

Ministry Fair 8/27 & 28 after Masses
Knights spaghetti feed 8/27 6 pm \$7

Saint Patrick Catholic Church

SPCC Happenings



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Sean Scherschel: Traveler and Teacher In The Far East

While many of us, as adults, are content to live and work within the familiarity and comfort of the locale where we were born or raised, Sean Scherschel pursued another path when he graduated from Churchill County High School in 1998 and subsequently earned his associate and bachelor degrees from Western Nevada College and Sierra Nevada College, respectively.

The son of parishioners Mike and Cheryl Scherschel, Sean applied to be a volunteer with the Peace Corps and was accepted. His assignment was the Philippines where, for two-and-a-half years, he taught English and computer skills to college level students in the Aklan province situated in the Western Visayas region.

Following his Peace Corps service Sean continued his interest in Far Eastern cultures by applying to, and being accepted by, the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme, about which he learned through friends.

JET, administered through the collaboration of Japan's local authorities and various ministries, aims to increase mutual understanding between the people of Japan and those of other nations and invites young college graduates from around the world to participate in international exchange work and be involved in foreign language education at Japan's local government offices, Board of Education, and schools.

"Japan is one of those fascinating places I've wanted to visit," Sean said. At the end of his work in the Philippines he and a friend flew to the "Land of the Rising Sun" for a brief stay. "I thought it was a neat place and it was at that time that I seriously considered the location for additional work," Sean reflected.

While under the JET Programme and residing in Iwade, a city with an estimated population of 53,000 in Wakayama Prefecture, Sean taught English to over 1,800 students in two junior high schools. Sean said he really enjoyed the experience



Sean Scherschel and his mom Cheryl display souvenirs from Sean's travels: a barong tagalog (man's shirt made of pineapple fibers and from the Philippines) and a shamisen (a Japanese string instrument).

although instructing the youth about English phonetics, which can be confusing, and idioms was challenging.

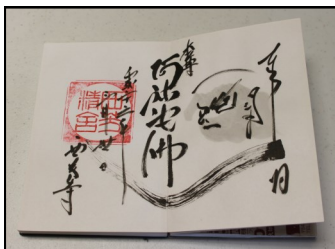
Five years in Japan gave Sean the opportunity to acquire a few unique hobbies. One was visiting the country's many Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines. At each of them Sean received a stamp and handwritten notations (that recorded his visit) in a small book (similar to a journal). "I've been to hundreds of the sacred sites which are beautiful," commented Sean who has collected enough stamps and notations to fill five books. "If you are looking for a peaceful place," he added, "you'll find it in a temple or shrine." Sean would often go to

the Negoro Temple in Iwade because of the convenience of being located in his Japanese hometown.

Learning to play the shamisen, a three-stringed Japanese musical instrument (sometimes compared to a banjo), was another pastime that Sean developed. While living in Iwade he took lessons once a week from a 90-year old woman proficient in the skill.

Beginning in April of this year Sean has been employed by a company that outsources teachers to countries that need them. His first three-month contract was as an instructor of conversational English at Tamagawa University in Machida, Tokyo. Tamagawa University is known for specializing in honey bee production. Sean called teaching conversational English a lot of fun because of his ability to use such materials as comics and

(Continued on page 2)



Visitors to Japanese temples or shrines can obtain from each a stamp and handwritten notations in a small book to record their visit. Sean has collected five such books.

Slide Show and Potluck Aug. 20

Parishioners are invited to participate in a spiritual journey as Deacon Carlson presents a slide show on Sat., Aug. 20, of his and his wife Judy's trip this summer to Rome, Italy. Beginning at 10 a.m. in the parish hall the presentation will include visits to St. Peter's Basilica as well as other area churches and Assisi. A potluck lunch will follow the approximately two-hour event. Bring your favorite dish to share with fellow attendees! For more information contact the parish office at 423-2846.



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Sean Scherschel *(Continued from page 1)*

newspapers as instructional tools.

After his three-month contract at Tamagawa University ended he returned to Fallon for a two-month break before accepting another three-month teaching stint with the same company. Sean feels fortunate that his next assignment, to start in Sept., will again be with Tamagawa University. Meanwhile, while visiting his family and friends in Fallon and Churchill County, he is also spending time completing chapters to a fantasy novel that he is currently writing.

Sean's desire and love to travel may originate from his growing up years with his military family. Both his mom and dad are Air Force veterans. Born in Texas Sean has also lived in England for three years and then called Colorado home before arriving with his parents in the "Oasis of Nevada" where he was enrolled in sixth grade at E.C. Best. As a member of St. Patrick Church he was an altar server and a boy scout and scout leader with Troop 442. He also taught CCD and served as Youth Group president during his Confirmation year. As Sean summarized, "If anyone needed anything done, I would always pitch in to help."

Because his Catholic faith is very important to him, Sean joined and regularly attended the local parish in whatever foreign

city in which he lived while working overseas.

Sean's adventures in the Philippines and Japan had many highlights including the first time he could haggle in the Filipino marketplace in the local dialect and talk the vendors down at least a few centavos, or the first time he could order or make small talk in Japanese without any errors. In the Sept. issue of the parish newsletter Sean will describe a particularly meaningful experience on his trip to Cebu in the Philippines.

Fall Festival Raffle Tickets

Fall Festival raffle tickets are \$10 each and may now be purchased after the weekend Masses from Fall Festival committee members and at the parish office. Prizes are (1) a half beef plus freezer; (2) a weekend away at Graeagle; and (3) an overnight stay with dinner at the Peppermill in Reno. The drawings will take place at the Fall Festival which is scheduled for Sat., Sept. 24, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., in the church parking lot and parish hall. Individuals need not be present to win. Proceeds from the raffle as well as the game and food booths will benefit the St. Patrick's building fund. If you can volunteer your time to help with the Fall Festival or with a game or food booth, please call the parish office at 423-2846. Let's come together to make this event a great success!



NEW OFFICERS—The Knights of Columbus, Fallon Council 4828, at St. Pat's recently held elections. The current officers are (standing, left to right) Tom Lukas, Trustee, 2nd year; Jim Shurtliff, Grand Knight; Zachary Gogel, Treasurer; Marlon Clark, Inside Guard; Bob Greer, Advocate; Matt Louie, Chancellor; (sitting, left to right) Phil Sabatino, Trustee, 3rd year; Marty Maffi, Lecturer; John Matarazza, Deputy Grand Knight; Jeff Scholz, Recorder; David Shell, Financial Secretary; and Richard Gerten, Trustee, 1st year. Not pictured are Richard Cordova, Warden; Matt Maffi, Outside Guard; and Rev. Antonio Quijano, Jr., Chaplain.