



# The Anastasian

December 2015

**40 Hours  
Devotion**

Reflections on  
Experience

**RESOLVE**

Friendship, Fun,  
God

**Heavenly  
Voices**

St Anastasia  
Choir

**Proferat!**

Proclaiming the  
Word of God





# THE Anastasian

Since 1935

Welcome to The Anastasian. We hope you all enjoy this newsletter. St. Anastasia is a large, vibrant parish with many different groups engaged in wonderful activities that give life to the parish. We hope this newsletter will offer all of our parishioners the chance to learn more about the many ways their friends and neighbors in Christ engage with the parish to deepen their faith and enrich their lives. And you'll see they are having a lot of fun too! Please let us know what you think and how we can improve. Please email us at [promotion@saintannies.org](mailto:promotion@saintannies.org). You can also "like" us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter at [@luckycolagreco](https://twitter.com/luckycolagreco).



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Front Cover image : 6th Grader Julia Dever singing during Confirmation

### Photo captions:

The annual Parish Pilgrimage was on Friday, November 6 to the National Shrine of St. Rita of Cascia

The Blessing of Animals took place on the parish lawn on Sunday, October 4 in honor of St. Francis of Assisi's feast day.



# A Letter from our Pastor Father Colagreco

Dear Parishioners,

I hope you will enjoy reading The Anastasian. This publication, which will appear throughout year, is a revival of The Anastasian which was a periodic publication of the parish a number of years ago. This reincarnation is the result of discussions among the members of the newly formed Promotion Committee which has been established to enhance communication among all the members of our large parish.

As you know, one of the priorities of the Pastoral Council has been the rewriting and promulgation of the Parish Mission Statement. In this Mission Statement is the challenge and hope of growing into "One Parish Community." In order to do so, we need to pay more attention to communicating effectively about the many good things happening in Saint Anastasia Parish. A new [website](#), a [Facebook page](#), greater use of email and this publication are some of the ways that we hope to reach more and more parishioners. The New Anastasian can be found in the Church and also may be accessed through the parish web site. I hope you will find it informative and useful.

Thank you to the members of the Promotion Committee for their efforts in making this publication a reality. They are: Katie Downey, Jim Murphy, Dennis Boone, Joe Crimmins, Carrie Erdlen, Carmen Smargiassi and Sister Mary Barrar. Of course, your feedback is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to share your thoughts with any of the members of this committee.

Enjoy reading!  
Father Colagreco

[www.saintanastasia.net](http://www.saintanastasia.net)



Father Colagreco  
Speaking during this year's  
Confirmation Mass



# 40 Hours Devotion

"Spending quiet time in prayer is essential to growing in your relationship with God"

by **Sister Mary Barrar, SSJ**

On October 4 through 6, Saint Anastasia Parish celebrated our Annual Forty Hours Devotion. The Forty Hours Devotion has a long history in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. In 1853, Saint John Neumann introduced the Eucharistic Devotion when he served as the 4th Bishop of Philadelphia. Since that time, the parishes throughout the Archdiocese have continued the devotion.

This year, our Forty Hours opened with Mass at noon on Sunday. Sunday and Monday nights consisted of Evening Prayer, a homily, and Benediction. Tuesday evening, we celebrated the closing with a votive Mass of the Eucharist. This year the parish was blessed to have Father Joe Meehan as homilist for Forty Hours. The themes he chose were contemplation, service, and family. He reminded us that contemplation – spending quiet time in prayer is essential to growing in your relationship with God. As he continued the next evening, he explained how true contemplation always moves us to service for others. On the closing night he spoke of family with humorous stories of his own family. He then challenged us to expand our concept of family to our parish, our neighborhood, and beyond, to our world community. Finally, he connected his themes to the Eucharist and our call to union with God and our neighbors.

Father Meehan's words were profound yet grounded in reality. His presence was gentle, simple and humble much like Jesus' presence in the Eucharist. May each of us build on the graces of our forty Hours Devotion and become more like the person God desires us to be – that is contemplatives in service of God and our sisters and brothers throughout the world.



Mrs. Alicia DiBerado's CCD class in quiet reflective prayer during the 40 Hours Devotion

# Proferat!

"As a Lector, my reading is to be a true proclamation."



Bob Blaisse lectors at Confirmation

by **Joe Crimmins**

The history of lay people participating in the Mass as lectors is a relatively short one -43 years to be exact. Pope Paul VI established the discipline for the formally instituted Lector on August 15, 1972 through the *Motu Proprio*, **Ministeria Quaedum**. In Latin, "*Motu Proprio*" means 'a document issued by the Pope on his own initiative and personally signed by him'. "**Ministeria Quaedum**" translates to 'a certain ministry'.

As it relates to the role of the lector, Pope Paul VI states in his *Motu Proprio* that, "The reader is appointed for a function proper to him, that of reading the word of God in the liturgical assembly. Accordingly, he is to proclaim the readings from sacred Scripture..."

Thus, a lector's role is not to just read the words of God but to proclaim them. Hence, the title of this article, "Proferat", which means "proclaim" when translated from Latin.

Below are quotes from some of our current lectors who have provided some insights as to what it is like to be a lector and how being a lector has impacted their faith lives.

*"...proclaiming God's word has been both a joy and an honor... [being a lector] amplifies my faith life in several ways. First, I seriously prepare for the week's readings if I am assigned as lector. Second, I am afforded the opportunity to have a positive impact on someone else's faith. Just to know I am potentially contributing to someone else's relationship with God is gratifying. Third, it is humbling to know that a lector contributes extensively to the first half of the Mass - the Liturgy of the Word. And with that, I am doing my small part to bring collective praise to God in the sacrifice of the Mass."*

*Tom Kelly*

*"If reading is to be a Ministry, a 'witness to faith' for me, then the reading has to be much more than just a good sight reading and articulation of words. As a Lector, my reading is to be a true proclamation."*

*"Lectoring...is not just helping out at church on Sunday. Lectoring is to be truly proclaiming the Word, effecting the presence of Christ within the worshipping assembly, and finally, to enabling a consciousness of how God's Word is calling each of us to His service and to serving God's people."*

*L. Chris Spagna*

*"My experience of being a lector has been a very good one...I have a greater understanding of the written word and, therefore, the Homilies."*

*Brendan Coghlan*

Our St. Anastasia parish community is blessed with many people who have reflected, prayed and responded to the call to proferat the Word of God by being lectors.

St. Anastasia is in need of more Lectors. We ask that you give thoughtful consideration to the blessings, gifts and talents bestowed upon you by God to determine if God is calling you to use those talents to proferat His Word by becoming a lector.

If you feel as though you could use your gifts to be a lector, please e-mail [st-anastasialectors@gmail.com](mailto:st-anastasialectors@gmail.com) or call Rita Grosso at (610) 864-8357



Joan Mullarkey lectors at Mass

**"...proclaiming God's word has been both a joy and an honor..."**

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Karen Arata Brown and Some members of RESOLVE

# RESOLVE

"It's a time for kids to get together and get something they can't get elsewhere... friendship, mixed with God, mixed with fun."

by **William Downey**

After Confirmation, there is an occasional lapse in kids' religious education. With most youth groups being made for high schoolers, St. Anastasia recognized the need for a program made specifically for middle schoolers and created RESOLVE.

Now in its second year, RESOLVE is a monthly program made just for sixth, seventh and eighth graders in St. Anastasia Parish. This includes St. Anastasia School, public school, and other private school or homeschooled students.

"We want to form a community of middle school kids and give them a deeper resolve for their faith life," said Director of Religious Education Theresa Haggerty. "We know how busy kids are and since this is for all parish middle schoolers, it's just once a month."

Part youth group and part classroom work, RESOLVE brings kids together to socialize and have fun, while learning about God and deepening their faith. All three grades are brought together for games, crafts, guest speakers and other activities.

Karen Arata Brown, former parishioner and St. Anastasia School alumna, runs the youth group segments. "It's a time for the kids to get together and get something they can't get elsewhere - to have friendship, mixed with God, mixed with fun," Brown said. "It's a place to hang out and have fun, to see each other out of the context of school."

RESOLVE uses video series from Ascension Press in the classroom. The eighth graders participate in the program, "Theology of the Body, Middle School Edition," a concept developed by St. John Paul II that explores the questions of who we are and how we are to live. "We all know how great Theology of the Body is, and this program from Ascension Press is just right for middle school," said RESOLVE teacher Katherine Downey. "The videos are upbeat and engaging, and the discussion topics flow logically from one to the next. It makes for a great classroom."

The seventh graders participate in "Encounter," which is a Bible timeline series also from Ascension Press. It is hosted by Mark





Hart of Life Teen fame, and gives kids a good overview of the Bible as well as teaching them how to encounter God in the Bible.

*what is your resolve?*

The sixth graders participate in a series of post-Confirmation lessons exploring topics like the Bible, discipleship, prayer and perseverance. These video lessons were put together just for St. Anastasia and are pulled from great programs like Matthew Kelly's "Decision Point," "That Catholic Show" and videos from Ascension Press author Chris Stefanick.

We all want our kids to resolve to get better grades, make the team and eat less junk food. But we also want them to resolve to learn more about their faith, get closer to God and become the person God created them to be.

What is your RESOLVE?

For more information about having your middle schooler join RESOLVE, e-mail Theresa Haggerty [thaggerty@saintannies.org](mailto:thaggerty@saintannies.org)

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# Confirmation

by **Theresa Haggerty**

This year's celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation was on November 14 and included 125 children from St. Anastasia School, the religious education program and local private schools. Presiding over the Mass was Bishop Timothy Senior who met with the children before Mass to talk to them, ask them questions and provide encouragement. This put the children at ease before they embarked on the final day of their yearlong preparation.

The church was festive with plenty of candlelight, incense and the color of red displayed brightly over the altar, in the children's Confirmation robes, and the priests' and Bishop's vestments. Bishop Senior displayed his beautiful singing voice, chanting prayers over the children as he anointed them with chrism and invoked the ancient prayer "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit!"

The children, as part of their preparation, had performed many of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. They had also spent much time selecting and researching their saint's names and offered all these actions up in the Mass.



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# Heavenly Voices

"A choir is almost like one living thing."

by **Kevin Loftus**

Norbert Elbertson conducts the St. Anastasia Choir.

This is a story about the adult choir. Right from the start you may be thinking that this is an attempt to get new people to join, and you would be right. All choirs seem to be in a constant space where they want and need more people to come, join, and sing. Our choir is certainly no exception.

My family and I have only been part of Saint Anastasia for a few years. I did sing in the choir when I was a young kid but as I got older I moved on to other things.



During Mass one Sunday I was sitting in a pew at Mass listening to the choir and the music. The singing was good but there was something missing; they apparently needed more men to join them. I thought "maybe I could join them and make a difference". So, after Mass a few weeks later, I finally decided that I would go up to the choir and see what it is all about. But I felt strongly that I was not good enough and no one would know who I am anyway. I met the choir director and after a warm greeting I decided that I this was for me. I have been singing with the choir ever since.

There is really nothing like the honor of singing during the Christmas season. You are present in the Church during the times and events when the church is at its very best. The spirituality is almost overwhelming.

A choir is almost like one living thing. Yes, it is made up of many people but we all have to listen to each other, sing in harmony and function as one. It is a great metaphor for the church: many voices, joined as one.

Like I said before, we need more people in the choir. We especially need more men. The blend of voices when you have men and women and young and "more mature" voices adds a richness to our sound. The sound is incredibly beautiful and you know it when you hear it. The music can move you as deeply as any prayer.



So, there you have it. You are invited to join us. Please join us! If you hear the music, that is the call of Christ (and your friends in the choir). Give us a chance.

We practice on Thursday nights from 7:30 to 9:00. We then sing at the 10:30 Mass. Come and pray with us in the music.

For questions about the St. Anastasia Choir contact Norbert by email at [norbertel-berson@msn.com](mailto:norbertel-berson@msn.com) or by phone 610-604-4598



# Promotion Committee

by **Joe Crimmins**

Included in the St. Anastasia Mission Statement is a line that reads, in part, as follows:

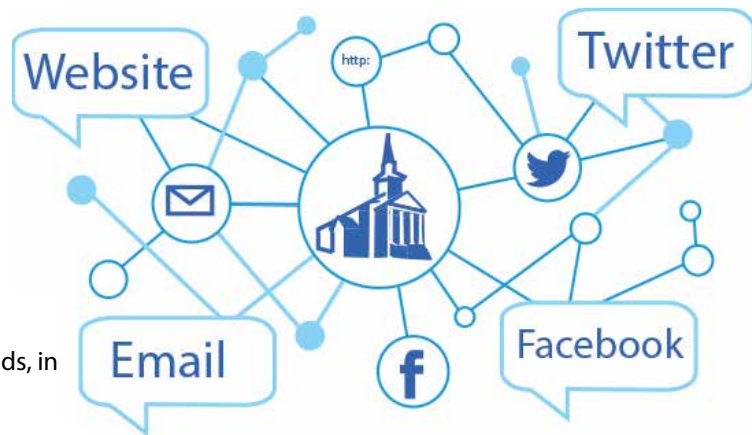
“...we are committed to growing in a deeper relationship with God and with one another.”

This line had the Pastoral Council wondering what ways they could help parishioners grow in those relationships because, as most of you know, there are many groups and organizations within the parish that build up our faith. The challenge is making folks aware of the groups, organizations and activities in addition to informing parishioners of what they do.

The formation of the Promotion Committee is a direct result of the Pastoral Council’s work on developing the new mission statement and making it actionable. To that end, the main goal of the Promotion Committee is to promote parish organizations, groups and activities. We are doing this with the new website, email sign up, or Facebook page, and this newsletter.

Making parishioners aware of parish groups, organizations and events encourages all parishioners to take an active role in the St. Anastasia Parish community. Awareness and promotion of parish groups, organizations and activities, as well as describing what they do, is a step toward realizing the St. Anastasia Mission Statement. However, this is only a step. Each parish member’s continued participation will help all of us to continue to fulfill our mission to, “...grow in a deeper relationship with God and with one another.”

You can participate is by submitting ideas and photos to be included in the next newsletter. You may submit ideas/photos to [promotion@saintannies.org](mailto:promotion@saintannies.org)





We, the parishioners of Saint Anastasia, are a strong faith based community, grounded in more than a century of Catholic tradition, rooted in worship and service. Compelled by the Good News of Jesus Christ, we are committed to growing in a deeper relationship with God and with one another. We strive to become a more vibrant parish by inspiring an atmosphere of belonging, of welcoming, and by promoting opportunities to share and spread our Catholic Faith, so that we may be more united as one parish community.

