

# Spirit & Life

*The Call to a New Evangelization: Go and make Disciples.*

Summer 2016

## What Did You Miss?



**Top Left:** On Saturday, April 30, St. Gregory’s Parishioner, Kate Hahn, became a Consecrated Virgin at a ceremony celebrated by Bishop Richard J. Malone at St. Joseph’s Cathedral.

**Top Right:** The Post-Dyngus Day Dinner Dance was held on Saturday, April 2. Event-goers enjoyed a true Polish dinner and Polka dancing from The Polish Heritage Dancers of WNY. All proceeds benefited our pilgrims attending World Youth Day this summer in Poland with Pope Francis.

**Center Left:** After 10 months at St. Gregory the Great, Seminarian Paul Cygan returned to Christ the King Seminary for his final two years of theology studies. We wish him the best and look forward to the day we can all celebrate his Priesthood Ordination.

**Center Right:** At the 11:00 am Mass on Sunday, April 15, we celebrated the 2016 St. Gregory’s Twelve recipients. Congratulations to: Elizabeth Astridge, Jocelyn Bila, Sara T. Dworzanski, Angela Georgi, Joseph D. McEachon II, Carol & Russ Monafó, Betty Moran, Harlean Nehrbass, Scott & Lisa Schomber, Lisa & Robert Spada, George & Caroline Tirabassi, and Julie Tyczynski.



## From the Desk of the Pastor

### "Upon this Rock": Meaning of Church

"Upon this Rock I will build my Church." These words of Jesus in the Gospel remind us that Peter was chosen as leader (Pope) and it was upon the Rock of the Apostles' teaching of the Gospel of Jesus that the Church was built. As Christians, the Catholic Church is really the only Church that traces its actual beginning to the Apostolic era. Every other Christian Church points to someone who usually severed from the Catholic Church at a particular time and formed a body of believers still professing Christianity apart from the Roman Catholic Church.

"Upon this Rock" locally today is the title given to the Diocesan effort initiated by our Bishop, Bishop Malone, for our Diocese of Buffalo and all parishes within. I sometimes wonder if we understand the meaning of "Diocese" today when so much of our physical time is spent in our "parish?" What is "THE DIOCESE?"

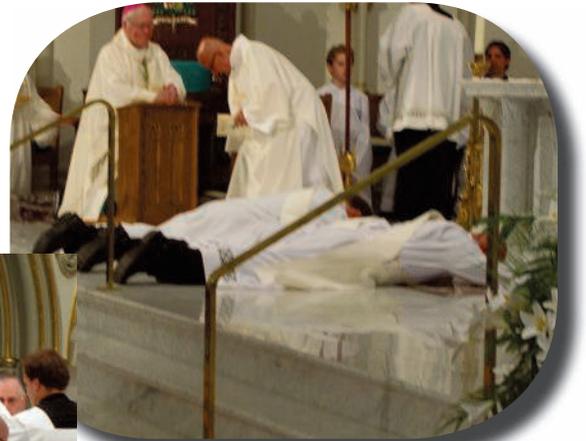
According to paragraph 833 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church we learn: "The phrase 'particular church,' which is the diocese (or eparchy), refers to a community of the Christian faithful in communion of faith and sacraments with their bishop ordained in apostolic succession. These particular Churches 'are constituted after the model of the universal Church; it is in these and formed out of them that the one and unique Catholic Church exists.'" What does this mean?

In brief, this means that Bishop Malone is a successor of one of the Apostles. Just as the Apostles went off to preach and teach after their experience of Pentecost, so too, the Bishops today, their successors, go off to preach and lead the Church. Basically every square inch of soil in the world belongs to a diocese. The Diocese of Buffalo was established on April 23, 1847, and was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York on October 30, 1897 and May 1, 1951. The Diocese of Buffalo comprises the counties of Erie, Niagara, Genesee, Orleans, Chautauqua, Wyoming, Cattaraugus and Allegany in New York State. We are 6,455 square miles with a Catholic population of 630,650 people. The Diocese is not land, but it is the people of God being shepherded by an Apostle or Bishop in communion with the Church Universal. A parish, St. Gregory the Great parish, for example, exists only because we are part of a Diocese.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 2179, states: "A parish is a definite community of the Christian faithful established on a stable basis within a particular church: the pastoral care of the parish is entrusted to a pastor as its own shepherd under the authority of the diocesan bishop. It is the place where all the faithful can be gathered together for the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist. The parish initiates the Christian people into the ordinary expression of the liturgical life: it gathers them together in this celebration; it teaches Christ's saving doctrine; it practices the charity of the Lord in good works and brotherly love." St. John Chrysostom wrote: "You cannot pray at home as at church, where there is a great multitude, where exclamations are cried out to God as from one great heart, and where there is something more: the union of minds, the accord of souls, the bond of charity, the prayers of the priests."

Please take some time to reflect on the importance of St. Gregory the Great Parish in your life. Please take some time to realize that we are not an island any more than you are an island devoid of human contact. We belong to our brothers and sisters in the 8 counties of WNY under the leadership of our Bishop. We are the Body of Christ; the Church (Diocese) of Buffalo. I will use a sports analogy to bring St. John Chrysostom's quote and the Catechism's quote alive. I do not believe that any one of us would regularly choose to sit home completely alone to watch the Bills or Sabres play. We choose to watch the game with other fans and we really would rather be at the game in person than watching it on television. There is an excitement and energy when thousands of fans are together in person to cheer on our team. Is that our experience of, and your desire for, our parish and diocese? Do you see that we gather, not isolated, to worship and praise God and receive the Word of God and the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, and we do not do that alone on Maple Road, but along with our Bishop and 630,649 brothers and sisters across WNY (the Diocese of Buffalo)?

In Apostolic times, the faithful gave all they had to the Apostles, and they formed "the church." Today our Apostle, Bishop Malone, is asking, not for all we have, but to make a sacrificial gift to "Upon this Rock" to further the Church and Gospel living in the Diocese of Buffalo. As your pastor, I am asking you, not for all you have, but to make a sacrificial gift, as I also have made, to "Upon this Rock" to further the Parish of St. Gregory the Great in its mission of living the Gospel of Jesus Christ. May God bless you, our Mother Mary watch over you and St. Gregory the Great intercede for you, always.



# Congratulations, Father Samuel T. Giangreco, Jr.



St. Gregory the Great Parishioner, Father Samuel Giangreco, was ordained into the Priesthood for the Diocese of Buffalo on Saturday, May 28. Fr. Sam is only the second son of St. Gregory's to become a priest for the Diocese. Fr. Sam's first assignment will be at Our Lady of Victory Basilica in Lackawanna. May God grant Fr. Sam blessings in his ministry to lead God's people.





# INVITATION TO MISSION 35

Looking to be revitalized and refreshed in your faith this summer? We invite you to join us for our seven-night Retreat beginning Sunday, July 10th. Mission retreat consists of seven nights of inspiring talks and liturgies and an opportunity for discussion and fellowship. The first evening begins at 6:00 pm, weeknights begin at 7:00 pm and Saturday will begin at 3:30 pm, until about 10:00 pm each evening. Each night builds on the preceding, so we ask that you commit to attend all seven nights. Reservations are necessary and space is limited. To reserve a spot at this summer's Mission, call Jo Pierino at St. Gregory's Parish Office at 688-5678. For more information call Brian and Ann Carrier at 553-3835.



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## St. Gregory's 21st Annual Great Race

Join us for the annual Great Race on Friday, June 17. Sign up today as a 5K runner or 1 Mile Fun Walk participant. You may register online at [www.stgregs.org/greatrace](http://www.stgregs.org/greatrace).

The race begins at 7:00 pm with a post-race party in the Ministry Center parking lot. Buffalo's premiere party band, HIT n RUN, will entertain with great music throughout the evening.

Don't miss the summer's most family-friendly 5K and party.





## Director of New Evangelization

### To the faith community of St. Gregory the Great,

My name is Bryan Metcalf, and I am very excited to be greeting you for the first time as the Director of New Evangelization. As the great Bilbo Baggins once said while celebrating his “eleventy-first” birthday, “I don’t know half of you half as well as I should like, and I like less than half of you half as well as you deserve.”

I moved to Buffalo to pursue a master’s degree at Canisius College, and I have loved every minute of it (well, except maybe the snowstorm while I was moving in to my first apartment...). I’ve visited many of the parishes in our Diocese, and I’ve always felt at home. But never more than I have since I started joining you for daily Mass a few months ago.

Before moving to Buffalo I was perfectly happy living in the beautiful wine country of Northern California. If you’re wondering why I moved here, I promise to tell you as soon as I figure that out for myself.

It’s actually very simple, I love hockey. Buffalo is a great hockey town, so it fits.

You’re probably wondering what my job is. As your Director of New Evangelization, my job is to support this community in fulfilling the Great Commission, “Go, therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them all that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:18)

We all have a role to play in evangelization. The best thing we can do for anyone is invite them to a relationship with Jesus Christ and His One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. To that end, I encourage you to always be willing to listen to others. Develop lasting friendships even with those who do not believe. Let your life be a witness to your faith in Christ.

As these friends begin to discover the beauty, goodness, and truth of the Catholic Church, we must work to build them up in faith. This is more than just RCIA courses. This means teaching them not only how to pray, but how to teach others to pray. This means teaching them how to teach the Faith to others. The purpose of building them up in this way is so they too can go out as Disciples of Christ and bring others to know Him.

In his first letter to the church at Corinth, St. Paul wrote, “There are many varieties of gifts, but the same spirit.” We all have gifts we can bring to the task of evangelization. This mission is for everyone, whether priest or laity. By our love for our neighbor, we can show God’s unconditional love for that person, and lead him or her to Christ. This is an important task.

So important, that the great missionary and co-founder of the Society of Jesus, St. Francis Xavier, wrote to his friend St. Ignatius of Loyola, “There is now in these parts a very large number of persons who have only one reason for not becoming Christian, and that is that there is no one to make them Christians. It often comes into my mind to go round all the universities of Europe, and especially that of Paris, crying out everywhere like a madman, and saying to all the learned men there whose learning is so much greater than their charity, ‘Ah! What a multitude of souls is through your fault shut out of Heaven and falling into Hell!’”

God is calling all of us to spread the Gospel. How will we answer His call?

Sincerely,  
Bryan Metcalf  
Directory of New Evangelization  
bmetcalf@stgregs.org; (716) 688-5678, ext. 331





# Youth Ministry

**College Students! Join us for the college send-off, August 12 at St. Greg's Ministry Center**

*Middle School Students! Don't forget about Mass, Lunch & Games every Friday over the summer!*



**Please pray for our Pilgrims attending World Youth Day with Pope Francis in Poland from July 22 - August 2**



**Visit our website:**

**Youth: [www.stgregsYM.org](http://www.stgregsYM.org)**

**College: [www.stgregsCM.org](http://www.stgregsCM.org)**

## Classic Car Show

Join us for some summertime fun at St. Gregory the Great Parish's 3rd Annual Car Show on Labor Day, Monday, September 5.



The show, sponsored by Joe Basil Chevrolet, will be held in the St. Gregory's Ministry Center parking lot from 12:00 - 5:00 pm. It is a great opportunity for people to view show cars from past eras, visit with fellow parishioners and friends, listen to music from the '50s and '60s, and to have some summertime fun.

Admission is free. There will be food, beverages and a 50/50 split club raffle. The registration fee to enter a car in the show is \$13 before the event and \$15 the day of the event. Twenty-five Best of Show and Top 100 trophies will be awarded, as well as five \$100 cash prizes. Funds raised will support the next parish Mission Trip and Catholic Education.

Come enjoy the camaraderie of the day with fellow parishioners and those we welcome to our parish campus as we enjoy the blessings of summer.





# St. Gregory the Great School

## Did You Know?

The St. Gregory's Science Olympiad team placed sixth at the NYS Science Olympiad competition in Syracuse, NY.



## 8th Grade May Crowning



## FBI DNA Extraction



## 7th Grade Class Trip to Niagara Falls



# Family Faith Formation



- 152 students received Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion on Saturday, May 7.
- The Most Reverend Richard J. Malone celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation with 149 high-schoolers on April 13 & 24.



- St. Gregory's Family Faith Formation recently won an award at the Peaceprints of WNY Annual Awards Dinner. Peaceprint of WNY, set up by Sister Karen Klimczak, awarded FFF the Hope award. This was in recognition of FFF's dedication to prison ministries and Hope House. FFF students collected 2,085 boxes of Mac & Cheese, along with Christmas gifts for the prison outreach programs.



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

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Saint Gregory the Great Catholic Church

## Save the Date!

18th Annual Great Dinner Auction: Saturday, November 5 at Salvatore's Italian Gardens

### Mark Your Calendar For These Upcoming Events:

#### June

- 12 - Household Goods Collection
- 28 - Health Fair & Blood Drive
- 12 - New Parishioner Social
- 13 - HandBell & Children Choir Concert
- 16 - Kindergarten Celebration
- 17 - Great Race
- 19 - Father's Day - Family Mass
- 22 - 8th Grade Graduation
- 27 - SPLASH Begins

#### July

- 2 - Chiavetta's Chicken Dinner benefiting Marian Franciscans
- 6 - Grief & Loss Ministry Meeting
- 9 - Families with Disabilities Picnic
- 10 - New Parishioner Social
- 10-16 - Summer Mission Retreat
- 11-15 - Vacation Bible School
- 19 - Year of Mercy Reflection with Fr. Greg Faulhaber
- 18-22 - Disciple Camp
- 24 - Disciple Camp Car Wash

#### August

- 3 - Grief & Loss Ministry Meeting
- 6 - 13 Jamaica Mission Trip
- 15 - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (not a holy day of obligation in 2016)
- 14 - New Parishioner Social
- 16 - Year of Mercy Reflection with Deacon Don Weigel

#### September

- 5 - Car Show
- 11 - Parish Buffalo Bills Party
- 22-23 - Welcome Back to School Event with Food Trucks

**Spirit & Life Staff:** Greg Smith, Fr. Leon Biernat, Joe Deck. Published bimonthly by St. Gregory the Great Parish. If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Parish Office at 688-5678 or write the *Spirit & Life* Newsletter c/o St. Gregory the Great Church, 200 St. Gregory Ct., Williamsville, NY 14221. We are grateful to Liturgical Publications, whose generosity and benevolence allow us to provide *Spirit & Life* at minimal cost to our parishioners.