



SAINT CATHERINE CENTER FOR *Special Needs*

“This Little Light” Shines Bright at Memorial Mass

*See what great love the Father has lavished on
us, that we should be called children of God!
And that is what we are!*

1 John: 3

Almost 100 students, adult day center participants, staff, and women religious gathered on April 27th to celebrate a Memorial Mass for Jack Ulatowski, brother of Sr. Maureen, who teaches at the Academy.

Father Peter Cipriani from Our Lady of Assumption Church in Fairfield presided, engaging all the students in a lively, interactive homily using photos, graphics, and even a red balloon to highlight how God loves everyone.

Anna, Heriberto, Luke, Lindsay, Ronald, and Jennifer all had roles in the Mass and executed them perfectly. Of course, music and singing are integral parts of most celebrations at Saint Catherine—and when Jennifer led the group in singing “This Little Light of Mine” after Communion, the entire community came together.

“There are days after a long week that I’m tired, and the students tell me I’m grumpy,” said Ms. Helen to everyone at the reception following Mass. “Then we get together like this and I remember what it’s all about. I’m so proud of you.”



The Joy is Contagious!

Virginia Weir comes to us with a long history in nonprofit fundraising and communications, and has come on board to assist the team with those activities. Here are a few reflections from her first two weeks at Saint Catherine Center.

All of you who receive this newsletter know what a special place Saint Catherine Center is. It's a place of connection. After just 10 days on the job I already feel connected to the students and adults, and the patient, caring staff members who really live out the mission to "respect the dignity and diversity" of each of the 40 unique individuals who come to the Academy and Center every day.



Over these days I've thought about how those of us "without" disabilities are usually acting out some role. How unusual it is to be around people who aren't! Who, instead, are very present in the moment, because the moment is what they have. At the Memorial Mass (see above story), the weekly music session on Wednesday, and at the Spring Dinner Dance, I've witnessed moments of frustration, but many more of joy and connection.



The joy is contagious! I look forward to more.

Put On Your Dancing Shoes!

Spring was definitely in the air for our "Cinco de Mayo" dinner dance Friday, May 4, at St. Pius Church in Fairfield. Our guests came from all over the Diocese for the popular event, which offers adults with special needs a fun, free evening together "out on the town"—dinner, socializing, and dancing included.



"I get to be with my friends tonight and I love it," said Patrick, a participant in the Center's adult day program.

The lovely paper flower centerpieces, created by Saint Catherine Academy students, were enjoyed by all. Once again, we thank our gracious group of teen volunteers from St. Andrews in Bridgeport for being our servers, and our outstanding DJ, Herb Ramirez.



Hosted three times a year by the Center, the Dinner Dance attracts more than 100 guests and is a much-anticipated event. If you would like to volunteer or help underwrite costs, please contact us at 203-540-5381, or info@stcatherineacademy.org.



For more information about the upcoming dinner, visit:
www.501auctions.com/stcatherinecenterdinner

