

# Cathedral Chronicle

Winter 2018-19

Wishing you a blessed holiday season!



## Advent & Christmas Message 2018

*From Our Rector, the Very Reverend David R. LeFort*

Finally, with hope-filled expectation, we are able to welcome the **Nativity of the Lord** and sing with the angels, "Glory to God in the highest"! Merry Christmas to you and those you love. It is so good for us to gather around the crèche (generously gifted to the parish by the Altar Rosary Society in 1873) and dwell on the nativity scene—to see the glorious fruit of God's love for humanity; to see the fruit of our Advent hopes blossom. Yes, our Almighty God comes to us as a child, born of Mary and under the protection of Joseph. He is welcomed by simple shepherds and their livestock as he breaks into the world in the most humble conditions. May the commemoration of the Lord's birth in Bethlehem remind you that He comes as one of us, and may that truth fill your hearts and warm your souls this Christmas Season.

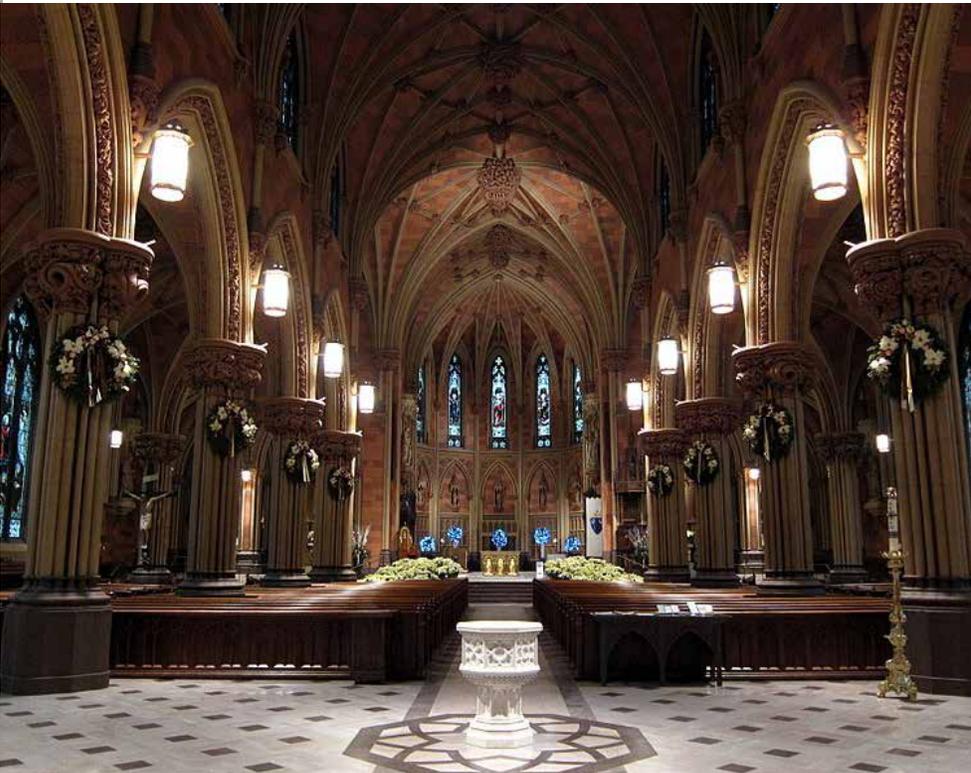


### OUR NEW ADVENT WREATH!



Parishioners and visitors are noticing our new Advent Wreath on the altar.

*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.*





## A Joyous Christmas at the Cathedral

*by Dale King*

DECEMBER IS A JOYOUS TIME AT THE CATHEDRAL AS WE AWAIT THE COMING OF OUR LORD AND HIS BIRTH. PLEASE JOIN INTO THE CELEBRATIONS WITH YOUR FELLOW PARISHIONERS.

Christmas is a time of celebration and joy throughout the world. This is no less true at our Cathedral where plans for the season have been underway for some time. We can expect to see the old customs and traditions that we have grown to love and we can also expect to welcome new events that we may want to make traditions. The beautiful nativity that we have seen each year will again be in view in the sanctuary of the Cathedral. The Christmas tree and carols that bring warmth and a glow to the season will also be a part of our celebrations as they have been in past years.

Our celebrations begin with Advent where we eagerly await the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. During each of the four Sundays of Advent we light a candle on the Advent Wreath. The glow of the candles symbolize the light of Christ who brings us out of the darkness. This year we'll welcome a new Advent Wreath that will be situated in the sanctuary of the Cathedral in full view of the congregation. The glow of the Advent candles and the beauty of what they symbolize will be easily seen and shared by all members of the congregation.

This season at the Cathedral there will be the first of what is hoped to be many concerts given by members of the Cathedral's music program. It will be a concert of Sacred Music in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the patroness of our Cathedral and the patroness of our Diocese. The Cathedral's orchestra and choir will be conducted by Dr. Brian F. Gurley, D.M.A. the Cathedral's Director of Music.

December 8th is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast day of our Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. This will be a Holy Day of Obligation for us and Mass will be offered by Bishop Scharfenberger at the Cathedral. Also in December is

the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. On this feast day Mass will be said at the Cathedral in Spanish.

As in past years there will be an Advent Reconciliation Service (on Tuesday, December 18th at 7:00 p.m.). The service will begin with a Liturgy of the Word to be followed by a homily and an examination of conscience. This beginning of the service will be held in common for all in attendance, but afterward each penitent will be able to have their confession heard individually by a confessor. There will be several priests available to serve as confessors to penitents.

December's celebrations culminate in the Mass of the Nativity of the Lord. This is the high celebration of the Incarnation, God's intimate entrance into His creation. On December 24th, Mass will be celebrated at 5:15 pm. Masses will also be celebrated at midnight and in the morning of Christmas day. A modified tradition prior to Midnight Mass will allow for a smoother transition; we will enjoy Lessons & Carols beginning at 11:15 p.m.

December is a joyous time at the Cathedral as we await the coming of our Lord and his birth. Please join into the celebrations with your fellow parishioners. Encourage your loved ones and friends to come with you to the Cathedral to help celebrate these occasions which are so important to us all.

## The Holy Relics at the Cathedral

by Brian Buff

On the Solemnity of All Saints, the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception held a Mid-afternoon Prayer service that included a rededication and exposition of the holy relics, and exaltation and veneration of the Relic of the True Cross.

The Very Reverend David R. LeFort, S.T.L., Vicar General and Rector of the Cathedral offered the following thoughts:

“The Saints—all of them—are members of Christ who used their bodily faculties for the glory of God in the service of His holy Church.

We honor the relics of the saints because their bodies are, in a sense, the Body of Christ. In each of them, the Son of God has been mystically incarnate; in every one of them He has prayed and labored and suffered in accordance with the Father’s will. How precious is our participation in His work and in His passion! How grateful we should be that He has deigned to share with us the pain and burden of His redemptive love!”

Relics are physical objects that have a direct association with the saints or with Our Lord. They are broken down into three classes:

- First class relics are the body or fragments of the body of a saint, such as pieces of bone or flesh.
- Second class relics are something that a saint personally owned, such as a shirt or book (or fragments of those items).
- Third class relics are those items that a saint touched or that have been touched to a first, second, or another third-class relic of a saint.

The word relic means “a fragment” or “remnant of a thing that once was but now is no longer.” Any part of the saint’s body is sacred and can be placed in a reliquary. Any and every bone may be used. In addition, flesh, hair, and sometimes blood, are also used.

Scripture teaches that God acts through relics, especially in terms of healing:

When the corpse of a man was touched to the bones of the prophet Elisha the man came back to life and rose to his feet. (2 Kings 13:20-21)

When handkerchiefs or aprons that had been touched to Paul were applied to the sick, the people were healed and evil spirits were driven out of them. (Acts 19:11-12)

The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that any good that comes about through a relic is God’s doing. But the fact that God chooses to use the relics of saints to work healing and miracles tells us that He wants to draw our attention to the saints as “models and intercessors” (Catechism, 828).

The Cathedral is blessed to have over three dozen sacred relics in its collection. These relics have been bequeathed to the Cathedral by Popes, Bishops, priests, individuals and institutions, such as the former Convent at Kenwood. There are also relics that have been transferred to the Cathedral as the diocese’s Mother Church from churches that have been closed.

The Cathedral’s relics represent holy men and women from across the existence of the Church, including the relics of Joseph, the spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Apostle Paul, Francis of Assisi, Scholastica, Thomas Aquinas, Benedict, Patrick, Rose of Lima, Jean Baptiste de la Salle, Elizabeth Ann Seton, Frances Cabrini, Pius X, and Charles Lwanga.

One of the treasures of the Cathedral, the Relic of the True Cross, was presented to Bishop Francis McNeirny by Pope Pius IX in 1877. Pius IX created the Diocese of Albany in 1847. The actual relic is about two-thirds of an inch in size, very slight, and is laid upon a larger cross of gold, surrounded in cruciform by fifty pearls and styled in vines, leaves and grapes of gold. The whole cross is supported by two gold kneeling angels who hold it in their raised hands.

In preparation for the rededication of the relics, the Cathedral has been reverently conserving the relics, including cleaning and repairing the reliquaries, and opening several metal boxes that contained relics from churches that have closed, so they could be properly cared for and the contents reviewed. All certificates of authenticity and historic paperwork associated with the relics has been scanned for posterity. A catalog of all of the Cathedral’s relics is being finalized and it will contain images of each relic, information on the saint, origin/donor information, and a condition report.



*Relic of St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary*



*An example of a joint reliquary in the Cathedral collection. This example holds 8 relics of saints.*



*Father LeFort blesses the relics on All Saints Day.*



*The Cathedral’s collection of relics.*



*Part of the conservation of the Cathedral’s relics included opening unidentified sealed boxes that contained relics, so they could be properly cared for and cataloged.*



*Relic of the True Cross*



*Closeup of the Relic of the True Cross*



## Deacon Tim Kosto

by Barbara Palumbo

On a September Sunday after the 11:00 Mass, I met with Deacon Timothy Kosto and before we got started with my prepared “Q’s & A’s,” the deacon and I spoke about the sex abuse crisis that the church is facing and its ripple effect among Catholics, not only in America, but across the world. (Remember that at the time of this interview, the crisis was the media’s top story on a daily basis.) Like so many others, I too struggled with this troubling issue, and my conversation with Deacon Tim helped assuage my anguish. He said that we need to face the crisis honestly; first we have to be a people of prayer because the awareness that God accompanies us comes in prayer. “The natural inclination,” he added, “might be to leave the church, but we need instead to engage with the church and with one another.” His comforting words and solid faith gave me hope for the future of our church.

My conversation with Deacon Tim about the diaconal ministry was most enlightening. I had no idea that the scope of a deacon’s ministry went far beyond that of his familiar role of assisting the priest at Mass. We began at the beginning, with the deacon giving me the historical background of the diaconate. The first deacons were commissioned in the early church as documented in The Acts of the Apostles (Acts 6:1-6). One of the many roles of the deacon in the early church was to take care of the poor and needy, including widows who were neglected in the community. The word “deacon” comes from the Greek word “diakonos,” which means “servant” or “helper,” and as is clear in The Acts of the Apostles, the deacon is called to the service of the faithful. As the ministry developed, deacons played a major part in the growth of the early church for the first four centuries. By the fifth century, however, the ministry of the permanent diaconate declined and gave way to the transitional diaconal ministry (those preparing for ordination to the priesthood). In 1967, Pope Paul VI formally restored the permanent diaconate in the Western church.

Deacon Tim was drawn to this ministry, and in 2008, began his formation, spanning a period of nine years.

- During the first two years, Deacon Tim completed the Formation for Ministry Program (FMP), which is the lay formation program through the Kateri Institute. This is a prerequisite for acceptance into the Diaconal Program.
- Then came “Aspirancy,” which was a year of intense discernment—a time of prayer and reflection with other aspirants who met once a month from July 2010 to June 2011.
- The Aspirancy year was followed by the “Candidacy” phase: three years of formation weekends and classes at St. Bernard’s School of Theology and Ministry. During Candidacy, the candidates study

homiletics and liturgy and continue their spiritual formation, after which comes ordination.

- Ordination was not the end of Diaconal Formation Program: post-ordination formation followed, and for the next three years, the four newly-ordained deacons as a group were provided with spiritual direction.

I was unaware that the ministry of the deacon is three-fold: Ministry of the Word, Ministry of the Liturgy, and Ministry of Charity. As ministers of the Word, deacons proclaim the Gospel, preach, lead the faithful in prayer, and teach in the name of the Church. As ministers of the Liturgy, deacons assist at Mass, baptize, witness marriages, bury the dead, and bring viaticum to the dying. As ministers of Charity, deacons participate in identifying the needs of others and organizing resources to meet those needs.

The word that keeps coming up in my background reading of the diaconate ministry is “service,” and indeed it is service that permeates the diaconal ministry. Deacon Tim’s first assignment was at St. Mary’s Church at Clinton Heights, Rensselaer; he subsequently was appointed by Bishop Scharfenberger to the Ministry of Liturgy for the Cathedral. This, however, is not his sole assignment: keeping in mind that the diaconate ministry is three-fold, and to fulfill his role as Minister of Charity, Deacon Tim splits his assignment here with a service responsibility at St. Mary’s called “Family Promise,” a national shelter program. Speaking with Deacon Tim about this program, I became completely caught up in his description of what is involved in this amazing nurturing program serving homeless families. I encourage every reader of this article to become informed about this wonderful program by using this link: <https://capitalregionfamilypromise.weebly.com/how-it-works.html>. Deacon Tim coordinates the St. John/St. Joseph shelter with volunteers from St. Mary’s at Clinton Heights, St. Michael’s in Troy, Sacred Heart in Castleton, Holy Spirit in East Greenbush, and the Community Congregational Church of Clinton Heights. This is a perfect service for Deacon Tim, it seems to me, since, as he told me, a deacon is an icon of Christ—a physical doorway—and his motivation and attraction for the diaconal ministry was to become more engaged in the social gospel, i.e., in being that very image of Christ by ministering to people. “The diaconal ministry,” he said “is a fulfillment of that service.”

Here at the Cathedral, in his role as Minister of the Liturgy we see Deacon Tim wearing a dalmatic (the outer vestment) over a stole worn over his left shoulder and tied at his right side (symbolically leaving his hands free so as to offer service). At the celebration of the Mass, Deacon Tim assists the priest, reflecting his identity of serving others.

The General Instructions of the Roman Missal (2010) describes the duties of the deacon at Mass as follows:

At Mass the deacon has his own part in proclaiming the Gospel, from time to time in preaching God’s Word, in announcing the intentions of the Universal Prayer, in ministering to the priest, in preparing the altar and in serving the celebration of the Sacrifice, in distributing the Eucharist to the faithful, especially under the species of wine, and from time to time in giving instructions regarding the people’s gestures and posture (§94).

One of the questions I asked Deacon Tim was what was one of the things he found rewarding in his ministry. I was not at all surprised when he replied that there are many rewards to being a deacon. He told me how much his faith has been enriched and strengthened, and how his faith has become more public; consequently, he has become more conscious about how to express his faith to others when they ask. The deacon, in his understated way, smiled and said simply, “Faith is faith. It’s an acceptance of a reality without having to prove it. We cannot prove the existence of God, but we cannot disprove it either. Faith in God will not be shaken by the crisis in the church.” Continuing in this train of thought, Deacon Tim told me that being a deacon has made him more prayerful, more reflective. As a permanent deacon, he is obliged to offer morning and evening prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours. “This,” he said, “results in forming a habit of reflecting on Scripture, with the concomitant effect of having service and preaching flow from that.”

In response to my question, “From your perspective, what does the Roman Catholic diaconate need today?” Deacon Tim replied, “More deacons.” “Deacons,” he told me, “by having a foot in two worlds, bring ideas of the secular world into the church and the church into the world. Sometimes the wisdom and perspective of the laity is important to help pastors become better pastors.”

As our meeting began to wind down, I asked Deacon Tim one last question: How does he manage to juggle his work life, his family life and his diaconal ministry? His answer was introspective as all his answers were. He responded that there are certain times when he has to make a choice; for example, at Christmas, he may not be able to assist at every Christmas Mass. And there are times, on a holyday, perhaps, when he has to leave work early because of heavy traffic to be present at an evening Mass. Regarding his home life, he and his wife Kathryn work together. The key, as with so many things, is balance and good communication.

Deacon Tim, may God continue to bless you in this crucial ministry.

## St. Isaac Jogues House of Discernment

by Dale King

Last month Cathedral parishioners were invited to an open house at the new St. Isaac Jogues House of Discernment. Our former Cathedral Convent has been renovated and re-purposed to be the new St. Isaac Jogues House of Discernment. It will be a home for pre-seminarians in the process of discerning if they have a calling to the priesthood. Father Ed Deimeke, the house director, was at the open house to give visitors some idea of the purpose of the house and what it will be like for the men living and working there. It will be a time of study for them while they prepare for possible further study as seminarians, but it will also be a time to begin their formation in liturgical service, pastoral care, and being in the life of the community found in a parish. They may also be working to not only meet their own financial needs but to be of service to the community and to further their own faith formation. Normally the men stay at the house for about a year but they may stay longer depending on their own situation and needs.

Our Rector, Father LeFort, was also there to show visitors through the building and offer an explanation of the renovations and future plans. The first floor includes the common areas that the men will share

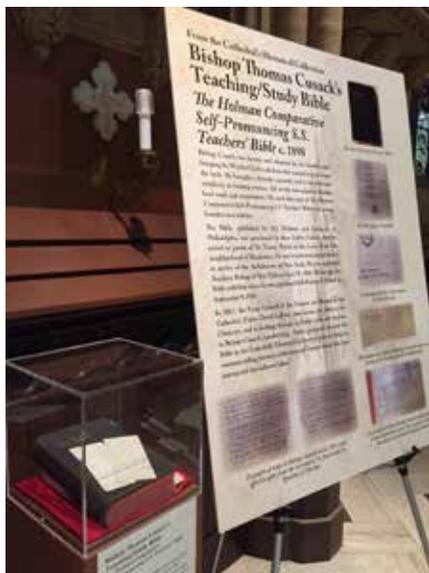
together. The lounge, dining room, and kitchen where the men will prepare their own meals are found on this floor. A beautiful Chapel is located at the farthest end of the hall. The second floor has the private rooms for up to fourteen men. The basement has meeting rooms and a large community room for formation and other activities that would require space for a larger group of participants. This is also space that will be available for the Cathedral parish.

The Cathedral parish welcomes the new House of Discernment and all the men that will be living and working there. These men could become a valuable resource for the parish as we welcome them into the life of our parish. Their formation includes community service and liturgical service that our own parishioners may need and value. We can expect to see them settled in by the end of the year, let's encourage and support them in their formation.



*Father LeFort speaking in the Chapel of the House of Discernment.*

## Other Cathedral Happenings



For the third year, the Cathedral celebrated New York State History Month with a historical exhibit featuring items from our historical collection, including a zucchetto worn by Venerable Pope Pius XII, Bishop Thomas Cusack's study Bible, and information about the relics at the Cathedral.



The children of the Cathedral's Faith Formation program recently made Christmas cards and gift bags for seniors in need.

## David Ucci – The Cathedral’s Facilities Manager

*by Mary Wong*

David Ucci, a Cathedral parishioner for 32 years, has joined the staff as Facilities Manager. Hired at the end of May, David’s job encompasses all aspects of construction, restoration, and facilities management for the church, former convent, school, and rectory.

David has some advice about the pronunciation of his name. “In Italian it’s like Gucci without the G. However, my mother changed the pronunciation to “You-see”.

He comes to the parish after a stint in the financial planning industry and as a certified chef. For the last 21 years he has worked in industrial construction.

David earned an MBA in Sustainable Business from Marylhurst University in Portland Oregon. When asked how an MBA will be useful in his present work he says, “My MBA allows me to apply full systems-thinking to solve issues that arise from a facilities management standpoint.”

He recently completed an Executive Certificate in Sustainability Leadership (EESL) Program at the Center for Climate, Health and the Global Environment from Harvard’s TH Chan School of Public Health. He’s currently working on getting a Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) in Global Sustainable Management at Anaheim University Akio Morita School of Business and the Kisho Kurokawa Green Institute.

“My interest in sustainability started in 2008 when I became a member of Slow-Food USA which promotes good, clean and fair food.” He explains that he now incorporates all aspects of sustainability into his everyday life. David, as the father of two children, Nicolette, 17 and Matthew, 15, abides in the principle of an ‘inter-generational responsibility’ that Pope Francis writes about in ‘On Care for our Common Home (Laudato Si)’. David seeks to advocate as a voice, and implement sustainability initiatives at the Cathedral and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany (RCDA). Since coming on board in May, David has been involved in all Cathedral building and restoration

projects. One such project, the East Window restoration, is within the targeted completion date. Other projects currently in the works are the repair of the Jefferson Street sidewalks and the concrete stairs leading to the parking lot. They are part of New York State’s property and will be addressed next Spring/Summer; The convent building is in the final phase of renovation as it becomes the new House of Discernment for the RCDA; The boilers and the roof in McGinn High School are in the process of replacement. That work should be completed next spring.

“There are always challenges in managing a 166 year old building like the Cathedral,” David observes. For example during a storm last summer a 100 year old cast iron roof drain broke loose and 15 inches of water filled the Cathedral’s basement.

When asked what he likes about his new job, David says he enjoys the pace and tone that Fr. LeFort has set for the parish. He enjoys working at the Father’s pace in accomplishing the strategic vision for the Cathedral. “The Church is a ‘beacon of hope’ for all people,” he says, “and the staff, myself included, enjoys working to embrace that strategic mission.”

Fr. LeFort is delighted to have the new Facilities Manager on staff. “David’s genuine love for our parish has found new expression since he accepted the position...he brings a passionate sense of stewardship for the care and ongoing good of our facilities. I am so grateful for his dedication, his professional expertise and his very strong work ethic.”

We welcome long-time parishioner David Ucci to the staff at the Cathedral and wish him well. In Fr. LeFort’s words, “We’re blessed to have him!”



*Facilities Manager David Ucci (center) with Sacristans Brian Cosgrave and Martin Powell.*



## Sr. Margaret Mary Hohl, DC Retires

by *Richard Capullo*

For 10 years, Sister Margaret Mary Hohl, DC, operated the Cathedral Social Services including its most visible outreach program, the Food Pantry. It is hard to describe in words the energy, compassion, innovation and dedication she brought to the task. One would need to see her dragging heavy bags of clothes down the long pantry hallway and up and down the its steps to witness her strength and determination. Describing some of her accomplishments during her tenure might shed light on this remarkable lady.

- Sister and a companion drove to a Buffalo, NY warehouse returning the same day to purchase discounted winter coats which were distributed to our Food Pantry guests.
- A back to school program with Payless Shoes was initiated to provide free shoes for school children.
- Sister and volunteers participated in annual Crop Walks to raise money to feed the hungry. They walked in all kinds of weather for the Food Pantry.
- The pace of work accelerated during the Thanksgiving season when turkeys were purchased, provisions acquired, sorted and bagged to assure Pantry guests a meaningful Thanksgiving.
- With barely a chance to recover from hectic Thanksgiving activities, preparations began for the Christmas season. A Christmas Giving Tree was erected and decorated and placed near the rear Cathedral entrance. Tags coded with the age and size of each child adorned the tree. Generous parishioners plucked a tag from the tree and purchased, wrapped and delivered gifts to the Pantry for later pick up by the parent guests. Toys were collected from parishioners at St. Thomas Church in Delmar and from other donors and were given to the children.

The everyday running of the Pantry was an intense operation. Maintaining financial records; placing orders to the Food Bank and the Food Pantries of NENY while paying close attention to working within her budget; learning to display the food items according to nutritional value as per USDA guidelines; fund raising; soliciting and purchasing personal items not offered by the Food Bank such as paper products and personal hygiene items. Sister and her volunteers began a home delivery service to bring food to the home bound.

Besides providing for the nutritional needs, Sister provided counseling and other services to improve the lives of our guests. For those who lacked transportation, bus tokens were given to those who needed to attend a job interview or medical appointment. Those facing eviction would consult with Sister. She would direct them to the appropriate agency to handle their issue. She advocated for an immigrant who after living in the US for over 25 years was to be deported.

The above activities would exhaust most people. Consider the fact that Sister Margaret Mary began her career at the parish ten years ago at an age when most people were well beyond retirement age. The Octogenarian could burn out the Energizer Bunny. And she loved every minute of it!

Born and raised in Copley, PA about a half mile north of Allentown, Margaret Mary was the oldest of 7 children; 3 brothers and 3 sisters. Her father was the town Dentist. She attended undergraduate Catholic schools followed by Regis College in Boston, majoring in sociology and psychology. After becoming a Daughter of Charity, she received a master's degree in education at NY State College at Cortland.

"From the time I was in 7th grade, I wanted to be in religious life," Sister explained. "My parents insisted I must go to college first. At college I dated and led a normal student life. A Vincentian priest suggested that I meet Sr. Olivia, Daughter of Charity. I made an appointment to meet Sister at a Maternity House in Dorchester, MA, where Sr. Olivia worked. While sitting in the waiting room, I watched a nun talking with two children who were waiting patiently for their parents and their newborn sibling. When the parents entered the room, the nun made a fuss over the newborn. The encounter made a strong impression on me. When I went in for the interview, I was surprised to see that Sister in the Hall was the Administrator of the Daughters of Charity Maternity Hospital. I witnessed a real humanness in her that inspired me. I soon learned that the Daughters of Charity have a similar spirit. This encounter and subsequent interviews convinced me that I had found the right community."

After college, Margaret Mary entered the 4-year training and discernment process at Daughters of Charity in Emmitsburg, MD. "At the end of formation, we were given a name. I was given the name Sister Vincent de Paul because my father was the dentist for the Vincentian Fathers in Northampton, PA," Sister said. "After my father died, times changed, and we were allowed to select our baptismal name. So, I became Sister Margaret Mary, which was my mother's name and my baptismal name."

After formation Sister was sent on a "mission" teaching the primary grades in a Catholic school in Wilmington, DE. Three years later Sister Mary Margaret took the vows of Poverty, Chastity, Obedience and Service to the Poor. Her assignments took her to Baltimore, Johnson City, Bridgeport, CT, and Holbrook, MA teaching elementary education. She returned to Emmitsburg, MD as a docent, giving tours of the Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Her final assignment was the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Albany, NY. After 10 years serving God in the caring for the disadvantaged, Sister retired to the DePaul Provincial House where she volunteers in the campus Chapel and driving sisters to appointments. One day a week she serves meals at St. John's meal program in the South End of Albany.

"I took my vows 60 years ago and now I'm in my 80's. After being in the community for 60 years I can say it was the best decision I ever made, thanks to God. I can say that without a shadow of a doubt. I am totally fulfilled. I was able to reach out to the less fortunate and I've been given the opportunity to fulfill my spiritual life."

An article on Sister Margaret Mary would not be complete without citing her constant praise and appreciation for the hard-working volunteers at the Cathedral Food Pantry. "Without the dedication of our volunteers the Food Pantry would not be efficient and effective. Our volunteers are dedicated and take 'ownership' of the Pantry," said Sister.

Thank you, Sister, for serving as a witness to what it means to be a Christian and to serve others with unselfish vigor. Sister Margaret Mary can be reached at: The DePaul House, 96 Menands Rd, Albany, NY 12204.

## New Staff at the Cathedral

*by Dale King*

The Cathedral parish has added two new staff members. Melissa Martinez has taken the position as Liturgical Coordinator. Also, Mark Ciavardoni has come on board as Director of Social Services. The Cathedral parish welcomes these two new staff members and looks forward to seeing them about and getting to know them. Look for profiles of these new staff members in future issues of the Cathedral Chronicle.

## Blessing of the Animals

On the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, the Cathedral held its annual Blessing of the Animals. Parishioners brought their dogs, cats, and even a rabbit and guinea pig to be blessed by Father LeFort, our Rector.



## Cathedral Chronicle Committee

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