SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 2010
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

THANK YOU

A sincere thank you to all the society heads for the work that they did in making our Ecumenical Prayer Service for Immigration Reform such a resounding success. We had a large delegation from our parish in the over 600 people who attended.

Bishop DiMarzio gave a splendid talk on his vision for Comprehensive Immigration Reform. Before the event, Senator Schumer called the Bishop to set up an appointment with him to discuss his bill on immigration reform. Those who attended got great and informative input so that they can take their beliefs to the voting booths. Once again…thanks to all!

PASTOR'S LETTER

The Bishop has recently announced a strategic planning initiative entitled Christ Jesus Our Hope. Because of the need for restructuring on a diocesan level, every parish is asked to put together a self study assessing where the parish is both pastorally and financially. While this involves the Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee, as well as the Staff directly, we will try to be as inclusive as possible. To the end we will publish all the data that is sent to the Bishop's Office as well as host an open meeting for anyone who would like to be part of the dialogue. Beginning today, we will be publishing an executive summary of the Bishop's pastoral plan right here in the bulletin. The data reports will follow as well as the details about the Open Meeting on April 19th. We hope that you will want to be part of the conversation about the future of Immac as well as about the future of the Church in Brooklyn and Queens.

LENTEN VESPERS FOR VOCATIONS

RIGHT HERE: THE CALL OF THE LORD-VOCATIONS FROM IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

March 16 The Vocation to Marriage and the Diaconate – Deacon Franklin Munoz and Ana Maria Munoz

All are Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. All vocations were nurtured here at Immaculate Conception Parish. Come and hear their stories from the very streets of Astoria! Immaculate Conception Church – Ditmars Blvd. and 29th Street – www.ic-astoria.org.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY – Renewing the Mission: Christ Jesus, Our Hope
Most Rev. Nicholas DiMarzio, Ph.D.,D.D. – Bishop of Brooklyn

PART ONE:

As we being this new millennium of faith, our Diocese has entered an age when we face unique challenges. Among these challenges are the growing secularism of our culture, an alarming disregard for the sanctity of human life, a growing indifference and even hostility to our Catholic Faith, and an increasing number of Catholics who have ceased practicing their faith. Both Pope John Paul II of happy memory and Pope Benedict SVI have challenged us to rededicate ourselves to fulfill the Lord's command to teach and preach the Gospel with new zeal and energy by confronting these challenges. The imperative to preach the Gospel with clarity and courage has never been more important. For this reason I have made the work of the New Evangelization the cornerstone of my Episcopal ministry here in Brooklyn & Queens.

Our ecclesial institutions exist to serve the mission of evangelization. Meeting the ordinary expenses of parish life and maintaining the buildings that form our parishes and schools should never detract us from fulfilling the mission of evangelization. No parish or school should have to face the dilemma of choosing between meeting its ordinary financial obligations, including the maintenance of its buildings, beautiful as they are, over serving the pastoral needs of all its members, the "living stones" of the Church. The mission of the New Evangelization must be the prism through which we must strategically plan the future of our Diocesan Church and the criteria by which we will make choices regarding resources, personnel and the maintenance of our buildings.

Sadly, it has become increasingly difficult for many parishes to maintain the mission of evangelization, with adequate personnel and resources, while at the same time meeting the financial obligations and providing for the needs of aging buildings, many of which require extensive repairs that few parishes can afford. Nearly 40 percent of all parishes in the Diocese of Brooklyn are unable to meet all their ordinary expenses, forcing them either to ask the Diocese for direct financial assistance or to accumulate growing financial debts. Last year, our Diocese provided nearly $5,000,000 in aid to parishes in financial need, a sum that can no longer be sustained.

THE DIOCESAN STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

The Diocese has launched a new website to keep all parishioners up to date on ***Christ Jesus, Our Hope-the Diocesan Strategic Planning Process.*** The website is www.ChristJesusOurHope.org. This site contains information relevant to the current process, including a text of the Bishop's Pastoral Letter, provides answers to some frequently asked questions that parishioners may have about the process and provides a forum for you to submit your questions and thoughts. As the process continues you are encouraged to check this site for up to the date information regarding the process and the changes happening in our Church.

EASTER PLANTS & FLOWERS

If you are interested in donating towards our Easter plants, either as a memorial to a deceased loved one or as a gift to the church, please use the envelopes we have placed around the church. Please remember to put your account number on the envelope.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION YOUTH MASS

Every Sunday at 5:00 p.m. - Held in the 'Underground' Church -Ditmars Blvd. and 29th Street---A Catholic Mass for Young People, Staffed by the Youth and Young Adults of Astoria--Beginning Sunday night March 21st

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY – March 15th

7:00 a.m. Charles, Leah & Buddy Vallone
9:00 a.m. Edilberta De la Rosa
12 Noon Giuseppe Loriggio & Rocco DePascale

TUESDAY – March 16th

7:00 a.m. Hernando Gutierrez Tocora
9:00 a.m. Stephen Bartels
12Noon Camilla DiMaria

WEDNESDAY - March 17th

7:00a.m. Donald Fitzgerald
9:00 a.m. Kathleen, Edward & Edward P. Ronaghan
12 Noon James & Hannah Browne

THURSDAY- March 18th

7:00 a.m. Mary Arevalo (Birth.Remb.)
9:00 a.m. Giuseppe Cacchioli
12 Noon Giovanni & Domenica Vidnich

FRIDAY - March 19th

7:00 a.m. In Honor of St. Joseph
9:00 a.m. Russo Family
12 Noon Joseph J. Conti

SATURDAY - March 20th

7:00 a.m. Dr. Augusto Mesia
9:00 a.m. Antonio Evangelista & Antonio Lombardi
12 Noon Violanta Giannini
5:00 p.m. **Purgatorial Society**

SUNDAY - March 21st

7:00 a.m. Giovanna & Joseph Camenzuli
9:00 a.m. Onofrio & Gerarda Pezzuto
10:30 a.m. Albert J. Anderson
11:45 a.m. **Spanish-** Estanislao Lastre, Evanglia Ferraro, Hercilia Lastre, Carmen Matos
1:00 p.m. Michael Manniello

Lower Church:

9:00 a.m. **Italian** – Antonino & Marianna D'Amico

THE BREAD AND WINE are donated this week in loving memory of Giuseppe Cacchioli requested by Antonia Cacchioli.

THE CANDLES ON THE ALTAR were donated last week and this week in loving memory of Giuseppe Cacchioli requested by Antonia Cacchioli.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP is burning this week in loving memory of Charles & Helen Mangold requested by Florence McCauley & Family.

PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please pray for the recently deceased:

Tija Wallace
Carmela Notargiacomo
Gerasimo Croce

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

ST. JOSEPH'S DAY DINNER/DANCE

The Knights of Columbus, Immaculate Conception Council #11449 will be hosting a St. Joseph's Dinner/Dance on Saturday, March 20th from 6:00

– 11:00 p.m. in the school hall. Admission is $10 (children under 12 are free) and includes: Caesar salad, Penne "al filleto di pomodoro", Linguina "Alfredo", chicken cutlet "alla parmigiana", oven roasted potatoes with fresh oregano, wine, beer, soda, coffee, tea and dessert. Raffles – Music – Prizes. Tickets will be sold in the school hall on Sunday, March 19th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

LIFE OF DAMIEN

A dramatic presentation of the life of St. Damien of Molokai will be presented in our Church by the gifted actor Casey Groves. This presentation has toured the globe and has gotten stellar reviews. We scheduled it for March 26th on purpose. It is the night of the Fish Fry. You can come to dinner at 6:00 at the Fish Fry and go to the Theater in the Church at 7:00 p.m. For the play only a free will offering will be asked for. **So come and join us for dinner and the theater right here at Immac!**

MARCH FOR AMERICA: CHANGE TAKES COURAGE AND FAITH

Register today for the "March for America: Change takes Courage and Faith". Sunday, March 21st in Washington, DC. Join this historic event for Immigration Reform. Only $20 per person. Hundreds of people from Queens will head to Washington DC to join with thousands of people of faith and advocates nationwide to stand up for comprehensive immigration reform! Buses are leaving from Corona and Long Island City at 5:00 a.m. For more information on how to participate contact Jaime Weisberg, QCUA: 718-637-3054 or jweisberg@gmail.com.

The Knights of Columbus
Will Be Sponsoring
A
"FISH FRY"
On Friday, March 26th
From 6 Pm- 9 Pm In The School Hall
Come And Enjoy A Complete Meal Consisting Of
Fish, French Fries, Bun, And
Coleslaw,With A Soda,Beer Or Water
$6.00
You Can Choose To
"Eat In"
Or
"Take Out"
Come And Enjoy A Lenten Meal With Us!

AN INVITATION FROM THE ROSARY SOCIETY

Please join the Rosary Society on Saturday, March 20th, from 10:00 a.m. through Lunch. Fr. Frank Mann, Director of Creative Development for Communications in the Diocese of Brooklyn, will present a stellar documentary film on the life of Dorothy Day, Servant of God. We will explore her unique and complex life, share her contemporary spirituality and witness her selfless charity in action. Please join this special gathering and be inspired by this authentic twentieth century apostle. We will begin with a recitation of the Rosary at 10:00 a.m.

Please feel free to attend just the film and talk or you are welcome to stay for lunch. If you plan to join us for lunch, the cost is $10. Please call or email Karen at 917-836-0995 or karen_weinhofer@mckinsey.com if you do plan to join us for lunch as we would like to ensure that we have enough food for everyone.

DIOCESAN UNION COMMUNION BRUNCH

The Diocesan Union of Holy Name Societies is holding its Annual Communion Brunch on Saturday, March 20th at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of the Snows Church located at 258-15 80th Avenue, Floral Park, NY, in support of vocations. Most Rev. Ignatius Catanello will be the main celebrant at Mass. Msgr. Kiernan E. Harrington, Associate Publisher of the Tablet and Vicar of Communications, will be the guest speaker. The donation is $16.00. **All** are invited. For more information please contact Matt Bogovich at 646-642-4275.

SQUIRES FUNDRAISER

The Squire Circle of Immaculate Conception Church will be holding a fundraiser on Sunday, March 21st & 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the entrance of the Church. They will be selling battery operated candles for $3.00 (batteries included) which will be used during the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, April 3rd.