

# ST. THOMAS AQUINAS PARISH

March 6, 2016

## PARISH INFORMATION

**Website** [www.stthomasaquinas.com](http://www.stthomasaquinas.com)

### St Thomas Aquinas Staff

Rev. Bill Devine, Pastor

Rev. Adrian Milik, Parochial Vicar

Sr. Deacon Jerry Ryan

Debbie Hill, Coordinator of Religious Ed.

Karen Geraghty, Coordinator of Religious Ed.

Rob Ruth, Administrative Assistant

### Parish Office

103 Center St. Bridgewater, Ma 02324

Hours | Mon.– Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Rob Ruth, Administrative Assistant

E-mail | [stthomasaquinas@comcast.net](mailto:stthomasaquinas@comcast.net)

Phone | 508 697 9528

Fax | 508 279 1859

### Religious Education Office

Phone | 508 697 3652

Debbie Hill, Coordinator of Religious Ed.

Karen Geraghty, Coordinator of Religious Ed.

### St Basil, The Catholic Center

122 Park Ave. Bridgewater, Ma 02324

Hours | Mon.– Fri. 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Phone | 508 531 1346

Fax | 508 531 6188

### Chapel Staff

Rev. Bill Devine, Pastor

Rev. Adrian Milik, Campus Chaplain

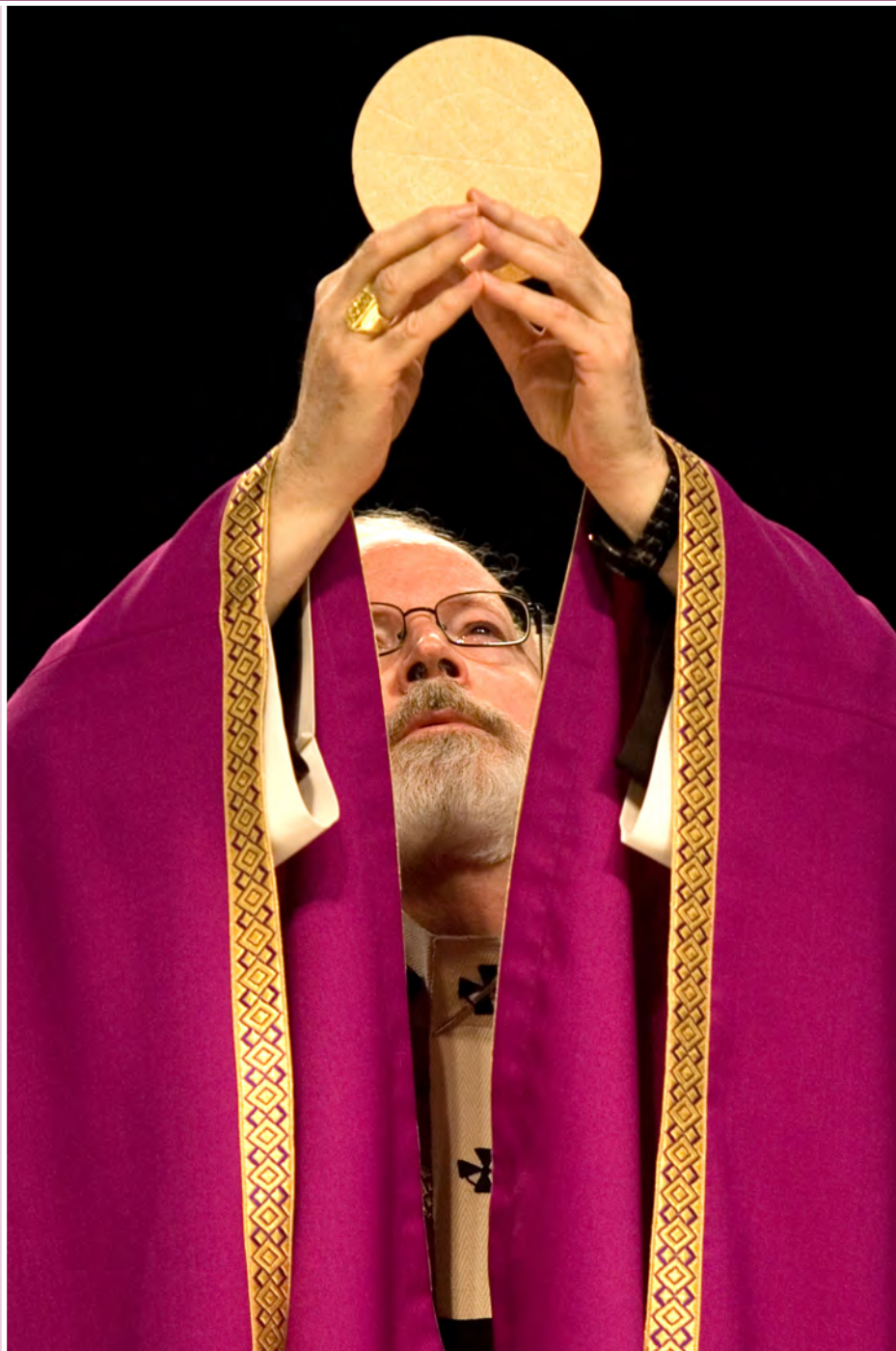
Marlene DeLeon, Campus Minister

Phone | 508 531 1412

[marlene.deleon@bridgew.edu](mailto:marlene.deleon@bridgew.edu)

Rita Garufi, Administrative Assistant

[rita.garufi@bridgew.edu](mailto:rita.garufi@bridgew.edu)



## MASS SCHEDULE

### St Thomas Aquinas

*Daily Mass*

Monday - Friday | 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m.

Saturday | 9:00 a.m.

*Sunday Mass*

Saturday Vigil | 4:00 p.m.

Sunday | 7:45, 10:00, a.m., 12:00 p.m.

### St Basil

Sunday | 10:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.

4<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday of Lent

# ✝ The Lenten Parish Retreat

March 14, 15 and 16th from 7-8 p.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Church. Transportation provided.

Our Parish Retreat is right around the corner. Plan to attend this free opportunity to deepen your faith as we examine the Fourteen Works of Mercy in this Year of Mercy. On Monday, March 14, we will look at the Corporal Works of Mercy, how we can serve Christ by serving the physical needs of our brothers and sisters. On Tuesday, March 15, we will look at the Spiritual Works of Mercy, how we can serve Christ by serving the needs of the soul. Wednesday, March 16, we will conclude the retreat with a Mass followed by a reception in the parish center. Each day will be an hour, starting at 7pm, but with benefits that continue far beyond the time you spend at the event.

Please invite friends to come with you, especially those who have been away from the Church for a while. The shared experience of the love and mercy of God will bring you closer to each other and to the Lord. Even if you can't attend all three of the evenings, come to the one or two that you can make. If driving is an issue, please sign up for free transportation to and from the event on the sheet at the back of the church or chapel, or by calling the parish office.

The retreat will be a source of great blessing for the parish and I know it will take all the good developments we have been experiencing over the last few years and build on them. It is only through such experiences that we will be able to really embrace our mission to be the agents of God's mercy in the world. I look forward to seeing you all there and discovering where this experience will bring us next.

In Christ,

Fr. Adrian

*We now focus on the Parish Mission or Mini Retreat that will be held on March 14, 15 and 16 from 7-8 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church. Our lives are so busy that we rarely take time for OURSELF and GOD. Do yourself and your family a favor and take some down time. Just one hour for three evenings. The theme of the retreat is "God's Mercy and how we can extend His Mercy to others." Fr. Bill Neubecker, OMV will give a presentation each evening followed by time for quiet reflection, prayer, song and fellowship. Please invite someone from your family, a neighbor, or a friend to come with you. They probably need it as much as you. Every evening there will be an opportunity to go to confession or talk with a priest privately.*

Fr. Bill

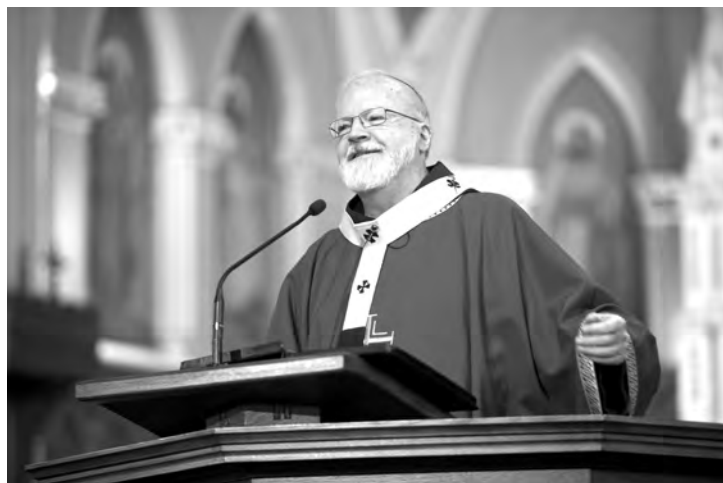
## Thank you Cardinal O'Malley

Thank you for celebrating the 12:00 p.m. Mass with us. We are so pleased to have you join us at St Thomas Aquinas.

There has been and continues to be a lot going on in our parish over the past few months. Again, I thank everyone for their support for our parish's Grand Annual Appeal and their renewed commitment of time, talent and treasure in the Growth in Stewardship Initiative. I believe I speak for the entire parish when I say that we are honored too have Cardinal Seán O'Malley celebrate the noon Mass this weekend as he begins the Archdiocesan Catholic Appeal. Thank you Cardinal Seán.

### Catholic Appeal

Fr. Adrian, Deacon Jerry and I shared in the bulletin and at Mass over the past few weeks how your contributions to the Catholic Appeal not only support the many ministries of the Archdiocese but provide tremendous support to our own parish, our programs, prison and campus ministries, religious education and guidance on human resources and financial and accounting oversight and our cemeteries. Because we exceeded our assessment last year we received back over \$9,000! This year our parish assessment is \$40,133. I'm confident that in meeting this goal we will not only strengthen our parish and programs but help others and reach out to those most in need.





## Corporal & Spiritual Works of Mercy

### *To Harbor the Harborless – To Bear Wrongs Patiently* (#4 of a 6 part series)

by Tom Sullivan

The fourth corporal work of mercy follows naturally from what came prior. We have fed the hungry, given drink to the thirsty, and clothed the naked. But now that nourished, hydrated, well-dressed man still needs a roof over his head to protect him from the elements. Food and drink have strengthened the body interiorly; clothing and shelter protect the body from exterior threats. It's clear that both locally and around the world there are many who lack this basic necessity of life, whether displaced by natural disaster or war, or incapable of providing a living for themselves, including a place to stay. Why do we reach out to offer harbor to the harborless, to give shelter to the homeless? For the same reason we do any good work: for the love of God. Christ reminds us, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me (Matthew 25:40)." We love each other well by loving Christ in each other, and Christ himself was harborless, always on the move to proclaim the Good News of salvation. When a scribe told Christ he wished to follow him, the Lord warned him for what he was signing up: "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head (Matthew 8:20)."

The state and local communities provide many services for those in need of assistance in our society, which makes it easier for each of us to participate in the charitable work of giving harbor to the harborless. This Lent – and throughout the year – we can donate money for the upkeep of homeless shelters; we can purchase supplies such as clean bedding for the people who need to avail themselves of these services; we can give of our time to volunteer in a shelter. Charity can begin even closer to home as well. There are many people who have opened their own houses to friends or relatives who for whatever reason are down on their luck and need a place to stay, maybe a place to sober up, and an address to call their own as they search for meaningful employment. To welcome people in need is a heroic work of self-giving love and patience.

Just as it takes patience to disrupt our comfortable routines and the delicate balance of family life in a household to welcome in a friend, or relative, or refugee who has nowhere else to go, so, too, does it take great patience to bear injustices committed against us. It's one thing to open your home to someone in need despite the inconvenience; it's another thing to open your heart to someone who has committed an injustice against you. It might be the most difficult demand of the Christian life to truly forgive when we have been wronged and to be patient with those who have offended us. Irish Alzheimer's, when you forget everything but your grudges, isn't limited to the Irish. It's part of our fallen human condition. Maybe the only thing more difficult than granting forgiveness is eating our humble pie and asking for forgiveness. But in both cases, it can be done, and it must be done. It is a great work of spiritual mercy to unburden the one who is truly sorry, and it is a great work of mercy to be patient even with the one who isn't sorry they've offended us.

Again, it comes back to God. We have all offended God by our sins. He is all-good and deserves only our love and gratitude, but very often we do evil and we are ungrateful for all he has done for us. Every human person who has ever lived, save our Blessed Mother, at one time or another, has required God's forgiveness. We all have to be prepared to mean what we say when we pray, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." The heart that won't forgive, and won't bear wrongs patiently, has no claim on the mercy of God. It's only the merciful heart that can in turn receive mercy. We can all take this Lent as an opportunity to exercise forgiveness in our lives. First, we start by availing ourselves of the Sacrament of Mercy - Confession. When we have been forgiven by Goodness himself, it should become more difficult to withhold forgiveness from others. As we recall Christ's Passion, his patient suffering even for those who are not sorry for their sins, we will become more like him. And as we imitate his patience more and more the little annoyances and insults of daily life will have less impact. Our patience, like God's, will be directed toward the repentance and salvation of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

**THE LIGHT IS ON FOR YOU**  
CELEBRATE THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Every Lent we offer the opportunity for people to go to Confession on **Wednesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in the lower church chapel.** Lent is the time not only to fast, pray and be more charitable, but to experience the Lord's mercy, love, and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Penance. Aids to confession or Examination of Conscience will be available.

If you drive by the church on Wednesday evening, you will see The Light Is On For You.

## The Year of Mercy

**“If your brother becomes poor and cannot maintain himself with you, you shall support him as though he were a stranger and he shall live with you”**

**Leviticus 25:35**

Shelter the Homeless is one of the Seven Corporal Works of Mercy. To help Catholics focus on and understand Mercy, Pope Francis has designated this year an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy.

**March 14 – March 16**

Our parish will be hosting a Lenten Parish Mission conducted by Fr. Bill Neubecker, OMV. The mission will consist of three 1 hour sessions at St. Thomas Aquinas from **7:00 – 8:00 p.m.** The first two nights will focus on the Corporal Works of Mercy and the Spiritual Works of Mercy with the third night concluding in a Mass and gathering for refreshments afterward.

Please consider this prayer and reflection opportunity during Lent to strengthen your own spirit of mercy.

The Mission is free of cost and does not require registration. Come to one night or all three.

## FRIDAY NIGHTS AT ST BASIL'S

- **Stations of the Cross** 6:30 - 7:00 p.m.
- **Lenten Simple Supper** 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

There will be a Lenten Simple Supper, coordinated and provided by volunteers. These meatless simple suppers will connect ourselves to the poor. No desserts provided. **Contact Rita Garufi at 508-531-1346** for more info and some simple food suggestions. There will also be a sign-up sheet provided at the Chapel.

## Part Time Help for Snow Removal

We are looking for 4-5 persons (high school or older) interested in earning some money working part time shoveling parish walkways and stairway areas. This includes St. Thomas Church, St. Basil Chapel and the Parish

Center. Shoveling is primarily necessary during snowy weekends (Friday thru Sunday) in preparation for Mass with some weekdays as needed at the parish center .

For those interested please contact **contact Rob Ruth at (508) 697-9528** at the Parish Office.



## VIRTUS Training

Virtus training regarding child abuse awareness will be held for those who have not previously attended on **Sunday, March 6, 2016, at 1:30 p.m.** in the parish center. All adults are welcome to come. Attendance is required for individuals who volunteer for any ministry within the St. Thomas/St. Basil community. Parents, grandparents and anyone who cares about the well being of our children would also find the program enlightening, informative and of genuine value. Please **contact Rob Ruth at (508) 697-9528** if you plan to come.

## Fund Raising Concert

Aaron Wonson, 16, a junior at BR and pianist for St. Basils Chapel will be performing a fund raising concert at St. Basils today **March 6 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

Aaron has been selected to go on a piano tour to Germany this summer with The New England Conservatory. There is no cost for the concert, any contribution to help Aaron on his musical journey to Germany would greatly be appreciated. Aaron will be playing a variety of classical pieces by Chopin, Beethoven, DeBussy and many more.

## COOKS NEEDED: Spaghetti Dinner

The next spaghetti dinner for students at BSU will be held **Thursday, March 17th at 6:00 p.m.** We are in need of volunteers who would be willing to make meatballs and sauce for this dinner. The food would need to be delivered to the chapel by 5pm on the 17th. If you are interested, please **contact Rita at 508-531-1346** or sign up in the coffee area at the chapel.

## Spring Cemetery Clean Up

**March 15-31** we will be doing Spring Clean Up in the two cemeteries. We ask everyone who cares for a grave to remove all Christmas and/or broken decorations and dead plants no later than **March 14th**. After that date these decorations will be removed and disposed. Thank you for helping us keep our cemeteries clean and places where we can remember and pray for our loved ones.

## Financial Blessings Feb 23 - Mar 1

<b>In-pew</b>	
Weekly Collection	\$6,734.00
No Second Collection	\$ 0.00
Capital Improvement	\$90.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,824.00</b>
<b>Online</b>	
Monthly	\$270.00
Weekly	\$ 2,294.00
Capital Improvement	\$120.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,684.00</b>
	<b>\$9,508.00</b>

## Faith Formation

### Grades 1-8

This weekend and next our second grade students will be making their First Reconciliation. Their teachers and families have worked hard to prepare them for this day. We pray that this is the beginning of a lifelong desire to meet the Lord in this beautiful Sacrament. We ask you as a parish to pray for these students who will also be making their First Communion in May. We thank Fr. Bill and Fr. Adrian as well as the visiting priests who assisted them: Fr. Rick Gribble, Fr. Michael Hobson, Fr. Paul Ring, and Fr. Jim Mahoney. We encourage all of you, especially during this Jubilee Year of Mercy, to take advantage of the many opportunities to be reconciled with Jesus.

### Mite Boxes Update

Students continue to empty their boxes into the jug in the hallway. It is almost halfway through. Remember, found money is mission money. Thank you to all the children who are making sacrifices each day for the less fortunate. Please encourage your child to take part in this Lenten activity for almsgiving. The Lenten calendar will help you and your family experience the true meaning of Lent. If you have not received one, the calendar is in the office or online. All our students in Grades 1-8 have had the opportunity to hear Maureen Heil speak about missions. She taught the students about Zambia, "The Real Africa." People in Zambia have no access to hospitals. While the adults are not educated, the children have minimal access to education. The school supplies are sometimes a stick and dirt. They don't have the luxury of weekly Mass and only have Mass when a priest travels to see them. This is when they ring a bell so that anyone who is able to walk can come receive the Blessed Sacrament. Maureen said, "Children, you must be missionaries. Listen to God; he is in your heart. When you donate you make a difference."

### Confirmation I & II

#### Bagged Lunches Service Project

**Sunday, March 13, 4:00-6:00 p.m.** - Confirmation I & II students who have not completed their service projects are encouraged to attend this evening. We will be making bagged lunches for the homeless. They will listen to a speaker from Catholic Charities who will talk about homelessness and the recipients of the lunches. This is one way our students can put the Works of Mercy into action. If you are a 9th or 10th grader and are interested in taking part in this project, sign up here:

[www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0848acab2ea1fc1-bagged](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0848acab2ea1fc1-bagged)

### Challenge of the Week

Parents are reminded to forward the Challenge of the Week emails so their students can participate in class. Thank you.

## Ushers and Greeters Needed

There is a need for additional greeters and ushers at the **Saturday, 4 p.m. Mass** at the Church. Greeters who welcome and assist individuals and families, often new to or visiting our church, are so important. From their smile, greeting and willingness to help those entering or leaving the Church can and will make a lasting impression. We also need people who are willing to take up the collection with an attitude of appreciation for those who generously support our parish and the work of our church. If we are able to get a number of volunteers we would be able to create a schedule that would only require you to be in these ministries once or twice a month. In addition to individuals, I encourage a family (parents/children) to consider working together in this ministry. If interested—please speak with an Usher, or contact **contact Rob Ruth at (508) 697-9528** the parish office.

## Baby Shower for the Unborn

The Baby Shower for the Unborn **ends next weekend March 12-13**. Please leave unwrapped baby items in the cribs in the upper and lower church of St. Thomas and at St. Basil. Checks should be made payable to **FUND FOR THE UNBORN** and placed in the designated donation boxes. Thank you for helping to promote the Gospel of Life.

*Looking for something Eggcellent to do?*

**ST. THOMAS AQUINAS  
2ND ANNUAL**

**Egg Hunt**

*Join us  
Easter Sunday - March 27th  
after the 10:00 Mass  
Inside the Parish Center  
Ages 2-11*

*Candy Filled Eggs  
Donuts  
Photo Backdrops  
Surprise visit from the  
EASTER BUNNY*

Register on "Signup Genius" or  
click the link on the St Thomas website  
[www.signupgenius.com go/4090b4aaaa72aa75-2ndannual](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090b4aaaa72aa75-2ndannual)



### Weekly Mass Intentions

#### Saturday, March 5

4:00 p.m. Joseph, Josephine & Joseph B. Leandres

#### Sunday, March 6

7:45 a.m. Francisco Luis & Maria de Lurdes Botelho & Manuel Botelho

10:00 a.m. Sandra A. Croall

*St Basil* 10:00 a.m. Ruth and Elmer Cloutier

12:00 p.m. Joe Chaves & Family

#### Monday, March 7

7:00 a.m. Howard & Helen Bossa, Rev. Barry Bossa S.A.C., Patricia Helmuth & Robert Bossa

#### Tuesday, March 8

7:00 a.m. Jack Hennessey

#### Wednesday, March 9

7:00 a.m. Antonia & Libania Sousa

#### Thursday, March 10

7:00 a.m. Richard, Patricia & Raymond Downing

#### Saturday, March 12

4:00 p.m. Beth Edwards

#### Sunday, March 13

7:45 a.m. The deceased members of the Woronicz Family

10:00 a.m. Loraine Paul

*St Basil* 10:00 a.m. Frank Garufi -- Birthday Remembrance, Jane Keough and Nancy Bodwicz  
12:00 p.m. Mass for the People

### Sacraments

#### CONFESSION

Light is On for You **Wednesdays 6:30 - 8:00p.m.**

in the lower church and every

**Saturday 3:00 p.m.- 3:45p.m.**

in the lower church, or by appointment

#### BAPTISM

Ordinarily celebrated on the **2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 1:30 pm.** Please call the parish office to speak with a priest prior to making any arrangements.

Parents are welcome to attend classes during the pregnancy if it is more convenient.

#### MARRIAGE

Please call the parish office at least eight months in advance. Attendance at the Marriage Preparation Course is required.

#### ANOINTING OF THE SICK

If you wish to receive the sacraments at home or in the hospital due to illness, handicap or age, please contact the parish office.

### Weekly Devotions

We encourage all parishioners to spend some quiet time with the Lord

#### ADORATION

**Saturdays 9:30 am - 1:00 p.m.**

#### DIVINE MERCY HOLY HOUR

**Lent Hours: Wednesdays 6:30 pm - 8:00 p.m.**

St Thomas Aquinas - Lower Church

### "A time to be born..."

Lily Jennifer Maureen Fennell

Cole Randall Savaria, Connor Ryan Tracey, Garrett Ethan Smith, Theodore Roberts, Paige

Elizabeth Ross, Sadie Gillen Thibault

Keegan James Dunne,

### "A time to die..."

Kathleen T. Allen, Kevin Welch, Edward Shaughnessy, Jonathan Kelly, Eugene Fortier,

Daniel Soares, John Para, Athena Mullen,

Victor Auglis, Petra Reordan

### "A time to heal..."

Olga (Cassiani) Alberghini, Edward Albert, Jean Andrade, Jeffrey Bean, Baby Valerie Belcher,

Olivia Bonfiglio, Jim & Jean Brennan, Caitlin Burnett, Kim (Sweetman) Carnello, Sandra Cable,

Christine Cabral, Teresa Capachione, Jacquie Cordaro, Matthew Costantino, Michael Costantino,

Baby Mychal Joseph Cotone, Joanna Crabtree, Jannine Dawicki, Mary DeLeon, Roger Denault,

Marty Dickerman, Bob Emord, James LaFranchise, Rylee Fontes, Lee Fuller, Jesus Galindo,

Ben Gallo, Alanna Gillis, Beverly Guiffre, Fred Laham, Daniel John, Kevin Looney, Alanna Gillis,

Tim Johnson, Dorothy Keane, Bob Mackey, Beverly Mitchell, Taylor McLean, Kaleena

McHardy, Stephen McNally, Marjorie Mello, Baby Chase Miceli, Lauren Minchella, Charles

Monestere, Alice Moniz, Arlene Morin, Bob Morris, Bob Morse, Anna Nakouzi, Antonio &

Lucilia Nunes, Paul D'Olimpia, Glenn O'Neil, Ann Paulino, Carolyn Perry, Elaine Phaneuf,

Richard Piantoni, Dorothy Pope, Maria Presti, Andrea Proffetty, Rich Quigley, Matthew Ryan,

Dan Sante, Paul Segreve, Sarah Silvia, Deana Spingel, Kim Sullivan, Donna Sullivan, John

Swan, Betty Tarentino, James Toy Jr., Anna Vrana, Don Weiner, Margaret Yanuskiewicz,

Mary (Sweetman) Zunino, Alexis Zutaut

### "A time for peace..."

General Joseph F. Dunford, USMC

Captain Vincent Chiappini, USA

1st LT. Karen Chouinard Holliday, USMC

Captain John Costantino & USA

CPL Brandon Jamieson, USA

Army PV2 Harry Terpeny

PFC, Christopher Ahl, USA

CPL Kelly O'Leary