

St. Patrick Parish comes together to support SJS/TEN research fundraiser

A silent auction and chicken dinner were held in our parish

hall on June 8, in memory of Angela Anderson, daughter of long-time St. Patrick parishioners Paul and Wanpen Anderson. Over 333 tickets were sold for the chicken dinner provided by Nelsons of Springfield. The tables in the hall were full of chattering

parishioners, including Father Luke and his parents. All the money raised by this event will go to the Stevens-Johnson Syndrome/ Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (SJS/ TEN) Research Fund at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

On December 24, 2015, 22-year-old Angela took ibuprofen for an eye infection. By Christmas morning a rash had spread over her body and into her mucous membranes, and her father took her to the emergency room. Her condition worsened, and she had to be put on life support as her lungs filled with fluid. Over 50 per cent of Angela's skin sloughed off as she experienced the toxic epidermal necrolysis stage. She died on December 28, the Feast of the Holy Innocents. To learn more about

Angela's tragic case, go to: www.AngelaWanpenAnderson.com.



Angela Anderson

The silent auction offered 82 donated items, worth over \$10,000, including products and services. The preliminary total raised from the dinner and auction was \$13,982.50. More money was raised from local businesses: Kohl's has promised \$500, and the Savoy 16 Goodrich Theaters

raised \$1475 on the weekend of the new "Avengers" movie by asking customers to round up the price of their movie tickets.

Halfway through the evening Angela's father, Paul, took the microphone to explain the three prerequisites of this terrible disease. The first is the individual's DNA. The second is the specific medication taken by the individual to fight an infection. The third is an

unknown variable that determines whether the individual gets SJS/ TEN. This third prerequisite is what Vanderbilt's research is trying to discover so they can prevent this disease.

There were three survivors of SJS/ TEN at the fundraiser. Two of them addressed the audience to tell about their experiences.

The Anderson family thanks the many businesses, friends, and parishioners who donated money or items to make the fundraiser a success. They are grateful to the parish nurses of St. Patrick, who sponsored the event, and to Jon and Dawn McCoy, who were excellent



The Anderson family

advisors on the many details of hosting a fundraiser. A very special thank you to the Women of St. Patrick, who

generously

provided grant money so that every penny raised by the dinner will go to SJS/TEN research. This was truly a community effort!