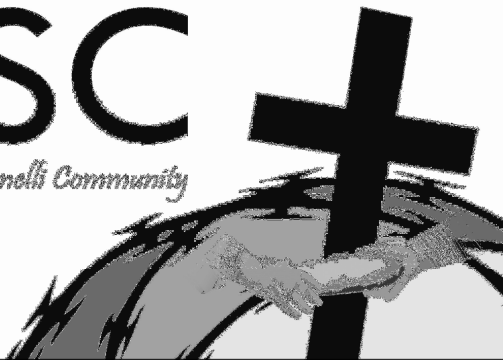


BSC

Blessed Sarnelli Community



Blessed Sarnelli Community is an organization dedicated to providing for the needs of people who are poor and abandoned with an emphasis on empowering young adults to share in this commitment through prayer, hospitality and service. ~ Mission Statement

RESIDENT VOLUNTEERS

André Thielen and Jean Pierre Gülcicek arrived in September to begin a year of service as part of the BSC. Although their first names may not be an indication, they are both from Germany. They came to the States through the Redemptorist Volunteer Ministry program based in the city of Bonn.

Since their arrival, Jean Pierre and André have been working on the new house, particularly with Felix Torres. A resident of Philly, Felix has helped the community in numerous ways with his many gifts and talents. He has taught many of our volunteers, both resident and local, much about carpentry. More importantly, however, he teaches by his example about selfless giving and service.

In addition to working with Felix, the resident volunteers have helped to organize the street outreach ministry. We continue to host many young people who come



André, Jean Pierre and Kevin

to offer service, in collaboration with the resident volunteers, to our sisters and brothers who are poor on the streets of the inner city.

André and Jean Pierre also help serve the needs of people who are poor through Saint John's Hospice in center city Philadelphia, where numerous lunches are served to friends who would otherwise go hungry.

Following in a long tradition of volunteers through the Redemptorists in Germany, it is nice to have Jean Pierre and André as members of the community this year.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

The BSC is pleased to announce that Robert Francis will join us as Associate Director! A volunteer at the original Sarnelli House from 2002-2003, Robby is very familiar with our guests and the overall mission of the BSC. He will be a welcome addition to the community when he arrives in May.

Since being in Philly, Robby graduated with honors from Saint John's University in Queens, New York. He holds a B.A. in Philosophy and a minor in Rhetoric and Public Address. Following graduation from Saint John's, he returned to his native Saint Louis where he is presently ministering at Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque Parish as Coordinator of Youth Ministries.



He brings with him a rich background that includes work in finance, journalism, retreat-direction, as well as study in volunteer and nonprofit management. In addition, he is steeped in the charism of the Redemptorist community of priests and brothers, who founded the Sarnelli House. The spirit of prayer, hospitality and service—hallmarks of the mission here—are very much a part of his life and vision.

Initially, Robby will help to pursue financial grants for the ministry. He will also be involved in setting up new and varied programs when the new site opens, and he will help to coordinate volunteer responsibilities.

We are glad to have Robby with us again. No doubt he will be remembered and appreciated by many. His presence among those with whom we minister will indeed be a blessing for all.

As many of people associated with the BSC know, the ministry was initially founded by the Redemptorist community of priests and brothers—a global Congregation devoted to living and preaching the gospel among people who are poor and abandoned. Throughout the years, the Redemptorists have sponsored Youth Dialogues for young adults of the ages 18-35. These gatherings have been held locally (in specific territories known to the Redemptorists as Provinces) and regionally (among Provinces in areas such as North America and Europe). A Dialogue among young adults and Redemptorists will be held this summer in Central New York. The theme is Opening the Gift. Details follow... if interested, please contact Kevin at 267.861-0836, or through email: FKMurray@bscphilly.org



Opening the Gift...Each of us by our Baptism has been blessed by the Holy Spirit with gifts needed to live our lives for God in the world. We invite you to join other young adults from Redemptorist parishes all over North America in discovering how we can better use the gifts we have been given.

What is Dialogue? Dialogue is an event that gathers young adults and Redemptorists from across a region of the world. We belong to the North American region, thus a North American Dialogue! This event is a time to discuss the needs of the Church and the role that young adults play in guiding the church towards the Redemptorist Charism, "to serve the poor and most abandoned."

What can I expect? Celebration of the Eucharist... Daily prayer with the experience of other cultures... a strong sense of community... opportunities to share your faith... meet Redemptorists from around the world... excitement and fun.

How much does it Cost? The Event itself is \$275.00 USD. Payment is to be made through local contact.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The BSC is blessed with a dedicated and talented group of people who help in a variety of ways. Over the past four years, members of the Board of Directors have been a valuable asset to the growth and development of our ministries. Presently serving in that capacity are: Mark Bielecki, Lew Clark, Pat Montgomery, Joe Nahas and Kevin Murray. We are pleased to announce the addition of Mary Beth Schluckebier and Denrick Stanislaus, who will join the Board in the Spring of this year.

Mary Beth graduated with honors from the University of Scranton in May 2009, with a degree in Counseling and Human Services and minors in Theology and Spanish. She has extensive volunteer experience including ministry with the BSC on outreach and with guests at the former location. During her college years, she spent a semester in El Salvador accompanying and being accompanied by the Salvadoran people in a way that allowed her to experience the reality of life in the Third World. Currently a volunteer with the Sisters of St. Joseph in Philadelphia, she is on the staff of Visitation BVM Parish. There she works in a social outreach ministry, accompanying families in the Philadelphia Latino community. She also has the opportunity to work as a mentor in an Interfaith Organization as well as with the New Sanctuary Movement, working for Immigration Reform.

Remembered well by many of our guests and friends on the streets, Denrick spent two and a half years as a resident volunteer at Sarnelli House. He came to the community in the fall of 2002. Following the time spent in the community, where his cooking skills are still missed, Denrick began formal studies for Construction Management. He successfully graduated and has since started his own contracting firm: DLC General Contracting, LLC—based in Philadelphia.

In May of 2007, Denrick married Lori Hasson. Together they are the proud parents of Cecilia, who is now two years old. Other family members live on the Caribbean island of Grenada where Denrick was born and raised. There he was first introduced to the Redemptorists, and subsequently the Sarnelli House, through his active involvement in the parish of his home town of Gouyave. He maintains close connections with the parish there and his family, who have also helped the BSC through their prayers and presence. Denrick continues to be involved with the BSC in many ways, particularly through his considerable talent for building and construction.

Also joining the Board will be Robby Francis in his new position as associate director.

We welcome the new members of the Board. We are grateful for their presence as well as the continued service of the current Board members.



Mission trips are an integral part of the work of the BSC. Over the years, we have visited Redemptorist missions in the Caribbean to help with good ministries in Saint Lucia, Dominica and Saint Croix. We have also taken part in missions on the island of Grenada. In early December, Kevin visited the Redemptorist mission in Trinidad, where he helped to conduct an Advent retreat among the good people of the parish in Santa Cruz.

Later in December, during the week following Christmas, another type of mission took place. Long-time volunteer, Pat Montgomery, along with his good friend and fellow volunteer, Drew Moriarity, rode a tandem bicycle from Philadelphia to Boston—all for the purpose of raising funds and consciousness for the BSC!

Traveling over 300 miles to the NHL Winter Classic between the Philadelphia Flyers and Boston Bruins, Pat and Drew made the trip in five days. They reached their destination of Fenway Park on New Year's Eve around 6:00pm.



Drew, Kevin, Pat

They carried little on their backs along the cold and gusty way, but in their hearts they held the presence of many who know that climate all too well: those who sleep on the streets of the inner city. For people who are poor and abandoned, Pat and Drew wheeled along – receiving food and hospitality from friends along the way, knowing that their trip would help provide the same for others.

As they peddled through small towns, hills and valleys, Christmas decorations could still be seen on many homes. Prevalent was the manger scene – with figures of the Christ Child, Mary and Joseph. After the birth of Jesus, the story is told of shepherds and wise men coming from afar, following a star, bringing gifts.

So it is with Pat and Drew... traveling a great distance, following their dream, reaching their goal. Their ride bearing gifts for the Christ Child present among people in need. The journey may have ended but the message of good will goes on. People perceived as losers are the true winners as they receive the prize in this classic winter story!

- Many thanks to Drew and Pat and all who have contributed to the BSC through their efforts!

THE BROADER COMMUNITY

We are always touched by the care and concern shared by young people in service of our friends on the streets. During the past few months, several groups as well as many family members and friends, have contributed needed goods for the ministry. Their compassion for people in need is indeed admirable and appreciated. We especially note in this issue...

Sister Rose Federici, Principal of Saint Peter the Apostle School in Philadelphia and the seventh grade class.

Members of the Phi Sigma Pi—National Honors Fraternity—at West Chester University (pictured at right sorting goods and supplies).



Parishioners and youth group of Saint Dominic Parish in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Kathy McDonough and the fifth grade class at Saint William School in Philadelphia.

Sisters of the Delta Zeta Sorority at Drexel University.

Brothers of the Pi Kappa Alpha (Pike) Fraternity at Drexel University.

Compassionate Christ, be with us in our need. Help us to remember that you are a God of loving kindness, always present and near. Walk with us during the day and night. Lead us on the journey home to heaven, where we long to see you face to face.

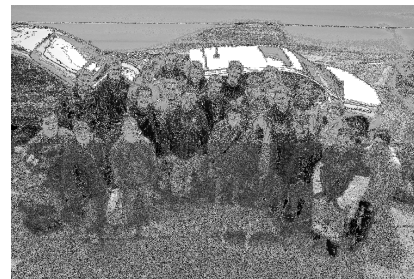
Faculty and Students of LaSalle College High School, Wyndmoor, PA.

Parishioners of Saint David in Willow Grove, PA.

Parishioners of Saint Clement Parish in Saratoga, NY.

Youth Group of Visitation BVM Parish, Philadelphia.

- And all who consider the needs of our friends on the streets as their own.



Pike Pledge class

Progress on the houses continues at a good pace. The plumbing and heating was installed during the winter months. The electrical work is nearing completion. We will begin to sheet rock and paint the interior as soon as inspections by the City are passed.

The road to opening the new Sarnelli House has been a long one. Yet, throughout our work, we have remained faithful to the core mission of the BSC—that is involving young people in prayer and service of people who are poor. In effect, we are building not only a house but a community. The time and energy put into building both the house and community are very rewarding and gratifying.

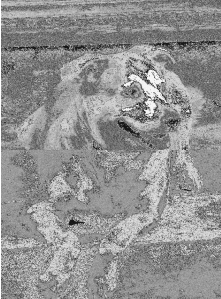
We are grateful to all who are a part of the community and ministry... your help, prayers, presence and contributions are most appreciated!

Many people often ask about young adults who spent time at the Sarnelli House. In addition to Robby and Denrick, mentioned elsewhere in this issue, here is an update on two others who are remembered fondly.

Janet Rose Wolf is presently the Director of Campus Ministry at the University of North Texas and Texas Women's University in Denton, Texas. She was recently engaged to be married to Benjamin Ronck—a mechanical engineer in Houston, Texas.

Jay Atherton is studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Albany, New York. Presently he attends Mundelein Theological Seminary in Chicago, Illinois. He will be ordained to the Diaconate in May of this year.

Congratulations and best wishes to Janet and Jay... other volunteers will be featured in future issues.



Nellie, of course, says hello to all of our friends reading the newsletter. She loves riding to the Post Office to pick up the mail and is happy when we hear from you. She knows that many of you are very generous in your support of our ministries, which is appreciated by all. Please continue to remember us in prayer, as we do for all of you. Know that contributions for work on the house and other expenses incurred through our various ministries are always welcome and appreciated. The BSC is a 501 (c) (3) corporation; all donations are tax-deductible. God Bless you... and a very Happy Easter to all!

—Please continue to remember the people of Haiti and Chile in your prayers as well—



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**For further information on the Blessed Sarnelli Community,
please contact Father Kevin Murray, FKMurray@bscphilly.org
Also, please visit us on the Internet at www.bscphilly.org**