



# A Conversation with Monsignor Corcoran

by Jack Kustron and Monsignor Corcoran

**Q** – When and how did you come to Holy Cross?

**A** – There are 3 parts to that: I was at Our Lady of Victory church and I had been given that spot as the beginning of my retirement – I had

age – I was going to retire too and already selected where I was going to live, up by Our Lady of Victory – Fr. Stluka came here and when we first met here – we had known each other - but at this point we met and he said something like “it was going to be good being with

to get to the friends that I have in different parts of central Ohio, and from here I can shoot out to see any one of them at any time and certainly Fr. Stluka has been wonderful and we get along quite well and have some common interests in many ways (not the least of which is golf – but that’s something that I get after him for – he plays golf like you can go out and just pick up a club and play – I keep telling him, “You’ve got to practice.”) But back to the subject of being here – it’s central to everything, the people are wonderful and Fr. Jerry has certainly been very kind and friendly and all, so it’s hard to beat.

**Q** – What are your hopes for our parish?

**A** – Well, one, since it is so historic, being the first parish in central Ohio, I certainly would like to see it continue and to flourish – I think its got potential with the building downtown and what seems to be an increase of living downtown, and I would anticipate that it would grow a little bit, maybe not too much, but enough to continue it at least the way it is now and maybe a little bit more, so it’s central, it’s historic and a wonderful gathering place for a lot of very wonderful people.

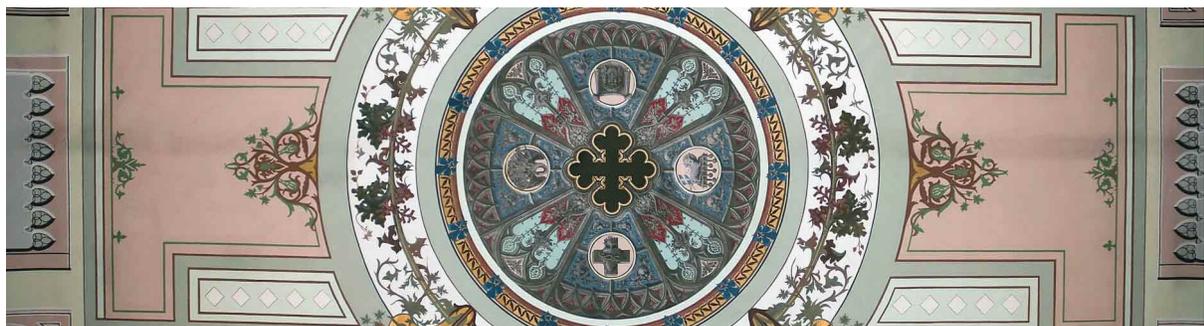
**“...so I decided to stay here, now it’s been 21 years.” – Monsignor Corcoran**

been in Washington for 20 yrs, with the National Catholic Charities and I retired from that, and I came back here and I was thinking that I’d just be retired, but with the Diocese, retirement was 70 years of age and I had retired from Catholic Charities at the ordinary age of 65 and so, I was given Our Lady of Victory to live at and assist primarily with Diocesan Catholic Charities. Fr. Berendt was pastor there – well his time was up there and so he was assigned here to Holy Cross and he asked me to come with him - so I was 2 years up there at Our Lady of Victory and then here, for about another 13 years with Fr. Berendt. Now when Fr. Berendt was retiring, I figured, at that time I was *past* retirement

me, or something like that.” So I told him that I wasn’t going to be here any more – I was going to retire and he said “that was one of the reasons that I was coming” - because he was not going to be full time and he saw that I was still pretty active – so I decided that I would stay on and cancel the apartment that I had planned to live in, up by Our Lady of Victory – so I decided to stay here, now it’s been 21 years.

**Q** – What is it that you like about Holy Cross?

**A** – The spontaneous response to that is “everything” – specifically – the wonderful people are very fine Catholics, very religious, very friendly, and the location, very easy



# THE STATUES OF HOLY CROSS

by Helen Meeks

*Editor's Note:*

*As we celebrate our 175<sup>th</sup> Jubilee, we appreciate the beauty of our parish church.*

*This is a brief look at some of the 21 statues representing Christ, our Blessed Mother, and the Saints that grace our church. We will take a look at the rest of our statues in a future issue.*



## ST. MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL

is the leader of the ranks of Angels and the guardian and protector of the people of Israel (Dan. 10:12).

According to JUDE 9 Michael conducted warfare with the devil over the body of Moses. In REVELATION 12:7-9, he and his angels fought the dragon and hurled him and his followers from heaven. He is venerated as the patron saint of soldiers.



## ST. JOHN VIANNEY

the Curé of Ars was born in 1786. He was not a good student and was tutored before seminary officials approved him for ordination in 1815. John was appointed as parish priest of Ars-en-Dombes, a remote village of less than 250 people. He was revered as a confessor and spiritual counselor. John spent long hours - sometimes as many as 12 - in the confessional. He died on August 4, 1859 at age 73 and was canonized in 1925. The Curé of Ars is the patron saint of parish priests.



## ST ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY

was the queen of Hungary. She was born in 1207 and was betrothed at the age of 4 to the eldest Duke of Thuringia, and when he reached 21, she 14, they were married. They had 3 children. Elizabeth devoted her life to prayer and almsgiving. After her husband died in 1227 she received the habit and cord of a Franciscan tertiary and established a hospice for the sick, the aged, and the poor. Elizabeth died at age 24 in 1231 and was canonized only 4 years later. She is a patron saint of Franciscan tertiaries and of Catholic charities.



## ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

was born in 1195 and became a Franciscan friar after meeting friars who were on the way to Morocco to refute the Moors. He felt the call to be a missionary but ill health forced his return to Assisi in 1221. The last months of his life were spent with preaching, hearing confessions, and assisting those in debt. Anthony was named Doctor of the Church in 1946. He is best known as the saint to whom one prays to find items that are lost.

# Our Holy Saints



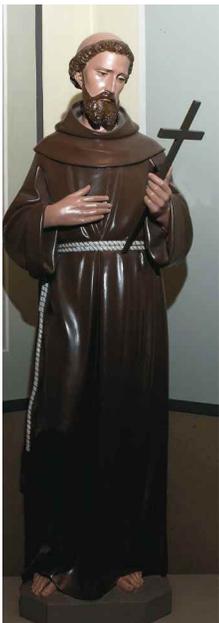
## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

was the prophet who prepared the way for Jesus Christ. John was the first person to recognize the Messiah. John was yet unborn in his mother Elizabeth's womb when Mary visited them carrying Jesus in her womb. John leapt with joy. He baptized the people and even Jesus, but told everyone that he was not the holy one, only the proclaimer of the Good News that the Messiah had come to earth.



## ST. THERESA OF THE CHILD JESUS "THE LITTLE FLOWER"

was born in Lisieux in 1873 to a pious family which nurtured her deep love for Jesus. She was permitted to join the Carmelite order at the age of 15. Due to her dedication to Christian perfection and her autobiography expressing her spiritual journey, Theresa was canonized in 1925 and named Doctor of the Church in 1997.



## ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

was born in 1181. His early life was marked by high living and a concern for social status. After being a prisoner of war and serious illness, he experienced a profound change in his values. He lived as a penitent hermit, then began to preach publicly and attracted followers. Francis was the founder of the Franciscans. After years of travel, his health began to fail. In the Fall of 1224, he had a profound mystical experience that left the wounds of Christ on his body - the first recorded case of the stigmata. Francis died at age 45 in 1226 and was canonized two years later. He is patron saint of Italy, of Catholic Action and also of the environment.



## ST. ANNE

is believed to be the mother of Mary based on the Gospel of James that became popular in the Middle Ages. She and her husband, Joachim were older and childless. An angel visited Anne and told her she would conceive and bear a child that would become famous throughout the world. Anne and Joachim were the first teachers of Mary, instructing her in the laws of God and the Jewish religion. Anne is the patron saint of childless women, expectant mothers and homemakers.



# Coming Home to Holy Cross

By Sister Pat Pieper

In 2000, after 10 years in Arizona, I returned to Columbus to assist my sisters with the care of our mother. I was soon searching for a part-time ministry to complement my work at the Open Shelter. I remember well the day in Dec. of 2001 when, having learned that Fr. Jerry was looking for a pastoral associate at Holy Cross, I was interviewed by him and Robert Carter for that position and the most welcome telephone call after Christmas inviting me to join the staff as the first ever pastoral associate. I greeted the parishioners at the Masses and began my ministry in February 2002. This was indeed a type of homecoming for me since I

had gone to high school at St. Joseph Academy across the street in what is now Franklin University, and often assisted at Mass at Holy Cross before school. The Sisters of Notre Dame also had a long history of teaching in the school here from 1856 until it closed in 1961, so it was an SND return as well.

My hours and ministry here have grown and developed as our parish evolved and I continue to find one of my greatest joys in getting to know parishioners and seeing them share time and talents in social events and outreach activities, and in our parish ministries as Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, catechists and aides,

ushers and greeters, visitors to the homebound, RCIA sponsors and others. I so appreciate sharing ministry with our wonderful staff, and the friendliness and generosity of our people. I delight in the diversity we represent and am happy to welcome new members especially through the RCIA program. I look forward to still further growth and change as we continue our parish, deanery and diocesan Self-Study project.



---

## Parish Newsnotes *Compiled by Sr. Pat Pieper*

**Carol Plank** takes her dog, Charlie, on regular visits to Grant Hospital as part of the “Welcome Waggin’ at Grant” and to nursing homes with the “Columbus All Breed Dog Training Club”. Both Charlie and the patients enjoy and appreciate each other.

**Patty Stover** completed her 34<sup>th</sup> year working at the Special Olympics. Patty began with keeping score at the Bowling Alley as a member of the “Telephone Pioneers”. She changed jobs in 1986 and now shows movies and provides popcorn for the athletes, families and friends.

**Helen Violet** recently received the

long awaited call announcing that she has a room at Mother Angeline McCrory Manor. Helen joined our 6 other parishioners at the Manor on August 12. Special thanks to **Anne Medert**, our Eucharistic minister, who visited Helen faithfully at the Manor at Whitehall and to **Jim Houck**, who helped Helen move.

**Dan Dury**, our seminarian, completed his summer internship at Portsmouth Holy Redeemer on August 10. Dan says, “The time I spent there was very enlightening and helpful in my formation to be a holy priest. I enjoyed the parish community and specifically Bible Study and the parish liturgies. I

return to Mt. St. Mary’s at the end of August. Keep me in your prayers as I do all of you.”

**Georganne Reuter** has been helping **Mike Agriesti** with our work in the church office. She is also the director of the Kelton House that is situated near us at the Topiary Park - it is a stop on the Underground Railroad. If you would like to schedule a tour, be sure to let her know.

You may have seen **Vicki Meyer** back in church, she is recovering nicely from DOUBLE knee replacement surgery. Here’s to your continued good health, Vicki!

Please inform someone on the newsletter staff if you have news to share!!