



October 2011

## AROUND THE PARISH

### LITTLE COTTAGE BY THE LAKE

What a crisp colorful autumn afternoon!

Crimson tipped maples paint the rural landscape as we make our way to my aunt's shady lakeside cottage. Overhead, a flock of geese fly in "V" formation, seemingly pointing us to the western Pennsylvania border, past miles of roadside pumpkin stands and endless fields of late season sweet corn.

Finally, my husband turns down the familiar gravel road. I spot the lake, glistening in the warm October sun.

We're here! I rustle my girls from the back seat. "Hurry and say hello to everyone."

The small white cottage reminds me of a doll house - the good cozy kind, where friends and family happily gather, spilling out into the yard when the quarters get a bit tight. I smile as I walk past the well manicured lawn, bedecked for fall with orange and yellow mums peeking from cast iron buckets.

As always, dried cornstalks climb the back porch rails. I spy a row of perfectly orange pumpkins, gifts from my uncle's garden. I wonder if my girls will remember to take one home at day's end. For years, my uncle has sent home a pumpkin with each child, just in time for Halloween.

Hopping out of the car, the girls crunch through the leaves, hoping to sample appetizers on the back porch table. In an instant, their cheeks are stuffed with crab dip, Amish Swiss cheese, and trail bologna.

Family seems to be everywhere. Cousins, aunts, and uncles trickle out from the cottage, sharing hugs and gossip in the wooded yard. Gathered in groups, my chatty Scotch Irish clan prepares for our autumn tradition - an outdoor clambake held annually on the first Sunday in October.

Husks fly off golden ears of sweet corn as we all pitch in, removing silky threads from more than forty cobs. Great aunts, unaware that they could be sitting down, scurry about setting tables, slicing juicy red tomatoes, and taking surreptitious sips of homemade berry wine. The men hover as they always do, around the fire pit.

I chuckle at this primitive scene - men tending the fire and women preparing the vegetables. Why is this always the case?

Salty steam wafts upward from the coals as the tempting smells of clams and chicken tease my taste buds. What could be better than this? Somehow, I can't imagine being anywhere else on this idyllic autumn afternoon. Sitting around card tables in the yard, we manage to quiet down for a prayer of thanksgiving.

Then, at long last, it is time to dig in. Tearing open the mesh bag of steamers, I can hardly wait to swirl each clam in drawn butter. What a gloriously gritty delicacy. Heaven seems near as a lobster tail is placed upon my plate, followed by sweet potatoes and a cup of steaming clam broth.

My daughters, content with an ear of sweet corn each, amazingly don't seem to care that much for seafood.

"I can help you out there." My husband teases, reaching for their leftover lobster. We laugh with my cousins as we swap family news and gorge on a final, overindulgent treat - homemade cheesecake and raspberry pie.

As the sun sets, we pour second cups of coffee, warm mugs that prolong our time together, if only for a few precious minutes.

"Don't forget to take a pumpkin home with you," my aunt reminds us. "Did you get a candle off the mantel?"

Our girls pick their future jack-o-lanterns as I select my party favor - a homemade cranberry scented votive. In the year ahead, the candle will take me back to this place, filling my house with the light and warmth of family.

"Thanks again for the clams, the pumpkin, the candle!"

It is the following morning and I am struggling to email my aunt. How can I show my appreciation for it all - the glorious weather, the delectable food?

Finding next year's calendar, I flip ahead to October, making sure to highlight the first Sunday in bright orange marker. Perhaps the best sort of thank you involves simply being present for cherished traditions.

Next year, and hopefully for many years to come, I will be there, feasting with family at the little cottage by the lake.

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### OUR CONDOLENCES TO...

The Edwards Family on the death of,  
**Joan J. Edwards**  
8-25-11

The Franco Family on the death of,  
**Paula V. Franco**  
9-6-11

## SACRED HEART SCHOOL NEWS

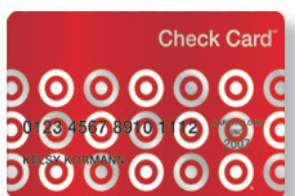
Sacred Heart School has had a successful, and *unusual*, first few weeks. We began with our "Back to School" night the week before school began on the evening of the earthquake. Students, parents and teachers gathered together for games, crafts, snacks and lots of catching up on summer stories. Since school began we have had many teachable weather moments - on hurricanes and floods! Who knew we would be using our SchoolReach emergency parent contact system so early in the year?

We were graced by a visit from Bishop Barres on August 31<sup>st</sup>. He was greeted at the door by our Student Council Officers, and then led to the auditorium, where he was greeted by the entire student body. The students presented him with a rosary made by Mrs. Kerins, Religion and Math teacher, and a backpack pull made by the students, in his Princeton colors, orange and black. The Bishop visited each classroom and answered a wide variety of student questions. Bishop Barres then sat with the students in grade 2 in the cafeteria and enjoyed Shepherd's Pie, made in his honor as the Shepherd of the Allentown Diocese. What a start to our school year! We know that as we enter this very important year of self-examination in preparation for our Middle States reaccreditation, that we have the prayers and good wishes of everyone at Sacred Heart. It's going to be a great year!

*Submitted by: Kathy Napolitano, Principal SHS*



Did you know there's an easy way to help us raise money for our school? It's called **Take Charge of Education**, and it's helping our school right now. Through Target's REDCARD purchases, Target donates money to local schools designated by the cardholders. Target offers two credit cards options but also a **CHECK CARD** option for this program!



The **Target Check Card** draws right from your existing checking account, just like writing a check or using your bank issued debit card. Use it when you shop at Target stores and every purchase you make will earn Target Rewards for you and Take Charge of Education money for Sacred Heart School! An ordinary check or debit card can't do that.

The Target Check Card works just like your bank debit card. You swipe it through the machine when you check out at Target, input your PIN number, and can also opt to get up to \$40 cash from your checking account just like any debit card.

Put your Target spending to extra good use and sign up today for a Target Check Card!! It's a **no risk** to you opportunity to help Sacred Heart and it will also earn you **5% off** all Target purchases each time you use your Target Check Card. *Target's rewards program is a 5% discount each time you shop with one of their RED cards, including the DEBIT CARD!*

You can take the application to the local Target store for immediate processing or mail it to the address on the application.

Once you receive you Target Account, you will need to go to [www.target.com/tcoe](http://www.target.com/tcoe) to connect your REDCARD's Take Charge of Education earnings to Sacred Heart School! Our **Target School ID is 115312!**

If you already have a Target Check or Credit Card, make sure it is connected to Sacred Heart!! Tell your friends and family as well!!

Questions, contact Ruth Butler, 610-745-8273 or [rbutler@sacredheartreading.org](mailto:rbutler@sacredheartreading.org)



Dear Parishioners:

Welcome to the start of a new school year and a new program through Giant Food Stores. Starting October 9, 2011 through March 31, 2012 **Sacred Heart School** will have the opportunity to earn cash through Giant A+ School Rewards Program.

**All you have to do is:**

Log on to [giantfoodstores.com/aplus](http://giantfoodstores.com/aplus) to register your bonus card online

*OR*

Dial 1-888-448-4642 to register your bonus card over the phone

After you register your card, each shopping trip at Giant using your BONUSCARD earns CASH for our school! Each month, the amount of CASH awarded will be updated on the Giant website. You can track the amount of points you earn for our school by checking your grocery receipt. Our school will receive a check at the end of the program and the money can be used for any of our school's educational needs.

Attending to this simple process makes a HUGE difference to our school. We need your support. Please be sure to register your card to benefit **Sacred Heart School** using ID # 04256. Just by doing your normal weekly grocery shopping you can help us earn money for your children. And if you purchase a Giant gift card from SHOPS you can earn double the money for our school! So please take a few minutes to register your bonus card that I know you all have!!

**Also, don't forget to encourage your friends and relatives to do the same. It could mean the world to our children.**

## SENIOR NEWS

A Day of Recollection will be held on Monday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Chapel, conducted by Deacon William Kase. 8 AM Mass will be followed by 2 talks with a break in between. Closing prayer will be at 11:45 AM. All are welcome and invited to attend. For more information, call Seniors President, John Robertson, at (610) 775-0461.

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### HIGH SCHOOL AND ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Sacred Heart Chapter of St. Vincent de Paul Society is looking for volunteers to participate in a Habitat for Humanity workday on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is a great opportunity for high school students to get service hours as well as adults who just want to serve.

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry that seeks to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness from the world. Habitat invites people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need.

Sacred Heart volunteers will meet at the front of the church at 8:30 AM and return at 2:30 PM. Participants must be at least 16 years of age. Wear old clothing, closed-toe shoes (sneakers are OK), pack a lunch, bring drinks and a pair of work gloves. All other tools are provided on the job site.

Please contact Brad Bohr at (610) 796-2015 or [bbohr@levelproductions.com](mailto:bbohr@levelproductions.com) to sign up.

*Submitted by: Brad Bohr, SVDP Member*

## LIFECCHAIN 2011

Lifecchain will occur on Sunday, October 2nd from 2:30 to 3:30 PM on Penn Avenue in West Reading. Sacred Heart Parishioners will meet behind the Church in the parking lot at 2:10 PM to get signs and pray together. Anyone planning to attend can either call Mike Giles at (610) 373-0262 or email [mpglawyer@msn.com](mailto:mpglawyer@msn.com).

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### PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER

Samantha Ponce

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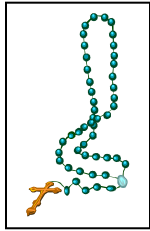
### DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE

Don't miss out on the opportunity to be a part of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, October 5th. The Sacred Heart Seniors are sponsoring a bus which will leave at 8 AM from the Church. The cost for this trip is \$40 per person and does not include meals. Call the rectory (610) 372-4010 to reserve your seat as the bus is filling up quickly!

### QUESTIONS?

Misplaced your altar server/lector/EM schedule? Can't find your bulletin or newsletter? Go to the parish website...it's all there.

[www.shrcparish.org](http://www.shrcparish.org)



## October: The Month of the Rosary

A Way to Pray  
A "Place" to Pray

The Rosary appears to be just a set of beads, but when it is used properly the rosary is in fact many different things, many splendid things. First of all, the rosary is the easiest school of meditation because it draws the body, mind, and spirit of an individual into an inner place where one can pray even when surrounded by many distractions. A great spiritual writer, Romano Guardini (1885-1968) called it an "inner garden" referring, of course, to its name which means a circle or crown of roses. Hundreds of millions of people across many centuries have meditated when saying the rosary and have never known that they *were* meditating. That is why this form of prayer, a circle of beads with a short prayer that is repeated is found in all major religions of the world. In the Catholic Church this form of meditation has always focused on Mary, the mother of Christ, and on her mysterious and beautiful relationship with her son, Jesus.

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### SACRED HEART SCHOOL NEWS

Sacred Heart School recently held elections for the 2010-2011 Student Council Classroom Representatives:

**Grade 3**     *Fay Moser*  
                  *Chet DePue*  
**Grade 4**     *Sophia Emkey*  
                  *Najya Howze*

**Grade 5**     *Gia Duddy*  
                  *Casey Emkey*  
**Grade 6**     *Katie Morelli*  
                  *Max Krieger*  
**Grade 7**     *Gabi Taormina*  
                  *Noel Parisi*  
**Grade 8**     *Kevin Duncan*  
                  *Kevin Lattanzio*

The representatives join with the Executive Board, chosen this past spring:

**President:**    *Devon Merritt*  
**Vice President:**    *Thomas Gonzales*  
**Treasurer:**    *Elizabeth Gaspari*  
**Secretary:**    *Londyn Witmer*

Mrs. Danelle Parisi and Mrs. Sarah Kerins are the Student Council moderators. We at Sacred Heart School look forward to a productive year with such talented students at the helm.

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### SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

**Annalise Marie McCready**  
**Daughter of Nolan & Kathleen McCready**  
**Annalise was born on 4-29-11**



### BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

To celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on Tuesday, October 4th, Monsignor DeSantis will confer a blessing on animals at 6:30 PM outside the front of the Church.