



# Church of Saint Ann Parish Newsletter

Parsippany, NJ 07054

Winter2007

## *The Church of Saint Ann — The “Dream” Continued —*

In July 1983, when Bishop Rodimer raised the mission to “A Canonical Parish of St. Ann” and Fr. Martin was installed as Pastor, it was the “Dream” fulfilled! The dream didn’t end, of course, because St. Ann needed its own place to worship — a physical structure. Thus, the dream continued.

The first trustees of St. Ann, Vince Blazovic and Marge Giaquinta, were selected to co-chair the building fund. They assembled a committee in May 1984 and over a period of 36 months collected pledges amounting to more than \$800,000; sufficient to proceed with the new venture.

The 7 acre parcel purchased from the diocese met all expectations. Ground breaking for the new home of St. Ann was held on May 19, 1985 and a cross was erected on the spot where the altar for the new church would stand.

After numerous meetings, the St. Ann family determined the design of their new place of worship to accommodate 300 congregants. The architectural firm, Paul W. Reilly & Associates of Shrewsbury, NJ was contracted to impart special considerations for the church’s design and orientation. The entrance, for example, does not face the road; it faces east, toward the rising sun and the highest point of the church, the Cross, is positioned exactly over the altar.

Prior to the dedication, the people of St. Ann really pulled together as a family to transform the building into a church. The property required landscaping; the walls and molding had to be painted and stained; and the finishing touches applied. Volunteers joined together with pride and satisfaction to complete the dream.

The culmination of the dream was realized in a spiritually moving ceremony one summer evening when parishioners transferred the sacred vessels from the Methodist church to their new home of St. Ann. A police escort led the procession of parishioners on the one and a quarter mile trek where the last stretch of the journey was illuminated by candles along the roadside. The dedication was held following day; Saturday, July 26, 1986.



Fr. Martin turns his spade of earth during the groundbreaking ceremony on May 19, 1985



Views of the construction and the near completion



Dedicated parishioners working to finish details



Sr. Frances and Fr. Martin lead the procession in the dedication of the Church of St Ann on July 26, 1986

This is the second article of a four part series on the history of St. Ann in celebration of its 25th Anniversary.

## *From the Pastor's Desk:*

The season of Advent is upon us and Christmas is not far behind. On top of the usual demands of daily living, work, taking care of family, we now add a new dimension ... Decorating – Shopping – Christmas Cards – Baking – Christmas Parties. We are overwhelmed by the busyness of it all, and too often we allow the noise and the crowds to edge out the quiet joy to be found in the season of expectation. Is Christmas so crowded that it is possible to forget about Christ and kind of “tuck him in a corner” of our celebrating.

This Advent let us focus on the real meaning of Christmas, “**Emmanuel**, God among us.” Perhaps we can make a greater effort to see Christ among us:

- **In the poor...** take an ornament from the Giving Tree.
- **In our family...** make a greater effort to be together for a meal and to pray together as a family.
- **In our Parish Family...** join us for weekend Mass and participate in Sunday Hospitality with your children.



Take the children to visit the beautiful manger in the Atrium. Be sure to set up a manger in a prominent place in your home. Tell the story of the First Christmas as each figure is set in the Nativity Scene.

May you and your family have a grace filled Advent Season and a peace filled Christmas.

Fr. Martin

## *Editor's Notebook:*

A few excerpts are provided From “**God's Little Devotional Book for Women**” to provide a “pick-me-up” for your day.

**EVERYONE HAS PATIENCE.  
SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE LEARN TO USE IT.**

**GIVE YOUR TROUBLES TO GOD:  
HE WILL BE UP ALL NIGHT ANYWAY.**

**A HOUSE IS MADE OF WALLS AND BEAMS,  
A HOME IS MADE OF LOVE AND DREAMS.**

**EXPECT GREAT THINGS FROM GOD.  
ATTEMPT GREAT THINGS FOR GOD.**

**MOST PEOPLE WISH TO SERVE GOD-  
BUT ONLY IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY.**

## *Bishop Rodimer Celebrates his 80th Birthday at St. Ann*

Fr. Martin extended a special birthday greeting at the St. Ann Confirmation ceremony and reminded the congregation of the role Bishop Rodimer played in the formation of parish (see the “Dream”, page 1). The Bishop received a standing ovation.

The Bishop's actual birthday was celebrated on Thursday, October 25 in the Parish Life Center with a near capacity crowd which included 6 bishops, 150 clergy from the diocese and an equivalent of invited lay people. A wonderful way to celebrate the Bishop's special day.

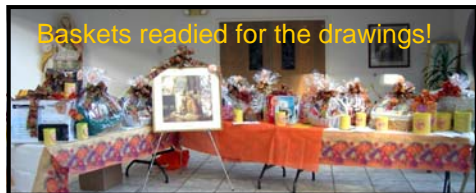


**Editor:** John Nardone **Newsletter Staff:** Fr. Martin McDonnell, Sr. Frances Sanzo (Christian Faith), Arleen Christie (Youth Council), Mike Santo, Patricia Neilan and Attracta Kelly.

## *Beefsteak Dinner — 25th Anniversary Kickoff*

The first formal event of the campaign to celebrate St. Ann's 25th Anniversary was a rousing success. Over 200 parishioners and guests filled the Parish Life Center, feasted on the "all you can eat beefsteak" and danced to the music of DJ P & D Entertainment. Fr. Martin welcomed all and noted that this fundraiser will defray the costs of the 25th Anniversary celebration next year.

Vying for the baskets and the other gifts was brisk until the end. Fr. Martin pulled all the tickets except for the GPS Navigator. This honor was given to Sr. Frances.



She pulled her own ticket and walked away with a better sense of direction.

Thanks to the Beefsteak Dinner committee for their hard work in making this event a success.



The Beefsteak Committee (l-r): Barbara Gannon, Angela Portella, Lisa Hance (chair person), Victor Jacobia, Tom Parsons, Loretta Blazovic, Sr. Frances, Cathy Pettit and Joanne Jacobia



### *Len Deo Instituted into the Ministry of Acolyte*

On October 16, Bishop Serratelli celebrated a Mass at St. Peter's Church in Parsippany during which 10 deaconate candidates were instituted to the Ministry of Acolyte.



An acolyte is responsible for observing and assisting priests and deacons with baptisms, weddings, funerals, wake services and gravesite services; serving at Mass; assisting with distribution of Communion at Mass and to the sick; and teaching and scheduling altar servers.

Len is in his fourth year of formation.

### *St. Ann Photo Directory Underway*

Have you seen someone in church and wondered who that person was? Well, help is on its way! To celebrate St. Ann's 25th anniversary a photo directory for our church members will be published -- at no cost to the church parishioners. Parishioners will also receive a **complimentary 8x10 portrait** for participating and may purchase additional portraits to share with family and friends.

But, St. Ann needs your help by joining in this 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary activity. Let's make this 25<sup>th</sup> year of St. Ann complete with all of its parishioners. Pictures will be taken during January 2008.

Schedule your photo by completing the form provided to each family in a general mailer. You may also sign up for your family photo by going online to, <http://saint-ann.net> Click onto "**CHURCH DIRECTORY SIGN-UP**" and follow the simple instructions. Dates & times available are posted there.

For additional information, contact Mary-Ann Lewis at 973-540-9059 or Elaine Ehrlich at 973-263-2647.

# CHRISTIAN FAITH IN ACTION -- SR. FRANCES

## *Faith Formation Theme -- Encountering the Living Christ*

With our children's religious education in full swing, I must say we are off to a good start and hope to accomplish this through various prayer experiences. All the saints were remembered with a parade at our 10:30 Mass on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>.

October is the month dedicated to Mary and the Rosary. Some classes made Rosary Beads, while others learned how to pray the Rosary. The students of Grade 3a were assigned a Saint and were asked to write a paragraph on different ways they could imitate the Saint. Their thoughts and reflections were displayed on the Religious Education Bulletin Board.

The second graders are preparing to receive two very important sacraments, Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Hopefully the boys and girls planted the tulip bulbs given to them by their teachers. If they followed the instructions carefully in May there will be beautiful tulips in bloom. Like the tulip bulb the children are learning how important it is to water, nurture and care for their faith through daily prayer and good works. A lesson which can be shared by all of us.

The children are **Putting Their Faith into Action** by writing to shut-ins, raising money for the Heifer Project (Heifer International helps more than four million families in 125 countries with animals to be raised for food), collecting food for Thanksgiving baskets and participating in the Giving Tree.

## *Religious Education Teachers Commissioned*

On Sunday September 16<sup>th</sup> during the 10:30 Mass more than 36 men and women were commissioned as teachers of Religious Education for the school year 2007-2008.

All of the teachers are volunteers who offer to share their faith and talents with our children. We are grateful to them. They are truly a gift and we ask that we keep them in our prayers.

The teachers commissioned are Sister Rosemary, Sister Mayla, Jeannie Katz, Jill Saharyan, Mike and Mary Szoke, Mary Genevieve Szoke, Karen and Christine Dury, Ginny Bissig, Geri Catala, Rosemary Taibi, Carolyn Ruban, Ed Coscia, Rita Montanaro, Karen Hagman, Marilyn Grabowski, Arleen Christie (Youth Minister), Sue Kander, Melissa Acree (Children's Church Directress), Deborah McStudy, Ceil Coy, Carolyn Coscia, Nancy Goddard, Terry Belusko, Kathy Pesce, Sue Sylvester, Sandra Vojta, Lisa Hance and Barbara Gannon.

## *Religious Education — Theology 101*

**Do you know the difference between:**

- Ritual and Tradition?
- Lectionary and Sacramentary?
- Order Priest and Diocesan Priest?

The women (shown in the photo) who attended Theology 101 can answer all these questions plus many other interesting questions discussed during the Tuesday evening classes.

Interested in attending! — keep your eyes on the Church Bulletin for the dates of Part Two of Theology 101.



Theology Class: (seated) Betty Wyka, Carol Christie, Sr. Frances, Cathy Michalski, Loretta Blazovic, and Rosalie DeNunzio. (standing) Amy Stumpf, Jo Spano, Edith Ryan, Cathy McGuirk, Jill Saharyan, Sue Kander, Joanne Jacobia and Cheryl Sweder.

## 25th Anniversary Celebration Progress

The 25th Anniversary planning and celebrations are underway. The kickoff event was held on November 17; the Beefsteak Dinner in the Parish Life Center. Lisa Hance headed the fundraiser which will offset the cost of the week-end celebration in July 2008.

Thanks to Ginny Scala for the St. Ann special edition Christmas cards which are for sale after all Masses and in the Church Office. Also, Mary Ann Lewis and her committee have been working on the 25th Photo Directory. You need to reserve your sitting time to make this parish milestone complete.

Your participation in this Church milestone is encouraged by helping out on one of the standing committees; historian, silver edition journal or the July 27 family fun day. Please contact Joanne or Victor Jacobia at 973-887-4832.

*25th Anniversary — 25th Anniversary — 25th Anniversary — 25th Anniversary — 25th Anniversary*

## Women's Cornerstone Most Successful Ever

A record forty-four women attended the Women's Cornerstone retreat on Oct. 26 and 27 — the theme was "On the Road with Jesus". The committee members, chaired by Arleen Christie and Geri Catela, were Sr. Frances, Ellen Buechner, Marilyn Grabowski, Sue Kander and Trish Weiss.

Cornerstone provided an opportunity for all to reflect on their lives, their spiritual journey and to share with other women in the parish. One of the highlights was that each women was presented with a white 8 by 8 inch cloth square to decorate their reflection and feelings. The squares were then assembled into a quilt with each of the women attaching their own. The finished product, displayed in the Atrium, was outstanding and a unique and spiritual experience was felt by all.



Cornerstone committee members and presenters

### The Women Presenters at Cornerstone (topics of discussion)



Melissa Acree  
(Discipleship)



## Ministry Day at Saint Ann held on 3-4 October

What is Ministry Day? It is a day set aside each year for parishioners to decide how they will serve the Community of Saint Ann as a - Lector - Choir Member - Altar Server - Musician - Samaritan - Teacher - Children's Church Leader - Fund Raiser - Health Ministry - Door Hospitality - Youth Minister.

Each ministry had a beautiful display set up in the Atrium. Parishioners had time to browse over a cup of coffee and donut and decide where they can be of service. While parents were browsing the children went outside and members of the youth group were available to paint faces.

If you would like to be a part of a ministry it is not too late to sign up. Call the office at 973-884-1986 or e-mail [stann@saint-ann.net](mailto:stann@saint-ann.net).

# YOUTH COUNCIL AT LARGE -- ARLEEN CHRISTIE

## *Twenty Eight Candidates Confirmed by Bishop Rodimer*

On Monday, October 15 Bishop Rodimer administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 28 young men and women of Saint Ann. The Bishop stressed the importance of becoming a responsible member of the church community. He said he hopes and prays that they will continue to attend Mass and receive Holy communion regularly. He encouraged them to call Jesus their friend.



In the photo with the confirmed youth are Bishop Rodimer, Fr. Martin, Arleen Christie, Jill Saharyan and Sue Kander

Thanks to Arleen Christie, Jill Saharayn and Sue Kander for preparing the youth for their religious rite.

Those confirmed were Alyssa Baratz, Joseph Barbieri, Joseph Bach, Nicholas Bach, Samantha Bluj, Colleen Bott, Ryan Chapman, Paul Christal, Michael Como, Katelyn Crawford, Joanna Davino, Rachel Day, Kristen Flanagan, Stephen Haddock Weiler, Daniel Gaffney, Eric Krozser, Amanda Masterson, Jamie Mac Rae, Matthew Nicosia, Rebecca Nigro, Jennifer Nista, Megan Pontrella, Travis Steuer, Joseph Vallillo, Alanna Van Steyn, Brittany Wilhalme, Susan Witkowski and Laura Zalewski.

## *Day of Reflection*

The Confirmation candidates attended a "Day of Reflection" on September 9. The day began with Mass at 8:00 a.m., followed by a pancake breakfast. Mr. Dennis Mulroony, Vice Principal of Parsippany High and Youth Minister at St. Cecilia Church in Rockaway, addressed the group and told them how special they are in God's eyes. Also, just as their parents support them so is God supporting them in all they do.

The rest of the afternoon was spent learning how the Holy Spirit strengthens us. At dismissal each one received a candle as a remembrance of the candle their parents held for them at their Baptism. It was a spiritual day that they will remember because in the Sacrament of Confirmation they have chosen to accept the light of their faith.

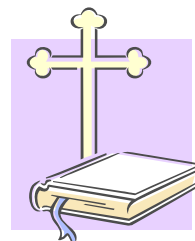
We were blessed with several mothers of the candidates helping out with the breakfast and Eric Hubner doing all the cooking.

## *Rite of Choice*

Thirteen ninth graders started their Faith Formation Classes on November 4 and had a "Rite of Choice" service at the 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, November 11. A Rite of Choice service is for 9<sup>th</sup> graders beginning their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

They sign a Covenant for Growth, witnessed by their parents, where they commit to follow Jesus more closely. This includes recognizing the value of weekly sharing in the Eucharist; striving for greater maturity; praying for growth in faith, hope and love; and accepting more responsibility in their families, Church and Community.

They also asked for support, encouragement and guidance from Fr. Martin, their parents and the St. Ann Parish community. A blessed youth bible they received will be used in all of their classes.



## Prayer Corner

In prayer, we remember:

### Our Deceased:

Marianne (Galante) Fiederer  
Tony Steffanie  
Mary Opalack  
Alice Powers

### Our Sick:

Sister Doris Healey, S.C.  
Mark Berkowitz  
Diana Cascioli  
Anthony La Spina



## Congratulations to:

### Our New Christians:

Adele Kasper  
Matthew Parker  
Christian & Frank De Nunzio  
Colin Joseph Londergan  
Lucas Coe



### Newly Married

Theresa Hayes & Michael Cruz  
Joan Marie Smith & Stephan Goddard

### 50 Years of Marriage

Frank & Phyllis Galante

### 25 Years of Marriage:

Joseph & Debra Cignarella  
Chris & Beth Dupin  
William & Randi Siedenbug

**Merry Christmas  
and a  
Happy New Year  
From the  
Newsletter Staff**



**Cornerstone for Men is Coming  
February 8-9, 2008**

## Youth Council Clothing Bonanza

The Youth Group clothing drive was a success. The bags were pick-up on November 10 and weighed in at 5,652 pounds earning the group \$834.76. This money will go toward Christmas and Lenten charity projects.

Thanks to the parish community for their donations which will be used by the less fortunate.

Special thanks to Alyssa Baratz and Joseph and Nicholas Bach who helped load the truck.



## CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2007

### PRIVATE CONFESSIONS

Saturday, December 22  
10:00 a.m. to 12 Noon  
4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

### CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Monday, December 24  
Children's Christmas Mass – 4:00 p.m.  
Christmas Mass – 6:00 p.m.  
Carols and Midnight Mass – 11:30 p.m.

### CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Tuesday, December 25th  
8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

### NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

Monday, Dec 31  
Vigil Mass 5:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, January 1, 2008  
Mass – 10:30 a.m.

**Church of Saint Ann**  
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### *Upcoming Events*

#### **December**

**1-2**     **Bake Sale & Fair Trade Show**  
**8**        **Birthday Party for Jesus**

#### **January**

**26**     **Pre Cana**

#### **February**

**1-2**     **Pre Cana**  
**8-9**     **Cornerstone for Men**

#### **March**

**3-5**     **Parish Mission**  
**8**        **St. Patrick's' Dinner Dance**  
**15**     **Easter Egg Hunt**  
**22**     **Fish & Chips Dinner**

#### **May**

**19**     **Golf Outing**

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