

The Ameliorator

St. Amelia Church

March-April 2010

Vol. 15, No. 2

Tonawanda, NY

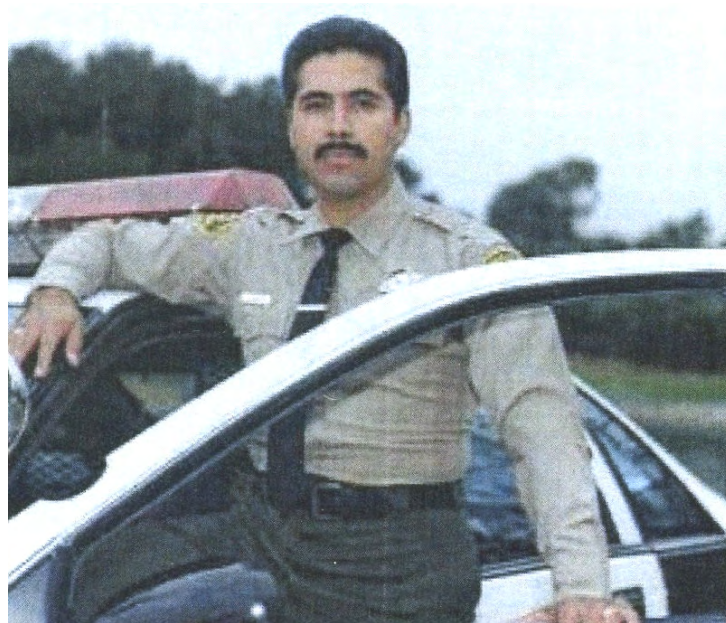
Jesse Romero Comes to Saint Amelia's

Good news! Jesse Romero is coming to Buffalo! Better news: He's coming right here, to Saint Amelia Church. Even better: It's free!

Jesse Romero is a former Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff, a world champion kick boxer, and an outstanding speaker on Catholic faith and life. Boxing, martial arts, contact sports – that was how Deputy Romero used his energy and coped with the stress of policing the mean streets of Los Angeles County. In 1986, a fellow deputy challenged him to pick up the bible, and use faith instead of force as a way to cope with the challenges of his profession. That moment changed Jesse's life. He went on to get a Master's Degree in Catholic Theology from the Franciscan University of Steubenville, and now criss-crosses the country talking about the scriptures and the Catholic faith.

If you've ever said, "I really should make a retreat, but I just don't have time", this is what you've been waiting for.

He is coming on Saturday, April 24. His topic is "Catholicism 101". His first talk is at 8 a.m. Mass will be celebrated at 9:30, and his second talk is at 10:30. If you've ever said, "I really should make a retreat, but I just don't have time", this



is what you've been waiting for.

"This event is sponsored by the Catholic radio station WLOF. We are simply the hosts. They needed a place with room for 1500 people and so they came to us", Father Tom explains. "But what a blessing! I think it's especially attractive to law enforcement officers, and to dads and grandfathers who really care about their boys' spiritual life. But Jesse is the author of many books, and is well known to people who watch EWTN. So we will have a great crowd. I advise people to come early to get a good seat. I also suggest that folks consider walking to church that day, if they can, or car pooling, because parking may be difficult."

Vianney

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FOR THE YEAR FOR PRIESTS



THE EXCITING STORY OF
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***Tuesday, March 9 at 7 p.m.
Blessed Sacrament Church
263 Claremont Avenue, Tonawanda***

Suitable for ages 9 and up. Free admission. An offering will be taken.
For more information: Deacon Roy Gibb at 834 4282 ext. 401

Scouting Teaches Values That Endure for Life

by Sean Beiter

For the first ten years of my life, I had no confidence, I did not fit in and I quit everything that I ever tried. I did not join Boy Scouts to have my character developed. I joined because I thought it was what my father wanted me to do.

On my first night at camp, I was prepared to do what I did best: quit. Fortunately, a concerned leader persuaded me to stay, and my life has never been the same.

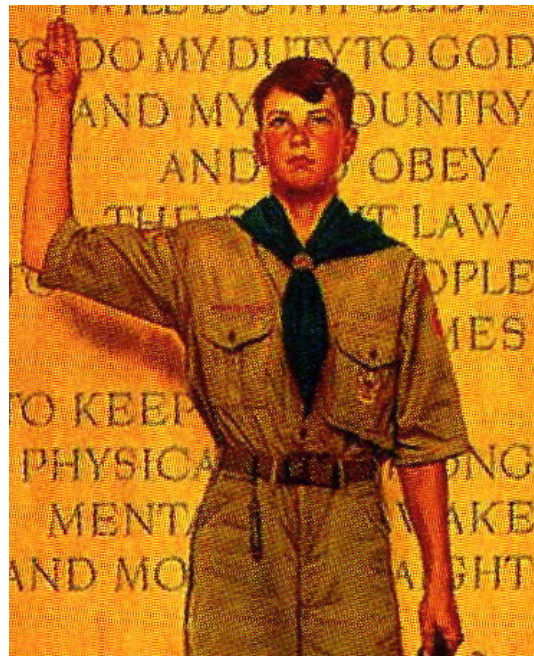
In the course of the next five years, the boy with no confidence who quit everything became the leader of the troop and earned the rank of Eagle Scout. Along the way, I made close friends, developed a core value system and had lots of fun.

Scouting is having the same positive effect on thousands of young people in Western New York. I have seen the Scout program help the introverted gain self-confidence, and watched children with behavior disorders make friends. I have met a young man with a hearing disability who has earned his Eagle Scout award, the mother of a boy in an inner-city unit who told us how her son was transformed on his first visit to camp, and a young woman who is preparing for a career as a first responder in an Explorer Post.

Scouting is needed more than ever. Our children, on average, spend 7 ½ hours a day on the computer, in front of television, playing video games and texting. As the father of four sons, I know that even the best parents are not able to monitor all the messages that are being communicated through these mediums. Further, all of this time in front of a screen is a prime contributor to the fact that childhood obesity rates have doubled in the past 20 years.

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

It is an organization that teaches that a person should be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.



Those are values that are not promoted in video games, popular music, or on most Internet sites.

The values that Scouting promotes are as important to today's youth as they were 100 years ago.

In 2009 alone, Scouts in this Council performed over 135,000 hours of community service, and 176 young men earned the rank of Eagle. Adults that participated in Scouting are better educated, have higher ethical standards, are team players, get along with others, care for the environment, and respect the elderly. For every 100 people who participate in Scouting, two will have their first contact with a church, one will use his Scouting skills to save the life of another person, and one will use his Scouting skills to save his own life. The values that Scouting promotes are as important to today's generation of youth as they were 100 years ago.

Attorney Sean Beiter and his wife Angel are members of our parish. In addition to their work with Scouting in our parish, Sean is President of the Greater Niagara Frontier Council of the Boy Scouts of America. This article was published in The Buffalo News to mark the 100th anniversary of Scouting in the United States, Feb. 8, 2010.

Lecture Series Explores Catholic Spiritualities

Some of the best speakers in our diocese are presenting a series of talks on various Catholic spiritualities this Lent. Talks are given at various parishes in our area, sponsored by St. Amelia's and the other parishes in our Northern Erie County Vicariate. Presentations take place on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m.

On February 22, Father Bob Martin explores the Carmelite Spirituality that formed John of the Cross, Teresa of Avila, Therese of Lisieux, and Edith Stein. He speaks at Christ the King Church, Main St. in Snyder. The following Monday Fr. James Monaco probes the Franciscan Spirituality in a talk at Blessed Sacrament Church, 263 Claremont Drive.



Joanne Kinney, administrator of DeSales Resources and Ministries, will introduce “everyday spirituality for everyday people”, based on the teachings of St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane de Chantel, on March 8 in St. Andrew's Parish Hall, 1525 Sheridan Drive.

The spirituality of Dorothy Day will be explained on March 15 by Matt Smith, coordinator of the Catholic Worker in our diocese, at St. Timothy Church, 565 East Park Drive, Tonawanda.

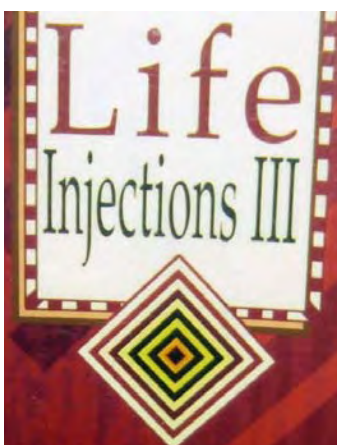
The series concludes with “Spirituality 101”, presented by Deacon Bill Hynes, who will look at the role of spirituality in our lives and help us discover new ways to deepen our faith. He will speak at St. John's Church, Kenmore, on Monday, March 22. There are no fees, and no reservations are needed for any of the talks.



Bill Heffron, with his wife Pat, proudly displaying the “Man of the Year” plaque he received at the Holy Name Presidents Dinner-Dance on January 16.

Healing Mission XV: Return of the Duke

He's coming back...by popular demand! Father Richard ("Duke") Zajac, chaplain at Sisters Hospital, returns to our parish for the 15th annual Healing Mission. The Mission takes place March 23 thru 25, Tuesday thru Thursday, with services at 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Each service includes Mass, homily, individual prayer for healing, and opportunity for confession.



"We got so many positive comments from last year's Mission that we asked him to come back", said Brian Ruh, pastoral associate. "People like his down-to-earth style, and his practical advice".

"His talk on depression last year was a masterpiece", added Father Tom. "Here is information, and in-

spiration, that you hear at 10:30 in the morning and you find you are actually using it later the same day. We still have a few CDs of his talks from last year, available in the narthex. And of course, his talks this year will also be available on CDs. The CDs are a great way to get his message out to people who cannot come to Church". Father Duke is the author of three books, called "Life Injections", which are compilations of his inspirational homilies.



Jim O'Donnell Joins Parish Team as New Business Manager

James T. O'Donnell joined our parish staff last month as business manager, to replace John Ludwig, who retired after ten years of service. Jim is an alumnus of St. Thomas Aquinas School, St. Joe's Collegiate, and Canisius College. Jim's corporate career includes leadership positions with Birge Wallpaper, Hooker Chemical, and HSBC. He has also taught accounting at Medaille College and Bryant and Stratton.

Mr. O'Donnell and his wife Jane, a pediatric nurse practitioner at Children's Hospital, are parents of four children: Tim, a social studies teacher in Gowanda; Mary, an attorney clerking at the Appellate Division in Rochester; Tom, who teaches medieval literature at the University of York in England; and Hugh, a published writer who works at Citibank. They are members of St. Gregory's parish, where Jim serves as a lector.

"I'm thrilled to join the team at St. Amelia's", Jim says. "I'm blessed to follow my corporate and academic careers with a third act, serving the Church."



**IRISH APPRECIATION BREAKFAST
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2010**

Parish volunteers got their Irish up in mid-February for a classic full course Irish breakfast and a superb demonstration of Irish step dancing by the “Rince Na Tiarna” school. Dancers included three of our school pupils: Lelaina Sullivan (top right) and twins Elisabeth and Samantha McAllister (bottom left).



Memories Held in the Human Hand

by Andrea Stutz

The human hand is a fascinating miracle. Our hands were created so specifically to make the things that we do possible. My hand has been on many journeys and holds many memories. My hands will go through many other experiences as the days pass.

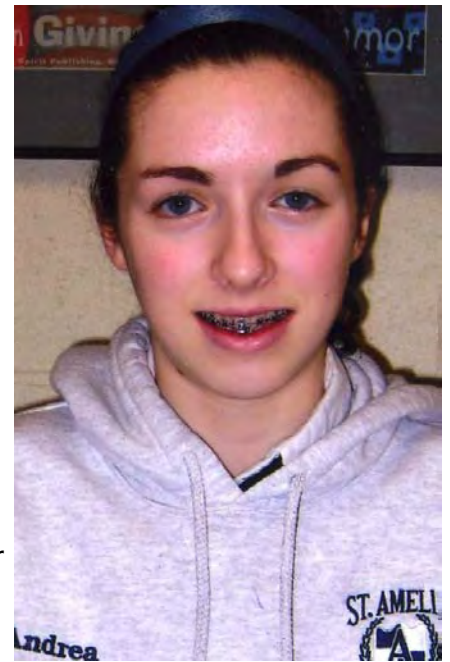
The biology of the hand is simply mesmerizing. The human hand is made up of 29 bones, which are divided into three groups. These groups are the carpal bones, metacarpal bones, and the phalange bones. The hand also has 29 major joints, at least 123 ligaments, and 48 nerves. Our palms have no hair nor do they have the ability to tan. Even though the skin on our palm is sensitive, it is still tough and durable.

My hands have many stories to tell, both good and bad. My hands have endured a minor burn or two and have gotten a few splinters also. I was told that on the first day of my life, I gently grasped my father's finger while cradling in his arms. In 2005, the Eucharist was placed in my left palm during my First Communion. I learned to correctly shoot a basketball with my hands and to hold ski poles while skiing.

In the future, my hands will go through many more experiences. One day, when I go through the Sacrament of Matrimony, a gold ring will be added to my left ring finger. Also, if God could bless me with a child someday, my son or daughter will hold my finger as I did to my father. During my last hours on earth, the Eucharist will be placed in my palm, as on my First Communion day.

The human hand plays an important role in everyone's life. Every handprint is unique and so are the stories that hands hold. My hand will experience many more events as I go with life. Without my hands, many things would be impossible.

Andrea Stutz is an eighth grade pupil in our school.



Our 500 school children celebrated Catholic Schools Week in late January at festivities in the school gym.

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bi-monthly newsletter from Saint Amelia Church

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The Ameliorator is the bi-monthly publication of Saint Amelia Church. We mail it to registered members of our parish. We also mail it to non-members who live in the geographical area served by our parish. We do this to keep our neighbors informed about who we are and what we are doing. If you do not wish to receive this publication, you can have your name deleted from our mailing list by simply calling our office at 836-0011.

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March-April 2010

Polish Mass and Dinner Set for Easter Saturday

The second annual Polish Mass and Dinner will take place on Easter Saturday, April 10. The Mass, at 4:30, is "a folk Mass in the Polish tradition," according to Joe Macielag, who will lead the music in Church and later in the Don Miller Hall. The Mass is followed by a Polish Dinner. Dinner tickets are \$12 each - presale only - and can be obtained at the Rectory or the School Office. You may also reserve a full table of 12.

The Polish Festival Dancers will perform for your entertainment. Competition will take place for the Queen of the Placek World. Details on this competition will appear in the Church bulletin.



Reminders

- ✓ Boy Scouts Spaghetti Dinner takes place on Sunday, February 28 from 4 - 8 p.m.
- ✓ Fish Dinners are served in the cafeteria Fridays during Lent from 3 til 6:30 p.m.
- ✓ Alas! For Yankee Fans. The annual excursion to see the Yankees beat the Bluejays will not take place this year. The only matinee games are on June 6 and 7, which conflicts with our "Jammin' in June" festival. As the Brooklyn Dodgers used to say, "Wait til next year!"