



# Pine Times



OUR LADY OF THE PINES  
ST. KATHARINE DREXEL PARISH

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020  
VOLUME 25, ISSUE 5

## HIDDEN TALENTS — REVEALED

Connie Wright

As mentioned in our last edition of the Pine Times, I asked for any of our parishioners to share with me some of their 'hidden talents.' Now enjoy learning about some of our gifted church family.

Two talented ladies from Our Lady of the Pines are **Terri Darr** and **Paulette Magee**. They share a particular talent that is not often seen in Pioneer. They hula! Terri and her husband Kevin lived in Hawaii some years ago, where Terri decided to put on a grass skirt and learn to hula. With her *halau* (hula school), she danced competitively and became quite accomplished. Hawaii's loss is our gain! We know that Paulette shares her gift of singing in the OLOP choir, and hula has become a recently acquired skill that she loves. She takes naturally to the slow, rhythmic movements of hula. Some of you may remember Paulette and a few of her fellow hula dancers performing in OLOP's Variety Show the last two years.

Paulette demonstrated other musical/performing talents as a young woman. She gravitated toward ballroom dance, ballet, and ice skating, as well as musical theater. And not one to let the grass grow under her dancing feet, she is a skilled 'do-it-yourselfer' as a seamstress and the related crafts of knitting, crocheting, and embroidery, in addition to taking on numerous other DIY home projects.

One of our most uniquely talented parishioners is **Sue Perrine**. Her gift to us all is by no means hidden, but it may not be readily recognized as a 'talent.' Sue makes us laugh. She makes us feel good about ourselves. She makes newcomers feel welcome. To Sue, there is no such thing as a stranger. You may walk away shaking your head, but you will always have a smile on your face after an encounter with Sue, 'the cute one.' And behind that wildly cheerful personality is a deeply spiritual cradle Catholic. Her gift of laughter is truly a ministry of hospitality.

Next edition, I hope to be able to share with you a few more hidden (or not-so-hidden) talents!



## COME, HOLY SPIRIT

Margaret Shoda

**Michael Shoda** received the Sacrament of Confirmation on August 22 with **Ted Novelli** as his sponsor. The ceremony was held at St. Katharine Drexel with family present and was carefully explained by Father Colin as it was slightly different during these COVID times. *Congratulations, Mike!*

## CATCHING UP WITH ALLISON NELSON

*A special series featuring some of OLOP's  
past altar servers*



After graduating from Chico State University's school of nursing, I started working as an RN on an oncology and pediatric unit for a little over two years. Work was becoming more drama than I cared for and I knew it was time for a change. My boyfriend, **Colby Ryan**, who grew up in Shendoah Valley, had been going to Texas A&M University for most of our relationship. I had grown tired of the long distance and took a gamble to move to Texas in July 2019 to be closer to him.

Since then we bought a house in Murphy, Texas, about 30 minutes from Dallas and I am working in a surgical intermediate care unit. My usual patient load consists of people with various forms of cancer who are critically ill but not critical enough to be in an ICU. There have been a couple of shifts when I've been caring for COVID-19 patients and have had to manage the difficulty of updating their family members over the phone as much as possible due to a no-visitor policy.

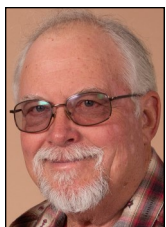
During my time off from work, I try to fly back to California to visit my family and friends, and hike in many of the beautiful forests of Northern California that I miss so much. Otherwise with work being quite stressful, I've become a homebody and spend time with our two adopted Persian cats, Poppy and Salem. They are from a rescue that saves abandoned cats from the Friday

**COMMIT YOUR WAY TO THE LORD; TRUST IN HIM, AND HE WILL ACT.**

PSALM 37:5

## OUR LADY OF THE PINES SOCIETY

Kevin Darr, President



KEVIN DARR  
President

This is my inaugural post to the *Pine Times*. NOT sorry!!! You'll see several "thank you's" in this message. I would like to first and foremost thank **Ron Burns** for all the help and support to the Society, the parish and to me, that he has graciously found the time to devote over all the past years. He is still planning on being involved which is making my position much easier. This was evident as he took my place for the October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting as Terri and I had a few days on the coast RV'ing planned previously. Before the October meeting a get-together was held to say thank you and "bonne chance" to **Joan and Tony Alimonti** who made it back to their old community allowing us to give them a proper sendoff. What a great couple!! They will be missed.

These are indeed exciting times as we have started our weekly Wednesday Masses at 11:30. Thank you Fr. Colin!!! The monthly 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday Society meetings are scheduled afterwards with a short break in-between for a self-brought "brown bag" lunch and social gathering that will be continued until further notice. Thanks to everyone involved in setting up and cleaning the church as well as the hall prior to their use after 6 months of inactivity. A thank you also goes out to our Sacristans and all those serving at the weekly Mass.

Coordinated this year by **Paulette and Jack Magee**, Our Lady of the Pines Society supported the parish picnic again by providing BINGO for entertainment and prizes. THANK YOU, you two, and to all those who helped make that happen.

OLOP now has a social event calendar through June 2021. By the time you read this, I hope many of you enjoyed the "Mexitalian Two-fer Takeout Combo" that was set up for Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> at our next scheduled meeting. Thank you **Connie Wright** for the flyer and bulletin needs, **Shirley Blancett** and **Shirley Coombs**, as well as to all those who cooked, served and especially to those that supported our fundraiser. The full social event calendar will be in the October meeting minutes and a copy will be posted in both the church and Haran Hall.

Our list of ministries and leaders has been updated and posted as well as emailed to all who are on the latest parish roster that the Society Secretary, **Terri Darr**, and I have. *[Editor's Note: the list is also included with this version of the Pine Times.]* If you did not receive that ministry list or do not receive the monthly Society agenda and meeting minutes which we're sending to all each month, please let Terri or me know your phone and email info at 296-2221.

### A NOTE OF THANKS

Blessed, blessed thanks to our wonderful church family for your prayers, cards, calls, and meals during my recent time of medical need! Being on the receiving end of such love and support is most humbling. You have my profound gratitude.

— Connie Wright



### MAINTENANCE

Ted Novelli

The grounds at OLOP are being carefully manicured and the parking lot is also being kept free of leaves and debris on a regular basis. Winter maintenance plans are already on the radar!

**Mike Shoda** and I will be needing help for our Cleanup Day. We are waiting for the weather to change. Once we have safer conditions we will notify you. Thank you all.



### THANKSGIVING DAY

Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of November. It originated as a harvest festival, and to this day the centerpiece of Thanksgiving celebrations remains Thanksgiving dinner. The dinner traditionally consists of foods and dishes indigenous to the Americas, namely turkey, potatoes (usually mashed), stuffing, squash, corn (maize), green beans, cranberries (typically in sauce form), and pumpkin pie.

The event that Americans commonly call the "First Thanksgiving" was celebrated by the Pilgrims after their first harvest in the New World in October 1621. This feast lasted three days, and, as recounted by attendee Edward Winslow, was attended by 90 Native Americans and 53 Pilgrims (49 out of 102 pilgrims had died that first winter of 1620/1621).

Thanksgiving has been celebrated nationally on and off since 1789, with a proclamation by President George Washington after a request by Congress. President Thomas Jefferson chose not to observe the holiday, and its celebration was intermittent until President Abraham Lincoln, in 1863, proclaimed a national day of "Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens," to be celebrated on the last Thursday in November.



FROM PAGE 1

### NELSON

Markets in Kuwait and brings them to America. They love going out on walks in the neighborhood and lounging in their cat room.

After gaining more experience as a nurse, I plan to go back to school to either become a professor in nursing or a CRNA (certified registered nurse anesthetist).

I hope everyone is staying safe!





## COVID AND US

Joan Nikolai

COVID-19 has impacted all our lives. Adults work from home. Students engage in distance learning. Face masks, hand sanitizer and social distancing are the norm. The catch phrase "We are all in this together" scrolls across the bottom of the TV screen, and variations of it appear in a variety of advertisements. We share the experience but, as unique persons, we each react in individual ways. I invited people to reflect on these last months and share their thoughts.

Being unable to gather with their church community to celebrate and to receive Eucharist touched lives. "My appreciation for our Church family has grown exponentially." "I will never again take Eucharist and community worship for granted." "The Body of Christ is essential." "We need one another." Spiritual communion was like a "life preserver."

Eyes were opened, bringing unexpected insights from realizing the importance of the simple act of hand washing to thinking twice about going out just to go, to accepting that face coverings and social distancing are necessary precautions, to resolving not to take for granted the easy availability of basic items flour, sugar, cleaning products and yes T.P. Some acknowledged a new awareness of hard working people who make time to help others and the need to appreciate more the good people around us. Father Colin's energy and creativity in keeping the parish engaged in a variety of activities and offering a spiritual perspective was recognized.

Realizing the importance of actual physical contact with family surprised some, not others. Virtual hugs and elbow bumps are not enough. Many expressed almost a physical ache to enfold older parents, adult children, grandchildren and even reluctant Junior High kids in their arms. There was a sadness in not being able to gather to celebrate significant family events — special anniversaries, a daughter's first pregnancy, the birth of a first great-grand child.

This is COVID-19 up close and personal. We walk this journey together. Let us do it with a positive attitude today and hope for a better tomorrow, knowing that Christ walks not in front or behind, but in our midst.

## YMI NEWS

Phil Fondale



### What a Year!

The Council had its September meeting with a good turnout. It was the first meeting since January and fun was had by all the Brothers and two guests as friendships were renewed with a lot of "mostly true" stories. The Brothers also met in October.



In November, the Young Men's Institute's Councils have always honored our deceased Brothers with a special ceremony called "The Hour of Memory." This year Our Lady of the Pines Council #137 will conduct its ceremony on Wednesday, November 18, at 5:30 PM in the Church at OLOP. Following the service, conducted by Brother Deacon Jaime, a potluck dinner will take place in Haran Hall. All Brothers, wives, families of deceased Brothers and friends are invited and encouraged to attend.

As in past years, on Veterans Day the Brothers will help to place and retrieve the large American flags that line the drive at Pioneer Cemetery. It is an honor to do this service.

The Council is also working on ideas for having an after-Sunday Mass fundraiser, social and lunch during one of the upcoming months if things ever get back to normal.

Our meeting night is the fourth Wednesday of the month at 5:30 PM in Haran Hall. All men of the parish are welcome to come and enjoy the fellowship of our monthly dinner and short business meeting.

The main purpose of our council is to give the Catholic men of OLOP and the surrounding area the opportunity to get together, strengthen their faith, have fellowship, and help our parish and

community. We hope to see our fellow Catholic men and future brothers at our next meeting.

The Young Men's Institute was founded in 1883, and Our Lady of the Pines Council #137 is proud to be a part of this national organization.



## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEWS

Kevin Darr

The annual *Friends of the Poor Walk/Run* to benefit our local St. Vincent de Paul chapter was held on September 26 at the St. Katharine Drexel campus. There were 22 walkers, and **Gary and Joanne Sims** walked around their own neighborhood as their "virtual walk." The combined efforts of the walkers raised almost \$5000. A grateful thanks to all who participated and donated.



## SUNSHINE MINISTRY

Tom Stapleton

We are all reminded to contact **Tom Stapleton** (tistapleton7@gmail.com) when and if we wish to have a card sent to someone who needs a touch of sunshine in his



or her life. He will also request a Mass intention for those who pass away. He prefers if you contact him by email to ensure he receives your information accurately. You can also reach Tom by phone at 209-296-1772. Please note that he shares a telephone and answering machine with his kids.



If you have misplaced an item and think you may have lost it at Our Lady of the Pines, please check with the Sacristan before or after the Wednesday Mass. We have a few items that have gone unclaimed for quite awhile. A magnifying glass, an earring, and a hair clip are among the items. Please be prepared to describe your lost item.

## CHURCHES OF EUROPE

Joan Alimonti

**Holy House of Mary, Loreto, Italy.** We have taken three groups of fellow travelers to this pilgrim destination.



Archaeological scientists confirmed that this is Mary's Nazareth house where the Angel Gabriel came to her in the Annunciation. Because there are only three walls and no foundation, they were able to compare dimensions of the foundation and wall material to the foundation and one wall that still remain in Nazareth. Many popes and saints have visited Mary's House, most recently Pope Francis, John Paul and Benedict and many saints, to name a few, St. Francis, St. Louis de Montfort, and St. Terese, Little Flower. These popes and saints attribute the move to **angelic action**. All the popes believed this was a supernatural event and recognized the documents as historical science. Basilica Santa Casa (Basilica of the Holy House) was built around Mary's House to protect it.

**Now for a little church that's very special to me.** In my grandfather's village, in Lalling/Ranzing, Bavaria, is this little church



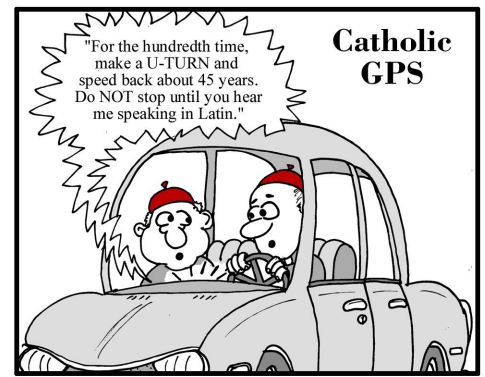
surrounded by the graveyard, which is typical of churches in Europe. Every morning the caretaker goes grave to grave and lights the little lantern that is at each gravesite and makes sure that there are fresh flowers in the vase. The church of silver and gold was built in the year 1000 and my grandfather was baptized here in 1873; Ludwig II was King of Bavaria when both my grandparents were born. A very unique custom is that there is a book at the altar that has all the names of people who have died and it is open each day to the date so you can come into the church and pray for those who died that day. My cousin just retired from being the Burgermeister (mayor), in this village, for 30 years; his grandfather and mine were brothers. We rarely miss a visit when we are in Europe.



### Editor's Notes:

Although Tony and Joan Alimonti have moved from Pioneer to Sparks, Nevada, Joan will continue to share stories about her travels to her favorite Catholic churches in Europe. Thanks, Joan, for the Catholic armchair travels!

May all our church family members find reasons to be thankful in this year of pandemic. And may the celebration of our Lord's birth bring you peace, joy and hope in 2021. Watch for our next issue of the *Pine Times* in February 2021! God's blessings. — *Your Pine Times Staff*



www.catholiccartoonblog.blogspot.com

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Our local chapter of the St. Vincent de Paul Society continues to serve the poor as best it can during the coronavirus pandemic. Many parishioners have not physically returned to attending Mass, so funding remains a challenge on Beggar's Sunday. If you haven't already, consider donating via the parish's Electronic Giving or Text2Give programs. Visit our website for more information.

### OLOP SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President:	Kevin Darr
1st Vice President:	Ron Burns
2nd Vice President:	Barbara Garcia
Secretary:	Terri Darr
Treasurer:	Gary Sims

### OLOP MEETINGS

Our Lady Of the Pines Society meets on the first Wednesday of every month in Haran Hall, after the 11:30 Mass. Bring your own brown bag lunch. Meeting begins at 12:30 PM. All parishioners of OLOP are members of the Society. There are no dues. We welcome your participation and look forward to seeing some new faces at future meetings.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you need an announcement placed in the parish bulletin or a name placed on the parish prayer list, please contact the Bulletin Editor at the Parish Center, at 223-2970 or [bulletin@stkatharinedrexel.com](mailto:bulletin@stkatharinedrexel.com). Deadline is Tuesday for the following weekend's bulletin.

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