

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2010
ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN
MARY

PASTOR'S COLUMN (Part II)

This is a continuation to last week's column. If you missed it go to our website: www.ic-astoria.org.

While Anthony of Egypt lived and prayed in a bare cave and lived off of what he planted, others sought his guidance and wanted to make this radical break with a sinful and watered down Church. They all lived in caves around St. Anthony and went to him for guidance. They began to call him ABBA which is the Hebrew word for Father. From this we get the word Abbot.

This new movement spread like wildfire. Monasteries sprang up all over Europe and the Mid East. The word Monastery comes from the Greek word: Monos meaning alone. The basis of monastic spirituality is prayer alone with God. A monk (one who is monos) is someone who prays for the Church through a life of solitude, silence and manual labor. The female branches of the monasteries were called convents and the participants were called nuns.

It was St. Benedict who wrote a highly influential "Rule" which helped to popularize monasticism all over the world. A 'Rule' is a program for how to organize a community of monks or nuns. The Rule of St. Benedict is almost 1500 years old!

There are Benedictine Monks and Nuns all over the world who still try to live the Rule and thereby grow as individuals and as a community.

The Monastery where I spent my retreat this July is called Mount Saviour Monastery. It is about five hours from here, right outside Elmira, New York.

The monks have a beautiful retreat house where one can pray and work with the monks. A typical day is as follows:

4:45 a.m.	Vigils in Church
5:15 a.m.	Lectio Divina (Private Reading & Prayer)
7:00 a.m.	Lauds (Morning Prayer)
7:30 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Mass
9:30 a.m.	work begins
12 Noon	Midday Prayer
12:10 p.m.	Lunch
1:30 p.m.	Work
3:00 p.m.	Mid Afternoon Prayer
3:10 p.m.	Work
5:30 p.m.	Dinner
6:30 p.m.	Vespers (Evening Prayer)
8:15 p.m.	Compline (Night Prayer)

All prayers are chanted. At other times Silence is to be observed throughout the monastery and guest house.

It sounds rater daunting yet it is so wonderful and relaxing. To be away from phones, tv's, radios, newspapers, etc. is actually quite liberating.

The Monastery is located on thousands of acres of beautiful land: mountains and valleys on which flocks of Black Face Sheep grave (they raise them for wool, they are originally from Scotland).

Some of these holy men have been praying this way for the Church for 60 years. It definitely is quite a spiritual experience of God's love and care.



FILM FESTIVAL – SUMMER SMILES

Liar Liar with Jim Carrey – A Comedy about Truth – **Wednesday, August 18th**

All Films are at 7:00 p.m. – Air conditioned space and High Definition – Free

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY – August 16

7:00 a.m. Giovanna & Joseph Camenzuli
9:00 a.m. Sally & John Lubold
12 Noon Mariano Genna

TUESDAY – August 17

7:00 a.m. San Rocco
9:00 a.m. Lazaro Hernandez Arevalo &
 Mary Arevalo
12 Noon Eugene M. Roberts

WEDNESDAY - August 18

7:00 a.m. Raymond & Alice Larkin, Patricia
 Larkin Fernandez
9:00 a.m. Polino Family
12 Noon John J. O'Connell, Sr.

THURSDAY- August 19

7:00 a.m. Laurence, Margaret & Patrick
 Cassidy
9:00 a.m. Zeljka Zic
12 Noon Zora Hrelja

FRIDAY - August 20

7:00 a.m. Giovanna & Joseph Camenzuli
9:00 a.m. Olga Olympia Godoy Vivas (8
 Anniv.)
12 Noon Living & Deceased members of
 the Jerome & DeCato Families

SATURDAY - August 21

7:00 a.m. Jose H. Quizhpi
9:00 a.m. Daria Bogovich (Birth. Remb.)
12 Noon Frank Loiacono (Birth. Remb.)
5:00 p.m. All those enrolled in the
 Purgatorial Society

SUNDAY - August 22

7:00 a.m. Living & Deceased Parishioners
9:00 a.m. Deceased members of the
 Halpin Family
10:30 a.m. Rose Daverio
11:45 a.m. **Spanish-** Corazon de Jesus
1:00 p.m. Lisa Ameruoso

Lower Church:

9:00 a.m. **Italian-** Gennaro, Angela & Nicola
 Spano

THE BREAD AND WINE are donated this week in loving memory of Irene & James Dunne requested by the Boot Family.

THE CANDLES ON THE ALTAR are donated this week in loving memory of Mary & Virginia Porcari (Birth. Remb.) requested by the Caruana Family.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP is burning this week in loving memory of Sgt. Patsy Rocco requested by Florence McCauley & Family.

PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS



Please pray for the recently deceased:
Grant them eternal rest, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine on them forever. +

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Religious Education Office is now closed for the summer. It will reopen on September 7th. First Registration date will be September 12th. To all of our students and parents have a wonderful Summer!!! See you in September.

SCHOOL NEWS

Registration continues to be ongoing for grades N to 8 until August 15. Please leave a message on the School Office phone 718-728-1969 or email Ms. Harnischfeger at principal@icsastoria.org if you would like to set up a meeting to register your child for the 2010-2011 School Year. We look forward to meeting with you and giving you the best Catholic Education in Astoria!

**CELEBRATE THE LIFE AND WORK OF
MOTHER TERESA ON HER 100TH
BIRTHDAY AT ATHENS SQUARE PARK**

Mother Teresa brightened the lives of so many worldwide. To commemorate her 100th Birthday, Council Member Peter Vallone, Jr. will host an interfaith celebration with music, performances and a candlelight vigil to reflect on the great humanitarian legacy of this renowned figure.

**August 26th - 7:30 p.m.
Candlelight Vigil - 8:30 p.m.
Athens Square Park
(30 Avenue & 30 Street)**

****THIS EVENT IS FREE****



ICS Alumni Association's 1st Annual Golf Outing

Immac's Alumni Association is pleased to host its first golf outing to benefit the children of Immaculate Conception School. It will be held on **Thursday, September 16, 2010** at the famed Knickerbocker Country Club in Tenafly, New Jersey. This course was designed by Donald Ross. Buffet brunch, cocktail and dinner included. Sponsorships available. For information or to RSVP contact Peter Prager, Chairperson at threelumps@yahoo.com or 914-439-2552

"DO YOUR SHOPPING WITH IMMAC!!

Our school will be selling gift cards to some of your favorite stores (GameStop, Barnes & Noble, Shop and Stop, Peapod, Amazon.com, CVS, Toys R Us to just name a handful). Each gift card you buy earns money for the school, and you pay nothing extra, just the value of the card. We have literally hundreds of different gift cards available for purchase and each one will help support Immac. For a complete list of available gift cards, pick up an order form.

This will be offered on an ongoing basis, beginning in September, but since several people have inquired about placing back-to-school related orders (think : Staples for book covers and desk supplies, Toys R Us for fun backpacks, Payless for sneakers, CVS for lunchboxes and snacks, etc) we are doing a mid-summer order

Order forms are available in the school gym during the hours of 7:45 am – 5:45 pm. If the gym is closed due to a field trip, please go to

the rectory. Forms can be returned to the same location. Look for the drop box.

If you are interested in ordering, but cannot get / drop-off forms during these hours, please contact scrip@icsastoria.org to make alternate arrangements. We will try to accommodate anyone who is interested."

AUTUMN AUCTION

The Immaculate Conception School Alumni Association is happy to announce that it is hosting an Autumn Auction to benefit our students and school on Sunday, October 10, 2010 at Riccardo's by the Bridge from 1-5pm. A buffet dinner, beer, wine, soda and dessert will be served. Tickets cost \$45.00 per person and are available in the school office or the rectory. Bring your family and friends. Volunteers for the event are also needed. For more information call Committee Chairperson: Ms. Frances Rocco at 917-482-6124.

Autumn Auction Committee members are already at working securing and collecting donations from our business neighbors and hope to have an extensive array of 200 gifts, baskets and certificates. Chances will be sold the day of the auction and these prizes raffled away. If you would like to donate an item or basket, please contact : kprager@stjohnsprepschool.org

THE BRIDGE TO LIFE WISH LIST

Bridge to Life is in dire need of cribs with mattresses and car seats (not older than 5 years) to avoid babies sleeping with their moms & allowing moms to take their newborns home from the hospital. Also needed are strollers and car seats (not older than 5 years old) Also layette items; hooded towels, crib sheets, baby wash and pacifiers. Please help the less fortunate with your donations and prayers. Any questions, please call Bridge to Life at 718-463-1810.

FREE ENGLISH CLASSES

Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services, located at 23-40 Astoria Blvd., is offering free ESL classes - 4 days a week for 10 weeks. Register now. For more information please call 718-726-9790.

REMEMBER IMMAC!

Countless charitable organizations rely on Estate Planning and Bequests to help them survive financially in a troubled economy. Our beloved parish is no different. Occasionally a far thinking and generous parishioner remembers the parish in the will.

It is important that everyone plans for the future by naming a health care proxy and an individual to be the Executor of their estate. To not plan is to give the government a foothold to make its own demands. So plan ahead for your family's sake and when you do, please remember to name Immaculate Conception Parish or School as one of your beneficiaries. The thanks of future generations will accompany you on your journey to the Lord!

"THE ARTIST'S WAY"

This fall, take a walk on "The Artist's Way", an intense 12 week process to assist any and all artists to discover and recover your creative self. Sessions will be held at the parish on Sunday evenings from September 12 - December 19.

Open to any type of artists or creative individuals looking to tap more deeply into their creativity. This will be a supportive, facilitated group meeting weekly to learn and grow together. Sessions are free.

If interested contact Dana at holly.ruhl@gmail.com. An information session will be held on August 16. Tell an artist you know!! Thank you.