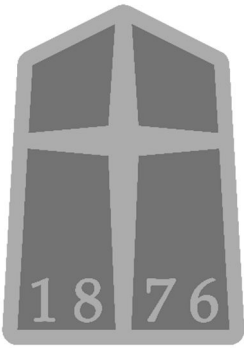


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**"I shall reflect on myself and ask: 'What have I done for Christ? What am I doing for Christ? What ought I do for Christ?'" -St. Stanislaus**



# NEWSTAN



**The Newsletter of St. Stanislaus Parish**  
**El Boletín de la Parroquia de San Estanislao**

*Autumn 2024*

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## **"I'll Keep Saying the Mass"**

**by Phil Ricciardi**

On a warm afternoon I found myself in heavy traffic on York Road in Warminster, maneuvering my small car among dozens of yellow school buses as I pulled into the driveway of Archbishop Wood High School. Amid the bustle of the school day end, I suddenly came across a peaceful oasis as I pulled into the parking lot of the Regina Coeli Residence for Priests, which is nestled in the northernmost end of the school campus. After being greeted by the receptionist, I was ushered into a comfortable sitting room where I met with retired Monsignor James McCoy, whom many will recognize as our frequent guest priest for Sunday Mass at St. Stan's. He was happy to speak with me about his long and varied career.

The only child of James and Madeleine McCoy, he had attended St. Joe's Prep in Philadelphia only 2 years when he

realized he had the calling to be a priest at age 15. His parents were not surprised because vocations ran in the family – his father had a cousin who was a Jesuit, and his mother had 2 cousins who were Immaculate Heart sisters. After attending St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and being ordained, he settled into his first assignment at St. Anastasia parish in Newtown Square. This assignment lasted 2 years before he was needed elsewhere.

He recalls, "My pastor and I went to our kitchen for lunch one day, and there was an envelope waiting on each of our plates."

That's how he found out he was becoming an educator, having been reassigned to Cardinal O'Hara High School. He remained in education for the next 15 years.

Monsignor shared how different the environment was in those days. "In the 60's, 250 priests were teaching high



school, so I wasn't too surprised to be assigned there. At Dougherty alone we had 58 priests teaching along with 4 communities of nuns. It's different from being in a parish because for most of the week you are a teacher on faculty rather than acting as a priest." He served as a teacher at Cardinal O'Hara, Roman Catholic, Cardinal Dougherty (eventually being named as Vice Principal there), and finally as Principal of West Philadelphia Catholic Girls High School. During his tenure at the schools, he also found time to attain two Masters degrees from

Villanova University, and was named Honorary Prelate of Pope John Paul II (and thus the title of Monsignor) in 1982.

As happens so often with priests, though, careers change at a moment's notice. In 1980 the Chancellor's office called and told him Cardinal Krol needed to speak to him in person. As he entered his superior's office, the Cardinal said, "Jim, my job is usually to console the afflicted, but sometimes I have to afflict the consoled." Monsignor was

*continued on page 6*

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# Legacy Committee Flashbacks

In the past year, the Legacy Committee has sponsored a number of trips and events. Below are two (as contributed by Helen Daly) that occurred in the last twelve months that maybe you missed: But they are coming around again so check the bulletin and be sure to join in the fun and community!

## *Journey to Bethlehem....Pennsylvania*

The Legacy Committee ran its first bus trip last November to Bethlehem, PA. They started the day with pastries and coffee in the Parish Center. Then they boarded a touring bus driven by Janet (we loved her) who whisked everyone away to Central Moravian Church for a private viewing of The Putz lead by Rev. Janel Rice. The Putz is a display sharing the story of Jesus' birth with wooden figurines and sounds. The group then shopped in the Church store which was filled with beautiful items handmade by their retired pastor.

From there the crew of 40 people broke up to go on individual adventures. Some went shopping, some went to the casino, and some went to the museums to see exhibits and Christmas trees.

The Kemerer Museum of Decorative Arts had an exhibit titled Unspun: Stories of Silk which explained just how strong and versatile the thread really is. In fact, they had a wedding dress made from a silk parachute on display. The exhibit was very informative not to mention beautiful.

The Christmas trees all around were decorated as part of a contest. The top 3 winning trees were:

- ❖ First Place: Music Tree
- ❖ Second Place: Bird Tree
- ❖ Third Place: Chocolate Tree.

The group met for a private lunch at 515 Main Bar. The food and staff were both excellent. We can't recommend it enough. It was so nice to be able to sit down have a warm meal and enjoy each other's company.

From there Janet drove the travelers to the Christkindlmarkt at the SteelStacks. Some shopped the roughly 80 vendors under four large tents; many bought unique gifts, home decor (like the highly sought after ceramic Christmas tree); and some just sat and ate delicious hot strudel.

It was a delightful way to spend the day. In fact, we had so much there will be another trip: Be on the lookout for details on the Christmas 2024 Trip to New York's Radio City Music Hall! ❖

## *Multiplying the Loaves and Fishes?*

On Saturday, January 27, 2024, the Legacy Committee sponsored its first annual cook-off challenge. Our event focus was a Chili Challenge. Thirteen talented chefs prepared a personal recipe for their chili. Choosing a winner itself presented a challenge, honestly, as each offering was worth first prize.

However, in the end the people voted and there were "Win, Place and Show" awards.

Now for the multiplication of the Loaves and Fishes analogy; the Legacy Committee hosted over two hundred guests and the chefs were able to provide their samples to over one hundred tasters. The back-up food offerings included hot dogs and various hoagies trays, pretzels and homemade desserts provided by the Legacy Committee.

Raffle prizes for our adults had a cooking focus and for our children the raffle prizes focused on a karaoke machine complete with a microphone, a family movie night package, and various child center items.

What an amazing celebration with our Parish family and Parish friends. Thank you to everyone who participated and attended. You made our cook off event into a "Gathering."

One final note our Legacy Committee was established under Father Sean's vision of providing ongoing and continuous activities throughout the year to offer fun activities and yes to raise funds for the Parish. With this said: The Legacy Committee is a group of 20 Parishioners who, with your support, continue to make every event into a "Gathering." We are grateful, honored and overwhelmed by your generosity, dedication, and love for St. Stanislaus Parish! ❖



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# Parishioner Spotlight

*Owen Coyle*

by **Kathleen Rice**

Owen Coyle was born in July 1924 on a small farm, in a thatched cottage in Donegal, Ireland. He was the fifth of ten children. He went to school up to fifth grade at which time, as was the tradition in Ireland, he quit school to work and help support his family. He went to work on a local farm. His parents died while he was in his early teens and so Owen moved to England when he turned 18 where he worked for several years before immigrating to the United States in 1949.

When he got to America, he lived with his aunt and uncle in South Philadelphia near Connie Mack Stadium. There he developed a deep love for the Phillies since he was able to go in and watch the games after the seventh inning for free. He began working as a landscaper and gravedigger at Mount Peace cemetery. After that, Owen worked at the Philadelphia Cold Storage and finally he ended up with a job at French's Mustard Company. In 1954, he met and married an Irish girl from County Antrim named Kitty Johnston.

After they married, Owen and Kitty lived in a row house in Northeast Philadelphia. They proceeded to have nine children including not just one but **two** sets of twins. His job with French's had moved to Souderton and so he moved the family to Lansdale where they became parishioners of St. Stanislaus in 1966.

The family worshiped at the beautiful new church that had just been built and all the children went to St. Stanislaus Parish School and proceeded on to Lansdale Catholic High School. Owen and Kitty as members of St. Stan's attended Mass faithfully every Sunday as well as many other church services and brought their children up in the Catholic faith.

After many years of poor health, Kitty passed away in 1994,

and Owen has been alone for 30 years. Tragedy struck again in 2019 when his oldest son Patrick died in a plane crash. Through it all, Owen continued to attend Mass devotedly every Sunday, usually the 7 o'clock Mass.

Owen has helped out with the summer festivals for many years. He maintained excellent health, and was able to continue working after he retired from French's Mustard

Company. He actually started a landscaping business and worked until he was 98 years old.

He has had some minor strokes, but has not become debilitated in any way and continued living at home until December of 2022. At that time, he moved in with his daughter, Kathleen Rice in Plumsteadville where he is living today. He still attends Mass occasionally, receiving Holy Communion at home on Sundays when possible.

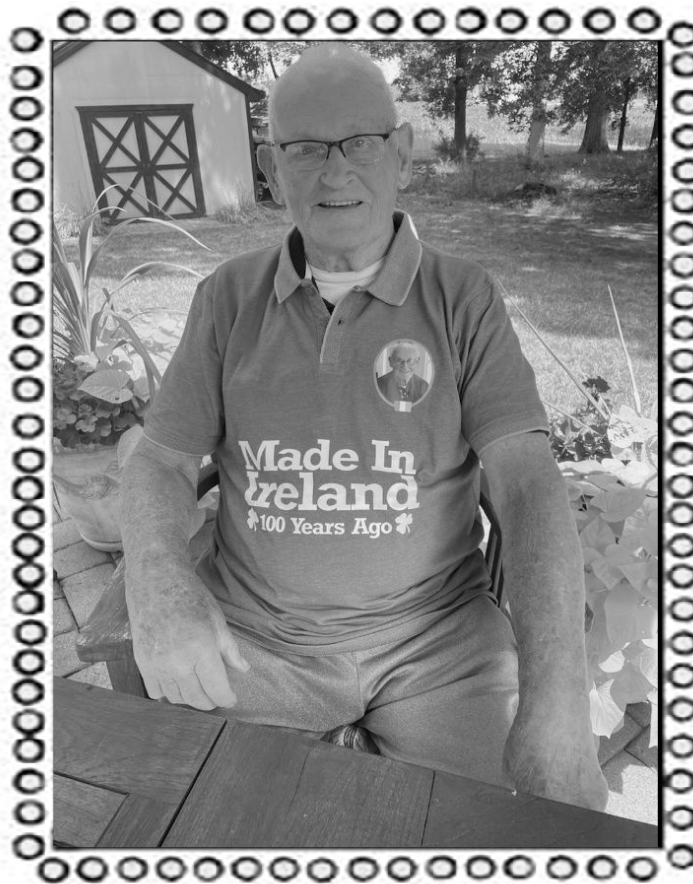
In July, Owen Coyle celebrated his 100th birthday.

The event was commemorated by a festive party attended by 120 people mostly family: His children, twenty-two grand-

children with their spouses, and his twenty-two great grandchildren were all in attendance.

The highlight of his special 100th birthday weekend was a special mass held at St. Stanislaus where he was recognized and applauded by the congregation several times: It was very, very, meaningful to him and his family.

We thank God for Owen's presence and his example of hard work, and faith in God. He has an active prayer life and says his rosary often.✠



# Father Sean Says

This year our Parish Legacy Committee celebrates its fourth anniversary.

Our committee began as a conversation with some parishioners looking for ways to provide parish-centered activities as we were coming out of the pandemic. The goal was to begin to bring people together, and also raise funds for any needs of the parish. Many people have enjoyed October Family Fests, Monte Carlo Nights, themed Tea parties, wine and scripture nights, Christmas meetings with St. Nicholas, and the new parish cook-off tradition among others. All of these events, along with Beach House raffles, the new Thanksgiving Raffle and many other ideas came to life because people had ideas and wanted to get involved.

A simple conversation has led to countless opportunities of encounter for our community and St. Stan's Parish. The committee, now 20 members strong, was a catalyst for the type of missionary discipleship needed in the Church today.

Our Archdiocese is currently looking at a specific plan to be a more missionary-focused Church. Traditionally, we often think of missionaries as people who leave our country to bring the Gospel to lands and peoples who have not encountered Christ. However, we need to recognize that the Church has to be mission-focused in places where the Gospel has already been planted, and for every new generation. What will it take to bring the relevancy of Jesus Christ to our own neighbors, friends and family?

I hope that our parish continues to respond with new and exciting ideas, that bring people to our parish, to experience the community whose source of our life and love is Jesus Christ. What ideas do you have? The Church, the Archdiocese, and your Parish is listening.✠



## Surfing Around?

Mater Dei Catholic School is giving numerous scholarships to make Catholic education affordable including four \$1000 Hallmark Scholarships around the pillars of Faith, Excellence, Service and Community.

Read all about it at:  
[www.materdeicatholic.com/admissions/scholarship](http://www.materdeicatholic.com/admissions/scholarship)



## 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.



### EDITOR

Paul Cutajar

### ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Norman Berger, Philip Ricciardi,  
Sandy Sasso, Dianne Spotts

### PARISH STAFF LIAISONS AND CONTRIBUTORS

Trish Cunningham, Helen Daly,  
Lori O'Donnell, Kathleen Rice  
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](http://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.

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# Why Trust the Bible?

## *Our Continuing Apologetics Series*

by **Phil Ricciardi**

Skeptics frequently make challenging claims about Holy Scripture:

- ❖ The Bible has been copied too many times for us to have any confidence we know what the original documents said.
- ❖ Scribes changed the words to match their own agenda.
- ❖ The Gospels were not written by eyewitnesses because they were illiterate.
- ❖ Church officials picked which books to include in the Bible and left out those that did not support their agenda.

Did scribes get it wrong when copying the Bible? There are between 200,000 and 400,000 variations in wording or spelling in the oldest biblical manuscripts. However, more than 99% of the variations in these manuscripts are just minor spelling variations. Of the remaining variations, not one is known to conflict with any crucial element of Christian faith. Scribes were professionals who were paid to record oral history and transcribe languages such as Aramaic into Greek. Paul's assertions that he was proclaiming news he received from the Apostles supports the claim that an oral history of Jesus was carefully passed on directly from eyewitnesses.

Did the scribes change words? More than 5,700 ancient manuscripts exist that are either entire New Testaments or fragments. In cases where changes were attempted, enough other copies exist to make any change obvious and rejected. Nearly all changes are found in one manuscript only. Also, note that a firm belief in the divinity of Jesus, the Trinity, and the Bible's divine origin emerged among Christians long before the New Testament was written.

Were the Gospels written by literate eyewitnesses? Evidence strongly suggests the sources of the Gospels were eyewitnesses. Early Christian leaders (Polycarp, Irenaeus, etc.) stated that:

- 1) Material unique to Matthew was written by Matthew based on his eyewitness testimony.
- 2) Mark is the testimony of Peter, preserved by his scribe John Mark.

- 3) Luke was written by Paul's personal physician based on stories he heard from eyewitnesses who spoke with Paul and Mary.
- 4) John the Apostle wrote his own eyewitness testimony.
- 5) Matthew and Luke were certainly literate due to their professions, and Peter and John, if illiterate, could easily have hired scribes.

Did Church officials pick the books of the Bible? It's true that the first list of New Testament books appeared in Athanasius' letter to Egyptian churches in 367. However, widespread agreement about which writings are considered Scripture existed as early as the 1st century. Testimony connected to eyewitnesses of the Risen Lord was considered uniquely authoritative among early Christians. And the Old Testament is a Christian embrace of the same listing of books the Jewish people have accepted for thousands of years. While debate about some books lasted into the 2nd century, note that the people who actually walked and talked with Jesus agreed about His nature and identity long before any New Testament books were written.

Finally, what does the Bible claim for itself?

- ❖ It claims to be written by God and to share His divine authority (*2 Timothy 3: 15-17, Proverbs 30: 5-6*)
- ❖ It says it will reward and protect you for following it (*Proverbs 13: 13, 1 Peter 2: 7-8*)
- ❖ It asserts Jesus is the very Word of God (*Romans 10: 17, John 1: 1, Revelation 19: 13*)

This evidence shows the Bible to be a very trustworthy and well-preserved document when compared to all other ancient writings. Join us next time as we examine the evidence for the reality of the most fantastic story in the Bible, the Resurrection of Jesus..✠

*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.✠*

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# Growing Old

A poem by Rita Snowden

Lord, Thou knowest that I am growing older.

Keep me from becoming talkative and possessed with the idea that  
I must express myself on every subject.

Release me from the craving to straighten out everyone's affairs.

Keep me from the recital of endless detail. Give me wings to get  
to the point.

Seal my lips when I am inclined to tell of my aches and pains. They  
are increasing with the years and my love to speak of them  
grows sweeter as time goes by.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be wrong.  
Make me thoughtful but not noseey; helpful but not bossy.  
With my vast store of wisdom and experience it does seem  
a pity not to use it all.

But Thou knowest Lord, that I do want a few friends at the  
end.✠



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## Monsignor McCoy

being assigned a new job, Director of Institutional Procurement Services. In his new role, Monsignor led the purchasing function for the entire diocese, with a staff of 35 purchasing agents and supporting, in his words, “500 clients, mostly the dear ladies who ran all the school cafeterias.” His team bought everything you could imagine a school would need, including not only food and cafeteria supplies but also books and classroom supplies, uniforms, diplomas, etc.

He thought he might stay in this role for the rest of his career, but then Cardinal Bevilacqua arrived. This Cardinal wanted lay people to run administrative departments and his priests in parishes, so after 22 years in schools and procurement, Monsignor found himself back as a parish priest. First he served as Pastor for a brief time at Assumption BVM in Philadelphia while training his successor in Procurement. Monsignor noted that this is the parish where Mother Kathryn Drexel was baptized. In 1989 he was named Pastor of St. Jude Parish in Chalfont, and he served in that role until his retirement in 2012.

Asked about his greatest accomplishment during his 23 years at St. Jude, he said “really just lasting that long there!” He stated he had a lot of good people in the parish who helped him with all his initiatives, and later recounted the expansion of the school as the thing he was most proud of.

The school enhancements included 8 additional classrooms, a library, computer center, and gym.

Upon mandatory retirement, one of the things he said surprised him was how little he knew how to work with technology. “I always had a secretary to handle that!” he shared with a smile. I teased him that when I call him and get his voicemail it still says “You have reached St. Jude Parish.” He was happy to retort, “Not anymore Phil! I finally figured out how to change the message last month.” We enjoyed a good laugh about that.

So how did he start celebrating Mass at St. Stanislaus? It was a simple phone call from our then pastor Monsignor Tracy, who had heard about his retirement and invited him to help us here. He also celebrates Mass a few times a month at St. David's parish in Willow Grove and St. Joseph's parish in Warrington.

I asked him how he would summarize the difference between being a priest in school and administration vs. a priest assigned to a parish. After thinking a moment, he stated “The work in the school and in procurement was very interesting, but being a parish priest was more fulfilling.”

As I was getting ready to leave, I had one final question for Monsignor. His mobility issues are apparent to all of us, so I was curious to know how much longer he planned to celebrate Masses. He held up his cane and declared “as long as I can get out of bed, I'll keep saying the Mass!” Here's hoping we continue to see him on weekends at St. Stanislaus for many years to come!✠

# 2024 St. Stan's Festival Photo Album







This year's Summer Festival – held August 13<sup>th</sup> through 17<sup>th</sup> was a huge success! The weather was perhaps the best we've had in a decade. There's not enough thanks to everyone who came out and participated in this annual community event and especially thanks are due to the Festival Committee, led by Jane Friel and John Earley; Pat Stortenbecker and Garage Sale volunteers; our local businesses who support the festival (check out the sponsors in the bulletin and on the website!); our parish organizations who volunteered throughout the week; the Knights of Columbus and Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Scouts, Mater Dei Teachers, Prep Catechists, Altar Servers, and the Escape Room crew!✂



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**Parish Census Data for February – June 2024**

 <p>Jocelyn Edith Lingvay-Arnold Rose Margaret Lingvay-Arnold Julian Miguel Lorenzo Georgina Capri Luongo Emma Harper McCaul Stella Yvonne McDermott Amelia Jo Milroy Maya Rose Neff Amaia Maria Nunez Rodriguez Madison Marie Nuss Pablo Martin Pablo Ortiz Ella Margaret Pescatore Mark Steven Rippons III Theo Alexander Roberts Jayce Rodriguez Espinal Bella Victoria Rodriguez Rivera Harper Jane Schoenewald Josephine Ray Taney Meghan Vargas Garcia Sophia Elizabeth Vergez Giza Brynlee Taryn Wilson Alex Mateo Zavala Trinidad</p>	 <p>Welcome Our New Members</p> <p>Michel &amp; Kimberly Bonneau Christopher &amp; Meaghan Bowen James &amp; Christine Brennan Paul &amp; Melani Burke Evan Chapman &amp; Gabrielle /Hoffman Basil &amp; Josephine Chiodo Jesse &amp; Mary Clancy</p> <p>Vince Corvino &amp; Aubrey Marley Paul &amp; Diane Cotterino Anna Croasdale James &amp; Sarah Dempsey Daniel &amp; Angela Ginion Robert Giza &amp; Migdalia Vergez Neil &amp; Mackenzie Hemmerle Garry Lentz Shawn &amp; Daniela McCaul</p> <p>Margaret &amp; Raymond McGrath Jr. Patrick &amp; Tricia McGrath Robert &amp; Kelly Peachey Joseph Sosinavage BJ Souders Peter &amp; Resha Turner Timothy &amp; Annette Verzella Joseph Wood Lorraine Wood Frank &amp; Melissa Yurick</p>
<p>Arisbeth Margarita Alvarado Contreras Mateo Julian Alvarado Contreras Scott James Ambrogi Macie Catherine Barrett Grayson Ramsey Barrows Rodriguez Gerard Mathew Bonilla Santos Orvin Gael Bonilla Santos Nolan Andrew Buckley Kaden Francisco Castanon Arredondo Lucas Castro Castro Neyvan Cobo Anthony Vincent Conte Makana Jade Donato Ethan Sebastian Farfan Aimee Sophia Farfan Mosquera Vienna Rose Fattore Lia Isabella Garcia Vincent Dipaul Gervasi Jaxson John Harbin Christopher Hidalgo Josephine Colette Hollenbach Benjamin Hunter Lin</p>	 <p>IN MEMORIAM</p> <p>Leona Barr Janet Battavio Mary Jane Boegner Anne Marie Brown Dominic Calafati Nancy Calvitti William Campbell Simon Cantos Basil Chiodo Jr. Lena Cirino Elsie Creegan</p> <p>Adelaida Delapaz Sharon DeLong James DePaul Marguerite DiLello Kathryn DiNicola Dr. Donald Gehman Richard Hammer Patrick Hanrahan Nancy Liberto Eileen Maleski Harold Marlow</p> <p>William Mirabella Frances Morton Rosella Nagle Elizabeth Pester- Denardo James Pulli Lorraine Rechis Margaret Amei Reynolds Pasquale Riccardi Elda Ritinski</p> <p>Joseph Roos Andrew Umfer Anthony Vona Mary Weiland Michael Wisniewski Jaime Witman Rose Zadlo Thomas Zito</p>
	 <p>WEDDINGS</p> <p>Christopher Mark D'Elia &amp; Audrey Mary Cunningham Felipe de Jesus Tapia Hernandez &amp; Mirsa Cristina Sabillon Meza Edward Herbert Hitner &amp; Peggy Ann Ireland Carlos Eduardo Roque Lemus &amp; Midian Magdalena Welchez David Osvaldo Crespo Matos &amp; Judy Meredith Mendez Vanderdys</p> <p>Matthew Thomas Nitchke &amp; Krysten Elizabeth Lloyd Dung Tien Nguyen &amp; Judy Linh John Joseph Prykowski &amp; Ashley Sundermeier Juan Pedro Castro Pulla &amp; Zoila Mercedes Castro Pamaquiza Alejandro Frederick Schnerdinger &amp; Kimberly Nicole Henderson</p>