

THE GOOD NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF HOLY NAME OF CAMDEN MINISTRIES

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Fall 2022



Dear Friends of Holy Name,

Greetings from Camden! I hope you had a wonderful summer and are beginning to enjoy the cooler weather! September is always a time of new beginnings for us here in Camden. Holy Name School welcomed students from Kindergarten to Grade 8 on a very rainy Tuesday morning. However, the balloons and welcome sign

at the front door of school brightened the day for the parents and children. We will be featuring parents who are alumni from Holy Name that have chosen to send their children to Holy Name in our "Generation to Generation" section of the newsletter. We have 32 Holy Name Graduates attending Catholic High School this year. The Camden Center for Law and Social Justice is happy to announce that they are adding another lawyer to their practice. Guadalupe Family Services was very busy during the summer providing exciting adventures for our summer camp programs for children and teens. The participants will definitely have something

to write about for their school assignment: "What I did this summer...!"

Each year we have a fundraiser to help with programs at the Law Center and at Guadalupe Family Services, as well as providing tuition assistance for Holy Name School and for our High School Scholars attending Catholic High School. We hope that you can join us this year at the Riverton Country Club in Cinnaminson New Jersey! Our event is planned for Thursday, November 3rd. We are hoping for a beautiful autumn evening to enjoy meeting back in person again. Thank you for helping us to help others! I am so very grateful for your interest in our ministries and your financial support of our efforts to improve the lives of those in need. May God continue to bless you for your generosity!

Fondly,

Sister Helen Colessy

Sister Helen Cole SSJ
Executive Director

Annual Fundraiser 2022

Join Us at The Riverton Country Club!

Holy Name of Camden Ministries is happy to announce that we are gathering "in person" for our annual fundraiser this year! We hope you can join us at the **Riverton Country Club** in Cinnaminson, New Jersey on **Thursday, November 3, 2022**. The goal of our fundraiser is \$50,000.00 each year. This year we want to celebrate the goodness of others who help us in our ministry.

The "Reaching Out to Those in Need" Award will be presented to:

Jack Tartamosa, a Camden Catholic High School Senior, was inspired in second grade at Resurrection Catholic School to help children who needed winter coats. He has continued to organize a successful collection for Holy Name School for ten years!

Marissa Colbeck, a public school teacher, started volunteering at a very young age at Sacred Heart Church with her mom and Judy Kulyk. Guadalupe Family Services has distributed the hundreds of Easter Baskets for over 15 years.

Arlette Leyba, a newly sworn in New Jersey lawyer, graduated from Holy Name School in 1999. She graduated from Rutgers School of Law in May 2022. She is currently a clerk for Judge Morris Smith in the Appellate Division.



*Congratulations
Arlette Leyba, Esq.!*

Holy Name School Opens for the Year *By Steven Bradley*

As the month of September begins, Holy Name School has officially opened its doors to their students for 2022/23 school year. The school has undergone major clean up and organization thanks to summer helpers, as well as having supplies donated for our students. There are some staff changes in several grades and a few new additions this year. Additionally, Holy Name has received a grant that will revamp our art classes for our children to participate throughout the year.

When we entered our summer break, Holy Name remained busy with major projects throughout the building. The most noticeable improvement was the stage area located within our cafeteria. During Covid, the stage was used as storage space for excess classroom furniture. It is now “performance ready”, in order to have activities for the students and families throughout the year. Along with this, the classrooms were cleaned and organized for our teachers to set up for their new students. We are grateful to the following groups for assisting in this process: Saint Ignatius College Prep, Bishop

Feehan High School, Mount St. Joseph Academy, Our Lady of Good Counsel High School, and SJU PSIP.

We also had some donations of school supplies to give away throughout the year. Lauren Denato, a freshman at Camden Catholic, organized a collection of backpacks, pencils and pens, notebooks, and other items that our students will need in the classroom. She also provided wipes and cleaning items to be used for keeping the room sanitized and safe for everyone in the building. We are very grateful for Lauren’s collection and we know this will be a great contribution for staff and students.

Holy Name School is welcoming three new staff members this year. Through the SJU ACE fellowship program, Holy Name welcomes Abril Lopez, a graduate of Scranton University, who will be serving as a bilingual administrative assistant in the front office. We also welcome Frank Krol, the technology teacher and IT assistant and Ester Santos, the new full-time music teacher for this year. Additionally, the Kindergarten and First Grade

teachers will be switching places, as Mrs. Georgie Gattinella will taking over the former while Mrs. Michelle DiCiano will handle the latter. There will also be rearranging happening in the middle school as well, as Mr. Joseph Carroll will be the sixth-grade homeroom teacher, Mr. Steven Clark will be the seventh-grade homeroom teacher, and Mrs. Terika Floyd will be the eighth-grade teacher.

Finally, Holy Name has been fortunate to receive a grant from the Perkins Center For The Arts for the art courses taking place for the students this year. With this program, there will be a resident art teacher a part of the staff who lead engaging art courses for our students to participate in throughout the year. They will be doing courses on mosaic installations during the Fall, as well working with another medium during the Spring. The works that will be created will complement the theme for Holy Name this year, which is “Peace.”

There will be more news posted on Facebook as well as on the Holy Name School website. Take a look! ■

From Generation to Generation

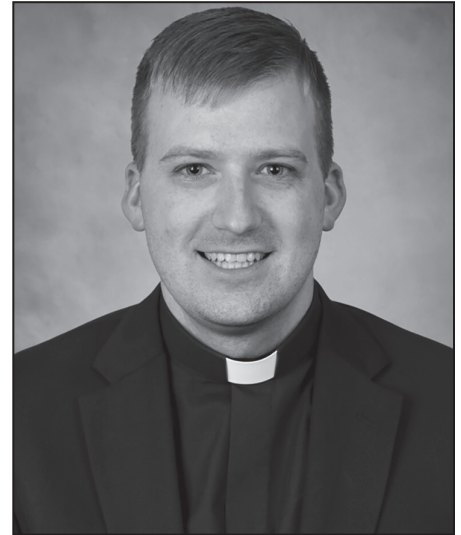
*Below: Alicia, Holy Name Class of 1997 with Angel and Leian
Right: Annie, Holy Name Class of 2004 and her son JJ*



Welcome Father Adam Cichoski!

On April 4, 2008 Bishop Joseph Galante announced that the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception would merge with Holy Name and Our Lady of Mount Carmel & Fatima parishes in Camden. Later, in July 2017, St. Joseph Parish in South Camden merged with the Cathedral as well. Father Adam Cichoski is a perfect fit for all parishioners as he speaks Spanish and is immersed in Polish culture! Father Cichoski, 37, has served at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Shrine since his ordination in 2017, and has been Part-Time Director of Vocations since 2019. He studied for the priesthood at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Seton Hall University, South Orange, NJ.

Completing his six-year term, we thank Father Fisher OSFS for his ministry as rector. Effective July 1, Father Fisher became pastor of Our Mother of Consolation Parish in Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania, by decision of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales. The Oblates have ministered at Cathedral Parish for the past 14 years. Father Michael McCue, OSFS, and Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS, have served in ministry at Cathedral Parish and around the region for almost as long. Father McCue and Brother Mickey will continue to serve in the diocese and beyond, but will no longer be in residence at the cathedral.



■ *Father Adam Cichoski*

Law Office Welcomes New Attorney *By Jeff De Cristofaro, Esq.*

The Camden Center for Law and Social Justice (CCLSJ) would like to welcome new attorney Jackie Tomasso, Esq. to our staff. Ms. Tomasso joins us after several years in private practice as a healthcare defense litigator.

Ms. Tomasso made an impression on the staff last fall while volunteering to provide legal assistance to the Afghan refugees in Ft. Dix, New Jersey. Ms. Tomasso recalled that “many Afghans left their country urgently and were saddened to leave their communities and loved ones behind.” She was surprised at the scale of the operation on the base and was glad to help ease their transition to the United States.

Ms. Tomasso was so inspired by the work of the non-governmental organizations at Ft. Dix that she asked Jeff DeCristofaro, Executive Director of CCLSJ and Coordinator of the Afghan legal



Jackie Tomasso, Esq.

program, to keep her apprised of any future opportunities to provide legal aid.

It was serendipitous that CCLSJ had recently received a grant from the New Jersey Office of New Americans to provide pro bono legal counsel to unaccompanied immigrant children. The

grant allowed Mr. DeCristofaro to offer Ms. Tomasso a position. The program partners with Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), a non-governmental organization devoted to providing access to legal counsel and social services for minors who migrate to the United States alone.

Ms. Tomasso works with a team of two attorneys and a paralegal at CCLSJ. She expressed that she “feel[s] a profound desire to use my professional skills to aid those in need. Many of these unaccompanied minors have travelled a long way to escape abuse or peril, and our goal is to ensure that they have legal representation in immigration court. If we can help them secure a special immigrant juvenile visa, it is possible for them to lead a regular life in the United States.”

The State renewed the KIND grant in July, making these resources for unaccompanied minors at CCLSJ available for at least another full year. ■

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Fundraiser at the Riverton Country Club

🐾 *Thursday, November 3, 2022* 🐾

We really appreciate your support!

Assignment: “What I Did This Summer...”

Guadalupe Family Services provided three programs this summer:

Summer Camp for 8-12 year olds – a unique partnership with St. Joseph’s University. SJU provided a bus, bus driver and six college students as counselors for our five-week summer camp. The children go to SJU twice a week and learn to swim. It’s a great celebration as each camper passes the swim test!

Teen Enrichment Program – During the month of July, our teenagers toured the Camden Police Crime Scene and Camera Departments, visited the new Illusion Museum, attended a Financial Literacy Program at WSFS, learned basket weaving from Rutgers University, and enjoyed watching the Phillies win!

Teen Adventure Week – This “get on the bus and go” week took our teens to visit St. Joseph’s University, Rock Climbing, Painting with a Twist, swimming at the Sherby’s and the Mt. Laurel Funplex.

Clockwise from top right: Picking potatoes at Johnson’s Farm; Dinosaur Discovery at the Academy of Natural Sciences; Making plans for the future at St. Joseph’s University; Future Crime Scene Investigators; Recreating history at the Museum of the American Revolution

