

THE VOICE

2017 Volume Three - Winter

OUR LADY OF VICTORY



Dear Friends of Father Baker:

As we move into the holiday season of Christmas, it is good for us to step back and take stock of our blessings. All of us are so blessed by God's many gifts. The holidays give us an opportunity to count these blessings and say a special prayer of gratitude to God for them. You may have a special blessing or two that you want to thank God for in this holy season. Here at Father Baker's, I can think of many blessings which God has given us in the past twelve months. First off, so many of our friends have stepped up to assist us with the final stage of our Capital Campaign. In these pages, you'll read about two families who have provided our campaign with a challenge gift, which will help us reach our \$12 million goal by the end of this calendar year. The Penfolds and the Sullivans are extraordinary blessings to us. Along with them, so many other friends of Father Baker have - by their generosity and thoughtfulness - helped us assist the many children under our care. You are counted among these blessings for which we will be eternally grateful. Thank you for all the blessings you make possible by your many kindnesses to Father Baker's Institutions. May God bless you and may Our Lady of Victory watch over you in this beautiful holiday season - and beyond.

God bless you.

Msgr. Paul J. E. Burkard

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YOU'VE BEEN CHALLENGED - THE SULLIVAN & PENFOLD \$200,000 CHALLENGE GIFT

A recent family collaboration resulted in \$200,000 to benefit Our Lady of Victory Organizations via our ongoing capital campaign. The campaign, "Father Baker's" - Continuing His Legacy of Caring, which started in 2012, has now reached \$11.6 million of our \$12 million goal. The capital campaign runs until Dec. 31, 2017.

Karen and Richard Penfold, honorary co-chairs of the capital campaign, donated \$100,000 toward this goal in September, while John and Betsy Sullivan, both of whom were touched by OLV as John was a Baker Boy, gave the other \$100,000. Together, the donation is the "Sullivan and Penfold \$200,000 Challenge Gift," as the Penfolds are the mother-and father-in-law of John Sullivan.

"We're so close to the finish line, I think that was really it. We wanted to help OLV get across the finish line. If we could give a little bit more and hopefully inspire others to match, why wouldn't we?" John Sullivan said.

Msgr. Paul J.E. Burkard, president, OLV Institutions, met with the Penfolds and the Sullivans to discuss the campaign. They agreed that a challenge gift could help the campaign meet its goal.



Betsy and John Sullivan



Karen and Richard Penfold

This is the second time both couples have given to the campaign. Funds raised benefit Our Lady of Victory Homes of Charity, Baker Victory Services, and Father Baker's Cause for Canonization. Karen Penfold, who called the capital campaign a more than "four-and-a-half year project," emphasized their long family history with OLV. Sullivan was adopted at 6 months of age in 1970 out of OLV, and he was raised as a middle-class son of a high school math teacher and a social worker in the area.

"I didn't really think much about my OLV association and the adoption until later in my life. My grandfather was the chief of surgery at Our Lady of Victory Hospital, and his house was on McKinley Parkway in the shadow of the dome," Sullivan said. "But as I got older,

they talked more about my story." Sullivan's great-grandfather, Aloysius Sullivan, was also a Baker Boy. He was dropped off at a very young age from Pennsylvania, and Father Baker raised him in the home. "Father Baker saw something in him and sent him to medical school, and he and Father Baker started the hospital together," Sullivan said. "It's a pretty amazing story."

Penfold - who grew up in Western New York - remembered visiting Our Lady of Victory Basilica as a young girl with her family, which always included a walk through the orphanage. At the time, the orphanage had large windows, through which cribs and nuns caring for babies were visible.

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“Our visit would always end with a treasure from the gift shop that my sister and I loved. I had a notion of Father Baker’s, however it was never said that I’d be sent there,” she said, referencing the common jab told to misbehaving Western New York children.

While in college, Penfold’s first student teaching experience was in Lackawanna. Later in life, her son’s graduation from St. Francis High School took place in the Basilica. Once her daughter married a Baker Boy, her OLV experience came full circle. When she received a call asking the couple to be honorary co-chairs of the campaign, along with Liz and Ron Jaworski, it was a “huge honor,” she said. “Throughout our lives, my husband and I have always tried to somehow support charities close to our hearts and that includes Father Baker’s. We always had requests coming in the mail,” Penfold added. “I

remember my grandmother and Mom sending donations, so it was a family tradition to do something for Father Baker.

“One of my Mom’s best pieces of advice was to give back to the church.’ That’s been part of our lives, and I can say the same for Dick’s parents,” Penfold said.

“It wasn’t always easy in the beginning, but we always tried to do something. Then, the blessings started coming, and it just seemed like when you give from the heart, blessings just seem to follow.”

“I am so thankful that they are involved. Dick and Karen, I’ve been around them for 20, almost 30 years now. They get things done. When they are involved with a charity, success comes with them,” Sullivan said.

Today, Sullivan is a member of the Our Lady of Victory Institutions Board of Directors. In the past, he had also

served on the Board of Directors for Baker Victory Services. Since his great-grandfather was one of the first Baker Boys and because he, himself, knew what it was like to once be an orphan with nothing, Sullivan expressed pride in being able to be part of Father Baker’s legacy in a large way by giving to OLV.

“I was born with less than nothing in this world. I didn’t even have a family,” Sullivan commented. “To Our Lady of Victory, I owe my life and all of the blessings that have been bestowed on me and my family as a result.”

For more information on the Capital Campaign, go to fatherbakers.org or call 716-828-9610.

By: Kimberlee Sabhin,
A Contributor to the Voice



HONORING OUR LADY OF VICTORY AND CELEBRATING EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES



On Saturday, October 7th, we honored Mary – Our Lady of Victory – on her feast day, along with hundreds from the community. The liturgy was a blessed celebration, which included a procession by OLV students and the Knights of Columbus. In the evening, we honored those who carry out Father Baker’s legacy of caring – our employees! We paid tribute to employees for their years of service to the vulnerable children and families at BVS, the donors of the Homes of Charity, the parishioners of OLV Parish, and the students of OLV Elementary School. All those employees celebrating anniversaries combined for nearly 1,300 years of service.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

The 37th annual Friends of Father Baker Reception was held on Friday, November 10th at the Hyatt Regency Buffalo. Hosted by Maryalice Demler, news anchor at WGRZ-TV Channel 2, the event featured a presentation of the Father Baker Service to Youth Awards, which are awarded annually to those who exemplify the values and dedication of Venerable Nelson Baker.

The Service to Youth Award was presented to the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

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The Sisters of St. Joseph that attended Friends of Father Baker

The Sisters arrived in Buffalo at Bishop John Timon's request. Shortly after, the Sisters took charge of the St. Joseph's Orphan Asylum at Limestone Hill and caring for wayward and destitute youth in St. John's Protectors. Upon his arrival in 1876, Father Nelson Baker discovered he shared the same dedication and concern for the poorest and most vulnerable as the Sisters did. Father Baker and the Sisters were of one heart. While Father Baker was the architect, builder, and administrator of the Institutions, the Sisters were the backbone of the organization. The impact of the Sisters of St. Joseph yesterday and today remains strong at Our Lady of Victory and their legacy of caring continues.

The Youth Service Award was presented to Rebecca Sullivan - a freshman at Villanova University School of Business. While at the Buffalo Academy of the Sacred Heart, Rebecca completed over 250 hours of community service with a number of charities - including



Rick Heist, Rebecca Sullivan, Msgr. Paul Burkard, Sister Ellen O'Keefe, SSJ, Sister Linda Talbot, SSJ, Terry Scofidio

Monkey See, Monkey Do Children's Bookstore, Saints Peter and Paul Church and Elementary School, and the BISON Children's Scholarship Fund. During her years at Sacred Heart, Rebecca participated in the school's Leadership Camp, Random Acts of Kindness Club and was a member of both the swim and mock trial teams. Not only was

she a part of numerous groups, Rebecca founded the SHArks Bite Cancer Club to raise awareness and funds for cancer prevention and research.

We celebrate the achievements of the Sisters of Saint Joseph and Rebecca. Thank you to all for making the evening a night to remember!

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

Our Lady of Victory invites you to join us on a journey of faith for our 2018 Annual Pilgrimage. From May 9th through May 19th, travel with us as we are led by Monsignor Paul Burkard on a visit the Land of Israel – The Holy Land – as we follow in the footsteps of our Lord, Jesus. For more information, please call Kim Kutera at OLV Homes of Charity at (716) 828-9607 or Peter's Way Tours at (800) 225-7662.



Church of All Nations

OUR LADY OF VICTORY NATIONAL SHRINE & BASILICA

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S DAY MASSES

CHRISTMAS

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

Friday, December 22, 2017
3-4:00 & 7- 8:00 P.M.

Saturday, December 23, 2017
3-4:00 & 7-7:30 P.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday, December 24, 2017
4:00 P.M. *Children's Liturgy*
6:00 P.M. *Christmas Vigil*
12:00 A.M. *Midnight Mass*

CHRISTMAS DAY NATIVITY OF THE LORD

(Holy Day of Obligation)
Monday, December 25
8:00 & 10:00 A.M. 12:00 NOON
No 4:30 P.M. Mass

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Sunday, December 31, 2017
4:30 P.M.

NEW YEAR'S DAY

FEAST OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY,
THE MOTHER OF GOD
(Holy Day - No Obligation)
Monday, January 1, 2018
7:30 A.M. & 12:10 P.M.