



ST. PETER'S CATCH

Quarterly newsletter of St. Peter Parish

Fall 2007

CHURCH OF ST. PETER 3655 OBERLIN AVE. LORAIN, OHIO 44053 282-9103

Women share ministry of beauty

By Florence Ellis
Catch Writer

For the past decade, two parishioners have made sure that St. Peter Church looks its best for major holidays, liturgical events and seasons.

It's not an easy job, but thanks to the efforts of Joan Ballish and Mary Elaine Goehring, the church is so well-decorated that many people assume a professional florist does the job.

The two women head up St. Peter's Liturgical Art and Environment Committee, which is responsible for designing the environment of the church. The committee not only comes up with designs for Christmas, Easter, Advent, Lent and liturgical events such as Confirmation and First Communion, but it oversees the actual work of installing and maintaining those designs in the church.

"We order anything we need to go with (the design) ...flowers, pedestals, drapery, panels," explained Mrs. Goehring. Three other women, Helen Berezny, Valia Kerecz and Mary Poprock, take on the duties of watering the church flowers twice a week, she added.

Every December the committee is assisted by many volunteers, both men and women, in making the church sparkle for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day liturgies. In addition, the Rev. Chuck Henkle, associate pastor, and a group of volunteers spend hours creating a beautiful crèche scene for the altar.



Mary Elaine Goehring, left, and Joan Ballish head the Art and Environment Committee.

The Minutemen, a group of men in the parish, climb ladders, hang greens and string hundreds of lights. And, up until last year, the group had the arduous task of bringing a very large live tree into church, positioning it on the altar, and festooning it with lights.

"Last year, we bought an artificial tree, which is pre-lit," explained Mrs. Ballish, adding that it was just getting to be too much of a hardship for the older volunteers to handle a live tree.

For Easter, the committee encounters a different set of problems because all of the work is last-minute.

"We can't really do anything until after the Easter food baskets are blessed at 2 p.m. on Holy Saturday," explained the women.

"It's hectic, but with all the volunteers doing the jobs, it gets finished in time," said Mrs. Goehring. "We have a great bunch of people who come forth to help.

A special part of the ministry a few years ago involved making the linen "reserved" markers which sit at the ends of pews for special occasions, and the linen pall used to cover the casket at funeral Masses.

Mrs. Goehring designed the funeral pall, and Eileen Winiacz did the construction and sewing. The

design echoes the pattern of the original overhead stained glass windows which circle the church, said Mrs. Goehring. Mrs. Winiacz designed and sewed the pew covers, which also mimic the stained glass windows.

Mrs. Ballish and Mrs. Goehring, while very energetic, are both in their 70s and have begun to feel it is time to "pass the torch" to new people.

Anyone who is interested in taking up this ministry may call the Parish Office at 282-9103.

And although Mrs. Goehring is a former high school and college-level art teacher and Mrs. Ballish is a former florist shop employee, it is not necessary to have a background in those endeavors to become a member of the committee.

All that's needed, according to both women, is "a desire to share one's talents for the good of God."

Message from Fr. Ken

As we approach the fall season, I am happy to share with you those who will be serving on Parish Council for the 2007-2008 season:

Voting members:

The Honorable Thomas Elwell, chairperson
Mr. Anthony Campana, vice chairperson
Mrs. Jane Lewis, secretary
Mr. Thomas Bruno
Ms. Patricia D'Orazio
Mrs. Maria Escuro
Ms. Anna Grasso
Mr. Peter Grasso
Mr. Gerald Odafe (youth representative)

New to Council this year are:

Mrs. Mary D'Orazio (senior representative)
Mrs. Debra Jeffreys
Mr. James Michalski
Mr. Kevin O'Brien
Ms. Lois Treboniak

Non-Voting ex-officio members:

Fr. Kenneth Wolnowski
Fr. Chuck Henkle, OFM Conv.
Rev. Dr. Ralph Krupp
Rev. Mr. Jay Ogan
Ms. Emily Fabanich
Sr. Rosemary Janezic
Mr. Edward Klimczak
Sr. Annamae Murphy
Mr. Joseph Sechkar

Special thanks to the following, who have completed their terms on council:

Mrs. Tina Meade
Mr. Scott Toth
Mr. Michael Weber
Mrs. Mary Theresa Zvosecz

The Parish Council is a consultative body, representative of the parish, which makes recommendations to the pastor. It will act as the sounding board that provides strategic oversight for the spiritual and operational functions of the parish. It will work closely with, and advise, the pastor, members of the pastoral staff, finance council, ministry leaders, and members of the parish and local communities on matters related to the overall mission of the parish.

RCIA ready for new liturgical year

Is your Catholic faith something that you treasure? Do friends or family recognize your faith as an important aspect of your life? Our Baptism calls each of us to invite and encourage membership in our Christian Catholic community.

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is a process, not just a program, emphasized Jay Ogan, St. Peter's new deacon on staff.

"The RCIA process is a great opportunity for people inquiring into our Catholic faith to try it on for size and see if it fits," he explained. "The RCIA journey of faith requires openness to different ideas about religion, along with a sincere desire to share what is so special about our own tradition."

The Rev. Mr. Ogan is continuing his role of coordinator for the RCIA process for the 2007-08 liturgical year. The RCIA team is currently meeting on Wednesday evenings at the Parish Center, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

While the process does focus on the liturgical year, with the best time to receive the sacraments during the Easter Vigil, the Rev. Mr. Ogan said that the process is flexible and can accommodate people who may not be able to complete the process during the normal liturgical time. The RCIA team, he continued, encourages an open-ended environment so people will feel welcome to explore the faith at any time throughout the year.

Anyone interested in exploring the Catholic faith may call the Parish Center at 282-9103 and leave a message for the Rev. Mr. Ogan.

Ministry Sunday is Sept. 16

Ministry Sunday will be celebrated September 16. Parishioners will speak at each mass stating how they share time, talent, and treasure. They will also point out the revised ministry catalogs and volunteer forms available.

You will be encouraged to take these home, review, pray, and return your volunteer form. There are many opportunities in a variety of ways to share time, talent, and treasure.

The display of the various parish ministries will be in the gym after the 9:00 Mass until 1:30 p.m. Please visit the displays to become better acquainted with the parish ministries, sign up for flu shots, enjoy the DVD of parish and school activities, view the Power Point presentation on Electronic Giving, enjoy refreshments, and possibly win a door prize.

We hope to see you at the Ministry Fair!

Joe Montalto, living history of St. Peter's

By Florence Ellis
Catch Writer



It's hard to believe, but Joe Montalto is almost as old as the parish he's called home all his life.

St. Peter Parish: age 98. Joe: 92.

"He's almost the living history of the parish," said the Rev. Kenneth Wolnowski, St. Peter pastor.

It's true. While of course Joe can't recall the day in 1915 when his parents, Fred and Frances Montalto stood at the altar at the old St. Peter Church on 17th Street for his baptism, his memory on just about anything else related to St. Peter's is crystal-clear.

He can remember when he became an altar server:

"I was 8 years old, and my mother was so proud that I was an altar boy, she sewed my cassock herself. It was red, and had snaps – not buttons or a zipper – all the way down," recalled Joe, who grew up on Oakdale Avenue, not far from the church. He had three younger siblings, all sisters: Frances, now deceased, Grace, of California and Joan, of Florida.

He can remember staying overnight at the old church hall during his grade-school years, so he could be ready to ring the church bells for the 6 a.m. "Angelus." He was also available to ring the bells again at noon and 6 p.m.

Joe recalled that, after he finished eighth grade in Lorain, the Rev. Achilles Ferreri, then pastor, enrolled him for high school at St. Charles Borromeo College in Maryland.



Joe Montalto is seen with family photos behind him.

"He had high hopes for me to study for the priesthood," said Joe, but the vocation was not meant to be.

Joe returned to Lorain after one year, and entered the old St. Mary's Academy. ("Once I started going to St. Mary's for dances, that was it" for the priesthood, explained Joe, with a twinkle in his eye.)

During his high school years, Joe ran errands for the pastor at St. Peter's. Father Ferreri trusted Joe so much that he was allowed to use the pastor's car on the days when funerals were scheduled. He would take the car to St. Mary's, then leave classes at 10 a.m. and drive to St. Peter's to serve Mass.

After graduating from St. Mary's in 1933, Joe studied at John Carroll University for one year. However, he had to quit due to financial reasons. He later worked at American Ship Building Co, for a couple of years, then in 1937 landed a job at U.S. Steel.

He also met Marie Perrier, whom he married in 1939 during a 7 a.m. Mass at St. Peter's. By then, the church had added on to the original building, said Joe, making it longer

and creating a new sanctuary and two sacristies. The men of the parish had also dug out a basement under the structure, making a social hall and kitchen. "It was there we began the spaghetti dinners, cooked by the women of the church, for 50 cents a dinner."

The basement, Joe noted, "was such a nice hall, it was used for wedding receptions." Asked if their own reception was held there, both Marie and Joe replied, "We didn't have a reception. We were too poor."

But they were blessed with another kind of wealth — children — and today are the parents of five: Fred of Fort Worth, Texas; Frances Smith of Amherst; Mary Jo Duffy of Lorain; Bob of Athens, Ohio; and Michael of Oakland, Calif. There are also six grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

After retiring from U.S. Steel in 1975 where he worked as foreman of the blast furnace maintenance since 1950, Joe found he had more time to devote to his church.

Since then, he has been an adult server, usher, money counter and church cleaner, and is one of the original "Minutemen" of St. Peter's, a group of men who perform any job that needs to be done in the church or church grounds. One of Joe's proudest achievements was in 1994, when he was honored as the Holy Name Society's "Parish Man of the Year."

Today – definitely not looking or acting his age – Joe still can climb a ladder with the Minutemen when needed.

"He's very youthful, very active," noted Fr. Ken.

And, at age 92, Joe has come full circle: he still assists at Mass as an adult server, the job he first proudly began as an eager eight-year-old back in his old neighborhood.

Another great festival wraps up

St. Peter's Parish Festival — which had two sunny days and finished strong on Sunday despite on and off rain — is now history. People came out and enjoyed all it had to offer, including food and drink, music, games, pony rides, and Mass in the pavilion on Sunday.

"I want to thank everyone who helped in any way," said Ed Klimczak, parish comptroller who co-chaired the festival. "I especially want to thank Ruth Smith, my co-chairperson, who came out on her 76th birthday (a couple of days before the festival) to help. We wanted to take her out to dinner afterwards, but it was too hot to think about food."

So, from St. Peter Parish: Thanks, Ruth, and Belated Happy Birthday!

THE WINNERS WERE ...

A big festival attraction was the various raffles, with the winning tickets drawn on Sunday night. Here are the winners:

CAR RAFFLE

First Prize: **Kathy Addis**, \$15,000 or car (**Mary Jean Smith**, ticket seller, \$100)

Second Prize: **Ken Schwartz**, \$500

Third Prize: **Loretta Vereb**, \$250

Fourth Prize: **Athena Scrofano**, \$100

Fifth Prize: **Jan Hickman**, \$100

AUDIO/VISUAL RAFFLE

37-inch HDTV: **R. Sifter (Dee Alfred)**, ticket seller, \$50)

iPod Nano: **Gerry Anuskiewicz**

iPod Shuffle: **Dave Dembinski**

\$25 Gas Card to BP: **Tom Kleinhenz**

\$25 Gas Card to BP: **Geralyn Armstrong**

ST. PETER CHARGERS RAFFLE

First Prize: **Harold Fronек**, OSU table/chair set

Second Prize: **Frank Turinsky**, gas card

Third Prize: **Rebecca Brown**, Bob Evans gift card

RESPECT LIFE RAFFLE

Baby Gift Basket: **Noreen Green**

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL RAFFLE

Football Tickets: **Melissa Flaugh**

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