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Holy Family Welcomes Service Corps Members

ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, HOLY FAMILY STAFF commissioned four new members of the Holy Family Service Corps (HFSC) through prayers, blessings, and fellowship. The yearlong service program, a partnership with the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth (CSFN), invites graduates to gain valuable field experience while supporting Holy Family Institute's mission of hope and healing.

Kaliana Villa of Des Moines, IA, serves in HFI's In-Home Family Services, ensuring that parents have the resources and tools to provide a nurturing environment for their children. **Andrea Waclawek**, a recent University of Notre Dame graduate from Buffalo, NY, cares for unaccompanied immigrant children through HFI's Journey of Hope program. **Angelina Hernley** of Bethel Park, PA, and **Krystal Hanna** of Orlando, FL, both work with promising students of limited means at Nazareth Prep High School. As a Holy Family Teaching Fellow, Hernley is earning her master's degree in Secondary Education in partnership with the Duquesne University School of Education.

Each HFSC member meets regularly with a Sister Companion from CSFN, who offers guidance, encouragement, and assistance with day-to-day challenges. "I receive moral support and good jokes when we get together," Hanna said of her companion, Sister Janice. "She blesses me with her humble wisdom coupled with years of experience."

All four HFSC members enjoy living in community with each other and practicing their core values of faithful listening, loving relationships, and finding God in the everyday. They find common ground through scripture study, communal prayer, shared meals, and household responsibilities. "I am so happy to have found friends who have become my family," Hernley said.

"I really feel like the work I am doing here is going to make a huge difference in the lives of people in the community," Villa said, reflecting on the first few weeks of her service. Waclawek echoed the sentiment, saying: "It has been such a profound blessing to find the Lord in this work. I hope that I can be a face of God to these children, as they have been to me."



Holy Family Service Corps members (left to right) **Angelina Hernley, Kaliana Villa, Andrea Waclawek,** and **Krystal Hanna** pose with gifts from their Sister Companions

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HOLY LIGHT

CHRISTMAS 2018

A NEWSLETTER OF HOLY FAMILY INSTITUTE

Sponges and Soap: A Portrait of Service

LAST CHRISTMAS EVE, ALLAN WOODS and his seventeen-year-old grandson Jake struck on the idea of volunteering together during the summer of 2018. A longtime volunteer, recipient of the *Spirit of Family* Award, and chair of the Holy Family Institute board from 1995 to 2013, Woods knew exactly who to call.

"As summer got near, I mentioned that conversation to Sister Linda," he recalled. "She asked me 'What would you like to do?' I said, 'Let's turn that around. Why don't you think of something no one else would do? Jake and I will do that.'"

A few days later, Sister Linda informed Allan that the hundred-year-old statue of the Holy Family that stands in front of the main campus had never been cleaned.

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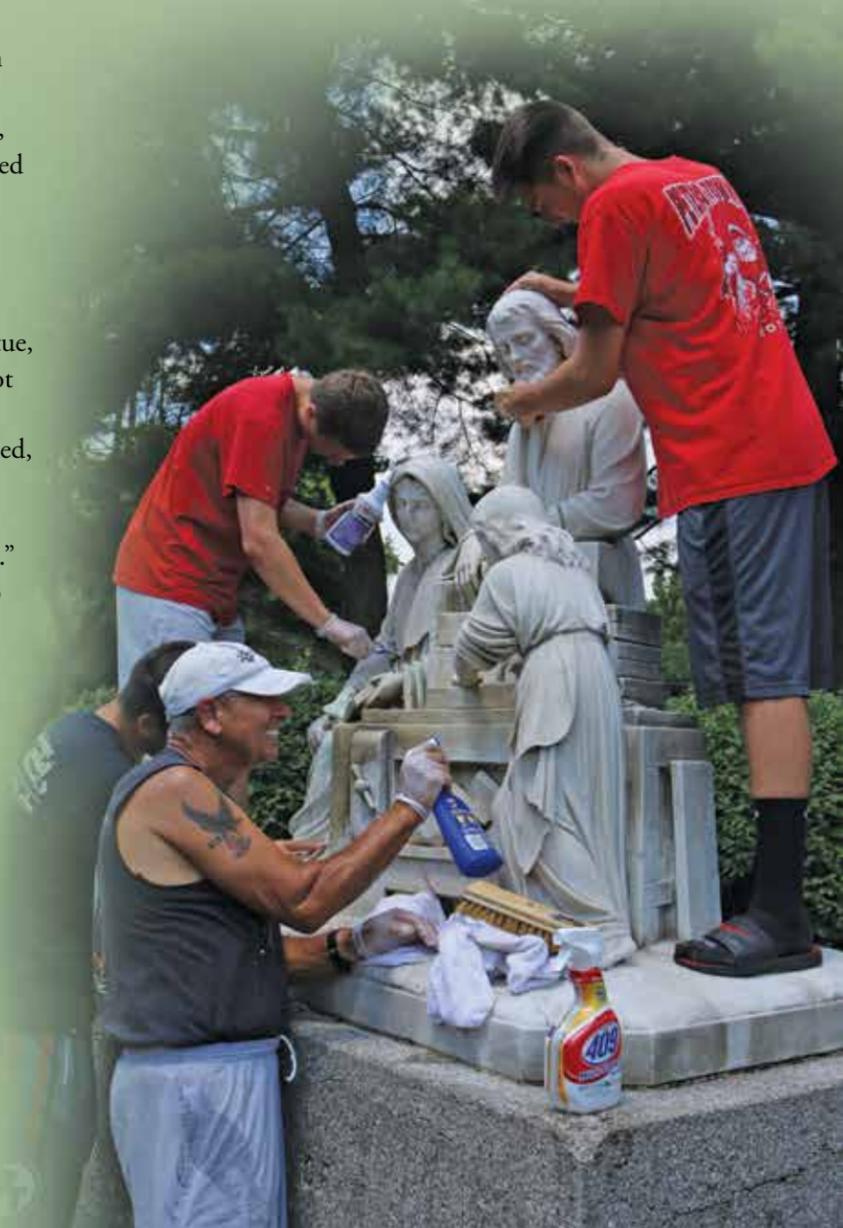
he and his grandsons, she asked, be interested in restoring it? "You betcha!" Woods said. After visiting campus and hearing the history of the statue, the two volunteers got to work. "It's pretty fragile," Woods recalled, "so we needed to be careful. Using a pressure washer was out of the question. We started with scrub brushes and dishwashing detergent." When that yielded underwhelming results, Nazareth Prep theology teacher David DiMichele wandered by with a suggestion: why not contact a tombstone manufacturer? "We figured that they probably know how to clean those things," Woods said.

The next week, equipped with fresh knowledge of marble maintenance, Allan returned with bottles of bleach and two additional grandsons: Luke, 13, of Pittsburgh; and Will, 17, of Boston. "We were armed with bleach, detergent, and a couple of other potions that we found or invented," Woods said. "We literally went in with toothbrushes to get dirt out."

"It required a bit of a high wire act to get on the top of the statue. It was wet, it was soapy,

it was slippery," Woods continued. "We had a few near misses." Despite several more hiccups—including an impromptu bleach-slinging session—the statue began to glow.

"It was a true act of love to be able to do something for Holy Family, for Sister Linda, and for our Lord," Woods said. The project made such an enduring impression that he and the boys plan to return next summer for another week of soap, shenanigans, and service. "Next summer," he said, we'll be asking Sister Linda again: give us another project that nobody wants to do!"



Arthur J. Rooney Sr. Courage House Luncheon

A Celebration of Bravery and Compassion

On November 13, supporters and friends of Holy Family Institute gathered at Heinz Field for the 26th Annual Arthur J. Rooney, Sr. Courage House Luncheon. Held to honor a Pittsburgh Steelers player and Holy Family alumnus who have shown exceptional resilience and courage, the luncheon raised nearly \$190,000 to benefit Holy Family Institute. This year's attendees celebrated **Ryan Shazier**, who survived a paralyzing back injury in 2017, and **Heather Cratsenberg**, who overcame astonishing odds to build a happy life for herself and her children.



Over 400 guests gathered to honor Ryan and Heather's courage, welcome the 2018 rookie class, and enjoy an extensive silent auction featuring donations from local businesses. Speed painter Cody Sabol produced likenesses of Shazier and broadcaster Bill Hillgrove, who is celebrating 25 years as a Pittsburgh Steelers commentator, during the program. Attendees also recognized Sister Linda Yankoski, President and CEO of Holy Family Institute, for her 40 years of service to the community.

Heather Cratsenberg shares her story of resilience and courage



Steelers linebacker **Ryan Shazier** addresses Courage House Luncheon attendees

Sister Linda, Ryan Shazier, and Father Tom Schaeffer



Painter **Cody Sabol** and Steelers broadcaster **Bill Hillgrove**



Nazareth Prep students **Xavier Ruffin** and **Sakiyah Allen-Sheffey**, recipients of the 2018 Daniel M. Rooney Ambassador Scholarship, present a portrait of Shazier painted by their class

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