

Catholic Youth Today



FALL 2017

FAMILY AND FRIENDS SERVICE RETREAT

CATHOLIC YOUTH TODAY

is published by the Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries on behalf of the teenagers and adults who make up our ministry and our benefactors who support our ministry

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Thomas (left) and Chris DalCeredo sand wood for bunk beds.

Our family recently participated in the Family & Friends Service Retreat at CYFM. In anticipation of the weekend, we were looking forward to working together to serve others in our community. We were very pleased by the beautiful retreat aspect incorporated into the weekend.

The talks, reflections, and prayer time opened our hearts to each other, the wonderful people we shared the weekend with, and the five families we were serving. We learned about the families who would receive the bunk beds we made as our service. We prayed for them throughout the weekend and we have taken them home in our hearts and continue to keep them in our prayers.

So much peace and relaxation comes from being on retreat together as a family. You can fully immerse yourself in the weekend because there are no concerns about what is going on at home or the distractions of everyday life. We have shared this enlightening time together and continue to draw on what we have learned as a family.

Everyone we met was warm and welcoming. We felt so comfortable with everyone as if we were a one big family.

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Fr. Erik Lenhart, OFM Cap. polyurethanes wood for bunk beds.

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FAMILY AND FRIENDS SERVICE RETREAT

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We worked together, shared our meals and a little piece of our lives.

As usual, at the end of the weekend you feel like you don't want to go home. During our last breakfast, we mentioned to Fr. Erik that we did not want to go home to the "real world." Fr. Erik responded, "This is the real world, this is how the real world should be."



Nathalie O'Neil (left), Michele Cassieri (center), and Sarah Godbout stain wood for bunk beds.



We talked about this when we came home.

We were given keychains of the wood used for the bunk beds as a reminder of our service weekend and what we have learned. When we look at them, we remember that sharing our faith with others, praying together, and serving others is what we will strive for the real world to be for our family.

~ Michele and Will Cassieri

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

A "Fourth Day Retreat!" Why didn't we think of this before? It makes perfect sense: DDA is, for many, the beginning of their journey with the Lord, having had the personal encounter with Him on the retreat. For others, it is a significant step on their journey which began elsewhere. DDA was never meant to be any kind of a final step or an end to the journey. So why not find one additional way to challenge, encourage, nourish, and support those who make DDA with an opportunity to deepen their relationship with Jesus among others who have had the DDA experience?

With the decision to change the format of our DDA retreat to a three-day experience, some things had to be dropped from the schedule. As we contemplated these changes, someone suggested bringing them back in a new retreat. Then, we realized that there are many more aspects of the spiritual life on which we could focus.

Fr. Fred has convened a DDA Administrative Board to continue to involve members of the CYFM community in the administrative tasks of the DDA program. One of the items on their agenda for a recent meeting was this concept of a fourth day retreat. It was met with enthusiasm and some are beginning to fashion the retreat. Some of the elements might include the vocations talks and

adding teaching about the place of discernment in our lives. Most all who make a DDA commit to being more intentional about prayer in their lives. We are talking about helping participants to take their prayer to the next level. There is so much that we can do.



We envision this to be a co-ed retreat experience. We hope it will be ready for an April debut. Share your ideas and hopes with Fr. Fred. It will incorporate many of the elements that have made DDA a powerful evangelizing experience for many years: Collaboration between friars and laity, youth and adults; a variety of experiences that will speak to the many different people who seek a deeper relationship with God through their retreat at CYFM; an emphasis on creating a space where God can create Gospel community among participants.

Pray with us as we embark on this new retreat experience. Pray that God will enlighten those who are planning it, those who will be on team, and those who will experience the retreat. Relying on the Holy Spirit's guidance and the faith and creativity of our community, it will be a retreat in which people, young and old, will continue to 'Make Faith Their Own.'

~ Tom Brinkmann

ASK THE PADRE

"How's life?"

This year, I commemorate a milestone. I have been blessed to celebrate 60 years of Religious Life as a Capuchin.

It all began after I spent four wonderful years at Glenclyffe High School, our minor seminary in Garrison, N.Y. (Hey! I'm still here!) I graduated in June and entered our novitiate on August 31st, 1957. One month after our soon-to-be-beatified Capuchin friar Solanus Casey died, I began my life as a Capuchin friar.

I can describe my 60 years from then until now with the same message I received on a pair of socks given to me with a smiley face printed on them, "Life is good!" I have truly enjoyed my 60 years which can be divided up into three segments.

Eighteen years were in formation (I was a slow learner ☺) of which nine years were spent being formed and nine years forming others. What a gift to be able to train others in the life I love. I have also spent seventeen years in parish ministry 13 of which I was a Pastor in two different parishes, St Joseph's in Portland, Maine and St. Pius X in Middletown, Connecticut. They were wonderful years in two vibrant parishes with wonderful and supportive parishioners.

Along the way I spent a couple of years in what we called our House of Prayer up on a hill in Marlboro, New York with two other friars. There I lived the contemplative side of our life, while also offering others the opportunity

and place to get away from their busy lives for prayer and quiet. (I dream of those days when things get overly active).

Finally, in August of next year, I will have completed 20 years in ministering to youth, a ministry filled with life, energy, and joy. How did I get from day one to the present? A lot of loving people have influenced my journey.

First, there are the friars whom I call my Capuchin brothers. Second, the many loving people I have met in my different ministries whom I call friends. And third, is my loving family, including my sister whom I call Barb. She still welcomes me to a place I call "home" when I visit, even though I have not actually lived "at home", since I was 13 years old.

Of course, finally there is Jesus who called me and has been with me every step of the way and whom I have found in others and tried to be to others as St. Francis was "a person in whom and through whom Christ lives."

That definition of a Christian given to all who have been a part of our DDA retreat has been at the heart of my journey. I am grateful to each and every one of you who have guided and journeyed with me and allowed me to see Christ in you. I can truly say of my 60 years as a Capuchin; "Life is good," very good!

~ Fr. Fred, A Happy and Grateful Friar



CCV PERSPECTIVE

When I decided to go to college at Wheeling Jesuit University I was met with questions from family and friends back home in the Pittsburgh area. They were along the lines of: We have plenty of good Catholic schools in Pittsburgh, why go out of state? Why West Virginia? Why the Jesuits? Four years later, when I told people I was moving to the Hudson Valley to do a year of volunteer service with the Capuchin Corps Volunteers, I was flooded with similar questions. Each time, I did not really know the answers to all these questions, but I did know that there was something drawing me to both. It could be called an urging of the heart.

After my four years at WJU, I knew exactly why I needed to go there. My education was accompanied by personal, emotional, spiritual, and social growth. I came out with a new perspective and a new love for service, community, and those on the margins of society. I started to understand my faith and God not just in a church, but out in the world as well.

That urging of the heart was actually God calling me there. Being a Wheeling Jesuit Cardinal was my vocation for those four years and something that will continue to touch my life for years to come.

I have only been at Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries for about three months, but I know that I am here because this too is a calling from God. This is my vocation for this year, and I could not be happier to be living it out. The Capuchins are teaching me, through their example, new ways to love and encounter those I meet each day. It will be another year filled with growth in every area of my life.

The Jesuits helped me fill in the cracks in my foundation of faith, and the Capuchins are helping me build up from that foundation. God has called me to each, and I am so glad that He did.

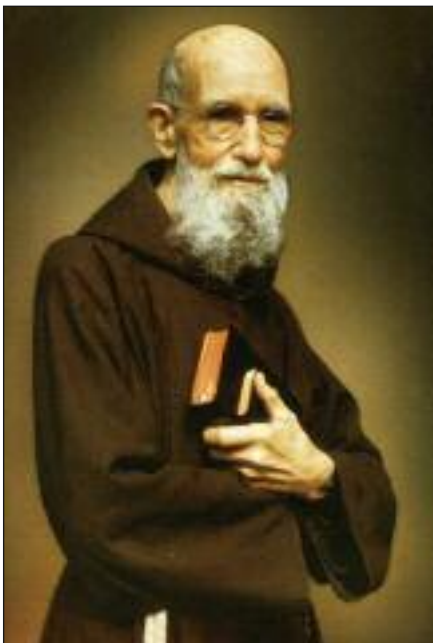
~ Krista Sudyk



SOMETHING FRANCISCAN

Five Things You Need to Know about Blessed Solanus Casey, OFM Cap.

What do U2, Beyoncé, and Fr. Solanus Casey have in common? They've all sold out Ford Field. On Nov. 18th, Solanus Casey, OFM Cap. was beatified. Over 60,000 people celebrated as Solanus took the next step to potentially becoming the first American-born male Saint. Here are a few quick biographical notes on Fr. Solanus.



1. He was the son of immigrants. Solanus' parents Bernard and Ellen (née Murphy) Casey independently moved to the U.S. in the 1850s in the aftermath of the famine in Ireland. They met in Maine, married in Massachusetts, and eventually settled in Wisconsin after Abraham Lincoln signed the Homestead Act of 1862, which encouraged westward migration by offering citizens millions of acres of farmable land. Solanus was the sixth of 16 children, ten boys and six girls. Two of his brothers also became priests.

2. He was a Capuchin Franciscan. Although he began his vocational journey in a Diocesan Seminary in Detroit, he struggled academically. He was encouraged by the seminary's rector to continue his vocation and serve the poor with the less academically inclined Capuchins. Born Bernard "Barney" Casey, he took his religious name from St. Francis Solanus, a 16th century Spanish Franciscan missionary to Latin America, where he like Solanus Casey played the violin.

3. He was a "simplex priest," a category which no longer exists. Solanus was ordained in 1904, but due to his lack of academic success, he was not granted faculties to preach doctrinal sermons or hear confessions. Solanus was very intelligent, but had difficulty in studies because the classes were offered in German and Latin, with which Solanus had little facility.

4. He ministered in three U.S. cities. Solanus worked in Detroit (St. Bonaventure), Yonkers (Sacred Heart), and NYC (St. John the Baptist, Our Lady of Lourdes, Queen of Angels). Like many Capuchin saints, Solanus was a porter or doorman for the friary. This gave Solanus endless contact with the poor during the Great Depression. In addition to offering people soup and bread, Solanus counseled people with spiritual, emotional, or physical issues. Solanus kept a record of healings and miraculous occurrences through the Seraphic Mass Association enrollments which filled up several notebooks. He was a priest, "who smelled like the sheep."

5. Gratitude was his hallmark. Like the first canonized Capuchin, Felix of Canticle "Br. Deo Gratias" Thanksgiving was Solanus' constant refrain. Solanus viewed gratitude to God as a strong path to advance in sanctity. Conversely, Solanus viewed ingratitude as closing the door to reason, peace, and charity.



~ Fr. Erik Lenhart, OFM Cap.

Quotes from Fr. Solanus Casey letters and correspondence:

"Gratitude is the first sign of a thinking, rational creature."

"Thank God ahead of time."
Often said to people he counseled.

"Gratitude is one of the surest indications of intelligence, and atheism is the blackest ingratitude possible."

"If the enemy of our soul is pleased at anything in us, it is ingratitude of any kind. Why? Ingratitude leads to so many breaks with God and our neighbor."

RENEW AND REFRESH

The Renew & Refresh retreat (R&R) sure did live up to its name, it was just the weekend I needed before starting my stressful senior year of high school.

As high school students, all of us on the retreat had a lot on our minds about the year to come. As a rising senior, I felt anxious and stressed about the intense college application process looming. However, after my R&R weekend, I was reminded God has a plan for me, and with Him I will prevail in spite of the pressure from school and other activities that consume my time.



Teens play a card game to unwind before bed.

questions about the upcoming year. It gave ample time to not only reflect on our year to come, but make a new friend as well.

The community on any CYFM retreat is incredible, and R&R was no exception.

I was able to reconnect with my past CYFM friends while making new ones at the same time. I had the opportunity to get to get to know people at the bonfire Friday night, including Fr. Erik, and the new CCVs, Andrew and Krista.

I think R&R fulfilled its purpose. It gave lots of time for



Sydney Elmer (left), Isaac Regalado (center) and Maria Teresa Furtado work in small group.



Cap Corps Volunteer Krista Sudyk (right) talks with teens before Saturday's morning prayer.

The loose structure of the retreat led to a relaxing and fun atmosphere, while still focusing on the theme of the weekend, Franciscan Spirituality. As we learned about the ways of St. Francis and the friars, we were reminding ourselves of the importance of our faith in the upcoming school year.

One of my favorite parts of the weekend was the Emmaus walk, where each person on the retreat was matched up with another, and given time to answer

reflection and relaxation, and reminded those attending about the importance of keeping faith alive in the midst of a busy school year. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to spend my last weekend of summer at CYFM, because where else would I rather be?

~ Allison Molski



CAPUCHIN APPALACHIAN MISSION

For 8 days in the middle of July in Harlan, Kentucky I suffered from many bug bites, splinters, and had not taken one full shower. But I wouldn't have changed those 8 days for anything.

I came to the Capuchin Appalachian Mission (CAM) unsure of what to expect. Being new to CYFM, the idea of going on a trip with over 80 strangers was very daunting. However, like many had done, I put my trust in God and let Him lead the way.

That week I was a part of the senior ministry, where we would go to the Harlan Nursing home and spend time with over 100 residents. For some of them we would be their only visitors all year.

Throughout the week we painted ice cream piggy banks, played several games of bingo, corn-hole, and too many games of checkers. We sang and danced, and sang some more. We saw God in so many ways every day through the residents.

The theme of CAM was "the Joy of Love" and we repeatedly saw God in the love shown between residents. We saw love in the way that Bill always bought Joanna yellow roses. We saw love in the way that Juanita and



A teen works with a circular saw on her work site in Harlan, Kentucky.



Cap Corps Volunteer Dan Adrat (center left) poses with the teens on his work site.

as "poor," but they are tremendously rich in love and spirit, and that's something that is so beautiful.

God brought us all to Harlan for different reasons. I think everyone on the trip could agree that we went to Harlan



Teens enjoy a moment during their week helping with a vacation bible school.

with the intentions of serving Him and the people of Harlan, but left with much more. I will never forget the experiences I shared in Harlan on CAM with my new-found best friends and "CAMily." God brought me to the Capuchin Appalachian Mission for so many amazing reasons that I didn't know until now. I feel so blessed that He brought me to all of my fellow missionaries and to this amazing organization. He showed me through Harlan and the Gospel community what "the Joy of Love" really is.

~ Jenna Hawke



CAPUCHIN OUTREACH PROGRAM

"All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish a single candle"

- St. Francis of Assisi

I feel like this quote accurately represents how inspired and energetic I became throughout the week I spent on CYFM's Capuchin Outreach Program (COP). It also encapsulates how the experience changed my life.



Teens lead a vacation bible school at CYFM.

times to be serious, reflect and offer meaningful advice that allowed me to see things from a different point of view.

Each night we had opportunities for Eucharistic adoration, reflection and meditation, and even a talent show where we

This was my second time doing COP. Both times I have taken part in manual labor. However, each time has impacted me in a unique way. Service allowed me to give back, to see the work that

were not afraid to show off our amazing talents. These experiences with these people, including the service and prayer we did together all impacted my life spiritually



Maria Teresa Furtado (center) poses for a photo with children after a meal at CYFM.



Fr. Tom McNamara, OFM Cap. speaks at a service at CYFM's outdoor chapel.

needs to be done in our world, and to see how grateful the people I was serving were for only a week's worth of service.

and mentally. They have helped me to keep a positive attitude and remain motivated to take a more active role within my own community, in terms of service to the less fortunate members of our society.

The service, while a very large and prevalent part of COP, is not the only part of the program. Another important part is the people I met. Each person was unique and shared the same love of service and God. I have seldom come across people like this and wish I could spend more of my time with these welcoming, energetic and inspired people. We were all constantly there for each other for times of laughter, as well as

I'm glad God led me to be part of the CYFM community and to participate in C.O.P.

~ Brian Farrell III



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Maureen Weissler-Hoefl

I am so glad to have this opportunity to be a part of the CYFM Newsletter! I look back on my Lay Assistant / Cap Corps years with a lot of gratitude and love.

After leaving CYFM in 2006, I worked as a youth minister at my home parish in St. Louis, Missouri. I spent some time discerning a call to international volunteering, but instead I found God reminding me that He desires “mercy, not sacrifice.” So I emailed Brother Lake to see if there was a Maureen-sized position at one of my favorite places in the world, and so began my second year as a CCV. After that I took my missionary mindset to the classroom -- teaching English at my own high school, again back in St. Louis.

After six years of teaching, I could tell that my call was shifting and found that Boys Hope Girls Hope International was seeking a coordinator for their National Volunteer Corps. I was interested in this job because I consider my volunteer years to be some of the most significant learning opportunities I have ever had.



I learned many lessons in the Red House and at CYFM, and I draw on them all the time. My years with CYFM were formational, and I’m so thankful to CYFM and my two Red House families -- Claire, Lori, Ann, & Pokey and Jenn, Emma, & Matt.

My position at BHGH shifted toward technology systems management over time, which I enjoyed, but I recently came across a new job opportunity that will allow me to tap into my “Franciscan side” by coordinating volunteer groups for Kingdom House St. Louis, which embraces those living in poverty in St. Louis to help them find a path out of poverty and to self-sufficiency. I’ll also be working with a team to educate people on matters of social justice. I’m sure I will yet again find myself benefiting from lessons learned while at CYFM. It is good to feel that I remain a part of something that continues to do so much good with so much love.

~ Maureen Weissler-Hoefl

A special note for families who work for IBM:

You can now find CYFM on the official list for the IBM Employee Charitable Campaign. If you give to that campaign, please consider designating your contribution for CYFM and help support our ministry with young people and their families.

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Carolyn Humphrey	Kevin & Anna Markowski	Marisa & Christopher Nadareski	Margarita Rivera-Zuleta	Annie Strong
William J. Iori	Patricia Marsteller	Karen Nelthrope	Joseph Ronan	Carolyn Sullo
Lou & Doreen Jablonski	Gloria Martin	Kim Nelthrope	Susan Roos	Stephanie Sullo
Jennifer M. Jackman-Joseph	Roberta & Nunzio Mastromarino	Jenny & Steve Nicolosi	Pamela A. Russo	Anthony & Karen Szalkiewicz
Dunbar C. John	Mr. & Mrs. Gaetano Mastropiero	Carol Noble	Brother Thomas Ryan	Patricia Tenthorey
Richard & Barbara John	Claire Kessinger Mathey	Notre Dame Parish	Robert St. Germain	Mr. & Mrs. John R. Thompson
Gregory & Susan Jones	Emily Mattia	Francis M. O'Brien	Sacred Heart Church, Hartsdale	Rosemary Thorn
Joan & Foster Josey	Sherry Mauro	Kathleen O'Brien-Joyce IMO Pat Curtin	St. Coleman Parish	Patricia A. Tosi
Juliet Moreno Juarez	Stephanie Mauro	David O'Connell	St. Columba	Cathrine Trapasso & Eleanor Farrell
K of C #462, Peekskill	Frances Maxwell	Rafael & Christine Omana	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church	Bruce Unger
K of C #5800, New Paltz	Anthony Mazzarella	Aidan & Joseph O'Neill	St. Francis of Assisi	Andrea Protzmann Van Gestel
Msgr. Raymond M. Collins, Kof C #6205	Thomas Mazzarella IMO Jeffrey Smith	Brian & Evelyn O'Neill	St. Francis Church, Newburgh	Carmen Vazquezteell
Karen & Kristin Kain	Colleen McArdle	Lillian Ortiz	St. Gregory Barbarigo Church	David & Joan Vaughan
Patricia Kallmann	Jean A. McAward	Monserate Ortiz	St. Joachim/St. John Church	Lorraine Velardi
Martin Kane	Judith A. McCain	Sylvia Orttz	St. John the Baptist, Pawtucket, RI	Kathryn Vignini
Tom & Marian Kane	Jane Mare McCarthy	Victory A. Ortiz & Family	St. Joseph's Church Seniors Group	George & Elizabeth Vogel
James & Virginia Kavanagh	Dennis McCormack	Janice Oros	St. Kateri	David Wagner
Robert Kay IMO Jeannette M. Feminella	Morgan Fakhouri McLeon	Hugh O'Rourke	St. Pius X Church	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Wahl
Terri Keogh	John & Gertrude McMachan	Christine Ordaz & Michael Gagnon	St. Stephen	Julia & John Walsh
Arnel & Mary Kimmett	Christopher P. Mee & Virginia Vettoretti	John Owsianik, Jr.	St. Thomas the Apostle	Lynn Walsh
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William & Patricia Larkin	Andrew Moeykens	Ana T. Piquero & Steven Marcisz	Joan Shaughnessy	Carl Wolfson
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Susie Leavey		Christine Pompa		Diane Zimmitti
Mary P. Lenney		Robert Pons		

Stay up-to-date on all that is happening here at CYFM!

To help us save money on printing/ mailing costs, and in keeping with our Patron Saint's love of all creation, we invite you to move from our print newsletter list to the electronic format list.

Please take just a minute & send an email to: Maryellen@cyfm.org with subject "Newsletter" include your name and email address (if you want to get retreat/program notifications too, just let us know); and voilà, you've just made

St. Francis and CYFM very happy! You can also keep up with our happenings by following us on

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and find us on YouTube and Flickr.

Thank You

We celebrate and thank the members of our community who have stepped forward over the past two months to make our ministry happen. The following have spent time in the kitchen, preparing meals as a prayer and sacrifice for those making retreat.

Kitchen Palanca	Paul Francisco	McKenzie Malcolm	Maria Regalado
William, Michele, Olivia	Jonathan & Emily Goldwasser	Maura Musso	Dominic Seccchitano
Cassieri	Kevin Marsteller	Ben Reale	Kim Sendelback
Katie Cavazzini	Kim Nelthrope	Jose-Luis Regalado	

The following generous and faith-filled souls have volunteered to serve on one or more of our parish and school retreats. Thank you! It would have been very difficult without you.

Retreats	Julie Brinkmann	Ben Reale	Mary Ellen Yannitelli
Anthony Bellino	Katie Cavazzini	Josephine Sardo	
Ananda Brinkmann	McKenzie Malcolm	Joe Whitton	<i>Thank you!</i>

What's Happening

January – July 2018

JANUARY

- Jan 6Volunteer Christmas Party
- Jan 7-11College Capuchin Outreach Program
- Jan 19-21Capuchin Youth Leadership Training
- Jan 26-277th & 8th Grade Overnight (Morality)
- Jan 27-287th & 8th Grade Overnight (Morality)

FEBRUARY

- Feb 16-18Girls' DDA Retreat Weekend
- Feb 23-25Women's Retreat

MARCH

- Mar 2-4Saints for Youth
- Mar 9-11Boys' DDA Retreat Weekend
- Mar 25Living Stations

APRIL

- Apr 13-15Girls' DDA Retreat Weekend

MAY

- May 4Annual Dinner Dance
- May 5CYFM Senior Retreat
- May 18-20Capuchin Youth Leadership Retreat

JUNE

- Jun 3Family Festiva
- Jun 24-29Capuchin Outreach Program

JULY

- Jul 7-15Capuchin Appalachian Mission
- Jul 20CCV Send-off

ALWAYS DOUBLE CHECK before you plan!

PLEASE NOTE that these dates and activities are subject to change.

P.O. Box 192 • 781 Route 9D, Garrison, NY 10524

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"Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries," a ministry of the Capuchin Franciscans of the Province of St. Mary of the Capuchin Order, a not-for-profit religious institution having its principal office at St. Conrad Friary, 30 Gedney Park Drive, White Plains, New York 10605.

For more information, please call our development office at (212) 564-0759 ext 252

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHS

7/4/17 – A son, Gabriel Joseph Carvalho, born to Teresa and David Carvahlo (CCV 2012/2013).

7/21/17 – A daughter, Eleanor Louise Niemiec, born to Ellen Romer and Brian Niemiec (CCV 2009/2010).

9/5/17 – A daughter, Codyre Grace Lowe, born to April Reece (LA 2006/2007) and Sean Lowe.

9/20/17 – A son, Leo John Favorito, born to Jessica Robinson Favorito (LA 2001/2002) and Michael Favorito.

DEATHS

10/13/17 – Dorothy Anne Delia, mother of Michael D. Delia, Sr.(CAM 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2014); Mother-In-Law of Linda (CAM 2014, 2015; DDA 205); Grandmother of (among others): Nicole (DDA 175); Brooke (COP 2007; CAM 2008, 2009; DDA 189, 202, 205); Kristin (CAM 2008, 2009, 2010; DDA 210); and Michael, Jr. (CAM 2012, 2014, 2015; DDA 233, 238).

10/15/17 – Maureen N. Naccarato, mother of Sr. Mary T. Naccarato, PBVM of Newburgh (former Associate Director CYFM), DDA 194, 200, 205, 212, 232, 234, 237, 239, 241, 243, 244, 246, 248).