

Illuminations

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The Church of St. Anselm, Wayside, NJ



Building Connections in Jamaica

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- by *Ellie and John Cosgrove*

Parish twinning is a growing phenomenon. It essentially involves the development of a very individualized and unique relationship between a parish in the U.S. and a parish in a nation in which the overwhelming

majority lack the means for decent lives or an effective voice in what happens to them. Such relationships are specifically encouraged in the U.S. Bishops' pastoral letter, *Called to Global Solidarity*.

This past October, we made our second trip to Jamaica to explore a twinning relationship between St. Anselm and the parish of St. Anthony, including its two mission churches of St. Agnes and St. George. These Jamaican churches are all located in the large, isolated "civic



parish," or county, of Portland.

The connection with St. Anthony's resulted from a chance conversation with a

visiting Jamaican who learned of our very positive past experience with twinning in a former parish. That, in turn, led to an unexpected e-mail inquiry from Fr. Francis, the pastor of St. Anthony's and the *only* priest in Portland.

On this visit, we were fortunate to be joined by Marcia Van

Note, Chair of the Human Concerns and Social Justice Committee, and Michael Bellina, Chair of the Communications Committee. Together with Jim and Maureen Connelly, they comprise the Twinning Subcommittee. We all were very moved when the St. Anselm congregation joined Fr. Gene in blessing us during Mass on the Sunday before our departure.

In Jamaica, we attended masses at the three churches of the parish. In each case, the singing was beautiful,

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Photo by Michael Bellina

John Cosgrove shows young members of the St. Anthony Youth Group, Jamaica, a movie of St. Anselm Church.

Saying Goodbye to Church Envelopes

- by *Kristen Indahl*

Imagine getting ready for church on the weekend, and not having to 1) locate the appropriate envelope for that week, 2) worry about having enough cash or writing a check, or 3) be late for Mass because you're too busy doing #1 or #2.

Well, now it's as easy as point and click.

As the largest religious donation processor in the country, ParishPay



makes giving simple. Just log on to www.parishpay.com, click "Start Giving Now," and enter St. Anselm under "Name of Church." Then simply follow the links to enter the amount you'd like to give.

You can even include Easter, Christmas, and special collections as well as the Bishop's Annual Appeal in your online donations.

The site will then allow you to add your billing and personal information. You can pay by bank transfer, Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover, and the site uses

the most sophisticated encryption techniques to ensure that all your information is secure.

If at any time you want to alter your donation amounts, you can do so quickly and easily by logging on to your account. You can also view gifts provided to St. Anselm at any point during the year, and even print annual giving statements.

No more searching for envelopes or cash each week. No more figuring out how to submit your donation when you're going to be away for the weekend. And no more worries when it comes to weekly giving.

More than 8 million parishioners across the country use the ParishPay program, including me. Give it a try – it's just one more thing to make life a little simpler!

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RCIA: A Journey of Faith

- by *Sandy Mullarkey*

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process for incorporating unbaptized adults into the Christian faith and community in the Catholic church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist.

At St. Anselm, we have been called to be a welcoming community.

At the Easter Vigil on March 23, by witness of their sponsors and the consent of our community, we will welcome Peterkaye Messam and Samantha Thetgyi as full members of the Catholic Christian community through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, and Joe Tallman into full sacramental initiation through the sacrament of Confirmation.

We have watched the progress of these individuals as they joined us for the Liturgy of the Word and were dismissed after the homily for reflection on the Word and further instruction in the faith by RCIA members of the community.

On Sunday, February 10, our candidates were presented to Bishop Smith at the celebration of the Rite of Election in Trenton.

As we look forward to the Easter Vigil celebration, please continue to pray



Fr. Gene, Kiara Warfield, Samantha Thetgyi, Peterkaye Messam, Bishop Smith, Joe Tallman, and Christopher Tallman participate in the Rite of Election celebration on Sunday, February 10 at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption in Trenton.

for Peterkaye, Samantha, and Joe during their ongoing journey of faith.

Building Connections in Jamaica, cont'd.

Continued from page 1

emotionally powerful, and inspiring – yet simple, with a drum and tambourine as the only instruments. As we approached St. George’s for mass, the congregation was already singing hymns that rang out amid the lush grandeur of the surrounding mountains – a feast for the senses and the spirit.

Indeed, the fact that our parish and St. George’s have exceptional and distinctive music ministries was identified as an area of potential sharing. We discussed this and other possible areas of collaboration with members of the women’s, men’s, and youth groups and other ministries.

We were privileged to assist parishioners in a one of their ministries – feeding the poor – which came in two parts: one that made our bodies ache, and the other, our hearts. First, we helped to make up 400 packages of rice and beans, and then we participated in their distribution. This would be the only sustenance many would have, especially the elderly women, until the next allocation.

In collaboration with Fr. Francis and his parishioners, our Twinning Subcommittee formulated the proposed future direction of twinning with St. Anthony’s as articulated in this mission statement:

- To promote the mutual spiritual development of our parishes through visits and other jointly planned exchanges and activities, including communications between similar parish ministries;
- To deepen the sense of the universality of the church through

**IN EACH CASE,
THE SINGING WAS
BEAUTIFUL,
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POWERFUL, AND
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The Jamaican team with the members of the St. Anthony Church Council.

sharing information on the lives and cultures of the respective parishes;

- Within the limited means of the parishes, to address unmet material and spiritual needs in the parishes; and
- To increase the awareness and understanding of circumstances that contribute to extreme poverty and injustice in Jamaica and other developing nations.

Our nightly group reflections in

Jamaica revealed that we were all profoundly affected by our experience. We saw stark contrasts such as the pride and hope of the people in the midst of often terrible poverty, perhaps best evidenced by children in the ubiquitous, neatly-pressed school uniforms emerging from often very humble homes. We witnessed the centrality of faith and the church in the lives of the people and their

devout participation in parish life at levels unmatched *even* at St. Anselm.

After our experience, all four of us would heartily agree with the Bishops, who have said of twinning, “These bridges of faith offer as much to U.S. parishes as their partners... (both) are evangelized and changed.”



Monmouth Central Deanery Update

- by *Maria Bonenfant*

On January 16, several members of our parish participated in the first official session of the Monmouth Central Deanery Study, held at St. Jerome parish in West End. This first of eight sessions to discuss the future of our parishes as clergy numbers and Catholic populations evolve was attended by nearly 50 representatives from the 15 parishes in the Deanery.

Monsignor Vaughn, vicar general and moderator of the curia, spoke on behalf of Bishop Smith at the meeting. He charged the team with the task of “working together to create vibrant parish communities in Central Monmouth County,” having “no preconceived ideas of the outcome.” He added, “The work of this study group will be vital to the Bishop’s decision making.”

Study group members were each given a binder of materials with data from

each parish to assist in creating its recommendations. The data included parish records, demographics, and a summary of the in-pew survey that was conducted in all Deanery parishes in September.

As you may recall, this survey asked a range of questions about parish life,

“THE WORK OF THIS STUDY GROUP WILL BE VITAL TO THE BISHOP’S DECISION MAKING.”

each ranked from 1-5 in two categories: “How Well My Parish Does This” and “How Important This is to Me.” Responses are being used as a basis for discussion among study participants.

Across all 15 parishes, survey responses indicated that the aspects of parish life that mattered most were community,

adequate facilities, religious education for children, and social justice initiatives. St. Anselm respondents provided similar answers, with community and social justice at the very top. Prayerful masses, responsive parish leadership, bereavement

support, and well-managed finances also appeared in St. Anselm’s top 12.

Our parish’s responses for “How Well My Parish Does This” were well above average Deanery-wide, indicating to the diocese that there is a high degree of satisfaction with the way things are done at St. Anselm. Top responses in this category were social justice issues, hospitality (including having a welcoming, supportive, caring community), and encouragement of ministry involvement. Sixty-three percent of St. Anselm respondents said they were very attached to the parish.

Responses in our parish to the survey questions were consistent among age groups (those over 40 vs. those under 40), although the diocese, in its summary of our parish results, expressed some concern that those under 40 are not more actively involved in the parish. The summary indicates that this could have an impact on the vibrancy of our parish as its population ages. The summary also suggests that parishioners at St. Anselm and the other parishes

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Eleven Elements of a Vibrant Parish

1. The parish will have a strong sense of itself as a community of faith, called by God, united in Christ, and led by the Holy Spirit.
2. Members will see themselves as called and willing to participate actively in the leadership and growth of the parish.
3. A pastor who knows the people of the parish, they know him, and they are comfortable in communicating with him. The pastor is so important to the life of a good vibrant parish. He presides over the liturgy and empowers others to take part in the ministry of the Church.
4. The parish must have an adequate number of well-trained staff to take care of the needs of the parish. They must have a sense of purpose in achieving the goals of the parish.
5. Parishioners will actively participate in the life of the parish, both in the liturgical life and in other functions connected with the parish.
6. The liturgy will be the point to which all else leads and flows. The people will come to experience the presence of the living God.
7. The parish must be fully committed to the religious education of children and adults.
8. The parish experiences the call of Christ to spread the Word of God with evangelization programs, welcoming others through faith-sharing experiences.
9. The parish must be a certain size and have enough people of different age, gender, and race.
10. The financial condition of the parish should be such that it is able to carry out its work without undue stress on ministry and laity. It must not be preoccupied with financial matters.
11. The facilities must be maintained in an acceptable condition. It must not be too small or too big.

- *Diocese of Trenton*

The Way to Wayside

As told by Anna Marie Todaro Karolewicz, Parish Council Vice President, to Maria Bonenfant

I found out about St. Anselm around 1992 or 1993.

Although I was raised Catholic, at that time I had been “done with Church” for at least 10 years. A parishioner friend of mine told me I might want to try St. Anselm. “This is not like any other church you’ve ever known,” she’d tell me, saying it was a real anchor for her.

I also had a relative who told me about St. Anselm – so now I’d heard from two sources how great it was. But I still did not go.

As time went by, I had a child and I knew I wanted to baptize him. I told my husband that we should baptize him at St. Anselm since I had heard good things about it. So we did ... and then I left the Church again.

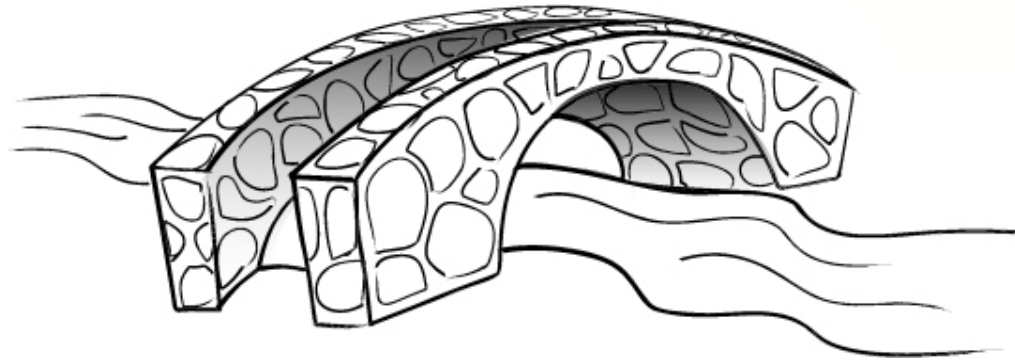
A few years later, I had an inspiration saying it was time to go to Mass as a family. I personally was not ready, but I felt that we needed to give our son, then almost four, some kind of spiritual framework.

My husband had been attending Mass regularly at various parishes even though I had not, and so out of respect for him, we chose to build that framework in the Catholic Church. Again, I turned to St. Anselm.

Our first Mass there was on Easter. That was when God really started to work on my heart. It had been 20 years since I had attended Mass.

When it came time for the consecration, I started to cry uncontrollably and didn’t know why. This had never happened to me

opportunities to be involved, and there is encouragement to be involved in so many ways. It is part of our family, not just something you do every week. When I go to St. Anselm, I feel like I’m entering God’s living room. I tried other churches, but each time I thought, “nope, St. Anselm is the place for me.”



before, and part of me knew there was something different at St. Anselm.

After that I would attend Mass only every other week or so, although I was still not buying in.

Then, my son started to attend a (Protestant) Christian preschool, and that was a real eye-opener for me.

Although I still had a foot in the Catholic Church, I had a strong conversion at the church of his

preschool. I started to go to St. Anselm every week, and I actually heard the Mass for the first time.

Even though the Christian Church had an impact on my life, I always felt comfortable at St. Anselm – I think God was using our parish to heal my separation from the Church.

**“WHEN IT CAME
TIME FOR THE
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STARTED TO CRY
UNCONTROLLABLY
AND DIDN’T KNOW
WHY.”**

St. Anselm makes being Catholic a part of your life in a way I had never experienced before. There are so many

Monmouth Deanery, cont’d

Continued from page 4

consider the importance of outreach to non-practicing Catholics (a survey question that received lower marks in both categories), for the long-term growth and health of these parishes.

The findings of the survey will be used as a starting point, adding parish demographic data and parish records to frame the discussion as the study group meets over the coming months. Study group members will look for similarities and gaps among the parishes as a basis for recommendations, including possible restructuring or collaboration.

St. Anselm’s representatives to the study group meetings are Barbara Mullin and Gregory Held. The overall Monmouth Deanery Study is expected to conclude in August, when study group members present their recommendations to Bishop Smith.

Growing in Faith

Moved by the Testimony of our Teens

- by *Kimberly Connolly*

After several years of being a youth minister and participating in many youth group activities at St. Anselm and in the Diocese, I am still in awe of the power of the Holy Spirit and the commitment of our teens.

Many have asked questions about these young people and at most, I have only been able to describe a few funny anecdotes, various activities, and of course the time spent with them. I know that by these few stories, I am not describing the experience with the justice it deserves.

How does a person describe what it looks like to be so spiritually connected to a church that is thriving and to see the Gospel Message spreading through the testimony of teens here and across the world? How does one describe to others how God continues to challenge you while blessing you with His grace?

The message of Jesus' love for the world has never been as clear to me as when I witness the first time a teen experiences God's grace.

Whether it is through a community service project, an overnight retreat,



sharing prayer, or in the celebration of Sunday Mass, these teens are a blessing to watch grow as they study and practice their Christian faith and live a more spiritual life each day.

As I reflect back, I am reminded of all of the events that have taken place and recognize that for some of our young people, this is the beginning of their

pilgrimage. And as in most pilgrimages, it is not really about destination, but rather about what is happening while getting there.

God chooses young people to accomplish great tasks. He chooses them to be an example, too. They are growing, changing, and always up for a challenge. We are called to remember that the greatest spiritual role ever played by a human being was a teenager. It was Mary's "Yes" to God that brought Jesus Christ into our world. Let us recognize the power of our youth and embrace their many gifts.

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Lenten Spirituality Series



- Photo by Frank Coyle

St. Anselm offered a moving six-session Lenten series led by Fr. Bill Bausch, a priest of the Diocese of Trenton who is also a renowned speaker, a retreat director, and the author of over 20 books on spirituality, homiletics, and parish life. Our parishioners enjoyed his gifted storytelling and inspiring reflections.

Meet the Members: The Grimaldis

- by *Kristen Indahl*

Names and hometown:

Frank and Monica Grimaldi of Ocean, NJ.

Can you tell us about your family?

Frank enjoys biking, yoga, digital photography, and geo-caching, which is a web-based, outdoor scavenger hunt activity using GPS navigation. He's also a model train enthusiast. He has a permanent layout in his basement, and hosts an open house each year for family and friends. When Monica's not working, she loves being outside. She particularly enjoys going to parks, walking, and biking.

How long have you been members of St. Anselm?

The Grimaldi family joined the St. Anselm community in 1980, shortly after they moved to a new home in the area.

How did you choose St. Anselm?

They first went because it was the closest church to where they lived, and they soon realized they knew many of the parishioners.

What activities are you involved in at St. Anselm?

Frank is a greeter and helps with church finances. After he retired, he took up cooking and somehow found himself heading up the parish cookbook process. He included nine or 10 of his own favorite recipes, and even his sons each supplied one. The process was a success, with every cookbook being sold. Monica is presently a lector and a member of the registration team. She previously served as a member of the Parish Council, a religious education teacher, a hospitality committee member, and

even a "dustchaser" in the early days of St. Anselm.

Why did you choose those roles?

Both Frank and Monica enjoy being involved in whatever ways they can – particularly meeting new people and inviting them to be members of the parish.

What are your family's favorite parish activities/events?

The Grimaldis enjoy the St. Patrick's dinners, the outdoor masses, and the parish picnics, where everyone can get together and get to know each other.

What would you like to see more of at St. Anselm?

Monica would love to see more events that involve parishioners of all ages, from children to grandparents. She thinks it's wonderful to see the age difference melt away when people of common interests get together.

The one thing that makes our parish so special is:

According to Frank, it's the relaxed atmosphere – it feels like home. Monica feels that the majority of parishioners live what they profess and embody a spirit that's evident as



- Photo by *Kristen Indahl*

Frank and Monica Grimaldi of Ocean Township joined St. Anselm in 1980.

soon as you walk in the door. She also likes that the parish is so committed to giving back to people who need assistance – wherever there's a need, someone will step up and fulfill it.

If you or someone you know would like to be profiled in a future Meet the Members column, please contact Kristen Indahl at 732-544-4005 or kindahl47@comcast.net.

He
is risen

A Place for Moms to Share

- by Fran Burke

The St. Anselm Christian Moms Group helps us pursue our awesome vocation of motherhood.

It is a bonding experience for all mothers who participate with their children. Personal friendships as well as resources are the rewarding results of this intimate group.

Our sharing has helped us develop supportive friendships that are so necessary during this phase of life when the care of our children is our primary commitment.

At any meeting, you may see children engaged in a craft, an activity, or free play while the mothers participate in a meeting right next to them. The relaxed atmosphere is ideal for those short visits from the children for hugs and kisses.

On Saturday, February 9, we held a highly successful Toy and Clothing Swap. Thank you to everyone who donated items and participated. Because of your generosity, many new and gently used toys and clothing are now being recycled and enjoyed by new owners. The remaining items were donated to charitable organizations.

Watch the church bulletin for our next



- Photo by Sandy Mullarkey

Members of the St. Anselm Christian Moms Group participate in the Toy and Clothing Swap on Saturday, February 9.

Toy and Clothing Swap.

We also enjoyed a Pirate and Princess Party on Friday, March 7. The children loved dressing up, sharing snacks, and participating in fun activities.

All mothers are welcome at the Moms Group with their children. New,

expectant, and nursing mothers are especially encouraged. We also need the expertise of you experienced moms!

Please contact Fran Burke at swimfran@optonline.net or call the St. Anselm office at 732-493-4411, ext. 102, for more details.

Saying Goodbye to Church Envelopes

Continued from page 2

In addition to making giving more convenient for parishioners, ParishPay helps churches across the country deal with the following challenges:

- On average, 75% of the envelopes mailed to parishioners'



homes never get returned.

- Donations dwindle toward the end of the month. In fact, there is generally a 20% drop between average contributions from the first week to the last week of the month.
- Cash contributions are reflexive (I have a \$5 bill and a \$20 bill, but I need to

pick up groceries so I'll give the \$5 bill).

- Inclement weather, vacations, and illness can decrease Mass attendance and, subsequently, weekly offerings.

The ParishPay program can alleviate these issues by bringing consistency to giving. At the same time, it brings value to the parish by helping to stabilize cash flow.

Lenten Journey Culminates with Easter

Schedule of Holy Week Masses, Celebrations, and Events

- by Phyllis Lockwood

The Lenten season began on Ash Wednesday and ends with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. Lent has six Sundays, and the final Sunday – called Passion or Palm Sunday – marks the beginning of Holy Week.

Traditionally, the Lenten season is a time of penance, in which prayer, the reception of the sacraments, charity, and almsgiving are emphasized.

Fast and abstinence are observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, while all the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.

The Easter Triduum begins with the evening of the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday.

It commemorates the Lord's passion and death on Good Friday, reaches its high point at the Easter Vigil, and ends with evening prayer on Easter Sunday.

As we prepare our hearts for Easter at St. Anselm, we'll celebrate Holy Week according to the following schedule:

Palm Sunday – Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Sunday, March 16

- 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Mass

Holy Thursday – Mass of the Lord's Supper

Thursday, March 20, 8:00 p.m.

Good Friday

Friday, March 21

- 12 noon — Stations of the Cross
- 3:00 p.m. — Celebration of the Lord's Passion
- 7:30 p.m. — Tenebrae Service (reflection through readings, songs, and a dark church)

Holy Saturday

Saturday, March 22

- 12 noon — Blessing of the Easter Food
- 8:00 p.m. — Mass Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday

Sunday, March 23

- 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Mass

Following Easter Sunday, the joyful Easter Season of 50 days begins.

Did You Know...

Vestment colors are used to represent the mood of the Mass being celebrated. The color for the altar cloth and the celebrant's sash will be of this color. There are four standard vestment colors:

- **Violet** - Represents expectation, purification, or penance. Used during Lent and Advent.
- **White (or Gold)** - Represents joy and triumph. Used during the Paschal Triduum, Easter, and Christmas, as well as for holy days and feast days throughout the year.
- **Red** - Represents royalty, fire, and martyrdom. Used on special feast days and holy days throughout the year.
- **Green** - A sign of life and growth. Represents Ordinary Time.

Other colors may be substituted where traditionally appropriate, if desired. Some typical examples are **Black**, used for funerals, and **Pink**, used on the third Sunday of Advent.



“Keeping the Faith” — One Dad’s Opinion

- by Ed McCarthy

I never really considered myself a fuddy-duddy. Really. That was until I had children.

Or, more directly, until I started watching television with my children.

My friend Susanne subscribes to what I’ll call the “indoctrination theory” of children and mass media. She feels it’s good to sit down on a Sunday afternoon in the fall with your son – in my case, sons – and watch at least half a football game. To me, that sounded like solid advice. I can still vividly remember listening to the Tucker Fredrickson-era New York Giants on an old radio in our garage while my dad painted the house or changed the oil in our Pinto.

So when my seven year old starting showing a remote interest in football, I thought it would be high time for the indoctrination to begin.

All I can say is: they didn’t have ads like that in Giants’ broadcasts when Tucker was on the field. I was really taken aback by the prurient nature of what seemed like all of them – from ads for shows like *Prison Break* and the *Sarah Connor Chronicles* to every demented video game you could think of. I said to my boys, “I think I’m going to start turning off the TV during commercial breaks,” to which they replied, “That’s the best part!”

I realized I was in over my head when, during the Giants playoff win at Green Bay, my seven-year-old saw his first commercial for Burger King. Matthew turned to me and said he wanted to go to Burger King. For a Whopper. Right then and there.

At that moment I came to two conclusions. First, my friend Susanne should stick to what she does best – teaching kindergarten.

Second, if we have any interest in keeping our children “whole” in terms of their faith, we as parents will have to serve as a kind of shepherd as our children grow and become more exposed to the onslaught that we call “the media.”

MATTHEW TURNED TO ME AND SAID HE WANTED TO GO TO BURGER KING. FOR A WHOPPER. RIGHT THEN AND THERE.

After processing the Burger King-*Sarah Connor Chronicles-Prison Break* experience, I got the idea for this article. I should mention that in my pre-children days, I was quite the media hound. I loved going to movies, considered myself a bit of a music snob, read two newspapers a day, and was known to occasionally take in a few showings of *The Sopranos*.

Now, as a dad, I can see where children exposed to the onslaught of marketing messages – whether they come from the Internet, radio, TV, instant messaging, or *Cosmo* – are likely to have more questions than answers. It’s clear they have more places outside of the family unit to search for those answers if we as parents don’t do one of two things: keep up with their consumption (what they’re reading,

surfing, watching, and listening to) or limit their exposure in a healthy way.

What follows are a few random thoughts on my own recent experiences with the media. I invite you to share yours with us as well.

It Wasn’t ALL Bad

On a recent Saturday night, my wife and I went for a “parents night out” with another couple. After a great dinner in Red Bank, we narrowed down our movie choices to “*There Will Be Blood*” and “*Juno*.” I, as you would have guessed, wanted “*There Will Be Blood*” (Come on...it *was* parents night out). The other three voted me down, and I’m glad they did.

For those of you who have not seen the movie, *Juno*, a precocious high schooler, becomes pregnant when she loses her virginity to her cross-country-running boyfriend. Her parents are loving, though detached in a way that leaves Juno and her best friend to make a decision that all too many young women have to face: what should she do with her unborn baby?



What makes this movie so uplifting is Juno’s unflinching belief that her baby has an unalienable right to life. Juno never wavers – in the face of mounting ridicule from classmates, strange looks from passers-by, or a

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Keeping the Faith, cont'd

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few quirks in the adoption process.

Some people might say that the fact that she became pregnant in the first place is a negative image that teen girls need to be wary of. I disagree. A recent study showed that one-third of all young women in this country will become pregnant by their 20th birthday. That, to me, makes Juno more a role model than cautionary tale.

God is ... What?

There are plenty of moms and dads for whom business travel is a reality. As I like to say, it's a double-edged sword. On the one hand, you have to be away from your family for a time. But if you're traveling, that usually means you're busy and, for most of us, busy is good.

Traveling also lets me indulge in one of my guilty pleasures: going to bookstores. Granted, most of them are between gates 32 and 34 in O'Hare, but a bookstore is a bookstore.

On one such visit in the airport, I looked over the usual titles: a John Grisham here, a Barack Obama there. Then one title grabbed my eye: *God is a Salesman*. I did a double take... God is a... *What?*

I bought it on the spot. In the spirit of

full disclosure, my choices in books have been sketchy of late. I just finished Christopher Hitchens' hit piece on religion, *God is Not Great*, so I thought, with Lent coming up, I'd better get back on the path.

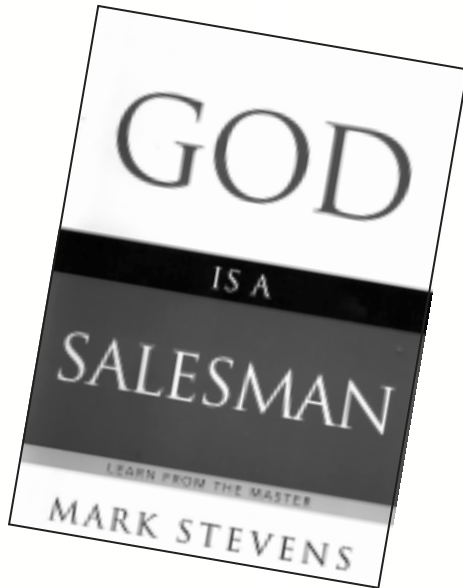
God is a Salesman is just what the doctor ordered. To clarify, the book does not paint our Lord and Creator as a salesman in the used-car-pinkie-ring-what-can-I-do-to-get-you-in-this-car-today mold. It's the opposite – and a principle that every professional salesperson will find thoroughly engaging.

The author, Mark Stevens, focuses on success – how to achieve it “as a salesperson, a business person, a parent, or a spouse by understanding God, religion, spirituality, and faith from a new perspective.”

At 144 pages, the book moves along at a good clip. Stevens makes it even easier for you by building his case for God as the ultimate Salesman by laying it out in short, breezy chapters with headings such as “God Treats Us All As Family” and “God Listens But Never Speaks.”

I was able to finish the book before I got home and still keep it on my desk for quick reads over lunch. I think anyone looking for a good business book that doubles as an exploration of faith will find it to be an enlightened, uplifting reading experience.

If you're reading, watching, listening to, or surfing something that you'd like to share, please feel free to send me an e-mail at epmworks@yahoo.com.



Easter Prayer for Children

Time for joy and time for giving
Time for remembering
Love while living.

Take this message Easter Day
Show kindness, care
At home and play.

It's in our very acts of giving
Easter's joy
Makes life worth living.

Children round the globe now hear
Keep Easter
In your heart all year.

May joy and love spread
land to land
Linked heart to heart
And hand to hand!"

- Susan Kramer, Meditation Editor,
BellaOnline



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Blessed Sacrament Choir Returns to St. Anselm



Photo by Mike Bellina

On February 2, the St. Anselm community was moved by the spirit when the Blessed Sacrament Church Gospel Choir from Newark returned to share their soulful, joyous praises during the 5:30 p.m. Mass.



Church of St. Anselm

A Stewardship Parish

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He
is risen