

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2010
NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PASTOR'S COLUMN

After a wonderful retreat I truly feel refreshed and renewed. What a wonderful thing a retreat is! It puts everything into perspective, calms one's fears and makes the spiritual life come alive like nothing else.

Since my college days, I have found that our monasteries have been tremendous sources of inspiration. They are very disciplined places where the Kingdom of God can be felt to be very near.

Christian Monasticism began in Egypt in the fourth century. For the first three centuries of the Christian Era, the Church was under great strain because of wave after wave of persecution. Becoming a Christian meant you had to take your life in your hands and risk a horrible death after torture. As you might imagine, Christians in those days were tough people who gave all of themselves to their new faith.

When Emperor Constantine became a Christian around the year 312 AD (as you know AD means Anno Domini, i.e. in the year of Our Lord), it became the 'in thing' to be Christian. Many wanted to be baptized since it promised advantages for one's career. Many of the Christians who had suffered persecution watched these 'easy Christians' with some concern. Has the faith been watered down now that it was legal?

This spurred a man in Egypt to think about how he could be a Christian in a more radical way. This man was to be St. Anthony of Egypt also known as St. Anthony Abbot. this is the saint honored by the street festival every June in our neighborhood. It is not St. Anthony of Padua!! St. Anthony of Padua was a Portuguese man who lived in the 12 century. His baptism name was Fernando and he first entered the Augustinian Order. It was only when he joined the new order called the Franciscans that he took the new name: Anthony because of his great devotion to the aforementioned St. Anthony Abbot (in Italian: San Antonio Abbate, sound familiar?)

So St. Anthony of Egypt (AKA Abbot or Abbate) felt a call for a more radical form of Christian commitment. One day he heard in Church the part of the Gospel in which Jesus invites the rich young man to more closely follow him. "If you wish to be

perfect, go and sell all you have and give the money to the poor and come follow me." Anthony of Egypt did just that: he sold everything he had, gave the money out to the poor and went into the desert to be with God the way Jesus did before his ministry. **TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!!!**



FILM FESTIVAL – SUMMER SMILES

The Loved One with Jonathan Winters – A Comedy about Death – **Wednesday, August 11th**

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 9

7:00 a.m. Angela Arnone
9:00 a.m. Thomas Colicino, Sr.
12 Noon Joseph & Mary Poholelec

TUESDAY – August 10

7:00 a.m. Mark John K. Vegara
9:00 a.m. Angela Sarro
12 Noon Minutoli & Savino Families

WEDNESDAY - August 11

7:00 a.m. John Sivak
9:00 a.m. Lena Colicino
12 Noon Matthew Haughey

THURSDAY- August 12

7:00 a.m. Virginia Porcari (Birth. Remb.)
9:00 a.m. Brendan O'Neill, Catherine & John O'Neill
12 Noon Flavio Bartolomeo & Laura DiVirgilio

FRIDAY - August 13

7:00 a.m. Giovanni Tenaglia
9:00 a.m. Marlene Fuentes
12 Noon Anna Fasano

SATURDAY - August 14

7:00 a.m. Maria Juriako
9:00 a.m. Brian O'Grady
12 Noon Maruja Manotas

5:00 p.m. All those enrolled in the Purgatorial Society

SUNDAY - August 15

7:00 a.m. Malachy McGurran
9:00 a.m. Ana Maria Morales
10:30 a.m. Orazio & Carmela Stantini & Family
11:45 a.m. **Spanish-** Ines Monsalve
1:00 p.m. Living & Deceased Parishioners

Lower Church:

9:00 a.m. **Italian-** Domenico, Laura & Vito Albanese

THE BREAD AND WINE are donated this week in loving memory of John O'Connell, Sr. requested by his wife Dorothy and children Mary & John, Jr.

THE CANDLES ON THE ALTAR are donated this week in loving memory of Elio Fulgoni requested by Rose Cavagnolo.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP is burning this week in loving memory of Bernando & Laura Rosa requested by Elva Montoya.

PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS



Please pray for the recently deceased:

Antonia Babio
Elisabeth Burka

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!



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 threelumpa@yahoo.com or 914-439-2552

COLLECTIONS:	
Week of:	July 31 & August 1
Amount:	\$8,320.97
Attendance:	1,459
Per Capita:	\$5.70

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****

"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 MISSIONARIES OF OUR LADY OF LA SALETTE WILL PREACH THE ANNUAL PARISH APPEAL

Having brought the fullness of Life to our world when He rose from the dead, Jesus sent his disciples to share this life with all creation. "*They went forth and preached everywhere*" (Mk16:20). The Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette minister to people of every race, language, culture

and way of life -- beginning at the La Salette Shrine in France where Our Blessed Mother appeared in 1846. Her final words, "*Well, my children, you will make this known to all my people,*" echo Jesus' Gospel mandate. It is little wonder that the La Salette Congregations has always been mission orientated. When called upon by the Vatican to preach the Gospel in foreign lands, they eagerly responded. This spirit brought them to mission in 27 countries, especially among the poor in Angola, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, India, Madagascar, Myanmar and the Philippines. With your cooperation, the Missionaries of La Salette can continue to provide spiritual and financial assistance to these mission countries as they bring God's reconciling message to the poor.

Fr. Jeff L'Arche, MS will be making the appeal this weekend, August 7 & 8. Please be as generous as possible.

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 sessions will be held on August 16. Tell an artist you know!! Thank you.