

Sparta knights host 53rd Running of the Silver Rose

SPARTA — The Knights of Columbus councils from Our Lady of the Lake and St. Kateri Tekakwitha parishes here hosted the 53rd Running of the Silver Rose.

This program sponsored by the Knights, honors the Blessed Mother under her title "Our Lady of Guadalupe." A sculpted silver rose travels from Canada, throughout the United States, and culminates in Mexico to celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe Dec. 12.

Nick Cutrone, past grand knight of St. Kateri Council, worked with several parishes in the Paterson Diocese to coordinate the program.

On June 1, Father David McDonnell, pastor of the Our Lady of the Lake Parish, presided over a special Mass in which Columbian Squire Sebastian Cook presented the Silver Rose and Michael O'Malley, Marquette Council 588 grand knight, carried the icon portrait of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Later that evening, Father Patrick Rice, pastor of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish, presided over a special Mass in which Columbian Squire Michael Dolecki carried the Silver Rose and Squire Rose Kaitlyn Lagasca carried a special portrait of Our Lady of Guadalupe painted by parishioner Dorothy Armstrong. Several members of the St. Kateri Squires, Roses, and Knights from Council 13677 participated in a special procession. Members of the Dominick Calabrese Color Guard attended the ceremony at both parishes.



CEREMONY — Father Patrick Rice, pastor of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish, Sparta, joins the Squires, Roses, and Knights following the Silver Rose ceremony. Seated from left Squires Chief Counselor Nick Cutrone, Grand Knight Mike Sawey, Father Rice, and Ana DiSanti, Rose co-counselor.

Catholic speaker is on a mission to make faith come alive

Ty Agosta has been "making the faith come alive" for parishes in the New Jersey, New York area for several years now with his motivational speaking engagements.

"I want to wake up the 'sleeping giant' (Catholics), and get them excited about Jesus and his one, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic church. Sadly, far too many Catholics have a limited knowledge of their faith and the Bible. It makes them more susceptible to leave for another church or even abandon their faith altogether," he said.

"People sometimes focus on the times when the Church fails to live up to the Gospel. We must not lose sight however, that the Catholic Church is still the Church our Lord Jesus founded 2,000 years ago and it will always be our Lord's Church, in tough times or not. It is in the Catholic Church

that we encounter Christ most fully. It is in the Sacraments and the holy Mass that we are truly fed. In the Catholic liturgy, first we hear the Word spoken to us and then the Word becomes flesh and we consume the Word."

"For me, this is why I can't see anyone leaving the Catholic Church for a non-Catholic one; regardless of whether they have better preaching, fellowship, or more lively music, as important as they all are."

To help Catholics understand their faith more, Agosta speaks on topics such as: "How to be a Proud Catholic in these Challenging Times;" "The Holy Mass Explained;" "How Our Blessed Mother Leads us to Jesus;" Advent and Lent reflections along with parish missions and parish ministries talks.

"We can easily take our ministries for

granted and ask ourselves why we are volunteering our time and if it's really worth the sacrifice," he said. "Every so often, we need to be reminded of what an important role each person plays as members of the body of Christ, his Church. The more we learn and understand our ministry, the more we will appreciate it. That's why I believe it is beneficial and fruitful for each parish to have at least one talk a year for the parishioners as well as a separate talk for all those involved in parish ministry for renewal and catechesis."

Agosta's style is certainly not laid back. He is known for his engaging and somewhat animated talks. "A Catholic talk need not be dry or boring," he said. "I try to make our faith come alive for everyone of all ages and make it fun at the same time. My goal is to

get the people excited about being Catholic, to keep them Catholic, and light a spark so they will want to go and learn more and evangelize others."

"I understand how difficult it is today with the constant attacks against the Church to feel proud to be a Catholic and get excited about the faith," he said. "But in my talks, I explain that they have the fullness of the Christian faith right here in the Catholic Church and how blessed they are to be a Catholic Christian. We all need a pep talk sometimes, but mostly the gospel truth, and that's what I give them," Agosta said.

Information: www.tyagostaspeaker.com or (201) 933-8967 or email: stwfound@aol.com.

Society of the Sisters of the Church hold annual assembly

OCEAN GROVE — The Society of the Sisters of the Church of the Diocese of Paterson met for its annual assembly at Emmaus House here June 14-15.

On Friday morning, Dominican Sister Anne Marie Rimmer, spiritual director and former prioress of the Sisters of St. Dominic of Caldwell, was the presenter of "The Call to Mysticism in the Second Half of Life." On Friday afternoon, Sister Anne Marie shared a DVD of a presentation given by Barbara Marx Hubbard, who explored the theme of "Evolutionary Consciousness." Both

presentations were followed by discussion of the themes, highlighting a greater awareness of the presence of God in one's life and looking at God ahead in an ever evolving world.

Quoting from a book of poetry she had read, Sister Anne Marie encouraged the sisters to "pay attention, be astonished and tell about it." At the end of the day, Mass was celebrated by Father Dominic Fuccile, cousin of Sister Frances Sanzo, S.S.C.

On Saturday, the Sisters conducted business meetings.



BISHOP ARTHUR J. SERRATELLI

During the months of July and August, Bishop Serratelli's column will be on hiatus. It will return after Labor Day.

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SCRIPTURE READINGS

WEEK OF JULY 7 Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mon. Gn 28:10-22a / Mt 9:18-26

Tue. [St. Augustine Zhao Rong, priest
and companions, martyrs] Gn
32:23-33 / Mt 9:32-38

Wed. Gn 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a / Mt
10:1-7

Cycle C Readings:

1. Is 66:10-14c
2. Gal 6:14-18
3. Gospel: Lk 10:1-12, 17-20

Thu. [St. Benedict, abbot] Gn 44:18-
21, 23b-29; 45:1-5 / Mt 10:7-15

Fri. Gn 46:1-7, 28-30 / Mt 10:16-23

Sat. [St. Henry; BVM] Gn 49:29-32;
50:15-26a / Mt 10:24-33

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