

# Chautauqua Catholic Community



## NEWSLETTER

November 2023

www.ChautauquaCatholics.org  
CCCatholicHouse@gmail.com  
P.O. Box 106, Chautauqua, NY 14722



### Fr. Jim Daprile Elected President of CCC

The Chautauqua Catholic Community (CCC) has long been blessed by the contributions of Fr. James M. Daprile, PhD, who has served many times as a Chaplain for the CCC. In July, the CCC Board elected Fr. Jim as our new President, and he graciously agreed to contribute his time and talent. Fr. Jim brings decades of pastoral experience coupled with deep knowledge of the Chautauqua Catholic Community. A retired priest from the Diocese of Youngstown, Ohio, Fr. Jim holds M.A. degrees in Philosophy and Biblical Studies and a PhD in Roman Catholic Systematic Theology.

Ordained in 1976, Fr. Jim served in Pastoral Ministry in Ashtabula, was an Assistant Pastor and Administrator in Kent, and served as Pastor for many years in Youngstown and Aurora. He served as Campus Minister and Adjunct Faculty at Walsh College, and for many years, he was Assistant Professor of Theology at Mt. St. Mary Seminary of the West/Athenaeum of Ohio, Cincinnati. Fr. Jim was also Diocesan Campus Ministry Director, Chaplain at St. Louis Hospice, and Secretary of the Diocesan Presbyteral Council.

The oldest of 13 children, Fr. Jim has many interests. In 2009, he walked the famous Camino de Santiago, a 500-mile pilgrimage across northern Spain. He is a volunteer at the Center of Hope, a food pantry and provider of hot lunches. His volunteer work at the Cleveland Museum of Art includes gallery talks and tours. Fr. Jim enjoys painting (gestural abstraction), contemporary art, jazz, travel, contemporary novels, and biking. He starts his day with a smile by reading the cartoons every morning.

When asked about his Chautauqua journey, Fr. Jim explained, "Chautauqua had been on my radar for a long time after my bishop, Most Rev. James Malone, returned from a trip there and shared his engaging experience. An opportunity arose in 2009 when members of the Chautauqua Catholic Community (Jim and Jamie Jamison) mentioned the Catholic Chaplain position and recommended me. I have been coming ever since as a Chaplain or as a Chautauquan. The Catholic House is filled with gracious hospitality, interesting guests, and is right in the heart of it all. Serving as Chaplain and offering seminars has allowed me to share some of my recent theological and artistic investigations with the diverse and interesting Chautauqua community." We are grateful to Fr. Jim for serving as our President!

### Fr. David Tourville Named CCC Spiritual Director

Fr. David earned a Master of Divinity from Christ the King Seminary in 2008. He was ordained a priest on August 8, 2009 (the Feast of St. Dominic). His first assignment was at St. John the Baptist in Kenmore, NY, followed by St. Mary of the Angels in Olean, NY, which became a basilica and linked with St. John the Evangelist. He was a parochial vicar for 12 years. He began serving Chautauqua County in 2021 as pastor of St. Dominic (Westfield and Brocton). In 2022, he became administrator of St. Mary of Lourdes (Mayville and Bemus Point). In 2023, he assumed leadership of Christ Our Hope (Sherman and Clymer) and is now pastor of all six churches. He became Spiritual Director of the CCC in 2023, a role that includes serving on the CCC Board. This ensures that the CCC always has at least one priest on its Board to provide spiritual direction and address questions regarding Church doctrine.



## Staying at Catholic House – “A Little Bit of Heaven on Earth”

Many hours of care go into maintaining Catholic House, a treasured resource for our weekly Chaplains, house guests, and other visitors. Guests may apply to rent a room for one week of the Chautauqua season through our lottery (now closed), which is open on the Catholic House website from October 15 through November 15 each year. Many thanks to Steve Drabant, our skilled Board Member who manages Catholic House. We thank our 2023 gracious hosts, Deacon Ray and Patt Defendorf, Deacon Paul and Gina Kudrav, and Deacon Ron and Sylvia Dains. We were also blessed to have two exceptional visiting Chaplains each week plus 80 other house guests in 2023.

### What is it like to stay at Catholic House?

#### Some 2023 guests’ comments about our Chaplains:

*Dynamic. Excellent speakers. Pastoral as well as scholars. Welcoming, accessible, and genuine. Thoughtful. Knowledgeable. Seminars were well prepared, delivered, and informative. Amazing seminars. Wonderful. Very impressed. Beautiful homilies and excellent presentations. So fortunate to have priests on the grounds—and such delightful ones!*

#### Some 2023 guests’ comments about our Hosts:

*Gold standard in hospitality. Very attentive and kind. So pleasant and helpful. So warm, welcoming, knowledgeable. Friendly and efficient. Endless service, ministry, hospitality, and friendship. Wonderful people. Cheerful, available, very accommodating. Very present and could not have done enough for us. Most gracious. Handled all that went on here like pros.*

#### Some 2023 guests’ comments about the overall experience of staying at Catholic House:

- *Thank you so much for an amazing week. Not enough words to describe the entire experience.*
- *All my experiences at Chautauqua have created cherished memories.*
- *A true example of what our world could be with respect and kindness for each other.*
- *God Bless You! We love Chautauqua and are grateful to have and support Catholic House and the great people we met here.*
- *We feel blessed we can have a religious retreat and an academic retreat in one place.*
- *Chautauqua is a magical place. The Catholic House has it all for comfort and hospitality.*
- *We were so grateful to be here. A wonderful experience in every way.*
- *Catholic House is the best! In all ways!*
- *We enjoyed our stay! Room was great, comfortable.*
- *Very pleased with cleanliness.*
- *Catholic House is definitely the perfect place to stay.*
- *The warmth of the people made the week doubly wonderful. The location is great.*
- *The best porch in Chautauqua.*
- *It was a wonderful stay. We enjoyed it very much.*
- *Always a wonderful experience.*
- *Great time! I always feel at home. Wonderful guests.*
- *A gem this place is!*
- *This is just a little bit of heaven on earth—full of angels!*
- *We really respect the mission of this holy place—and Chautauqua, too.*



**Preparing to welcome visitors to a Tuesday social at Catholic House**



**Installation of new HVAC system underway**

## Catholic House HVAC and Plumbing Updates

Over the nearly twenty years since Catholic House has been in operation, the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) system has aged and has become costly to maintain and operate. Difficulty with the system has mounted, and we have been experiencing problems with water dripping from vents in some rooms. After consultation with various contractors, we made the decision that we must replace the Catholic House HVAC system before the 2024 season.

Heat pump technology has significantly advanced, achieving high levels of efficiency. After careful consideration, we selected a modern heat pump system for the heating and cooling of Catholic House. This is a major capital expense for the Chautauqua Catholic Community. We are applying for rebate incentives from National Grid, our electric supplier, which may provide slight assistance.

At this time, it is also necessary for us to address a plumbing issue. Guests have been reporting concerns with shower controls in guest bathrooms, where it has been difficult to regulate water temperature. We recognized the importance of installing more modern shower controls in our bathrooms to reliably regulate water temperature. It made sense to handle the HVAC and plumbing update projects at the same time, as it is more cost-effective to combine the necessary drywall work.

Installation of the new HVAC system and plumbing update will be completed before year-end. The total cost of these important updates is anticipated to be over \$130,000. Catholic House, privately owned by the Chautauqua Catholic Community, receives no Diocesan support and is an essential resource for us to bring priests to Chautauqua to offer Mass, Reconciliation, and seminars throughout the program season. Many have told us that the warm fellowship they have experienced during visits to Catholic House has been a blessing.

We would be most appreciative of any contributions to help us with this major expense to care for our treasured Catholic House. Please make checks payable to Chautauqua Catholic Community, Inc., P.O. Box 106, Chautauqua, NY 14722. We are deeply grateful for support of this important project.



**New HVAC components delivered to Catholic House**

### **Volunteer Opportunity: Chautauqua Catholic Community Secretary**

Due to term limits, the Chautauqua Catholic Community is in need of a new volunteer secretary beginning in January 2024. This is an excellent opportunity for an organized person to serve on the CCC Board and become better acquainted with other Catholic Chautauquans. Share your talent for preparing meeting agendas, documenting meeting minutes, maintaining the Board roster, assisting with correspondence, and setting up Zoom meetings (simple process with training available) using the CCC Zoom account. Most meetings can be attended remotely. It is not necessary to live in Chautauqua or to spend the entire season in Chautauqua. Please send an email regarding your interest to Fr. Jim Daprile, Chautauqua Catholic Community President, at [cccCatholicHouse@gmail.com](mailto:cccCatholicHouse@gmail.com).

**Address correction? Add a friend to our newsletter mailing list?  
Please email [cccCatholicHouse@gmail.com](mailto:cccCatholicHouse@gmail.com)**



## Chautauqua Catholic Community (CCC) Board Members

### **Marcia Bermel – Vice President**

My husband and I and our two sons came to Chautauqua in 1992 and every year thereafter, renting until we had our own Chautauqua residence. We sold our forever home in Amherst, New York in 2020, retired, and moved to Naples Florida. I previously assisted the Catholic Community as Social Director and currently serve as Vice President. I received my Doctor of Management in Community College Policy and Administration while Program Director/Administrator for health care programs at Erie Community College in Williamsville NY. I have had a rewarding career in the college community. Volunteering on the CCC Board is a way to continue community service in a faith-based arena.



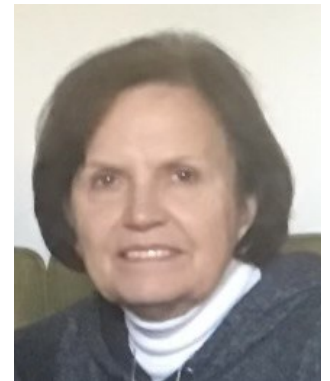
### **Mike Metzger – Treasurer**

After working for over 40 years in manufacturing, I finished my career at SUNY Fredonia as the Vice President of Finance and Administration. Longtime residents of Chautauqua County, my wife Marjorie and I moved to be year-round residents of Chautauqua Institution in 2015. Throughout my career, I volunteered at many human service organizations and economic development boards. Since coming to Chautauqua County, our family has been a member of Saint Mary of Lourdes, where I served on the Finance Committee. Marge and I have two daughters who live in Cleveland and Milwaukee with their families. Our five grandchildren look forward to coming to Chautauqua every summer.



### **Marilyn Brennan – Secretary**

I first became involved at Catholic House when we purchased a Chautauqua home in 2008. I joined the CCC Board in 2011 and have held the position of Secretary on and off over the last 12 years. I have been responsible for correspondence and for organizing, recording, and archiving Zoom and in-person meetings. I have been a Clinical Social Worker for 32 years in Geauga County of Northeastern Ohio. I started my career with Catholic Charities (for 10 years) then went into private practice with a focus on the senior population and then specialized in Heart-Centered Hypnotherapy. My experience as a social worker supports me in the volunteer work that I do with the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) Program of Geauga County as well as facilitating bereavement groups. This past season I had the privilege of staying at the Catholic House. It was a very heartwarming experience.



### **Laura Anfang**

For 25 years, I came to Chautauqua for one or two weeks each season. Since purchasing a condo in the French Quarter in 2016, I have come for the season. I am a retired teacher of secondary and college mathematics and mathematics education. Active at St. Anselm parish in Chesterland, Ohio, I am a member of its Faith Seeks Understanding book discussion group and serve as a Eucharistic Minister in Ohio and at Chautauqua. I conduct the lottery and registration of guests for rooms at Catholic House and serve as an usher at weekend Mass at the Hall of Philosophy. My late husband, Robert, and I were married for 54 years. I have two children and two grandchildren and live in Auburn Township, Ohio. I love Chautauqua and its Catholic Community and enjoy giving back by serving on the CCC Board.



## Chautauqua Catholic Community (CCC) Board Members

### Steve Drabant

My wife, Susan, and I live in Erie, Pennsylvania and we first started coming to Chautauqua in the early 90's. Over the years we graduated from the occasional concert and getaway weekend to staying a week or two to buying our condo in 2018. Throughout this time, we participated in the CCC liturgies and activities. In 2021, I was asked to join the CCC Board. Once on the Board, and since I am an engineer with a technical background, I accepted responsibility for managing the Catholic House building. My wife and I have been married 52 years and we have two sons and two grandsons. We are active in our home parish, and I also serve on the boards of St. Patrick Haven, a homeless shelter for men in Erie, and the Serra Club of Erie.

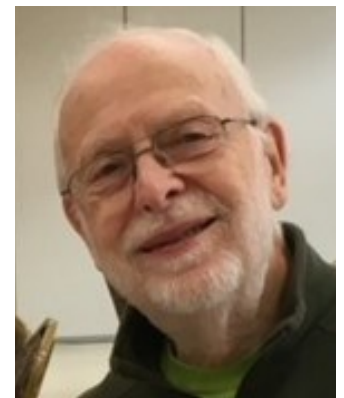


### Cherie Tillotson Andersen

I have been an active volunteer and Board member at the Chautauqua Catholic Community. It is my pleasure to play a lead role in organizing area "church ladies" who so graciously share their culinary talents and help with our Tuesday socials. Meeting and welcoming all who come to our well-attended socials is great fun. My husband, David, and I reside on the family homestead on Chautauqua Lake in the area called Shorelands. David's family was among the first homeowners here. David also works at the Main Gate during the season.

### Don Novak

My late wife introduced me to Chautauqua in 1990, and I have been here every year since. We rented different properties until we purchased our Pines townhome in 2000. Years ago, I served as Lector for a weekend Mass here when the scheduled reader was unavailable, then I joined the Lector schedule. I am a cradle Catholic with advanced degrees in Theology and Psychology/Psychotherapy from St John's Seminary in Plymouth Michigan and the University of Detroit. My wife, Anne, and I help at Tuesday afternoon socials and have led some interdenominational healing services at Randall Chapel. I was invited to join the board, which has led to meeting many of my fellow Catholic Chautauquans that I really didn't know before. I am enjoying the whole experience. My board responsibilities include scheduling Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers and other roles at our weekend liturgies.



### Trish Beagle

My late husband introduced me to Chautauqua in 1980, and we came to Chautauqua every year, sometimes staying at Catholic House before we had our own Chautauqua residence. I also reside in Amherst, New York, and our daughter lives in California. I hold a Master of Science in Human Resources and Organization Development from Villanova University and served in that field until my retirement. I assist the Catholic Community with communications projects such as the newsletter, brochures, the membership database, website, and notices in the Chautauquan Daily. Volunteering has been a good way to get to know more members of the Chautauqua Catholic Community.





## Weekend Mass in the Hall of Philosophy

It is hard to imagine a more beautiful and serene setting for weekend Mass than the Hall of Philosophy. How special it is to celebrate the Eucharist in such a lovely place. We continue to look for ways to make Mass at Chautauqua meaningful and special.

Please consider how you can contribute your talents to make this experience even better next year. If you are a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Usher, or help in some way at Mass at your home parish, consider sharing your talents at Chautauqua. Please email [dnovak@wowway.com](mailto:dnovak@wowway.com) and let us know your name, phone number, the role(s) in which you are interested, and which weeks you will be in Chautauqua in 2024. In spring, we will prepare schedules and verify your availability. Thank You.

- Don Novak, Board Member



**Weekend Mass  
in the Hall of Philosophy**

## Supporting Priests and Religious Sisters at Catholic House



**Our Chaplains presided  
at 63 Masses at  
Chautauqua in 2023.**

Our priests who serve as weekly Chaplains at Catholic House make possible a spiritual and meaningful Catholic experience at Chautauqua. Whether you are a guest for a week, a visitor at our Tuesday socials, or just stopping by our Blessed Sacrament Chapel for a quiet moment of prayer, there is something special about having a Catholic presence on the grounds of Chautauqua. Without our Chaplains, we would not be able to offer weekend and weekday Masses, Reconciliation, or our enormously popular and inspiring Thursday and Friday afternoon seminars.

Catholic House provides a home base for our ministry and our priests during the Chautauqua season and allows us to offer below-market rooms for one-week stays at Chautauqua that might otherwise be impossible. Each summer, we also offer Catholic House scholarships to four nuns, including gate passes and one-week stays, with a stipend for meals. As you might imagine, the very presence of religious sisters enriches the visits of other guests, and the sisters have told us how very special those experiences have been to them.

Attached to this newsletter, you will find a sheet regarding sponsorship opportunities to help support visits by religious sisters and priests, and our priests' seminars. Your support is so important to us in handling the many costs associated with providing this special Catholic presence at Chautauqua. Your tax-deductible donations to Catholic House are our only means of support, and we thank you!



**Our Chaplains conduct 18 Catholic seminars  
each season in the Methodist House Chapel**

# Chautauqua Catholic Community Sponsorship Opportunities



Our Chaplains, visits from Religious Sisters, and inspiring educational seminars given by our Chaplains greatly enrich our Catholic presence at Chautauqua. Your support helps provide Chaplains, Mass, seminars, Reconciliation, spiritual guidance, and hospitality at Chautauqua. To help us meet expenses, we offer sponsorship opportunities. Our Board selects sponsorship recipients. We will provide recognition in publications, announcements, and/or postings in Catholic House unless a sponsor requests to remain anonymous. Catholic House is privately owned by the CCC. Donations are our only means of support and enable us to provide a Catholic presence throughout the program season. The Chautauqua Catholic Community is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, and contributions are tax-deductible.

**Please indicate sponsorship(s) you wish to provide:**

## **Sponsor a Priest-in-Residence (Chaplain) for One Week**

We provide our Chaplains with lodging and partial board at Catholic House, parking, and arrange for them to receive gate passes. Each season, we engage two Chaplains each week for nine weeks.

- \_\_\_\_\_ **\$1,000 Full Sponsorship of one priest for one week**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **\$ 500 Co-Sponsorship of one priest for one week**

## **Scholarship for a Religious Sister for One Week**

This scholarship includes lodging at Catholic House, a stipend to pay for meals while in Chautauqua, a gate pass, and a parking pass. Each season, we provide one-week scholarships for four nuns.

- \_\_\_\_\_ **\$1,000 Full Sponsorship of one religious sister for one week**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **\$ 500 Co-Sponsorship of one religious sister for one week**

## **Sponsor Thursday and Friday Seminars at the Methodist House Chapel**

We provide 18 educational and inspirational seminars on Thursdays and Fridays at the Methodist House Chapel. This sponsorship supports general costs of operating Catholic House and supports our contribution to the Methodist House in appreciation for use of their Chapel.

- \_\_\_\_\_ **\$2,000 Sponsorship of Thursday or Friday seminars (nine weeks) for the full season**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **\$1,000 Co-Sponsorship of Thursday or Friday seminars (nine weeks) for the full season**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **\$ 500 Sponsorship of one week of seminars (Thursday and Friday)**
- \_\_\_\_\_ **\$ 250 Sponsorship of one Thursday or Friday seminar**

## **I wish to make a general gift to sponsor the ministry of Catholic House.**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ (any amount)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Total Sponsorship and Gift Donation Amount**

Sponsor Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ You may recognize my support publicly.

\_\_\_\_\_ I prefer for my sponsorship to remain anonymous.

**Please make checks payable to Chautauqua Catholic Community, Inc. and return to:  
Chautauqua Catholic Community, P.O. Box 106, Chautauqua, NY 14722. THANK YOU!**