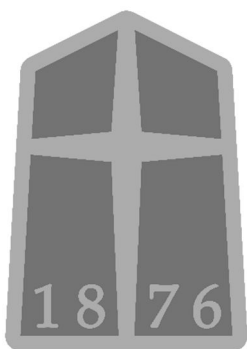
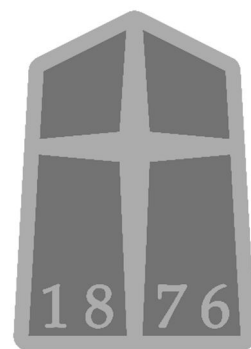

"I shall reflect on myself and ask: 'What have I done for Christ?
What am I doing for Christ? What ought I do for Christ?'" -St. Stanislaus



NEWSTAN



The Newsletter of St. Stanislaus Parish

Summer 2023

The Ginchiest

by Dianne Spotts

I have met some interesting people writing for *NewStan*. This couple is the most unique.

I learned of them through Jeannette Sickel, one of St Stan's Extraordinary Ministers, who brings communion to them each Sunday. She agrees they're quite remarkable, and exemplary in the way they care for each other.

Viola and Dan Dwyer have met many challenges as disabled people, and are determined to encourage others to make the most of what life has thrown their way.

In October 2022 they decided to start a YouTube Channel to tell their story. This is their introduction:

Have you been curious about disability or are you someone who identifies as having a disability? Either way, you are welcomed at THE GINCHIEST.

The "Ginchiest" was created by us, a husband and wife, to show the world that the disability experience is part of what makes us human. At some point in your life, you will have some experience with disability...and that's ok.



The "Ginchiest" logo



"The Ginchiest" aims to help you feel at peace with whatever physical and mental challenges life hands you to show you that you are not alone and that you're likely capable of a lot more than you think because after all - you're The Ginchiest - the coolest.

We invite you to join our community, subscribe to our channel and spread its message to the world. Keep it Ginchy!

Viola was born with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA), Dan was injured in an accident as a 9-yr-old boy, sustaining a brain injury.

Their relationship (and Dan's quirky humor) is sure to keep you watching their channel's episodes.

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Hispanic Community at St. Stanislaus

by Olivia Taveras

The Hispanic community is proud to be an active part of St. Stanislaus Parish, while infinitely thanking God for being our constant maker and guide and Father Jonathan Rice and Deacon Juan Valentin, for the support, trust, affection and respect they have always given us.

We participate in the parish regularly with a number of activities including Sunday Mass in Spanish each week at 1:00PM (preceded by Penance at 12:30). We also have a holy hour with the prayer group every Tuesday at 7:00 PM.

The Pilgrim Virgin: Through this activity every Sunday a family has the opportunity to take home the image of the Blessed Virgin and stay with them for a whole week in their home (venerating her, praying the holy rosary, singing to her, etc.), then return it to the church to give it to another family.

In addition, we have a number of special activities over the course of the year.

At the beginning of the year, we do the special New Year's Mass and the Epiphany of the Lord. Toys and sweets are given to children and three brothers from the community are dressed as Magi representing Melchor, Gaspar and Baltazar. In addition, we share the *Rosca de Reyes*.

Another special date for us is Valentine's Day, because in honor of love and friendship we do an activity to share and strengthen our friendship every day.



We begin Lent with the celebration of Mass on Ash Wednesday. Then during Lent we attend the *Via Crucis*, every week; we hold spiritual retreats; and we have the Soup Supper for the Poor in which we raise funds to donate to needy families.

After this we begin Holy Week with the blessing and procession of the palms, on Palm Sunday. All week we stay in prayer, usually Holy Monday and Tuesday there are confessions in the afternoons in Spanish. We celebrate together with the Anglo-Saxon community, the Easter Triduum beginning with the solemn Mass of the Last Supper and the washing of the feet on Holy Thursday. Then we continue on Good Friday afternoon with the celebration of the Passion of Christ. On Holy Saturday, during the Easter Vigil Mass, some of our parishioners receive the sacraments they have missed. And for Easter Sunday we celebrate the Mass of Resurrection of the Lord and at the end of the Holy Mass we do an activity for the children with the Easter Bunny.

For Mother's Day we give a present to mothers and the same on Father's Day for fathers.

From May to September, we sell Latin food, after the Masses. We take advantage of sharing between both communities and this allows us to raise funds and use them in whatever is needed in the Church.

The solemnity of Corpus Christi is celebrated with the Holy Eucharist and with a procession with the exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

This past year, one of the activities that had more relevance

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Parishioner Spotlight

Elizabeth Waltrich

by Norm Berger

In the spotlight this month is Beth Waltrich, the principal of Mater Dei Catholic School. I was able to meet her in her office which I appreciated since it was a busy time for her being involved with the demands of the end of the school year. Mater Dei had just graduated 43 eighth grade students on June 11, and some of them came back that week to help move some classrooms around indicating the strong school spirit inculcated in these young people. Beth was very personable and I was impressed by her youthful and outgoing ways. There is also no way to miss her six-foot, two-inch height (which she seems to have used well playing Volleyball!)

Ms Waltrich grew up in the Hatboro area where she, her parents, and her fourteen siblings (eight brothers and six sisters) attended St John Bosco Church. All the children in her family, Beth included, went to the parochial school associated with the parish (with the exception of sister Katrina who has Downs syndrome). She and her siblings also went on to Archbishop Wood High School.

In case you were wondering, Beth is the 14th of the fifteen children. She mentioned that growing up she didn't love being part of such a big family but now absolutely does! All of her family members still live in the area they grew up in. She related that there are fifty-four grandchildren in the family! Currently she lives with her parents and her sister Katrina.

After graduating from Archbishop Wood, Beth went on to attend and graduate from Newman College in Delaware County (now Newman University) with a Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood and Elementary Education.

Beth's first job was as a teacher back at her parochial school. She worked there for eight years until the school was closed in 2010. She then moved on to St Rose of Lima Parish School where she taught sixth grade from 2010 to 2012

when the school was integrated with St. Stanislaus Parish School and St. Maria Goretti to become the new regional Mater Dei Catholic School.

Beth interviewed for and obtained a teaching position at Mater Dei for seventh grade. She at first was very nervous about becoming a part of such a big (500 students) parochial school. She started to feel God's hand in this though as she became very involved with the school and its students and enjoyed working under the leadership of principal Ms. Diane McCaughan.



Two years ago, Beth took time to attend and graduate from a demanding Catholic Educational Leadership Program at the University of Notre Dame. I'm sure this was a good preparation for her when Mater Dei changed to a president/principal leadership model. At that time Diane McCaughan became the school president and Ms Waltrich interviewed for and was happily installed as the new, and second-ever, principal (after much prayer from friends and associates, she adds!).

Under this framework, Ms. McCaughan oversees all operations of the school and Ms. Waltrich is responsible for the actual

academics: instruction, curriculum, etc. Beth has also become quite a photographer at the school as well, even though she had no previous formal experience in this area – other than having her a big family for “subjects!” Thus, she immersed herself ever more fully into the life of the school for which she has such an evident dedication and love.

So, with summer set to begin, Beth (and Ms. McCaughan) can take a well-deserved break. Oh, I forgot! The “Summer Vibes” Summer Camp program which began in late June and will last into August – and demands a lot of Beth's attention all summer! I'm sure, Beth will and bring joy and leadership to many happy campers – just as she does all school year long!✠

Father Sean Says

May and June are always exciting times for our Archdiocese, because of the ordinations that take place. This year, three men who have had an impact in our Parish were ordained for ministry by Archbishop Nelson.

Deacon Brendan Zehner, who most recently served our parish this past year as an Acolyte, was ordained as a Transitional Deacon and assigned to Our Lady of Calvary Parish in Northeast Philly. Fr. Kenneth Omeke, who only two years ago was a seminarian serving in our Parish, was ordained a priest and assigned to Ss. Simon and Jude Parish in West Chester, PA. And on Saturday, June 10, Deacon Chris Parker was ordained as a Permanent Deacon and assigned to serve next door at Mary Mother of the Redeemer Parish. It was a pleasure to have Deacon Brendan offer a homily after his ordination as pictured in this *NewStan*, and also to have Fr. Kenneth celebrate Mass on June 18. We look forward to welcoming back Deacon Chris Parker in August to offer a homily, having served our parish so well this past year.

We have been blessed as a parish to have the witness of these men in formation for service as ordained ministers of the Church. Please pray for the members of our parish who have received a call to ordained ministry and consecrated religious life. Behind every vocation story, there are parish prayers in response to Jesus' command to pray for laborers of the harvest. When that call is felt in your heart, you cannot know anything else but the reality that Christ has called you. Answering it, however, is the hard part.

While many may not have received a call to the ordained or consecrated life, we are presently being called to imagine new ways to labor for the harvest. So, pray also for yourselves and your role in the mission of the parish. The master of the harvest will always send laborers for the harvest, and the laborer you're praying for may just be you!✠



Surfing Around?

After reading our lead article, we're sure you'll want to check out the Dwyers' YouTube channel.

You can find it at
<https://www.youtube.com/@TheGinchiest/about>.



NEWSTAN

MISSION STATEMENT

In response to the St. John Paul II's call to evangelization, St. Stanislaus Parish started publishing *NewStan* to serve members of the parish community and the community at large, to inform parishioners and members of the North Penn region about new developments in the parish, and to serve as a channel for communications among St. Stanislaus parishioners and benefactors.



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Trish Cunningham, Lori O'Donnell

Rev. Sean English, Fr. Jonathan Rice



Those who wish to contribute items for publication should forward them to the NewStan mailbox in the St. Stanislaus Parish Center. The inclusion of submitted material is subject to the judgment of the editors in consultation with Father Sean and the St. Stanislaus Communications Director. The editors reserve the right to edit all submitted material for length and content.

Visit St. Stanislaus Parish on the web at

www.ststanislaus.com

Follow us on Facebook: St. Stanislaus Lansdale



Do you have a question about St. Stanislaus Parish, or about the Catholic faith in general?

Forward your questions to the *NewStan* mailbox in the Parish Center, anonymously if desired. We will direct the questions to the right person and publish the answers in a future issue.

St. Dymphna: A Saint for Past and Present

by Sandy Sasso

St. Dymphna lived well over 1300 years ago. She is prayed to by persons afflicted with nervous or mental disturbances and is in fact the patron saint of anxiety and depression. With such rise reported in such mental disorders today, we should reach out to her.

Dymphna was the only child of a pagan king who is believed to have ruled a section of Ireland in the 7th Century. She was the very picture of her attractive, young Christian mother. Unfortunately, Dymphna's mother died at a very young age.

Her father, the king, was so overwhelmed with grief. His moody silences pushed him to the verge of mental collapse. His courtiers suggested he consider a second marriage. The king agreed, however, he insisted his new bride should look exactly like his former one. His envoys searched far and wide for a woman he would desire but their quest proved fruitless.

Then someone suggested the king marry his daughter, Dymphna, the living likeness of her mother. Repelled at first, the king then agreed. When he broached the topic to his daughter, she was appalled and stood firm in disagreement saying "Definitely not!"

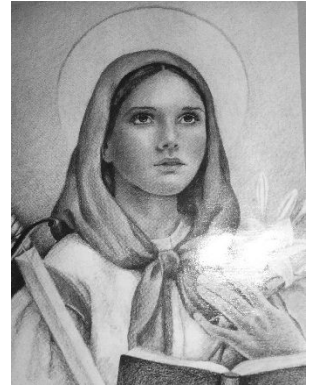
By the advice of Dymphna's confessor Fr. Gerebern, she eventually fled from home to avoid danger of her refusal to her father. She set out with Fr. Gerebern, the court jester, and his wife, and landed at Antwerp on the coast of Belgium. They found a residence in a little village called Gheel, near a shrine dedicated to St. Martin of Tours.

As fate would have it, spies from her native land arrived in the village. When they paid an innkeeper for their stay with coins similar to those Dymphna had often handed to the innkeeper, the innkeeper, unaware they were spies, innocently revealed to them where she lived.

The men reported to the king and he came at once to Gheel for the final, tragic encounter. Despite his inner fury, he managed to control his anger. He tried to coax and make glowing promises of money and prestige if Dymphna would relent. When this approach failed the king tried threats and insults, but Dymphna was unmoved. She, also, would rather die than break the vow of virginity she had made with her confessor's approval.

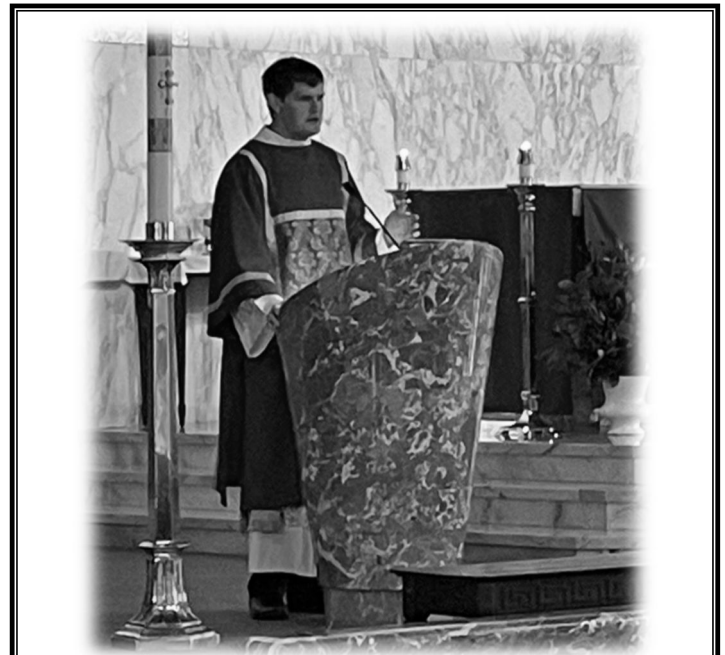
The king became furious and ordered his men to kill Fr. Gerebern and Dymphna. They killed Fr. Gerebern but

could not harm the young princess, Dymphna. The king was so outraged by this, that when Dymphna was with him, he drew his own weapon and cut off his daughter's head. Dymphna, barely aged fifteen, fell at his feet and died. Her name appears in the Roman Martyrology, together with St. Gerebern's dated May 15.



In the town of Gheel, in the Flemish-speaking region of Belgium, great honor is paid to St. Dymphna, whose body is preserved in a silver reliquary in the church that bears her name. Gheel has long been known as a place of pilgrimage for persons seeking relief from nervous and emotional distresses.

It is hoped devotion and prayer for St. Dymphna's intercession would increase in America.✠



On Pentecost Sunday, May 28th, newly-ordained Deacon Brendan Zehner gave the homily at the 11:00am Mass

Deacon Brendan did part of his formation this past year at St. Stanislaus.

The congregation responded with a rousing round of applause. The whole Parish congratulates him on this important step toward his ordination to the priesthood.✠

Ginchiest

continued from page 1

They met in January 2012, through a friend. Dan likes to tell everyone he was punctual for the meeting at the restaurant, though Viola was late, and he was “hangry.” During their childhoods, they each attended Widener Memorial School, and Moss Rehab but had not met until that fateful day. It wasn’t long before they both admitted to themselves and each other that there was a vibrant connection between them.

Viola did her undergrad at Johns Hopkins U and got her MBA at Duke. Dan attended Edinborough U. They are both well-traveled and have had varied employment experiences.

Why “Ginchiest”?

There’s an episode for that – and don’t miss the one about their cat Pippi.

Be sure to learn more about them. Their stories are windows into their lives, are often quite personal, and can be viewed on their channel.

Today they have over 1500 subscribers.

Be sure to become one!✂

The Festival is Here!

August 15 is the Feast of the Assumption which always means the St. Stanislaus Festival is upon us. In fact, this year the festival is the week preceding the feast: from Tuesday, August 8th, through Saturday, August 12th.

The Festival is due to the efforts of a Committee of dedicated Parishioners who have met since February to plan this family friendly event – the longest continuous run festival in our area: a Tradition almost 60 years strong!

As always there will be rides, great food and games. Live bands appear every night in the beer garden which this year will be under a large tent this year, so even if we get rain the Festival can still continue!

And as always tickets for our parish raffle will be sold all week with a Grand Prize of \$3000 and two additional prizes of \$1500, and \$500.

Be sure to join us for fun and fellowship for the whole family!✂

Hispanic Community

continued from page 2

in our community was the concert of Tony Meléndez, in which we gathered a large number of brothers and sisters who enjoyed this concert enormously. We are trying to have him return this fall for a bilingual concert.

Another very special event is sharing the Thanksgiving dinner among the Hispanic community, in gratitude to God for so many blessings.

At the end of the year our community has the honor of venerating our Blessed Mother in the invocation of the Virgin of Juquila and the Virgin of Guadalupe, after each Mass we share a dinner with all the parishioners.

We also attend an Advent retreat and for the Novena of Christmas we celebrate *Las Posadas* in different houses of parishioners.

On the twenty-fourth of December, we make the Christmas Eve Mass commonly called the “Mass of the Rooster,” and after this we sing the *mañanitas* and carols to the Christ Child.

The Hispanic Community welcomes all the parishioners of St. Stanislaus to join us for our events!✂



Can Anyone Know the Truth?

Our Apologetics Series Continues...

by Phil Ricciardi

In our last article in this series, we showed that all religions are not the same. The belief systems are profoundly different, so you need to pick the one that is true. But how can anyone say they know the truth? You may hear people make statements like this:

- ❖ No one can know for sure whose beliefs are correct.
- ❖ Truth is relative to each person. What's true for you may not be true for me.
- ❖ People create their own truths.

These statements define a philosophy called *relativism*, a belief that we cannot know what is true. But this philosophy is self-refuting. If we cannot know what is true, then we cannot know if the statement "we cannot know what is true," is itself true! Relativism refutes itself because there is such a thing as truth.

So how can we define truth? We know there is such a thing as reality. We reside in reality. We also have thoughts about reality. Sometimes our thoughts are correct, and sometimes they are wrong. When our thoughts and perceptions about reality actually match reality, we are in a state of truth. To put it in a formula, when Belief = Reality, then Thoughts = Truth.

People are always looking for truth because they need to make decisions to get through life. Suppose you want to use a flashlight, but it won't work. What's the problem? If you change batteries and get a light beam, dead batteries were the problem. But if you still don't have light after new batteries are installed, the bulb or the switch may be the issue. You are identifying the truth by determining what makes best sense from the available evidence.

Truth claims about God are no different. Christians believe what the Bible teaches us about God and ourselves makes the most sense out of the human experience. And you don't have to prove every Christian teaching beyond question before you can believe Christianity is true. We can see the design of a Creator in nature. We can examine our consciences and conclude there must be a higher Person who determines proper and improper behavior. And we can see people's lives changed for the better when they start to follow Jesus.



You can know the Truth. Remember that Jesus says "I am the way, the truth, and the life." (*John 14:6*). Genuine knowledge of the truth is based on a personal relationship with the Truth. Jesus further states in *John 8:31-32* "If you remain in my Word, you will truly be my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Belief in Jesus will lead you to Truth. Skeptics will say "convince me and I'll believe." They have it backwards. Jesus says, "just give Me some belief, and I'll convince you."

There is a related question. Actions, statements, and beliefs can be true, but are they moral? Are they good? Maybe we can know what is true, but can we determine right from wrong? Join us next time as we explore this question.✠

Apologetics is a genre of religious writing which involves the formation of reasonable, logical arguments for the truth of faith. As modern Catholics, we probably are confronted with tough questions from non-believers even more frequently than in the past. If you have any questions you'd like addressed, please drop them off in NewStan mailbox in the Parish Center. Note, we have decided to roughly alternate between our Bible Study feature and our Apologetics feature. We hope that together you find them a way to enhance your Catholic knowledge.- Ed.✠

Upcoming GIFT Event

Our next session of **G**rowing **I**n **F**aith **T**ogether will be:

- ✠ Tuesday, September 12: Nina Corona speaking on the topic of the *Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist*

Check the Sunday bulletins and Parish website for updated information. GIFT programs start at 7:00PM in the Parish Center lobby meeting room.✠

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Parish Census Data for March – May 2023



Lindsay Theresa Bunch
 Dayrin Diaz Cedillo
 Thiago Joshua Cela Sumba
 Camilla Irene Chapman
 Margaret Mae Fry
 Lawrence Andrew Gal III
 Levi Bernard Gist
 Annie Elizabeth Groff
 Santino Blaze Iamurri
 Ava Rose Jones
 Keyla Isabella Martinez
 Nina Rose Martinez
 Dario Sergio Navarrete
 Taylor Genevieve Revak
 Emilia Grace Robbins
 Kennedy Rose Sirianni
 Maura Kathryn Specht
 Cameron Joseph Traband
 Reid Andrew Way
 Lucy Patricia Wynne



Celine Bintner
 Patricia Blurton
 Jim & Amy Bowe
 Kathryn Claffey
 William & Lauren Coates
 Nicholas & Maryland DeSimone-Garrison
 Helbert & Angela Ecto
 Daniel Forrest
 John & Sarah Gary
 Kevin & Chloe Gilroy
 Bryan & Colleen Hemmerle
 Anthony & Stacy Iamurri III
 Tyler & Lilia Jackson
 Christian & Melissa Jones
 Rachel Knecht
 Doug & Karen Mandart

Francine Matus
 John Mazzie
 Duncan & Maria McLuckie
 Ryan & Jenna Mick
 Patrick Miniscalco
 Greg & Amanda Mitchell
 Jeremie Pagano
 Elvis & Amanda Rico-Rock
 Ryan & Kara Robbins
 Aurella Rocchi
 Patrick & Laura Samanns
 Melanie Santana
 Turner & Lauren Semrau
 Kristin Stokes
 Tyler & Brianna Sundstrom
 Enrique & Maritza Viveros-Lopez
 Kenneth Weber
 Kyle & Jennifer Wehmeyer
 Troy & Jane Wojcik



Anthony Herzog
 Jeanette Hoy
 Dolores Kelley
 Marie Miller
 Thomas Ousey
 Sarah Pallante
 Vincent Paone
 Joan Recco
 Stephen Rechis
 Joseph Reckner
 Elizabeth Reilly
 Margaret Caltabiano
 Feliciano Rossi
 Maria Casallas
 Angela
 Linda Constantine
 Scherzinger
 Annunziata (Nancy) Richard Sciotto
 Fusca
 Colin Thompson
 Robert Hamilton
 George Wilde III



Luis Ramiro Naula
 Loja & Maria Salvadora
 Loja Castro
 Tyler Ammon Ward &
 Helena Cecilia Jacobs
 Tyler Christopher
 Jackson & Lilia Mary
 Veronica Tomkus