

The Net Worker



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The Newsletter of
St. Peter
the Apostle Parish,
River Edge,
New Jersey

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GET TO KNOW SOME OF OUR NEW ST. PETER'S FAMILY

Meet: *Father Tom Quinn*

Father Tom Quinn grew up in Englewood - one of eight children - and attended Saint Cecilia grammar and high school. He earned a B.A. in Journalism from Northeastern University and wrote for business and travel publications in Boston and New York, but spent most of his twenties pursuing an acting career. Success in that field would elude him.

In 1990, Father Tom spent most of his time helping to care for his mother, who had been stricken with cancer (Mrs. Quinn died in October of that year). Father Quinn emerged from that experience with an interest in nursing, and was soon matriculated in that discipline at Columbia University, obtaining a B.S. in Nursing there in December 1992. Father Tom worked as an oncology nurse at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center and Hackensack University Medical Center, and eventually became a Certified Hospice and Palliative Care Nurse for the Hackensack Hospice program.

Throughout that "long and winding road" of careers and as far

back as the first grade, however, Father Tom states, he felt a call in his heart to the priesthood. "If anything, my years as a nurse, caring for the seriously ill and the dying, made my desire to serve as a priest that much stronger," Father Tom said.

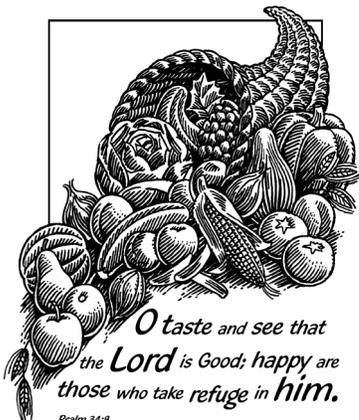
Father Quinn entered Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University in South Orange in August 2000, and graduated five years later with the

degrees of Master of Divinity and Master of Arts in Systematic Theology. Father Tom was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Newark on May 28, 2005, and began his ministry as parochial vicar for Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Ridgewood. This past June, Father Quinn joined Saint Peter the Apostle Church in River Edge, where he again

serves as parochial vicar. (He continued to work as a nurse part-time until recently, and remains licensed as a Registered Nurse in New Jersey and New York.)

"I feel right at home at Saint Peter's," Father Tom said. "Father Mike is a dear friend and a sort of older brother. I've known Father Mike's sister Mary Beth since 1967, when she and my sister Alice were

"Every encounter is an opportunity to bring someone closer to Christ: His love, encouragement, direction, tenderness, strength, mercy, forgiveness, healing, abundance and joy."



O taste and see that the Lord is Good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

Psalm 34:8

freshmen together at Saint Cecilia High School. Father Matt, Father Jim and I go back to our time together at the Seminary. The people of Saint Peter's have been so gracious and welcoming. Our parishioners are so faithful, unselfish, dedicated, devoted and hard-working. And fun! Our Carnival this year could have given Disney a run for its money." Father Tom stated he is "extremely grateful" to continue his life of ministry at Saint Peter's. "To be a priest is an incredible privilege, and it leaves me very humbled," Father Quinn said. "Every encounter is an opportunity to bring someone closer to Christ: His love, encouragement, direction, tenderness, strength, mercy, forgiveness, healing, abundance and joy."

YOUTH GROUP

Meet:

Youth Ministers - Elizabeth and Nick Belfiore

Hi St. Peter's!

We're Elizabeth and Nick Belfiore and we're happy to be your Youth Ministers. We'd like to tell you a little bit about ourselves so that you can get to know us better.

Elizabeth: I was born and raised in Cliffside Park and grew up in the Church of the Epiphany Parish. Going to Catholic school was important to my family so throughout my childhood I attended Epiphany grammar school and then high school at the Academy of the Holy Angels. In high school I became an active member of my parish youth group. It was there that I discovered my desire to have a strong relationship with Jesus and take my faith on as my own instead of just a class I took in school. My love for Jesus sparked my passions in life for helping others and working with children. These passions led me to my career as a Speech Language Pathologist and later as a youth minister. I received my undergraduate degree from The Richard Stockton College of NJ and my Masters degree from Seton Hall University. It was during my masters program that I returned to the youth ministry at Epiphany to volunteer as a young adult. Shortly after I had begun to volunteer. I was asked to take over the program the following fall where I served for the next six years. Over the course of this time I had the privilege of working with countless teenagers

throughout the parish and archdiocese in helping them discover the beauty of our faith. I have countless memories that would take more than one article in the Networker to share about the experiences I have had in youth ministry.

By far my most favorite story started in 1998 on an archdiocesan (Crossroads) retreat that would change my life forever. It turns out this Crossroads retreat was just the beginning of God's plan for me to meet my future husband. When we failed to make any kind of connection in 1998 God placed us together again on this same retreat in 2006 as the chaperones! Finally we were able to see God's plan and the rest is history! I am overjoyed to be able to serve this parish with my husband and walk with your teenagers on their faith journeys!

Nick: I actually grew up as a young child here in River Edge on Oak Ave. My family moved to Paramus when I was in second grade where I grew up going to public school. In high school I begrudgingly went on my Confirmation retreat and to my surprise, loved it! I became active in my parish youth group the rest of my time in high school. A year after I graduated high school I enlisted in the Marine Corps where I spent the next four and a half years. I always had a solid foundation of religion and faith. In the Marine Corps that foundation helped me through a lot. I am positive that without my faith I would not

have come out of the Marines the person who I am today.

Throughout that time, I kept in contact with my youth group and youth ministers. Similarly to Elizabeth, when I returned home I began to volunteer with the youth group as a young adult, shortly after which I was asked to take over as the Youth Minister, where I served for six years. Teenage life is difficult, challenging, fun, and exciting all at once. I am blessed to be able to walk this journey with our parish's teenagers and hopefully help them see God's presence in our lives.

Since Elizabeth wrote about our story meeting in youth ministry, I'll share another favorite memory. For four years our parish went on a week-long mission trip to Harlan County, Kentucky. In a region with the lowest Catholic population in the country (about 2%), we were truly missionaries of our faith. One of my favorite memories is seeing one of the teenagers grow over those four years. Matt started off as a participant the first year of the trip. By the last year, he was leading a group of high schoolers and helping them develop their faith. It's been a blessing to see God at work in this young adult and to watch how he is now leading others in their faith.

Combined, we have over 12 years of experience in youth ministry. We've worked in parish settings in our home parishes and for the archdiocese running various retreats and other events. Our belief is that youth ministry is all about relationships. Our meetings usually start off with an icebreaker or game to get everyone up and moving. Then we move into an open discussion on different aspects of life and how it relates to our faith. Last week we talked about Courage and how difficult it can be to be courageous, but that courage, or fortitude as Nick likes to call it, is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. We want to show teenagers that God isn't meant to be left to experience just for an hour on Sundays, but that He walks with us through life and loves us unconditionally.

At Youth Group meetings, teenagers have a voice. They get a chance to say what's on their mind and heart in an environment where there is no judgment and no gossip. Everyone has bad days, and everyone makes mistakes. If we can learn from each other and help support each other through tough times, we truly act Christ-like. We hope you give us a chance and see how different life can be when you actively live your faith. It won't eliminate tough times, but it will help you get through them.

We look forward to meeting more people from the parish and getting to know everyone more.

youth group SCHEDULE

The Youth Group meets every Sunday night from 7pm - 9pm in the Youth Room, across from the Parish Center.

You can also find us on Facebook at <http://facebook.com/stpeters.yg>. We post information about events and meetings, inspirational messages, and information for parents on our page.

We're also available by email at YouthGroup@saint-peter.org.

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Elizabeth and Nick Belfiore

16th annual turkey drive

On Saturday, November 23, the 16th annual Turkey Drive will be held in the parking lot of St. Peter the Apostle Parish from 9AM to 3PM at 445 Fifth Avenue in River Edge. This event has become a tradition at St. Peter's.



Bring frozen turkeys or non-perishable food items to the St. Peter's parking lot and people will be there to collect them.

Your generosity has provided turkey dinners for thousands of our neighbors over the years and we are extremely grateful for your support.

POETRY CORNER:

Contentment

If I can lend a helping hand
To you, my friend,
and understand
Your need, and give to you
A surety of friendship true,
I'll be content.

If I can share with you
a grief,
And help you see at most
it's brief;
If I can hold your hand
in mine
Through moments of a
testing time,
I'll be content.

If I can coax your
weary eyes
To look above, to
fairer skies;
If I can cause your ears
to hear
The music of
the heavenly sphere,
I'll be content.

If I can guide you
to the place
Of prayer, where by
His watchless grace
Your soul will be restored
and blessed,
Where God can do
for you the rest—
I'll be content.

Roselyn C. Steere

God at Work in the Music Industry

By Pat Rice



God's work is present in all facets of life. His influence happens regularly and can go unnoticed by us. It can seem to be an ordinary event or it can be the path someone's life takes. His work may even take place in a delayed fashion, to bring about results in our lives after our own efforts don't seem to be succeeding.

Below are some events in the music business where I believe God was at work.

In the early 1980's keyboardist Jonathan Cain left the *Babys* to join *Journey*. Shortly after that, he was working with vocalist Steve Perry on some songs they could possibly write together. Cain was playing a melody, then moved on to another melody when Perry cut him short and asked him what it was he just played. Cain said it was nothing --it was a piece he presented to *Baby*' lead vocalist John Waite, who rejected it, saying it was too sappy. Perry then said it was Waite's loss and that it was something he'd like to work on with him. They composed the song and presented it to the rest of the band, where it still met some resistance, but was included

in their next album and the song, "Open Arms", became their biggest hit. What was rejected at first was welcomed by another and became highly successful. Interestingly, Cain was a student at Our Lady of the Angels Catholic school in Chicago when a tragic fire occurred in 1958 killing 92 children and three nuns. He later sang a song he wrote entitled "The Day they Became Angels" at a Mass 50 years later remembering those who lost their lives in the fire.

Gino Vannelli was trying to get a recording contract in the early 70's. He left his native Montreal and visited the music companies personally with his brother. He received many rejections and was running out of companies to contact. He went to A&M Records, determined to meet the president of the company, Herb Alpert. If he failed, he was going to head back to Montreal and possibly give up on a professional career. After waiting for

some time at A&M, he noticed Alpert leaving the building and ran past the security guard, who chased after him. Vannelli got to Alpert and Alpert agreed to give Vannelli's tapes a listen. Alpert signed Vannelli to a contract at A&M where he later had two Top 10 hits, and he is still recording and touring, with a lot of popularity in Europe. He eventually was asked by Pope John Paul II to sing at a Christmas celebration at the Vatican.

I think God was behind Cain and Vannelli after they were initially rejected. It reminds me of the verse "the stone the builder rejected has become the cornerstone." Both were close to not having something happen, but God found the right people to make it happen: Perry with Cain and Alpert with Vannelli.



Thanksgiving Prayer

This Thanksgiving let those of us who have much and those who have little gather at the welcoming table of the Lord. At this blessed feast, may rich and poor alike remember that we are called to serve one another and to walk together in God's gracious world. With thankful hearts we praise our God who like a loving parent denies us no good thing.

From Songs of Our Hearts, Meditations of Our Souls: Prayers for Black Catholics, edited by Cecilia A. Moor, Ph.D., C. Vanessa White, D.Min., and Paul M. Marshall, S.M.