

## Pastor's Notes

It is always encouraging to see men stop for a short time of prayer at the Sacred Heart Grotto as they go to or come from work each day. It is a blessing as our world needs more and more men acknowledging their need for the blessings of our Lord; who are aware that our hearts need to be conformed to His Sacred Heart. The heart of Jesus Christ is the source of enormous strength that overcomes the wickedness of the evil one and displays the power to love without any need of personal satisfaction. It is through the Sacred Heart that men, and all people, learn how to love unconditionally.



During Friday's opening school Mass the children, teachers and staff were dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The same will be true for our Religious Education CCD classes later in September. A picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus has been hung in every classroom of the Education Center as a reminder of how our hearts are to reflect the love Jesus gives us each day.

When "Plum" is heard on the television news or radio, friends immediately call, asking if "it's one of our parishioners." Such was the case when Kimberly Griffith and her daughters were killed in the Washington Blvd. flooding a few weeks ago. They may wait to check the paper and the obituaries before calling. "I thought it might be one of ours, but I saw they belonged to..." Trust me, it's done in compassion as they immediately include in prayer the names of those involved in whatever tragedy. No, Kimberly and her daughters Brenna and Mikaela were "not ours" as such.

But in a very real way they were.

First, they are part of our community and their deaths have caused great sadness and grief in the local community, especially to their many neighbors. Each of us struggles with various aspects of their deaths.

Second, we heard of how Kim was so generous with her time, ready to help anyone. She helped us. For the past three years she did what many of "our own" could not do. That is, as a friend to Mary Beth Held who has been chairing the Festival Bingo, Kim and her older daughter have worked the Bingo tent almost every night.

Yes, she was "one of ours."

And we'll miss her, not for how she has helped us at festival time, but for what she has shown us concerning our own living of the gospel and our living of faith. The teaching of Christ, "*To those who have, more will be given...*" is a reminder that the strength and willingness to do — live the gospel — is always accompanied by the grace and rejuvenation provided by the Spirit of God, allowing us to do that which we think we can't do (or in some cases, don't desire to do).

Finally, this is a reminder that all people "are ours." When we separate ourselves from others, for any reason where "us" and "them" are descriptive references, we draw a line of distinction between our interpretation of loving, and God's intention — involvement — in loving. "We" can only be used when "They" is not included. It is God's inclusiveness.

As we pray for the Griffith family, let us pray for a greater awareness of what it means to love, and what it really means to be loved in this life. Let us refashion our criteria and our goals for loving in this life, so that all we do leads to life in the kingdom intended by God.

It is then that in the face and struggle of life's many tragedies, we can see the other side of our pain — a joy for those who have carried and lived Jesus Christ in their lives.

When such tragedies occur, we so often hear that a death was a predetermination of God. "*God took her from us.*" **This is not our faith.** This is predestination which does not fit into our Catholic teaching or any Christian teaching. To say that God knows when we will die — whether it be by illness or fatality — is valid. But God didn't (and doesn't) create the disease that takes a person's life. Nor does he create anything that may malfunction and cause death. He is a creator, not a destroyer, a killer.

As a twenty-year-old I struggled with the death of a very close friend who died three weeks after learning of his body being filled with cancer. It was finals week in college and I almost flunked out, bombing every test. I sat at his grave every night that entire summer feeling sorry for myself and yelling at God. When there were no more tears and I realized my yelling was of no value, then I was aware of God granting me the peace he had given Rick long before. We were together embraced in the Father's love. For each of us today, the passage of time and the foundation of our faith will bring healing and joy.

Our faith calls us to a belief that God is present in every situation, in every occurrence of life. We would like for him to remove those things that cause such pain for the victim and for us. These, unfortunately are the results of man's free will being enacted, beginning with Adam and Eve who chose lives separated from God's love. They affect the good and the bad alike. The frailty of our humanness and the cumulative sinfulness of mankind, reaffirms the Church's teaching of our need to have God, at the moment of death, snatch those of faith from sin forever and return us to the perfection in which we were created.



Eternal rest grant to Kimberly, Brenna and Mikaela. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

And may God comfort us with assurances of faith.

Love and prayers,  
Fr. Tom

## ***A simple and convenient way to give***

This fall, consider signing up for electronic giving. St. John's relies on the financial support of the congregation and electronic giving offers an easy way to give on a recurring basis.

To give electronically, visit [www.stjohnthebaptistparish.net](http://www.stjohnthebaptistparish.net) and locate the link to the electronic giving page.

### **Mission Appeal—Second Collection Next Weekend**

Please welcome Fr. Clement Umoeno, from the Ikot Ekpene Diocese in Nigeria, next weekend. Father will be here to ask for help to empower disadvantaged children through the provisions of good education, food and shelter. Due to the political situation in Nigeria and the national economy, the children in Nigeria are suffering from rising poverty. Your donation will be used primarily to adopt more children to benefit from this empowerment and also provide accommodation for the Nuns who take care of them. Whatever you can give will surely make a difference in the lives of the children. *Thank you.*

## **SCHOOL'S OPEN**

### **PLEASE BE CAREFUL WHEN DRIVING IN THE PARKING LOT.**

School is in session — full time beginning Tuesday. Parents are again reminded that all children should be dropped off near the rectory where they do not need to cross traffic. Sometimes we forget that there is a driveway as part of the upper lot, and people come to Mass early. We're also reminded that little feet move faster than their thought process, especially when excited to meet up with friends in school where they can talk before class begins.



### **ALSO, PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS**

are reminded not to park in the large lot. The buses need free access into and out of the parking lot. Please use the designated drop-off location.

### **FINALLY, MORNING MASS ATTENDEES**

need to remember that they cannot park near the steps at the school. They must now park in the upper lot.



**Thanks for your help as we begin a new year!**

## ***Readings for the Week of September 4***

Sunday: Ez 33:7-9/Rom 13:8-10/Mt 18:15-20  
Monday: Col 1:24-2:3/Lk 6:6-11  
Tuesday: Col 2:6-15/Lk 6:12-19  
Wednesday: Col 3:1-11/Lk 6:20-26  
Thursday: Mi 5:1-4a/Mt 1:1-16,18-23  
Friday: I Tm 1:1-2,12-14/Lk 6:39-42  
Saturday: I Tm 1:15-17/Lk 6:43-49  
Next Sunday: Sir 27:30-28;9/Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35



## **Offertory Collections 2011**

August 28 Offertory	\$ 9,781
Weekly Goal	\$ 12,437
Year to Date Offertory	\$ 91,837
Fiscal Year Goal	\$646,724

### Parish Share 2011

459 Responses     \$107,677 Collected

### *Second Collection*

Capital Improvement, September 3/4  
Mission Appeal, September 10/11

## **7:00AM WEEKDAY MASS**

The 7:00AM weekday morning mass (Monday through Friday) resumes **MONDAY, SEPT. 12.**



## **SATURDAY MORNING EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**



*Eucharistic Adoration following the 9:00AM Saturday morning Mass will resume Sept. 10. Adoration continues until 11:30AM. Even with busy schedules, this affords us the opportunity of a short time with our*

*Lord in the greatest of his revelations, His sacramental reality.*

## **This Week**

### **Sunday, September 4, 2011**

7:00 p.m. Senior Youth Ministry, convent

### **Monday, September 5**

Labor Day—Office Closed

### **Tuesday, September 6**

9:00 a.m. First day Preschool for 3 yr. olds/Pre-K

### **Wednesday, September 7**

9:00 a.m. First Day Preschool for 4 yr. olds

7:00 p.m. Prayer Group, church

8:00 p.m. Preschool Parent Session, annex

### **Thursday, September 8**

8:15 a.m. Intersection Delivery

3:00 p.m. School Cantors, music room

3:30 p.m. Junior Choir, music room

6:30 p.m. Cantors, music room

7:00 p.m. Choir, music room

7:00 p.m. RCIA Inquiry, rectory

### **Friday, September 9**

7:30 p.m. Den meeting, cafeteria

### **Saturday, September 10**

7:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship, annex

### **Sunday, September 11**

10:15 a.m. Baptism Prep, rectory

6:00 p.m. Den meeting, cafeteria

7:00 p.m. Ecumenical Prayer Service, church

## BAPTISM PREP FOR EXPECTANT PARENTS

*Our next session is next Sunday, September 11th  
10:15 a.m. in the rectory living room  
Please call 412-795-6376 to register*

*Please call the Rectory 412-793-4511 to schedule the Baptism*



Couples should contact Mrs. Tarr in the Religious Education Office as soon as they learn of the pregnancy. Preparing for the child's spiritual needs is as important as anything else. Do it right for your child's sake.

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Don't let Wall street, an earthquake, bad roadways, politicians or any of the misfortune we have been experiencing get you down. There is a reliable source to get us through all this craziness—God's Word!



Join us on Saturday morning at 7:30 a.m. for scripture reading, discussion and fellowship. Discover how scripture guides us through life.

## St. John the Baptist Youth Ministry Needs You!

**We are looking for dedicated, vibrant and faithful**

**Catholic adults** to serve as members of the youth ministry team. Regardless of your level of experience or availability, we can find a place for you. If you are interested in finding out more information, please call Joann 412-793-1617 ext 281.



## St. Paul of the Cross Men and Women Retreats

### St. John's Men Retreat

**September 30th through October 2nd**

**Reservation Forms can be found at all  
entrances of the church and at the rectory  
or email [stpaulrcpa@cpprov.org](mailto:stpaulrcpa@cpprov.org)**

**Contact Jon Parrotta  
412-519-2058 for more information**

### St. John's Women's Retreat October 7th through October 9th

**Reservation forms can be found at all  
entrances of the church and at the rectory  
or email [stpaulrcpa@cpprov.org](mailto:stpaulrcpa@cpprov.org)**

**Contact Lisa Noca, 412-826-8888 or  
Linda Scott, 412-327-5151  
for more information**



## ALL ADULTS INVOLVED IN PARISH ACTIVITIES

**are required to meet the standards of the  
Diocese of Pittsburgh  
for creating a safe environment.**

**Those desiring ministry involvement where  
children may be present must contact Bonny  
Welch at the Rectory Parish Office.**

## PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN WORKSHOPS

**St. Bernadette Parish, Monroeville  
Saturday, September 10th at 10:00 a.m.**

Location: Biedenbach Hall

Contact: Marlene V. Kopper at 412-373-1797

## St. John the Baptist

**Monday, September 26th at 7:00 p.m.**

Location: Annex

Contact: Bonny Welch 412-793-4511 or  
[bonnywelch@comcast.net](mailto:bonnywelch@comcast.net)

## VOCATION COMMITTEE MEETING

**Tuesday, September 13th—7:00 p.m. in the annex.**

*The Vocation Committee's mission is to  
promote vocations to the priesthood and religious  
life and to help the parish become aware of how  
important it is to pray for and support vocations.  
Every parish in the Diocese is encouraged to  
sponsor a Vocation Committee.*



*Members are needed to help the committee  
accomplish this mission, please join us on Tuesday. All  
suggestions and new ideas are welcome. Please join us.*

## Children's Liturgy of the Word



The Children's Liturgy of the Word team is looking for new and additional members as: Leaders, Readers, Singers, and Proclaimers, to continue on the tradition of this celebration for the "little ones" of our parish.

It takes a number of people of all ages and we need your help. The commitment is only once a month or less depending on the number of volunteers. Teens and young adults (age 12 and above) are needed for readers and singers. Please consider helping in this worth while ministry. Please call Mrs. Tarr at 412-795-6376. Our children need to hear and understand the message that God is sending to them.

*Are you an angel? Are you a baker? If so, the Ladies of Charity might be the place for you. We send Birthday cards to the shut-ins, we host the annual Christmas Angel (giving) tree and we are currently planning our Christmas Cookie Sale. We meet the fourth Thursday of each month at 10:00 a.m. in the annex. Please join us. Call Michele Dongweck, President at 412-795-5125 for more information.*

## YOUTH MINISTRY

- Senior High Kick -off --- Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 4th. All teens entering 9th-12th grade are invited for a night of fun. Please think about your likes, dislikes, thoughts, dreams, doubts, fears, gifts, questions, loves and bring pictures from home that symbolize all of these feelings.



- World Youth Day Cruise- It's time again to cruise Pittsburgh's three rivers. Enjoy an evening of prayer, dinner, music, socializing and lots of fun on the Gateway Clipper. All high school teens are invited to join us for this event on Sunday, November 13, 2011. The cost is \$35 which includes transportation. Money and permission slips are due NO Later than September 13th.



- St. John the Baptist Youth Ministry needs you!!! **We are looking for dedicated, vibrant and faithful Catholic adults** to serve as members of the youth ministry team. Regardless of your level of experience or availability, we can find a place for you. If you are interested in finding out more information please call Joann 412-793-1617 ext 281.

Find us on Facebook! Search for "SaintJohn Youth-Ministry" and join our group to make new friends, get involved, and stay up to date on the latest news in Youth Ministry.

## St. John's Preschool

**Tuesday, September 6**  
First Day for Pre-K and 3 year olds

**Wednesday, September 7**  
First Day for 4 year olds

**Parent Session**  
**Wednesday, September 7**  
8:00 p.m. in the annex



Please call Mrs. Anna Mae Newmaster  
to register at 412-793-5130.

**Religious Education—CCD News**  
**CCD Sessions Begin**—Monday, September 19th  
at 5:00 PM for students in grades 1 through 7th  
and 6:30 PM 8th grade students only

**and Tuesday, September 20th**  
at 4:30 PM for grades 1 through 7th  
and 6:30 PM for students in grades 1 through 8th.



**YOUR HELP IS NEEDED**  
**One 4th grade teacher for Monday**  
**afternoon and One 5th grade teacher for**  
**Tuesday evening is needed.**  
please call the Religious Ed Office  
412-795-6376

## SCHOOL NEWS



### **Monday, September 5**

—Labor Day—No Classes

### **Tuesday, September 6**

—Mass with grades 5-8 at 9:00 a.m.

### **Wednesday, September 7**

—Mass with grades 1-4 at 9:00 a.m.

—Magazine kick-off

### **Thursday, September 8**

—School Cantors, music room

### **Welcome, Mr. Mark Murphy**

St. John the Baptist School welcomes Mr. Murphy as its new eighth grade teacher. Mr. Murphy attended St. Bartholomew grade school and graduated from Penn Hills High School in 1994. He earned his Bachelor's Degree at Washington and Jefferson College and then his Master's Degree at Robert Morris University. Prior to returning to college to obtain his teaching certification in 2009, Mr. Murphy worked at West Virginia University on the men's basketball coaching staff. This past year Mr. Murphy was a permanent substitute teacher in the South Allegheny School District as well as the head coach of the boys basketball team. Mr. Murphy lives in Oakmont and was married on September 3, 2011.



*We are excited that Mr. Murphy is part of our SJBS faculty. Mr. Murphy is a certified Math teacher and is teaching 7th and 8th Grade Math and Social Studies*  
**Welcome Aboard, Mr. Murphy!**

### **LUCKY LOTTERY WINNERS**

from August 15th through August 28th

Melvin Sabulsky, Jr. #118, James Trangle #405, Cathy Carter #623, John Russick #837, Jane Siatkosky #013, Cathy Carter #623, Unsold #006, Unsold #102, Elaine Boris #114, Tracy Sanders #054, Unsold #754, Lance Mischen #716, Unsold #711, Jeanine or Shannon Kahne #570.

*In our remembering and our forgetting,  
O God, help us to keep green the  
memory of teachers who have shaped our being:  
those who were bold to discipline our rebellion,  
those perceptive enough to find talents  
beneath our fears, and those who loved the  
slow-growing mind. Help our teachers bear  
our many failures for the reward of one eager mind Amen.*



**Mass Intentions**

**SUNDAY - Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (09/04)**

5:00 p.m. Tom Connors (Wife and Children)  
7:30 a.m. John Joseph Stewart (Wife, Ann)  
9:00 a.m. Living and Deceased of the Parish  
11:00 a.m. Dorothy and Irwin Stoecklein (Family)

**MONDAY - Labor Day (0905)**

9:00 a.m. Hank Cacciamoni (Wife, Cindy)

**TUESDAY - Weekday (09/06)**

9:00 a.m. Robert S. Ashley, Sr. (Family)

**WEDNESDAY - Weekday (09/07)**

9:00 a.m. Deceased of the Gratz Family (Ron and Judy)  
9:30 a.m. *Mother of Perpetual Help Novena*

**THURSDAY - The Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary (09/08)**

9:00 a.m. John, Jennie and Joseph Bosso  
(Balenciaga Family)

**FRIDAY - Saint Peter Claver (09/09)**

9:00 a.m. Alice Rosso (Christine and Cynthia Paull)

**SATURDAY - Weekday (09/10)**

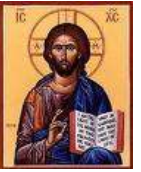
9:00 a.m. Jack Myers, Jr. (Mom, Joann Krupper)  
9:30 a.m. *Eucharistic Adoration until 11:30 a.m.*  
5:00 p.m. (*Vigil*) Thomas McBride (Madelyn Schaffer)

**SUNDAY - Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time(09/11)**

7:30 a.m. Edward Habjan (Family)  
9:00 a.m. Todd R. Purvis (Margaret M. Purvis, Mother)  
11:00 a.m. Living and Deceased of the Parish

**We Have the Light On for You**

This Thursday evening, September 8 at 7:00 in the rectory meeting room we are beginning our weekly inquiry sessions for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Inquiry is a time to ask questions and to understand the basics of the Catholic faith so you can make an informed decision concerning your continuance in the RCIA process. Attending Inquiry does not require a commitment on your part. Who should attend RCIA Inquiry?



- Those who are not baptized and have questions about Jesus Christ.
- Those who are baptized in a non Catholic tradition who have questions about the Catholic Church.
- Those who are baptized Catholic but have not received the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and/or Confirmation.

There are no questions which are off the table and the environment is open and welcoming. If you would like more information about RCIA, please contact Ronald Donatelli at 412-793-1617 ext. 260 or by email at [Rondon216@aol.com](mailto:Rondon216@aol.com). Please join us this Thursday evening!

The 7:00 a.m. daily Mass will resume on Monday, September 12th, 2011

**Parish Mission Statement**

Saint John the Baptist Parish is located in Plum Borough, Pennsylvania and is part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh.

As a faith community, we strive to imitate our patron Saint John the Baptist who led others to Christ. We are committed to keeping our faith alive and growing through prayer, sacraments, faith formation and service. Through evangelization and stewardship we encourage full and active participation of all members.

We hope to reflect the life and love of Christ by strengthening the faith of our parishioners while reaching out to all God's people.

***Saint John the Baptist, pray for us!***

**Pray for Seminarians**

**Benjamin E. Barr**

*First year Pre-Theology at Saint Paul Seminary  
2900 Noblestown Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15205*

**Michael R. Ackerman**

*Second year Theology at Theological College  
401 Michigan Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20017*

***The Seminarians like hearing from our parishioners and are grateful for all encouragement and prayers***

**VOCATION CROSS**



Please join Gloria Wachter in prayer this week as she displays the Vocation Cross in her home to pray for Religious Vocations.

Questions regarding our parish vocation cross may be directed to Suzy Adamonis at 412-793-6110.

**Prayer for Vocations**

Compassionate Heart of Jesus, graciously listen to our prayers. Give this world generous hearts who will respond to your call of a religious vocation.

Lift up courageous men and women willing to follow after your heart as priests, sisters, brothers and deacons.

Help parents, grandparents and all Catholics to share the faith and to encourage young people to explore religious vocations.

Guide all people, Lord, in your ways of compassion, truth, and peace, that we may find happiness in fulfilling our vocation. Amen.

**PARISH SOCIAL MINISTRY (PSM)**

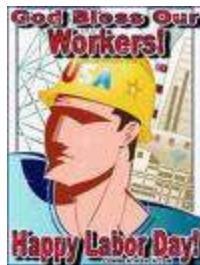


**Labor Day: Catholic Reflections**

*God our Creator, we are the work of your hands. Guide us in our work that our efforts may bring you honor. Make us alert to injustice, ready to stand for justice that there will be dignity for all. Almighty God, source of all life and creativity, you have given each person unique abilities which can contribute to the common good. Tomorrow, honoring labor, guide each of us to work in your own Spirit for the fulfillment of community and justice. God of history, you created humankind in your own image to be fruitful and carry on the work of your hands. Help us each day that we labor to bring your Spirit in all that we do. May your own justice spread throughout the World. Amen.*

*--- Adapted from a prayer developed by the Cincinnati Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice*

- Work is often defined by long hours, drudgery, hardship and physical and/or mental toil. Work is a primary cornerstone in our lives and most of us spend a significant portion of our lives “at work.”
- Work becomes a livelihood that offers us many benefits. It allows us to put food on the table, provide for ourselves and our dependents, to attain healthcare and enrich our lives in a variety of other ways. Additionally work offers us the chance to create things, accomplish tasks and renew society.
- Pope John Paul II said in *Laborem Exercens* that work allows us human beings to “become co-creators with God” in the work of Christ and his redemption of humankind.
- Ultimately work is not just toil and sweat. Work is not just accomplishment. With the eyes of faith, work becomes an opportunity to reveal God’s blessings and workers can become agents of God’s grace.



**Ensure Inclusion, Freedom and Respect for All**

For most Catholics the community of believers is embodied in the local parish. The parish is the door to participation for individuals and it is the responsibility of the pastor and lay leaders to make sure that this door is always open. We noted above that the task, on occasion, may not be an easy one; involving some people in parish life may challenge the ingenuity and commitment of the congregation. Yet in order to be loyal to its calling, to be truly pastoral, the parish must make sure that it does not exclude any Catholic who wishes to take part in its activities. (18) ----- *Pastoral Statement of U.S. Catholic Bishops on People with Disabilities, November 16, 1978*

***Welcome to St. John’s***

*We are pleased to welcome the following new members to St. John’s:*

*Joseph Miller  
Andy, Megan, Andrew, Jr., and Gabriella Buttari  
Robert, Arlene, Catherine, Michael, Noah and  
Therese Schollaert*

***Weddings***

*I David Grasinger and Katelyn Stallard*

***Praying for the Sick***

*Please pray for our parishioners who are in the hospital or at home and requesting our prayers: William Duffy, Rachel Faas, Raymond Milleman, Matthew Smith, Sally Ann Dominkush, Betty Telles, John Truxal, Hayward Markham, Matt Drop, Maxine Drop, Joan Yushinski, Suzanne Skillen, Carolyn Szydowski, Pat Guerriero, Betty Lawson, Ruth Gorczynski, Jennie Molcsan, Madeline Ferragonio, Dominic Mollica, Sister Janet Barnicle, Delores L. Serre, Rosemary Koontz, Lucille Perhac, Ralph Genella, Sr., Martha Jo Faircloth, Tillie Holiday Allsopp, Mary Thompson, Jim Abel, Lucille Brose, Dawn Kelly, Jean Guerriero, Anna Urick, Marian Brownhill, David Marshall, Thomas Kuntz, Chris Russo, Bertha Subic, William Bradley, Mabel Dancu, Don Kitchener, Ruth Sarich, Paula Titus, Nick Roman, Betty Beckett, Amy Carmichael, Dorothy Kokal, Jean Duffy, Jane Truxal, Mabel Barlich, Christina Rosignoli, Joseph Telles, Eva Ignelzi, Dave Thomas.*

***Sanctuary Candle***

*The Sanctuary Candle burns this week in honor of the Blessed Sacrament and in loving memory of Joseph and Dolores Aschenbrenner requested by Children*

***The Rosary Society is in need of a Secretary Treasurer for the upcoming year.***

***Please contact Jackie Colbert at 412-798-9783 if you are interested in this ministry.***



***You may be interested:***

**St. Januarius Annual Roast Pork Dinner** on Sunday, September 18th from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Cost: Adults \$9.00 and Children 12 and under \$4.00. There will be a Chinese Auction, Bingo, Bake Sale and 50/50. Take out is available, call 412-793-9788. For more information, please call 412-793-4439.

**Travel with Mt. St. Peter Parish & Monsignor Michael Begolly** on a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land on April 11, 2012. A presentation of the trip will be held at MSP Parish Marble Hall at 7:00 PM on Sept. 14. For more information contact Dolly at 412-720-7120.