

Our Lady Of Mercy Parish NEWSLETTER

www.urolm.org

Fall 2019

INSIDE

Who Are Associates of
Fillippini Sisters2

The People You'll
Meet at OLM4

A Reflection
Returning God's Love6

*Many thanks to our
contributors for
this issue:*

Amy Ballanco

Dot Peterson

Photographer
Virginia Shen

Our Lady of Mercy Church
2 Fremont Avenue
Park Ridge, NJ 07656

www.urolm.org

P: 201-391-5315

F: 201-391-5614

olm.church@gmail.com

A Letter From Amy Ballanco

Since the very day I announced my retirement on January 24, 2019, the two things I heard nearly daily were "Where are you moving to?" and "You will be missed". My response still is "Our Lady of Mercy is my home and while it is nice to be missed, I am not going anywhere". I am merely stepping down from a paid position. This parish is a part of me in so many ways- where would I go?

I graduated from Our Lady of Mercy School in 1968, and continued on in high school as a teen ministry leader in the parish youth group. At the time, the Sisters of St. Lucy Filippini were an important part of the school and programs in the parish. Sister Beatrice Ferranzano was known to "volunteer" you where she needs you. In my senior year of high school Sr. Bea, as she was called, handed me a Grade 2 teacher's manual and said, "You'll be fine"! Little did either of us know that someday I would be holding her job. I do suspect however, that God knew all along. I continue to be forever grateful for the 22 years I have been gifted with this position.

I met my husband Jeff, who was also "volunteered" by Sr. Bea, to assist in the then called "CCD" program. We eventually married here at OLM and brought our 5 children to Mass and the sacraments. Over the years the beautiful people of Our Lady of Mercy both celebrated our joyful times and supported our sad ones. Both Jeff and I have no intention of going anywhere. Calling yourself a parishioner of any church means you are not just information on a piece of paper in the Rectory, it means you hold a responsibility to its members as a family, to see that it thrives. You commit yourselves and your family to participate, to pitch in, and to live the faith we profess together as a parish family.

I recently spent the weekend in the Mantoloking, Lavallette area where my brother-in-law owns a home with his family. During hurricane Sandy, the hundreds of homes damaged or washed away were devastating. As we drove through this once destroyed town, there was rebuilding going on. Houses damaged by water and wind were repaired and beautifully new. Homes washed away are being rebuilt. The beach and dunes are now regraded and reinforced to be higher and stronger than before. You might say, "Why would someone want to re-

Continued On Page 4

Who Are the Associates of St. Lucy Filippini? (ASLF)



Our group started with a retreat on St. Patrick's Day weekend of March 16, 1984 at the Morning Star House of Prayer in Trenton, New Jersey. We were invited to this weekend of prayer to learn more about the Sisters who had offered to work within the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine Program at Our Lady of Mercy Church, the Sisters of Saint Lucy Filippini who were assigned to our OLM School. The Sisters supported the volunteer catechists—mostly former teachers or mothers of the public school students—with lesson plans and ways to introduce our faith in Jesus Christ to our children during the times set aside for CCD classes after school. The Sisters of Saint Lucy Filippini were a great supporting team for us in helping our children. We met on a regular basis with the Sisters to discuss our plans and share our experiences. We met in the convent and always opened with prayers.

We used the Sisters we worked with in the CCD Program as our support: for inspiration, for help in our faith journey as we grew, and also help in being a role model for our parents and their children.

Continued On Page 3

Newsletter Staff:

Carolyn McNamara, Coordinator
Connie Fleming • Rosemarie Myers
Celeste Villegas • Jessica Bruno

We can't do it without you!
One Good Read Deserves Another!

**Please submit your ideas or articles to
Carolyn McNamara at jcmcn38@yahoo.com
or drop off at the rectory church office.**

“Maestri (teachers) should consider prayer the most essential part of their ministry.”

“We walk in solidarity with the poor. We do not need to go very far. Look around and be conscious of God’s poor right where we are, and practice the ministry of walking with one another.”

From the writings of St. Lucy Filippini

From Page 2

Through this association with the Religious Teachers Filippini we are challenged to live out our Baptismal call to holiness, mission, and ministry. We learn through prayer, scripture, and the study of St. Lucy’s life to spread her spirit in today’s world. We focus on her dignity as a woman.

We are empowered and enabled to use our gifts and talents to build up the Body of Christ.

We experience the mutual support of the Religious Teachers Filippini and their fellow Associates. We are invited to participate in ministry according to the spirit of St. Lucy. We are provided with the means to grow in our Christian vocation.

The Associates of St. Lucy Filippini are women who identify with the Religious Filippini and wish to be nourished spiritually and intellectually in order to live out the charism of St. Lucy. Any Catholic woman, single, married, or widowed, who wishes to use her gifts and talents to minister to the people can become an Associate.

Even though the Sisters are not now present in our parish, they still offer us activities for enrichment each year by an initial orientation weekend, monthly meetings, spirituality days, support group experiences, and prayer experiences.

In order to understand ASLF, we need to know how St. Lucy Filippini began the Religious Teachers Filippini.

The end of the 17th century marked the beginning of the Religious Teachers Filippini. St. Lucy Filippini and Cardinal Barbarigo founded schools of Christian Doctrine for girls in Italy. St. Lucy also ministered to the poor and the sick, conducted retreats and guided women preparing for marriage. A contemplative in action, she blended her life of prayer with her life of ministry. St. Lucy expressed the desire for there to be a thousand “Lucy’s” that she might bring her consuming love of God to the peoples of the world.

In 1910 St. Pius X commissioned five Religious Teachers Filippini to come to the United States where the spiritual needs of Italian immigrants

begged relief. Like all pioneers, the Sisters suffered hardships and difficulties until in 1918 Archbishop Thomas J. Walsh came to their assistance. The succeeding decades saw the opening of many schools in the Eastern and Central part of the United States. St. Lucy’s horizons widened with the opening of many missions in Brazil, Ethiopia, England, India, Eritrea, and Albania.

For further information you can view the Filippini website at www.filippiniusa.org. Their Motherhouse, Villa Walsh, is located in Morristown, New Jersey.

Thank you for inviting us to inform you of 34 years of serving as an Associate for the Religious Teachers Filippini. It has certainly been an honor and privilege as we journey through our life here in God’s Kingdom on Earth.

Sincerely,

Dot Peterson
201-391-7187

*The Associates of
Our Lady of Mercy Church
Park Ridge, New Jersey*

The People You'll Meet at OLM...

As you enter the rectory office you will see Maria Kistler on the left. New to the staff but not to the parish, Maria has been active in Our Lady of Mercy Academy for the past 17 years and a member of the parish for 20 years. She has taken on the role of Manager of the rectory office and additional duties as Communications Manager.

Linda Priore joined the parish 35 years ago, began working at OLM in the Religious Education office two years later, and has been in the rectory office the past 25. One of her jobs is the production of the weekly Bulletin. She also does bookkeeping, and liturgical planning. You may recognize her as the organist at the 11 o'clock Mass, as she has volunteered to play the organ for the past 20 years.

Joanne Gordinier's desk is straight ahead of you as you enter the office. She has been a parishioner since 2003 and her two sons are graduates of OLMA. She began working at OLM in 2015 and is responsible for most of the correspondence relating to the weekly collection, as well as other special church funds. Joanne is a Eucharistic Minister.

Donna Quinn, Finance Manager, can be found in the office on Wednesday evenings and most Saturdays. She has been a parishioner since 1993 and her two sons are graduates of OLMA. She began working at OLM in 2005.



Maria Kistler



Linda Priore



Joanne Gordinier

Continued On Page 5

From Page 4

Three other staff members are Nick Manzione, Gerilyn Cargulia and Jenna Hane. Nick has worked on the weekends and Wednesdays for the past 8 years. Gerilyn works on Saturdays and has been a member of the Social Justice and Peace Ministry at OLM for the past 2 years. Jenna works part time, and is also seen at Sunday Masses where she is a cantor. She is studying to be a paralegal and lives in Fort Lee. They are camera shy, but happy to help you with Masses and candle requests at the reception desk ahead of you.

When you enter the Religious Education/ Parish center you will meet Maureen Giaccio in the room to the right. She has moved from the rectory where she had worked for 13 years. She is continuing her work on the web site and with online donations. She now takes on the new role as Religious Education Office Manager. Admire the fireplace and chandelier when you stop in, reminders of the building's history as a private residence before the 1960's.

The other desk in the room belongs to Kathy Salvatore, our new part time Assistant to the new Director of Religious Education, Evelyn Paglieri. Kathy is a retired elementary teacher, lives in Allendale and is a member of the Church of the Presentation. Kathy will be spending most of her time in the Religious Education office in Our Lady of Mercy Academy.

We met Evelyn through the beautiful letter she wrote in the August 4th bulletin.



Kathy Salvatore

Evelyn Paglieri



Maureen Giaccio

A Letter From Amy Ballanco

From Front Page

build where the same thing might happen again"? "Why didn't they just leave and go somewhere else"? Because these are their homes, their family memories, their place of rest and refreshment. The place they reconnect with family and friends. Sadly some have left due to emotions of de-

feat and it is understandable.

And so this is how it is with our church and our parish. I am not going anywhere. This parish is my home, it holds family memories. It is a place to rest and refresh. A place to reconnect with family and friends and God! I welcome the new growth that comes

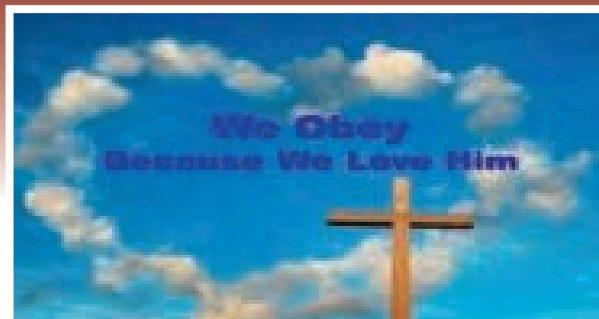
with change. The strength that we will only see again if we continue to rebuild, to re-enforce, to make beautifully new, to fully participate. This is our faith, this is the faith of our church, together let us be proud to profess it!

Amen

A Reflection

RETURNING GOD'S LOVE

By Celeste T. Villegas



IN ACTION

Our purpose beyond the present moment is returning God's love. Like Mary's Fiat at the Incarnation - "May it be done to me according to Your Word" (Luke 1:38). Like Jesus taking upon Himself the sins of the world and dying on the Cross at Calvary - "It is finished" (John 19:30).

In the human experience, returning God's love means obedience to what God wills for us, whatever are our circumstances or relationships. As Jesus Himself says in John 14:23, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching."

"We obey because we love Him." We accept what life brings, we forget the self and we abandon ourselves, uncoerced, to an unknown future - the challenge of service.

Fulfilling seven years of responsibilities at Reception in a hospital environment, for example, has allowed me to come face-to-face with opportunities for compassion and kindness. My being a front-line ambassador of service has helped me reach out to the needs of others - to comfort any discomfort - and to journey toward the obedience that God expects in return.

IN PRAYER

But more than workplace realities, what will place our goal of returning God's love within our grasp is earnest and heartfelt prayer, specifically, Suscipe.

Suscipe is the Latin word for "Receive," a prayer popularized by St. Ignatius of Loyola in the early 16th century and incorporated into his Spiritual Exercises. Asking you to surrender your will, as follows, does not make it an easy prayer.

"Take, Lord and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will. All I have and call my own. You have given all to me. To you, Lord, I return it. Everything is yours; do with it what you will. Give me only your love and your grace; that is enough for me."

If we take the first step to praying Suscipe, however, in faith, and without the shadow of a doubt, we will be returning God's love not just for a day, or in a spiritual homecoming, but for a lifetime.

For more, see link below.

<https://www.ourcatholicprayers.com/suscipe.html>

Find us on OLM's home site, www.urolm.org. Click on About Us.
Send in your ideas and articles for the 2019 issues now!