



In Touch

Lifetime Pilgrim Stanley Zebro Shares Memories

Inside this issue:

Lifetime Pilgrim Shares Memories	1
A Message from Sister Ruth Plante, OSBM	2
Basilian Sisters Honor Sister Jubilarians	3
Youth Retreat	5
Photos 82nd Annual Pilgrimage	6-7
Upcoming Programs - House of Prayer	9
Obituaries	10
Leadership Gathering	11
Live Nativity	12

Stanley Zebro is a resident of Mount St. Marcrina Manor. He has attended every Pilgrimage since 1933. In fact, in 1933, Stanley attended as his mother carried him in her womb. He was born over two months later on November 19!

Stanley remembers Pilgrimage being an annual family affair with his sister, parents and grandparents. His grandparents were immigrants from Krakow, Poland who came to America in the late 1800s. The couple settled in Philadelphia where Stanley's father and aunt were born.

The family relocated to South Union Township in Uniontown. There his grandfather worked in the Jamieson Mine, then for the railroad. When Stanley's father became of age, he went to work servicing trains and retired from Jim Fear in Uniontown.

Stanley grew up and



started a career as a home builder. He was the first man in the area to work in dry wall. He also served in the U.S. Army Signal Corp. When he returned from the service, Stanley worked for Jim Fear just as his father did. Later, he took a job with Volkswagon in New Stanton, where he retired.

In his personal life, Stanley married his high school sweetheart Harriet in 1957. The couple had three children: Stanley III, Angela and

Charles. He now has eight grandchildren and nine great grandchildren. Sadly, Harriet passed away in 2000.

Stanley's fondest memory of Pilgrimage is going to the Mount and seeing hundreds of people walking along Route 40 to get to the Otpust (as everyone called the Pilgrimage back then).

"At the entrance, there had to be traffic control by state policemen who volunteered. The large field to the right was

(Continued on page 8)

A Message from Sister Ruth

Autumn 2016

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST!

Dear Friends,

Those of us who live on Mount St. Macrina are richly blessed. We get to experience the wonders of our Creator God unfold around us season after season.

I personally love fall. It is so crisp, clear, and invigorating. Everyday I wake up to a new surprise – 50 geese taking a respite near the pond on their way south, hints of color appearing on the bushes and trees, a touch of frost in the morning air.

There is another aspect to fall which speaks to our journey through life and our spirituality. Fall is also the time of change and letting go. When we seek to keep things just as they are, may the geese flying south remind us that we need to be willing to leave our satisfying place of comfort and venture into the flight of the unknown. When we fear the reality of our aging, may the brilliant colors of the October trees, open our spirits to the presence of the light of God's everlasting love. And, as October fades into the darkening days of November, may we enter into stillness and silent mystery, waiting patiently for unfolding wisdom and clarity. We experience this so beautifully in the time of advent "waiting" and the glorious Christmas celebration of "God With Us."

We are on this journey of transformation together, and we need to nourish and support each other by our prayers, our kind words, our love. Be assured of our ongoing prayers, support, and love – and our deep gratitude for yours.

Sincerely in the Lord,

Sister Ruth Plante, OSBM

Sister Ruth Plante, OSBM
Provincial



Sr. Ruth Plante, OSBM

In Touch

A biannual publication of
the Sisters of St. Basil

Editor: Susan McCarthy

Contributors to this issue:

Sr. Margaret Ann Andrako

Sr. Margaret Kapusnak, OSBM

Sr. Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM

Fall 2016

Volume 25, No. 2

Basilian Sisters Honor Sister Jubilarians



Sr. Joanne Lickvar, OSBM (left) and Sr. Janet Decker, OSBM celebrate Golden Jubilees.

The Sisters of Saint Basil of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Province recently honored their Sisters who were observing jubilees and significant year anniversaries. On Sun., July 24, the Sisters, their associates, families and friends gathered in the monastery chapel as

Metropolitan Archbishop William C. Skurla celebrated a Divine Liturgy of thanksgiving for Sr. Stephanie Baval, OSBM a 75-year honoree and for Golden Jubilarians Sisters Janet Decker, OSBM and Joanne Lickvar, OSBM. Sr. Stephanie, a resident

at Mt. Macrina Manor, was unable to be present.

Metropolitan William congratulated Sisters Stephanie, Janet and Joanne and thanked them for their lives of service to the church, for all those whom they taught, and for the countless lives that they touched.

After the liturgy, the celebration continued with dinner in the dining room.

St. Mary Church in Trenton N.J. was the home parish for Sr. Stephanie. As a young Sister, she remembers an early ministry in the residence of Bishop Basil Takach. Her specialty in teaching was the primary grades for 25 years. She then developed her talent for iconography and art design, and she became an accomplished and well known iconographer. The icon that she wrote depicting the Call of the Apostles became the vocation icon for the Eparchy of Passaic.

Sr. Janet entered the community from Saints Peter and Paul Church in Lopez, Pa. Her years of ministry were mainly dedicated to education as a teacher and principal. After St. John School in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. was closed, Sr. Janet continued to serve there in pastoral ministry. Presently she serves as assistant at the Cemetery Office, and she offers her clerical and organizational skills wherever needed.

Sr. Joanne came to the Sisters from St. John the Baptist Parish (now the Cathedral Parish) in Cleveland, Ohio. She, too was, committed to education as teacher and principal in schools staffed by the Sisters. She served the community as education consultant and when assigned to the chancery in Phoenix, she worked for the eparchy in the finance office and as

Continued on page 4

Basilian Sisters Honor Jubilarians *(Continued from page 3)*



Pictured above (left to right, front row) are Sr. Euphemia Kopa, Sr. Jean Marie Cihota, Sr. Margaret Fedyszak. In the second row are Monastery Chaplain Father Michael Huszti and Sr. Ruth Plante, Provincial.

coordinator of the Safe Environment Program. From 2007 to 2013, she served in Rome after being elected Vicar General for all of the Sisters of the international Order of the Sisters of Saint Basil the Great. She was elected to the Provincial Council in 2015, an office she holds today.

Along with Sr. Stephanie, other Sisters with special anniversaries

who are residents of Mt. Macrina Manor were honored earlier that week. They are: Sr. Emma Pauline Fedorchak, OSBM and Sr. Leona Trudich, OSBM (80 years); and, Sr. Leonora Kondrach, OSBM (70 years); and Sr. Josetta Kriss, OSBM (60 years).

Sisters also honored at the monastery on another day that week were: Sr. Euphemia Kopa, OSBM (70 years);

and, Sr. Jean Marie Cihota, OSBM and Sr. Margaret Fedyszak, OSBM (60 years).

Saint Michael in Donora, Pa. is the home parish of Sr. Emma Pauline Fedorchak, OSBM. She likewise was dedicated to the ministry of teacher and principal for many years. Then for a long while she was appointed to pastoral ministry at St. George parish in

Linden, N.J. Upon her return to the monastery she devoted time as a volunteer at Mt. Macrina Manor, visiting the sick and offering comfort to them.

Lansford, Pa. was home for Sr. Leona Trudich, OSBM, and St. John Church there was her parish. She offered her services in various parochial schools as teacher, principal, and in later years, as library aide. With Sr. Leonora she served in pastoral ministry at St. John in Hazleton, Pa. until that ministry was discontinued. Her retirement years have been devoted to the ministry of prayer.

Sr. Euphemia Kopa, OSBM joined the Sisters from St. Mary Parish in Weirton, W. Va. Following the prime apostolate of the Sisters at that time, she too was a teacher and principal.

Many former students can remember her as (their second grade

(Continued on page 5)

Basilian Sisters Honor Jubilarians *(Continued from page 4)*

teacher. She also served in the bishop's residence and as administrator of the former St. Basil's home. She has worked as assistant to Sr. Vladimir in the monastery baking department and the medovniki project for the Pilgrimage, a ministry which she continues today.

Sr. Leonora Kondrach, OSBM entered from St. Mary Parish, Freeland, Pa. Most of her 70 years as a Sister were devoted to the apostolate of education as both teacher and principal. When St. John School in Hazleton, Pa. was closed, Sr. Leonora continued there in pastoral and catechetical ministry. Then she helped as a teacher's aide at St. Mary School in Cleveland, Ohio, and at the House of Prayer at Mount St. Macrina.

Sr. Jean Marie Cihota, OSBM came from St. Nicholas Parish, McKeesport, Pa. She has been dedicated to the ministries of elementary education, religious education, pastoral ministry,

community administration as assistant provincial, and vocations. She has also fulfilled appointments as Assistant Director of Vocations for the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh and as a member of the Intereparchial Vocations Commission. Since 2006, her ministry has been in the chancery of the Eparchy of Phoenix where she is also the Eparchial Safe Environment Coordinator.

Sr. Josetta Kriss, OSBM left her home parish of

St. Michael in Canonsburg, Pa. when she answered the call to the consecrated life. Many of her years of ministry were devoted to educating children both as teacher and principal in the parochial schools of the Archeparchy and of the Eparchies of Parma and Passaic. She was also named as Provincial Counselor, Province Treasurer and as director of the Byzantine Seminary Press in Pittsburgh.

The parish of Sts. Peter and Paul in Warren, Ohio is the home parish of Sr. Margaret Fedyszak, OSBM. Her ministerial specialty was culinary arts at the monastery, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, the former St. Basil's Home, and at various convents of the Metropolitan Church. She is a certified massage therapist, and she has offered that talent at Mt. Macrina Manor, where she also worked in the Activities Department.



Youth Retreat Held

The Young Adult Retreat, "The Heart and Soul of the Gospel," was held in June at the House of Prayer. Fr. Will Rupp and Fr. Vasyl Symyon, also young adults, presented sessions, as did participants who helped plan the program along with Sr. Barbara Jean, OSBM. The group solemnly entered the Holy Door at the Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in the House of Prayer and sang the Compline prayers. Group sessions and discussions, confessions and Divine Liturgy at our monastery completed the weekend. This was the second annual retreat and another is planned for next Spring.



Theotokos: An Inexhaus



Stible Fountain of Mercy



82nd Annual Pilgrimage

September 3 & 4, 2016

Lifetime Pilgrim Stanley Zebro Shares Memories (Continued from page 1)



filled with cars and buses from all over the United States,” he said.

“I also loved the singing and the pilgrims processing with the banners from their churches,” he added.

Stanley remembers that people would sleep on cots and eat both breakfast and dinner on the Mount.

“There was no mall or restaurants across the street.

It was all fields,” said Stanley.

Then there are the cookies! He remembers buying them and eating them for days. He was delighted that his sister bought him a dozen this past Pilgrimage as he was able to share them with his friends at the Manor.

This year Stanley attended the Pilgrimage on Sunday. He

enjoyed the services, the singing and the Candlelight Procession.

When I asked if there was anything else that he would like to share, he added, “My father use to do electrical work at Mount St. Macrina. After he completed the job, Sister Ignatius would always send him home with potted flowers. She was such a nice lady.”

Stanley has been a resident of Mount Macrina Manor for less than one year. He enjoys the daily activities and the attractiveness of the space. His mother, who lived to age 97, was also a resident there and is still remembered by some of the manor employees.

Join us for our Christmas Open House

Religious Gift Shop at Mt. St. Macrina

Sat., Dec. 3, 10 a.m.– 4:30 p.m. &

Tues., Dec. 6, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Religious Gifts • Icons • Christmas Cards •
Refreshments • Raffle • A Gift for You • 10%
Discount

Complimentary Gift Wrapping is Available

Please bring a non-perishable food item
or paper product.



Sisters of St. Basil • 500 W. Main St. • Uniontown, PA 15401 • 724.439.6180

Upcoming Programs at the House of Prayer



MERCY MORNING

V. Rev. John G. Petro
Reflection and Prayer

Thurs., Nov. 17, 10 -
11:30 a.m.

Free Will Offering

This will be the closing
service for the Year of
Mercy.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER MORNING*

Rev. Jason Charron

Sat., Dec. 10

9:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Offering: \$35, (Incl. lunch)

Registration Due: Dec. 6

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AFTERNOON*

Rev. Edward Mazich,
OSB

Sun., Dec. 11

1:15 – 5 p.m.

Offering: \$35 (Incl. supper)

Registration Due: Dec. 7

POUSTINIA RETREAT

Sr. Barbara Jean
Mihalchick, OSBM

Feb. 24-26, 2017

7 p.m. Fri. - 11:00 a.m.
Sun.

Offering: \$75.

Registration Due: Feb. 17

*A bible, an icon and a small
loaf of bread are one's
companions during this time*

*of listening to and resting in
the Lord.*

*Breakfast is provided on
Saturday and Sunday.*

Please be sure to
register early to avoid
program cancellation. A
complete list of
programs is available at
www.sistersofstbasil.org.

If you have any
questions or would like
to register, please call
724.438.7149 or email
hpmsm@verizon.net.

**The Sacrament of
Reconciliation will be
offered.*

Seminary Concert Tour Comes to the Mount



The Orientale Lumen Foundation presented their third Seminary Concert Tour. The tour started Sept. 11 and concluded on Oct. 2. The choir includes 16 seminarians from the Blessed Theodore Romzha Seminary in Uzhorod, Transcarpathia, Ukraine. They performed their two brief concerts of sacred music (both plain chant and choral arrangements), in the Church Slavonic language at the Monastery and Mount Macrina Manor on September 14.

Sr. Vladimir, Sr. Stephanie Called Home



Sr. Vladimir Chabala, OSBM

On Aug. 4, 2016, Sr. Vladimir (Mary) Chabala made the final surrender of her life to the Lord in whose service she spent herself for over 70 years. Until the last two weeks of her life, Sister was a familiar figure around the monastery, and most frequently, she could be found praying at her place in the chapel. Her poor health in her later years did not prevent her from either doing what she could or from carrying out the duties of her religious vocation.

Sr. Vladimir was born in the village of Kobylnice in Slovakia, the daughter of the late John and Helen (Onufer) Chabala. She entered the Sisters of St. Basil from St. Mary's Church, New

York, N.Y. Sister brought to the Community her special gift in the culinary arts, which she generously offered in service to the community. Besides caring for the Sisters' needs in the various parishes of where the Sisters served, Sr. Vladimir also worked at St. Basil's Home for Aged Women, at Maria Manor in Ebensburg, Pa., and at the Archbishop's Residence in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Sr. Vladimir brought her unique baking abilities to the "medovniki" project for the annual Pilgrimage. In fact, for this last round of baking, she still oversaw the preparation of icing. For many years, Sister also added another flavorful touch to the Pilgrimage through overseeing the preparation of the "holupki" (cabbage rolls) which are a popular item with the pilgrims. When Sr. Vladimir was no longer able to do this, she was consulted and then gave her stamp of approval to the caterers who now make this ethnic treat.

Sr. Vladimir was also responsible for preparing the Holy Chrism which is consecrated for use in all of our churches,

another ministry to which she was devoted for quite a number of years. Much more could be said of Sister, whose life journey took her from her small village in Slovakia, to New York City where she worked at Schrafft's to Mount St. Macrina. In summary, her simple life of loving labor and prayer has enriched many lives, and she now enjoys her well-deserved heavenly reward.

The last surviving member of her immediate family, Sr. Vladimir was preceded in death by her parents, her brothers Michael and John and her sisters Anna Evan and Sister Olga, OSBM. In addition to her Sisters in community, she is survived by several nephews and nieces and their families. Relatives and friends were received at the Monastery Chapel on Wed., Aug. 10 and the Parastas Service was sung that evening. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Thurs., Aug. 11 in the Monastery Chapel by Archbishop William Skurla. Interment followed in the Dormition Section of Mount Macrina Cemetery.



Sr. Stephanie Bavol, OSBM

Sr. Stephanie (Elizabeth) Bavol entered the fullness of life on Mon., Oct. 17. After retiring from active ministry due to health issues, Sr. Stephanie resided at Mt. Macrina Manor for the past eight years. Her cheerful countenance and acceptance of this change in her life was an inspiration to all who cared for her.

She was born in Trenton, N.J., the daughter of the late John and Susan (Vasilko) Bavol. In 1941, she entered the Sisters of St. Basil from St. Mary's Church, Trenton, N.J. Having made the decision to offer her life in service to God at the age of 16, she remained faithful to this call for 76 years.

(Continued on page 11)

Sr. Vladimir, Sr. Stephanie Called Home, (Continued from page 10)

Sr. Stephanie's life in ministry ranged from being prefect of boys and girls in St. Nicholas Orphanage, to prefect at Mt. St. Macrina Academy, to being a teacher in the primary grades for over 25 years. Of her last and most beloved ministry, that of iconography she wrote, "My last apostolate which is iconography - is the most prayerful and peaceful. I pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide and help me." Sr. Stephanie was the first iconographer in the community.

Following upon her degree in education and certification in Elementary Education and Art from Marywood College, she pursued her study in art under Master Iconographer, Philip Zimmerman, with whom she also conducted workshops both in this country and abroad. Over the years, Sr. Stephanie had been commissioned to write several icons for special occasions. One was presented to Pope St. John Paul II by the late Archbishop Judson Procyk as a token of esteem and gratitude. Through pray-

er and inspiration, Sr. Stephanie also wrote an icon depicting the Call of the Apostles which became the official Vocation Icon of the Eparchy of Passaic at the time. These with many other commissioned icons that grace the monastery walls near the chapel are testimony to Sister's gifts and talents. Sr. Stephanie was preceded in death by her parents, her sisters Mary Baval, Ann Vanisko, and Margaret Mattaliano; and her brothers John and Michael Baval. In addition to her members in

community, she is survived by her cherished sister, Sr. Theresa, also a member of the Sisters of St. Basil, and many devoted nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends were received at the Monastery Chapel on Thurs., Oct. 20 and the Parastas Service was sung that evening. The Funeral Divine Liturgy was celebrated on Friday morning, Oct. 21, in the Monastery Chapel. Interment followed in the Dormition Section of Mount Macrina Cemetery.

Leadership Gathering



In late September, Sister Ruth (second row, far right) joined with the leadership of all of the units of the Sisters of St. Basil throughout the world in Lovran, Croatia. This gathering takes place every several years in order for the Sisters to share information regarding membership, ministries and mission. They also spend time discussing common issues and discerning future directions. Sisters were present from the United States, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, Croatia, Poland, Argentina, Brazil, and Australia.

In Touch
Sisters of St. Basil the Great
500 West Main Street
P.O. Box 878
Uniontown, PA 15401
(724) 438-8644
www.sistersofstbasil.org

Live Nativity - Sunday, December 11



Mount Macrina Manor's annual Live Nativity will be held on the grounds of Mount Saint Macrina in North Union Township on Sunday, December 11, 5-7 p.m. More than 25 people are expected to portray Mary and Joseph, the shepherds tending to their flock, the Three Kings, the Little Drummer Boy and angels. The Nativity will be set up along the Friendship Circle, adjacent to the facility. In addition to the volunteers who are participating, there will also be live animals. Several groups will sing Christmas carols. The event is free of charge and everyone is welcome.
