



St. Rose of Lima Church

ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP REPORT

July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015

From the Pastor

LIVING THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

As I begin my second year as pastor of St. Rose, I would like to thank all of you for your generosity, not only of treasure, but of time and talent as well. Whenever we ask for help we get it. This can be as simple as stuffing material to undertaking the leadership of one of our many programs and services.

St. Rose offers many devotions and programs to assist in knowing more about our faith and, more importantly, in deepening that faith. These programs are all organized and supported by you, the parishioners. Many of us have benefitted spiritually and emotionally from series such as Discovering Christ, Following Christ, Consoling the Heart of Jesus, as well as from our Scripture study groups, book groups and from our more traditional devotions such as the Rosary after the 8:30 Mass and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. All of these exist because of the initiative and effort of our own parishioners.

We are sent as were the first disciples to preach the Gospel of Christ to the whole world or, at least, to our portion of it. We cannot do this, however, unless we understand and love the Gospel so that we, like St. Paul, feel *compelled* to share it with everyone we meet. This does not mean that we become “Bible thumpers.” It does mean that we are so imbued with the Gospel and that it is so much a part of us that it cannot be separated from anything we say or do. It means that those who do not know Christ can find Him *in us!* It means that those who do not know Jesus or who do not know Him well will be enveloped by Him here at St. Rose.



Rev. Msgr. James Graham

Another part of this formula is prayer. We come to know Christ as we come to know one another: by conversing with Him. Prayer is a conversation with God. In prayer we join our knowledge and love of Christ with our effort to share that knowledge and love with others and we offer it all to God. In prayer we come to know Christ intimately. There is no one way to pray. We all have to find what is both comfortable and effective for us.

Of course the ultimate prayer is the Mass. From the Eucharist and the other sacraments we receive the strength to preach the Gospel; as St. Paul says, both when convenient and when inconvenient. In the Sacrifice of the Mass we bring our whole lives to present them with Christ to the Father. In the Mass we become truly a community. In the Mass we become truly the *Body of Christ, His mouth, His hands, His voice*. He works through us. He leads us home.

May the peace of Christ be in your hearts and in your homes that you may abide always in His love.

Rev. Msgr. James J. Graham

Rev. Msgr. James J. Graham

Pastor

Cover: On August 23, 2015, the feast day of St. Rose of Lima, the new altar was dedicated in memory of Rev. Msgr. Daniel A. Murray. The Dedication Mass was celebrated by Bishop Timothy C. Senior.

The St. Rose of Lima Annual Stewardship Report is published annually by and for the people of the parish. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

Editor
Jane Selner

Assistant Editors
Marimah Branch
Steve Matraszek

Design & Layout
Tom McNamara

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT: 2014-2015

by Marimah A. Branch

Religious Ed Communications Coordinator and 6th Grade Catechist

Here at Saint Rose of Lima, we are proud of our Faith and foster an expression of it through religious education. The CCD/Prep Program is a scholastic curriculum that follows the Philadelphia Archdiocesan guidelines and covers all the specifics about our Faith. We explore the Four Pillars of the Catholic Faith: the Creed, the Seven Sacraments, Morality and Prayer at age appropriate levels and concentrate on intricate topics that detail the importance of the Mass, the Rosary, the Bible and more.

Serving grades 1-8, our catechists teach courses on Sunday mornings throughout the school year. High school students participate in the program as classroom aides and assistant teachers. Our aides support the instructors, help students with activities and projects, and facilitate the major events of our school of religion.

The 2014-2015 year was a tremendous experience for our parish. In 2014, Saint Rose of Lima began to share the building with Catholic Health Care Services and brought all of the classrooms for the CCD program down to the ground floor. With use of the entire floor, we were able to open up a new Resource room and a Music/ Technology room.

As a team, we focused on vocations, social justice, Catholic Social Teaching, sacrament preparation and the World Meeting of Families. Throughout the year, our students and faculty participated in many events, prayer services, and “fun”tastic activities which not only reinforced our lessons, but bolstered our faith as well.

Our commitment to Social Justice is also emboldened by the Archdiocesan curriculum guidelines. Catholic Social Teaching and the awareness of those who suffer are presented to the students in an age appropriate format; this is among the six tasks of catechesis: Knowledge of the Faith, Liturgical Education, Moral Formation, Teaching to Pray, Education for Community Life, and Missionary Initiation.

As Catholics, we look locally and globally to become stewards of our resources. Here at Saint Rose of Lima, our CCD program gathered food donations for the Patrician Society of Norristown, and also participated in the Archbishop’s Christmas Benefit for Disadvantaged Children.

Our students learned more about our parish sons who entered Holy Orders, including Father John Schiele and Bishop Tim Senior. While discussing our parish, we also talked about the World Meeting of Families. In this light, we looked more closely at our parish family, our personal families, and our universal family.

In addition, our Mater Dei, Academy and CCD 7th and 8th graders, along with our high school aides, were

able to share in a special Q&A event: “Doughnuts with Fr. Steve & Chris!”

The students and aides were able to ask any and all questions about the Catholic Faith to Fr. Steve DeLacy, the Director of the Vocation Office for the

Diocesan Priesthood and Chris Anderson, our 7th grade catechist and St Rose Youth Minister.

As always, we welcome all new and returning families to our 2015-2016 school year!

We sincerely thank all of our faculty, staff, volunteers, parents, students and all Saint Rose of Lima parishioners for your continued support, participation and prayer. Your countless hours of volunteer work go into making the 90 minutes of class the most fruitful and impactful as possible. Our program would not be possible without you.

Contact Joanne Trageser, Director of Religious Education at 215-699-4434 to explore how you and your family may get involved in the many functions of PREP!

Our program is strong, our parish is growing, and our faith forever looks to the Lord as our guidance and strength. Look for our articles in the Sunday bulletin and on the parish website throughout the year!

As a team, we focused on vocations, social justice, Catholic Social Teaching, sacrament preparation and the World Meeting of Families.

St. Rose of Lima Prayer Shawl Ministry



Members of the prayer shawl ministry lovingly wrap shawls for delivery.

In June, we announced formation of a Parish Prayer Shawl Ministry. You may ask, “*What is a prayer shawl ministry?*” People from many faith traditions have found it helpful in their prayer to have ways of recognizing a space as sacred. A prayer shawl is such an aid. The shawl is usually large enough to wrap around one’s shoulders, or even drape over one’s head, and thus “create” a sacred space in which to meditate and pray.

The added blessing of a Prayer Shawl Ministry is that

those who make the shawls pray for the recipient as they are making them. The promise is that this praying for another will continue after the shawl has been presented. Shawls may be crocheted, knitted, sewn, woven, etc. No matter the manner of creation, the shawl is considered “created” at the moment our hearts form the intention to pray for the person who is to receive it. Our intention is that the shawl be a “...a gift, made in love, a mantle and sign of God’s sustaining presence.”

Prayer Shawls are already making their way to many in our St. Rose community and the enthusiastic group of ministry volunteers (18 parishioners and growing) have lovingly created and gifted more than 52 shawls since June. The shawls are for those in need of specific physical or emotional healing, afflicted with addiction or depression, suffering from loneliness or who are bereaved, facing fertility issues, who are away from home: the military, children far away at college; etc... Anyone in need of a hug from God!

Any member of St. Rose of Lima Parish may request a Prayer Shawl. Simply contact Paul or Ginny Hunter at 215-822-3554 or paulhunter01@comcast.net Requests will be filled based on need and availability.

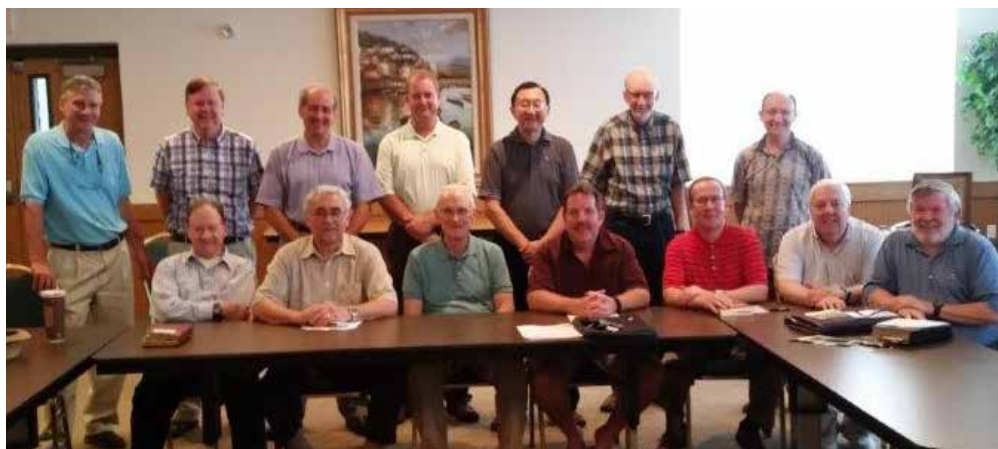
This is a wonderful opportunity to respond in love to the needs of fellow parishioners.

Men’s Prayer Group

Men of the parish meet twice a month for prayer, education, and fellowship. The meetings are about 90 minutes, and typically include praise/prayer, exploring a faith topic in depth (scripture, a lecture, current topic, etc.) of interest to the group.

Members will also propose evangelization opportunities aligned with current parish activities. Topics are planned in advance, however attendance is ad-hoc as your time permits.

Primary benefits include the opportunity to meet like-minded men that strive to take our faith seriously, want to support and learn from each other, and exchange



thoughts in a prayerful and confidential environment. Individuals generally find that the ministry nurtures their understanding of our Lord’s expectations as we manage through life’s demands. Contact Jim Roper at jpcbroper@verizon.net

YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

by Chris Anderson

Youth & Young Adult Minister

It was a fun year for the St Rose Youth Ministry and for the teens of St Rose! We experienced a lot of growth as we started new events and programs that will be a part of the teen experience at St Rose for years to come!

We started our year with another highly successful BBQ Kickoff. This year we had a bonfire firepit, plus hot dogs, hamburgers, and s'mores, which gave teens a chance to hang out with their friends. Teens and their families came together to pray for peace during 40 Hours. The Teen Holy Hour focused on praying for peace both at home and abroad and challenged us to look at what might be blocking us from more peace in our lives. The end of October brought a new fundraiser to St Rose: the Youth Center Haunted House. Teen leaders coordinated and ran the Haunted House, including playing characters and helping advertise the event. We made over \$800 for those teens heading to Steubenville NYC and it was so successful that two of our teens have already volunteered to lead a two-night Haunted House this October!

2015 brought a time of building into Youth Ministry at St Rose. For the first time, St Rose hosted the Montgomery County NET Retreat. With over 50 participants, it was a day filled with inspirational talks, prayer and a chance for teens to dive deeper into their faith. Seven of our teen leaders also prepared for a three-day summer trip to the Steubenville Conference, held for the first time in New York City. They continued fundraising through our two Doughnut Sales and met with the rest of the 45-member team representing Montgomery County. In the wings, Chris has been preparing a new program that will define what Youth Group looks like in the future: small groups. Groups of teens will begin to meet starting this fall to explore and share their faith, in coordination with leaders, Chris, and the YDisciple program.

As we continue to grow the teen-led events, and foster our first small groups, we see this coming year as a time for teens to grow in their faith, build a deeper relationship with other teens in the parish and begin to step into ministry as servant-leaders.



Top: Teens gather for the Year-End Celebration. Middle: The group took a June trip to the Reading Fightin' Phillies; Bottom: A summer bowling outing at the Facenda-Whitaker Lanes.

School News: What's Inside Matters

by Grace Samanns
Advancement Director

Mater Dei Catholic School is making an impact and a difference for our parish children. As the area's regional Catholic Elementary School, founded in 2012 under the direction of Diane E. McCaughan, our principal, Mater Dei continues a long-standing tradition of Catholic education for our parish children.

Mater Dei is an integral part of the Church's mission to teach young people how to proclaim the Gospel, build faith communities and celebrate through worship and service to others. Students' learning at Mater Dei Catholic Regional School begins with a rigorous curriculum presented in a learning environment that supports high levels of student engagement.

Ever-evolving technologies and 21st century skills are integrated with information relevant to the present as well as the future. Our goal, partnered with our families, is to prepare this next generation of practicing Catholics to be well educated in both the Catholic faith and academics, and capable of leadership in creating a just and Gospel-centered society.

Over the past year, the weekly email to our school families featured a brief "snapshot" of highlights at Mater Dei for that week. It was titled, "What's Inside Matters." Below are some excerpts from these columns.

Did you know that Mater Dei is home to a Rain Garden?

It is located on the Lansdale Avenue side of school. Since the school property is at the junction of three water sheds, it is a perfect spot for a Rain Garden! This is a great learning opportunity for our students while promoting our environment.

Second Graders Celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism!

Deacon Steve Vondercrone helped the children in Mrs. McWilliam's and Mrs. Rieg's class to experience the sacrament of Baptism by reviewing what the students had learned in Religion class and then showing them what a real Baptism would be like. Students from 2A were the godparents and students from 2B were the parents of a very special doll, "Alexis Catherine," all dressed in white! Parents, Godparents and extended family members were so proud!



Veteran's Day at Mater Dei...over seventy veterans were honored on Tuesday by the students, parents and staff of Mater Dei. Students showed their respect and admiration for these men and women through prayer, song, spirit and hospitality. Reactions from our veterans...lots of smiles, kind words and even some tears.

Future City is a cross-curricular educational program where students imagine, design and build cities of the future. Over four months, our students meet every Wednesday and work as a team with an educator and volunteer mentor to design a virtual city using software and then, research and write an essay addressing this year's theme--Feeding Future Cities. They select one vegetable and one protein and design enough of each within the future city to feed the citizens; build a model of the city using recycled materials; write a brief narrative promoting their city; and present their city before a panel of judges at Regional competitions in January.

Along the way the students apply math and science concepts to real-world problems, flex their problem-solving skills, develop good teamwork habits, explore engineering and its many career options and become better citizens. Professors from the agricultural architecture and environmental science departments





Mater Dei's May Procession...they say a picture, or two, is worth a thousand words...in this case, a thousand "beautiful" words!

of Del Val College visited Mater Dei and offered them advice on the construction of the model.

The Science and Theology Prayer Service was so wonderful. Our 7th and 8th graders led Mater Dei in prayer and reflection about the story of Creation and its connection with Science. They spoke about those first days of Creation and gave thanks, but then they showed videos of students in other grades doing experiments and making discoveries about what God has created.

Truly a celebration of all God's Creations.

Scholarships for the Class of 2015 have reached \$192,000 so far...WOW! Mater Dei's total scholarship dollars for the past three years is...are you ready...\$512,400! Congratulations to those recipients, present and past. Scholarships are a wonderful way to recognize the accomplishments and dedication of students along with their parents and teachers. At Mater Dei, we are so proud of our 8th Graders who have received these awards, but our pride extends to all of the 8th Grade students and their accomplishments in and out of school.

Congratulations to our wonderful "Little Mermaid Jr" cast and crew! We couldn't be more proud of these talented and dedicated students. And we couldn't be more grateful to Mr. Strefeler, teachers, and parents for sharing their time and talent to make it a most memorable experience for all who attended.

Congratulations to the Mater Dei Pep Squad teams. On Saturday, March 14 the BLUE team made up of 2nd and 3rd grade students and the WHITE team made up of Kindergarten and first grade students competed at the Delaware Valley University Gold Cup Cheer Competition. They performed well and brought home trophies!

Call Mater Dei Catholic School at 215-368-0995



Members of the Keenagers enjoyed a day trip to the Tropicana Casino in Atlantic City. Join them on November 19 for a Parish trip to the Christmas Show at the American Music Theater in Lancaster. Cost is \$100 (includes bus, lunch and show). For reservations, contact Helen Diebold at 215-699-9478.



(Left to right) Parishioners Jennifer Kobe and Sharon Kobe are among the honorees at the Annual Blue Mass

Living Again



Living Again is the bereavement ministry at St. Rose. It is very different from most other bereavement groups you may have run across. There is no set number of sessions you must attend. Come as often as you like. We meet on the third Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Father Murphy room of the Parish Center.

There is never any pressure to participate. You may join in or just listen to others that are feeling much the same as you are. Our motto is, "No one need mourn alone."

Our goal is to help each other through very difficult times through caring and sharing. If you have lost a loved one, no matter how long ago, please give us a try. Contact Larry Hill at larryhill304@gmail.com.

Postal Engineers



Postal Engineers gather to help with any mailings that have to be sent to all our parishioners. The more hands we have the quicker the mailings get out.

The group meets in the Father Murphy Room to fold letters, place address labels on envelopes, and seal them. We have an enjoyable time together while we help out our parish. Anyone wishing to join us, please call Helen Diebold, 215-699-9478.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

by Msgr. Graham, Pastor, & Chris Anderson, Bookkeeper

Our financial year had some positive developments and opportunities for growth. As the 2015 year began, we incurred some unexpected expenses with costs for Msgr. Murray's funeral and the installment of Msgr. Graham as Pastor. Soon after, we finalized plans for a 5-year rental of the second floor of the Parish Center to Catholic Health Care Services. This will bring approximately \$100,000 to the parish each year in rental income.

We continued to make improvements to our Church and Parish Center. Our 'bells' system was in need of repair and an opportunity arose for us to upgrade the system. These bells were then dedicated in honor of Fr. Smith, who is fondly remembered by the Parish. Our altar and pulpit were also upgraded in honor of Msgr. Murray. Installation was completed in August and Bishop Timothy Senior dedicated the altar during a Mass on the feast day of St. Rose of Lima on August 23. To date, we have received donations to completely cover the upgrade for the bells and about 80% of the altar and pulpit costs. We thank for your kindness and generosity.

Improvements continued on the Parish Center and overall parish facilities. All the lights in Church, exterior lights surrounding Church and the parking lot lights were upgraded to provide for better visibility across the entire property. The roofs of the Parish Center were completed in September 2014, and leaks along the side wall of the lobby shored up to prevent damage. The gym walls were repainted and gym floor refinished. The classrooms were consolidated to the first floor as CHCS began their rental and staff offices relocated as part of that move. Finally, a patch was put on the parking lot as part of a larger repaving.

In the coming year, we will be repaving the parking lot with the Heritage of Faith~Vision of Hope funds held in our account. Also, we hope to enhance the side altars in Church and continue to improve the sound system. It should be noted that overall parish giving, while marginally increased from last year, is below what we feel is desirable to continue to support and grow our ministries. We pray that each family looks at the gifts God has given them and that they would discern if God is asking them to increase their giving.

INCOME STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR-ENDED JUNE 30, 2015

	F/Y 2014-15	F/Y 2013-14	F/Y 2012-13
OPERATING INCOME			
Parish Collections	\$959,000	\$783,626	\$856,942
Socials and Donations, Net	\$10,000	\$20,376	\$30,027
Religious Education Programs	\$2,659	\$8,400	\$14,542
Interest, dividends, Rentals, & Other Net	\$80,000	\$13,327	\$20,428
Total Other Income	\$66,321	\$6,108	\$0
Total Operating Income	\$1,042,380	\$831,837	\$921,939
OPERATING EXPENSES			
Diocesan Assessments	\$93,400	\$100,500	\$102,900
Salaries	\$255,000	\$256,871	\$234,400
Payroll Taxes & Fringe Benefits	\$81,704	\$101,969	\$77,736
Transportation Expenses & Vehicle Insurance	\$2,500	\$0	\$0
Property Insurance and Real Estate Taxes	\$23,116	\$23,815	\$30,811
Pastoral Administration	\$32,626	\$51,142	\$58,604
Professional Fees/Contracted Services	\$38,429	\$29,655	\$8,608
Outside Printing and Publications	\$500	\$0	\$2,873
Office Supplies and Equipment	\$17,300	\$14,308	\$13,006
Liturgical/Altar Supplies	\$28,456	\$9,734	\$4,422
Religious Education Programs	\$23,124	\$16,715	\$15,560
Rectory Operating Expense	\$29,565	\$21,705	\$19,568
Maintenance	\$105,715	\$93,659	\$61,309
Utilities	\$18,063	\$44,481	\$47,759
Support to Mater Dei	\$0	\$62,000	\$106,682
Total Operating Expenses	\$749,498	\$826,554	\$784,238
Operating Excess (Deficit)	\$292,882	\$5,283	\$137,701
Capital Contributions & Insurance Claims	\$11,050	\$29,657	\$54,297
Capital Expenditures & Insurance Claims	\$125,000	\$279,097	\$21,510
Change in Cash	(\$116,038)	\$88,638	\$170,488
Ending Cash Balance June 30	\$810,688	\$926,726	\$838,088
Restricted Funds	\$353,606	\$561,248	\$418,034
Unrestricted Funds	\$448,846	\$365,478	\$420,054
TOTAL FUNDS	\$810,688	\$926,726	\$838,088
N.B. Unreleased Funds from Vision of Hope Campaign (Funds Restricted to Campaign Projects To Be Released when Projects are completed, e.g. Church windows, etc.)			
	\$93,178	\$71,082	\$255,141

AID FOR FRIENDS 2014-2015

Ministry leaders Anita Capps and Chris McDade are joined by approximately 20 parishioners who donate home-cooked meals, 10 parishioners who visit home bound and deliver meals, and two parishioners who pick up supplies from the Aid for Friends office when needed. Food donations also come in from Deep Run Presbyterian Church, CUMC and the Boy Scouts.

Aid for Friends is a regional effort of numerous churches and community groups who provide meals and friendships for the isolated home bound in Montgomery, Bucks, Philadelphia, Chester, and Delaware counties. St. Rose provided about 100 meals per month on average to the home bound this year. This was a reduction in meals compared to the previous year as we have fewer home bound needing service in our area. Aid for Friends would like more volunteer visitors as they feel there are needy that are not being served. .

This year, we received donations of about 75 meals per month, up from 60 last year. Major food preparation days, including an all-Parish event in August near St. Rose of Lima's Feast Day, St. Rose Youth Group events, a winter Mater Dei School event, as well as large contributions from the other local churches, resulted in an excess of meals this year. This was helpful when other sites needed meals and when we lost power to the freezer in early May. One of the Youth Group events and the Mater Dei service project focused on making breakfast meals, another of the Aid for Friends initiatives, since we had so many frozen dinner meals at the time. Sharing of meals across organizations is facilitated by a regional coordinator.



Eighth grade students at Mater Dei prepared hundreds of meals for Aid for Friends in March.

In order to draw attention to our ministry, especially when we see meals are getting low, we regularly make requests through the parish bulletin. Foil trays, foil wraps, menu sheets, soup containers, plastic bags, and twist ties are provided so that only the prepared food need be donated. The supplies are provided by the Aid for Friends office in Philadelphia and a couple of our parishioners volunteer to bring them to Anita and Chris when these run low. Anita and Chris then arrange for the supplies to be put together in sets of five. Supplies are available to be picked up from the freezer in the Parish garage every day (9AM-5PM).

For the coming year, we are again planning major food preparation days with parishioners, our youth group, and with Mater Dei School. If you would like to help cook, or be a visitor, contact Anita Capps (215-699-8433) or Chris McDade (215-801-8869.)

EVANGELIZATION 2014-2015

The Evangelization Team consists of a group of 10 St. Rose parishioners. During this past year, the team continued to offer the popular ChristLife process consisting of three 7-week courses called Discovering, Following and Sharing Christ. The process is the core curriculum for evangelization in the parish. Since the third course, Sharing Christ, teaches us how to share our faith with others, the team structured a "Reach Out St. Rose" Plan of Visitation to all registered families within the parish. A group of 89 parishioners went out in teams of two to visit with our parish families. Feedback from those visits and the questionnaires in that survey will be used

in planning changes in many aspects of parish involvement.

Evangelization was also involved in many other faith initiatives during the year including Oremus (an 8-week course on prayer), the 3-day Parish Mission with **Fr. Stephen DeLacy** (pictured right), and a summer dinner and talk to help keep us spiritually refreshed and in community.



“YEAR OF ENCOUNTER WITH POPE FRANCIS” PROGRAM

This summer, St. Rose of Lima was one of 12 parishes in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia that embarked on a unique, year-long effort of faith formation and social action on the issues of poverty and justice called “Year of Encounter with Pope Francis”.

The goal of this program is to engage all parishes in dialogue about connections we see between our lives and Pope Francis’ teaching in “The Joy of the Gospel” about the poor, marginalized, alienated, incarcerated and others who are often devalued or forgotten by society. It also challenges us to explore ways we can take action – as a parish – to increase awareness of people on the margins in our own community, and to tangibly address their needs in sustainable ways.

We assembled a terrific team to guide the Parish on this journey including Mary Reilly, who teaches a social justice course at Gwynedd Mercy University, and Dave Vossen, who has a background in strategic change and process improvement.

In May, the team attended an intensive 2-day training at St. Joseph’s University with 300 representatives of parishes and organizations from 50 dioceses across the United States. The initial phase of the program included five parish-based reflections sessions in June and July. 32 St. Rose parish members participated in the sessions.

About 25 parishioners gathered each week to: 1) SEE the “signs of the times” – consider what we see happening in our world in regard to those struggling with poverty, racism, and systems that negatively impact peoples’ lives such as immigration and criminal justice, 2) JUDGE – reflect on Pope Francis’ teaching and example, and what our Catholic faith teaches us about these challenging realities, and 3) ACT – to consider what action we can begin to take to make a difference in our community and the world.

The sessions were extremely fruitful and energized the participants to take action in support of local victims of domestic violence. The fledgling social justice team organized a prayer service, followed by a public stand in support of Laurel House.

We are looking ahead to the next phase of the YEPF program later this year. It will include a series of “encounters”. These “encounters” will be opportunities for all interested parishioners to engage more deeply in charitable work and through this service, get to know those we seek to help to better understand their lives and challenges.

To learn more our parish’s social justice activities, contact Dave Vossen at davossenec@verizon.net, Mary Reilly at reilly.m@gmercyu.edu.

H.O.P.E. MINISTRY

The H.O.P.E. Ministry is a group of four leaders (Connie Murray, Dolores Gorman, Regina Foy, Patty Ratke) plus 56 volunteers who fulfill the requests of our parishioners in need. The group’s mission is aiding others in times of emergency by providing assistance when it is most needed.

In the past year the ministry members offered the following works of mercy:

Cookie Mission (22 recipients/13 bakers), home cooked meals, 33; phone calls - 16; Rides - 42; Friendly Visits - 32

For more information, contact Patty Ratke at (215) 699-4744, or email her at pratke@verizon.net



Parish children of all ages enjoyed the annual Thanksgiving Prayer Service & Pizza Dinner. Young members of the Childrens Ministry share a smile in front of the “Tree of Thanks”

MUSIC MINISTRY

The Music Ministry at Saint Rose of Lima has continued to grow this year and serve the parish focusing on its musical/spiritual needs and always invites new members to join!

Through the leadership of Music Ministry including Director, Jeremy Triplett, Music Director Emeritus Rudy Lucente, Choir Communications Coordinator Andrea Greco and the Lucille Keislman, Leader of the Contemporary Music Group, our ministry has taken on new endeavors that have broadened the spirituality of the congregation, and helped continue our path towards bringing people closer to serving the needs of the others and the parish.

While preparing our choir members and congregation in the new Papal hymn "Sound the Bell of Holy Freedom" The Youth Concert Choir has surpassed 25 strong and has a renewed sense of commitment and dedication from its members. This year, they have excelled in mastering chants and contemporary songs and learning about their faith, and the true focus of singing for praising God.

The Youth Choir is comprised of youth from our entire Parish community including the St Rose CCD program, Mater Dei and other Catholic schools, Catholic academies, and other private and public schools. The youth choir sings in over ten languages and in multiple harmonies.

The choir serves in the promulgating of sacred music of the church and its many talented composers by training unchanged and changed voices.

The St Rose Youth Choir proclaims the good news that Jesus Christ is the light of the world. The choir learns the life of the saints - while some of their members went to Spain with the Savio Boy Choir for the 500-year birth anniversary of St Theresa of Avila.

Our very own choir member, Syndey Lucente won the liturgy award from the association of church musicians and was recognized by the Office of Liturgical Music at the Cathedral Basilica.

This prestigious award was sought after by musicians all over the Archdiocese, and due to Sydney accompanying the choir, cantering solos with the choir, engaging in private voice and piano instruction, she has set a great example for upcoming youth taking the initiative to do great things in our parish!



We had a wonderful turnout of over 450 parishioners and friends for the Valley Forge Chorale Christmas Concert. This year, we look forward to hosting the Fairmount Brass on Sunday, November 29, 2015, at 7:00 p.m. Please come out for another spectacular concert.

It was tremendous this year to also host St. Genevieve Parish's Adult Festival choir, in collaboration with our Youth Concert Choir and Contemporary Guitar Group to sing a Advent/Christmas concert and Christmas Carol Sing-a-long!

Our Music Ministry rounded out the year by hosting a rockin' summer concert and dinner dance on August 14.

The Contemporary Music Group is part of the Music Ministry. The talented ensemble provides musical support to the Sunday liturgy for three Saturday Masses and one Sunday Mass each month from June to September. The group is made up of musicians who play guitar, bass, flute and piano. The singers and musicians were also part of other parish events during the past year including the Thanksgiving Prayer Service, Blue Mass, Christmas Caroling, and an ecumenical prayer service at North Wales Day.

Skilled musicians and singers from teens to adults who would like to use their talents to worship God are encouraged to join. Contact Lucille Kesilman at lucikesilman@comcast.net

CYO SPORTS

You can't help but be inspired, as you see the Green and Gold, on the field, court, or track as they display their God given athleticism, and their CYO sportsmanship.

CYO THANK YOU'S

Parents: Thank you for getting your children to all the practices and games and pitching in wherever possible

CYO Board: Thank you for building and growing a program where kids come first and have the opportunity to play

Parish Community - Thank you, we were able to accomplish quite a few service projects through your support: Hoops vs Hunger, Coaches vs Cancer Kolbe Fund, LaSalle Elementary School, Tortoise and the Hair, mulching and weeding St Rose grounds.

Coaches Thank you for your dedication to challenge and nurture our kids, to maintain perspective and recognize the win inside the game whether it is a pass, a shot, a hit or a play in the field, a kind word, or other CYO gesture, helping an opponent up, showing restraint and composure understanding this is a moment in time and help these kids glorify God by using their talents to the best of their ability and have fun.

Kids - Thank you for playing CYO sports, for having fun and leaving it all on the field, court, or track. You are our hope. Thank you for a ring side seat to witness some great sport, but more importantly, moments to witness the joy of life that God has granted to us all.

CYO SCHOLARSHIP NOMINEES

We had two 8th grade Nominees from St Rose for the 2015 Region 20 CYO Scholarship - Jenni Cronin and Luke Yoder were the nominees for exemplifying the ideals set forth by the Archdiocese CYO mission statement by assisting parish leadership in nourishing the emotional, spiritual, social and physical needs of the parish and becoming a responsible member of the faith community.

Luke Yoder was awarded the 8th grade boys Region 20 scholarship, he has become a well-rounded student who has participated in multiple areas of our parish youth ministry program. Please congratulate

both Jenni Cronin and Luke Yoder for their nominations, and Luke on his scholarship award.

SPECIAL AWARDS

We had two special 6th grade awards this year- These awards are presented to two student athletes for exemplifying CYO spirit at the highest level in St Rose of Lima CYO. These students exemplify CYO spirit, are coachable, engaging, encouraging to their teammates and show a positive Christian Attitude.

Congratulations to the John H Carney Award recipient, Ben Herron 6th grade, and the Suzanne M Apple Award recipient, Grace Gola 6th grade.



Luke Yoder accepting his award

ST. ROSE OF LIMA CYO PERSON OF THE YEAR 2015

Mike McDonald was awarded the St Rose CYO Person of the Year in 2015 for 9 years of service, sacrifice, and dedication to our CYO program and community. As a coach, board member, president, handling dances, lost iPhones, and bouncer duties, Mike just got things done, no complaints, whatever you need. Thank you Mike and the McDonald family for many years of service.

Cross Country – Mary Beth Rhines: This year we had nine kids join the cross country team. Philadelphia CYO Cross Country is among the largest and most competitive programs in the country. All of the kids finished the season with their personal best record. Megan Keeley, Frankie Gallagher, Sean Herron and Jack Rhines qualified for the Archdiocesan Championship Meet. Sean Herron went on to participate at the Regional meet held in Delaware.

Volleyball – Kathy Arnow St. Rose Varsity Volleyball finished the regular season with a 13-5 record. The girls won their bracket in playoffs securing them a top 4 finish in Region 20 and allowing us to move onto the Archdiocesan tournament. St. Rose has not sent a team to the Archdiocesan tournament in probably

close to 20 years. In the tournament we won our first match and although we battled back in the next match we were knocked out in the second round. This ended our season and our three years together but we walked away with heads held high knowing that after 3 years of hard work our little team finished up as one of the top 16 teams in the dioceses. It was an honor to coach these girls for the past three years and I could not be more proud of how they represented St. Rose of Lima parish on and off the court.

Soccer JV- Joe Herron We had a fanatic season. Despite our limited roster size, the kids worked hard, usually against better competition. Many of our players never played soccer before and got a chance to try all positions on the field. They worked hard and surprised themselves by playing great as a team regardless of the score, and most importantly, they had a lot of fun. I hope to see them out again next season.

Soccer Varsity – Chris Leone – Region 20 Champs. This past fall I had the opportunity of coaching the St. Rose CYO varsity soccer team. The team consisted of children I had the privilege of coaching last year in addition to new children from St. Stanislaus added to the roster, a total of 25. The team worked very well together and it was so nice to see such camaraderie both on and off the field. We won Region 20 championship and made it to Archdioceses Championship playoffs which we lost in a shoot-out.

It was such a wonderful experience seeing a group of 25 children come together and work as a team. The team consisted of children both with and without experience, but they all worked together to support and help each other in all aspects whether it was practice or a game. This helped to make it a fun environment, while they learned how to work as a team. Our goal wasn't to win, but for the children to learn how to work together and support each other as one. This was accomplished beyond my expectations which made it a great experience. Hopefully, they will carry this experience throughout the rest of their lives, and share it with others.

JV Boys Basketball Green – Joe Herron Under the expert teaching of Blaine Deppen, a group of boys who started as individual players transformed into a team. One of the most important lessons that they learned was that every player has a role in the success of the team, not just the person with the ball in their hand. There were many close games, where at the end of the game, the



kids on the floor and on the bench were displaying the same level of intensity. It was a lot of fun to watch them grow as the season progressed.

Varsity Boys Basketball Green – Brian O'Donnell The varsity green team had a great year. They won 16 and lost just two close games. The boys played a very aggressive defensive game and a very unselfish offensive game. All of the boys improved significantly and had a great time. In addition, Matt McDonald was selected to represent Region 20 in the Archdiocese All Star Game.

Varsity Boys Basketball Gold – Joe Mattera The Varsity (Green or Gold, I forget) boys basketball team had a great season. They went undefeated in the regular season and lost a tough game to MMR in the second round of the region 20 playoffs. The 7th and 8th grade boys played well, learned a lot and represented St. Rose well.

Track – Mary Beth Rhines This year the track and field season started in the freezing cold with piles of snow on the ground and ended in the blazing heat you associate with mid-Summer. Despite that, all 24 kids had a great season with everyone able to compete at the Region 20 meet and 64% of our athletes moving on to compete at the Area C meet. Gianna Leone, Sean Herron, Meaghan Toscano, Grace Wilson, Andrew Lojewski, Matt McDonald, Vito Leone, David McCabe, Luke Yoder and Jack Rhines have the distinction of going all the way to the Archdiocesan Championship Meet.

JV Boys Baseball – Joe Herron The season got off to a slow start thanks to Mother Nature and many rainouts. That didn't deter our players who were ready to go once the fields dried out. We had players try new positions for the first time, such as pitching, and guess what, they did a great job. The season was capped off by one of our 5th graders hitting a legitimate home run over the left field fence during his last at bat. It was a great moment that summed up the entire season...keep working hard and anything can happen.



Varsity Boys Baseball – Bob Romano 3-9. We had a tough season, but there were some great things that happened. It's not all about wins and losses, We certainly took some lumps this year, but that is part of life. The measure of your character is what you do with an experience like that. Do you cave or do you challenge yourself to get better and work harder, to rise above, even though you may be the underdog. That is what St Rose CYO is all about. That is what these boys are about. They have known each other since kindergarten and the 8th graders took care of the 7th graders like little brothers, encouraging and challenging them to be better. Thank you coaches O'Donnell, Mattered, Peikin, and Martino.

WANTED

Courageous Men and Women willing to admit to being at least 55 years of age!

You are cordially invited to join a friendly group of your peers for Fun, Fellowship, Fifty-Fifty, Trivia, Bingo & Refreshments.

St. Rose's **Keenagers** meet the first Wednesday of each month from September through June in the Father Murphy Room at 1:30 p.m.

Our December meeting is a group luncheon held at a local restaurant. Last year's luncheon was held at the Metropolitan Restaurant.

Throughout the year we sponsor and/or participate in trips to various locations. Past excursions have been trips to Atlantic City Casinos, Phillies Games, Broadway Style Shows, Sight & Sound, and the Radio City Christmas Show.

We'd love to have you join us!

Come to our next meeting on the first Wednesday of next month in the Father Murphy Room at 1:30 p.m. We hope to see you there!

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus Father John E. Doyle Council was founded in 1988 by parishioners from St. Rose of Lima in North Wales and Corpus Christi in Lansdale/Upper Gwynedd Pennsylvania.



The basic principle on which our order is founded is charity. The

Council serves both parishes faithfully and raises about \$8,000 for charitable causes, and more than 2,000 hours of service to the community and church.

If you are a Catholic gentleman of 18 years and in communion with the Holy See, we'd like you to join us for a most rewarding experience! No experience necessary! We only ask you donate as much of your time that you are comfortable donating (and of course, a small amount of annual dues).

Starting this year, the Council has set-up a Roundtable at St. Rose to more effectively respond to the needs of the Parish. With the support of the Council, and former Knights of Columbus Ministry Leader, Mike Covais, the Roundtable has been able to support the parish and several of our other ministries.

This support included financial donations and manpower for the Lenten Pasta Dinner, the Pancake Breakfast with Pope Francis, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation. The Knights have also re-initiated the 'Rose and Rosary' presentations at baptisms and gifts our newly registered families with a free pancake breakfast.

The Roundtable meets every third Monday at St. Rose in the Parish Center and is planning several more activities for 2015. Anyone interested in learning more about the Knights and/or the Roundtable should contact the Pete Mazzeo at 215-205-8278 or pmazzeo@yahoo.com. Visit our council website - www.kofc9715.org

St. Rose of Lima Church

428 South Main Street
North Wales, PA 19454

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
North Wales PA
Permit No. 615

**“ LOVE IS SOMETHING WE LEARN;
LOVE IS SOMETHING WE LIVE;
LOVE GROWS AS IT IS “FORGED”
BY THE CONCRETE SITUATIONS
THAT EACH PARTICULAR FAMILY
EXPERIENCES.**

**LOVE IS BORN & CONSTANTLY
DEVELOPS AMID LIGHTS AND
SHADOWS.”**

POPE FRANCIS
Philadelphia, 2015



Photo by St. Rose of Lima Parishioner Fred Hencken

Upcoming Parish Events

THANKSGIVING PRAYER SERVICE & PIZZA DINNER

November 22 at 4:30 p.m.

THANKSGIVING DAY MASS

November 26 at 9:00 a.m.

FAMILY BRUNCH & ADVENT WREATH MAKING

November 29 from 10:30 a.m. to Noon

FAIRMOUNT BRASS CONCERT

November 29 at 7:00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS CHORAL CAROLS CONCERT

December 15 at 7:00 p.m.

2016 PARISH MISSION - THEOLOGY OF THE BODY

February 28-March 2, 2016

Guest presenter: Bill Donaghy