

**SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2010  
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**PASTOR'S COLUMN**

As you have read in the papers, the Catholic Church leadership is under attack. Even our Holy Father is not immune. There have been calls to subpoena him and to put him on the stand for past decisions which some take issue with.

Regrettably a small minority of priests have done some terrible things to children. Bishops often have not handled things properly in the past. There was the idea that you can help the perpetrator to change his life through Psychology. But that is not the opinion now and there are forces in society that want to hold past leaders accountable to the insights that we have recently come to. What is missing is the positive side of the picture. The United States Catholic Conference has enacted tough guidelines that have zero tolerance of any aberrant behavior with children. In our own parish, hundreds of parishioners have taken the Virtus training which seeks to ensure a safe place for our children. There is the context of all that the Church is doing for the benefit of others. These figures were not reported on in the media, but they were dug up by a Jewish broadcaster who has a keen sense of justice.

Did you know that the Church in America educates 2.6 million students every day at the cost of 10 billion dollars a year saving the taxpayers 18 billion dollars that would otherwise have to be spent? Did you know that the Church has 230 colleges and universities with an enrollment of 700,000 students? Did you know that the Church runs 637 hospitals and that 1 out of every 5 Americans (not just Catholics!) are treated in these facilities? And we could go on and on with the other ways we make this country a great place. This is not to mention what the Church does on a global level. Could not the press do a better job in balancing the negative with the positive?

*Monsignor Ferrarese*

**C.S. LEWIS – A GREAT SPIRITUAL GUIDE**

**All Films are at 7:30 p.m.**

May seems to be the month we look carefully at one of the most interesting and prolific writers on the spiritual journey. Wikipedia has this to say about him:

C.S. Lewis is known to his friends and family as Jack, an Irish-born British novelist, lay theologian and Christian apologist. He is also known for his fiction, especially *The Screwtape Letters*, *The Chronicles of Narnia* and *The Space Trilogy*.

Lewis was a close friend of J.R.R. Tolkien, and both authors were leading figures in the English faculty at Oxford University and in the informal Oxford literary group known as the "Inklings". According to his memoir *Surprised by Joy*, Lewis had by baptized in the Church of Ireland at birth, but fell away from his faith during his adolescence. Owing to the influence of Tolkien and other friends, at the age of 32 Lewis returned to Christianity, becoming "a very ordinary layman of the Church of England". His conversion had a profound effect on his work, and his wartime radio broadcasts on the subject of Christianity brought him wide acclaim. In 1956 he married the American writer Joy Gresham, 17 years his junior, who died four years later of cancer at the age of 45. Lewis died three years after his wife, as the result of renal failure. His death came one week before his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday. Media coverage of his death was minimal, as he died on 22 November 1963 – the same day that U.S. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated, and the same day another famous author died, Aldous Huxley.

Lewis' works have been translated into more than 30 languages and sold millions of copies over the years. The books that make up *The Chronicles of Narnia* have sold the most and have been popularized on stage, in TV, in radio and in cinema.

Besides our Film Festival: Faith and the Imagination based on the works of C.S. Lewis, our Flannery O'Connor book club has picked his book: The Great Divorce for its next discussion. This is an imaginative work about a bus excursion from Hell to Heaven. It is though provoking and just plain fun to read.

The next meeting of our Book Club is on Wednesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. Why not give it a good read and join us. The book is short and delightful. Lest you think C.S. Lewis is just a topic here at Immac, a Broadway Production of his book The Screwtape Letters is currently in previews.

**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 \$56,574.51. 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.

In addition, Msgr. Ferrarese is asking every society to take a pledge or give an amount to this campaign. Once again our beloved Knights of Columbus have led the way with a one-time gift of \$250. It is our hope that the different societies and ministries in the parish could follow suit so that we can rightly place the Blessed Sacrament where it belongs: At the very center of our parish church!

Week of: April 24 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>COLLECTION</b>	\$7,943.20
Attendance:		2,025
Per Capita:		\$3.92

### MASS SCHEDULE

#### MONDAY – May 3<sup>rd</sup>

7:00 a.m. Catherine Ney  
 9:00 a.m. Antonio Pace  
 12 Noon Mei Ling Moore

#### TUESDAY – May 4<sup>th</sup>

7:00 a.m. Melanie & Rene Sylvestre  
 9:00 a.m. Maria Trotta Polise  
 12 Noon William Taylor

#### WEDNESDAY - May 5<sup>th</sup>

7:00 a.m. Eugene M. Roberts  
 9:00 a.m. Gregory Peter Smith  
 12 Noon Deceased members of the Gasparic, Skorpanic and Vrankovic Families

#### THURSDAY- May 6<sup>th</sup>

7:00 a.m. Rafaele & Grazia Santamaria  
 9:00 a.m. Dean Fargnoli (Birth. Remb.)  
 12 Noon Martha Fedorko

#### FRIDAY - May 7<sup>th</sup>

7:00 a.m. Giovanna & Joseph Camenzuli  
 9:00 a.m. Maria & Angela Sbuttoni  
 12 Noon Clemente Rabak (12<sup>th</sup> Anniv.)

#### SATURDAY - May 8<sup>th</sup>

7:00 a.m. Virginia Arevalo (Birth. Remb.)  
 9:00 a.m. Irene & Lynn Moore, Joanne Oswala, Joan & Jay Doherty  
 12 Noon Margaret & Victor Lynch, Kelleher & Kata Families  
 5:00 p.m. All those enrolled in the Purgatorial Society

#### SUNDAY - May 9<sup>th</sup>

7:00 a.m. Angela Sarro & Violanta Giannini  
 9:00 a.m. William Clark  
 10:30 a.m. Helen Dredger & Lillie DiMarco

11:45 a.m. **Spanish-** Brigida Diaz, Teofila Granados, Rosalia Torres, Alejandro Torres  
 1:00 p.m. Rene Varela Caballero, Navia Caballero, Rosa Vernal de Varela

#### Lower Church:

9:00 a.m. **Italian** – Lucia, Beni & Antonino D'Amico

**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** were donated last week and this week in loving memory of Theresa Polizio requested by Barbara & Nick Marchisella.

**THE SANCTUARY LAMP** is burning this week in loving memory of John O'Connell, Sr. requested by his wife Dorothy & children, Mary & John, Jr.

### **PLEASE KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS**



**Please pray for the recently deceased:**

Michael Egan  
 Michael Grosso  
 Daniel Tesseyman

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

### SCHOOL NEWS

The 7th Grade of Immaculate Conception School and Candidates from Religious Education will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on May 1 at 12 Noon. Bishop DiMarzio will preside. Mrs. Marta Pope formed a special choir with students from the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades to sing at Confirmation. The Adult Choir will also be singing.

\$460.00 was raised for UNICEF to help earthquake relief efforts in Chile. Students dressed down on March 17<sup>th</sup> and donated \$2 or more! We are proud of our students' generosity.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 7<sup>th</sup>: Plant Sale  
 May 14<sup>th</sup>: Annual Walkathon

**PIZZERIA UNO FUNDRAISER!**

Immaculate Conception School will receive 10% to 20% of your lunch or dinner check when you eat in or take-out food from Pizzeria Uno at 37-11 35 Avenue, Astoria on Thursday, May 13. Visit Pizzeria Uno for lunch beginning at 12 PM until 11 PM for dinner! Download the ticket to present to your server or cashier at the school web site: [www.icsastoria.org](http://www.icsastoria.org)! We appreciate your support for this event.

### **MOTHER'S DAY DINNER DANCE**

The Immaculate Conception Knights of Columbus Squire Circle #4411 will be hosting a Pasta Dinner Dance on Saturday, May 8 from 6-10 p.m. in the school hall. Tickets are \$10 adults - \$5 for children 10 and under. Tickets may be purchased at the school or at the door. Tickets are also being sold in the school hall on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 9 a.m to 2 p.m.

\*\*\*\*\***LAST CALL**\*\*\*\*\*

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR BOTTLES (EMPTY OR FULL) TO THE SACRISTY OR RECTORY OFFICE. BRIDGE TO LIFE WILL BE PICKING THEM UP. THANK YOU!**

### **75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Catholic War Veterans, Post #1, is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on **Saturday, May 15, 2010**. Catholic War Veterans was founded here in Astoria in 1935. There will be a 5:00 p.m. concelebrated Mass at Immaculate Conception Church followed by a dinner-dance at 7:00 p.m at Riccardo's by the Bridge. Tickets are \$65.00 and can be obtained by contacting Ed Babor at 718-726-5461. **Tickets will also be on sale in the school hall from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 9<sup>th</sup>.**

### **YOUTH 2000 NY VOLUNTEERS GATHERING**

This Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the school hall, the committee is getting together to thank all the Volunteers who helped during the Youth Retreat held in March. Refreshments as well as an opportunity to socialize and look at pictures from the weekend will be available. Please come to celebrate the successful weekend.

### **A LETTER TO THE PARISHONERS OF**

By Pat Tabone, Facilitator of our Pro-Life Group – St. Gianna Respect Life Committee

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

I am writing to say thank you for your very generous response to the Bridge to Life Baby Bottle Campaign that took place in our parish beginning January 31, 2010. From the moment that Msgr. Ferrarese gave the

campaign his blessing, your response was one of loving generosity to the needs of women who are undergoing unplanned pregnancy and to families in need in these difficult times. From beginning to end, the Baby Bottle Campaign exists because of sacrificial love.

- The empty baby bottles were purchased by Bridge to Life volunteers.
- The bottles were then lovingly decorated by retired Sisters of St. Joseph.
- Bridge to Life volunteers delivered the boxes of decorated baby bottles to the Rectory.
- Ginnie Caruana, our Parish Secretary, received the boxes of empty baby bottles, organized their distribution, and included information about the campaign in the weekly parish bulletins.
- The baby bottles were distributed at the exit doors of the Church after the masses by members of the Knights of Columbus, Columbian Squires – organized by Mario Massa, Ministers of Welcome, and the St. Gianna Respect Life Committee.
- The Ministers of Welcome collected the filled baby bottles on the Sundays that followed.
- The Church Sacristan and the custodian stored the filled bottles and delivered them to Ginnie Caruana in the Rectory.
- Bridge to Life volunteers collected the boxes of filled bottles and delivered them to Bridge to Life.
- The Sisters of St. Joseph sorted, counted, and deposited the donations for Bridge to Life.

The Baby Bottle Campaign is an important fundraiser for Bridge to Life. The funds raised will help Bridge to Life continue their mission of helping mothers and their families in the two centers in Flushing and Astoria in these difficult times.

As of March 30, 2010, the monies collected from **our Baby Bottle campaign totaled \$4,513.15**. Ginnie is still receiving filled baby bottles at the Rectory - they will be delivered to Bridge to Life in early May. Marcy, of Bridge to Life, asked me to extend a sincere thank you to Msgr. Ferrarese for allowing Bridge to Life to conduct the campaign, and to each of you whose generosity helped to make this campaign such a huge success. Please continue to pray for the ongoing work of Bridge to Life. May God shower His abundant blessings on each of you.

Sincerely,

Patricia Tabone  
St. Gianna Respect Life Committee Member