



Community Happenings

On March 25th, the American Province celebrated St. Alfonso Maria Fusco's canonization with a liturgy of Thanksgiving at Blessed Sacrament Church in Staten Island.

The Most Rev. John J. O'Hara, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of NY, was the main celebrant and The Most Reverend John W. Flesey, STD, DD, Auxiliary Bishop of Bergen County in the Archdiocese of Newark was the homilist.

The celebration of St. Alfonso Maria Fusco's life will continue at a **Day of Recollection on May 6th.**

Baptistine Associates, Sisters, students, and friends will gather for prayer and reflection. Attendees are bringing donations for the food pantry at St. Roch's Parish.



The American Province has launched a new website,

www.baptistines.org The site has information about the Sisters, their ministries, and the associates. In addition, it contains the daily

readings, Vatican news, and links to other Catholic sites.



Around the Province Associates at St. Philomena's Parish

shared a monastic meal and conference at the parish with Bishop Manuel Cruz as the main speaker. All enjoyed the evening which was a beautiful Lenten project for their spiritual lives.

On February 19th, the Altar Rosary Guild of St. Dominic's Church along with some of the



Associates from St. Raymond's Convent, welcomed Sr. Loretta and Sr. Anne Michael for their special guests at Mass and for a meeting that followed. Sr. Loretta gave a beautiful talk about the life and works of St. Alfonso Maria Fusco that was appreciated and well received. The group was happy to see the Sisters and the pastor, Fr. Badillo warmly welcomed them at Mass.



The Associates that are affiliated with Providence Rest are very much involved in the ministry of the Nursing Home. Some are involved in helping in the Spiritual Care Department by assisting with Liturgy, distributing communion and helping with the transportation of residents to

and from Mass. Others visit with residents and share quality time with them. In addition, one Associate serves on the Ethics Committee which meets bi-annually. The Sisters are most grateful for their presence as they help to continue the Founder's work and spread his charism.

Thoughts on the Mass of Thanksgiving at Blessed Sacrament Church

"As a Villa graduate and Villa Associate it was a privilege and honor for me to witness our American Mass of Thanksgiving. It reminded me so much of the Mass of Thanksgiving that took place at St. Peter's Basilica the day following the Canonization. Both Masses were similar in many ways. Both had many clergy in attendance as well as many friends of the Baptistine Congregation and many devotees of St. Alfonso Maria Fusco. It was a magical day for me at Blessed Sacrament Church. The solemn Mass with Bishop O'Hara, the beautiful Blessed Sacrament choir and students from St. John Villa Academy brought many thoughts of what heaven must be like. The magnetic words of Bishop Flesey telling us that St. Alfonso was a lover in many ways: of God, of the children, of the Sisters that serve to this day, of the poor, and of all people showed how human, saintly and devout St. Alfonso Maria Fusco was throughout his life and inspire us to follow in his footsteps. It was a joyous day for me as I watched smiling faces and listened to words of praise from

those attending the Mass and reception." ***Eugenia (Gina) Perrotta***

"It was indeed a unique pleasure to be present at the liturgy of Thanksgiving on March 25 celebrating the canonization of St. Alfonso Maria Fusco. The concelebrated Mass was so joyful and celebratory with Bishop O'Hara, Bishop Flesey, Msgr. Finn and all the priests who were able to be there on such a busy day for priests. Our gathering afterward in the adjoining Church Hall of Blessed Sacrament was so professionally organized and refreshing with all the delicious food. It was wonderful to see all our familiar Sisters, Associates, and friends, especially friends from the long ago past who always remain in our thoughts and hearts. I was, indeed, so grateful and honored to be invited for this occasion." ***Maureen Walz---***
Associate from St. John Villa Convent



For Reflection

I believe the saying goes, "We plan and God laughs." Does that mean we shouldn't think ahead, that we shouldn't have a future game plan? Of course not! For me the saying says, "Do you have the strength, fortitude, and faith to accept God's plan."

A dear friend once overheard me say something negative, and quickly added, "Oh ye of little faith." I never forgot Sr. Anne Dolores' words. Not a day goes by that I don't remind myself



*Sisters of Saint John the Baptist
Baptistine Associates*

Issue: Volume 1, Issue 2

Spring 2017

to give those things to God which I cannot make sense out of. For the past 7 years I found great peace in the comfort of our Lord. After accepting the fact that my loving wife was going to die, I gathered the strength and courage to help Marie prepare for her final days. Her faith helped me to share her last moments with our sons. I never questioned why God had to bring her home. I prayed every day, knowing he would help me move on.

Ten months later I received a call from Virginia telling me my youngest son had a blood clot in his lung and is in the critical care unit. I drove to VA praying the rosary all the way. He recovered and is a healthy EMT employee. I thank God for sending him home to me. I realize that if we stop blaming God and instead pray for his guidance, we learn to deal with all he gives to us.

One of the most difficult times in my life had to be when I watched my son and daughter-in-law carry the tiny coffin of their daughter Concetta to the hearse that would bring her to the resting place of her grandmother Marie. That night we prayed and thanked God for the day they shared with their daughter.

My faith, trust, and belief in God has been tested many times. I thank my Catholic Church and my God for

helping me accept all that I cannot control. For over 35 years I have been associated with the great Sisters of St. John the Baptist. I have always admired their strong belief in God – no matter what. One of the greatest gifts I have is to know and be a part of these sisters. I am proud to be a Baptistine and know with their friendship and God's help I will continue to grow in faith. **Matthew Acanfora, St. Roch's Baptistine Associate**



Some of our flock are moving to a new nest - several Sisters will be establishing a new convent in South Carolina. Your prayers and support of this new venture are greatly appreciated. If you would like to send them a housewarming present, gift cards (Bed, Bath & Beyond, Macy's, JCPenney, CVS) or checks may be sent to Sr. Claudette Marie, 3308 Campbell Drive, Bronx, NY 10465.



The next issue of the newsletter will be in the Fall.

Please send all suggestions and submissions to Sr. Theresa Ann SRTADCSJB@aol.com