



St. Pius Calling...

November December 2017

Edge and Life Teen

By Diane Shamory



EDGE

What an awesome day for our youth at the I AM Rally 2017! We got to see Father Dan at his workshop on social media. He talked about being true to YOU on

social media. A great question Father Dan asked was, "Would you still write those words or send those pictures if Jesus was sitting beside you?" His discussion made us think about how we present ourselves to the world on social media. We also attended an informative workshop led by Scott Anthony. He had us thinking about how important it is to continue to learn about God even after we have received the sacrament of Confirmation. We ended our day with celebrating Mass together with all the other youth from various parishes. All of the youth enjoyed blowing their whistles to make a joyful noise to our Lord!

FAN the Fire—Attended by both of our Youth groups

Several of our older youth enjoyed this inspirational rally hosted by Scott Anthony in York. They enjoyed listening to music from the Sean Malloy and Band group, attending Eucharistic Adoration, and Mass. One of the girls who attended was heard saying that "she loved Adoration." Throughout the day the youth were moved in some way.



Life Teen Activities Our Life Teen class was so excited to go to the Escape Room at All In One Adventures in our mall. They worked on escaping from the Treasure Island and Hollywood rooms. Congrats to both teams because everyone escaped!

We have started a Career Series where speakers come into our room to give us lots of insider information on their careers. We have had two speakers so far this year. On October 22nd, Dr. Jessica Pagana-DeFazio spoke to our youth about her college career starting in Marine Biology then continuing on to be a Medical Doctor. Jeffrey Ettinger spoke on November 19th about his career in security and detective work. Looking forward to having more of our parishioners help teach our young some great life lessons!

Pious Thoughts

from our Pastor, Fr. Pius



As we give thanks for all we *have and are*. Shepherd's Pie has provided the second annual community Thanksgiving Dinner.

We give our thanks to Dave Boyer for all he has done for our parish and we welcome Brian Good to our staff.

Our Catholic Faith is itself a thanksgiving, which we especially celebrate at this holy time. Enjoy your reading and enjoy the graces of the Coming of our Savior.

Passing the Drill (or Baton) by Paul and Carol Parowski

November heralds the retirement of Mr. Dave Boyer, the first maintenance engineer of the new St. Pius X Catholic Church a full 10 years ago. Dave's very first engineering assignment for the church was to make sense out of the giant puzzle that was the church's marble altar (You probably don't know that it arrived in numbered pieces with the notation: *some assembly required.*). What a challenge!

The altar however was only the first of many. The biggest challenge, which has continued since the church's early days, has been getting our *extremely complicated* and 'finicky' heating/cooling system to function efficiently. This ongoing *project* has required great patience and constant perseverance on Dave's part, which, fortunately, he has in spades. Underlying the constant battle for HVAC efficiency, Dave has kept the church and rectory in tip-top condition by routinely handling the myriad preventive maintenance and repair projects required to keep all things working well.

Right down to the wire, Dave has been tirelessly working to implement the recommendations of a parish energy audit that occurred in mid 2016. And while the maintenance requirements and routine chores have changed over the years, Dave has continually succeeded in meeting each new challenge to keep the parish running smoothly. All of us can be very grateful for his steady dedication and tireless energy. So as Dave retires, we say farewell and blessings (not that we won't continue seeing him at Mass and around the parish). But what can we expect on the parish maintenance front for the future?

Enter Brian Good as Dave's most worthy replacement. Brian has been a parishioner for many years and during that time has volunteered over and over to help with specific engineering maintenance tasks that required extra manpower. This gives Brian *some 'insider knowledge'* of the workings of the hidden parts of the church, but the full impact of year-round schedules will take time to absorb. As you pass 'a working Brian' in a room or a hallway, you will hear him humming or whistling while he works. That's just to show that Brian loves his job and provides assurance to the rest of us that the parish facilities continue to be in good hands.



So Hail to Brian and Farewell to Dave. We appreciate each and every job you have done and will continue to do so that our parish is the wonder that we all enjoy. God bless you both!

Why Catholic?

Throughout my adult life, I have asked myself this question as I watched friends walk away from the church because they were ashamed of the scandal, did not agree with the doctrine or worried that people would think they were less intelligent for believing in something based on faith. I feel so very blessed that these forces have not shaken my belief. Being Catholic is the most important aspect of who I am and how I live my life every day. I cannot image my life without my dependence on God's word and his love and mercy. My parents raised me Catholic and provided the strong foundation. When I was younger, I did not question it because it was all I knew. As I grew older and could make my own decisions, I felt a need to examine my choice and learn about other religions. I studied the Reformation and after learning what happened during that time, I understood the need for reform but in the end felt the Catholic Church was the real deal.

The Eucharist is what keeps me believing in my Catholic faith. Each time I receive the body and blood of Jesus, I feel his almighty presence in my soul. This gift we share makes us whole, brings us peace and lets us know we are forgiven. "Celebrating mass is the same for all of us no matter where we are or where we go. Mass is the common thread that weaves us together. Staying connected to the traditions of your faith and religion can be very comforting when everything else around you represents change." As the advisor for Catholic Campus Ministry at Susquehanna University, I reach out to the incoming first-year students

We are Happy to Report...by Carol Parowski



Shepherd's Pie is coming close to two years of feeding the hungry through our parish ministry. We began in January of 2016 with an idea of connecting people with excess food with people who needed some. Our motto comes from Luke 3:11, "Whoever has food should share it too."

Our distribution model adapted to our rural realities, and we now accept donations of extra food and also money and gift cards to purchase other items so that we can keep a steady stream of cooking and serving.

Typically we cook every Wednesday morning and freeze what we create. This food is then available for emergency calls that come to the church for people who need food *now*. We can help by supplying meals for several days to help them over the hump. The number of callers varies by month with a low of seven and a high of 57. We also have a monthly food give-away on the last Thursday of each month. We started with about nine people coming and now regularly serve approximately 13 families of around 35 people with new people coming each time. We welcome anyone who comes.

Since our goal is to reach further into the community, we partner with All Saints Episcopal Church to help with their Martha's Table free community meals that are on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays of the month. Again the numbers vary, but this group feeds about 50-60 people each gathering. We partner with the Union-Snyder Community Action Agency (CAA) to provide meals for the parents and children who come to attend the

every year to share that message. The message is true for all of us. Each time we go to Mass, we come together as a community of faith and share in the Eucharist the exact same way. The Bread of Life is the one thing in our lives we can count on.

In addition to the Eucharist, my devotion to Mary helped me through many of life's challenges. My parents named me after the Blessed Mother, and I feel a special connection to her in my prayer life. Whenever I pray to Mary for intercession to help me forgive and forget, she never lets me down. I can spend days ruminating over something, or someone who upset me, and I cannot let it go by myself. When I ask Mary to bring it to Jesus to help me forgive, it is the most amazing, wonderful feeling to have the thought disappear and be filled with peace.

I read *The Word Among Us* every morning to help me focus on God's word and the message he wants us to live by. There are days when I am not living the message, and they are the days when I am at my worst. When I listen to his word and act the way Jesus wants me to, I am filled with grace and peace. When I think of my friends who walked away from the church and the opportunity to hear God's word at Mass and receive the Eucharist, I am hopeful they will return. We are not perfect, and, at times, the church community is not perfect because we are all human. However, God provides the path to help us heal, improve and be a community of faith united. ~Mary Muolo



On a Dominican Republic trip

parenting and other classes they offer. Since they also have a freezer, we bring about 10 of our dishes at a time, and they let us know when they need more. We partner with the Selinsgrove Area Council of Churches (SACC) food baskets that are delivered at Thanksgiving and provide a quart of homemade soup for each of the 125 food baskets. (We need to get creative when storing 125 quarts of frozen soup!) We partner with Haven Ministries (homeless shelter) and Sheetz Gas Station to be the link to deliver the just outdated items (sandwiches, yogurt, pastries, eggs, milk, etc.) from Sheetz in Selinsgrove to Haven Ministries in Sunbury. We informed Sheetz of the Good Samaritan Law which protects businesses in these kinds of exchanges. We have two faithful drivers who each do this run weekly.

This is a super treat for the residents of Haven. We have a connection with the local community gardens for donations of their fresh, organic veggies. Last, but not least, are those who are homebound from our own parish community. We bring a monthly quart of our homemade soup ... just so they know we are thinking of them.

We are continuing our annual Thanksgiving dinner. Last year was our first experience, and we prepared about 100 dinners to share. We will host our event on Thanksgiving Day here at St. Pius X from 11 am to 1pm. We especially do not want anyone to be eating alone on this special holiday.

Shepherd's Pie is *many people*. We have some who are special at cooking, others only chop or mop, some do dishes, others make deliveries, some donate food or gift cards, others bring things from their gardens, some plan ahead so that we always know what to cook while others do the shopping. Some do advertising in the papers, some post our *heavy* sign about the monthly food give away. If you would like more information, or would like to be a part of any of the above projects, call Sandy Corrigan at 570-743-3373 or email Sandy at scorrig8@ptd.net for more information.