



# St. Pius Calling...

March- April 2017

## A Special Day! By Mary Lyons

The sacrament of Confirmation was celebrated at St. Pius X on Saturday, March 11. Bishop Ronald W. Gainer, Bishop of the Diocese of Harrisburg, confirmed 61 teens from four parishes (St. Joseph in Milton, St. Monica in Sunbury, St. Joseph in Danville, and St. Pius X).

The 22 newly confirmed, who completed their Initiation into the Roman Catholic Church and who are parishioners at St. Pius X, are: Morgan CECILIA Andretta, Luke JOSEPH Berkoski, Annalise JOAN Bond, Jonathan MICHAEL Bosworth, Ryan BLAISE Brankovich, Dominic SEBASTIAN Cecco, Jolee CECILIA Cerezo, James JUAN DIEGO Charles, Cameron THOMAS Cowder, Danielle KATERI Fetterolf, Peyton BERNADETTE Kehler, Collin ANTHONY Kline, Eli JUDE Markle, Sophie MARTIN Markle, Shaun PATRICK McBride, Olivia CECILIA Merwine, Olivia MARIE Reichley, Ky SEBASTIAN Reiland, Clint ANTHONY Rowe, Emily CECILIA Shaffer, Madison TERESA Stebila, Greta MARIA Widmaier.

We are truly blessed as a parish by all of these young men and women! Two stories of two newly confirmed individuals: One St. Pius X teen swam in the Swimming Championships two weeks prior to Confirmation. Her relay team won that day and earned a spot in "Districts!" Districts were held on the same day as Confirmation. She gave up her spot on the district team, telling the coach, "I will be Confirmed on March 11 and thus must forfeit my spot on the relay. Someone else will swim for me, Confirmation is so important." Another St. Pius X teen, having been confirmed during the 10 am Mass on March 11, was at the 5 pm Mass later that day. At that Mass, a parishioner spoke briefly after Communion about the Bishop's Lenten Appeal, encouraging everyone to participate. After Mass the newly-confirmed teen saw the speaker and gave her \$40 cash that he had been given as a gift for Confirmation. He told her it was for the Bishop's Lenten Appeal!

The Holy Spirit blesses us abundantly in our young people!



Gratitude for all who have nurtured them and prepared them for their participation and ministry in our Church.

*Bishop Gainer address the Confirmandi*

## Pious Thoughts

*from our Pastor, Fr. Pius*



Lent is Christianity in action. In this edition we see perfect examples of the challenges we face in living the faith. Our newly confirmed candidates lead the way. The works of mercy by the funeral luncheon group is the foundation of Christian charity and the testimony of living the faith. Have a joyous Lenten season and an Easter filled with the power of the resurrection. Smile!

## Funeral Luncheons By Linda Houser

To bury the dead, is one of the corporal works of mercy. This can take many forms and the funeral luncheon team at St. Pius X lives out that work of mercy by helping the grieving family to celebrate the meaning and sacredness of the life of each member of our parish family.

When a parishioner dies, Father meets with the family to discuss arrangements including the availability of a funeral lunch. If the family chooses to have the gathering, I am notified of the estimated attendees so our team can prepare table-settings and food.

Our team consists of men and women. We may go for months without being needed but can quickly get into the setup and cooking mode when the need occurs. Some of the jobs include providing a dessert or food item, setting up the luncheon area, preparing food in our parish kitchen, serving the food in the buffet line, or cleaning up after the luncheon.

In the past five years, we averaged six funeral luncheons a year. Not every volunteer is called for each funeral. I try to call volunteers on a rotating basis. Each volunteer seems to have a strength or talent that we try to put to use: providing a dessert, preparing food on site, setting tables, cleaning dining area after the meal, doing dishes, and serving food at the buffet line. Some volunteers have been on the funeral-  
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## DRAPING THE CROSS By Joyce Seno

It is common during Lent and in many Christian Churches to see a white or purple cloth draped over the cross. While I found many references to the symbolism of the colors, purple for royalty, black for death and white for purity, I found little about why or when the draping began.



Recently the draped cloth took on a different meaning for me. While reading Sister Anne Catherine Emmericks "The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ", she detailed her vision of the removal of Jesus from the cross:

"Nicodemus and Joseph placed the ladders behind the cross and mounted, carrying with them a very long strip of linen, to which three broad straps were fastened. They bound the body of Jesus under the arms and knees to the trunk of the cross, and the arms they fastened in the same way at the wrists. Then by striking upon strong pegs fixed against the points of the nails at the back of the cross, they forced out the nails from Jesus' hands, which were not very much shaken by the blows. The nails fell easily out of the wounds, for they had been enlarged by the weight of the body which, supported now by means of the linen band, no longer rested upon them."

I suddenly saw the draped cloth as a symbol of Christ descending from the cross after the Crucifixion. The cloth was necessary to be able to remove the body of our Lord from his Cross, so he could be cradled one last time by His Mother and properly laid to rest until the Resurrection.

### Why Catholic?

*By Brian and Laura Bosworth*

My wife and I believe Jesus Christ is our Savior. At home we pray before meals, trips, bed and especially when we need to make an important decision. We seek his knowledge, wisdom and guidance on how we should live our lives and honor his word.

We are followers of the Catholic faith, following the traditions of our families. I remember a story my father told me regarding my grandfather's faith. Although he was not Catholic, he felt that Catholics did not compromise or take the easy way out when it came to religion. In regard to my father, when he got notice that he was terminally ill and in the late stages of cancer, I truly believe God was merciful with his passing. His last days were spent golfing, bowling and enjoying his family and friends. My father was able to see his first born grandson who would carry on the family name, before quietly passing away before the end stages of cancer truly took effect.

My wife's father was not a religious man. He did get married in a Catholic church since my wife's mother was Catholic. She was not a practicing Catholic and my wife's grandmother was instrumental in raising her Catholic and making sure she received the Sacraments.

As adults raising children, we made the decision to raise our children in our faith and continue the tradition. We have witnessed the mercy and grace of God in our lives often. He has helped us through a bad experience with a dishonest real

estate broker and guided us to one that was able to help us sell our home. There have been countless encounters on the highway that I have found myself with miraculous driving skills with finely tuned reaction time. He has strengthened our marriage and made us better parents and people in general.

Both of us believe the love of God and being Catholic is the path that will lead us to salvation.



### Funeral Luncheon (continued)

luncheon volunteer list for many years and the level at which they can help changes over time. So we always need a large list with parishioners of all ages.

The commitment of time for each funeral luncheon is as much as the volunteer is able to contribute from not being available to help to being present from set-up to clean-up. It's nice to have an extensive list of volunteers because the more people we can call upon, the easier the load for all.

Our funeral-lunch workers seem to like this mission because we realize how we can do our part to make a difficult family time a little easier by providing a meal of comfort foods in a familiar, church-family setting.

If you would like to volunteer to help with funeral luncheons, please contact Linda Houser at 570.374.9563.