



# St. Rita News

The new monthly newsletter serving Saint Rita Parish

JUNE 2013 ■ VOLUME II, ISSUE 5

## Thank You to Our Parish Secretary!

Our beloved parish secretary, Joanne Robertson, will be retiring at the end of the month! Joanne has been caring for us at St. Rita for 13 years. She has spent the last decade-plus working for five different priests, "the best of the best," registering new parishioners, drafting the weekly bulletin, and attending to the proverbial "paper chase" one would expect at the front desk! Former St. Rita pastor Fr. Donohue was Joanne's spiritual director in 2000; Father offered Joanne the job of bookkeeper at that time. She moved up the front desk several years later. Before working at St. Rita, Joanne served at St. Lawrence for ten years (she got that job by replying to an ad in the *Catholic Herald*!).



Joanne will most miss the lovely staff who have become like family supporting each other through life's triumphs and challenges. Joanne will remember St. Rita as a "happy house." She'll also warmly recall Fr. Gee's grilling skills generously shared with the parish staff, occasionally at their weekly staff lunches. "Father Gee is always available, a true Father. I will miss our daily contact a great deal.

Joanne is offering her retirement as a way of saying thanks for all the blessings she has received.

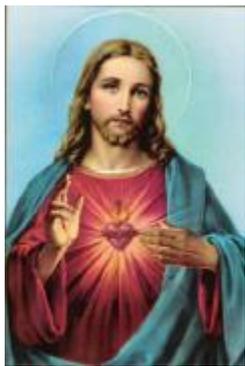
While many little girls dream of growing up to be a ballerina or a teacher or a nurse, as a young child Joanne dreamed of being a housekeeper and cook for priests. It makes sense, then, that she sees part of her vocation as caring for clergy and prayer for priests. In her eyes, one of the best parts of her career has been connecting with so many different priest-personalities. She's come to love the priesthood in its purity and, while setting aside all natural feelings and attachments, to embrace each priest as he is. She has witnessed firsthand how each brings his own personality to the priesthood and how that helps to make our church and parish life rich.

On Mondays, she'll be volunteering as a receptionist at the St. Martin de Porres Center and she'll continue her habit of service by working as a parish collection counter and as an active member the newly formed Women's Group. She also plans to spend more time in prayer, make time to write and send correspondence (she has enough stationery to open her own store!), and enjoy time with her children and grandchildren.

Karen Davidson will be replacing Joanne, and she is already starting to shadow her so you might see her around the parish office. Karen has lots of energy and is excited to become involved at St. Rita's.

*Joanne, thank you for your years of loving and dedicated service to St. Rita's. We will miss you and wish you the best in retirement. We're also thrilled that we'll still see you around the parish!*

## June: The Month of the Sacred Heart



Since 1899, June has been the month the Catholic Church devotes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It is a time we can use to learn more about and reflect on this beautiful devotion, so central to the spiritual life of the Church, with which Christ Himself promised "tepid souls will become fervent."

The primary source of the devotion to the Sacred Heart were the visions of

St. Marguerite Marie Alacoque (1647-1690), a French Visitandine nun, to whom Jesus Christ appeared numerous times, imploring her to promote devotion to His Sacred Heart. In 1674, Margaret Mary said Jesus requested to be honored under the image of His heart. She also related that when He appeared radiant with love, He asked for a devotion of expiatory love: frequent reception of Communion, especially on the First Friday of the month, and the observance of the Holy Hour.

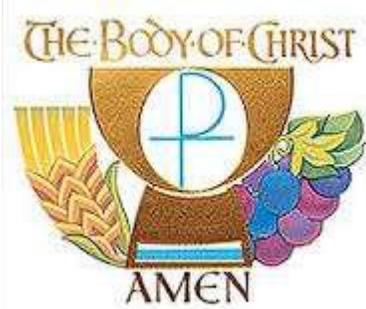
During the octave of Corpus Christi, 1675, the vision known as the "great apparition" took place. Christ said, "Behold the Heart that has so loved men...instead of gratitude I receive from

the greater part [of mankind] only ingratitude..." and asked Margaret Mary for a feast of reparation of the Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi.

In 1856, Pope Pius IX established the Feast of the Sacred Heart (which falls 19 days after Pentecost, always on a Friday; this year it falls on June 7th). And finally, in 1899, after ordering a lengthy inquiry into the nature of the devotion, Pope Leo XIII established June as the month of the Sacred Heart, and declared that on June 11th of that year, the whole human race would be consecrated to the Sacred Heart.

Formal devotions to the Sacred Heart include hymns, the Salutation of the Sacred Heart, the Litany of the Sacred Heart, and the First Friday devotion, which requires reception of Holy Communion on 9 Consecutive First Fridays. For those looking to learn more about this powerful devotion, St. Margaret Mary's spiritual director, Fr. John Croiset, wrote a book (with her approval), explaining the devotion, still in print under the title "The Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus". And St. Margaret Mary's beautiful Autobiography is still in print, along with her letters; they are both wonderful aids for those who want to imitate her saintly love for the Sacred Heart.

# God Bless Our First Communicants!



Congratulations to all those who received their First Holy Communion this year at St. Rita Church on Saturday, May 4: **Ferah Abraham, Yosief Abraham, Lilliana Sarah Aduato, Adan Aquilar, Daniel Mauricio Alvarez, Rigoberto Christopher Andrade, Carloa Jose Aranda, Diego Angelo Arevalo, Fatima Noemy Arevalo, Carlos Arnaldo Arriaza, Claire Noelle Beekman, Nancy Jamilet Bermudez, Nury Elizabeth Bermudez, Stephany Esmeralda Bermudez, Nancy Carolina Bernal, Odaly Azucena Bernal, Madeline Billings Broome, Jesus Enrique Burgos, Jose Jason Campos, Luis Alexander Caudra, Sabrina Natalie DelCid, Dennis Rafael Diaz Sapon, Leah Dominguez-Burgos, Sophia Isabel Eckel, Makenzie Reynolds Edmonson, Alexis Jose Flores, Santos Fuentes, Luke Douglas Gauthier, Lizbeth Amanda Gomez, Cecily Doris Hansen, Augustine Joseph Hart, Jocelin Melissa Hernandez, Henry Hidgalgo, Sadie Evelyn Idler, Juan**

**Lopez Aviles, William Manilla-Smith, Daniel Patrick McGinnis, Roger Griffin McGraw, Eleanor Anne McNichols, Inez Nancy McNichols, Othmaro Adrian Mejia, Met-Miku Mengesha, Karla Maribel Ortiz, Jessica Mabel Parezo, Francisca Maria Pitterle, Kimberly Michelle Polio, Pedra Steven Polio, Michael Prabaharan, Anais Rivera, Elvis Ronaldo, Romero Vail, Rosalia Catherine Rutherford, Maya Samson, Katherine L. Santos Sanchez, Augustino Proximo Sass, Andrette David Yniguez Sheils, Ashley Nayeli Sosa Cruz, Jai M. Thompson, Megan Hope Toth, Now Alexander Urquia-Cuadra, Isabella Azra Valenzuela, Thaddeus Joseph Worth, Blanca Carolina Zelaya and Erika Michael Zelaya.** Special thanks to Miss Mershon, Mrs. Moran, and Mrs. Reyes-Turcios, who so beautifully prepared the children for this sacrament; and to **Karen Hart and Holly Pitt-Young** for coordinating a beautiful reception for the children and their families. *O Sacrament most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, All praise and all thanksgiving, Be every moment Thine!*

## ■ LIVING OUR FAITH

### Baptisms

- + Daniel Casey Trail, May 25
- + Rafael Antonio DeLeon, May 25
- + Mason Gabriel Cunningham, May 26

### Funerals

- + Thomas Hughes, Funeral Mass, May 6
- + Jeremy Clark, Memorial Mass, May 28

### Prayer Intentions

*Do you know of a parishioner who is ill, and in need of prayers? Or a parishioner who is serving in the armed forces, overseas? We will be happy to publish their names so that fellow parishioners can pray for them.*

*Please contact Catherine Feil (catherine.feil@gmail.com, or 703.671.0402) or Erin Church (erinmchurch@gmail.com).*

### Get Involved!

*We're looking for another co-editor and/or contributors for this newsletter. If you can give of your time and talent for this once a month ministry, please contact catherine.feil@gmail.com or erinmchurch@gmail.com. Do you have ideas for future items in the parish newsletter, or would you like to submit a feature for publication? All submissions can be directed to our editors: Catherine Feil (catherine.feil@gmail.com, or 703.671.0402) or Erin Church (erinmchurch@gmail.com). Thank you!*