



Newsletter—April 2018

April 1st Friday

Our April 1st Friday Mass and Dinner was held on April 6. We had 50 members and guests in attendance, an excellent showing for April. We welcomed Dale and Patty Chiara who were with us for the first time from the Detroit, Michigan area. We also welcomed guests Allison Dowling, daughter of Victor and Jody Dowling, and Joseph Connors, grandson of Joe and Courtney Price.

We acknowledged Maria Joyce and Ken Peach, two of our candidates for investiture in October.

We continued our tradition of serenading with a chorus of **"Happy Birthday!"** those with birthdays in the month of April. Those receiving the recognition this month were Jean Brunel, Sue Dillon and Kathy Tendick.

We thanked Nancy Matthews for organizing our very successful Defense of the Faith Symposium with Bishop Dewane on March 18. He gave a very practical presentation on how we as committed Catholics can address the increasingly hostile anti-religious culture in America. Pete will provide a copy of Bishop Dewane's remarks if you email him at pbewley@alumni.princeton.edu. We also thanked Nancy Stec, who developed the publicity materials for the Symposium, and the other members, who helped with setting up, serving and cleaning up after the Symposium.

Pete reported that nine of us (the Brunels, the O'Reillys, the Costellos, Leo Stec and Dick Copeland) attended Mass of the Holy Chrism at the Cathedral in Venice on Tuesday of Holy Week. Father Ratzmann commented on the significance of the mass, which is attended by all the priests of the diocese. He encouraged all those who can to attend this important mass next year.

The evening concluded with remarks by Leo Stec, Joe Price and Courtney Price describing our prison ministry. Leo noted that prison ministry has been central to Christianity since the time of Christ, (Matthew 25:36 "I was in prison and you came to me".) Leo visits the Naples Jail every Wednesday, bringing the Word and the Eucharist to men in high security confinement.

Two other men visit other areas of the jail and two women volunteers minister to incarcerated women. Joe is responsible for obtaining Bibles, prayer books and The Serving Brother (a Malta publication) from the Order for delivery to all jails and prisons in the diocese. Courtney Price described the joy that letters from the outside bring to inmates. She provided the following reflection encouraging those of us who cannot visit a prison to participate in the Order's prison pen pal program.

"In prison one hears the term, "I ride with...." to express solidarity, allegiance, or devotion to another. One frequently hears the Men in White affirm their faith with their profession, "I ride with Jesus." In prison the victory of the cross is often presented with three crosses as a stark reminder that Jesus was not the only person executed on Good Friday. On one side was a skeptic, and on the other side was the criminal who decided to ride with Jesus. Those of us who choose to ride with Jesus are inseparably linked with those criminals who choose likewise. We are on equal footing. "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male or female, for you are all one in Christ, Jesus." 3 Gal 28 We all ride together. This Holy Week we, the state of Texas, executed a fellow Catholic, Rosendo "Rod" Rodriguez. Before he died he offered these words, "I had the honor and privilege to know many prison guards and staff. I want to thank them. I would like for everyone to write the people on death row, as they are good men, and I am very happy I got to know them. All of their lives are worth knowing about." At the very moment Rod was strapped to a gurney receiving a lethal dose of pentobarbital, I was in a prison unit receiving cheerful expressions of gratitude from the many men in the unit who received Easter cards and letters from you. The victory of the cross is the victory of love. Your letters and cards were a sign of love to those who just want assurance that their lives are worth knowing about. We ride with Rod and we ride with the Men in White because we ride with Jesus. Isn't it time you had an encounter with someone inside the walls through the safety of the anonymous pen pal program?

If you would like information on the pen pal program, or would like to learn how to participate, please email Michael McGarry at jmichaelsmv@gmail.com.

April 1st Friday Mass and Dinner—(con'd)

Leo and Nancy Stec
Received their 5 year
service pin

**Ministries**

We have highlighted the work of several of our ministries.

Power Pack: We are reminded that our Power Pack program, packing weekend food bags for poor elementary school children in East Naples, is up to 230 bags a week and growing. All are invited to help out on Wednesday mornings at 9:00AM. The location is in flux (we may soon be moving back to Catholic Charities from Parkside Elementary). Contact Tom O'Reilly at toriiinap@aol.com or phone him at 239-451-0015 to participate.

Respect Life: Our presence at Planned Parenthood is having a significant impact on abortions. We pray the Rosary at 8:45AM (**new time**) every Monday at the corner of Goodlette Frank and Creech Roads in Naples. Please contact BJ Barone at BJB@bjbarone.com or at 239-825-9259 to participate.

Aid to the Homebound and those Suffering from Memory Loss:

JoAnne Kuehner heads our ministry to assist Naples Area Malta members who are ill or incapacitated (i.e.: broken ankle, etc.), or who are tending to an ill or incapacitated spouse. Volunteers may help with meals, provide assistance with transportation to a doctor, do food shopping, provide companionship or stay with an incapacitated spouse to allow a Malta member to leave home for food shopping, etc. Assistance may include the Eucharist if the volunteer is a Eucharistic Minister to the Homebound. Please contact JoAnne at joanne@hopeforhaiti.com or 239-777-7183 if you would like to help or need help.

As part of this ministry, we visit those suffering from memory loss, while they can benefit from our visits. Training is required to participate in this aspect of our ministry. If you would like to be a part of this special service, please contact Michael Rothmeier at mrothmeier@visi.com.

Upcoming Events

May 1st Friday Mass and Dinner will be held on the 2nd Friday, May 11, because the first Friday is during the Lourdes Pilgrimage. Fourteen of us from the Naples Area will be attending (the Barones, the Brunels, the Costellos, the Joyces, the Muraskis, Steve Orr, Maureen Reed, Charlotte Williams and Pete Bewley). Please keep our pilgrims in your prayers.

St John the Baptist Feast Day Mass will be celebrated at St. William Church at the regular 12:10 service on Friday, June 22.

May 1st Friday Mass and Dinner will be on May 4 and will be our last for the last for the season. 1st Friday Mass and Dinner will resume on October 5.

Naples Area Lutz Retreat attendees stopping on the way to visit the new Community Pregnancy Clinics, Inc. in Sarasota

