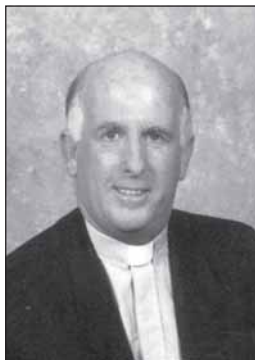


Illuminations

Church of St. Anselm

Reaching for the Light

Thank You! Father BOB



When we first moved to Eatontown, our realtor, Ellie Christian, a musician at St. Mary's in Colts Neck, recommended the Church of St. Anselm, if we were the kind of Catholics who like to "be involved." Our first Sunday here in 1982 was marked by warm greetings from Fr. Miele and several parishioners who recognized that we were new to the community. That was St. Anselm's style, along with a truly involved community and a contemporary spirit of worship and church.

When Fr. Miele moved on, St. Anselm's was still a small parish. So small, in fact, that Fr. Lang, our Administrator, warned us that no priest in the diocese would be willing to take on a little church with a big debt. The following week we received the news that Fr. Bob Kaeding would be our new pastor. Apparently, we thought, here is a man not afraid to face challenges. Fr. Bob saw all the possibilities, it seems, based on what he understood to be the spirit of the parish.

So, we began to build—not a building, but a viable Catholic community of faith. The foundation was laid by the original pastor and families. The ingredients for growth included large doses of trust, serious attention to hospitality, and that rare kind of inclusive leadership that characterizes Fr. Bob's pastoral style.

We have all heard that the priest's primary work is "the salvation of souls." Fr. Bob goes about saving people. For some, his deeds of salvation are dramatic and sometimes seem miraculous. For most, salvation comes from Fr. Bob through Sunday homilies, words of encouragement, moments of celebration, and the knowledge that we are learning from him how the human can become sacred.

What most characterizes Fr. Bob are the ways in which he helps people get involved in the work of the Gospel. His preaching is made so much more effective because of his doing. We know that he has been the instigator of growth in many ministries of Social Justice and Christian compassion. Just as he has done for us at St. Anselm, he has led many others to become active participants in important endeavors for the good of the community.

Fr. Bob continued on page 7

St. Anselm Welcomes an Old Friend in a New Role

Just about everyone who worships at the Church of St. Anselm knows of Fr. Gene Vavrck. Many of us have spoken with him after one of the many Masses he has celebrated with us. For quite some time now, Fr. Gene has been a regular stand in when Fr. Bob was away from the community on a weekend.

Just knowing that Fr. Gene would be here has always assured us of a prayerful liturgy, a thoughtful homily, and a familiar welcoming spirit. But friends and relatives are two entirely different things, so they say, and a little background information is in order to help us learn more about our new administrator's journey from Jersey City to Wayside and some of the stops he made along the way.

Fr. Gene was born on February 22, 1957 (yes, he's forty-eight years old) to Lorraine Murphy Vavrck and Eugene Vavrck. His mother is deceased, and his dad lives in Toms River. Gene was three years old when his family moved to Hazlet. There he began his Catholic education at St. Ann Grammar School in Keansburg. A 1975 graduate of Holmdel High, he went on to King's College in Wilkes Barre, PA, run by the Holy Cross Community. With a bachelor's degree in political science, Fr. Gene thought he was headed for law school, but he got sidetracked by an experience called "Urban Pledge" and the priests who ran the program during a Christmas vacation. He then began to consider the priesthood as his vocation in life.

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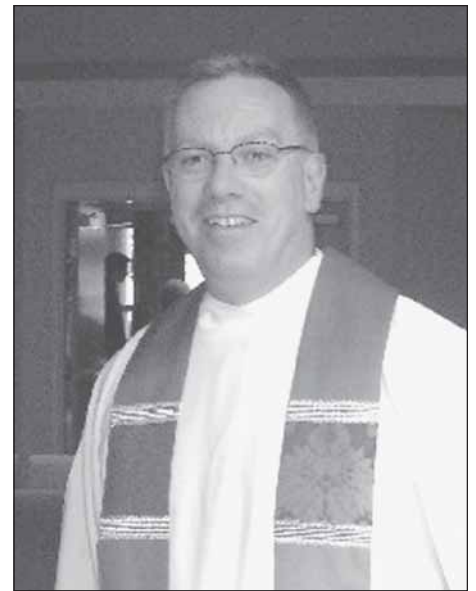
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Hospice by the Sea

A Message from the Desk of Father Gene

Dear friends,

I have to confess that I'm still dizzy with the excitement of being asked to come to be the Administrator at the Church of St. Anselm. When Bishop Smith asked me if I would be "interested" in coming to serve here, I practically shouted, "YES!" I'm very grateful to the Bishop for having the trust in me to invite me to serve this community.

Some people have told me that I have some "big shoes to fill." That's true. I've been friends with Fr. Bob for 24 years, and that's been most helpful in this transition. It would have been very difficult to come into a parish where I didn't know anybody, and where I had no idea of their traditions and history. However, since I've been a frequent visitor to St. Anselm and Fr. Bob and I share a common vision for parish life, the transition has been very rewarding.



Some people have been a little nervous about the transitions at St. Anselm. They've been wondering if things will change, and whether we'll keep doing all of the wonderful things that St. Anselm is known for. These are natural questions to ask during a time of transition.

It's my hope that we can all continue the wonderful things that make the Church of St. Anselm so special in the coming years. Let's continue to work to make this a place and a community known for its great hospitality. Let's continue to be good and faithful stewards of the gifts that God has given to us. Let's continue to reach out to the poor and the struggling. Let's continue to be a people who strive to live for others.

My prayer in these days is that the spirit of tolerance, respect, and peace will continue here at St. Anselm, and will in fact grow even more powerful. I'm reminded of some words written by St. Paul to the Philippians:

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me (and I would reverently add: "at St. Anselm"). Then the God of peace will be with you."

Peace,

Fr. Gene

Preparing for a Life-Long Adventure

So...are you married? This may sound like a pick-up line, and actually it is. Do you love being married? Do you view your marriage as a ministry? Would you enjoy sharing your love of marriage with couples preparing for matrimony?

The members of the St. Anselm's Pre-Cana team do just that. Our team is comprised of couples who really love each other and their marriages, and they want to share this gift. All team members agree that they also receive a new focus on their marriage by participating as facilitators during our Pre-Cana sessions. We are re-energized by interacting with enthusiastic engaged couples.

During the Pre-Cana session, which is a single Saturday, the team couple facilitates a small group of up to five engaged couples. The team couple promotes conversations by sharing their own experiences about what helps make their marriage successful, asking questions, making comments about the presentations that are given, and interacting with our guests.

Our team helps prepare engaged couples through talks, discussions, and exercises on topics that are key to a successful marriage, including communications, spirituality, family life, and sexuality. The engaged couples take time during the Pre-Cana session to focus on each other and their relationship before the wedding. After all, a wedding is just a day, but a marriage is a life-long adventure.

The team provides the engaged couples with the tools they need to help them communicate effectively throughout the course of their relationship. We share with our guests how each couple will develop into a family and the planning and adjustments involved, the different communication styles between men and women, how sexuality is expressed through romance, and how marriage is a vocation and the family is a domestic church.

Back to the pick up line...several married couples (our Pre-Cana team) are in search of married couples who are excited about marriage. Would you and your spouse like to join our team and share your love? The commitment is just a single Saturday, twice a year, with complimentary babysitting.

If you are interested in joining our team, please contact Lisa and Andy Mayer at 732-544-1313 or purduerules@verizon.net.



Confirmations

Agamemnon, Amy
Ahern, Lindsey
Alesi-Mullen, John
Alvarado, J. Omar, Jr.
Ambrosio, Emily R.
Apy, Daniel
Bekampis, Christopher Francis
Bogdan, Jacqueline A.
Bray, Chelsea
Campanile, Kyle J.
Caprio, Melissa Anne
Carter, Laura
Caslin, Shawnie M.
Cassano, Samantha
Chiarello, Gabriel
Conde, Jennifer Ann
Conde, Jennilyn Ann
Cutone, Jillian J.
DeGirolamo, Alexandra
DiPersio, Alexander
Donnelly, Morgan Jean
Erskine, Alan M.
Fagan, Kerry Gerard
Faiella, Nicole M.
Fernandes, Christina
Ferris, Jonathan
Ford, Jessica Lynn
Galarza, Kendra
Gearty, Brian Patrick
Gilman, Rebecca
Giorgio, Gina
Goodwin, Shaun P.
Harlow, Justin Daniel
Henderson, Joseph A., III
Hoffman, Connor James
Howson, Amanda
Jouaneau, Casey R.
Larocca, Nicholas E.
Lebron, Raechel
Leonardo, Michelle
Little, Eleana Marie
Lockwood, Johanna Lynne
Londono, David C.
Lye, Theresa H.
MacCary, Shane Alan
MacFarlane, Christina
Mancini, Sarah
Marron, Brian
Marron, Kevin
Masco, Nina
Masiddo, Jennifer
McAndrew, Joseph
McGuckin, Jacqueline

Confirmations continued on page 10

Communions

Amato, Alyssa
Bekampis, Stephanie Marie
Bley, Ian
Bradshaw, Kyle
Brito, Alexandra
Cabrera, Annie
Campbell, Brian Terrance
Canzano, Austin
Clark, Antoinette
Connolly, Tyler
Cooper, Destyni
Cosme, Caitlin
Cronin, Sean Matthew
Eickman, Fiona Jean
Ettore, Samuel
Farrell, Teresa
Garruto, Juliana
Gattuso, Gianna
Gattuso, John
Hegarty, Karlie
Huntley, Bryan Thomas
Hurd, Amanda
Ibarra, Caroline
Jenks, Nicole
Johnson, Alexandra Clare
Karolewicz, Michael John
Licata, Samantha
Manso, Jacqueline
Matthews, Ira
McQueen, Anthony Eric
Moynihan, Matthew James
Nguyen, Vu
O'Brien, Andrew
Ober, Erin
Palermo, Gianna Dolores
Pipas, Jack
Pisarcik, Alyson
Pollard, Amanda
Reedy, Garrhet
Rodriguez, Ryan
Romanowski, Hunter Michael
Schilke, Matthew
Schulhafer, Molly
Shapiro, Kelli
Sheldon, Brian
Trapani, Taylor
Tweed, Brianna
Ullery, Morgan
Vinals, Kaitlyn
Vu, Tran
Weeden, Anna
Wityk, Christian Armand

9/11 Memorial Highlights Properties Committee Achievements



In a parish that emphasizes stewardship as one of the cornerstones of our personal spiritual commitment, the Administration of property committee is probably the most visible reflection of that decision at St. Anselm. The committee's projects are ongoing year round responsibilities at the parish that are essential in the daily operation of the buildings and grounds of St. Anselm's community. The committee reflects the mission statement of the community handling the primary duties of the management of the parish from the simple routine maintenance of the complex that demands daily and weekly attention to more involved construction projects by work teams. Parishioner Pat McDonald currently heads the Administration of Properties committee since Dec. 2004. He was an assistant on the committee for several years under former chairman John Hegarty. He took over for John Hegarty after serving several years on the committee as a volunteer learning the year round maintenance routines. John Hegarty was the chairman of Properties for almost 4 years and is still an active volunteer for the group. During his time as Property chairman, John was instrumental in the construction of the 9/11 Memorial that is the most striking feature of the exterior of the parish grounds. The committee constructed the memorial under John's leadership shortly after the disaster with a completion date during the spring 2001. The memorial includes a pond with two stone structures as bases and two evergreens rising from within the water. The bridge allows people to cross the pond, view the two structures and enter the Peace Garden, a fitting link for separate but connected settings. The Peace Garden has been part of St. Anselm for many years and has been a place of mediation and quiet reflection for many parishioners throughout the years. The memorial is a fitting tribute and symbol of the 9/11 tragedy that affected every American and Catholic. It also reminds us of the enormous efforts necessary for peace and freedom that we have come to cherish even more since the tragedy only a few years ago.

The committee performs many services for the parish, mostly ordinary duties that are critical for running a facility the size of the church, learning center, classrooms and grounds. Some of the main projects accomplished in recent years are the tile floor through the entire foyer that runs from the Church to the learning center and parish offices. The committee has also upgraded the lighting throughout the complex both inside and outside, supervised a new roof construction, added CCTV in the learning center, upgraded kitchen fireproofing, air conditioning rebuilt, in addition to remodeling the kitchen and baths in the parish house.

Probably the most visible projects performed annually from a spiritual viewpoint are the manger during the Christmas season and the Stations of the Cross during Lent. Both projects demand many hours to assemble and maintain during those holy periods leading to our two most important dates. The manger is one of the few in the county that features live animals and requires several people to maintain daily separate from the other duties at the parish facilities. It has become a vital part of the Christmas season for so many families and children in the parish and local communities. The Stations of the Cross took countless hours to build and assemble and has allowed us the privilege of sharing and experiencing the season and

Holy Week ceremony outside on the grounds as a Catholic community as we await Easter.

The main weekly duties of the committee are the upkeep of the church and all the adjoining rooms. It requires a committed team of people to maintain and is a necessary but somewhat thankless job that the group performs. The committee has 6 to 10 regulars plus several part time participants. The most recent spring project completed was the replacement of the railroad ties around the parking lot. It was the first major outside project this year and it took several weekends by a half a dozen volunteers who worked on a tight deadline to meet with the Parish dinner on the lawn for the Center in Asbury Park scheduled for mid May.

There are many seasonal responsibilities like snow shoveling sidewalks and landscaping that need bigger work crews to maintain. This was no more evidence of that than this past winter with many storms that required weekly maintenance for most of the season. The parish has contracted snow plowing and lawn services for the main work load, but there is still an enormous amount of additional seasonal maintenance work that requires weekly attention.

We owe so much of our comfort at the parish to the tireless work this committee performs with little attention operating behind the scenes. It is also almost impossible to estimate the amount of money the committee saves the parish as a result of their commitment. Those saved funds allows us to direct money to other priorities that are consistent with our mission statement both within and outside the immediate community. Whether it is the major projects or the ordinary maintenance duties, we owe the current and past chairman and all the volunteers a huge debt of gratitude for their continued dedication and the fine example of the stewardship role that we emphasize so strongly as our parish mission statement.

The Properties committee always welcomes and needs assistance and seeks new volunteers. It is a great way to meet new people and help the parish meet all our goals as a community. The personal commitment can be as involved as the volunteer's schedule allows and would help share the workload especially with the seasonal demands both inside and outside throughout the year.

To join email chairman Pat McDonald at PJMcD4@aol.com or call the St. Anselm's office at (732) 493-4411 for contact information.

Welcome continued from page 1

For the next four years, St. John Vianney High School in Holmdel had the benefit of a teacher dedicated to social justice and considering a lifetime of service as a parish priest. Fr. Gene went on as a seminarian to Notre Dame, earning master's degrees in Liturgical studies and divinity. After completing his seminary formation, he was ordained by Bishop Reese on May 15, 1993.

Fr. Gene has served in the parishes of St. Mary in New Monmouth, St. Mary of the Lake in Lakewood, Sacred Heart in Mt. Holly; and St. Martha in Point Pleasant. He met Fr. Bob while serving as chaplain at his old school, St. John Vianney. Their mutual interest in social justice, community witness, and meaningful liturgy helped make the transition of leadership at St. Anselm smooth and open to further growth.

As Fr. Bob explained, all new assignments in the Diocese of Trenton are to the position of Administrator, which is a trial period. Fr. Gene's assignment here is permanent, however, and he soon will be named pastor. How fortunate are we to have such a shepherd who knows his sheep, and both are ready to listen to each other's voice.

New Parishioners

Frank Agamemnon
Lynda Barrood
Vince & Christine Bauer
Thomas & Joanne Bent
Thomas Blaney
John & Beatrice Borbone
Nancy Britton
Robert & Pamela Brown
Warren Ceres
Ed & Michele Chonko
John & Eleanor Cosgrove
Peter & Patricia Costanzo
Nicholas & Anna DeSalvo
Jessica DiBenedetto
Karen Donahue
Lucille Donahue
Scott & Ellen Doyle
Elena Gallelo
John & Martha Gattuso
Theodore Goodreau
Sean & Barbara Growney
Dawn Hamilton
Arthur & Joan Jacobsen
Ray & Jacqueline Kripaitis,
Dustin & Janice Kroposky
Gregory Lamanna
Karen Lewandoski
Richard & Marcia Manfredi
Michael & Leesa Marks
Michaela Metevier
Mario & Iva Moreira,
Craig & Shareen Muller
Joseph Napoli
Hasmin Ocampo
Greselda Salcedo
Brian & Andrea Shea
Magdy Fouad Shedid,
Amy Staples
William & Blanche Truex
Thomas Woods
Joseph & Christine Zanga

Baptisms

Caroline Maria Beckman
Nicolas Buono
Anthony Burden
Joseph Carasia
Owen Keith Cavanagh
Hailey Anne Cecero
Madelyn Nicole Fernandez
Hunter Chase Godwin
Ava Elizabeth Gryta
Holly Mae Hanlon
Casey Jean Hutchison
Zachary Lopes
Brett Maskiell
Shane Thomas McCauley
Nicholas Moreira
Emily Elizabeth Piccola
Aidan Patrick Schilke

Confirmations continued from page 3

Confirmations

Merrick, Kevin William
Molisani, Matthew B.
Nagy, Kellie Jean
Neff, Jason P.
Neis, Taylor M.
Obrero, Elyse Nicole
Orrico, Johnna
Persson, Michael
Pham, Daniel
Platzer, Nicole E.
Pollina, Andrew V.
Powell, Lindsay Marie
Rochford, Kelly M.
Romano, Noah James
Roselli, Christina Ann
Sagui, Christin
Sas-Campoli, Brianna
Savoca, Taylor Marie
Schaible, Mary Kate
Simon, Kimberly A.
Slazyk, John Michael
Sleifer, Alexander
Spanarkel, Michael R.
Sparrock, Matthew C.
Townsend, Brittany Alyssa
Walsh, Mary
Williams, Kyle
Zarra, Michael K.
Zupkus, Lauren

Spiritual Direction

About five years ago, I saw an invitation in our bulletin for a retreat at the Jesuit retreat center in Wernersville, PA. Ann Vitelli, then our staff spiritual director and Sister Vida O'Leary were bringing a group for a long weekend. I had not been on a retreat since college (many years), but really felt I needed something like this.

It was to be a silent directed retreat. The silent part appealed to my introvert nature. I wasn't quite sure what the directed part meant, but I figured, "How bad can it be?" It turned out to be wonderful. It was a chance to talk about my relationship with God, including the doubts and fears, to someone who listened in a very loving, accepting, and non-judgmental way. Sister Vida was my director for the weekend and we met once each day. She asked an occasional question that prompted me to share more and made suggestions about how to spend my time during the retreat. It was such a positive experience that I asked Sister Vida if she would be my spiritual director and we have been meeting once a month or so ever since.

What keeps me coming? For me, the first attraction was the experience of spending most of an hour being really listened to. No advice, no judgment, no "I can top that". In fact, spiritual direction is sometimes referred to as "Holy Listening". It is not therapy or counseling (though it can be therapeutic).

Another benefit was having someone help me notice where God was acting in my life. Part of this was hearing back from the director, what I had been saying. In one of our earliest sessions, we had started chatting about what was going on with my family and with my job. I thought this was just "breaking the ice" until we got to the "spiritual stuff". But then she asked me "Where is God in all that?" Then it dawned on me that were going to be talking about the spiritual aspects of my whole life and not be limited to some isolated, "spiritual" component.

Each of us is on a spiritual journey, whether we realize and pay attention to that aspect of our lives or not. As on other journeys we take in life, it helps to have a companion to share our experiences with, help give us a different perspective, and maybe suggest ways to make the journey more fulfilling. It is something I have found enormously rewarding and I highly recommend it.

For those who are interested in receiving spiritual direction in the parish, I've since completed a two year formation program at The Upper Room to become a diocesan certified spiritual director. I find accompanying others on their spiritual journey is a privilege and a joy as well as a great gift for my own spiritual growth. The spiritual directors in the parish include Marge Gryta, Marion Fitzgerald, Sister Vida O'Leary and me, Jim Moseman.

Angel: “Sometimes you can’t make it on your own.”

We are out there, and we mean something to someone someplace. I’m not sure if it’s a gift or a curse to have the friends that I have; to be the “voice of reason” a title I will not accept or reject. I try to view it as a gift, despite the curses that come with (it) them. This past week I have been myself with the people that made me who I thought I was. Something I’ve never done. I was who they wanted me to be and who I thought I wanted to be, but I couldn’t go on. I was living a lie and hurting myself. I really discovered more about myself these past few months than I did in my prior 19 years, all because of one event, one person; God. While it’s happening it is hard for me to believe that He is working through me, and even now after the fact, it almost seems too simple. Sometimes it seems that it isn’t even worth His time, but nothing is a waste to Him. He created us. I have had two conversations this past week with some of the people that mean the most to me (I just realized that I am happy and that I don’t miss them much anymore and I am OK with that). In those conversations I was the most honest I have ever been with them, or even myself. But I held something back for some reason, both times. These conversations make me feel like I am something, that there is hope. But they also made me feel like absolute crap. In all the time I have known them I lived their life. When they said jump, I said how high? And I was content with that. Their problems were mine. I would sit and listen to anything and everything. But I wasn’t complete. There were things I felt and things I wanted to say but couldn’t because I was afraid of what would happen. I’m proud to say that I am slightly less afraid than I used to be, but am still scared. That belief comes from God, and knowing that it will all be OK at some point. I believe that I am doing good in the process making Him proud, which is definitely a plus. But I don’t know if they truly understand. They tell me they do, but question the very revelation the next time we talk. I thought though I helped one friend come to some understanding about her friends only to find she felt the same way a few short days later. I thought she understood how I felt, and respected that only to find that she still questioned me. I also learned that “I” was missed, the “high school Nick.” I was told that they wanted to be part of a ride they were too short to go on. It was eventually described as a detour from the route we were once traveling. They went straight and I veered off to learn how to drive. They told me that they wanted to pull into the shoulder and wait. I, in all the ways I care about them, couldn’t let them. If they waited for me, however long it be, and I don’t know how long that will be, I would have been responsible for what they missed in life, and I couldn’t do that to them. I asked that they just allow me to merge if and when the time comes. But we are different. We have different backgrounds, different beliefs, and different goals, which I feel they have a hard time understanding. My guess is that if they did, this entire journey would be easier, but as I have said to many in the past, including my friends, if it was easy, it would mean nothing. They ask me questions I can only help them find the answers to, where my answer is only my mere opinion which masses to nothing if they cannot understand where it comes from. The answer they want comes from within them and can only be answered by them. I am just a guide. Sometimes I think I contradict myself by giving advice that I will not take and by encouraging actions I wouldn’t perform. I feel as though my situation is different. It’s something I can only go through myself. Actually, it isn’t even that. I don’t think that they could honestly understand and comprehend the way I feel which is why they feel left out on this two way street. My goal was to show how much we could mean to someone. I have thought about “giving up” on them so many times but don’t because as Bishop Smith said (among others) I could be all they have, or be what they need. What Would Jesus Do? I am sacrificing myself to try and help them in some way. I am willing to

Angel continued on next column

Angel continued from previous column

forgive them for all they have done to me to help them come to some understanding about life, something to give them hope in, anything. Is what I do really appreciated? I have no idea, but am I trying? Yes, and I feel great about that. I feel like it’s being asked of me. For those of you on either side, have faith. That’s what’s gotten me this far. Remember that life is a roller coaster which is no fun to ride by yourself. But know that even though the seat may appear empty, God is in it (with us) and that if we open ourselves up to His work, everything will be OK. Thank You and God bless.

Fr. Bob continued from page 1

Most notably, Fr. Bob has been the prime mover in the growth of The Center in Asbury Park. An idea became an office. The office became a gathering place and source of relief. Now that gathering place will soon be Center House, serving more and more of our area’s most needy people. Fr. Bob knows that this growth will need his full attention if it is to continue on its successful path.

And so, our good pastor will now become our good neighbor and continued inspiration. He will in fact become so close a neighbor that we can readily support him in his work, just as he supported our parish community for so many great years. There will be plenty to do and lots to give as Center House moves into full operation.

As Fr. Bob trusted us from the beginning, we trust that he has made the right move for him and for us, if only we will see in ourselves the same potential for good that he sees. St. Anselm and Center House still have room to grow. Prosperity will come from mutual support.

– Dave Galusha

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Hospice by the Sea

Hospice by the Sea, Inc, is a not for profit corporation that is currently fundraising to build a freestanding, residential hospice facility: A place for people with a limited life expectancy to live with dignity and with all of their symptoms under control. While caring for hospice patients in the familiar surroundings of their home is the ideal, many times providing care at home is more than can be handled by non-professionals. Sometimes there may not be anyone who can stay at home to provide the needed care. Or, maybe you, as a caregiver, need someplace for your family member or friend to stay while you get some much needed R& R...Hospice by the Sea will provide the care with a hospice trained staff that can meet the needs of the individual in a homelike environment. We currently have a letter of intent from the Parish Council for the portion of property located northeast of the new parking lot. We are currently looking for grant money to help with the "bricks and mortar" and accepting architects' proposals. If you would like more information, or would like to help in any way, please call Jan Kirk at 732-450-1717.



Church of St. Anselm

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