

FELLOWSHIP

NEWCOMER PROFILE

PEOPLE MAKING THE REDEEMER THEIR FAITH COMMUNITY

INTERVIEWED BY KEN GARNER



This month meet Raffaella Lo Castro and Grant Griffiths.

Thank you very much for sharing your story with us about your entry into The Redeemer community.

How long have you been attending services here?

We have been attending services on a more regular basis since the fall of 2015. Prior to that, we have attended services where possible over the past five years.

Are you life-long Episcopalians? If so, what other Episcopal churches have you attended?

We grew up in South Africa, however, it took thousands of miles and two sepa-

rate adventures to find each other in the suburbs of Philadelphia many years later! Raffaella grew up Catholic at Parish of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Durban and I grew up Anglican at St. Francis Anglican Church outside of Johannesburg in Walkerville.

When Raffaella moved to the United States to pursue her music studies, she joined the choir at Trinity Episcopal Church in Wilmington, Delaware as alto section leader and was an active member of the community for over 7 years. Following that, she joined the choir at Trinity Church in Rittenhouse Square and most recently at Christ Church Ithan in Villanova. For over fifteen years, Raf-

faella has found great joy in singing and worshipping within the Episcopal faith so it was a natural fit for us to come together and worship at an Episcopal church.

How did you find The Redeemer?

The Redeemer has been a significant landmark on my commute to work each day and I couldn't help but notice the striking Gothic architecture and church grounds. When we went to the website, we were immediately drawn to the sense of community outreach and the varied activities, music programs and education forums for its members.

What inspired you to attend?

Since we are both from South Africa and far from all our family, we particularly look forward to Christmas and making it extra special. We came across The Redeemer's Christmas program with orchestra and choirs and since we both love music we quickly made plans to attend the Christmas Eve service.

What would you want to tell others about The Redeemer to encourage them to come and explore our parish?

The Redeemer community is very special. There is a wonderful sense of kindness and warmth among all members of the church who have made us feel very welcome. There are many activities to explore and a dynamic music program, which must be experienced.

We thoroughly enjoy hearing Rev. Vanderveen, Rev. Romanik and Rev. Wilcox lead the services and Dr. Diorio is a master at creating the most intimate choral matins to glorious annual concerts and celebratory services. Of course, hearing both Dr. Diorio and

Michael Stairs at the organ is an absolute treat.

Tell us a bit about yourself outside of The Redeemer—your job, your family, your hobbies.

We live in Gulph Mills with our adorable West Hyland Terrier. All of our family is located across three continents.

I (Grant) am a PGA Golf Professional and director of summer junior golf programs, golf instruction and corporate events at Play-a-Round Golf, an indoor golf simulator facility, which just opened a new location in Ardmore. This season I also joined Baldwin as Varsity Head Golf Coach. I often play in professional golf tournaments and enjoy helping clients on the golf course on weekends. I'm an avid fly-fisherman and enjoy the peace and tranquility of the many beautiful rivers and streams in the United States.

Raffaella is a professional singer with a communications background working primarily in the pharmaceutical industry. She earned her Bachelor's in Business Administration from Goldey-Beacom College in Delaware.

As a mezzo-soprano, Raffaella has performed with the Opera Philadelphia and Opera Delaware chorus' and with the Philadelphia Orchestra and Pennsylvania Ballet as part of The Philadelphia Singers. She has also performed operatic roles with opera groups within the Greater Philadelphia region and will sing the role of Zia Principessa in Opera Lancaster's upcoming production of Puccini's "Suor Angelica" this April.

In between work and music, Raffaella enjoys long walks at Valley Forge and going to the shore. We both share our love for travel, cooking, hiking, and classical music.

ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY

AT APPLEFORD ESTATE

BY MICHAEL DIORIO

Sunday, May 7 at 4 pm will be a time for parishioners and friends to come together in a beautiful setting, celebrate the arrival of spring, experience the vibrancy of The Redeemer, and support one the major ministries of The Redeemer. Along with the colors and rolling landscape of the Appleford Estate, garden party goers can savor foods by the Robert Ryan Catering Company, hear the choirs and soloists perform throughout the evening, and bid on our silent auction items.

The Appleford tradition was begun some years ago by former music director Dan Moriarty as a general fundraiser for the choir program: a time for music supporters to come together to listen to the children's choir perform, and to enjoy refreshments. For the past several years, however, as we have expanded our musical programs as well as our choirs,

the Music Committee has extended an invitation to the spring celebration to the entire parish, so that all may greet the new season with joy, fellowship, food and fun.

While the Garden Party supports the Music at The Redeemer programs, the yearly event also underscores the interrelation of programs at the core of The Redeemer's purpose: furthering worship, outreach and fellowship. Our choirs contribute to those efforts through scholarship dispersals, community concerts and our Music & Mission trips.

Your presence at the Garden Party enables choir members to extend Redeemer's ministry beyond our campus. Please consider joining us for this memorable event. It is the perfect time to bring your family and invite friends!



To help our planning efforts, please return your mailed RSVP cards as soon as possible. Event details and online

registration can also be found at www.TheRedeemer.org/rsvp.

