



Around the Parish

MAY 2020

WAY MORE THAN JUST A PRETTY FACE

There were a lot of things that first attracted me to Anita: her sharp, clear mind; the depth of her soul; her profound spirituality; Her prodigious with and delightful sense of humor. Are you buying any of this? OK, I'll admit it: I was first attracted to Anita because she was ... well ... hot.

While it's true that the more I got to know her, the more I realized how easy she was to talk to, and that she was a lot of fun to be with, and that she was an amazing dancer, and that she seemed to have some substance to her as opposed to the usual college freshman fluff. But let's be real here. Her ... you know ... hotness - especially those big, beautiful, bewitching eyes - played a significant role in the process that led me to ask for her hand in marriage. Come on, I was 22 years old at the time. It's not like I was going to fall in love with someone simply because I thought she'd probably be a good mother to our children. And yet, nine months almost to the day after we were married, that's exactly what Anita was: the mother of our first child, confidently cradling in her arms a beautiful little girl who, everyone said, had her mother's eyes.

It was mind-blowing to me how easily and naturally Anita took to being a mother. While I struggled with the nuances of fatherhood right from the start, Anita seemed to instinctively know what she was doing and how to care for our child.

"I know you guys are just having fun and I appreciate that you are trying to entertain the baby, but I don't think playing catch with her in the living room is a good idea," Anita said, stepping in between me and her younger brother, Brent, as we tossed the six-month-old Amy Jo back and forth while standing about six feet apart. "Look!" I said, holding Amy Jo up so Anita could see our daughter's bug-eyed face and clenched fists. "She loves it!" "No," Anita said, patiently. "She's terrified. Why don't you guys go downstairs and watch football while I feed her?"

It took Anita 15 minutes to get Amy Jo unclenched enough to eat. But she figured it out, just like she always has through the natural ups and downs of life with five children. She's been a spectacular mother - world class in every respect. And now I see the exact same thing happening to her as a grandmother, as she intuitively does all the things wonderful grandmothers do while I stumble along trying - and mostly failing - to keep up with her.

I wish I could take credit for seeing all of this in her when I asked her to marry me. But even though she already had all of these terrific qualities and abilities when I met and fell in love with her, I honestly had no idea what an extraordinary mother and grandmother she was going to be. I was mistakably - and not surprisingly - oblivious.

Once again, I blame her eyes.

So I guess I was lucky that Anita turned out to be way more than just a pretty face. Or was I?

Every year at this time we hear and read powerful stories about wonderful mothers doing incredible things for their children. Evidently the world is filled with terrific mothers. Now, I don't mean to be misandrous or anything, but human males aren't especially well known for choosing their mates based on perceived mothering skills. Other species, perhaps. But not us. And there's probably a reason for that - and not just hormones. I mean, how do you know who is going to be a good mother until she actually becomes one? So I assume there are a lot of other men like me this Mother's Day, who thank God that they married women who turned out to be amazing mothers - more or less despite us.

And there isn't anything hotter than that.

SACRED HEART SCHOOL NEWS

"Our buildings may be closed, but school is open." That message from the Diocese of Allentown sums up the crazy roller coaster we have all been on this spring. Our lives at Sacred Heart School changed dramatically on March 12, when we were informed that all schools in Pennsylvania would be closing. That order went from two weeks, to "indefinitely" to "closed for the year." Teachers at SHS were prepared, however. Earlier in the winter we had submitted our "Flexible Instruction Plans" to the Office of Education - plans that would enable us to teach remotely for three days if we went over our 4 scheduled snow days. Since, as you know, we had NO snow days, we were looking forward to Fridays off in May when the Coronavirus pandemic hit. Our faculty ably and quickly extended those plans from 3 days to 10...and we've been providing content and curriculum-based quality instruction ever since.

Our teachers, students and parents have been nothing less than amazing, living out the line in our mission statement about "lifelong learners." Teachers are using Google classroom, Class Dojo, ZOOM, and many, many others to reach and teach their students. I am on our YouTube channel Monday-Friday at 9:30 with morning prayer and announcements. It isn't how we expected to end the year, but we are resilient, flexible and creative - and we are making it work.

While we are sad about having to cancel our Walk for Annual Fund, we have been humbled and delighted by the donations that continue to arrive daily. It's not too late for you to help our school - we need your help now more than ever. We will still have a yearbook (thank you Mrs.

Gasperack for putting that together from your home!) and we are hopeful, should circumstances allow, that we can recognize our 8th graders over the summer in some new way.

Our students and teachers will never forget this time, and how we met the challenges with God's grace. Please continue to pray for the teachers, students and parents of Sacred Heart School, as we will pray for you.

Submitted by Kathy Napolitano, Principal

RCIA JOURNEY

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, our Elect (Lydia Snow) and our candidates (Terri Chervanick, Maria Hinojosa, and Patrick Rutter) were unable to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. They have, however, continues to meet weekly to receive instruction virtually and are anxiously awaiting the sacraments and to participate fully in the life of the Church.

In a video message on Good Friday, Bishop Schlert expressed his solidarity with all those who, across the Diocese of Allentown, are preparing to receive the Easter Sacraments. He assured them that he "will issue guidance on celebrating their initiation as soon as the pandemic danger passes" and offered his celebration of the Easter Vigil Mass for them and their families' good health and wellbeing.

He closed with an instruction pertinent to us all, saying, "In the meantime, I encourage you to draw even more closely to our Lord in prayer because He provides us with peace in times of anxiety, He helps us in despair, and He provides us with light in times of darkness."

Please keep Lydia, Patrick, Maria, and Terri in your prayers, as well as the school children (Marias's children Sylvia and Margarita Solis, along with Marvin, Marcus, and Myleen Armisted, Kaitlyn Romero, and Ronald Van) who await their sacraments, as well.

Submitted by Ralph Hueske



Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, there are no May events scheduled at this time. The Bornemann Knights ask that everyone stay safe and practice safe distancing and wash your hands regularly. We also encourage you to continue with your weekly/monthly contributions to our parishes during this time, or, consider contributing online using the Online Giving Page (Our Sunday Visitor) link found at the bottom of the Sacred Heart website. It is very easy to setup and it will track your weekly giving just like your envelopes. Also, the KofC Annual COAL/Change of a Lifetime fundraiser tickets are still available! Proceeds from the COAL drawings directly benefit the annual Knight of Columbus PA State Council Student Scholarship Program. Prizes range from vacations and cruises to cash and more will be awarded. This annual event drawing is usually held in April, but due to the COVID-19, will be held at a later date. Tickets are \$1 each and are available for purchase by contacting John Sylvester at (610) 451-6980, or ask any of our parish Knights that you might know.

Important 2020 dates for your calendar:
May 6th Annual Spaghetti Dinner and Bake Sale **POSTPONED**

Aug. 21st Annual Swing and a Prayer Gold Tournament

The Knights of Columbus Monsignor Bornemann Council membership is open to all practicing Catholic male adults, aged 18 and over, who wish to serve their parish and community. Meetings are the third Thursday of the month. To join, contact our Grand Knight John Sylvester at (610) 451-6980.

SVDP FOOD DRIVE

Please join us in helping our friends at Kennedy House by donating canned or boxed goods, May 16th and 17th. Suggested items include: canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, cereal, soup, canned fish, and instant potatoes.

All donations must be sealed and have a valid expiration date. Members of Sacred Heart St. Vincent de Paul Society will be accepting donations curbside at the main entrance of the Church before and after all Masses that weekend.

Should the COVID-19 restrictions still be in effect, food will be collected curbside at the main entrance of the church between 9 AM and 11 AM on Sunday, May 17th. Please practice social distancing and wear your mask!

*Thank You for helping us
to help our neighbors!*

QUESTIONS???

Can't get to Church. Want to see the bulletin/newsletter and know what's going on?

Questions about school?

Here are your resources:

Parish Website: shrcparish.org

School Website: sacredheartreading.com

Diocesan Website: allentowndiocese.org

SACRED HEART SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

8 AM TO 12 NOON

Church will be open with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY

9 AM TO 3PM

Church will be open for private prayer

FRIDAY

9 AM TO 2 PM

Church will be open for private prayer

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY

6 PM TO 8 PM

Church will be open with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

CONFESSIONS

SATURDAYS

4:00 TO 4:45 pm