

Mustard Seed

NEWSLETTER OF CHRIST THE KING PARISH

SUMMER 2014

As Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them in loving justice with others and return them with increase to the Lord. — Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

Lumen Gentium

It's very special to have "one of your own" recognized by a broader audience. Tom Kendzia, the music director at Christ the King, was recently honored by The Diocese of Providence with a Lumen Gentium Award. This award is given to those who perform works of service in their daily lives. At the May 14th event to recognize fifteen individuals or groups, Bishop Tobin said, "We gather tonight to honor individuals and groups who have made very notable contributions to the life of the church and wider community."

Tom has certainly made significant contributions to Christ the King and to parishes in numerous states and internationally. Tom has been at CTK for 29 years. He is a liturgical musician, a composer, performer and author. He is frequently invited to parishes, conferences and events throughout the United States, Canada, Europe and the Far East. Over the past six years, he has been invited to be the guest conductor, a featured performer and a teacher at the Irish Church Music Association Summer School.

He is a frequent consultant to major curriculum publishers such as Harcourt Religious, Our Sunday Visitor, RCI-Benziger, and Oregon Catholic Press.

Tom has written more than 100 music pieces and recorded more than 30 pieces of liturgical and instrumental music. One of those albums, "The Eyes and Hands of Christ," which includes *Lead Us to the Water* and *Clothed in Love* won the 2004 Unity Award for both album and song of the year. He also won the 2007 Unity Award for the song *Endless is Your Love*. His newest recording of original compositions is "Like A River." Tom has recorded with other well-known artists such as Vallimar Jansen and Christian artist Kathy Troccoli.

Each year, in celebration of the feast of Christ the King, Tom, the Christ the King choir and special guests entertain and inspire

"You are the light of the world."

— Matthew 5:14



Tom Kendzia

us with a concert of liturgical music. The proceeds from that annual concert support the ministry of the Assumption Parish to provide food to the needy of their parish and the South Providence community.

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Lumen Gentium

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Tom did not plan to be a liturgical musician. In fact, during his college years, he performed in a rock band and thought his musical career would build on that experience. Growing up in Westerly, he had played the organ at church but he didn't feel that he would be called to do that for a lifetime career. But needing to make a living upon college graduation in 1977, he took a job as organist for a church in Stamford, Connecticut. He began writing music. Those early songs included *I the Lord, Pi-eta*, and *The Path of Your Return*. A few years later, he moved to Phoenix, Arizona, to work for his publisher. During that time, he married Mary Carol whom he had met in college. Their daughter, Carolyn, was born in 1984. He recorded three albums while in Arizona between 1980 and 1986.

While in Arizona, Randy Chew, the URI Catholic Chaplin, invited Tom to do a concert at URI. Tom was happy to return to Rhode Island. Tom's parents were still living in Westerly and they were not well. Tom felt he needed to be closer to them. Christ the King was looking for a music director at the time. Tom

applied and was offered the position, and his wife also found a position locally so they returned to Rhode Island. Their son, Glenn, was born a few years later. Glenn also is a musician, and he has played the drums in some recent concerts at CTK.

Tom refers to his work at CTK as a "gift." He has had tremendous support from both pastors he has worked for. They have supported his creative talents. He has been allowed to travel extensively. His work as music director gives a focus to his song writing. He says it would be very hard to write music without the resources of the parish. He often tries out new songs on the parishioners at CTK and will modify the music as a result of that try-out. He says his music balances inspiration with function. A song must have a strong liturgical element but it must also be able to be sung by a group. Tom is presently working on a Christmas album, which will be out this fall.

While the Diocese of Providence recently recognized Tom Kendzia with the Lumen Gentium Award, we at Christ the King have known for many years that we have been graced with outstanding musical accompaniment to our celebration of the Mass. We join with the Diocese in thanking Tom for his tireless contribution to the life of our parish.

— Lee DeLucia

Isaiah: Prophet for All Times

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." (40:3)

They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. (2:4)

But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. (53:5)

These familiar Scripture passages – verses that we hear read at Mass throughout the year – all come from the Old Testament book of the prophet Isaiah. And if you came to one of the workshops offered this past year by Fr. Jared on the Book of Isaiah, by now you would be quite a bit more familiar with this esteemed book of the Bible.

The classes were held on Wednesday afternoons at 1 p.m., and then again in the evening, at 7 p.m. Though they have now ended for the summer, the classes will resume in the fall.

Those who took part in the Wednesday sessions were enthusiastic about what they learned, with the general consensus being "I never knew that!" Betty Ann Zwick, who attended most of the Wednesday afternoon classes, commented that Fr. Jared really brought out the essence of Isaiah; he brought Isaiah to life. In a word, Betty Ann described the presentations

by Fr. Jared as "charismatic!"

Fr. Jared began holding Scripture study when he was pastor of St. Elizabeth's Parish in Bristol, prior to his arrival at Christ the King. He chose the Book of Isaiah for his first course at Christ the King because, as he notes, it is widely quoted in the New Testament, especially in the Gospels. And because of the relevance of Isaiah to the Hebrews, it would have been a central part of Jesus's religious training.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus begins his public ministry by going to the Temple, where "the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.'" (Lk 4:17-19).

The central teaching of Isaiah is the hope that God's promise will be fulfilled; for Christians, this fulfillment comes with the birth of Jesus, the Messiah. Several themes of Isaiah's prophecies can be said to have formed the basis of Jesus's ministry, for example, social justice, where care for widows and children, and concern for the poor are paramount: "Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead

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The Garden Crew: 'A Time to Plant'

For those not in the know, it might seem as if a crew of garden elves magically arrive, regularly, at the grounds of Christ the King parish. Daffodils appear. Shrubs are trimmed. Flower beds are stripped of dead, dry leaves. Large, crowded, overgrown trees are replaced with beautiful, more appropriate specimens. If you think this magic is wrought by a crew, you are correct. But even though their work has magical results, elves are not responsible. The crew we can all thank for beautifying the environment around Christ the King is the Garden Crew, which is under the direction of Betty Pechulis.



In a roundabout way, Father Joe Creedon was responsible for the creation of the Garden Crew. During the summer of 2013, Betty, who is a Master Gardener, and her husband, Ignatius, were on the way to Mass and passed by the garden dedicated to Father Joe, which, they noticed, was a bit overgrown. Father Jared, when asked by Betty about the possibility of creating the Garden Crew, got right on board.

And so Betty went to work contacting Master Gardener friends to begin the endeavor. This initial group consisted of approximately eight folks, not all Master Gardeners, who, in addition to sprucing up the garden dedicated to Father Joe, took a walk around the property and compiled a "To Do" list. Meeting on Friday mornings, this original, small group began to chip away at this list.

But the group did not remain small. In September, Stewardship Weekend resulted in an explosion of involvement as about twenty new people expressed interest in joining the crew. Cur-

rently, more than thirty people are involved, and this increase came at a perfect time since the parish's insurance company, in their annual review, expressed concerns about several places where trees and shrubs were encroaching on structures. Father Jared called upon the Buildings and Grounds Team and the Garden Crew to come up with a plan to attack the problem, and come up with a plan they did. Trees and shrubs were marked for removal; those that were small enough to be removed by members of the Building and Grounds Team were cut down while larger ones were removed by professionals.

That was just the beginning of the transformation. Roots needed to be removed, and replacement plants needed to go in. Earth Day provided a perfect opportunity for the parish to come together to make progress on that original "To Do" list.

The beautiful results of all of this effort are now evident. This spring, daffodils put on a showy display in the front of the church. The back planter is now a sight to behold with its lovely holly and other plantings. Two new magnolia trees are in place on either side of the front door of the church, and a new birch tree has been planted at the south side. The always beautiful grounds of Christ the King have become even more so due, in large part, to the tremendous expertise and efforts of the Garden Crew.

However, work is not done! Exciting possibilities await anyone interested in joining the members of the Garden Crew who usually work their magic on the grounds every other Friday morning. For example, in the future, as drainage problems are addressed, the potential might exist to transplant existing plants from their current locations to the courtyard, resulting in a transformation of that already special spot. Also, there are tentative plans to replace the current Christ the King sign located on Old North Road with a double-faced sign that will be visible to drivers from both directions. Once the new sign is installed, the garden at the base of the sign will be reworked.

Obviously, creating and maintaining the gardens at Christ the King is a huge undertaking, and the Garden Crew can always use more help. All that is needed is a willingness to work on planning, planting, caring for and maintaining the flower beds, trees, plants, shrubs and other greenery that make the grounds of Christ the King so beautiful.

If you are interested in joining the Garden Crew, contact Betty Pechulis at 295-7537 or ignatius_betty@msn.com. If past efforts of the Garden Crew are any indication, your contributions will have beautiful results, without a doubt!

— Mary Barszcz

Isaiah:

for the widow.” (Is 1:7).

Isaiah also places great emphasis on peace and cooperation between nations: “The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fating together, and a little child shall lead them,” (Is11:6) and “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’” (Is 52:7)

“The message Isaiah preached to the people of Judah and Jerusalem is the same message the world needs to hear in 2014,” said Fr. Jared. “If you changed the names of people and places, this could pass for something that was written for the church and the world today.”

So this coming fall, watch the parish website or church bulletin for information on when the next session of Fr. Jared’s classes on Isaiah will take place. Clear your calendar to attend; it will be time well spent indeed.

— Mary Carol Kendzia

Staying South Kingstown Strong

Ever thought about running a marathon? Sure, maybe for about 10 seconds then you came to your senses. The months of strenuous training – early mornings, late evenings, frigid temperatures...Then there are the blisters, the sore joints, the sore everything! Oh, and let’s not forget the mental challenge that must mess with the minds of even the most seasoned athletes. There is so much more still.

If this task isn’t difficult enough, imagine you have dealt with stage 3 cancer, months of grueling chemotherapy, radiation and surgery. Or, imagine you are still dealing with cancer today – yes, signing up for the Boston Marathon when you have gone down an even more challenging, arduous road, and continue to do so.

Parishioners Tim and Kirsten O’Neill don’t have to imagine it. They completed the Boston Marathon just a few weeks ago, and they have certainly been on a more challenging course.

They are quite a couple. They’re lively and funny especially answering the “How did you meet” question. Guess if you’re a young guy and your name is Tim O’Neill you really must go to Newport with your buddies on St. Patrick’s Day. And, if you’ve got the luck of the Irish you meet an even younger girl named



Kirsten and Tim O’Neill

Kirsten at none other than the Boom Boom Room. They each have their own way of describing the way things went on that fateful day more than 18 years ago. Tim admits he was a bit more eager to move forward and Kirsten was not in such a hurry. She explained she was just 22 and he was several years older!

They did become quite serious over time and married in 2002 here at Christ the King. Kirsten was raised Baptist but agreed to get married in the Catholic church. Fr. Joe Creedon helped smooth the way for Kirsten to feel comfortable and understand the ceremony.

Sadly, the following year, in 2003 Tim’s parents both passed away just months apart. Again Fr. Creedon was there. As Tim said, they were spending a lot of time in church. They expressed a great

deal of gratitude for Fr. Creedon being ever present during both the happy and the heartbreaking occasions.

Kirsten decided to take part in the RCIA process and become a full-fledged Catholic. On the day she was to attend her first RCIA meeting in 2006 she felt sick and saw a doctor instead. One test led to another. She was diagnosed with stage 3 rectal cancer, which had spread to her lymph nodes. Just months

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Boston Marathon 2014

Time is such a precious commodity, and in all honesty I am not one who wishes time away. However, it was nice to see the calendar showing the year 2014. Last year was an extremely heart-wrenching year as my family experienced the deaths of my father, mother and father-in-law. And as most of you are aware, we experienced the Boston Marathon bombings. Seeing 2014 on the calendar brought closure to such a tough year, and it signaled the official beginning of Boston Marathon training.



Frank Pazienna

I was one of many who did not get a chance to finish the 2013 Boston Marathon as the race was stopped due to the bombings on Boylston Street. The Boston Athletic Association sent out special invitations for the 2014 race to runners who had not crossed the finish line. It was a foregone conclusion in my household that if given the chance to run Boston again, I would accept immediately. So the journey began again!

But it was different this time. The BAA constantly sent out notifications that there would be many changes in pre-race and race protocol. Both runners and spectators were affected as there was a police/ military presence everywhere you looked, and there were restrictions as to what you could wear and what you could bring

to the race. On the Friday of race weekend, I took the Amtrak train from Kingston to Boston so that I could pick up my race packet. On the train, there were two bomb sniffing German shepherds and multiple police and military security personnel. Was I really going to a marathon event or was it something different?

It was different this time! It was also the same! It was Boston Strong, and people were not going to let the actions of two brothers prevent them from enjoying a world-renowned event that had been run 117 times previously. There were a lot of people who wanted to experience Boston 2014, be it in person or from afar. I would like to share a few of my experiences that truly made this race special.

On the Friday of race weekend, after picking up my race number, I noticed some people wearing scarves. They caught my eye because of their design and color (blue and yellow marathon colors). I finally asked someone where I could get one and they pointed me in the direction of the Old South Church in Copley Square. Once there, I encountered a church member who had many scarves wrapped around her neck. I questioned her about cost and availability and she told me to pick one I liked. They were being given free to runners, race volunteers and first responders. She went on to tell me this was the "Marathon Scarf Project 2014 – Year of Remembrance and Hope." What started out as a simple request for blue and yellow scarves went viral and ended up producing more than 7,000 scarves that came from all 50 states and beyond. My scarf had a personalized note from Dina in Nashua, New Hampshire. It read, "This

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SK Strong

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after this devastating news, Tim was diagnosed with a blood cancer. It was a challenge for Kirsten to endure such pain, difficult surgery, harsh chemotherapy treatment after treatment and digest this news about her husband.

Today she is free of cancer. It has left its mark in different ways though you would never know it.

Tim has chronic lymphocytic leukemia. By 2012, he had lymph nodes that were growing rapidly, he was barely able to walk and was experiencing extreme fatigue. One lymph node in his abdomen grew to the size a football. Chemotherapy and a drug regimen failed.

He began taking a new drug as part of a trial. It's working, along with other drugs to help his immune system. He receives care at Boston's Dana Farber Cancer Institute. Because of this drug he is able to do work, run and live life. The drug at some point will probably lose its effectiveness. As Tim says, it's buying time for other drugs to be developed. He is aware of one that is in the works. It could very well be the next one to try when necessary. A bone marrow transplant is also something the future could hold for him.

If you think meeting Tim and Kirsten would be a "feel sorry for us" kind of session, you would be completely mistaken. They are a breath of fresh air, they're very candid about everything and they are an inspiration for us all. To top it all off, they and a friend raised more than \$82,000 for Dana Farber as part of Dana-Farber Marathon Challenge Team.

— Diane Mihailides



Marathon 2014

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scarf is interwoven with love and courage. Stamina, strength, and courage....Stay Strong!”

On race day, it was more of the same. Security everywhere. Immediately upon exiting the bus in the Athletes Village, I was searched by security before being allowed to enter the pre-race holding area. But in all honesty, there was no worry and no fear. The runners were excited and ready to go. The excitement level began to rise as we walked to the starting line. The spectators applauded us and encouraged us! There were so many signs, some personalized and some generic. They were mostly blue and yellow, and the majority read “Boston Strong.” This was just a small taste of what was to come. Normally in marathons, there are periods on the course where it is quiet and the sidewalks are bare. Not this race. Not Boston 2014. There were people along the entire 26.2-mile course, and they were crazy loud. There were times when I questioned if I could finish and without a doubt the crowd’s enthusiasm and unending encouragement were paramount to my finishing the race.

Finally, the last mile was truly special. Last year I was on Hereford Street when the first bomb was detonated. It was

pretty emotional when I passed that spot this year as I relived the sounds and ground shaking of the bombs. Again, the spirited crowd woke me up and I made the turn onto Boylston Street. This year, there was no smoke and I could see the finish line as clear as day. I knew my wife, Lynne, and son, Matt, were waiting for me at the finish line. I stopped just before crossing the finish line and I looked into the stands to find them. They were screaming at the top of their lungs but to no avail as I could not hear them because the crowd noise was deafening. I crossed the finish line exhausted and dehydrated and I looked to my right and saw them. One year later, I had the thrill of crossing the finish line and celebrating with my family and thanking them for all the sacrifices that they had made allowing me to pursue a childhood dream.

It was a great day and something that I will cherish forever. I ran for my mom and both my dads. I ran for my family and friends knowing that their well wishes and prayers would keep me safe. I ran for the people who could not run knowing this race meant so much to them. It still amazes me that there are people who think evil is the norm. They will never succeed as there are too many good people in this world, people who are willing to give more than they receive. It really was different and it really was the same. Boston Strong lives on. We will stay strong!

— Frank Pazienna

Music Ministry Enriches Their Lives

Ed and Suzi Marchetti have been members of Christ the King Church since their marriage here in 1965. Ed is a graduate of URI with a degree in Industrial Management. He also was a Distinguished Military Graduate and upon graduation was commissioned a second lieutenant, Infantry. Suzi studied Physical Therapy there for two years, in a specially designed course. At that time, URI did not have a formal PT program.

Shortly after graduation, Ed received his first duty assignment at Ft. Benning, Georgia, for Infantry Officer Basic Training and was then assigned to a Basic Training Brigade as a platoon leader at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. Ed was sent

to Vietnam where he served for one year, after which he was assigned as CO of Headquarters Company, 14th MI Bn., at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. Suzi accompanied Ed on all his stateside tours, along with their first child, Michael.

After serving in the Army for three years, Ed was offered a job as staff assistant to the vice president of Customer Services at a Wall Street bank. Big City life, however, did not set well with Ed and Suzi, and in 1970, they returned to Matunuck and Christ the King Parish, a parish they felt that fulfilled their spiritual needs. Their other two children, Tom and Kathy, were born in Wakefield, as well as Mike, and all three received the Sacraments at Christ the King. Ed and



Ed and Suzi Marchetti

Suzi have three grandchildren.

Ed and Suzi co-owned a paving company for more than 25 years until they decided to become “semi-retired” in

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Music Ministry

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2008. Ed now works part-time for a landscape company, while Suzi has worked many years as a medical receptionist for several local doctors. Their leisure time is spent riding their Harley Davidson and working on their land in Perryville, which is in the middle of a 50-acre parcel of land owned by the South Kingstown Land Trust. Ed was appointed Steward of this land.

Ed was born in Cranston and educated in the Cranston School system. Suzi was born in Pensacola, Florida, but moved to Rhode Island at an early age and was educated in the South Kingstown School system. Both Ed and Suzi received music instruction at an early age; Suzi in the junior and senior choirs at Kingston Congregational Church, and Ed, at the age of 5, entertaining family and friends with Christmas carols accompanied by his sister on the piano – sometimes collecting a dollar or two for his efforts.

Ed and Suzi were also part of a Gospel choir called “For Heaven’s Sake,” and Ed sang in a barbershop quintet at one of the parish auctions. He also was a member of the South County Chamber Singers for a short time. Suzi converted to the Catholic faith and she and Ed have served as lectors for more than 20 years. Ed also has been involved with the Veterans Treatment Court as a mentor.

Both Ed and Suzi joined the choir in the '70s, singing with former music ministers Roger Grenier, Paul Lambert and Ed Defusco. They have been steadfast members since Tom Kendzia came to CTK. In addition to their contribution to the choir, Ed and Suzi enjoy many close friendships forged from their ministry there. They also have tremendous respect for Tom’s leadership and his ability to compose beautiful music, as well as his ability to bring out the best in each choir member.

Ed and Suzi consider Christ the King Church as family and enjoy a feeling of the Eucharist they had never felt so strongly in any other church they had attended. They feel a strong presence of the Spirit when singing, especially at the conclusion of the Easter Vigil Mass.

At this time, Suzi has taken some time away from choir to recoup from an injury suffered while teaching her grandson to ice skate. She is planning to return very soon, although she thoroughly enjoys singing from the pews, encouraging other parishioners to join in. She has always believed in participation from the congregation, a belief she carried forward from her childhood at Kingston Congregational Church. Her strong feelings about liturgical music have served to encourage Ed in his continuing participation in the Music Ministry.

They both feel blessed to be able to share their faith at Christ the King.

— Margaret Riley




*Mark your calendar
upcoming events*

- July 13** Parish Blood Drive
8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in parish hall
- July 14 - 18** Vacation Bible School I: “Noah’s Ark”
- July 20** Annual Parish Picnic
following 11 a.m. Mass
- Aug. 11 - 15** Vacation Bible School II: “Weird Animals”
- Aug. 15 & 16** Back to School Backpack Collection
- Sept. 7** Parish Golf Tournament
- Sept. 13 & 14** Stewardship Weekend

Did You Know...

- Cheryl Brennan has been named as the new controller for the Diocesan Fiscal Office. She has been assistant controller for the last 20 years.
- Grace Romanello won the title of Miss Rhode Island’s Outstanding Teen. Romanello is a competitive dancer, songwriter and singer. She also speaks at schools about her platform – It Takes a Team: Overcoming body image issues and eating disorders. She is a student at The Prout School.



Mustard Seed

Newsletter of Christ the King Parish

180 Old North Road

Kingston, RI 02881

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*To everything there is a season and a
time for every purpose under heaven.*

– Ecclesiastes 3:11

A TIME TO BE BORN – **BAPTISMS**

Lucas Jacob Feeley	Georgia Scott Colonies
Jayden Heather Reilly	Cameron Elizabeth Clark
Joseph Robert Conrad	Callie Marie Reposa
Lily Uaembua Mbai	Theodora Cavanaugh Johnson
Crosby Regan McCann	Adeline Elizabeth McKee
Grace Frances Hollister	Cameron Alberto Ramos

A TIME TO DIE – **DEATHS**

William Hague	Howard Chadwick	Maurice Stefano
Robert Shaw	David Zaborski	David Bixler
Claire Cronin	Margaret Schmidt	Joseph Ciuryla
Ezoura Fonseca	Hilary Hanumara	L. Michael Robinson

A TIME TO LOVE – **NEW PARISHIONERS**

Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Lyford
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Palmisciano and family
Ms. Rachel Correnti
Mr. Thomas Markham
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Whitehead
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Rei and family
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thayer
Mr. and Mrs. John Hoey
Mrs. Grace McCloskey
Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Beck
Mr. and Mrs. Merlyn O’Keefe
Mr. and Mrs. James Provuncher
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel O’Connell
Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Joseph and family
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Westcott
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Boyton and family
Ms. Danielle Fox
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence King and family
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Salomon
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Thibeault and family
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bourgoïn and family
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Alviti
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Korzeniowski and family