

SUNDAY, JULY 11, 2010
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Remember the cold of last winter? How we could not wait for the spring warmth? Well, we got it in spades this week. Hopefully we are over the worst of it.

I have been getting ready for my yearly retreat. In canon law it specifies that each priest is required to make a retreat once per year. This is a very good use of law in that sometimes with all the busyness, we could easily forget the basics. Even the Lord and his disciples took off and went to deserted places for rest and prayer. We all need this quality time with God. I usually take it during the summer because I can get away for more of the required 7 days.

This year I am going to one of my favorite monasteries: Mount Saviour Monastery near Elmira, New York. This monastery of Benedictine monks is situated on a mountain overlooking a beautiful upstate valley. The rule of silence helps to center everything on God. It is a great time tested environment for prayer. And the flock that I may be tending is a flock of actual sheep which the monks pasture on the hillsides of the monastery. You can imagine how this appeals to the city kid in me! I will keep the parish in my prayers each day.

But, you know retreats are not just for priests. This year, at the end of September, I will bring a group of parishioners to the seminary for a weekend retreat of quality time with the Lord. The retreat is called "Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus" and will truly be unforgettable. We will be heading to Huntington at one of the most beautiful times of the year. The Seminary sits on 200 magnificent acres of land. There will be more information about this retreat soon.

Keep me in your prayers as I remember you on my retreat.

GRATEFUL NEWS FROM HAITI

Sr. Eileen Davey, SUSC

A few years ago, there were pictures of the children from our Nutrition/Early Education Center at the entrance of the church. Those pictures were from our Center located in the Parish of St. Louis Marie de Montfort located on the outer part of the city of Port au Prince. Nine years ago Fr. Nicholas, the Pastor, asked if I could begin a Nutrition Center for young children (ages 2 thru 6 years). We began with thirty children and now we serve ninety children. As well as one nutritious meal of the day, we provide medical assistance when necessary and help to sponsor children onto Primary School.

Msgr. Ferrarese offered to support our Center through the monies from the Poor Boxes. The school had already been supporting us through different activities in the school. All has been most appreciated.

After the earthquake on January 12th in Port au Prince, the Immaculate Conception Parish was most generous in helping our people. The school, the Religious Education Program, the Knights of Columbus Squires, the St. Vincent de Paul Society and individuals were most generous. With the money received after the earthquake, we were able to help some of people build small houses if they owned property. This would involve \$800 to \$1,300. Since many of our people do not own property, I helped some people rent a room for six months or one year. This would amount to \$175-\$250 per family. This was most helpful because people are still living in tents and the rainy season has begun and the hurricane is near as well. We helped people set us business again, some with \$50 and other more skilled with \$100-\$150.

You have been remembered in prayer and I ask God's blessing on each of you. My sincere thanks for your support and my appreciation for all you do to help the people of Haiti.



FILM FESTIVAL – SUMMER SMILES

Groundhog Day with Bill Murray – A Comedy about Reality - **Wednesday, August 4th**

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

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

WE'VE REACHED OUR GOAL

Congratulations and thank you to all those who have contributed so generously to the Annual Catholic Appeal. We have reached our goal of \$120,000 with a total pledge amount of \$130,990.51. We had a total of 546 donors and \$99,599.92 has already been received. **Once again, thank you for making this Annual Catholic Appeal a success.**

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY – July 12th

7:00 a.m. Mariana Suarez (Birth. Remb.)
9:00 a.m. John Vecchio
12 Noon Christina McCormack, William Kelly

TUESDAY – July 13th

7:00 a.m. Giovanni Tenaglia
9:00 a.m. Karen Passante
12 Noon Giuseppe Celano

WEDNESDAY - July 14th

7:00 a.m. Mary Tague
9:00 a.m. Frank Evangelista
11:15 a.m. Memorial Mass: Danny Morales
12 Noon Raymond & Alice Larkin, Patricia Larkin Fernandez

THURSDAY- July 15th

7:00 a.m. Giovanna & Joseph Camenzuli
9:00 a.m. Eleanora Brunetti
12 Noon Giuseppe DiMaria

FRIDAY - July 16th

7:00 a.m. In Honor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
9:00 a.m. Eugene M. Roberts
12 Noon Kathryn & Lester Frank

SATURDAY - July 17th

7:00 a.m. Mary Arevalo (12th Anniv.)
9:00 a.m. Deceased members of the Caruana & Porcari Families
12 Noon William Grey & Family
5:00 p.m. All those enrolled in the Purgatorial Society

SUNDAY - July 18th

7:00 a.m. In Honor of St. Roberto
9:00 a.m. Robert Traugott
10:30 a.m. Vincent & Angela Rose Gallo
11:45 a.m. **Spanish-** Galo Calderon
1:00 p.m. Living & Deceased Parishioners

Lower Church:

9:00 a.m. **Italian-** Domenica & Giuseppina Taibi

THE BREAD AND WINE are donated this week in loving memory of Barbieri & Marra Family requested by Marie & Michael Perricone.

THE CANDLES ON THE ALTAR are donated this week in loving memory of the Perricone Family requested by Marie & Michael Perricone.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP is burning this week in loving memory of Jane Blank requested by Barbara & Nick Marchisella.

PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS



Please pray for the recently deceased:

Lucila Rodriguez
Angela Asaro

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

COLLECTION

Week of: July 3rd & 4th :

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Total Collection: | \$7,195.90 |
| Attendance: | 1,496 |
| Per Capita: | \$4.81 |

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. From July 1 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!

Adelina Bracero was awarded a government citation from the office of Peter Vallone, Jr. for winning the essay contest "What the American Flag Means to Me" sponsored by the Sons of the Revolution. Adelina was awarded the citation at Immaculate Conception School Awards Ceremony on June 24.

Participants in the Immaculate Conception Summer Program took a trip to the movies on Tuesday, July 6th. Good way to escape the summer heat!

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2011

The Youth Group of our parish is beginning its year long fundraising to send teens and young adults to share in the worship and praise with our Holy Father. Next weekend members of the Youth Group and Squires will be handing out cans for you to take home and collect money for this cause throughout the summer. They will be collected the week of Sept.

11th through Sept. 19th. Thank you for your generosity.

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

FOUNDATION FOR MINISTRY PROGRAM

Are you thinking about volunteering for a parish ministry? Are you already in ministry or part of the Parish Pastoral Council, but need an update on the teachings of the Catholic Church? Perhaps the Pastoral Institute's **Foundations for Ministry Program** is for you! This 10 week program, designed for adult learners, covers a different topic each week. Classes begin in September and are being offered in English and Spanish in the Parish Center at Mount Carmel. If you are interested call Nelsa Elias at the Pastoral Institute at 718-229-8001 ext. 350 for more information.

EL PROGRAMA FUNDAMENTOS PARA LOS MINISTERIOS

Esta pensando ofrecer su tiempo como vuntario en un ministerio de la parroquia? Ya esta colaborando en un ministerio o es miembro de Consejo Pastoral Parroquial pero quiere actualizar su conocimiento de las ensenanzas de la Iglesia Catolica? Tal vez el programa **Fundamentos Para Los Ministerios**, ofrecido por el Instituto Pastoral, es para usted! Este programa de 10 semanas, especialmente diseñado para estudiantes adultos, trata un tema diferente cada semana. Las clases empiezan en septiembre y se ofreceran al Monte Carmelo en ingles y espanol. Si usted esta interesado, por favor llame at Instituto Pastoral para mas informacion al 718-229-8001 ext 350 (Pregunte por Nelsa Elias).

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.

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!

CATHOLIC MIGRATIONS

The Catholic Migration Office (CMO) provides non-profit legal services to immigrant communities in Brooklyn & Queens. CMO-Queens is located at 47-01 Queens Blvd., Suite 201, Sunnyside, NY 11104. The following legal services are available at CMO-Queens.

- Immigration Legal Services
 - Citizenship
 - Non immigrant visas
 - Family based petitions
 - Adjustment of status
- Housing Legal Services
 - Help getting repairs in your apartment
 - Anti-eviction
 - Anti-harassment
- Workers' Rights Counseling
 - Wage and Overtime
 - Unsafe working conditions

For more information about CMO, call 347-472-3500. Free consultations. For questions pertaining to workers' rights, call our toll free hotline at 1-877-52-LABOR (52267).