

**SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2010
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

PASTOR'S COLUMN

It's always a wonderful occasion when one of our parishioners is honored. This past week three parishioners have been honored by the Catholic War Veterans Post 1 at their 75th Anniversary Gala. Mario Massa and Antonio Meloni were given the Catholic War Veterans Service Award for outstanding generosity in promoting respect and concern for our veterans both living and deceased. In addition Peter F. Vallone Sr. was given the Catholic War Veteran's first ever "Catholic Patriot Award" for his outstanding service to our city, state and country.

May God bless all the honorees! You make us all proud of being members of Immaculate Conception Parish.

Monsignor Ferrarese

NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

The first novena (nine days of prayer) was prayed by Mary and the Apostles between the Ascension and Pentecost.

We will also pray that novena **after the 9:00 mass** beginning on the Friday after the Ascension and ending on Saturday May 22nd, the vigil of the great feast of Pentecost.

PENTECOST VIGIL IS SET

On the evening of May 22nd, we will have our third annual Pentecost Vigil Mass at 7:30 p.m. in the Upper Church. At that Mass a number of our adult parishioners will be receiving confirmation.

As you know, we beautifully decorate our altar with many candles (signifying the tongues of flame) and a beautiful and lush display of flowers. You can contribute the floral display the same way we do at Christmas and Easter – by memorializing your contribution. Envelopes for that can be found around the Church.

Please join us for the Pentecost Vigil which counts for Sunday Mass as well.

WE ARE GETTING THERE!

Our Annual Catholic Appeal is slowly climbing the charts! The goal for the Diocese is \$64,869. So far we have pledged \$94,322.51. Our hope is to reach a total of \$120,000 so that we can make the Liturgical changes we have outlined. We are getting some beautiful drawings of what we plan to do if you will make it happen!

During the next few weeks a representative of the parish (Msgr. or one of our Finance Committee members) will be calling prospective donors who have not taken out a pledge.

COLLECTION

Week of: May 8 th & 9 th	\$8,860.32
Attendance:	2,176
Per Capita:	\$4.07

MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY – May 17th

7:00 a.m.	Raul Heredia
9:00 a.m.	Mother's Day Novena
12 Noon	Sr. Margaret Kernan

TUESDAY – May 18th

7:00 a.m.	Massimo & Clara Staiolani
9:00 a.m.	Mother's Day Novena
12 Noon	Mary Marconi

WEDNESDAY - May 19th

7:00 a.m.	Donald Fitzgerald
9:00 a.m.	Patrick & Stephen Egan Families
12 Noon	Denise, Blanche & Jesse Smith

THURSDAY - May 20th

7:00 a.m.	Emilio de Jesus Rodriguez, Jr.
9:00 a.m.	Deceased Members of Radich Family
12 Noon	Luisa & Armelio Villegas

FRIDAY - May 21st

7:00 a.m.	Giovanna & Joseph Camenzuli
9:00 a.m.	Thomas Killeen
12 Noon	Michael, Helen & Jeanette Candido

SATURDAY - May 22nd

7:00 a.m.	Laurence, Margaret & Patrick Cassidy
9:00 a.m.	Stanley & Charles Berkowski
12 Noon	John J. Prager & Sean Brown
5:00 p.m.	All those enrolled in the Purgatorial Society

SUNDAY - May 23rd

7:00 a.m.	Living & Deceased Parishioners
9:00 a.m.	Hough & Tesseyman Families
10:30 a.m.	Virginia Maglio
11:45 a.m.	Spanish- Luis Fernando Mesa
1:00 p.m.	Rose Potter, Angelina Brauchle, Jack Ozog

Lower Church:

9:00 a.m.	Italian – Bernardino Family
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THE BREAD AND WINE are donated this week in loving memory of my wife Rose Dimech, my parents Joseph & Maria Assunta and my sisters Gaetana & Carmen, requested by Frank Dimech & Children.

THE CANDLES ON THE ALTAR were donated last week and this week in loving memory of Amelia Bigliotti requested by Janet & Dominick Maffei.

THE SANCTUARY LAMP is burning this week for the intentions of L. Henfield.

PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

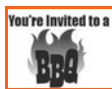


Please pray for the recently deceased:

Frances Curcio

**Mary Horten
Adolfo Magnifico**

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



PARISH BARBEQUE

Immaculate Conception Knights of Columbus Council #11449 will be hosting their annual barbeque **TODAY**, Sunday, May 16th, from 12:00 – 6:00 p.m. in the school yard between the rectory and school. Hot dogs, burgers, sausage heroes, chicken kebobs, corn on the cob, soda, beer and wine will be available for purchase. Come join the fun!

SCHOOL NEWS

The Faculty and the Priests of Immaculate Conception were treated to a Picnic Lunch by the Home School Association on Friday, May 14 to honor both Teacher and Priest Appreciation. Thank you for the delicious treat.

Students from N to 8 participated in the Annual Walk a Thon to raise money for Immaculate Conception School. We are hoping to raise at least \$13,000 for this event.

HEALTH FAIR

Mount Sinai Queens & United Community Civic Association will be hosting a Health Fair on Saturday, June 5th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Large schoolyard (across from the library). Free health screenings: height, weight, blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, pulmonary & bone density. Free massage therapy, face painting, prizes, balloons, food, dj. Bring the family and meet their health professionals.

MAY CROWNING FESTIVAL

The Immaculate Conception Prayer Group will be sponsoring an evening to honor Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help on Thursday, May 27th at 6:45 p.m. in the Lower Church. Guest speaker will be Msgr. Ferrarese. For more information please contact May (646) 707-9029 or Linda (718) 726-0674.

“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.**

ROSARY SOCIETY MASS

The Rosary Society will be hosting a 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).

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

CCD Registration for Public School Students - Grade 1 thru Confirmation will be held on Sunday, June 6 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am and on Monday, June 7 from 11 am to 1 pm in the lower level of the School for the 2010/2011 school year. Please note the following:

** Proof of Baptism unless the student has been baptized at Immaculate Conception.

**If your child is in Grade 1 in the public school, he/she should be registered in Level 1 in the Religious Education program.

**After First Communion, students are required to continue in the program until they receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

All families registered in the Religious Education Program must be registered in the Parish.

CCD Tuition for the school year 2010/2011 is \$75.00 for one child, \$85 for two children, \$100.00 for three or more. Please note that tuition includes textbooks and other supplies. If you have any question, please contact Mrs. Crum at 718-956-4494 Monday thru Thursday 11 AM to 3 PM or email to MCRUM@IC-Astoria.org.

OUR LADY'S PRESCHOOL

Our Lady's Preschool offers a Sunday Program for all children- ages three, four and five. The program introduces the child to our Catholic teachings on their own level. Classes are from 9:00 - 10:00 AM in the school beginning on October 3. Registration is \$45.00 for one child and \$70 for two children.

Registration is in the lower level of the school on Sunday, June 6 from 10 -11:30 am and Monday, June 7 from 11 am to 1 pm.

THANK YOU!!!

We wish to acknowledge and thank the students and families of our Religious Education and Our Lady's Preschool Program for their generosity to the following appeals: The Holy Union Sisters' Nutrition and Education Center in Port-au-Prince, Haiti- a donation of \$315.00. The Propagation of the Faith Mite Box Campaign for poor children around the world - a donation of \$369.73, and the Multiple Sclerosis Society- a donation of \$100.00. Also the students have donated baby items for Bridge to Life mothers, socks for our homeless men, and toiletry items for our troops in Iraq. We are grateful that they have taken to heart Jesus' command to help their neighbors.

POST #1 & THE CATHOLIC WAR VETERANS

In 1935, Fr. Edward Higgins conceived the idea of the Catholic War Veterans Organization and after receiving permission of his Bishop, Most Reverend Thomas Malloy of the Brooklyn Diocese, gathered together parishioners who had served in World War 1 and formed the first unit of C.W.V. Father Higgins had already been a member of the American Legion. Post #1 received its charter on May 8, 1935 and we honor this post today – May 15, 2010 – appropriated Armed Forces Day for its 75 years of existence.

Pope Pius XI bestowed his blessings on this new organization and blessed the American and Papal Flags of the C.W.V. Upon his return from the Holy City, Msgr. Higgins was instrumental in the organization of a dozen or more posts which subsequently blossomed into the national organization. May 19, 1935 saw the incorporation of the C.W.V. From 1935 to 1938, the National Headquarters of the C.W.V. was located in the bank of the Manhattan Building on 31st Street in Astoria. In July 1940 C.W.V. was officially recognized as a Veterans group by the Veterans Administration in Washington, DC. The C.W.V. is the only Catholic organization possessing a Congressional Charter. During WWII, 1,757 members of Immaculate Conception Parish answered the call to serve their country.

After WWII, Catholic War Veterans became one of the nation's most influential patriotic organizations. During the cold war, C.W.V. promoted veterans issues while leading the fight against communism. By 1947, its membership was nearly 500,000 nationwide.

In its most active Post #1 boasted a Ladies Auxiliary, Brass Band, Drum & Bugle Corp and a formal Honor Guard. Over the years the Post was active and participated in numerous religious events, anniversaries and public functions. In January 1960, the U.S. House of Representatives extended greetings and congratulations to the Catholic War Veterans on the occasion of their silver anniversary. New York City Mayor Robert F. Wagner officially proclaimed the month of January as Catholic War Veterans month and the 29th Street and Ditmars Blvd was named "Catholic War Veterans Street".

We would be remiss if we did not review the life of our founder, Msgr. Edward Higgins who was born on July 7, 1890 in Brooklyn. He was ordained on May 19, 1914 and in 1917 entered the Army and saw duty as a Lieutenant-Chaplain with the 152nd Depot Brigade and General Hospital #13. During his service time, he was stationed at Camp Upton on Long Island. Next to his love for Christ and His Church, came his love for country and for those who dedicated their lives to our country's welfare in war and peace. In 1943, our talented founder even composed and published a marching hymn for the C.W.V. His spirit and activism was such that Msgr. Higgins was well known to numerous elected officials and civic leaders.

On September 5, 1963 after having served as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish for 30 years, Right Reverend Monsignor Edward J. Higgins answered God's reveille and went to his eternal reward. He has passed from our midst but will never pass from our memory. Throughout the years he has and will continue to be

remembered in our prayers and thoughts as our leader. He is buried in Holy Cross Cemetery in Brooklyn.

For a number of years, Post #1 continued its existence though somewhat diminished under the care and guidance of a few staunch and dedicated members. Unfortunately, a large portion of our Post membership resides out of state, although their thoughts are here in Astoria. Within the last few years and with the full support of our Pastor and Chaplain, Msgr. Fernando Ferrarese, Post #1 has been revitalized. Post #1 has received the 3rd place award for member recruiting and a number of the Post officers also serve as Queens County Chapter officers.

To fully realize the extent of spirit our founder Msgr. Higgins brought to Post #1 and the C.W.V., a walk around the grounds of the founding parish is necessary. Numerous stained glass windows in the Church and Rectory bear witness to his spirit and enthusiasm. On the east side of the main entrance to the Church, one will find a Catholic War Veterans' cornerstone. Immaculate Conception Church has been designated as the national shrine church of the Catholic War Veterans. **Happy Birthday Post #1 and the Catholic War Veterans.**

SPECIAL MASS AND CONFERENCE WITH PIERLUIGI MOLLA

WHAT: A special Mass offered for the intentions of those struggling with infertility and pregnancy-related difficulties.

A talk by St. Gianna's oldest living son, Pierluigi Molla, after the Mass. - A blessing with St. Gianna's relics will be given to all in attendance. Gianna Center physicians will answer questions about pregnancy and infertility after the event.

WHEN: Monday, May 17, 2010 at 6:30 P.M.

WHERE: St. Catherine of Sienna Church, 411 East 68th Street in Manhattan.

WHO: All are welcome. Please share this information.

CO-SPONSORS: Gianna Catholic Healthcare Center for Women & the Family Life/Respect Life Office of the Archdiocese of NY

BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM

Have you ever started reading the Bible, only to put it down after a few weeks? Do you listen to the Scripture readings at Mass and wish you knew more about the story? Join us for an incredibly easy and fun way to read through the Bible. It's nothing like you've ever seen before!

The Great Adventure Bible Timeline Bible Study is your answer! Registration forms can be found in the back of the church, rectory, and our website.

Please register by submitting the completed form along with your payment of **\$45** to the rectory **no later than Saturday, June 26, 2010 at 4:00 P.M.**