishop John Carroll ordained Father Demetrius Gallitzin, the first priest to receive all his orders in preparation for priesthood in the United States.



He initially arrived in the mountains of vast central Pennsylvania on a sick call to McGuire Settlement soon after his ordination. He eventually was assigned by Bishop Carroll as resident pastor of the settlement in the mountains. The pioneer priest later renamed the settlement "Loretto" after the "Holy House of Our Lady" in Loreto, Italy.

For the next forty-one years, this priest preached, evangelized, taught and served in the name of Jesus Christ in the Allegheny Mountains. Hundreds were baptized and brought into the Church. The sick and the dying received sacramental grace in their final hours. Many came to know of Christ's love and strength through this holy man. To his people, Gallitzin was everything – their land broker, lawyer, mayor, storekeeper, board of education, even their doctor. He established a model farm, built a church, barn, grist mill, sawmill, and tannery. But, above all, he was their spiritual leader – a job executed with utmost dedication, devotion and faithfulness. He spent much money in developing his Loretto and suffered lifelong debt and difficulty in his false expectation of receiving the bulk of his due inheritance.

The church Fr. Gallitzin built, he would name St. Michael in honor of St. Michael the Archangel, the defender of the faith and the Church. This was the first House of Worship in the United States titled to St. Michael. Fr Gallitzin's private chapel, and his home, is now The Center of Vocations for the Altoona-Johnstown Diocese. There are many personal, thus historical, items on display in what were his private rooms adjoining the chapel.

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Parish Plans Pilgrimage to Washington, DC

On Saturday, October 24, 2009 parishioners of Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Churches will have an opportunity to actively participate in a celebration honoring our Blessed Mother. Bishop Rhoades will lead a Diocesan pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C.

In March, Bishop Rhoades announced that the Diocesan Marion Year will take place from Octo-

ber 2009 to October 2010. The theme is *Mary, Gate of Heaven*. The celebration begins with a 9:00-10:00 am arrival at the Basilica. From 9:00-10:30 am, attendees may go to the Sacrament of Penance. A prelude concert begins at 9:45 am. The Official Welcome and Tour of Faith is from 10:00-10:30 am.

Bishop Rhoades will offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 10:45 am. From 12 noon until 3:00 pm, participants have free time to have lunch, spend time in private prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, shopping at the Shrine Book Store and Gift Shop or take a self-guided tour of the Basilica.

Continued on Page 8 . . .

WHY BOTHER? by Fr. Bill

Seriously. Why bother indeed? What is the point of showing up for church and spending all that time in the pew when apparently more productive things could be done? Why bother at all?

In a word: worship. We are made to worship God. That might sound dull and boring but it is true, nevertheless. We are not made primarily for pleasure or to make money or to be successful or to live in a nice house or to eat and drink and be merry. We are made primarily to worship God.

Look at it this way: When are you most human and least an animal? When are you at your highest human capabilities? Is it working out a math formula or balancing the checkbook, i.e., exercising your powers of logic and reason in a way an animal never could? Is it doing an act of unselfish kindness, reaching out to one's fellow humans in ways impossible for a dog or cat? Is it improving society, making the world a better to live by serving on town boards, coaching youth sports, joining social advocacy groups?

Those are all commendable actions, to be sure and they represent a high level of human action. But they are not at the peak. You are at your most human when you pray. Everything else comes second. That's right. As boring and as insignificant as it may seem, when you kneel down in your room and mumble those familiar formulas, when you pick up that hymn book in church, when you whisper "Jesus mercy" as an ambulance goes by, when you make the sign of the cross

passing a Catholic Church, ...Heck, whenever you talk to God, you are at the peak of your humanity. You are doing what the animals cannot do. You are doing what the angels do all the time and they love it: They address themselves to God constantly. They pray.

Those other activities of charity and social justice mentioned before are generally above the animal level as well, that is true, although animals might do some primitive variations of them (caring for their young, defending the herd, etc.) But they don't pray. We and the angels do. Actions of charity and social justice are at their peak when they flow from prayer.

Given this, we are supposed to give it our best.. We should make sure that this peak activity is not just punching the time clock, or mumbling old words, or done

with a "let's get this over with." attitude. Since we are at our best at prayer, we should give it our best at prayer. We strive to make it not boring.

This lifting up of the mind and heart to God is most powerful in a group, which is perhaps subject of another article. Suffice now to say we bother to come to church because we are doing what we are made to do. And like anything else, practice makes perfect. So give it your best.

"You are at your most human when you pray. Everything else comes second."

Upcoming Liturgical Events:

Monday, September 14 – Exaltation of the Cross

Wednesday, September 16— 7:30 p.m. Liturgy Committee Meeting

Saturday, September 19— Annual Charismatic Day of Renewal, Cardinal Keeler Center, Harrisburg, Pa.

Friday, October 2—All Day Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and 7 p.m. Holy Hour

Wednesday, October 7— Rosary for priests after 7 p.m. Mass

October 18, 19, 20 – Annual Eucharistic Devotions – All Day Adoration & Closing Service daily at 7pm

Wednesday, October 21, 7:30pm – Liturgy Committee Meeting

October 24—Diocesan Pilgrimage to National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.

Saturday, Oct. 31, 5 p.m.; Sunday, November 1, 7am, 11 a.m. – Masses for All Saints Day

Sunday, November 1—All Souls Service, time to be announced

Monday, November 2— All Souls Day Mass, 7:00 a.m.

Friday, November 7 – All Day Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & 7pm Holy Hour

Monday, November 9 – Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome

Wednesday, November 18, 7:30pm – Liturgy Committee Meeting

Sunday, November 22 – Christ the King

Thursday, November 26, 9am – Thanksgiving Day Mass

November 29 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Sacred Heart of Jesus Mission Statement

We are the Catholic community in Mifflin County, a reflection of God's love for the world. We support each other by reaching out to those in need, fostering the beliefs and Tradition of the Universal Church, and educating our youth in knowledge and faith. We live our faith through Word and Sacrament, prayer and action, commitment of time and talent, tithing, and using our resources to honor Christ and respect all human life. By doing so, we strive to bring all people into Jesus' Sacred Heart, uniting us by living the life He exemplified.

?? adopted by Parish Council, December 27, 2004



Focus on . . . Sacred Heart Adult Choir

By Cathy Stout



The Sacred Heart Choir had a very productive Spring with singing at Sunday Masses at 11:00 am during Lent, participating in the Palm Sunday procession, the Triduum and First Communion. This spring also gave the choir the opportunity to sing at the Farewell Mass for Fr. Bateman and the commissioning Mass for Fr. Weary. Both of those Masses were very special in their own way.

The choir has grown over the past six years from a handful of people who would sing for Christmas and Easter, to a full, four-part choir singing for Sunday Masses, special occasions and holidays. The choir is looking to recruit new members this fall.

The only main criteria is that you have been confirmed in the church. You don't have to be the best singer or even know how to read music. You just have to want to sing and have fun. The choir is looking forward to working with Fr. Weary and adapting to what he would like to see from the choir. I am especially excited about what we can do for the Advent/Christmas Season.

An informational meeting of the choir will be held on Wednesday, September 9th from 7:45 - 8:45 p.m. in the choir loft of the church. For additional information, or if you have questions, please contact Cathy Stout as 248-5657 or at cathystout@verizon.net



Above: Choir Director, Cathy Stout, presents Fr Bateman with a stole from the choir robes which was autographed by all members of the choir, along with a photograph of the choir as a parting gift.

ST. MONICA ROSARY PRAYER GROUP

By Martha Cullen



The St. Monica Rosary Prayer Group came about a few years ago when several parishioners felt a

need to pray for family members who had fallen away from their Catholic faith. When Fr. Bateman was approached with the idea, he was most enthusiastic, even suggesting that the group be named St. Monica.

How appropriate! It was many years that

St. Monica endured great suffering due to a wayward son, Augustine, and a pagan husband. Yet, St. Monica prayed ceaselessly. Finally, her husband and son accepted baptism. Her son gave up his worldly ways and lived an exemplary life due to God's grace.

The Church honors him, not only as a great Saint, but as "Doctor of the Church", as well. What a great role model we have in St. Monica.

On Sunday evenings, St. Monica Rosary

Prayer Group meets in the church from 7:00-8:00pm for a Holy Hour. We begin by invoking the Holy Spirit through prayers and song followed by a time of reparation; sometimes praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet. We then offer the Holy Rosary knowing Our Mother Mary will indeed intercede for us.

Our hour passes very quickly and it is the hope of all who attend that many more will join us. For those who have been faithful in attending each week, many graces have been received and some known healings have occurred from our prayers for each other. Join us every Sunday evening at 7:00pm for Holy Hour.

40 Hours Devotion—How Come? By Fr. Bill

Consider this a sequel to my "Why Bother" article in this issue, plus a sequel to Fr. Bateman's article last issue in this very space about the history of Forty Hours Devotion. Given that history—a custom that began in Europe in the 1530s—the question still remains: How come? Why did they start this? And why should we come?

The quick answers are 1) because it gives honor to God and 2) because it is good for you.

Under #1, think about how you feel when you get a real compliment; when you are praised, given honor. You kind of glow, right? You feel good. Psychologists say that affirmations are important for family, school, workplace, society. Things

work more smoothly in a positive atmosphere.

Well, think how God feels when He is honored, when He is complimented. We expose the Blessed Sacrament and give specific honor to Him for His gift of making Himself present under the appearances of bread and wine.

We do that at Mass, too, which is the superior prayer, but we can do that in various, other creative ways. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is one such way; putting Jesus out to praise, honor and compliment Him.

Some might say (as they do about Mass): "Shucks, I can do that privately at home, I don't need to come to church for all that." Well, think of the difference between getting

a private compliment, which is nice...and getting a public compliment before a group of people. Which has more impact? So too, God is even more honored when we gather en masse, in a group, to give Him praise and honor.

The second reason we do this is because it is good for us. Receiving communion is tops, but second best is basking before His Real Presence like a sunbather soaking in that Vitamin D from the sun. And so, in church, we soak in the light of grace from the Son of God. You can't get too much of *that* Son. The monstrance, i.e., the display case in which the Blessed Sacrament is exposed often has a sun-burst design to symbolize the rays of grace pouring out upon us as we kneel before Him. There are blessings that accrue to us when we honor Him. Whenever the opportunity presents itself—*Do it.*

Octogenarians Honored Again

On Saturday, August 8, the members of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish who are 80 years young and older were honored with a Mass and Dinner. The dinner was held at the Recreation Park Community Center. Dinner was prepared and served by members of Sacred Heart Parish, pictured below in the kitchen.



Above: John and Rita Tedeschi; Below: Irene Regan and guest, Johanna Smyers.



Knights of Columbus Sponsor Picnic

Each year the Knights of Columbus take on the task of preparing the Parish picnic, once again held at Derry Township Community Park. They decided to have a pig roast this year, which was delicious. It was a wonderful way to welcome our new Pastor, Fr. Bill, to our parish. As you can see, he had a swinging good time! Thanks to all the Knights, especially Charlie and Wendy Vogt, for all the hard work that went into this year's picnic. Hope to see you next year!



Upcoming Parish Events

- 9/7 Parish Office Closed
- 9/8 Bible Study Begins
- 9/9 Adult Choir Begins
- 9/10 RCIA Begins
- 9/13 CCD Begins
- 9/19 St. Vincent Free Meal
- 9/21 St. Vincent Meeting
- 10/2 First Friday Adoration
- 10/3-4 Parish Council Elections
- 10/7 Rosary—Year of the Priest
- 10/17 St. Vincent Free Meal
- 10/18-20 Forty Hours Devotions
- 10/24-25 Parish Tithing Update
- 11/1 All Souls Service
- 11/6 First Friday Adoration
- 11/21 St. Vincent Free Meal
- 11/15 Giving Tree Ministry
- 11/26 Parish Office Closed

Check out all the important dates on the parish website.

The Parish Register

Baptisms in the Parish

Gracie Katherine Leister	6/7/09
Sophia Margaret Decker	6/21/09
Jeremiah Anthony Johnson	7/4/09
Jordan Emory Johnson	7/4/09
Freya Villamor Spigelmeyer	7/5/09
Kaitlyn Margaret Brytczuk	7/12/009
Cesare Rosario Cottone	7/26/09
Claire Marie Dible	8/2/09

Marriages in the Parish

Jeremy Wells to Kimberly Lechien, June 13, 2009
 Brock Weiss to Sylvia Shank, June 27, 2009
 Robert Lepley to Katie Buchanan, August 1, 2009
 Thomas Kerchusky to Sarah Dost, August 15, 2009
 Jeremy Pully to Heather Renninger, August 15, 2009

Deaths in the Parish

June	Larry Stoicheff
July	Rose Mary Brumbagh
August	Rodger Berrier

Parish Organizations Updates

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus Council 1338 recently held its 3rd Annual Raystown Cruise. Even with the threat of a stormy evening, 41 people from as far away as Dover, DE joined us for what turned out to be a beautiful evening. A fine BBQ dinner provided by Clem's BBQ was followed by 3-hour sightseeing/music cruise. The Knights will soon be in action again, helping Father Thoms and Father Weary with the upcoming youth kayak adventure.

As summer comes to an end, **our next regular meeting will be Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00pm.** Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. All Brother Knights are urged to attend.

Look soon for information on the following upcoming events:

Membership Blitz

Columbus Day Dinner

KC Soccer Challenge

Any Catholic gentlemen, 18 years of age or older, looking for a meaningful way to help their friends, parish and community, can contact any member regarding membership.

VIVAT JESUS!

Jim Thomas

Grand Knight, Council 1338

MARRIAGE MENTORS

Currently the parishes of Sacred Heart and Saint Jude have seven marriage mentor couples. This year the marriage mentor couples have worked with 7 couples for FOCCUS (marriage program) and 3 couples for REFOCCUS (convalidation program.) This is a spiritually rewarding

experience for all the marriage mentor couples. If you are interested in becoming a marriage mentor couple, contact Sandy & Steve Dedmon at 543-2061 or e-mail dedmon1@verizon.net. Training by the Diocese is required to become a marriage mentor couple.

Sandy and Steve Dedmon

Marriage Mentor Coordinators

RED HAT SOCIETY

The Red Hat Society is a group of ladies who dress in purple clothes and wear red hats. Our goal is to enjoy life to the fullest! We enjoy eating out and being with one another. We meet the third Thursday of each month. Our group has grown to 23 regular members. On one or two occasions, the sisters have joined us. For our July activity, we went to Red Lobster in State College. In August, we plan to go to one of our member's picnic grove for a picnic.

Faye Headings

BIBLE STUDY

Adult Bible Study is planning to begin its Fall study session on **Tuesday, September 8 at 7 PM.** We will meet weekly at the Parish office. We plan to study the Acts of the Apostles - which includes the Ascension, Pentecost, the journeys of St. Paul (including maps) along with much more valuable and interesting material. We will be using Sacred Scripture Study material provided by the Little Rock Scripture Study which includes a teaching video, the Bible, Bible commentaries and a Q&A book. Materials are provided free to each member.

We also want to congratulate Connie Burket, a long time member of ABS, for

her reading of the Bible from beginning (Genesis 1:1) to end (Revelation 22:21). **GOOD FOR YOU CONNIE!**

For more information, contact Phil Quinn.

RITE OF INITIATION OF CHRISTIAN ADULTS (RCIA)

The RCIA process involves all members of our Sacred Heart family and is an on-going project. It is the duty of all members of the Church to aid in the conversion of those who seek the Truth. You can fulfill your ministry by inviting non-Catholics to our Thursday evening sessions. Also, you can be a sponsor for one of the candidates or catechumens.

The 2009-10 classes will begin on September 10 at 7:00pm in the Church basement. Please call John Kriauckas at 899-5646 to offer your help. All are welcome to attend!

John Kriauckas

ST VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY

The St. Vincent DePaul Society of SH is continuing our monthly free meals to the community the third Saturday of the month. Recent meals include fried chicken, baked ham, spaghetti, and turkey. All are welcome. Bingo games follow the dinner, giving those in attendance a chance for fellowship and prizes.

Volunteers continue to work in the parish office at least twice a week. They help provide the less fortunate in Mifflin/Juniata County with some of their basic needs. In these tough economic times, many are falling through the cracks. Each week at least 5—10 families come to our office asking for some kind of assistance. "Whatever we do for the least of my brothers..." is our Christian principle that keeps us going. Continued on p. 6...

Pilgrimage to Loretto

(Continued from Page 1)

The group from Sacred Heart Parish also visited St. Michael's Basilica and the tomb of Fr. Gallitzin. In the adjacent area there is a beautiful and picturesque Shrine of the Alleghenies. The Carmelite Monastery and the Franciscan Friary also were visited by the group.

Loretto philanthropist Charles M. Schwab, at the time of construction of St. Michaels, was president of the United States Steel

Corporation. He was salaried at two million a year and underwrote the entire cost of the church and all furnishings, including the liturgical art and restricted maintenance for 35 years, before his death in 1939. This was his gift to the people of Loretto and St. Michael Parish, for it was here he spent his youth and Loretto was where his parents spent their adult lives. He also provided a most wonderful home for the Carmelite Sisters of St. Francis beside the fabulous mansion and gardens for himself, which is now home to the retired Franciscan Friars.

Fr. Bill Weary, new pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, accompanied the group and celebrated Mass in the Chapel. He was heard saying, "This is Central Pennsylvania's best kept secret." – and indeed, it seems so. It is the hope of those who went on this pilgrimage that more from the Harrisburg Diocese will make it a destination point. It is most worthy of a visit. For more information contact: Prince Gallitzin Historical Association, P O Box 101, Loretto, PA 15940; Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, P O Box 99, Loretto, PA 15940, or phone (814) 472-5441 or bsaylor@dioceseaj.org.

Tithing Update -What's Happening? By Dave Kaniecki

This is our **sixth** year as a tithing parish. Our tithing ministry is separated into two categories, Time & Talent and Tithing. Each year we alternate between these two. This fall our emphasis will be on tithing. Don't worry no parishioners will be contacted this year to speak at Mass!

On October 24 and 25, Lisa Roher from St. Theresa's Parish in New Cumberland and Joe Seeber from St Mark's Parish in Bristol will be attending all Masses to speak to parishioner about tithing. Lisa and Joe will be presenting their tithing testimonials based on answers to the following questions:

- *When did you first hear about tithing?
- *What was your reaction upon hearing about it?
- *What, if anything, has tithing meant in your life?

Please take some personal time to reflect on how you would answer these three questions.

Thanks to everyone who has helped with the work involved in last year's time and talent campaign. I know the phone calls are painful but believe me they are a vital part of our way to reach out to inactive parishioners.

Lastly, I would like to wish a warm "Welcome Father Bill" and to say thank you for keeping our parish a tithing parish.



Successful Parish Rummage Sale By Theresa Dybach

Treasures were found in basements, attics, and garages in preparation for the first rummage sale held on Saturday, July 25th, 2009 from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at the Reedsville Youth Park Building for the benefit of Sacred Heart School students. "Largesse" was in the shape of toys, clothing, shoes, fishing poles, kitchen items, funny hats, garden décor, and even shiny Mardi Gras beads!

The prices of items were considered by many to be ideal. Baked goodies, refreshing spring water, and colorful lollipops were available for purchase, too. We know that this was a very enjoyable and profitable event since many customers asked if there will be another rummage sale next year! Wow! Can you imagine that?

Attendees ranged from bikers to moms, children to grandparents and even Tiki, a small, Chihuahua dog.

Thank you to all of the generous custom-

ers who donated and purchased items for this worthwhile cause, our school students. No pink flamingoes were to be seen this year, however, they may appear at the next sale. A special thanks to all of the volunteers who helped plan, organize, and set up individual tables with merchandise. These generously spirited and brave hearted people included:

Gordon Parker-Chairman
Theresa Dybach-Co-Chairlady
Kathi Tice
Connie Quinn
Sylvia Helwig
MaryLou Schaaf
Betsy Tressler
Colleen McCusker & sons
Marie Bender
Sue Parzanese

Several confirmed youth
"Many hands made light work!" But, we can always use more volunteers! A reminder that volunteer hours may be earned by parents.

Upcoming Parish Pastoral Council Elections

Sacred Heart's Parish Pastoral Council seeks nominations to fill two openings for 3-year terms. The task of the council is to advise the pastor to "guide and coordinate the activities of the parish and all its organizations." Members of the council should be practicing Catholics and registered members of the parish. Meetings are held the third Sunday of each month at 7:00PM.

Those interested in submitting their names for the ballot are asked to contact the parish office for a nominations form. Parishioners may suggest names of other qualified parishioners for inclusion on the ballot as well. **Nominations are due to the parish office no later than September 18.** Information about the candidates will be available in the bulletins on September 25-26. Elections will take place during Masses the weekend of October 3 and 4.

Best Wishes to Sr. Anna Marie



On August 21, Sister Anna Marie Ziegler, SCC, celebrated her 65th Jubilee during a large gathering at the Mother House in Mendham, NJ. Fr. Thoms joined Sister Marlene, Sister Carmelita, and Sister Anna Marie for the celebration. Best wishes from all of us at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish!



St Vincent de Paul (continued from page 5)

Due to unforeseen events, we will not participate in the Horse Show this year. We would like to thank all who have supported us in the past. We are in the process of discussing new fund raising projects and would like input from our parish community. We welcome new members and new ideas—the poor are not going away! **Join us the third Monday of each month in the school cafeteria at 7:00PM** for our regular meetings, or contact the parish office if you would like to join us!

Gary Sanges, President

Priests, Knights of Columbus, and Knights of the Holy Temple Begin New Youth Group Activities

On Sunday, August 30, Fr Bill, Fr Thoms, and a group of eager youth and adults gathered at the rectory to embark on a new adventure—for the day, but also for the future of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish. In an effort to rejuvenate an interest in forming a Youth Group in the parish, Fr Bill and Fr Thoms enlisted the help of the Knights of the Holy Temple and the Knights of Columbus to organize a kayaking trip and picnic. Rewarded for their efforts with a beautiful day, the group of 11 youth and 8 adults loaded a box truck with kayaks and boarded a van to the Arch Rock access area to begin their journey down the river to Buttonwood Camp-ground, where they played volleyball, listened to some spiritual words from Fr Bill, and enjoyed a feast prepared by the K of C.

The youth, including Andrew Parzanese, Patrick Parker, Nick Grimm and Mason Dible, Adam Bowser, Matt Murray, Sarah Bonson, Rachael Zimmerman, Michaela DeBenedetto, and

James Dalton were joined by parents and other adults of the parish, including Gary Parzanese, George Grimm, Mike Murray, Jim Thomas, and Charlie and Wendy Vogt, as well as Fr. Thoms and Fr. Bill.

Once the group arrived at Buttonwood, they were met by fellow K of C members Chuck Zannino (and his wife, Adreinne), Tom Bell and Steve Dalton, who prepared the food for the group. Special thanks to John Kriackus for driving the van, Guerrini Vending for providing the box truck and driver, Jim Thomas for providing the volleyball net, and those who loaned us kayaks, including Theresa Fike, Tom Mank, and Mike Fitzgerald.



Hopefully this will be the beginning of many activities and adventures that the youth of our parish will continue to plan as they begin to start a new chapter. **There will be an organizational**

meeting and orientation for the new youth group on Sunday, September 20, at 6:00PM in the parish office, followed by an outing to a local restaurant. All youth and adults who are interested in this ministry are invited and encouraged to attend. Contact Fr. Thoms for information.

An Invitation from the Sisters of Christian Charity

The Sisters of Christian Charity, who presently work at Sacred Heart Parish and School, wish to invite interested parishioners (men and women) to actively participate in our Associate Program, namely, the Companions of Pauline. This title derives its name from our loving Foundress, Pauline von Mallinckrodt, who was beatified in 1985.

The primary purpose of the Companions of Pauline is one of bonding and mutual support in which men and women strive to identify more closely with the Sisters of Christian Charity in a journey of prayer, loving service, and fidelity to Gospel values.

The mission of the Companions of Pauline is to make God more deeply known and loved by others and self; live more fully and proclaim the Gospel values of humility, simplicity, and charity in the spirit of Blessed Pauline; promote the Eucharistic spirituality and the charism of the Sisters of Christian Charity through prayer, personal faith growth, and ministry/service.

If you are open to learn more about this Associate Program, feel free to contact the Sisters at 248-4511 or 242-2781. A meeting will be held in the fall to better acquaint you with the Sisters, our Foundress, and the purpose of this group. You can visit the Sisters of Christian Charity website at www.sceast.org and click on "ASSOCIATES" for more information.



Rosary: Year for Priests



The Church's observation of the Year for Priests calls the faithful to a renewed appreciation for the priesthood and for an increase in prayers for these servants who minister in the Lord's vineyard. A diocesan-wide opportunity to offer prayers for priests will take place Oct. 7, the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has marked that day as an occasion for the rosary to be offered throughout the diocese for priests. He encourages communal recitation of the rosary in parishes, schools and all other diocesan institutions, such as college campus ministries, retirement homes and nursing homes. "I believe it will be a wonderful spiritual testament to have thousands of the faithful of our diocese gather in our churches, schools and chapels to pray for priests, all on the same day," the bishop wrote in a letter to pastors, chaplains and principals in announcing the special day of prayer. In response, **Sacred Heart will offer a rosary following the 7:00PM Mass on Wednesday, October 7**, in the church as our Adult Religious Education segment for the month of October. Some information about the rosary and The Year for Priests will also be offered at this time. We invite our parishioners to join together in prayer for our Pastor, Fr. Bill, our Parochial Vicar, Fr. Thoms and all priests.

SACRED HEART OF JESUS PARISH



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Giving Tree Ministry
 by Fran Hartman



In November, Christmas trees will be seen throughout the community covered with pink and blue heart-shaped tags. These heart tags represent the passion and caring of all the people involved in this annual Salvation Army Christmas Project. This is a wonderful project which brings the community together during the Christmas season to help make the holiday special for local children.

At present, this project encompasses many races and economic backgrounds. The system has improved through the years and is very well organized

Churches in the community, including Sacred Heart, put up a Giving Tree with the names of children with their information.

In two weeks, the church members have shopped for the children and have brought the gifts back to the church. Members of each church organizes a group to record each gift on a list for parents, so they know exactly what each child will receive. Each church wraps the gifts and bags them to prepare them for pick-up. On pick-up day, parents are required to have identification and sign for their children's gifts. The majority of parents are overjoyed at the amount of gifts provided.

Look for the Giving Tree at Sacred Heart in mid November. Please consider being a part of this community project.

Parish Pilgrimage to Washington, DC

(Continued from page 1)

Recitation of the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary will occur at 2:00 pm and will be followed by a Marian Celebration at 3:00 pm. Departure will be at 4:30pm.

Coordinating this event for Sacred Heart Church are Dottie Peiffer and Nora Torquato. Mary Zangrelli is the contact person at St. Jude's Church. Parishioners will be transported by Trustworthy Travel. Departure will be at 6:00 am at the Mifflin County Library parking lot with a stop at St. Jude's in Mifflintown at 6:30 am. The bus fee is \$40. Participants will be responsible for their lunch and a dinner stop on the way home.

Contact Dottie at 248-1804, Nora at 667-6551 or Mary at 436-2936 to make reservations. The deadline is September 24. For additional information, go to www.hbgdiocese.org.

Pilgrimage to the National Shrine
 Washington, D.C.

8:00 - 10:00 AM	Arrival, "Uniforms and Hat" stop and breakfast for early arrival.
9:00 - 10:30 AM	Sacrament of Penance
10:00 AM	Welcome Holy Rosary (St. Ignace Shrine) Tour of Faith - Shrine Staff
10:45 AM	Holy Sacrifice of the Mass (St. Ignace Shrine) - Rosary (Lunch and rest)
12 Noon - 3:00 PM	Free time (Lunch, Refreshments, Private Prayer, Shopping at Shrine Book Store and/or Shop, Self-Served Tour of Basilica)
3:00 PM	Recitation of the Rosary in the Languages of the Diocese
3:00 PM	Marian Celebration (Concluding with the Rosary) (Optional: Blessing of pilgrims of the Blessed Virgin Mary)
6:00 PM	Departure

October 24, 2009
 *Please check with your parish about bus transportation. For questions, call 717-657-6804 ext. 325.