



Pine Times



OUR LADY OF THE PINES
ST. KATHARINE DREXEL PARISH

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HIDDEN TALENTS

Connie Wright

While getting to know scores of Our Lady of the Pines parishioners over the years, I've discovered that many have God-given gifts that have often gone unnoticed. Without naming names (until they've given permission), I can tell you that one of our parishioners is a pretty professional seamstress and crochet artist. She has sewn beautiful machine-embroidered creations as well as crocheted 75 watchcaps for homeless persons. Another person has displayed a variety of talents like creative cooking, keeping bees, and even knitting chicken sweaters! We can count several excellent woodworkers among our parishioners. And yet another is a skilled philatelist (stamp collector).

What about you? Do you have a special gift for being artistic, musical, crafty, culinary, oratory? Do you display technical skills such as mathematics or dominate in today's computerized world? Are you a writer? A spelling whiz? Do you think outside the box like an inventor? Have a logical mind for things like problem- or puzzle-solving? Have strong outdoor survival skills? Are you especially gifted in the realm of hospitality like Jesus' friend Martha? And are you passionate about these particular talents? Whether you realize it or not,

these types of talents and skills begin as gifts from God. We make them our own as we develop them and make them a part of who we are.

The meaning
of life is to find
your gift.

The purpose of life
is to give it away.

Please don't be modest or too humble about these hidden talents! God wants us to share His gifts, and it surely pleases Him when we use them for the benefit of others or to glorify Him. Saying you are 'gifted' at doing something is not necessarily boasting. I would love to hear about your special

gift(s) and be able to share them with our readers. Ideally, *naming* you in our column would be much more engaging than simply saying 'an anonymous parishioner displays a particular gift for . . .' Identifying you also opens up our faith community by helping us know more about each other in the here and now (rather than in the hereafter).

I invite you to drop me a line at cnwright@att.net or call me at 209-223-9525. Let's get to know each other – even better than we already do!

Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket; it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house. Just so, your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

– Matthew 5:15-16

CATCHING UP WITH THE OUTLANDS

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

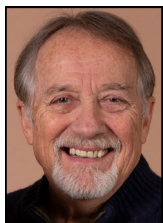


Greetings, OLOP! It's **Aaron Outland**, aka "**Rose and Mark's** eldest," or "that kid who played a passable George Bailey that one Christmas." After graduating from Claremont McKenna College in 2013, I took up the family trade, eventually becoming the 8th Grade Math teacher at Ione Junior High. After two years, I decided that was enough of that. I am now an analyst with the Department of Health Care Services in Sacramento, where I still do the numbers. My wife, **Tessa**, is an Amador County native. Somehow we did not meet until after college, though we both spent our teens in the County and had many friends in common. She was a reporter with the Ledger Dispatch for a while, before we moved to Sacramento, so you probably read her work. Now she is a barista and writes freelance for a few publications in the city. We currently live a couple blocks from the Capitol, but we are looking to buy our first home so that our Corgi-Dachshund can finally have a room of his own. This past month we celebrated our 4th anniversary backpacking along a short stretch of the Pacific Crest Trail. Most summers we travel abroad, and since our honeymoon in Costa Rica, we've been to the Netherlands, France, Spain, Mexico, Canada, the UK, Belgium, Germany, and Denmark. We try to make it back to Amador every month or so to visit our folks, so I'm sure we'll see you around. Until then! ~Aaron and Tessa Outland

SEE OUTLAND, PAGE 2

OUR LADY OF THE PINES SOCIETY

Ron Burns, Outgoing President



RON BURNS
President

Well here it is, my last article for the *Pine Times* as President of the Our Lady of the Pines Society. The past five years as your president have been extremely rewarding to me in that I have been able to work with so many dedicated, hard-working parishioners. My wife **Evelyn** and I have always considered our friends at OLOP more like a family and although I will no longer be conducting the monthly meetings with regularity, I will remain on the Board as First Vice President to help whenever I can. At this time, I would like to thank and congratulate **Kevin Darr** for taking over the helm. Kevin and his wife **Terri** are both valuable Board members and it will be exciting working with them along with the remaining Board members, **Barbara Garcia** and **Gary Sims**. Once again, thanks to all of you for making my job easier. Well, we had our first OLOP meeting on August 12th after a four-month hiatus and it was wonderful to see all of the smiling faces (even though we couldn't actually see the smiles due to the face masks). This lawn chair concept may be the new normal for our monthly meetings for a time, but we'll take whatever we can get.

Our next meeting will be on September 2nd and it is recommended that if you can make it, you should call Kevin so we can track the number of attendees. This is necessary in order to comply with the social distancing requirements. For those of you who may not know Kevin very well, the following is a brief biography. Once again, thank you Kevin.

Kevin was born and raised in Placerville, CA. He grew up on a ranch that has been in his family since 1856. Both of Kevin's parents were active in the St. Patrick Catholic Community and Kevin became an altar server at age 7. He remained in this position until his junior year in high school.

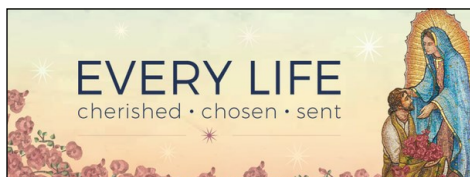
Rather than waiting to be drafted, Kevin and 5 other school friends joined the Navy where he learned the electrical trade. As a Vietnam Vet Kevin was given hiring priority and with his electrical background, turned that into a 33-year career with PG&E's construction

department. The position required extensive travel which ended with his retirement in 2006.

Kevin and his wife Terri will be celebrating their 25th anniversary next February. Their extended family includes 3 children, 2 sons Brandon and Kevin Jr. and one daughter Lydia. Several of their grandchildren at the time were living here in Amador County which prompted Kevin and Terri to move here 9 years ago after living in Hawaii for the previous 4 years.

Besides Kevin's involvement with the OLOP Society, he is active in St. Vincent de Paul and the Knights of Columbus. Terri is also a member of the Parish Finance Council.

Please join me in welcoming Kevin to his new challenge on the OLOP Board.



OCTOBER IS RESPECT LIFE MONTH

Each October the Church in the United States celebrates **Respect Life Month**, and the first Sunday of October is observed as **Respect Life Sunday**. As Catholics, we are called to cherish, defend, and protect those who are most vulnerable, from the beginning of life to its end, and at every point in between. During the month of October, the Church asks us to reflect more deeply on the dignity of every human life.



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.

FROM PAGE 1 OUTLAND



Hello, **Luke Outland** here. Some of you may remember the blond kid trying so hard to look solemn while holding a Roman Missal as big as he was for **Father Seabridge** to read. I enjoyed being an altar server at Our Lady of the Pines. As an altar server, I got to participate in something ancient and beautiful, to play a small part in a much larger process. It taught my younger self good lessons: that having a community is very important, and that even a small role still matters.

Whatever happened to me? Well, after graduating high school, I journeyed to the beautiful beaches and sunshine of the University of California, Santa Barbara. A few fellow Amador High graduates could not wait to get away and move to some big city. However, Santa Barbara appealed to me exactly because of its similarities to my hometown. It is smaller, more relaxed than Los Angeles, it was a place where you could *live*, not just *work*. Maybe it was the weather, but it was easy to imagine life in Santa Barbara as a vacation.

Though it may have seemed like a vacation, UCSB most certainly was not one. The lack of sleep, the stress of final exams, not to mention the many inconsequential little dramas, they all probably took a few years off my life. But I loved the experience, and I built a community of supportive friends.

After graduating with a degree in psychology, I moved back up north to Sacramento to try and find one of those 'grown-up' jobs I had heard about. My parents, **Rose and Mark**, are both teachers for students with developmental disabilities. Therefore, it was serendipitous when I landed an extremely nice job as a budget analyst with the Department of Developmental Services, the governmental agency that provides services to Californians with developmental disabilities.

Ever since, I have been working, while spending a lot of time with family and friends. All in all, I am doing quite well. I wish you nothing but the best, and hope to see you around!



In Memory
Joe Bonini
 1942 - 2020
 ✠
*Rest in the
 Peace of Christ*

Joe Bonini was born on March 11, 1942, to Mario and Catherine Bonini. Growing up, he attended El Cerrito schools: Harding Elementary, Portola Middle, and El Cerrito High. While attending El Cerrito High, Joe joined a branch of the Boy Scouts called the Sea Scouts in 1956. He was assigned to a scout ship in Berkeley which began a life of service. After graduating from high school, Joe entered the United States Air Force where he served honorably from 1960 to 1964. Joe was trained as an aircraft mechanic and was given the opportunity to train as a missile technician. Following his discharge from the USAF, Joe began a 28-year career with Pacific Bell in October 1964. He married his first wife, Doris in May of 1967. They were married for 44 years, until her passing in 2011.

Joe's life of service continued after the Air Force when he joined the Pinole Lions Club, followed by the San Pablo Lions Club, and finally the Up Country 88 Lions Club. He was a proud member of Lions Clubs International for over 50 years and would frequently say that he did not miss a meeting for 48 years. Joe served the communities in which he lived through Lions Club and volunteered thousands of hours to help citizens who were blind or visually impaired.

In 1995, Joe and Doris moved from Pinole to Pioneer, where they built great friendships with their community. They were part of the Loop Group, Up Country 88 Lions Club and the Italian Benevolent Society. Joe became well known for his homemade Italian cookies, *pizzelle*, made from an old family recipe.

In May of 2014, Joe married his second wife, **Donna**. Donna and Joe enjoyed traveling during their marriage and cruised to Alaska, vacationed in Tennessee and traveled to several other destinations during their 6 years of marriage. Donna was by his side through all of his medical issues and was there when Joe passed peacefully on August 3, 2020.

Joe was one of three children, preceded in death by an older sister, Barbra, and Don, his younger brother. Joe is survived by his twin sons Stephen (Elaine) and Mark (Cyndi), as well as four grandkids Brett, Chloe, Sam, and Mario. Joe left a legacy of family first and service. In lieu of flowers and gifts, donations can be made to Hospice of Amador and Calaveras Counties.

OUR STORY

Joan Nikolai

Why did we move to California? Why do I have the same name as Dad and Grandpa? Who are all the people in this picture? Tell me the story. It is in the stories that we see the relationships that through the years connect us to one another in an extended family.

The descendants of Abraham and Sarah told of one God who would make of them a great nation. This God revealed himself to Moses in the burning bush. This God was with the Hebrews for 40 years in the desert. This God promised David that the messiah would come from his lineage. This God repeatedly sent the prophets to call the people back to the covenant relationship. It is this God whom we come to know in the pages of the Old Testament. It is through story that we are connected to our faith family.

Our story has been handed down to us in the Bible. It is the word of God expressed in the words of humans. "God inspired the biblical writers. God did not dictate what to say." (Mark Link, S.J.) Like a library the Bible contains a variety of books written by many different authors over hundreds of years. It is comprised of hero stories and legends; epics and poetry; laws both religious and civil; and recorded historic events. All revealing a God who is not a puppet master but rather a God who desires an intimate relationship with us. A God who is present in our lives.

We read scripture not as if it is an on-the-scene report. We read it with the eyes of faith. In these uncertain times, we remember God's promise to the Israelites as they wandered in the desert. "I am your God. You are my people."

MAINTENANCE

Ted Novelli

Nothing to report for this issue – the church and hall are closed. I hope that all of you are staying safe.

YMI NEWS Our Lady of the Pines' Catholic Men's Club

Come and Join the Brotherhood

Phil Fondale

The Our Lady of the Pines Men's Club, YMI Council #137, continues to be active in living up to its motto of *Pro Deo, Pro Patria*.



The \$1,600 Father George Thomas Scholarship was awarded to **Cade Clinkenbeard**. Cade sent the Brothers a nice thank-you note. He mentioned being an altar boy for **Father George**. Cade also said he remembered Father George's whistle. I think all of us who knew Father George miss that "quiet" whistle and how quick everyone paid attention when Fr. George let fly with it.

Since 1883 the Young Men's Institute has conducted Grand Sessions (convention) without missing a single year. This year all was done online. Our Council had a full complement of delegates. Brother Mike Amato of San Francisco's St. John Bosco Council #613 was elected this year's Grand President. If all goes well, he will be visiting our Council later in the year.

Hopefully, we will meet again in September. 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.

WE HAVE A PHOTOGRAPHER!

We welcome the latest member of the Pine Times team, **Cailey Strazzo-Dante**. The eldest daughter of **Bob** and **Gillette Strazzo**, Cailey has agreed to be our photographer.

CHURCHES OF EUROPE

Joan Alimonti

We believe there are three churches in Croatia that are remarkable; all in different ways. Two are in Zadar and one in Split.

St. Simeon of the Presentation in the Temple (see Luke 2:25-35). Saint Simeon's

sarcophagus, a rectangular Cedarwood chest in the shape of a chasse overlaid with silver and silver-gilt plaques, is located over the main altar in the **Church of Saint Simeon** in Zadar, Croatia. The legend says that, in 1203, a merchant, acting on a vision from the Holy Spirit, carrying the body of St Simeon from the Holy Land to Venice, was caught in a storm, and sought shelter in Zadar. Not to become suspicious, he said the body he carried was of his brother. He fell ill, and before he died had the body of the saint buried, but told the nurses taking care of him that they would find something interesting in his documents. The nurses found an inscription of the powers of the saint around his neck, and asked three local priests to dig up the grave. Miraculously, the three city rectors had a dream that night that the body of the Saint Simeon was to be excavated that morning. At dawn, all three priests realized that they all had the same dream. His remains are shown to the public on his patron day, October the 8th. A 2000-year-old mummy is a fascinating sight!



In **Split, Croatia**, is the **Cathedral of St. Domnius**, formed from an Imperial Roman mausoleum built in AD305. It was consecrated at the turn of the 7th century AD and regarded as the oldest Catholic cathedral in the world that remains in use in its original structure, (though the bell tower dates from the 12th century). It is part of the Roman Forum and the second oldest structure used by any Christian Cathedral. The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary and the bell tower to St. Domnius.



The **Church of Donatus** in **Zadar, Croatia**, began construction in the 9th century and ended on the north-eastern part of the Roman Forum. The Zadar bishop and diplomat Donat (8th and 9th centuries) is credited with the building of the church. Originally named Church of the Holy Trinity, in the 15th century it was re-dedicated to **St. Donatus**. It was built on the Roman Forum, and

is the largest Pre-Romanesque building in Croatia. The circular church, formerly domed, is 90 feet high.



OUR LADY OF THE PINES SOCIETY 2020-21 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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1st V. P.



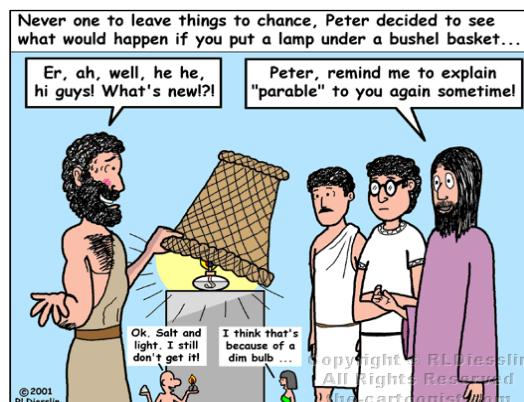
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ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

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

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2nd Vice President: Barbara Garcia
Secretary: Terri Darr
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OLOP MEETINGS

Our Lady Of the Pines Society meets on the first Wednesday of every month. At this time, we are meeting from 6 to 7 PM, outdoors, *behind Haran Hall*. No potluck. Bring your own chair. 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. Deadline is Tuesday for the following weekend's bulletin.

PINE TIMES STAFF

Ray Waugh, Publisher
ray_waugh@juno.com or 209-295-1217
Connie Wright, Production Editor
cnwright@att.net or 209-223-9525
Cailey Strazzo-Dante, Photographer

Submit comments, compliments, questions, or articles to Ray Waugh, Publisher. Material submitted via email is very much appreciated.

PARISH WEBSITE

www.stkatharinedrexel.com
webmaster@stkatharinedrexel.com