

September 2021

Saint Raphael



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

A Sacred Journey

by *Dianne Borowski*

Thanks to the efforts of Encounter Mary and the Rosary I am privileged to share with you a bit of information about the lives of two beautiful, humble people who share an incredible journey. The journey I speak of is the journey to becoming a saint. August's presentation of Encounter Mary and the Rosary reflected on the life of Canton resident, Servant of God Rhoda Wise. Rhoda Wise is in the beginning stages of the process of canonization. Blessed Solanus Casey, one of September's subjects, is beatified and also a candidate for canonization.

Servant of God Rhoda Wise was born in Cadiz Ohio in 1888. She was the sixth of eight children born to strict Protestant parents who were extremely anti-Catholic. At age 16 Rhoda was seriously ill with a ruptured appendix. After her surgery a Catholic nun visited her and gave her a small gift, a medal of St. Benedict enclosed in a small locket. Rhoda treasured the gift and kept it with her at all times. It nurtured in her a desire to learn more about the Catholic faith. Rhoda's first husband died six months after their marriage. Rhoda then met and married George Wise. Unable to have children of their own the couple adopted a little girl, Anna Mae. George was an alcoholic and the family experienced financial hardships throughout the years as George had difficulty keeping jobs. In 1931 Rhoda developed a huge ovarian cyst. After the surgery her gallbladder become infected and other physical problems



Rhoda Wise

emerged. During her stay at the hospital she was visited by a nun, Sister Clement, who introduced Rhoda to St. Therese of Lisieux, the Little Flower. Sister also taught Rhoda how to pray the Rosary. It was during this time Rhoda Wise became a Catholic, devoting the remainder of her life to St. Therese and Mary and the Rosary. Rhoda Wise received three physical healings during her life, including a complete cure of stomach cancer said to be incurable. She was a stigmatic, bleeding from the head, hands and feet on Good Fridays.

Continued on Page 2

1 A Sacred Journey

3 Welcome Father Jim Winings: St. Raphael's New Parochial Vicar

4 Still Present in Our Lives

6 Can You Hear Wedding Bells?

7 Made for More: A Special Event

A Sacred Journey

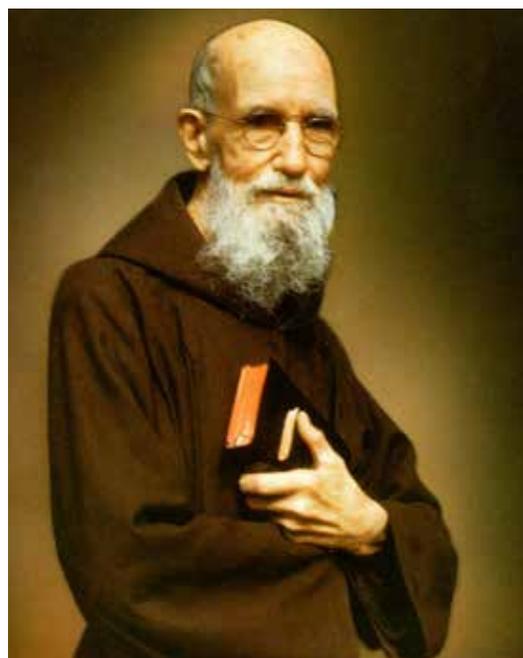
by *Dianne Borowski*

Blessed Solanus Casey was born on a farm in Wisconsin. His parents came to this country from Ireland. He was the sixth of sixteen children. Bl. Solanus began his love of Mary and the Rosary at a young age. He also decided he would like to become a priest at that time. At the age of 21 he entered the St. Francis High School Seminary. The young man struggled mightily, especially because most of his classes were taught in German or Latin. He was advised he would not be successful at the seminary and told to seek entrance to a religious order. Bl. Solanus was told in a dream to "Go to Detroit", where the Capuchin Franciscans were headquartered. He became a Capuchin. After his ordination, Bl. Solanus spent 20 years in New York. His first job at Sacred Heart Monastery, Yonkers, New York, was as sacristan, altar server and then door keeper. Although these jobs might be

thought of as menial, Bl. Solanus believed every job done in God's name was important. As doorkeeper, Bl. Solanus met every person who visited the monastery and was well liked. Soon people began to request counseling from this humble man who opened the door for them. He comforted them and prayed with them, and ultimately many healings were attributed to him. Twenty years later he returned to St. Bonaventure's Monastery in Detroit where he remained until his death.

August's Encounter Mary and the Rosary presentation was given by Karen Sigler who has written a book, "Her Name means Rose: the Rhoda Wise Story." She works with the Rhoda Wise House and Grotto located in Canton, Ohio. The house was the family home of George and Rhoda Wise and is open to the public for visitors. Karen recommends calling to make an appointment to visit the house. Visitors to the house have said it is a very healing experience and the grounds and grotto are beautiful. It would make a great day trip for the family. Please call 330-453-0322 for information and to schedule a visit.

September's presentation is being given by Father Joseph Tuscan and is titled "The Church is Renewed in Every Age by its Saints." Father is a graduate of Borromeo College Seminary and has a Master's degree in theology. Father made his perpetual vows as a Capuchin in 1993 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1997. He currently serves as the National Director of the Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers and is in a full-time preaching ministry for the Capuchin Province of St. Augustine. Bl. Solanus Casey is featured in his presentation. Bl. Solanus was beatified on November 18, 2017, at Ford Field in Detroit Michigan and his remains are kept at the St. Bonaventure Monastery in Detroit. Visitors are welcome. It is a quiet place where you can either sit or kneel to pray. Adjacent to the monastery is the Solanus Casey Center. The center also welcomes visitors and is an interesting place. The center includes a gift shop, auditorium, museum, dining area, the Hall of Saints, and the monastery is located near the center. Sunday Mass is at 9 a.m. in the chapel. It's a beautiful weekend excursion. Please call 313-579-2100 for information.



*Blessed Solanus Casey.
Credit: Wikimedia Commons*

Welcome Father Jim Winings: St. Raphael's New Parochial Vicar

by Mike Manco

Fresh out of St. Mary's Seminary, Father Jim has found a new home at St. Raphael Parish. This young man has the fire of his faith come through when you talk to him. Only two months in his new position, Father is starting to get comfortable with not only St. Raphael but also Bay Village as well. By that I mean he is an avid runner and as a former track and cross-country star, we will have to keep our eye out for him when we drive through the city as this is his hobby.

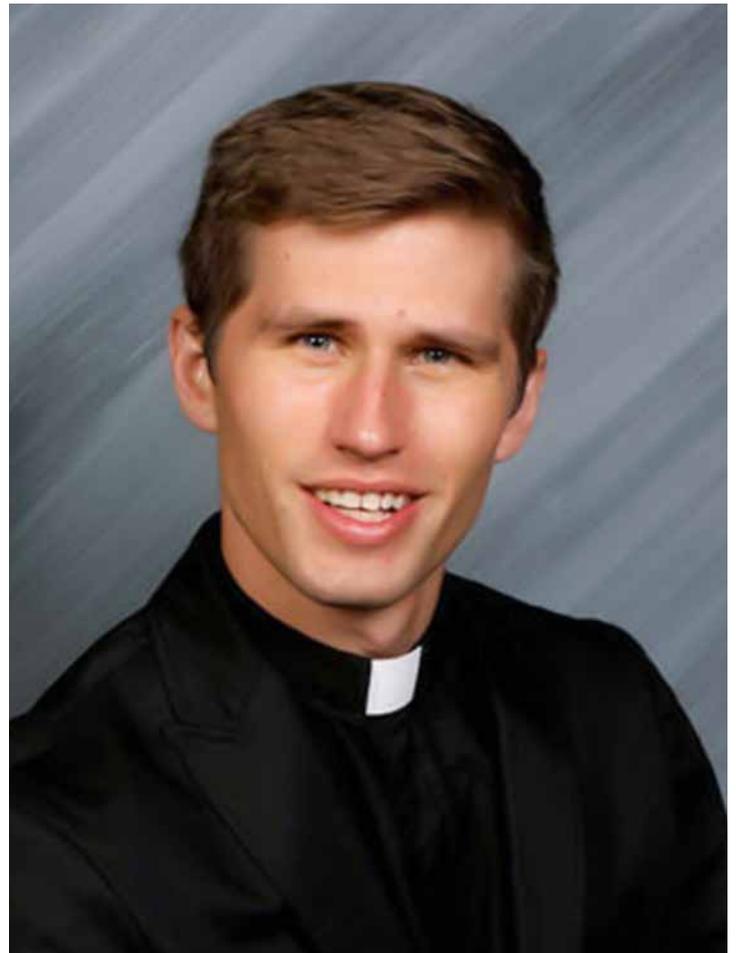
Born February 27, 1990, this 31-year-old young man was raised in Shaker Heights and Beachwood. A graduate of St. Ignatius High School, Father went on to Loyola University in Chicago majoring in history and economics. Upon graduation, he started working for McMaster-Carr company in Aurora in sales support. After three years he went on to St. Mary's to pursue his calling.

But what called Fr. Jim to the commitment of being a priest? His only explanation is that the first twinges of thought came as far back as his senior year at St. Ignatius when his advisor saw something in him and asked Jim if he had ever thought about the priesthood. The thought didn't leave him all through college but he felt he needed to keep open his options to a career in business (his father encouraged him to pursue business) and perhaps the calling of marriage. So, for the time he spent working in the secular world, he perused interests that a man of his age would normally do, enjoying the life of a bachelor with friends and dating young ladies that caught his attention. As time went on the thought of the priesthood wouldn't leave him alone and after three years, he quit his job that he had achieved success at, and told his friends and family that he was sure of what he wanted in a life of serving the Lord. The support of his parents, brother and sister, gave him the comfort that he was on the right track.

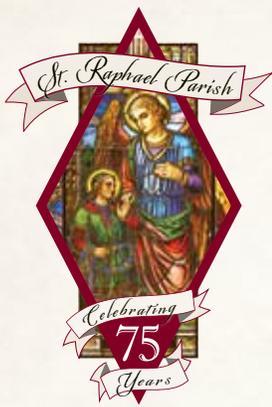
The six years of seminary school were different from his undergraduate education. A naturally

talented student who earned high marks easily, he took the course work very seriously at St. Mary's as it was his desire to go deep into subjects he wanted more from. Towards the end of the sixth year, when plans were being determined for the graduate's new assignment, he was assigned to St. Raphael.

For us parishioners, we said good-bye to a great priest in Father Eric who many of us enjoyed. Now we have Father Jim who is a different kind of priest with a different set of skills and talents. So, for the next four years, let's watch and enjoy his growth and the gift he gives us in doing the work of the Lord.



Father Jim Winings. St. Raphael's new parochial vicar.



Still Present in Our Lives

The 2010s

Things did not quiet down at the Parish during this decade.

Almost immediately, Fr. Tim began to plan for the new church and organized committees to “dream forward.” Expanding the existing church proved not to be feasible. It was determined to “turn around” the church and that a semi-circular nave was most efficient. The church would need to seat approximately 1,200 people to accommodate the new schedule of four Masses each weekend. Many of the St. Raphael artifacts from the existing church would be incorporated into the new church including the stained glass windows, altar, and crucifix. The remaining marble would be repurposed for the ambo, tabernacle altar, and baptismal font. The Franciscan Chapel was named in honor of the windows placed there. Town hall meetings were held and a model constructed so that parishioners could see the vision and offer comments. As a result of these meetings, a ceremonial entrance was added to the plan. Two community rooms were also built for the many meetings being held at the parish.

Changing the Face of Saint Raphael Parish from Generation to Generation- Phase II launched in November 2011. A goal of \$7.1 million was set and again, as is the history of the parish, the parishioners pledged their support and the goal was achieved. Ground was broken in June 2014. Bishop Lennon dedicated the new church on August 22, 2015, the Feast of the Queenship of Mary. The new church was finally a reality!

The school continued its excellence in education. In 2010, under the leadership of Principal Mrs. Ann Miller, it was named a Blue Ribbon School. That Fall, full day kindergarten began in the newly renovated classrooms in the lower level of the library. The following year, the hot lunch program was added. Education and technology continued to change. STREAM Education (science, technology, religion, engineering, the arts and math) was embraced to incorporate these disciplines into creative learning experiences. In



2010

June 9, 2012

2013

Jan. 15, 2013

St. Raphael School
named a National Blue
Ribbon School

Prayer Garden opens

Diocesan initiative:
Vibrant Parish Life
announced

Fr. Nelson J. Callahan dies



2019, the library was remodeled into the Innovation Center to expand the STREAM curriculum. Also in 2019, the school welcomed Mr. Ken Mitskavich as principal.



Fr. Tim always envisioned a Prayer Garden in the courtyard created when the PAC was built. Statues include St. Bernadette, the Pieta, Jesus and the Children, and St. Peregrine.

Roses from the parish grounds were moved here as well as the stone cross that sat on the top of the old church. This quiet and peaceful place was completed in 2012. The landscaper who worked on the project was so deeply moved by the students, their prayers, and their support that he converted to Catholicism.

Other changes, events, and programs were introduced. In 2011, the first issue of our current monthly newsletter was published. Online giving was introduced in 2013.

In 2013, Fr. Tim celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination. Throughout his years at the parish, Fr. Tim continued to mentor many young seminarians who spent their internship years at the parish. Newly ordained priests also found their first assignments at the parish. We have been blessed to help all these men continue their priestly journeys.

Sadly, also in 2013 Fr. Callahan passed away.

The parish continued its generosity to those in need. Over \$300,000 was pledged to Catholic Charities in 2019. The Social Concerns Ministry continued its many years of



organizing Adopt-a-Family each Christmas. In 2019, 1,900 gifts were donated by parishioners to serve 132 families, 534 individuals. Annually, diaper collections, Christmas in July to benefit hunger centers, Thanksgiving food baskets, baby bottle coin collections, and meals at St. Augustine were organized.



In Fall of 2019, the Heart of the Shepherd Campaign was launched by our diocese. A three-fold initiative, funds would be raised to renovate the seminary building that needed significant repairs, to strengthen the Priest Retirement Fund, and to financially assist young priests with significant student loan debt. St. Raphael Parish was asked to be a Pilot Parish and responded with great generosity.

At the end of this decade, the parish had grown to 3,700 households with 11,600 parishioners. There were no more buildings to be constructed. The facilities were in excellent condition. New ministries continued to be added. The parish was beginning to plan for its 75th anniversary. Little did Fr. Tim know what was coming!

May 29, 2013

Fr. Timothy W. Gareau celebrates his 25th anniversary of ordination

Jun. 8, 2014

Ground is broken for the new church

Aug. 22 2015

Bishop Lennon dedicates the new church

Fall 2019

Heart of the Shepherd Campaign launched by the Diocese

Oct. 2019

Innovation Center opens

Can You Hear the Wedding Bells?

by Maggie Brady

Fall is a traditional bridal season. In that spirit, here are some interesting facts you may not know about Catholic weddings!

1. The Bride and Groom are the Ministers of the Sacrament.

If you are a lay person, your wedding day is (most likely) the one day in your life when you'll get to administer a sacrament. The bride and groom, through their vows, actually give the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony to each other. The priest or deacon is still a critical part of the ceremony, of course, because he receives the couple's vows on behalf of the Church and blesses them. But it's up to the couple to fully and freely give themselves to each other, because their consent is what "makes the marriage."

2. No One Really "Gives the Bride Away."

If you've watched *Father of the Bride*, or enough royal weddings, you know there's usually a point where the minister asks, "Who gives this woman to be married?" and someone, most often the bride's dad, says, "I do." That line doesn't exist in the Catholic nuptial liturgy. Why? Because, and you may be sensing a theme here, in Catholic theology the bride – and groom – must give *themselves* away. It has to be their own free choice, and although it's great to have their parents' blessing, it's irrelevant to the Sacrament. One rarely used option for Catholic weddings actually has the bride and groom walking down the aisle together at the start of the ceremony, not just the end. From a women's rights perspective, it's very cool that the Church emphasizes that brides have agency and aren't simply being transferred from the care of one man to another.

3. Beautiful Traditions

Most Catholic weddings include a meaningful moment when the bride and groom go to a statue of Our Lady to pray and ask for her motherly help in their marriage, sometimes leaving her flowers. But there are actually two other beautiful traditions that are official options in the rite, which aren't necessarily as familiar to us. The first is the blessing and giving of the arras. The arras are 13 gold coins, which the couple exchange as a symbol of trust and a promise to provide for the

family. Often these coins are purchased as a gift by the couple's godparents. The second is the placing of the lazo and veil. The lazo (or lasso) is an over-sized, double looped rosary, which the maid of honor and the best man drape over the shoulders of the bride and groom. Often the end of the bride's veil is also draped over the shoulders of her spouse. The lazo is a beautiful visual representation of the new united family being formed as husband and wife strive to create a holy "domestic church" in their new life together. Both these wedding traditions are common in Hispanic communities.

4. Some Helpful Patron Saints

St. Priscilla and St. Aquila – In the New Testament, St. Paul talks about this devoted married couple who were his close friends and co-workers. Like him, they were Jewish tent-makers, and after converting to Christianity, they were involved in catechizing new converts to the faith. St. Paul says that they risked their necks to save his life (Romans 16:3-4).

St. Timothy and St. Maura – Timothy was a lector in Egypt during the 3rd century persecutions of Diocletian. Along with sharing the Gospel, his job was to keep the liturgical books and holy Scriptures safe in his home. He married another Christian, Maura. When the couple had only been married 20 days, Timothy was denounced to the authorities and subjected to torture to get him to turn over the copies of God's Word. They even brought Maura in to persuade her husband to give up. She agreed to speak to him, and then fearlessly trolled the Romans, telling Timothy, "I will never speak to you again if you deny Christ," instead of begging him to surrender. In the end, the newlyweds were nailed to crosses, placed facing each other. They sang hymns and encouraged each other as they died over a 10 day period. They brilliantly reflected the truth that marriage reflects Christ's life-giving acceptance of suffering on the Cross. St. Augustine refers to the Cross as Jesus's marriage bed where he consummated His union with the Church.

St. Louis and St. Zelie Martin – Saints Louis and Zelie were the parents of five daughters who survived to adulthood, all of whom entered religious life, including St. Therese of Lisieux and Servant of God Leonie

Martin. Louis was a watchmaker and Zelig had her own business in Alençon lace manufacturing. She was so successful that Louis sold his company to become her business partner. Many mothers have a devotion to Zelig in particular because her personal writings show how she dealt with the typical stresses of raising children, including the somewhat spoiled toddler Therese and the “difficult” Leonie, who was expelled from school several times.

Servants of God Cyprien and Daphrose Rugamba – The Rugambas were married for almost 30 years when they died in 1994. Cyprien was an ex-seminarian who lost his faith and was disloyal to his wife; he even had a child with a mistress. But Daphrose loved her husband and prayed for him unceasingly. In 1982, Cyprien recovered from a deadly illness, which he attributed to Daphrose’s constant prayers. He experienced a profound spiritual conversion and the couple became involved in religious work. Unfortunately, at the same time, ethnic division was taking hold in their native Rwanda. Cyprien and Daphrose spoke out for peace, saying “We have only one party, that of Jesus.” Their anti-racism made them targets and they were murdered along with six of their ten children in the ensuing genocide. “Servant of God”

is the first step in the canonization process, meaning the Rugambas’ lives are being studied for potential sainthood.

St. Raphael – Our own parish patron, the archangel Raphael, is an ideal saint for married couples or anyone who hopes to get married! In the Bible, St. Raphael helps make a match between Tobias and Sarah, and beats up the demon Asmodeus to make sure their marriage comes off without a hitch (wedding planners, take note). He is also the patron saint of “happy meetings,” or what you might also call “meet cutes.”



Made for More: A Special Event

by Joy Horvath

On Tuesday, September 28, you will have the opportunity to attend a powerful presentation that is only making one stop in Ohio this year. “Made for More,” a multi-media event based on St. John Paul II’s *A Theology of the Body*, will be presented by Christopher West and Mike Mangione at St. Bernadette Church in Westlake, co-sponsored by St. Raphael’s and St. Brendan’s. The evening will feature the spoken word, instrumental and vocal music, video clips, and sacred art designed to touch both the head and the heart.

Between 1979 and 1984, Saint John Paul II gave a series of 129 lectures during audiences constituting an analysis on human sexuality, subsequently gathered and expanded into *A Theology of the Body (TOB)*. He wrote, “the body, and it alone, is capable of making visible what is invisible: the spiritual and the divine. It was created to transfer into the visible reality of the world, the mystery hidden since time immemorial in God, and thus to be a sign of it.” His talks addressed the questions of what it means to be human, how we can attain true happiness on earth, and how we can

experience the love we long for in the depths of our hearts.

The *TOB* text, a whopping 735 pages, is a difficult read. Fortunately, Christopher West, the world’s most recognized teacher of *TOB*, will unpack and synthesize the basic tenets of the work. West has written extensively on *TOB* for adults and children, and has been featured on many major networks and news outlets. He is an energetic and inspiring speaker.

Musician Mike Mangione dubs the production a “Holy Campfire experience.” The attendees will explore, with words, imagery, and music, some of the deepest meanings of our humanity, what it means to be human, and how God reveals himself to us through His creation. Mangione is an acclaimed acoustic guitarist, with a style described as “orchestral folk-rock.”

Dr. Andy Kereky, St. Raphael’s coordinator of the event, hopes the experience will be a spiritual reawakening for those who attend, and that they

Continued on Page 8

St. Raphael

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Made for More: A Special Event

Continued from Page 7

might view their relationship to God in a new and different light. He anticipates that someone might say, "I hadn't perceived my relationship with God this way." Joni Smith, who saw the same program last year in Northfield, Ohio, said that the team was dynamic, and that the audience's attention was glued to the stage the entire time. She highly recommends the event.

If you're curious about the presenters, you can view their clips on YouTube or at <http://corproject.com/events/westlake/>. **Because of the nature of the material, this event is most appropriate and recommended for**

persons ages 15 and above. General admission tickets, priced at \$25 each, are available now at the parish office or online at:

<http://corproject.com/events/westlake/>

Tickets will also be sold after all the Masses on September 17-18 and 24-25.

MADE FOR MORE
St. Bernadette Church, Westlake
Tuesday, September 28
7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

Liturgy Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 4:30 p.m. | **Sunday:** 8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., Noon

Weekday Mass: M, T, W, F, 7:45 a.m. | M, T, Th, F, 9:15 a.m.

Confessions: Saturdays 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. | **Eucharistic Adoration:** Friday 10:00 a.m. - Saturday 4:00 p.m.