



The Parish Press

Newsletter of Saint Raphael Parish Family

Milford, Connecticut

October 2020



The Hartford Bishops' Foundation (HBF) founded in 2016, is an independent 501 (c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to advancing the mission of the Archdiocese of Hartford. The HBF has its own lay leadership team, articles of incorporation and a board of directors who represent the various constituencies of the Archdiocese: parishes, parents, friends, business and community leaders. The directors are legally responsible for the appropriate management, stewardship, distribution and protection of all funds.

The HBF is in the midst of an historic undertaking for the benefit the Archdiocese. Called **Forward with Faith**, it is the first-ever Archdiocesan-wide capital campaign. For the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese to be vibrant, our parishes must be vibrant. The **Forward with Faith** campaign is all about securing the resources to ensure that our parishes will be prepared to provide for the next generation of Catholics.

We have recently launched the campaign here in Saint Raphael Parish. The fund-raising activity takes place in several stages. The Advance Gifts Phase is underway. We have an ambitious goal: By the end of the campaign to ensure that every family in the parish is invited to participate in this effort.

50% of the funds raised through **Forward with Faith** will remain in Saint Raphael Parish to support significant capital projects:
*Renovation of Saint Gabriel Parish Hall;
*Renovation of the Saint Ann Kitchen;
*Remediation of vacant lot (former Saint Gabriel Rectory); *Technology upgrade of Saint Ann Church for streaming video;
*Replenishment of parish funds lost due to Coronavirus closings

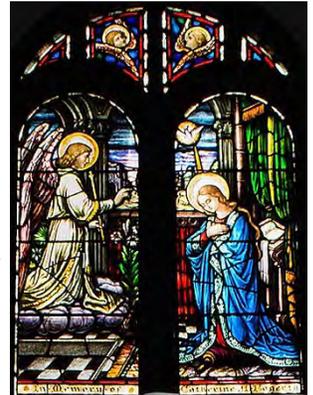
Some of these initiatives are already in process. 80% of any funds collected over our \$555,000 goal will also come directly to the parish. The rest of the monies remain in the foundation for grants to Archdiocesan parishes and ministries.

I ask that you be receptive when called upon to participate in the campaign, and to be as generous as possible. Thank you.

October, the Month of the Holy Rosary

Since the 16th century the Church has dedicated October to the Holy Rosary. In his 2008 meditation on the Rosary Pope Benedict XVI wrote about *the beauty and depth of this prayer which is simple and accessible to everyone*. When we say the Rosary *we let the Blessed Virgin take [us] by the hand to contemplate the Face of Christ: a joyful, luminous, sorrowful and glorious face*.

How special to pray the Rosary before 8 o'clock Mass at Saint Gabriel's when the sun streams through the stained glass window and we are saying our *Hail Mary* in Nazareth, at the scene of the Annunciation.



Pray the International Rosary from Home

We cannot gather this year for the parish's popular International Rosary, but we can establish a "Year 2020 Variation." On October 7, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, pray the Rosary aloud in your native language or in the language of your heritage. You might try one Our Father in German or a Hail Mary in Spanish, two of the languages multi-lingual parishioners have spoken in the past during the International Rosary. (We've printed translations for your convenience.) As you pray, meditate on the Rosary's Mysteries, which take us into the life of Mary and her Son. On Wednesdays we contemplate the Glorious Mysteries: The Resurrection, the Ascension, the Descent of the Holy Spirit, the Assumption and the Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth. All across the parish our prayers will rise like fragrant incense before Our Lady.

Dios te salve, Maria. Llena eres de gracia: El Señor es contigo. Bendita tú eres entre todas las mujeres. Y bendito es el fruto de tu vientre: Jesús. Santa María, Madre de Dios, ruega por nosotros pecadores, ahora y en la hora de nuestra muerte. Amén.

Vater unser im Himmel, geheiligt werde dein Name. Dein Reich komme Dein Wille geschehe, wie im Himmel, so auf Erden. Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute. Und vergib uns unsere Schuld, wie auch wir vergeben unseren Schuldigern Und führe uns nicht in Versuchung, sondern erlöse uns von dem Bösen. Amen.

T4S

Virtual Meeting Kickoff October 6

T4S, parish Teens for Service, will kick off the year with a virtual brainstorming session via Zoom on Tuesday, October 6 from 7 to 8 p.m. Teens in Grades 7 through 12 are welcome to Zoom in to the meeting and to be part of this very active group.

Come and share your ideas about possible service projects in this COVID world. Learn more about some opportunities that are already on the board and where you can make a real difference: the Saint Gabriel Food Pantry, for example, and the Milford Trick or Trot 5K to benefit Beth-El Center.

Please RSVP to Maria Tomasetti, atomasetti@snet.net or 203-988-8598 (voice or text), to receive the Zoom link and additional information about this kickoff meeting.

Yvonne Torsiello and the Path to Profession

Sunday, October 25, will be a solemn and joyous day for parishioner Yvonne Torsiello. During Mass at the Convent of Saint Birgitta in Darien she will be professed into the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO) and make a personal, lifelong commitment to live the Gospel in the world according to the life and rule of Saint Francis and Saint Clare.



Yvonne Torsiello

Yvonne's path to profession began with "an emptiness." She had served as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion for almost two years, was active in parish ministry, including home and hospital visits, but "there seemed to be something missing." She met with Father John, who asked if she had ever considered a Third Order. That prompted an online search. Yvonne checked

What is a Third Order?

A third order is typically an association of the lay faithful who try to live the spirit of a particular religious order. Most well-known 3rd Orders: the Carmelites, Dominicans and Franciscans. As an association of the faithful, the members live at home and not in the convent or monastery, and work in occupations fitting to their state as lay people.

out each Order's charism and learned that as a Secular Franciscan she could continue to do "what I do best - serving the elderly, the lonely, the neglected." Then, serendipity, or God's grace: A friend just in the process of becoming a 3rd Order Franciscan invited Yvonne to join her at the next meeting. She had found her path.

What followed was a period of Inquiry/Orientation, a time of discernment. (Can you make a total commitment to this way of life?) "Participants" meet regularly with the Formation director and are introduced to the life of Saint Francis and Saint Clare. Yvonne chose to continue and, with Father John's approval, submitted an application to the Regional/International offices and was interviewed by her Fraternity Council.

Now approved as a candidate, she entered the longest period of preparation (no less than 18 months). During this Rite of Admission she was given the Coat of Arms and the Franciscan Rule



Franciscan Coat of Arms

A cross with 2 arms crossing each other - the arm of Jesus and the arm of Francis.

Book, 26 rules she would agree to live by. Meetings during her final 3 months stressed lifelong commitment and the importance and significance of being professed, living the Gospel life. During the Rite of Commitment candidates are asked a series of questions about their readiness to commit to the ways of the order. For Yvonne, "There was NEVER any doubt that I would move forward."

Now she prepares for the Rite of Profession. "I feel blessed and humbled," she says, "that God has granted me this vocation, unworthy as I am. Profession is a Gift and a Commitment. It comes through God's intervention."

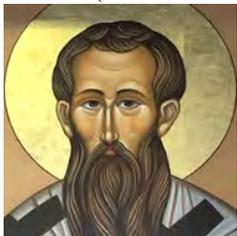
Yvonne will continue her parish ministries when Covid permits and will participate in Fraternity ministries. "Formation," she says, "is continual. One can never learn enough. The process has made me more aware of the needs of others and various ways to be of service." The pandemic was "a blessing in disguise," allowing her more time to discern and pray. It has also confirmed her eagerness to get back to her ministries, "to do what I do best."

"October," Yvonne told us, "must be my month." Father Declan commissioned her as an EMHC on October 23, 2016. Overwhelmed with emotion, she cried, and cried again at the ceremony that marked each phase of her Franciscan journey. She knows she'll cry at Profession, tears of absolute joy and deep humility. You are in the prayers of the parish, Yvonne. May God bless you as you begin your new Franciscan journey.

A Social Justice Meditation

In an age when Christianity is comfortably entwined with consumer capitalism, the early Christians' passion for social and economic justice can come as a shock. From the first days of Christianity, the duty to care for the poor and marginalized was at the center of the Gospel. Jesus preached a way of life free of possessions, the first church in Jerusalem abolished private property, and the early apostles warned of privilege and wealth.

Indeed, Church fathers preached in a way that makes today's peace and justice talk sound tame. One example: **Saint Basil the Great** (330-379 AD): "When a man strips another of his clothes,



Saint Basil the Great

he is called a thief. Should not a man who has the power to clothe the naked but does not also be called the same? The bread in your larder belongs to the hungry. The cloak in your wardrobe belongs to the naked. The shoes you allow to rot belong to the barefoot. The money in your vaults belongs to the destitute. You do injustice to every man whom you could help but do not."

Notes From Our Soon-to-be Franciscan

As her Franciscan name Yvonne has chosen MariFrances. *Mary* after the Blessed Mother and *Frances* after her mom, the late and well-loved Frances Sherwood. Names are mostly a tradition, symbolizing a new beginning. It's similar to taking a saint's name at Confirmation. The names are not normally used.

People have asked: Can you live at home?

"Yes. I will not go into a convent. We are not nuns/priests/brothers. The key word is *secular*."

We live in the world and are here to serve where we are best suited. I can own my own home and car, go shopping, have nice things. But in keeping with humility, poverty of the spirit, I must not allow those things to keep me from getting closer to God."

GIFT: Growing in Faith Together Faith Formation for People of All Ages

At GIFT, the parish's Faith Formation program for people ages 6 through adult, we welcome all members of Saint Raphael Parish as well as non-parishioners. Through this highly regarded program children and teens learn the basics of the Catholic faith. GIFT is also designed for adults, to answer their questions about our faith, to explain religious traditions and to help them grow in relationship with God. Involving people of all ages in the life of the Church is a wonderful way to build community, a true family of faith.

GIFT's overall theme this year is *Living the Moral Life*. October's topic, *Respect All Life*, will focus on the dignity of all human life. The in-person class schedule appears at right. We will also have virtual sessions, scheduled on dates *after* the in-person classes.

Because of Covid-19 restrictions there will be no shared meal or gatherings in the Parish Center Hall. Anyone who has registered for GIFT will receive a monthly video of our opening practices - prayer, song, Deacon's overview, and all ages opening activity. The closing prayer service will be incorporated into the in-person and virtual sessions. For further information please contact Maria Tomasetti (as on Page 1).

Living the Moral Life
Respect All Life
In-Person Class Schedule:
Friday, October 23
6:30 - 8:00 pm
Sunday, October 25
12:00 Noon - 2:30 pm
Tuesday, October 27
6:30 - 8:00 pm
Saint Ann Parish Center Hall

Very Special August Celebrations Congratulations to the Saint Raphael First Communicants!

<p><i>Saturday, August 22, 2020</i></p> <p>Luke Capobianco Eli Isio Ekeh Sophie Fonck Andrew Robert Kotansky Michael Lam Harlow Madeline Joy Miller Natale Paternoster Genevieve Piccolo Zachary Santos Caroline Marchand</p>		<p><i>Saturday, August 29, 2020</i></p> <p>Elliana Acevedo Jaxon A. Betso James Patrick Cooper Samuel Thomas Esposito Sophia Rose Klicsu Mackenzie Krauss Violet Laird Evalisse Laton Xavier Theodore Munk</p>
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Monday, August 24, 2020
Alexandra Aragon
Axcel Mendez Velazquez

*Jesus comes to you in Holy Communion to feed you,
to love you, and to fill you with His grace.
May you always welcome His loving presence.*



Be part of the first-ever **Virtual** Milford Trick or Trot 5K this year and help support Beth-El Center in its important work of caring for the hungry and the homeless in our community.

Run or walk at your leisure and choose your own route, anytime from Hallowe'en (10/31) through the following Monday (11/2). Enjoy virtual options like Yoga, Trivia and Music by the Elwoods. Wear a costume and submit your photo, then check the Virtual Winner's Circle on 11/4. Prizes will be awarded by age group for best costume and trivia.

Registration fee is \$27; \$20 for ages 18 and under. Register by October 15 to receive a "race number" and a Trick or Trot T-shirt. To register, for additional details and to see a special video message from the Elwoods, go to <http://www.milfordtrickortrot.org>. Prefer a paper registration form? Have questions? Reach out to Maria Tomasetti (as on Page 1). Thanks, and have fun!

GIFT: Sacramental Program Notes



There will be additional First Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation classes for families in our Sacramental Program. Please watch the mail and the weekly bulletin for details.

Fall Confirmation for Adults

Any adult (age 18 or older) who has received the Sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist and is interested in preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Fall should call or email Maria (as on Page 1) by Sunday, October 4.

Through Confirmation, the last of the Sacraments of Initiation, the Holy Spirit increases our desire to know and follow Jesus as His disciples with a grateful and courageous heart.

Memorial Mass for Richard Malaro, October 17

On Saturday, October 17 at 11:00 a.m. Father Maroney will celebrate a Memorial Mass for Richard Malaro at Saint Gabriel's, the church Richard loved and served so well.



Richard Malaro

Former sexton, greeter and all around provider of smiles and good cheer, Richard died on April 5, Palm Sunday. Because of Covid-19 funeral Masses were not permitted and Richard was laid to rest with Father Maroney as his only mourner. Father made a promise to his friend: You will be honored at Saint Gabriel's.

Only 100 people are permitted to gather for the Mass and Father has invited those who feel comfortable to attend. If you choose, you can honor Richard's memory with a tax deductible donation to Uganda Farmers, Inc., c/o Father Maurice Maroney, 31 Cherry St., Suite 109, Milford, CT 06460. (Or go online to www.ugandafarmersinc.org.) Thank you.

Rest in peace, Richard. May angels lead you into Paradise.

GIFT Notes, Rosary, T4S and More

The parish theme for October: Familiar programs, varied formats. GIFT, our highly regarded Faith Formation program, will look a bit different this season, while T4S will Zoom into action, beginning this month.



The International Rosary, a popular October devotion, doesn't appear on the calendar this month, but we have a suggestion for a take-home option. Details on page 1.

In another variation, the Card & Gift Shop now offers Call Ahead reservations (and the services of a personal shopper). Take advantage, and see how special you feel!

One parishioner has found fulfillment as a secular Franciscan. Read inside about her path to profession.

The Parish Press

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SAINT RAPHAEL PARISH

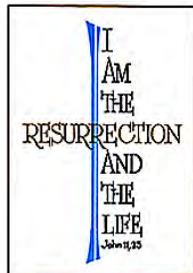
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In Memoriam

Saint Raphael's mourns the recent loss of

Jean Healey
Ann Sullivan
Rev. John J. Keane
Michael Mattera
Irene Zitnay
Gisela Rodriguez
Ann Frisbie
Ruth Bader Ginsburg



May they rest with the saints and the angels in the loving arms of God.

Assistance from Our Bereavement Support Group



The ongoing public health crisis has kept our Bereavement Support Group from meeting, but we are available by phone to anyone who is grieving. Ease your burden by telling your story. Share your memories and your feelings and let us comfort you in your sorrow.

Please call us at 203-877-4020. Let us be with you on your journey from grief to healing.

November Parish Press Info Due October 12

Got news, notes, photos, comments for November's newsletter? Something special you'd like to share with the parish family? Call Ann Eden (203-874-8744) or send your information to parishpress06460@gmail.com by Monday, October 12. Thanks! We look forward to hearing from you.

We Welcome With Love . . .

. . . the newest members of our parish family,

Lucas Bloszko
Noa Viana Nappo
Patrick McAloon
Kaia Emilia Brinsmade



Lucas was baptized on Saturday, August 15 at Saint Gabriel's. Noa and Patrick received Baptism's life-giving waters on Sunday, August 16, Noa at Saint Ann's, Patrick at Saint Gabriel's. Father John baptized Kaia, his grandniece, on Sunday, September 13 at Saint Ann's.

God bless you, little ones. May your lives be filled with joy and wonder.

Love and Best Wishes

as you begin your married life together. . .



Jeffery and Jessica (Proctor) Valentine who were married on Thursday, September 17, at Saint Ann Church. Congratulations, Jeff and Jessica! May you always share love and laughter.

Inventory Sale at the Card & Gift Shop

Everything is half-off at the parish Card & Gift Shop - what a great time to start your Christmas shopping! Stop by on Thursday evenings between 6 and 8 (we're located in the Saint Ann Parish Library) or call Nancy (203-257-6216) to schedule your visit. Let's see: stocking stuffers, a rosary for Grandma . . .

