

# Cathedral Chronicle

Early Fall 2018

## Bereavement Committee Update

by Mary Wong

***“The souls of the just are in the hands of God and no torment shall touch them. They should be greatly blessed because God tried them and found them worthy.”***

In the late spring of 2016, Cathedral parishioner Jan Nardolillo, sat down with then acting administrator of the Cathedral, Father Michael Farano, and Music Director Brian Gurley, to discuss ways in which lay members of the parish might help those who are grappling with grief over the death of a loved one. One of the ways in which volunteers could be of service is in helping plan the funeral mass at the Cathedral.

Jan was inspired by her experience at Holy Family Parish in Syracuse when she was given help, support, and comfort while planning her mother’s funeral.

Jan had served funerals for many years. She knew there was a great need to help those who are grieving, “People feel overwhelmed. They don’t realize what decisions need to be made. They must choose readings and music as well as having the optional task of selecting readers and gift bearers for the Liturgy.”

Eventually a “bereavement committee” was approved by the parish council and Jan and council member, Maureen Gross put the plan into action. The committee currently numbers four volunteers. Besides Jan and Maureen, Betty Travis and Mary Wong are also members.

When Betty retired from her job with New York State, she decided to share her time and talents with those who are grieving. She explains her decision this way, “ I felt that I could contribute to this ministry to ease the workload of the parish. Also I have known many people over the years and could add a personal touch for the family in their time of need.”

The process begins when the parish office is notified of the death of a current or former



*Bereavement Committee Members: Jan Nardolillo, Betty Travis, Maureen Gross, and Mary Wong*

parishioner. A date and time for the funeral is scheduled. Pilar Dell, the Cathedral office secretary, informs members of the bereavement committee. A committee member calls the family contact person and arranges a planning meeting at the rectory.

At the meeting family members are guided by a liturgy planning sheet. It includes the name of deceased, the celebrant and the funeral date. It asks for the choice of first reading, second reading, and hymns to be played throughout the liturgy. Music Director Brian Gurley may be called in to make suggestions or to answer questions. He has produced a list of appropriate hymns and processions to guide those making their decision.

For help in choosing the readings committee members introduce a booklet entitled “Through Death to Life, Preparing to Celebrate the Funeral Mass” by Reverend Joseph M. Champlin. The book contains “the prayers, blessings and scripture readings available to help family members plan the funeral mass.” Fr. Champlin notes, “When a Catholic dies the Church celebrates a particular set of liturgical rites to help us through the immediate days of our grieving.”

An important part of the planning meeting is helping family members to feel comfortable talking about and sharing personal stories about their deceased loved one: “She was a wonderful mom... She loved teaching and quilting... She enjoyed going to the beach... He loves to sing walk and cherish his grandchildren....”

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## HELP US RE-FIND OUR HISTORY!

As part of ensuring that our image collection is as complete as possible, we are seeking photographs of the Cathedral’s confessionals. If you have any photographs of the confessionals that you would allow the History and Heritage Program to scan and save, please contact the Cathedral Office at 518-463-4447 or ecathedr@nycap.rr.com so we can make arrangements. We will be glad to share the scans with you—so you will also have an electronic version of your photos.

*The purpose of the Cathedral parish newsletter is to help carry out the mission of our beloved house of prayer and worship through a quarterly publication that includes personal glimpses of the faith journeys of those individuals who comprise the parish family. Unlike the scope of the weekly bulletin, which sometimes includes information about events that relate to programs outside the Cathedral, this newsletter focuses on events within the Cathedral parish.*



## Pilar Dell, Parish Secretary

*by Richard L. Capullo*

A PROJECT PILAR  
IS PROUD OF IS  
VOLUNTEERING AT  
THE INTERFAITH  
PARTNERSHIP FOR  
THE HOMELESS.  
SHE AND HER SONS  
VOLUNTEER TWO TO  
THREE TIMES PER  
YEAR.

If you happen to dine at Romo's Pizza in Glenmont, you might be waited on by our parish secretary, Pilar Dell. You see, Romo's Pizza is owned by her brother, Anthony Berghela. Pilar waitresses and provides administrative assistance. Her parents also work there. It was our parish housekeeper, Pearl Ennist, whose sons worked at Romo's during high school and who informed Pilar of an opening as parish secretary at the Cathedral rectory.

Pilar is the youngest of 6 children. She has two boys, Mason age 9 and Camden age 8 who attend school in Bethlehem. Pilar's family has been involved with Blessed Sacrament Church for many years. Her grandfather and mother went to elementary school at Blessed Sacrament and high school at Bishop Maginn. One of her brothers also attended Maginn. Sports are big in her family, especially football's NY Giants. Pilar and her sons catch every game they can on TV.

A project Pilar is proud of is volunteering at the Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless. She and her sons volunteer two to three times per year. "We buy the food, prepare it, serve it, and clean up. The boys love doing it," she says. "We also play games with the guests and at Christmas time we adopt a family."

Pilar began her position on February 28th. "Everyone has been great, staff and parishioners", she said. We wish Pilar much success and satisfaction with her position at our parish.



*Pilar Dell, The Parish's New Secretary*

## Cathedral Parish Golf Outing: A Huge Success

*by Richard Capullo*

Once again, the dedicated members of the parish golf committee and its volunteers delivered a fun-filled and highly successful golf outing. This was the 20th year of the Cathedral Golf Classic and the heavens were with us the morning of June 25th as the threatening morning clouds quickly gave way to a glorious and sunny day. The golf event consisted of a day of golf followed by an awards ceremony, a scrumptious dinner, and numerous raffle prizes. This year, 96 golfers participated



*"Cathedral Golf Classic Volunteers Maureen Gross, Joan Schatz, and Debbie Bleezarde*

THE GOLF EVENT CONSISTED OF A DAY OF GOLF FOLLOWED BY AN AWARDS CEREMONY, A SCRUMPTIOUS DINNER, AND NUMEROUS RAFFLE PRIZES. THIS YEAR, 96 GOLFERS PARTICIPATED.

All net funds raised go toward the Cathedral restoration project. The Golf Classic takes a year to plan and prepare. Planning next year's event has already begun. Golfers need to be recruited, prizes need to be solicited, and brochures need to be designed and printed. Volunteers are needed the day of the event for numerous duties to keep the program running smoothly.

The Cathedral Classic committee members are: Deb Bleezarde, Jerry Connolly, James Horan, Craig Jasenski, Rev. David R. LeFort, Rich Pagano, and Claude Rounds.

The following volunteers contributed their time and talent: Judy Benson, Barbara Bertucio, Pilar Dell, Gabrielle Ettles, Maureen Gross, Mary-Anne Malefant, Christine McCann, Nick McCann, Tim McCann, Barbara Palumbo, Tom Prindle, Bernie and Joan Schatz, and Kim Springsteen.



## Cathedral Parishioners Learn About New York State Catholic Governor-Neighbors

by Brian Buff

On a beautiful late May spring day, parishioners from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception took part in a History & Heritage Program focused on the Cathedral's New York State Catholic Governor-Neighbors, their families and involvement at the Cathedral, which is located right next to the Executive Mansion on Eagle Street.

The program began with an exclusive private tour of the Executive Mansion for the group, who learned about the architectural history of the mansion. Originally a small Italianate structure, it incorporated Second Empire elements during an 1860s renovation. Since then, both Queen Anne and Victorian elements have been added, giving the mansion a unique architectural amalgamation. The group also learned about the Governors and families that have inhabited the mansion—seeing where they worked, relaxed and slept.

The Executive Mansion has been the home to three U.S. Presidents (Grover Cleveland, Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin Roosevelt) and three Vice Presidents (Levi Morton, Theodore Roosevelt and Nelson Rockefeller) and four unsuccessful presidential nominees (Samuel Tilden, Charles Evans Hughes, Al Smith and Thomas Dewey).

Following the tour, the group went to the Cathedral for a presentation about our Catholic Governor-Neighbors. A number of artifacts from the Cathedral's collection were on display, including programs from Gubernatorial Inauguration Masses and several significant photos, including the one of the Smith Wedding seen (below, to the left/right).

Another Cathedral neighbor, the New York State Museum, added to the program by sharing campaign buttons and ribbons from several Catholic Governors, including Martin Glynn (1913-14), Al Smith (1919-20 & 1923-28), Charles Poletti (1942), & Malcolm Wilson (1973-74).

Please watch the bulletin for future History & Heritage Programs at the Cathedral.

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Cathedral parishioner and Chief Curator of History at the New York State Museum, Dr. Jennifer Lemak, answers questions about Catholic gubernatorial campaign artifacts from a program participant.



Cathedral parishioners and friends join Very Rev. David R. LeFort, STL, VG, Rector, and take a moment to commemorate their visit to the Executive Mansion.



From the Cathedral Historical Collection: Wedding of Governor Alfred E. Smith's daughter, Catherine A., to Francis J. Quillinan in the Cathedral, June 9, 1928.



THIS YEAR'S FIRST COMMUNION CLASS WITH BISHOP SCHARFENBERGER & FATHER LEFORT.

***The Restoration of the Cathedral - The Work Continues.***



PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWING RECENT RESTORATION WORK ON THE WEST JEFFERSON SACRISTY WINDOW AND CURRENT WORK ON THE ROSE WINDOW.



## The Cathedral as a Learning Lab

by Brian Buff



Graduate students from UAlbany's Public History Program held a class in the Cathedral's History Room.

The Cathedral plays many roles: Mother Church for the Diocese, parish faith community, a beacon of light in uncertain times, a center for arts and culture, and many others. The Cathedral Parish Community continues to work hard in preserving the structure and rich heritage of Cathedral building itself, as well as the artifacts, documents and stories associated with its 165-year history. In this role, the Cathedral serves in an additional role—that of a learning lab.

This past spring and summer, several groups spent time at the Cathedral to study its history, architecture, restoration and impact on the community. These visitors experienced the Cathedral building itself from many different angles and perspectives. They also were able to study and learn from the Cathedral's Historical Collection of artifacts, photographs and archival records.

Graduate students from the University at Albany's Public History Program's Curatorial Practices course spent a class session at the Cathedral learning about the parish's efforts to collect, catalogue, house and protect its historical collection from volunteers of the Cathedral's History & Heritage Program. None of the students had ever visited the Cathedral and were impressed by its grandeur and efforts to preserve the past.

The American Institute of Architects – Eastern New York Chapter (AIAENY) conducted a Historic Structure Tour and Presentation at the Cathedral. Laurence F. Wilson, Partner at Mesick Cohen Wilson Baker Architects, offered an insightful and illustrated presentation on the construction of the Cathedral and the and restoration work overseen by his firm over the last 40 years. He was joined by Thomas Prindle, Director of Stewardship and Development for the Diocese of Albany and Brian Buff, Coordinator of the Cathedral's History & Heritage Program, who offered insights into the Cathedral's history and how it impacted local, state and national history.

These groups learned that John McCloskey, the first Bishop of Albany, envisioned a Cathedral that would be prominent in the city and serve as a center for his flock: "To erect a structure more

spacious and more enduring...that the wayfarer may enter in and find rest." He commissioned Patrick Charles Keely to design a Cathedral in the neo-Gothic style. On July 2, 1848, the cornerstone was laid in the presence of 10,000 people. Four years later, on November 21, 1852, people from all over Albany, from laborer to merchant king, gathered for the Cathedral's dedication.

From 2000 – 2004, the restoration of the Cathedral first addressed the critical sections of the Cathedral's brownstone surfaces and to provide for the waterproof integrity of the entire structure. From 2008 – 2010, the spacious and soaring interior of the Cathedral was repaired and renewed to its original artistic beauty, to bring a fresh vitality to the Cathedral's role as the center of Diocese liturgy and community celebration. In 2017, the sacristies were renovated and restored. Attendees learned of the Cathedral's current restoration efforts on one of its original stained glass windows, the Rose Window, featured on the East façade of the Cathedral.

Following Wilson's presentation, the group was split into two groups so that each group could experience the Cathedral from different perspectives: first attendees took an exterior tour to understand the exterior restoration efforts and learn about future restoration plans of the brownstone masonry facade; then the groups switched to explore the Cathedral's sanctuary, sacristies, undercroft and crypt. Following the formal program, a group of remaining attendees joined Larry Wilson for a tour of the Cathedral's North Tower, where they saw the interior results of restoration, as well as the graffiti left behind by many workers who toiled to erect the original tower.

It is the hope that such learning lab efforts by the Cathedral will inspire and help develop current and future professionals—such as historians, archivists, preservationists and architects—so they, in turn, will consider helping preserve the Cathedral and its stories for future generations to come.



Local architects view ongoing restoration efforts at the Cathedral, including current work on the Rose Window.



A recent tour of the Cathedral's crypt by AIAENY members was followed by an exploration of the undercroft.



Parishioner and Historian Brian Buff interprets artifacts dating back to the Cathedral's construction from 1848 – 1852 for the AIAENY visitors.

# Catholic University and the Farone Scholarship

*by Richard L. Capullo*

“THE PRIMARY  
PURPOSE OF THE  
FOUNDATION  
IS TO PROVIDE  
FUNDS TO SUPPORT  
THE CHARITABLE,  
SCIENTIFIC,  
EDUCATIONAL,  
LITERARY AND/OR  
RELIGIOUS PURPOSE  
OF THE CATHOLIC  
UNIVERSITY  
OF AMERICA  
AND TO AWARD  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
TO STUDENTS  
ATTENDING THE  
CATHOLIC”

The Albert E. Farone and Angela T. Farone Foundation scholarships are awarded each year to students who apply to and are accepted at Catholic University of America in Washington D.C. The Farone Foundation’s mission statement reads: “The primary purpose of the Foundation is to provide funds to support the charitable, scientific, educational, literary and/or religious purpose of The Catholic University of America and to award scholarships to students attending The Catholic University of America with preference given in the following order:”

1. Students from Otsego County, New York
2. Students from Delaware County, New York
3. Students from any other part of the Albany Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church.

According to Fr. LeFort, the Albert E. Farone and Angela T. Farone Foundation awards 30 scholarships each year with the average scholarship around \$20,000. This year, a \$19,000 scholarship was awarded to a student from our parish; an immigrant who came to the United States one year ago and graduated from Bishop Maginn High School.

Albert E. Farone was born around 1903 and died in 1980. He was an attorney and lived in Oneonta, New York. In 1976, he was awarded The Trustees Gold Medal by Albany Law School. It is the highest accolade bestowed by Albany Law School and is given to an individual who has demonstrated a record of exemplary support and dedication to the advancement of Albany Law School

Catholic University was founded by the Catholic bishops of the United States with a charter from then Pope Leo XII, to be the national university of the Catholic Church in America. It’s first academic year began in 1889.

Catholic University’s website is: <https://www.catholic.edu>

Mailing Address: The Catholic University of America  
Office of Undergraduate Admissions  
620 Michigan Ave. N.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20064  
Phone: 800-673-2272

## Healthy Pantry Initiative

by Richard L. Capullo

Recently, Sr. Margaret Mary and her volunteers at the Cathedral Food Pantry participated in a voluntary workshop called “Just Say Yes to Fruits and Vegetables.” Just Say Yes (JSY) provides nutrition education for low income New Yorkers and those participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SNAP is New York State’s new name for the food stamp program.

Sister explained that the workshop demonstrated how to arrange the food shelves so that the healthier items are easily visible. For example, brown rice has more nutritional value than white rice, so the brown rice is positioned in a prominent position such as eye level. The white rice will be placed on a higher or lower shelf. The food group items are arranged so that as guests are guided through the food pantry, the items they will come to first are vegetables, then beans, then fruits and soups, the latter being the least healthy as it contains much sodium. Next are the breads and cereals and milk. Following the food items are the soaps and paper products.

In addition to shelf positioning, the volunteers learned to teach the guests about nutrition. Several signs are displayed throughout the Food Pantry highlighting food groups and nutritional information. Signs are written in English, Spanish, and Burmese (Myanmar).

Sister said, “we are in the infant stages of the healthy pantry initiative.” She said her volunteers are very enthusiastic about the program and are totally on board with the initiative. Sister Margaret Mary explained the volunteers have already begun teaching our guests how to prepare the food we offer at the pantry. George Webb has agreed to coordinate the program. He will be studying and teaching the volunteers recipes using healthy ingredients learned from Just Say Yes to Fruits and Vegetables videos and reading materials.

The workbooks and signs for the Just Say Yes to Fruits & Vegetables program was funded by the USDA Supplemental Nutrition Education Program (SNAP-Ed). For a wealth of nutritional information, visit <http://jsyfruitveggies.org>. Also visit USDA’s <https://www.choosemyplate.gov>.



“FOR I WAS HUNGRY  
AND YOU GAVE  
ME FOOD, I WAS  
THIRSTY AND YOU  
GAVE ME DRINK, I  
WAS A STRANGER  
AND YOU WELCOMED  
ME” MATTHEW 25:35.





Scenes from the  
Annual Cathedral  
Brunch, April 2018



## Bereavement Committee Update (continued)

Reminiscences like these help committee members to get a glimpse into the lives of those we celebrate during the funeral liturgy. They also provide the celebrant with personal information for his homily.

On the day of the funeral, bereavement committee members may act as greeters, readers, servers, or gift bearers if family members have not chosen to participate. Committee members often answer questions about the Cathedral and give practical advice on where to sit, when to go up for the readings, etc.

The bereavement committee sees its next step as one of Outreach. As Maureen Gross puts it: "We decided to expand the

ministry by extending our thoughts and prayers and cards to those who have lost loved ones.

"The time after the funeral can be very difficult. Prior to the funeral, there is a lot of activity in planning the wake and funeral, and still more activity with family friends and food arriving. All of that may slow down or stop after the day of the funeral.

"By sending cards the committee wants those who are bereaved to know that we continue to pray for them and their loved ones and their loss has not been forgotten."

During the song of farewell at the final commendation, the congregation sings, "May Christ who called you take you to Himself..."

The kind words and quiet presence of members of the bereavement committee during this difficult time of loss helps loved ones carry on. They help bring order to the days of hard transition and deep sorrow.

## Cathedral Chronicle Committee

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