

**SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2010
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

PASTOR'S COLUMN

One person came up to me last week and asked about our Christianity and Islam series which will begin this week. They were concerned that we were giving a platform to another religion and one that is perceived as hostile to Christianity. The reason for the series is twofold:

First: One can only understand Catholicism when we contrast it to another faith. While there are links between the two faiths in our series, there are also significant differences. When we see our own faith in that kind of contrasting contest, we can better understand and appreciate our own faith.

Second: Muslims are moving into our neighborhood in significant numbers. We need to understand our new neighbors so that we can establish the links that will keep us all working together.

I firmly believe that we should be more afraid of ignorance than education. I think this series will be an important one for all who attend.

NEW MINI-COURSE: CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM

We are pleased to announce our next Theological Mini-Course: Christianity and Islam. The course will be taught by Fr. Patrick Ryan, S.J.

The dates, times and topics are as follows:

Tuesday, April 27th – 7:00 p.m.

“The Call to Worship: Basics of the Islamic Tradition

Tuesday, May 4th – 7:00 p.m.

“The Five Pillars of Islam and their Christian Parallels”

Tuesday, May 11th – 7:00 p.m.

“Jesus and Mary in the Qur’an”

Fr. Patrick Ryan, a Jesuit and native of New York City, became the McGinley Professor of Religion and Society at Fordham University in New York in 2009. Previously he was Fordham's Vice President for University Mission and Ministry (2005-2009). In 1964 he began a long career as a teacher and academic administrator in West Africa, where he has spent 26 years. After ordination in 1968 he completed a doctorate at Harvard University in the comparative history of religion, specializing in Arabic and Islamic studies. For 15 years he taught in this area in Ghanaian universities. He also taught for briefer periods at Fordham and at the Gregorian University in Rome. From 1999 – 2005 he was the first President of Loyola Jesuit College, a high school in Nigeria's federal capital, Abuja. He is the author of three books and numerous articles, scholarly and popular.

Pre-Registration is Necessary. Tuition: \$25.00

THE COURSE IS BEING HELD IN THE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Name: _____

Address: _____

Cell #: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Please return to the Rectory as soon as possible

**FILM FESTIVAL
FAITH AND THE IMAGINATION
C.S. Lewis in Film**

Friday, May 7 – “Shadowlands”
Love Breaks Through

Friday, May 14 - “The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe”
The Centrality of Sacrifice

Friday, May 21 - “Prince Caspian”
Courage and the Christian

Short talk by Msgr. Fernando Ferrarese followed by discussion.

All Films are at 7:30 p.m.

Week of: April 17 th & 18 th	<u>COLLECTION</u>	\$8,408.57
Attendance:		2,073
Per Capita:		\$4.06

CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS COLLECTION

Right here in the United States, some dioceses are unable to provide fundamental pastoral care for their faithful. These “home mission” dioceses cannot support an adequate number of priests. They cannot afford funding for youth ministry programs or religious education. This week we take up a collection for the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Help strengthen the Church at home. Please be as generous as possible.

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY – April 26th

7:00 a.m. Frank Paruolo

9:00 a.m. Frank & Antonia Sokolovic

12 Noon Antonio D’Amico

TUESDAY – April 27th

7:00 a.m. Frances Grech

9:00 a.m. Antonio Filagrossi

12Noon John J. O'Connell, Sr.

WEDNESDAY - April 28th

7:00 a.m. Rev. Stanislaus Raila
9:00 a.m. Ana Dimakis (1st Anniv.)
12 Noon Daniel Payret (1st Anniv.)

THURSDAY- April 29th

7:00 a.m. Msgr. J. F. Coffey, S.T.D (RVC)
9:00 a.m. Joseph Cseri
12 Noon Edwin Bartels

FRIDAY - April 30th

7:00 a.m. Rev. James F. Marron
9:00 a.m. Antonio Pepe (Birth. Remb.)
12 Noon Linda Villaruel & Ramona Diaz

SATURDAY - May 1st

7:00 a.m. Michael DePace
9:00 a.m. Saviour & Concetta Sultana
12 Noon **Confirmation**
5:00 p.m. All those enrolled in the Purgatorial Society

SUNDAY - May 2nd

7:00 a.m. Deceased members of the Halpin Family
9:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Parishioners
10:30 a.m. Rose Marzano
11:45 a.m. **Spanish-** Daniel Payret
1:00 p.m. Rosa & Michele LoFrano

Lower Church:

9:00 a.m. **Italian** – Felicita & Antonio Malpeli

THE BREAD AND WINE are donated this week in loving memory of Richard M. Walsh (25th Anniversary) requested by Rose.

THE CANDLES ON THE ALTAR were donated last week and this week in loving memory of Maria & Calogero Colletta requested by their grandchildren.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP is burning this week in loving memory of Maria & Calogero Colletta requested by their grandchildren.

THE FLOWERS AT THE TABERNACLE are donated this week in loving memory of Daniel Payret (1st Anniversary) requested by his wife Elba.

PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS



Please pray for the recently deceased:

Beatriz D'Alleman

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine on them forever. +

SCHOOL NEWS

Alice Gomes (5th grade) and Dylan Christou (6th grade)

were chosen to submit their essays "My Catholic Education: What It Means to represent Immaculate Conception School in the Diocesan wide contest. They expressed how they feel about their faith, and how they see themselves as Catholic Citizens of our nation and the world. Congratulations, Alice and Dylan!

Confirmation Candidates from Immaculate Conception School 7th Grade and our Religious Education Program enjoyed a Retreat on Friday, April 16 held in the School Hall. The Candidates participated in thoughtful activities and celebrated the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. Special thanks to Rev. James Rodriguez from Most Precious Blood Parish for leading the Retreat.

Early Childhood Teachers of Immaculate Conception School attended The Early Childhood Extravaganza held on Friday, April 23 at Immaculate Conception Center in Douglaston. 180 Early Childhood Teachers from the Brooklyn Diocese came together for lectures and workshops to enhance their teaching skills.

The Annual Immaculate Conception School Talent Show was held on Friday evening, April 23 in the School Hall. This Talent Show, which began twenty years ago by Ann Gibbs, is a wonderful event and fundraiser. Congratulations to all our students who participated. Special thanks to Nursery Teacher, Joan Christou and Kindergarten Teacher, Karen Regazzi for organizing the show. We are grateful for the support of the staff and administration for this event.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR BOTTLES (EMPTY OR FULL) TO THE SACRISTY OR RECTORY OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE – BRIDGE TO LIFE WILL BE PICKING THEM UP SHORTLY. THANK YOU!

75TH ANNIVERSARY

Catholic War Veterans, Post #1, is celebrating its 75th Anniversary on Saturday, May 15, 2010. Catholic War Veterans was founded here in Astoria in 1935. There will be a 5:00 p.m. concelebrated Mass at Immaculate Conception Church followed by a dinner-dance at 7:00 p.m. at Riccardo's by the Bridge. Tickets are \$65.00 and can be obtained by contacting Ed Babor at 718-726-5461. Tickets will also be on sale in the school hall from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 25th, May 2nd and May 9th.

CHRIST JESUS, OUR HOPE, A DIOCESAN STRATEGIC PLAN FOR RENEWAL

Christ Jesus, Our Hope, A Diocesan Strategic Plan for Renewal, has begun in the Diocese of Brooklyn. Part of this process invites each parish to consider its own future, but to do so in light of the larger diocesan

church. As parishioners and parish leaders engage in a critical reflection on the current and future life of their parish, a broader understanding of the challenges faced by the entire Diocese is also needed.

To this end, the Planning Commission for *Christ Jesus our Hope* will issue a **four-part Diocesan Report**. Each week will examine a different aspect of diocesan life. Part One presents the overall pastoral life of the diocese, including an examination of sacramental celebrations, Mass attendance and faith formation. Subsequent reports will look at finances, demographics and parish leadership.

If you wish to read the entire text for *Part One* of the *Diocesan Report*, please visit www.ChristJesusOurHope.com. A summary of *Part One* will also appear in this weekend's edition of *The Tablet*.

ROSARY SOCIETY MASS

Please join us for the Rosary Society mass on Sunday, May 2. Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. We will pray the rosary at 10:00 a.m. if anyone would like to join us. We will sit in the front rows on the left side of the chapel for the recitation of the Rosary and then move to the main church and sit on the left side toward the front if you are facing the altar. New members are always welcome.

We will also have a Rosary Society Communion breakfast on Sunday, June 6, after the 10:30 a.m. mass. The breakfast will be held at Mojave on 31 Street between Ditmars and 23rd Avenue. The cost is \$20 and is due 1 week before the event. If you are interested in attending, please let Karen Weinhofer know (917-836-0995 or karen_weinhofer@mckinsey.com).

FEDERATION OF ITALIAN AMERICAN ORGANIZATION OF QUEENS

The Italian Olympic Committee is looking for children ages 11, 12 & 13 to compete in swim and running meets. The events will be held in New York City. They must be of Italian decent (at least one grandparent). If interested visit our website after April 21st for details – italianfederation.com.



GIVE BLOOD. SAVE LIVES

Donating blood saves lives! Please donate blood at our next blood drive scheduled on **Monday, April 26, 2010** from the hours of **4:30 pm to 9:00 pm** at **Immaculate Conception Church, in the school cafeteria**. To be eligible to donate, you must be between the ages of 17 – 75 (16 year olds need parental consent, and donors ages 76 and above need a signed doctor's letter), weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good health. The blood you donate can save up to three lives because each donation is broken down into parts and given to different people. Call Joe Ferrara at (516)

805-1637 to sign up to donate blood. For more information on donating blood, visit the New York Blood Center online at www.nybloodcenter.org.

"CREATION, EVOLUTION, AND THE CRISIS OF FAITH"

On Tuesday, June 1st, we will host guest speaker Hugh Owen on "Creation, Evolution, and the Crisis of Faith." Hugh is the convert son of Sir David Owen, a former secretary general of International Planned Parenthood Federation. Mr. Owen directs the Kolbe Center for the Study of Creation which provides a forum for Catholic theologians, philosophers, and natural scientists all over the world who are dedicated to making sure that the evidence for and against the theory of evolution is made available to Church leaders and to the lay faithful. In the year of Darwin just ended, Mr. Owen and his colleagues participated in four conferences on creation and evolution at major academic centers in Europe, including a conference at Gustav Siewerth Akademie in Germany which received the explicit blessing and encouragement of Pope Benedict XVI. The talk will be held in Higgins Hall at 7:00 p.m.

IN SEARCH OF PHOTOS

The Holy Union Sisters are going to open a **Heritage House** in 2011 in Groton, MA. This will be a museum displaying various artifacts and historical documents relating to their 125 years in the United States. If you have any pictures or memorabilia that you would be willing to contribute to the museum, the Sisters would be very grateful to receive it. They are especially interested in photos relating to the first years in each of the schools and ministries they staffed. For more information contact their Milton office at 617-696-8765.

A NIGHT OF PRAYER & ACTION FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM

Queens Congregations United for Action (QCUA) & St. Leo's Church invite you to a Night of Prayer & Action for Immigration Reform. Starts Saturday, May 1st at 9:00 p.m. and concludes on Sunday, May 2nd: Procession & Prayer Breakfast 7:00 a.m. at St. Leo's Church (104-05 49 Avenue). People of all faiths are invited to participate in this night of prayers, music, story sharing and action for Immigration Reform Now! At the prayer breakfast, will present a book of pictures and testimonies of real people who want or need immigration reform. There's still time to add your story! Please tell us if you have an artistic talent to display during the night or if you would like to donate food to the community event. For more information contact Luis Jimenez (St. Leo's) 917-807-6531.