

TAGASTE NEWSLETTER  
PROVINCE OF ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINE  
OAR  
NOVEMBER, 2021

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Late Fall greetings to all our brothers in the Province of St. Nicholas, the Order, the Augustinian Recollect Sisters, our Secular Augustinian Recollects, Guild members, and the Hispanic Committee, as well as our parishioners at Sacred Heart Church! During this month of the Faithful Departed we remember hopefully and gratefully all our deceased brothers and sisters who have gone before us with the sign of faith and pray for their eternal rest and happiness.

**Into Eternal Life.** On November 2, following the evening Mass in commemoration of the Faithful Departed, Fr. Michael Rafferty read all the names of parishioners who have died at Sacred Heart during the past year. After each of the 98 names the sacristy bell was rung in remembrance of that person who now “sleeps in the Lord.”

**November Day of Recollection.** The Suffern community hosted the monthly day of recollection for the Eastern Region of the Vicariate on November 8. The friars began by gathering at Ascension Cemetery in Monsey, New York, to offer Midday Prayer for our deceased brothers. Fr. John Gruben led the prayers and Fr. Michael read out the name of each of our religious and SAR members buried there. Afterward all retired to the rectory of Sacred Heart for readings and reflections on the monthly theme: “Let us walk together along the path of charity”. Following the discussion, the group enjoyed lunch together at The Mason Jar Restaurant in Mahwah, New Jersey.



*Cemetery Visit (l to r): Frs. Miguel Echeverria, José María Martínez, John Gruben, Charles Huse, Fidel Hernández, John Docherty, Michael Rafferty, and Paco Legarra gather around monument and graves of our OAR brothers at Ascension Cemetery on November 8.*



***Twice as nice.** A double rainbow frames the rectory at Sacred Heart. The photo was taken by parishioner Al Smith, a Eucharistic Minister and Lector. For another spectacular rainbow over the parish, see the Easter 2020 issue of the Newsletter.*



***Getting to be a habit:** Fr. Michael was called on once again to give the invocation for Veterans' Day in front of the Suffern Monument. Village police and Boy Scouts stand to the left and Suffern Mayor Edward Markunas to the right of Fr. Michael.*





***“Wrapped in God’s love”:*** Fr. John with ladies from the parish Shawl Ministry, which is dedicated to knitting blankets for seniors and others in the parish and beyond. Over the course of some 8 years members have made over 770 shawls which were given as gifts to people as far away as France and Italy.



***Deacon in training:*** Scott Bisig (5<sup>th</sup> from left), deacon candidate for Sacred Heart parish, was admitted to candidacy to the permanent diaconate and installed as a lector along with 10 classmates. Auxiliary Bishop Edmund Whalen presided at the liturgy at St. Joseph Seminary, Yonkers, New York, on November 19.



***Eternal Rest:** Fr. Michael is joined by members of the Knights of Columbus, Joyce Kilmer Lodge, at the conclusion of Mass on November 21 for Lodge members who died during the past year. Following the Mass, the Lodge hosted a lunch for members and their families.*



***Holiday food collections:** Members of the parish **Vincent de Paul Society** (pictured above at the “Meet and Greet” on October 31) together with the Suffern Community Center, the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, and volunteers from the parish Religious Education Program put together food baskets for 64 families in need of provisions for the holidays. The effort was coordinated by Chris Schnabel, parish business manager. At the same time, the **Sons of Italy**, Vincent Linguanti Lodge, collected a great number of bags of food and, after a stop at Tagaste Monastery on November 20 to coordinate the drop offs, brought the food to various distribution centers. Many thanks to all for their generosity in donating food items for families in need!*





***Holiday wreath sale** (l to r): Patt Chester, Frs. John and Michael, Christine Schnabel, and Larry Chester on November 28. Brr! It was really cold out there!*

**Advent activities.** With the beginning of the Advent season the parish held its annual holiday wreath sale featuring grave blankets, crosses, and centerpieces from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. outside the school. Later that same day, the drawing was held for the annual parish raffle with prizes of \$10,000 (1<sup>st</sup> prize), \$1000 (2<sup>nd</sup> prize), and \$500 (3<sup>rd</sup> prize). All 250 tickets had been sold. Congratulations to the winners, and many thanks to parishioners for their support of this biggest annual fund-raiser!



***\$10,000 Raffle** (l to r): Frs. Eric and John, Chris Schnabel, and Fr. Michael in the school gym after announcing the raffle winners. Fr. Michael thanked everyone for their support.*



***“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”:*** Members of the Sacred Heart Choir join Frs. Eric, Michael, and John following the 10:00 a.m. Mass on November 28, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent. Mary Peden, choir director and organist, stands at the lower right.



***Visit to Villa Scalabrini.*** Fr. Eric with his mother Chona (c) and other family members together with the Augustinian Recollect Sisters at the Villa, an assisted living facility in Sun Valley, California, where the Sisters have been serving for many years. The Sisters call Chona “Nanay”, which means mother in Tagalog.



*Please pray for: Theresa Giampaglia, SAR president, as she continues to recover from a fall.*

**For all parish news, upcoming events, and Mass schedules, see  
[www.sacredheartparish.org](http://www.sacredheartparish.org)**

**For the latest news on Venerable Bishop Alphonse Gallegos, OAR, see  
[www.bishopgallegos.org](http://www.bishopgallegos.org)**

*Fr. John Gruben, OAR, prior  
Theresa Giampaglia, SAR president  
Connie Montanye, Guild president*



*Altar at Sacred Heart for Thanksgiving, 2021*



*Parishioner Bill Fisher lights 1<sup>st</sup> candle on the Advent wreath  
on Sunday, November 28.*