

The Citizen

PENTECOST 2024

A P U B L I C A T I O N O F T H E J O H N C A R R O L L S O C I E T Y



32nd ANNUAL ROSE MASS

'Death Will Not Define Us' Says Rose Mass Homilist

The Word of God today is clear: sickness, disease, death — will not be permitted to define us... they will not be permitted to have the last word," said Msgr. Anthony Frontiero, the Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia for the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA at the 32nd annual Rose Mass held at the Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda on March 10.



Msgr. Anthony Frontiero gives the homily at the Rose Mass.

The Scripture passages read during Laetare Sunday, the halfway point of Lent, anticipate the great victory that is won for humanity by Christ's suffering and death, said Msgr. Frontiero.

The texts tell the story of sickness, disease and death experienced by human beings who are ultimately "healed in body, mind and spirit — literally raised up from all that would threaten to corrupt and kill us" through the Paschal Mystery — Jesus' crucifixion, death and resurrection.

That "healing, this wholeness that happens to God's people to which so many of you here today dedicate your life's work," said Msgr. Frontiero, addressing the many health care workers participating in the Rose Mass. "You are the purveyors of the redemptive healing power of love."

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38TH ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

Society Honors Lay Professionals



Photo by Christopher Newkumet

At left is Msgr. Peter Vaghi, chaplain for the John Carroll Society, and at right is Dr. Eileen Moore, the society's president. Standing between them from left to right are the five John Carroll Society Medal recipients — Colleen Mudlaff, the executive director of the Gregorian University Foundation; Patrick E. Kelly, the Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus who also spoke at the event; Kevin Baine, a leading First Amendment attorney; Marcus Washington, the president of the Washington Jesuit Academy; and Andrew N. Cook, an attorney who served as president of the John Carroll Society from 2021-23.

Addressing the John Carroll Society at its April 13 Annual Awards Dinner, Patrick E. Kelly — the Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus — underscored something that Pope Francis once told him, that the laity have a co-responsibility along with the clergy for the mission of the Catholic Church in today's world.

"As lay people, we've been given an essential role, not in Church governance, but in advancing her mission. The Gospel makes that crystal clear. And the Second Vatican Council's decree on the laity provides a framework for living out our calling," Kelly said at the society's 38th annual dinner, held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington.

The Knights of Columbus leader — who was the guest speaker and one of five recipients of the John Carroll Society Medal at the dinner — emphasized three main duties that lay people have in carrying out the Church's mission. "First, we are called to evangelize, inspiring people to love and follow Jesus," he said. "Second, we are called to conform the temporal world to reflect God's law and his desire for human flourishing. And third and finally, we are called to mercy and charity, showing the love of Jesus Christ to those around us, especially the suffering."

In his talk, Kelly said the need for lay Catholics to take part in the Church's

evangelization is "especially urgent in our time."

The Supreme Knight noted that "we aren't living in normal times. All of us are called to be missionaries in a society that often views religion, at best, as a matter of private opinion — or at worst, as an enemy of the public good. This requires that we live out our mission constantly — not only on Sundays, and not just at dinners like this, but at all times, in all places, and with all the people that we meet."

Concluding his talk, Kelly said, "In this era of fading faith and rising secularism, and in this town of politics and power, let us commit ourselves to the personal work of evangelization. And let's use the gifts that Christ has given to each of us to build up His Kingdom, fulfilling the call that we equally share, yet is even more uniquely our own."

In addition to Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly, the other recipients of the John Carroll Society Medal at the dinner included Kevin Baine, one of the nation's leading First Amendment attorneys; Andrew N. Cook, a lawyer and past president of the John Carroll Society; Colleen Mudlaff, the executive director of the Gregorian University Foundation who earlier served as the executive director of the John Carroll Society; and Marcus Washington, the president of the Washington Jesuit Academy.

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John Carroll Society

Established 1951 Archdiocese of Washington

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Editor, Lynnea Mumola
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UPCOMING EVENTS 2024-25

July 17, 2024

ST. MARIA'S MEALS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Catholic Charities Washington, D.C.,
4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

September 24, 2024

RECEPTION AT TOP OF THE TOWN WITH THE YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

Top of the Town, 1400 N. 14th St.,
Arlington, Va. from 6:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

October 6, 2024

72ND ANNUAL RED MASS

Principal Celebrant: His Eminence,
Wilton Cardinal Gregory

Homilist: Deacon Darryl Kelley

The Cathedral of St. Matthew,
Washington, D.C., at 9:00 a.m.

November 2, 2024

FALL RETREAT

Mount St. Mary's Seminary,
Emmitsburg, Md.

December 7, 2024

ST. NICHOLAS MASS & GIFT DRIVE

Principal Celebrant: Msgr. Peter Vaghi

The Church of the Little Flower,
Bethesda, Md. 5:00 p.m. Mass

Reception and visit with St. Nick
to follow in Parish Hall.

Please visit the John Carroll Society website, www.johncarrollsociety.org for updates on these and other upcoming events and service opportunities.

NEW JCS MEMBERS As of April 30, 2024

Jacob Demree
Eric Frank
Kenneth Kovalski
Sponsor: Elizabeth Meers

Benjamin Jánacek
Erin Jánacek
Sponsor: Jeffrey Paravano

Robert Breiner
Charles Dadoo
Marie T. Nolan
Sponsor: Eileen Moore

Jeffrey Philip Bedia
Sponsor: Eddie O'Connell

Jack Devine
Sponsor: Bill Lawler

Edward Grant
Julia Grant
Sponsor: Adam Carter

Dana Gotfryd
Sponsor: Phil Ward

Przemek Gotfryd
Sponsor: Dana Gotfryd

Freddie Hayeck
Sponsor: Hon. John M. Facciola

Natie Liu
Sponsor: Tim Gleeson

Steven Nash
Sponsor: Deacon Darryl Kelley

Maria Pearl
Sponsor: Jacqueline Wieneke

John Polanin Jr.
Sponsor: Timothy Maloney

Peter D. Rizik
Sponsor: Tracy Ferridge

Natalie Schmidt
Sponsor: Rich Cleary

Alison Villarivera
Sponsor: Mae Respicio

Thomas A. Woodley
Sponsor: John Dombrowski

Elizabeth R. Kirk
Sponsor: Bill Sanches

Time to Be Present

On Saturday, March 16, members of the John Carroll Society gathered for the society's annual Lenten Day of Recollection at Our Lady of Bethesda Retreat Center. The day began with Mass celebrated by the center's president, Fr. Daniel Pajerski. Following the liturgy, the group enjoyed breakfast as Deacon Darryl Kelley introduced this year's retreat director, Fr. Joseph Cwik of Our Lady of Mercy Church in Potomac. Deacon Kelley also previewed the retreat's theme: "Here



Deacon Darryl Kelley speaks to the group.

I Am Lord." Being Present to God and to Our Neighbor. To be present to others, one must first be present to God. The Day of Recollection was an opportunity to put this into practice. In two reflec-



tions for the group, Fr. Cwik spoke of how our distorted image of God can prevent us from being at ease with Him, closing off the possibility of a more intimate relationship. Viewing God as a divine taskmaster, instead of as beloved father or friend, can cause us to lose sight of how God sees us: with a deep and abiding love. Fr. Cwik encouraged attendees to reflect on moments when God seemed absent from our lives; in fact, it is in such moments of weakness or desperation that Christ, the image of the invisible, hidden God, draws us closest to Himself.

Members of the John Carroll Society gathered for a retreat to reflect on Lent and being present to others.

Time in prayer, communing with God, should lead us to share His presence with others. The retreat concluded with opportunities for private prayer and confession. But, in returning to their busy, public lives, members of the Society hoped to better love their neighbors, guiding them toward a personal encounter with Christ.

By Robert Smith

My dear John Carroll Society Members,

There are two biblical accounts of Pentecost and the descent of the Holy Spirit. Both took place in the same Upper Room at Jerusalem. In John 20:19-23, a text often referred to as the Johannine Pentecost, the Holy Spirit comes on Easter Sunday night. By arriving close to Jesus' death and resurrection, John emphasizes in this gospel text that the dying, rising and sending of the Holy Spirit are actually one single mystery, all part of one whole. It is one Paschal (or Easter) Mystery. In the second account of Pentecost found in Acts 2:1-13, Luke describes the coming of the Holy Spirit fifty days after Easter, and hence Pentecost, which derives from the Greek word meaning fifty.

If we listen carefully, we can hear the Risen Lord speaking directly to each of us in our day as He did in the upper room when He says: "Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed," John 20:29. The "those" refers to you and me — those of us not in the upper room fifty days after the Resurrection or present on Easter Sunday night.

We believe because the Lord Jesus has seen us, singled us out and breathed on us His life-giving Spirit — the Spirit of Risen Life given the apostles millennia ago. Christ with the Holy Spirit has given us the same gift of the Eucharist first given in that same Upper Room at Jerusalem to His disciples. And the Holy Spirit through Jesus continues to heal us in the sacrament of reconciliation, where we share in the restorative power of God, another name for mercy.

May God's mercy and love of the Risen Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit remain with you at Pentecost and always,

Monsignor Peter J. Vaghi
Chaplain, the John Carroll Society



Photo by Eddie Arrossi

Winning Essayist Promotes Peace

Each year since 1997 the Society invites Archdiocesan students in grades 9th–11th to participate in an essay contest. Students are provided with themes focusing on personal faith, and a scholarship to their Catholic high schools is offered for winning essays. The Margaret Mary Missar High School Essay Competition is named in memory of Missar, a former longtime executive assistant of the Society.

This year, a panel of judges selected Morgan Riley's essay on peace in the world for the top prize. Riley, a student at Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, Md., received a \$2,000 scholarship and recognition at the Annual Dinner. In her winning essay, Riley reflected on St. John XXIII's four pillars of peace and how her own relationship with God helps her find peace in challenging times.

She described difficult times prior to entering high school and how prayer helped heal and comfort her. "I think the moment I realized peace is necessary in society was in 2020. I witnessed the violence from police officers towards innocent black men and women, and although I was only in the 6th grade, the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement really spoke to me," Riley wrote.

"I had gone through my own adversities as a young black girl, so I felt like it was my responsibility to understand what was going on and do everything I could



At left Eileen Moore, Society president, visits with Morgan Riley, at far right and the winner of the annual essay contest who attended the Annual Dinner on April 13 with her mother.

to help," she wrote, while also expressing a desire "to advocate for justice and freedom for those who look like me. I stayed in prayer with God to help get the black community through that hard time. I prayed for a better, safer, and more accepting community."

In the end, Riley reflected that it was faith that helped the most. "Christ's peace is what got us out of 2020, and what saves me every single day."

"Whenever I find myself in need of reassurance I turn to Christ to help me. He is the reason I have been able to find peace in my heart. ... Recently, I've been trying to strengthen my relationship with God by reading the Bible daily and praying often. Because of this I've realized how much He has helped me grow and helped me find peace. I constantly

remind myself that God has a plan for my life," Riley added.

Part of that plan includes helping others, she concluded. "As St. John XXIII believed, in order to have peace, one must focus on being truthful and loving and strive for justice and freedom. Having peace within oneself also requires faith, and trusting and abiding in the Lord. Finding peace may not be easy, but it is necessary in our relationships with one another and for the betterment of our society and world. God has a plan for our lives and connecting with Him will help us realize that further. Through my personal experiences I have been able to find peace in my heart, and now it's my responsibility to help others find peace as well."

The 2024 winners of the Margaret Mary Missar High School Essay Competition include: First Place: Morgan Riley, Bishop McNamara High School; Second Place: Gracen Armsworthy, St. Mary's Ryken High School; Third Place: Bobby Bilo, Georgetown Preparatory School; and Honorable Mention to the following students from the Academy of the Holy Cross: Ciara Cullinane, Kira Gerald, Molly McNamara, Clare Rowedder, and Isabella Sweeney.

Riley's complete essay is published along with all of the winning essays on the Society website: www.johncarrollsociety.org/faith-in-action/scholarships.

Like the Star of Bethlehem Virtues Guide the Faithful

Describing nurses as both courageous and compassionate, the dean of the Conway School of Nursing at The Catholic University of America explained why those two virtues play an especially important role in Catholic faith for all. “Virtuous individuals are not just needed in nursing and engineering but in social work, business, law, the sciences, and the arts, Marie T. Nolan said. “Preparing good and virtuous individuals who devote their lives to others is our unifying mission at the university.”

Nolan delivered the keynote address at the Society’s annual gathering on Sunday, January 7. This event, including the brunch and a Mass for the Solemnity of the Epiphany held at St. Patrick’s Church in Washington, D.C., brings together members and their guests for a presentation focused on Catholic higher education. In May 2022 Nolan, who holds a doctorate in nursing from CUA, returned to her alma mater as dean. Prior to her appointment at CUA, she served as executive vice dean of Johns Hopkins School of Nursing in Baltimore and core faculty member of the Berman Institute of Bioethics. Additionally she served on the Ethics Committee and Consultation Service of the Johns Hopkins Hospital and on the Institutional Review Board of Johns Hopkins Medicine.

In “Courage and Compassion: Two Sides of the Same Nurse, and Each of Us,” Nolan praised women religious throughout history for their courage in founding orders to care for the poorest people in society. She pointed to Catherine McAuley, founder of the Mercy Sisters of Ireland, Mother Teresa, founder of the Missionaries of Charity, and Jeanne Jugan, founder of the Little Sisters of the Poor. These examples of faith, courage and compassion are not only found in the past the dean noted, but also today in the faculty, chaplains and leaders of the nursing school and university.

She shared the commitment of current students, including a recent graduate who chose to work in a community agency providing health care to the homeless and one who told her his future plans of serving the U.S. Public Health Service and practicing health care in the U.S. Prison Service after graduation because the student “could think of few who were as underserved, isolated and unloved as those in prison.”

Many students arrive with a strong faith, Nolan said. However, “they are also examples of who students become as persons, as nurses, engineers and oth-



Marie T. Nolan, PhD, RN, FAAN, Dean of The Catholic University of America Conway School of Nursing presented the keynote address at the January 7 Brunch.

Photo by Christopher Newkumet

ers when their studies include philosophy and theology courses that focus on the dignity of the human person and virtue. And when they have virtuous and faith-filled faculty, chaplains and university leaders as role models.”

Nolan praised the interconnected work of the entire university community. “Whatever our role in life or the role of the students we are forming — prudence, courage and compassion are the virtues that can guide us to making the world a better place and to a fulfilling and rewarding life.”

Earlier, members of the Society and their guests participated in a Mass for the Solemnity of the Epiphany with Father Patrick Lewis, principal celebrant and homilist, and Msgr. Peter J. Vaghi, concelebrant and Society chaplain.

“The magi recognized the signs of God: in their prophecies, in their myths, in the stars,” said Father Lewis, pastor of St. Patrick’s Parish. The priest noted that by recognizing the signs around them, they acted with the gifts they brought to the child in Bethlehem. “By their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, the magi show that they recognize who this newborn child is. Their three gifts model for us how we might respond to the Lord — what we should give — gold, frankincense and myrrh,” Father Lewis said.

In his homily, inspired by *Fire of Mercy: Heart of the Word*, a Scripture study of the Gospel of Matthew by Erasmo Leiva-Merikakis, Father Lewis explained one way the gifts could be viewed. “Gold was a sign of faith. Frankincense was a sign of adoration. Myrrh was a sign of the Paschal Mystery,” he said.

“We too have followed the star. We too seek to open our treasures before the King: the treasure of our faith, our adoration, our spreading the good news about the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord. We believe, we adore, we share the Good News of our salvation in Jesus.”

By Lynnea Mumola



Photo by Christopher Newkumet

Answering the Call

Each one of us is called to know, love, and serve God. But we live out the universal call to holiness through our individual vocations — as lay persons, in holy orders, or in consecrated religious life. As a community of Catholic professionals, the John Carroll Society looks beyond the workplace to help members live, and at times discern, their respective missions within the Church.

For many members, that mission is the vocation of marriage, and, not surprisingly, the Society has had a hand in a few of them. Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly, who addressed the Society at this year's annual dinner, recalled how he met his spouse at the Red Mass, which marks the start of the Supreme Court's October term. The same is true for long-time members Preeya and Ashok



Jonathan Amgott has followed his calling to the seminary to study for the priesthood.

Pinto, who commemorated their happy meeting with a "Red Mass" license plate!

More recently, a John Carroll Society retreat to Mount Saint Mary's in Emmitsburg, Maryland, was a "tipping point" in Jonathan Amgott's vocational discernment. Having considered the priesthood for some time, Amgott, who co-led the Society's young adult fellowship, approached the Fall Retreat 2022 "not just as a retreatant but also as a prospective seminarian." He traveled up ahead of time to explore the possibility of entering formation. The retreat itself, while edifying, confirmed for Amgott that he was yearning for something even deeper, that God was perhaps inviting him not just to a day but to a lifetime of service to the Church and others.

In truth, we are all called to such an encounter. The lay vocation may look different than holy



The license plate Preeya and Ashok Pinto chose for their car, commemorating their initial meeting at the Red Mass.

orders, but we are equally called to give of ourselves "full-time." As members' varied examples of vocation show, the Society is meant as a springboard for a life rooted in faith, not its end point. "The purpose, the core of the Society, is Jesus himself," explains Amgott. "When we lose sight of that, that's when the Society can flounder." Conversely, when Jesus is at the center, we begin to see how he is already "animating our lives."

By Robert Smith

Society Honors Lay Professionals

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Patrick Kelly became the Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus in 2021, leading the world's largest Catholic fraternal organization which has more than 2 million members around the world. Last year, the Knights donated \$185 million to charities and offered 49 million hours of volunteer service.

In his work as an attorney, Kevin Baine has represented major media organizations and universities and others in cases involving freedom of speech and freedom of the press, and he has also represented Catholic entities in cases involving freedom of religion. He has advised the Archdiocese of Washington in the implementation of its Child Protection Policy and assisted the U.S. bishops in drafting the 2002 "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People." A graduate of Princeton University and the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Baine clerked for Associate Justice Thurgood Marshall on the United States Supreme Court before joining Williams & Connolly, where he continues to practice law.

Andrew N. Cook, a partner in the K&L Gates law firm in Washington, served as the 35th president of the John Carroll Society in 2021–2023, leading the Society out of the pandemic lockdowns and helping to restore its activities including the Red Mass for the legal professions,

the Rose Mass for health care professions and in-person retreats. He served as president of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia and as president of the Rotary Club of Washington, D.C., After his legal education at The Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law and at George Washington University, he has worked in government contract, construction and real estate litigation with his law firm.

Before becoming the executive director of the Gregorian University Foundation, Colleen Mudlaff served as the executive director of the John Carroll Society from 2010 to 2023, organizing society events, preparing budgets, managing membership and upgrading the society's website. After earning a journalism degree from the University of Kansas, she worked for the American Cancer Society in Illinois. The mother of three children founded the Women's Diplomatic Series in Washington and has volunteered with Little Flower School in Bethesda, with the Gonzaga College High School Mother's Club and Booster's Club in Washington, with the Holy Child High School Parents' Association in Potomac, and with the SOME (So Others Might Eat) and the McKenna Center outreach programs to those in need in Washington.

Since 2022, Marcus Washington has served as the president of the Washington Jesuit Academy, which provides a high quality and comprehensive education to 4th to 8th grade boys from

underserved D.C., metro communities. He earlier served at the Washington Jesuit Academy as the head of school, as the principal, and as a teacher there for 12 years. Before that, he taught at his alma mater, Gonzaga College High School, and at the Potomac School. After graduating from the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, he earned master's degrees from Marymount University in Arlington and from George Washington University.

At the dinner, Msgr. Peter Vaghi — the longtime chaplain of the John Carroll Society and the pastor of the Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda — gave the opening prayer, and Cardinal Christophe Pierre, the apostolic nuncio to the United States, gave the closing prayer.

The more than 200 guests at the dinner included John G. Roberts Jr., the Chief Justice of the United States. Also attending the dinner were Isaiah Lewis, a sophomore at Archbishop Carroll High School in Washington, D.C., who is a recipient of one of the Society's Agnes E. Vaghi and Joseph P. Vaghi Scholarships; and Morgan Riley, a freshman at Bishop McNamara High School in Forestville, Maryland, who earned first place in the society's Margaret Mary Missar High School Essay Competition, writing on the topic, "Peace on Earth."

By Mark Zimmermann and reprinted with permission of the Catholic Standard.



■ For two decades the Society's Annual Dinner has served as the primary source of funding for the **Agnes E. and Joseph P. Vaghi/John Carroll Society Scholarship**, inaugurated by the Society in 2004. This scholarship provides an annual award towards high school tuition for four students at Archbishop Carroll High School. Shown above from left to right are the recipients for the 2023–2024 school year: Isaiah Lewis, Class of 2026; Hayden Hernly, Class of 2026; Monique Clarke, Class of 2025 and Roy Castleberry, Class of 2026.



■ **Robert and Brontë Smith** joyfully announce the arrival of Olivia on January 4. She joins two older sisters, Lily and Eve.



■ **Caroline Marie Henebry**, granddaughter of member **Sarah Ann LoFaso**, is practicing law in New York. Henebry graduated this year from New York University Law School and is also a graduate of the University of Virginia.

■ This past December Board Member **Scott P. Rembold** earned a Ph.D in higher education from the University of Georgia.

■ The **Tabacco** family is proud to announce the addition of Claire Elizabeth Tabacco born on November 9. Claire joins proud parents **John and Margaret Foote Tabacco** and siblings: Penny (9); Karly (8); Billy (6); and Lois (2).



■ On January 1, Stradley Ronon elevated **Jennifer Gniady** to partner. Gniady, who serves as co-chair of the firm's nonprofit and religious organizations practice, spent over 15 years counseling nonprofits on how to respond to threats, solve problems, and plan for the future. Additionally she advises nonprofits on structural and governance issues, responds to inquiries from charitable regulators, and helps ensure compliance with lobbying and fundraising laws.

■ **John and Deborah Aquino** recently attended a street dedication for NYPD officer Arthur J. Kenney in Queens, NY.

John's book, *The Radio Burglar: Thief Turned Cop Killer in 1920s Queens*, published 18 months ago, tells the story of Kenney, Deborah's grand uncle who was fatally shot in the 1920s. On April 6, a ceremony was held to rename the street where he was shot in Woodhaven, Queens — the corner of 90th Avenue and 80th Street — as "Patrolman Arthur J. Kenney Way."



DECEASED MEMBERS

Please pray for the repose of the soul of the following members and friends of the John Carroll Society:

Lou Boland

Joanne Conway

Michael Gill

Doris Rembold

Mary Faith Zimmerman

Retired Auxiliary Bishop Francisco González, S.F.

Bishop Mario Dorsonville

Health Care Providers Honored

The Society announced the 2024 *Pro Bono* Health Care Awards at a luncheon following the annual Rose Mass on March 10. This year's honorees included three doctors who volunteer with the Catholic Charities Health Care Network of Washington, D.C.: Dr. Fredrick G. Barr, Dr. Stephany McGann, and Dr. Jonathan Ross.

Dr. Barr, who has a private practice in medical oncology and hematology in Chevy Chase, has been providing pro bono care to patients in the Catholic Charities Health Care Network for many years. Since its founding almost 40 years ago, the Health Care Network connects low-income and uninsured patients with specialized, pro bono health care services and is part of a larger network of services and clinics within Catholic Charities of Washington, D.C.

Dr. McGann, a rheumatologist who is a medical officer with the U.S. Public Health Service, is a longtime volunteer with Catholic Charities and tutors undergraduate students, medical students and physicians in the management of rheumatologic diseases. She has volunteered more than 100 hours a year each of the last three years.

Dr. Ross has been active in providing neurologic consultations and care to many Catholic Charities patients. The Rose Mass luncheon program noted that Dr. Ross "enjoys taking care of these patients and feels privileged to care for them."

In addition, the Society presented Father Jean Marie Vincent, the Catholic chaplain at Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center in Rockville, with its 2024 Msgr. Harry A. Echle



Photo by Christopher Newkumet

From left to right are those honored at the Rose Mass: Dr. Frederick Barr; Dr. Eileen Moore, president of the Society; Msgr. Peter Vaghi, chaplain of the Society; Dr. Peter Hamm; Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory; Father Jean Marie Vincent, chaplain at Adventist Health-Care Shady Grove Medical Center in Rockville; Dr. Stephany McGann; Dr. Jonathan Ross; and Dr. Ricardo Perez, chair of the Rose Mass committee.

Award for Outstanding Service in Health Care Ministry. A French-born priest in residence at St. Raphael Parish in Rockville, he has served the hospital since 2020.

Dr. Peter Hamm, another longtime volunteer with the Catholic Charities Health Care Network who has also provided *pro bono* care in a remote clinic in the Dominican Republic, received the 2024 James Cardinal Hickey Lifetime Service Award. He is a Chevy Chase-based pulmonologist and the father of 12 children, with 27 grandchildren, some of whom formed an impressive cheering section for him. His wife, Maria Suarez Hamm, is the Harvard-educated founder and former director of Centro Tepeyac Women's Center in Silver Spring.

Society's Partnership with St. Maria's Meals Resumes

On the evening of January 17 members once again participated in the St. Maria's Meals program in front of the Catholic Charities building on G St. and helped serve over 240 meals to people in need. The temperature that evening was only 16° but the warmth created by the program was felt by everyone there.

For years the John Carroll Society teamed up with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington to offer members opportunities for service. The St. Maria's Meals program is a dinner van providing hot meals for people experiencing food insecurity. Due to disruptions caused by Covid-19 and other factors, we have not participated as a Society for



some time. We were glad to have the opportunity to renew our work with this great program. St. Maria's Meals provides an opportunity for direct person-to-person service and the response by Society members to the call for volunteers was outstanding. Ten Society members filled different positions on rows of tables set up to serve hot meals and drinks. Other volunteers and Catholic Charities



areas and supplies was extremely efficient and well managed. The people being served were themselves a quite varied group of individuals, including by age. A number of families included young children, which was a stark reminder of the range of needs in our community.

On the Society's website members can learn more about St. Maria's Meals and other service opportunities organized by the Society's Community Projects Committee. This year members were also scheduled for the St. Maria's Meals program on April 17 and will be planning another service evening on July 17. We hope you might consider participating in this very worthwhile program on a future date.

By Bill Lawler



'Death Will Not Define Us' Says Rose Mass Homilist

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This year, Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory served as the main celebrant at the Mass, with concelebrants including Washington Auxiliary Bishops Roy Campbell Jr. and Evelio Menjivar, Msgr. Peter Vaghi, pastor at Little Flower and Society chaplain, and other priests and deacons of the Archdiocese. Since the Mass takes place on Laetare Sunday, it is also known as the Rose Mass. Priests don rose-colored vestments as the Church expresses hope and joy, with Lent more than halfway over, amidst the fasts and discipline of the liturgical season. The rose also symbolizes life, whose care is entrusted to the healing professions.

Noting that "so many...are struggling to find their way," Msgr. Frontiero encouraged the nurses, doctors, healthcare administrators and hospital chaplains present to continue giving hope to their patients, which he called "the most powerful medicine of all." Adding, "your expertise in this field constantly calls you to be agents of the Light of Christ of healing and of wholeness."

The priest said that healthcare workers witness the stark realities of death and sickness yet treat all with dignity insisting that "... in spite of their infirmities, they matter, they are worthy."

Two members of the Little Sisters of the Poor, who take care of low-income senior citizens at their Jeanne Jugan Residence in Washington, D.C., brought up the offertory gifts at Mass to Cardinal Gregory.

Also in attendance was Sister Romana Uzodimma, a member of the Handmaids of the Holy Child Jesus and board member of JCS. The woman religious serves as the Director of Quality Assurance for Adult and Children Clinical Services for the Catholic Charities Health Care Network. Sister Romana told the *Catholic Standard* that there are more than 300 volunteers providing *pro bono* health care services through the network. "The providers are very generous," she said. A religious for 30 years who grew up in Nigeria, she has been a manager with the



Washington Cardinal Wilton Gregory, at center, celebrates the Rose Mass. Standing next to him at left is Deacon Don Longano, and at right is Deacon Darryl Kelley.

network for seven years and received the John Carroll Society Medal in 2023.

Members of the network donated more than 2,900 volunteer hours during 2023, according to Dr. Ricardo Perez, a dentist who served as the Rose Mass Committee Chair. In addition to parishioners, and guests of the Society, members also welcomed students attending from Georgetown University School of Medicine.

By William Murray with contributions from Lynnea Mumola and reprinted with permission from the *Catholic Standard*

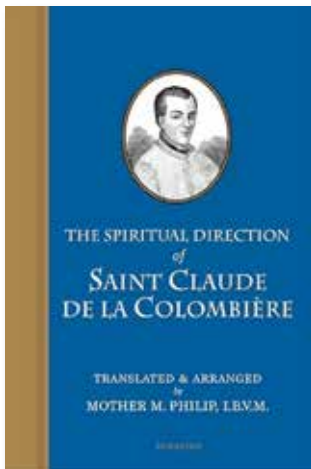


John Carroll Society
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BOOK REVIEW by Ted Hirt



The Valuable Insights of a French Saint

The Spiritual Direction of Saint Claude de la Colombière, Translated and Arranged by Mother M. Philip, I.B.V. M. (Ignatius Press, 3d ed. 2018, \$15.95).

As Roman Catholics, we can rely on the wisdom and inspiration of the saints who have graced the Church. For this review, I chose a short book (approximately 170 pages) that assembles some of the spiritual reflections of Sainte Claude de la Colombière (1641-1682). A Jesuit priest, he assisted Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque in establishing the devotion to the

Sacred Heart, which we treasure as an important aspect of our religious practice. He was canonized as a saint by Pope John Paul II in 1992. (See <https://www.britannica.com/biography/St-Claude-La-Colombiere>.)

Containing excerpts from Saint Claude's notes, letters, and retreats from the 1670's, these compact reflections range in length from three to 15 pages. The book is divided into two parts: a series of short reflections intended for laypeople and "Direction Suitable for Religious." But each part is well worth anyone's reading and contemplation.

Readers can browse through the titles and select readings suitable to his or her interest. Topics range from the Mass to

the Eucharist, to how we approach the love of our neighbors. Addressing the Mass, Saint Claude emphasized: "if we only knew the treasure we hold in our hands! Happy a thousand times those who know how to profit by the Mass!"

In a 1678 letter, he urges us to resist temptations against faith, and to recall that we "believe what so many saints and doctors have believed." Thus, our intention at Communion should be to unite ourselves to Jesus Christ as "the source and object of love," to strengthen ourselves "in the service of God and in the practice of virtue", and to purify ourselves "by union with him who is Purity itself."

Addressing purity, the saint acknowledges that we may sin even "on the eve, on the day, and even in the very act of receiving Communion," yet Jesus still comes to us.

Saint Claude also writes about common struggles that we encounter in our daily lives. When distracted or impatient during prayer, we can remind ourselves that our souls should not be dissatisfied with God — "Where can you be better than in his company? Where can you profit more? I have experienced that this calms the mind and unites it with God." He counsels us to continue to pray "as you feel drawn, but do not worry about it, for worry comes from self-love." Instead, we must abandon ourselves "to the leading of God with no other intention than that of pleasing Him."