

St. John Neumann - "Reflections on the Saint."

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In the early days of St. Peter the Apostle School, St. John Neumann was working miracles. One of the sisters teaching was thought not to be able to hear the children. Daily, she prayed to the then John Neumann, Redemptorist. Here is the account of his miracle. "Not only in life but after his death Bishop Neumann was a protector. As I visited his grave for the first time in tears and prayer, I commended my concerns to our departed friend and I have to bear witness to the truth that my pleas were often heard. This was a definite sign of his holiness. It was not only answered prayers that indicated his nearness to God, but also a great miracle which has had its effect for five years. The miracle is this; that our Sister Anselma (Kimm) who was almost deaf, could

perform her duties completely, teaching the small boys to the satisfaction of all. Her school room was in the basement of St. Peter's Church in the vicinity of the resting place of the sainted Bishop Neumann.

In obedience and in childlike trust the deaf teacher asked for his help daily and daily she received the grace to hear, to understand, and to be understood. There was quiet attentiveness among her little students who numbered 170."

Daily St. John Neumann encourages and protects the faith community of St. Peter the Apostle School. We are awed by his presence here and reflect daily on how he helps each of us reach the fullness of our potential.

- Sister Rose Federici, SSND, Principal of St. Peter the Apostle School

We Wish To Express Our Congratulations and Gratitude to **SISTER ANN LOUISE, SSND** For Her Golden Jubilee!

MORNING REFLECTION FOR RELIGIOUS SISTERS

First Saturdays of the Month

9:00 am - Sacrament of Reconciliation

10:00 am - Spiritual Conference

11:00 am - Eucharistic Celebration

11:45 am - Social

May 2, 2009, June 6, 2009

NOVENA MASSES TO COMMEMORATE THE

CANONIZATION OF ST. JOHN NEUMANN.

SUNDAY, MAY 31 - MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2009

Sunday, May 31st at 3:30pm, Monday through Saturday at 12:15,

Sunday, June 7 at 3:30pm and Monday, June 8 at 3:30pm


The Annual
PARISH CARNIVAL BAZAAR
will be
**SATURDAY, MAY 16th &
SUNDAY, MAY 17th**
in the school yard from 12 noon til 5pm.

We Now Have
"SAINT JOHN NEUMANN"



Thank You
Cards
available in
packs of 10
at the Gift
Shop for

\$4.95

The packs are shrink-wrapped in clear plastic for your convenience, and can be mailed to you.

Please contact the Shrine Office so that we can include shipping charges.



Do you or someone you know wish to inquire about a vocation to the religious life or the priesthood?

For information, please contact:
Rev. Richard Bennett, C.S.S.R.
22-04 Parsons Blvd.
Whitestone, NY 11357
Telephone: 718.321.1394

SPECIAL SHRINE SERVICES

NATIONAL SHRINE of St. JOHN NEUMANN

1019 N. Fifth Street • Philadelphia, PA 19123

(215) 627-3080 • Fax (215) 627-3296 • Email sjoffice@comcast.net

SHRINE.....	7:30 AM - 6 PM
GIFT SHOP.....	9 AM - 4 PM Daily 10 AM - 3:30 PM Sunday
MUSEUM AND EXHIBIT.....	8 AM - 5 PM Daily
<i>Pilgrimage Groups Welcome</i> <i>Call for Reservations or email to make arrangements.</i>	
MASSES	
SUNDAYS.....	7:30, 9:30, 11 AM (Spanish) 12:30, 3:30 PM
SATURDAY VIGIL MASS.....	5:00 PM
WEEKDAYS.....	7:30 AM, 12:15, and 5:30 PM
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT	
Monday - Saturday.....	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM
NOVENA SERVICES (With Mass and Blessing of the Sick)	
Weekdays.....	12:15 PM
Sunday.....	3:30 PM
FIRST SATURDAYS - MORNING OF REFLECTION	
For Women Religious.....	9:30 AM
Fatima Vigil.....	12:00 Noon - 3PM
CONFESSIONS	
Monday - Friday.....	12:00 Noon & 5:15 PM
Saturday.....	12:00 Noon & 4:30 - 5:00 PM

True Servant



NATIONAL SHRINE of St. JOHN NEUMANN

Summer 2009 • Volume 8 • Number 6

St. John Neumann - "Reflections on the Saint."

The following article was submitted by:

Sr. Rose Federici, SSND -

Principal of St. Peter The Apostle School

"There are many places in our lives that we consider "holy ground". One of these places is the Shrine of St. John Neumann on Girard Avenue in the city of Philadelphia. As one walks into the Shrine at St. Peter the Apostle Church, you can feel the presence of God and the saintly John Neumann, the 4th Bishop of Philadelphia. We are graced here with his remains.

The Shrine, or the lower church, tells the story of a humble unassuming man who was faithful to God, who worked ordinary miracles during his own life and extraordinary miracles in heaven. Countless people pray to St. John Neumann for help and healing. The stained glass windows in the lower church tell the story of an ordinary Redemptorist who changed the city of Philadelphia and the Catholic Church in America. John Neumann's faith inspired him to help encourage many religious orders of women, for example; the Franciscan Nuns of the Third Order, the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the School Sisters of Notre Dame, and the Sisters of Mercy.

Our humble saint gave us many treasures to bring us closer to his Lord and God. The mosaic of St. John Neumann depicts some of his many attributes. His faithfulness and reliance on the Lord can readily be seen in his initiating 40 Hours in the diocese of Philadelphia. Many parishes continue 40 Hours devotions to our Lord throughout the country. Today, what a wonderful symbol we have for praying for our own personal needs and the needs of our world through the Blessed Sacrament.

St. John Neumann started many churches in the diocese of Philadelphia. Most of these churches aided immigrants as they came to the new land of

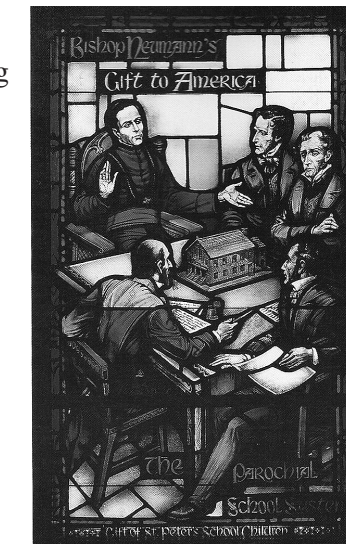
America. Their faith and their Churches helped adjust to the Americas. Many pilgrims come to our Shrine for healing.

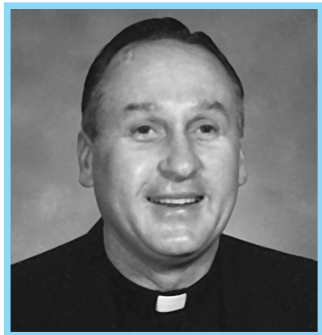
The stained glass window that is the most significant to me is in the front of the church where it depicts St. John Neumann founding the Catholic School System in America. Neumann believed that Catholic Schools taught religious education in order to preserve our faith. He loved children, he saw them as future leaders in the Catholic faith. Neumann believed that Catholic schools should be a separate

entity made up of a separate building along with wonderful equipment and competent teachers under the direction of the pastors and principals. The number of students in the schools in Philadelphia steadily increased. Neumann's contributions to the Catholic school system were organization on a diocesan level, proper and competent teachers, good textbooks and patience in dealing with the pupils. Catholic schools in Neumann's time taught the children of immigrant families especially in faith and virtue.

And now, over 162 years later, our own St. Peter the Apostle School continues the legacy of St. John Neumann. Located at 5th and Girard, St.

Peter the Apostle School continues to educate children to reach the fullness of their potential. Not only do we at St. Peter the Apostle School educate the children academically but also spiritually. We teach basic education but also encourage our children to participate in various service projects such as collecting blankets, hats and gloves for the poor of Sarnelli House, collecting money for those who are poor in El Salvador, preparing food baskets during the holidays for the poor of the neighborhood, and treats and cards for the older Redemptorists and the School Sisters of Notre Dame, and police and firefighters. Our children readily reflect on the signs of the times and try to meet the needs of our world in their own way.





Dear Friends of St. John Neumann,

Saint John Neumann never aspired to be a Bishop of the Church. When Archbishop Kenrick of Baltimore told him that he was being talked about as the great possibility and probability of being appointed the fourth Bishop of Philadelphia, St. John Neumann begged him to tell the Pope and the Vatican that he was a lousy administrator, and that he wanted to be just a holy missionary priest of the Redemptorist Order and nothing more. St. John Neumann didn't even like being the Provincial Superior of the Redemptorists, and was glad to be relieved of his duties as Provincial Superior.

When St. John Neumann took on the awesome responsibility of being the Fourth Bishop of Philadelphia, and the Bishop of so many immigrants coming from all over Europe, he knew that he had to be a good administrator for the well being of his people, and of church property.

In eight years he built 80 Catholic Churches and 35 Catholic Schools, and

staffed his schools with the School Sisters of Notre Dame, and later with other Religious Communities. He worked himself many times to exhaustion, but he did it all for his tremendous love of God, and the people of God, and especially the immigrants.

He wanted the people to be generous in the building of the churches and schools, but he also wanted them to save as much money as possible for the well being of the family and the people back home. He was one of the Founders of Beneficial Bank, which was a great help and service to the immigrants, in the savings of their hard earned money.

Beneficial Bank today, in their awareness of St. John Neumann's involvement in the founding of their bank, wants to help to establish an Endowment Fund for our School of St. Peter's and to help us seek funds for our Elevator and Welcoming Center. Beneficial Bank knows that this is impossible without

your wonderful support and love of the St. John Neumann Shrine, and the work that St. John Neumann did in building in building churches and schools for all the people, and especially the immigrants coming to Philadelphia.

We also know that we cannot do it without your generous help. The people of St. John Neumann's time were very generous with the little money they had, and you have been very generous. We ask that you continue to be generous. We asked in our last newsletter if people could make a commitment over five years of \$2,000, \$1,000 or \$500 dollars a year. We would be glad to get any commitment over five years. These are hard economic times for everyone. Any help will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your love of St. John Neumann and the Shrine.

*Love and prayers,
Fr. Kevin Moley, C.S.S.R.
Pastor and Director*

Our Saint and the Healing of People and Favors Received



A SAINT IN THE FAMILY

As a child, I remembered my mother telling me that a 'kinship' existed with her mother's family (the Schneiders) and St. John Neumann. Her mother thought it had something to do with her Uncle Will's wife, but wasn't sure. As the years passed, I often thought about how I might confirm this, but didn't have a clue as to how I would do so.

During my grade school years, I visited the shrine with my mother and remember standing awe-struck at the sight of the saint's body encased in the altar. We visited the shrine store and my mother gave a donation for a first class relic of Blessed John Neumann, together with the papers of authenticity.

In the early 70's, my husband worked as a technician servicing calculators. The shrine store was one of his customers. His contact person was Peggy Della Penna. When my husband got a service call from her, he would do the work for free as a gift to honor St. John Neumann. After a pilgrimage in 1977 to Rome for the canonization of St. John Neumann, Peggy gave him a first class relic of the saint in gratitude for his work.

In 2006, I began to research my family genealogy as a 65th birthday gift for my cousin Bob, who was in the end stages of pulmonary fibrosis. I began my search by calling the shrine office hoping for any scrap of information. I spoke with Mary, the office manager. When I told her what I was trying to do, her response was, "Gee, that's funny, I've always been told that I was related to the saint through my Uncle Frank Stoll." I promised her that I would get in touch with her if I found out any more information.

I obtained the death certificates for each of my ancestors and visited and photographed their graves. Uncle William and Aunt Martha's grave brought a new piece to the puzzle. From a flat marker on their triple grave, I found the name, "Mary" whose husband died in 2003, and this "Mary" was still alive.

With the help of God and the White Pages, I found this "Mary". She is the granddaughter of William and Martha Schneider. She gave me copies of documents and a family tree showing the lineage of the Neumann Family. It clearly shows that my Great aunt, Martha Schneider was the daughter of John P. Stoll and Anna Marie Neumann. It also yielded the fact, for Mary the office manager, that her uncle Frank Stoll and my great aunt Martha Schneider were brother and sister! She was overjoyed when I shared copies of these documents with her.

Over the last three years, I received five first class relics of the saint and I promised him I would do all in my power to make him known. I am making sure that other members of my mother's family each have a relic along with copies of the documents which prove our "kinship" so that they can share this knowledge with their families for generations to come.

It was after the death of my cousin, Bob, that I found the answers. But with God's help and that of St. John Neumann we now have proof of our relationship to the Saint. I hope that you can share this with your readers as witness the power of Philadelphia's great Saint.

- A letter of thanksgiving from Anita Cugini

If you have any stories or experiences in which you have felt the touch of God through the intercession of St. John Neumann, please let us know. This is a beautiful way of witnessing to your faith.

OUR "MIRACLE BABY"

Two years ago my great-grandson was born 3 months premature. He weighed only 2 pounds and we were told he might not make it because they had to operate on him the first day because his intestines were not connected, and he had to have a bag as well as three other operations before he would be 4 months old. He was in intensive care for seven months at this time.

I am originally from Philadelphia and visited the Shrine of St. John Neumann many times; but as I now live in Missouri I asked many friends to pray for him through the intercession of St. John Neumann. I have a

relic of St. John Neumann and put it on his crib and let it be known that it was to be placed wherever he was moved. He had to be fed through a tube for 20 months. My great St. John Neumann and Our Blessed Mother were with him at all times. He turned two in January and we see him as our "Miracle Baby". He is the joy of my life. I am 78 years old and baby-sit him and I thank God every day for him. His name is Aidan James and please keep him in your prayers.

Thank you,
- Anne Madison, St. Louis, Missouri

FORTY HOURS DEVOTION

- Solemn Opening at the 7:30 AM Mass Monday, May 18th, Exposition until 7 PM
- On Tuesday, May 19th, Exposition at the 7:30 AM Mass Until 7PM
- On Wednesday, May 20th, Exposition at the 7:30 PM Mass, Solemn closing at 7 PM

If You Are Moving, Please Let Us Know!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

New Address

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Please delete me from your mailing list.

Please return to:

**NATIONAL SHRINE
of ST. JOHN NEUMANN**
1019 North Fifth Street
Philadelphia, PA 19123-1403

*There Will Be a
Golf Outing to Benefit
THE NATIONAL SHRINE
of ST. JOHN NEUMANN*

on JULY 20, 2009 at

**The Torresdale Frankford
Country Club**

*To register for this event, please
contact Diane Sullivan at:*

(856) 751-0531

Anointing of the Sick
will take place on
SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2009
at 2 PM in the Lower Church

true
Servant
*A Quarterly Newsletter of The
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Spring Newsletter 2009

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